

**BUILDING SOCIETY BACKS GRASSROOTS PROJECTS**

Darlington Building Society is backing County Durham Foundation's Dig Deep for Durham and Darlington campaign by donating 35p for every valid vote cast in its forthcoming Annual General Meeting for members to be held on 29 April at Sentinel House, Darlington.

The building society is hoping to raise at least £4,000 which will be matched pound for pound by County Durham Foundation's Grassroots Challenge.

County Durham Foundation's 'Dig Deep for Durham and Darlington' campaign, highlights a Government initiative aimed at encouraging people to support the work of grassroots-level community groups by offering to at least double all donations of anyone who would like to support their local community until 2011.

David Copland, Marketing & Sales Controller at Darlington Building Society said:

"We feel very strongly that given the current economic climate it is essential for local community projects to receive more help rather than less; their services are absolutely vital to the strength of our communities and of course we jumped at the chance to double the benefits through County Durham Foundation".

Darlington Building Society already holds a charitable fund with County Durham Foundation which has made a number of grants to local projects including Darlington Hospital Radio, Darlington Citizen's Advice Bureau and Darlington and Dales Youth Orchestra. The Society will use the money raised through the AGM to boost its grant-making even further.

Anyone interested in doubling their money through County Durham Foundation's Grassroots Challenge can call Barbara Gubbins on 0191 383 0055 or visit [www.countydurhamfoundation.co.uk](http://www.countydurhamfoundation.co.uk)

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