



Newcastle Building Society appoint manager to new community branch in Knaresborough

Heather Pearman has been appointed by Newcastle Building Society to manage its new community branch in Knaresborough and lead the team restoring access to cash and financial services in the market town.

Heather joins with over 10 years' experience in financial services, having previously worked in roles including relationship advisor, customer service manager and personal banker for Knaresborough's Bradford & Bingley and Santander branches for 15 years.

In her new role, Heather will draw on her connections with the Knaresborough community and in-depth understanding of the town to support residents with a range of products and services, enabling them to achieve their financial goals.

Since the last bank in Knaresborough closed in 2021, North Yorkshire County Council and Harrogate Borough Council have worked closely in partnering with Newcastle Building Society to restore local access to High Street banking.

Newcastle Building Society's community branch, located inside Knaresborough Library, opened in July to support locals with their savings, mortgage and investment needs. Bucking the national trend of branch closures, the building society's commitment to maintaining its high street presence across North Yorkshire, the North East and Cumbria has seen it deliver its innovative community branch concept in a number of locations.

Heather said: "The people of Knaresborough have been crying out for the return of financial services to this thriving market town and we hope the arrival of our community branch will deliver the essential support they've been missing.

"After some time away from Knaresborough it's a privilege to return to the town I love, and engage with some of the familiar and new faces that make this town such a jewel in North Yorkshire's crown. I look forward to integrating our new community branch into the heart of Knaresborough and delivering the much-needed local financial facilities for people and businesses in our area."

Stuart Fearn, head of customer contact at Newcastle Building Society, said: “Recruiting people who have a real connection to Knaresborough has been a priority for our Society as we open a branch that we anticipate will be an important part of the local community. We want to create an impact not only by returning banking services to Knaresborough, but through wider community involvement, whether grant giving via the Newcastle Building Society Community Fund at the Community Foundation Tyne & Wear and Northumberland, or through our colleague volunteering and other local support.

“Heather is a familiar face to the people of Knaresborough, and her wealth of experience will help drive our community support as part of our wider commitment to the provision of financial services on local high streets across North Yorkshire, Cumbria, and the North East region.”

The Society’s 31st branch, the branch opening in Knaresborough Library follows the success of Newcastle Building Society’s community branch in Hawes, as well as similar initiatives in Yarm and Wooler.

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For further information on Newcastle Building Society, please contact:

Chris Hoy – External Communications Manager

M: 07483 452 461

E: chris.hoy@newcastle.co.uk

Jeremy Mountain – External Communications Lead

M: 07977 290 598

E: jeremy.mountain@newcastle.co.uk

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

*Newcastle Building Society Principal Office: 1 Cobalt Park Way, Cobalt Business Park, NE28 9EJ. Newcastle Building Society is authorised by the Prudential Regulation Authority and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority and the Prudential Regulation Authority. Newcastle Building Society is entered in the Financial Services Register under number 156058. You can check this on the Financial Services Register or by contacting the Financial Conduct Authority on 0800 111 6768. Call 0845 734 4345 or visit us online at www.newcastle.co.uk

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