



16 March 2009

## **Fundraising Show Set To Prove That Newcastle Building Society's 'Got Talent'**

Talented staff from the region's largest building society will be taking to the stage in a special talent show to help raise money for a north east cancer charity.

Ten acts performed by staff from Newcastle Building Society will be competing for the support of around 200 of their colleagues at a special 'Newcastle's Got Talent' show that is being put on to raise money for the Maggie's Freeman Hospital Cancer Centre appeal.

Acts will include a selection of singers, a solo artist, a magician and a guitarist.

The event, which will take place at the Tyneside Irish Centre on Wednesday 25 March, will also act as a party to mark the end of the Maggie's appeal's year as the Newcastle's first dedicated charity.

Money has been raised by individual staff members, teams and departments through a variety of methods, and organisers are hopeful that the talent show will take the fundraising total past the ambitious £25,000 fundraising target that was set a year ago. The total amount raised will be announced together with the appointment of the Society's Charity of the Year 2009/10 in April.

The fundraising for Maggie's has taken place alongside the Newcastle's existing work with the Community Foundation, through which it has donated more than £600,000 to over 600 good causes across Tyne & Wear and Northumberland since 1997, and other initiatives including Macmillan, Children in Need and Cancer Research UK.

The planned Maggie's Centre, which would be established at Newcastle's world-leading Freeman Hospital, will give patients and their loved ones access to help at all levels, from expert advice on coping with their illness to a simple friendly chat over a cup of tea.

Gillian Tiplady, Head of Corporate Social Responsibility at Newcastle Building Society, says: "Programmes like Britain's Got Talent have inspired people across the country to start performing, and we're certain that our show will prove beyond doubt that the Newcastle's Got Talent too.

"There's already a lot of excitement amongst the staff about seeing their colleagues go from behind a counter or a desk to being live on stage, and we're looking forward to a fantastic night.

"It's been an amazing effort throughout the year by all the staff that have been involved in raising money for Maggie's, and it's been an honour for us to help such a wonderful cause."

**-ENDS-**