

Good News YMCA Neath Newsletter

January - March 2026

WELCOME TO OUR FIRST NEWSLETTER OF 2026

As we move into the year, we're pleased to share the latest updates from YMCA Neath. The past few months have been busy and productive, with new projects completed, funding secured, and continued support for our community. Thank you for being part of everything we do.

FUNDING UPDATE

We're delighted to share some fantastic funding news:

We have successfully secured the NPT Loneliness and Isolation Grant, which will support our Mugs and Mates sessions - helping bring people together, build friendships and reduce isolation in our community.

We've also been awarded free broadband for five years through support from Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council and Virgin Media - helping us stay connected and better support our service users.

Active Lives for All Project

Our inclusive fitness initiative is complete, this project created more opportunities for people of all abilities to stay active and improve their wellbeing.

NPT Local Nature Partnership

Our beautiful nature-themed mural is now finished, celebrating local wildlife and brightening our space for everyone to enjoy. Swift boxes have been installed to the side of the building - next time you visit look up and see if you can spot these amazing birds!

Tesco Stronger Starts – Blue Token Vote

Thank you to everyone who voted for our gymnastics club. Your support means so much and helps us continue providing opportunities for young people to stay active and thrive.



THANK YOU

We would like to say a thank you to the individuals and organisations who have supported YMCA Neath over the past few months:

Natter & Chatter, who meet on the first Wednesday of every month, kindly donated £50 to support our Baby Bank - your generosity will make a real difference to local families.

A special thank you to Jenifer at Morrisons Neath, who continues to be a supporter of the YMCA, providing generous donations including Easter eggs and essential food items.

We are also incredibly grateful to Moose International Neath Lodge for their donation of nappies and toiletries to our Baby Bank, helping us support those most in need.



ELECTION MANIFESTO

We attended the YMCA England and Wales Senedd Reception in Cardiff Bay, marking the launch of YMCA England and Wales' new election manifesto. The event brought together YMCAs from across England and Wales to highlight the vital role YMCA plays in supporting young people and communities.



COMMUNITY WELLBEING

We were delighted to welcome Go Explore back to YMCA Neath, delivering a variety of creative workshops with our community groups. Together, participants created wellbeing journals, bird nesting balls and beautiful driftwood houses. These sessions provided a valuable opportunity to slow down, connect with others and focus on positive mental wellbeing in a relaxed and supportive environment.



MARTIAL ARTS SUCCESS

It has been an outstanding few months for our martial arts clubs, with incredible achievements at local, national and international level!

Kai Morgan Kelly and Evs Cadby travelled to Poland to represent Wales, where they achieved silver in the Judo Kata competition - a great accomplishment on the international stage. The pair also competed at the French Open Kata Championships, securing gold in Ju No Kata and bronze in Nage No Kata.

Closer to home, we are celebrating a major milestone with three new black belts. Congratulations to Meriel East, Elis East and Kai Morgan Kelly, who have all achieved their 1st Dan in Combat Jujutsu - a testament to years of commitment and perseverance.

There was further success for Maccsen Jenkins - Wilsher, who competed in the British Schools Finals in Sheffield, earning a well-deserved bronze medal against strong national competition.

Our club has also seen excellent progress in kata development. Ian and Adam Cardy have both achieved Level 3 in Katame No Kata, while Maccsen has gained Level 1, highlighting the continued growth and technical excellence within the club.

These achievements reflect not only individual success but the strength of the supportive community within our martial arts clubs. Well done to everyone involved - we look forward to seeing what the rest of the year brings!



PEN Y FAN CHALLENGE

Leah Wilsher is taking on an incredible challenge to raise funds for four organisations that support young people with disabilities, including YMCA Neath Judo Kwai.

If you're able to support Leah's journey, please consider donating or sharing her story to help spread the word. Good luck, Leah — we're all cheering you on!

CHILDRENS EYE CANCER TRUST FUNDRAISER

Join us on 27th June at 1:15pm for the Annual Judo Fundraising Event, raising vital funds for CHECT. This is always a fantastic event bringing together our members, families and the wider community for an afternoon of Judo and support for an important cause.

145TH GOOD FRIDAY BREAKFAST

At the start of April, we hosted our 145th Good Friday Breakfast, a long-standing and meaningful tradition for YMCA Neath.

It was wonderful to see such a big turnout, with members of the community coming together to share in this special occasion.

We welcomed guest speaker Bryn John CStJ DL and enjoyed a beautiful performance from soloist Maria Warren.

Thank you goes to all our staff, volunteers and supporters who helped organise and deliver the event. We are grateful for the continued support of our community and look forward to continuing this valued tradition for many years to come.



BYE FOR NOW!

Thank you for taking the time to read our latest updates and for continuing to support YMCA Neath. Everything we achieve is made possible by our community - our members, volunteers, partners, and supporters. We look forward to sharing more progress and welcoming you to our activities in the months ahead.

**YMCA NEATH COMMUNITY SHOP
FUNDRAISING TOTAL**

£676

THANK YOU!

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