23 May, 2022

Newcastle Building Society grant gives go-ahead to celebration of diversity as Sunderland community marks Queen's Platinum Jubilee

The Sunderland Bangladesh International Centre is gearing up to mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee with a family fun day welcoming a diverse range of cultures from the Sunderland area, thanks to the support of a grant from Newcastle Building Society.

Over 200 people from BAME, refugee and asylum-seeking communities are expected to attend the celebratory event for an afternoon of food and entertainment from around the world, including international cuisine, African drumming, henna body art, face painting and arts and crafts.

Taking place at the Sunderland Bangladesh International Centre on Tatham Street in Hendon, the event will bring together marginalised groups from across Sunderland to learn about different communities, break down barriers between cultures and create a better sense of integration and engagement.

The Sunderland Bangladesh International Centre is a charity founded in 2002 to support and promote the development of BAME individuals and groups in the city and its neighbouring areas.

The £3,000 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.

Abu Shama, centre manager at the Sunderland Bangladesh International Centre, said: "The grant from Newcastle Building Society will have a significant impact by helping us to better engage and connect with local minority groups. Our Platinum Jubilee family fun day will bring diverse communities together to celebrate commonalities, build friendships and reduce loneliness and isolation amongst BAME individuals and communities."

Robert Boak, branch manager at Newcastle Building Society's Sunderland branch on Waterloo Place, said: "The Queen's Platinum Jubilee is a fantastic opportunity for people across our communities to join in a much-needed celebration of a once-in-a-lifetime event. We've focused our latest grant-giving

on Platinum Jubilee events to help address some of the ongoing issues around social isolation in our communities and wish the Sunderland Bangladesh International Centre every success in delivering a fantastic event for the city."

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, so far, are 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

*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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