

23 May, 2022



## Yarm community centre to celebrate Queen's Platinum Jubilee thanks to Newcastle Building Society grant

**A local community centre in Yarm is set to unite local people of all ages as it stages its Queen's Platinum Jubilee street party, thanks to grant funding from Newcastle Building Society.**

The £2,000 grant has been awarded to support Yarm Wellness' Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebration, bringing together its volunteers, community groups and local residents for festivities at Yarm Youth and Community Centre.

Yarm Wellness hosts several community groups set up to help combat social isolation, including its pensioners' lunch, mother and toddler group, dementia café and fitness activities such as tai chi, pilates and seated exercise.

With a team of 25 volunteers, the centre expects around 400-500 local people to attend its event, which will include an afternoon tea buffet and a host of entertainment including a performance from local musician Tom Powell. Organisers hope to raise awareness of the centre, while celebrating its Platinum Jubilee Gardens, set to open later this year.

The £2,000 grant will cover the cost of the event and has been provided through the Newcastle Building Society Community Fund at the Community Foundation, which offers grants to charities and community groups located in or around the communities served by the Society's branch network. To help address some of the social isolation experienced in communities as a result of the pandemic, the Community Fund's latest round of grants supports Platinum Jubilee celebrations across the North East.

Cheryl Scollay, Founder and Chair of Yarm Wellness, said: "The pandemic has had a huge impact on vulnerable people in Yarm, with our veterans and pensioners suffering from loneliness and isolation for months on end while social distancing measures were in place.

"Our aim is to engage with isolated members of the community, who may otherwise feel forgotten, through a range of groups and activities that offer something for everyone.

"We are thrilled to receive this grant from the Newcastle Building Society Community Fund which will help to support our Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations. The event will have a huge impact on our

community, bringing together the wide variety of people from groups that use our facilities, as well as local residents and businesses to showcase the breadth of activities on offer.”

Tracey Todd, customer advisor at Newcastle Building Society’s Yarm branch, adds: “Providing support to charities and community groups across our region is at the core of what we do, and branch colleagues in Yarm have been signposting our customers to access the services Yarm Wellness offer for some time.

“Combatting social isolation is one of the key areas of focus for our Community Fund, and the inspirational work undertaken by Cheryl and the team of volunteers at Yarm Wellness is exactly the type of project we want to give our backing to. We wish them every success in uniting the community with their Platinum Jubilee event.”

Since its launch in 2016, Newcastle Building Society’s Community Fund has contributed over £2.1m in grants and partnerships to a wide variety of charities and projects across the region, including the Sir Bobby Robson Foundation and the Prince’s Trust.

The grants are so far estimated to have had a positive impact on more than 151,000 people.

The Newcastle Building Society Community Fund is run in association with the Community Foundation Tyne & Wear and Northumberland. To find out more about the Community Fund or to nominate your charity or community group, visit: <https://www.newcastle.co.uk/powering-communities/community-grants/apply-for-a-grant>

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## **Notes to Editors**

As part of its focus to address social isolation through the support of Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations throughout the North East and North Yorkshire, the Newcastle Building Society Community Fund has awarded grants to:

- Hexham's Gateway into the Community (£2,000),
- Whitley Bay Tea Dance Club (£1,300),
- Sunderland Bangladesh International Centre (£3,000),
- Yarm Youth and Community Centre (£2,000),
- Kids Kabin, Middlesbrough (£1,000),
- Auckland Youth and Community Centre (£1,500),
- Age UK Darlington and North Yorkshire (£1,300).

## **About Newcastle Building Society**

Newcastle Building Society\* is the biggest building society in the North East, with a network of 30 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 were voted Number 2, Best Places to Work in the North East in 2019.

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 are 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

[www.newcastle.co.uk](http://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](http://www.newcastle.co.uk)

\*\*Newcastle Building Society introduces to Newcastle Financial Advisers Limited for investments, pensions, inheritance tax planning, financial advice and life cover. Newcastle Financial Advisers Limited is an appointed representative of Openwork Limited which is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority.

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