



Villages of Saddleworth to have access to face-to-face financial services for the first time in nine years

Vernon Building Society to open its first community branch in Uppermill in November

After nine years without a high street branch, residents of Saddleworth are set to benefit from local financial services once again as [Vernon Building Society](#) opens at 92–94 High Street, home of Pearson Solicitors and Financial Advisers and Albion House Wealth Management.

Opening every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, between 10am and 4pm, colleagues from Vernon Building Society will provide local residents and businesses with friendly, knowledgeable face-to-face financial services, including savings support and mortgage advice.

Since 2015, Oldham East and Saddleworth have lost over 75 per cent of their banking facilities, and Saddleworth has been without a traditional high street bank since NatWest closed its High Street branch in Uppermill in 2016. A proposed shared Saddleworth Banking Hub was later rejected by LINK, the organisation responsible for assessing communities' access to cash, which said the area had sufficient access to cash and therefore didn't need one.

The new Vernon community branch means people in Saddleworth will no longer need to travel to Oldham town centre or Tameside for in-person help with more complex financial needs.

Darren Ditchburn, CEO at Vernon Building Society said: "We're delighted to be bringing face-to-face financial services back to the villages of Saddleworth, which have been without a high street branch for nearly a decade. Opening in Uppermill will allow us to offer more convenient access to personal service they've missed.

"We're proud to be working with Pearson Solicitors and Financial Advisers, who returned to Saddleworth in 2025 after 30 years away, and Albion House Wealth Management, two trusted local businesses in the Saddleworth community. Together we'll create a welcoming space where local people can access the support they need."

The new community branch means three locally focused organisations will be under one roof, creating a convenient, welcoming place where people can access trusted professional services in the heart of Uppermill.

Joanne Ormston, Director, Pearson Solicitors and Financial Advisers, and Richard Eastwood, Director, Pearson Solicitors and Financial Advisers and Albion House Wealth Management, said: "We are delighted to welcome the Vernon into our shared office space in Uppermill. Our organisations share a real commitment to giving people and businesses access to trusted, quality advice right where they need it. The arrival of the Vernon adds another important

dimension to the services available to the local community. We have created a real powerhouse by bringing together legal and financial expertise under one roof.”

Founded in Stockport in 1924, Vernon Building Society has more than a century of experience helping people across Greater Manchester and Cheshire save, buy homes and plan for their financial futures. It is one of the region’s few remaining independent, local building societies. Owned by its members rather than shareholders, the Society takes a long-term approach, putting members and the communities it serves at the heart of its decisions and reinvesting profits locally.

Its local commitment extends beyond providing financial services. In 2025, through the Vernon Charitable Foundation and Community Stars programme, the Society awarded more than £37,500 to charities and not-for-profit organisations in the communities it serves. Last year, its financial education programme reached more than 1,700 students, while colleagues contributed more than 100 volunteering days to local causes.

The Society’s Uppermill presence will enable it to build relationships with local organisations and explore how it can support the wider Saddleworth community in the future.

The Society recently completed a £1.2 million refurbishment programme across its existing six-branch network in Stockport, Hazel Grove, Bramhall, Poynton, Reddish and Marple at a time when many banks are closing their high street branches. This, alongside the planned expansion into every Greater Manchester borough over the coming years, brings the Vernon’s investment into local high streets to nearly £2 million.

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About Vernon Building Society

Vernon Building Society is a local, independent building society based in Stockport. The Society has been helping borrowers and savers since 1924 and has built a strong reputation as the preferred choice for mortgages and savings in Stockport and beyond.

With branches in Bramhall, Hazel Grove, Marple, Poynton, Reddish and St Petersgate in Stockport, the Vernon supports charities, schools, teams, and clubs within the community. The Society works hard to be an employer of choice, investing in local talent to provide the best service to its members.

Vernon Building Society is authorised by the Prudential Regulation Authority and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority and Prudential Regulation Authority (registration number 195475).

www.thevernon.co.uk