

Good News ^ YMCA Neath Newsletter

As we end the month of May, we are excited to share with you the latest news and updates from YMCA Neath! We continue to work tirelessly towards our mission of empowering individuals and strengthening communities. In this newsletter, you will find inspiring stories, highlights from our community groups and events, and a sneak peek of what's to come. We hope you enjoy reading!

YMCA Neath's LGBTQ+ youth group (named Slay by it's members) continues to grow both in strength and numbers. We are expanding our activities to include trips out facilitating such things as a recent visit to Swansea Pride 2023. The day was a success and everybody enjoyed themselves. YMCA Neath spread the word about our youth group as well as espousing our message of acceptance for all.



We are planning a lively summer roster of activities including ukulele workshops and the creation of a mural but first we are all excited to attend YMCA Neath's first ever prom on June 17th which is an alternative event for those who did not want to attend a regular prom or whom wanted a different kind of night out. The prom will include a buffet, sweet cart, adult ball pit, photo booth and dance floor. Tickets are five pounds and available on reception.



YMCA Neath's Walking Football Group has had some fantastic news. There has been an agreement formed which has resulted in a new partnership between Wales Walking Football Federation, Briton Ferry Llansawel AFC and YMCA Neath. This will form new terms underneath the governance of the club to ensure the provision of walking football for people of all ages and ability. We look forward to a fruitful partnership which enables our Y-Sports4all strategy to be implemented. Our highly qualified coach Martin Ransome will be leading the way at the YMCA and can be contacted if you require further information on martinjransom1@gmail.com. Our walking football sessions are currently held every Friday from 2pm til 4pm and everybody is welcome to join in.



YMCA Neath are pleased to be hosting an ADHD support group for men. This will be a safe space for men who either have a diagnosis or symptoms of ADHD. The group aims to provide support and a friendly environment for those living with the condition. The group starts on Thursday May 25th from 6.30pm til 7.30pm. Then every last Thursday of the month thereafter. If you are interested in attending or would like to have more information about this group please contact Mr Keith Finn - keithfinn@hotmail.com or call/text on 07790369465.

Friendship Circle continues to grow from strength to strength with lots of sessions filled with friendship, fun crafts and a cuppa. We had lots of fun in a special Friendship Circle with a visit from A&S Animal Encounters who brought along meerkats, an armadillo, a bear cat, blue tongued skink and a tortoise. The visit was very popular with a full house and we learned a lot about each animal and their environment as well as being lucky enough to hold many of the critters. If you wish to visit our Friendship Circle then visit YMCA Neath on Tuesday afternoons between 12pm and 2pm for a warm welcome, cuppa and a chat. Friendship Circle is a safe space for people to chat and discuss any problems they may have and also any mental health issues. We hope you join us for a fun afternoon soon.



We would like to welcome new staff member Olivia to the team!

"I started working at YMCA Neath in April 2023 as the volunteer coordinator. My role within the YMCA is to recruit and manage the volunteers. There are many opportunities within the YMCA to volunteer such as the upcoming community café, charity shop, youth groups and gardening. It has been great to get to know everyone in the YMCA and I look forward to what the future with the volunteers holds."



If you are interested in volunteering please contact Olivia via email info@neathymca.org.uk

YMCA Neath celebrated the Coronation of King Charles on the bank holiday Monday 8th May. We held a Big Help Out Day which celebrated volunteering. We held a variety of activities in the centre in different rooms including children's arts and crafts, a bouncy castle, gymnastics tasters, martial arts demonstrations and a tea party in our coffee bar.



The day was busy with lots of children visiting the centre and we also had a visit from the Lord Lieutenant Louise Fleet who enjoyed herself and was extremely interested in the work we are undertaking here in the centre.

We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to the Neath Darts League, Neath Walking Rugby, and Orchard Place Church for their recent donations to the YMCA. Your generosity and support mean the world to us and will help us continue our work of empowering individuals and strengthening communities. Your contributions will go a long way in funding our programs and services, and we are honoured to have your support.



Thank you all for your generous donations to our London Marathon runner Joshua Hatton. The final total is a fantastic £4,105!

As a self funded, not-for-profit organisation we rely on your support to continue providing essential services to our community.

Your contributions mean the world to us and will make a significant impact. We would also like to say a big thank you to Josh for all his hard work and dedication to our cause!



Upcoming events...

We are excited to announce our upcoming events at the YMCA!

Wednesday 31st May, we will be hosting our Baby Bank Event from 12:00 – 2:00pm, where families can come and collect free baby items.

Our 'Come As You Are' Alternative Prom will take place on Saturday 17th June from 6:00 – 9:00pm, providing an inclusive and welcoming space for young people.

We will also be hosting our Summer Fair on Wednesday 16th August from 11:00 – 3:00pm, featuring a variety of activities and stalls for all ages.

Mark your calendars for our Charity Night on Friday 29th September from 6:00 – 9:00pm, where we will be raising funds for YMCA Neath.



Here for young people
Here for communities
Here for you

Yma i bobl ifanc
Yma i gymunedau
Yma i chi