



Newcastle Building Society offers community groups a warm welcome this winter

Newcastle Building Society is helping those struggling with the cost of living crisis to beat the cold this winter by providing community groups across the region a warm place to get together.

The mutual's network of 31 branches across the North East, North Yorkshire and Cumbria includes 14 community rooms, which for many years have been providing free meeting facilities for local groups.

Now, with rising fuel and household bills making it more difficult to stay warm this winter, the popular community spaces are proving ideal for small groups to use as a bookable warm hub – free, welcoming spaces perfect for getting together with others.

The facilities – which also include free hot refreshments - are available at Newcastle Building Society's branches in Ashington, Berwick, Bishop Auckland, Carlisle, Gateshead, Gosforth, Hexham, Middlesbrough, Morpeth, Newcastle, South Shields, West Denton, Whickham, and Whitley Bay.

Stephen Burt, branch manager at Newcastle Building Society's Ashington branch, said: "The community space in our Ashington branch has been popular with a range of different groups, clubs and charities over the past few years and now the weather is turning colder, it'll be a welcoming, warm hub for people to get together."

Stuart Fearn, Head of Customer Contact at Newcastle Building Society, said: "As temperatures fall and heating costs rise, our extensive network of branches throughout the North of England are here to play a small part in enabling community groups to continue to meet and connect in a safe, warm space without having to worry about the expense of home heating whilst with us. Newcastle Building Society is absolutely committed to our communities, and keen to play our part in supporting people through the cost of living crisis."

The Society also supports a diverse range of local charities and community groups who operate in areas served by its branch network via its Community Fund at the Community Foundation Tyne and Wear & Northumberland. One of the areas of focus has been funding charities that help tackle food poverty, including supporting the beneficiaries of Wansbeck Valley Food Bank in Morpeth, Hexham-based West Northumberland Food Bank and Newcastle West End Food Bank.

To book a community space, find your local branch and contact us here: <https://www.newcastle.co.uk/our-branches>

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Notes to Editors

About Newcastle Building Society

Newcastle Building Society* is the biggest building society in the North East, with a network of 31 branches and assets of more than £4.9bn. We've been here for our members for over 150 years.

As a leading local employer, we're committed to growing our region's talent and being a great place to work where people can realise their potential. We hold Platinum IIP and won the Excellence and Positive Impact Award at the 2022 CIPD North East of England HR&D Awards. We were named Company of the Year in the Northumberland and Tyneside category of the North East Business Awards 2022.

We help people to own their home, to save and to plan their finances through our range of products and services. We believe in the role of the high street at the heart of our communities and, as our branch network grows, are increasingly proactive in making financial information and financial advice accessible across our region.

Our Financial Advice is provided through our Newcastle Financial Advisers Limited division**.

We're dedicated to helping our North East communities make positive changes; since 2016 the financial support through grants and donations from the Newcastle Building Society Community Fund at the Community Foundation to benefit local causes has surpassed £2.1m. Our total community contributions in 2021, made up of grants, match funding, and our ongoing partnership donations, was more than £750,000.

www.newcastle.co.uk