

Good News YMCA Neath Newsletter

April - June 2026

Welcome to our Spring and Summer Newsletter!

It's been another busy few months here at YMCA Neath, filled with community events, volunteering, fundraising, and plenty of reasons to celebrate. From recognising our incredible volunteers to raising awareness for wildlife and launching our roof appeal, we've continued to work together to make a positive difference in our community. Thank you to everyone who supports us, volunteers with us and takes part in our activities – we couldn't do it without you. We hope you enjoy reading some of our highlights from April to June 2026!

Neath Judo kwai raises £600 for CHECT!

A huge well done to everyone involved in this year's Judo Kwai annual fundraising event! The club raised an incredible £600 for CHECT (Childhood Eye Cancer Trust), supporting families affected by retinoblastoma. Thank you to all the members, families and supporters who contributed to such a fantastic cause.



Celebrating Volunteers with Tempo Credits

Our volunteers enjoyed a wonderful day at the Tempo Credits Festival at Margam Park, celebrating the positive impact that volunteering has on individuals and communities. The event recognised the hard work and dedication of volunteers and the work of Tempo Credits across Neath Port Talbot.



Green Mingle at FAN

We were delighted to attend the recent Green Mingle event at FAN, where local organisations and residents came together to discuss climate change, sustainability and practical ways we can all support a greener future. It was a great opportunity to share ideas and celebrate the environmental work happening across our community.



Royal Recognition for Pam and Ian

Congratulations to our incredible volunteers, Pamela Lewis and Ian Cardy, who attended the King's Garden Party in recognition of their outstanding contribution to the community. Their dedication and commitment continue to inspire us all and we are incredibly proud to have them as part of the YMCA family.



Swift Awareness Week!

From 27th June, we celebrated Swift Awareness Week, raising awareness of these amazing birds and the importance of protecting their habitats. Thanks to support from local partners and volunteers, our community garden continues to provide a welcoming space for wildlife, including the swifts that return to Neath each summer.



Garden Open Day

Our recent Garden Open Day gave us the chance to celebrate the incredible volunteers who have helped transform our community garden. Their hard work, passion and commitment have created a beautiful space that benefits people, wildlife and the wider community alike.

Pollinator Pathway Project Underway

Work has officially begun on our exciting Pollinator Pathway Project, helping to create a more wildlife-friendly environment around YMCA Neath. Thanks to funding from the Neath Port Talbot Local Nature Partnership, the project will see the installation of five pollinator planters, eleven bug hotels and new interpretation panels, creating valuable habitats for bees, butterflies and other pollinating insects. We're looking forward to seeing the project take shape over the coming months and sharing updates as it progresses!



Roof Fundraiser

We have officially launched our fundraising campaign to replace the YMCA roof. The building has served the community for generations, but significant repairs are now needed to ensure it remains open and accessible for years to come. Every donation, no matter how small, helps us protect this vital community asset.

We are incredibly grateful to the Friends and Neighbours Centre (FAN) for their amazing £1,000 donation towards our roof fundraising campaign. Their support brings us one step closer to securing the future of our community hub!



Pen Y Fan Challenge

A huge congratulations to John and Leah Jenkins, who successfully completed the climb to the summit of Pen Y Fan in support of three fantastic charities. Taking on Wales' highest peak in South Wales is no small achievement, and their dedication to raising funds for good causes is truly inspiring.

Their efforts not only raised valuable funds but also helped shine a light on the importance of supporting charities that make a real difference in people's lives. Everyone at YMCA Neath is incredibly proud of their achievement and grateful for the positive example they continue to set within our community. Well done, John and Leah!



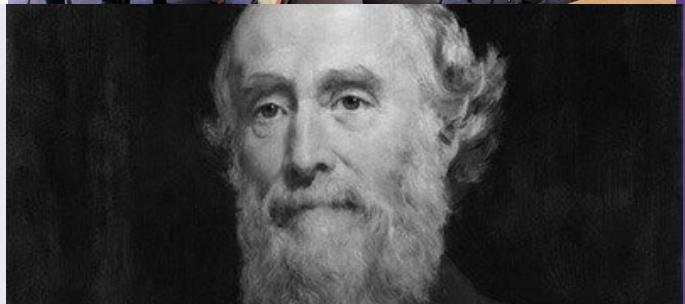
Mugs and Mates Goes Weekly

Due to its continued success and growing popularity, Mugs and Mates is now running every week. The group provides a friendly space for men to meet, chat and support one another over a cuppa, helping to tackle loneliness and strengthen community connections.



Did you know?

On 6th June, we celebrate George Williams Founder's Day, remembering the founder of the YMCA movement and reflecting on the values of kindness, community and service that continue to guide our work today, more than 180 years later.



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Bye for now!

As always, thank you to our members, volunteers, staff, supporters and partners for everything you do. Together, we continue to build a stronger, healthier and more connected community.