

23 May, 2022



Afternoon tea fit for a Queen and royal fancy dress: County Durham charities celebrate Platinum Jubilee thanks to Newcastle Building Society grants

Two County Durham charities are uniting members of their communities in Darlington and Bishop Auckland to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, thanks to grant funding from Newcastle Building Society.

A grant of £1,300 has been awarded to fund Age UK Darlington and North Yorkshire's Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebration, bringing together up to 100 older people from Darlington and the surrounding area for an afternoon tea party to mark the Queen's 70 years on the throne.

Age UK Darlington and North Yorkshire provide a range of quality support services for people aged 50+ living across Darlington, Northallerton, Harrogate, Ripon, Richmondshire and beyond, including recreational activities, support groups and lunch clubs.

Having identified groups of people most at risk of loneliness and social isolation, the charity will mobilise a team of volunteer drivers to transport local older people to its Darlington headquarters, Beaumont Street West, for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebration. The afternoon of activities and entertainment will include a special performance from the Cockerton Prize Silver Band.

A further grant of £1,500 will support Auckland Youth and Community Centre in Bishop Auckland, to host its family fun day for around 200 members of the local community, with activities including royal fancy dress and baking competitions, arts and crafts and entertainment.

The grants will cover the cost of the events and have 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.

Helen Hunter, chief executive at Age UK Darlington and North Yorkshire, said: "Since the start of the pandemic, loneliness and isolation has taken its toll on older people in Darlington. As we look to rebuild those connections among vulnerable people and their local communities, this event will make a real difference.

“Our tea party celebrating the Queen’s Platinum Jubilee will be a fantastic opportunity to help tackle the challenge of loneliness, bringing joy back to people who may feel they have been forgotten, while also raising awareness of the range of activities and events that we host.”

Auckland Youth and Community Centre is a community hub serving people of all ages through a range of programmes, activities, learning experiences and events in the Bishop Auckland area. Its dedicated team of trustees, staff and volunteers are committed to delivering an accessible, affordable community hub where people feel safe, reassured engaged and connected.

John Wiseman, business development manager at Auckland Youth and Community Centre, said: “We’re thrilled to have the backing of Newcastle Building Society as we host our upcoming family fun day. Events such as these help to foster a sense of belonging among members of our community, and we look forward to uniting people, young and old, to join in celebrating the Queen’s Platinum Jubilee.”

Debbie Todd, customer advisor at Newcastle Building Society’s Darlington branch said: “As Age UK Darlington and North Yorkshire and the Auckland Youth and Community Centre look to bring people together who may otherwise have been alone at this time, it’s clear both charities make a significant difference in our local communities.

“It’s a pleasure to be able to support the charities in staging their upcoming events for the Queen’s Platinum Jubilee which will without doubt provide an opportunity for vulnerable or isolated groups to reconnect and enjoy one another’s company once again while celebrating a once-in-a-lifetime 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>

- ends -

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: 07481 833 351

E: jeremy.mountain@newcastle.co.uk

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

*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

**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.

ENDS