

# Forthcoming Festivals/Commemorations

5th September	Janmashtami/Krishna Jayanti <b>Hindu</b>
11th September	Ethiopian New Year <b>Rastafarian</b>
14th - 15th September	Rosh Hashanah <b>Jewish</b>
17th September	Ganesh Chaturthi <b>Hindu</b>
21st September	International Day of Peace
23rd - 24th September	Yom Kippur <b>Jewish</b>
24th September	Eid-ul-Adha <b>Muslim</b>
28th Sept - 5th Oct	Sukkot <b>Jewish</b>
September or October	Harvest <b>Christian</b>
October	Black History Month
1st October	International Day of Older Persons
5th - 6th October	Simchat Torah <b>Jewish</b>
13th - 21st October	Navaratri <b>Hindu</b>
15th October	Al-Hijrah <b>Muslim</b>
16th - 23rd October	Interfaith Week of Prayer for World Peace
17th - 28th October	National Anti-Racism Week of Action in Football
20th October	Guru Granth Sahib Ji given the Eternal Guruship <b>Sikh (Nanakshahi calendar)</b>
20th October	Anniversary of the Birth of the Bab <b>Bahai</b>
20th October	Durga Puja <b>Hindu</b>
21st October	Chung Yuan <b>Chinese</b>
24th October	United Nations Day
24th October	Ashura <b>Shia Muslim</b>
1st November	All Saints Day <b>Christian</b>
5th November	Anniversary of Guy Fawkes' Gunpowder Plot
8th November	Remembrance Sunday
11th November	Armistice Day
11th November	Diwali <b>Hindu</b>
11th November	Diwali <b>Sikh</b>
11th November	Diwali <b>Jain</b>
12th November	Anniversary of the Birth of Baha'u'llah <b>Bahai</b>
15th - 21st November	National Interfaith Week
16th November	International Day for Tolerance
16th - 20th November	Anti-Bullying Week
24th November	Martyrdom of Guru Tegh Bahadur <b>Sikh (Nanakshahi calendar)</b>
25th November	Birthday of Guru Nanak <b>Sikh (lunar calendar)</b>
29th November	Advent Sunday <b>Christian</b>
30th November	St. Andrew's Day
7th - 14th December	Hanukah <b>Jewish</b>
10th December	Human Rights Day
21st December	Yule/Winter Solstice <b>Pagan/Druid</b>
24th December	The Prophet Muhammad's Birthday <b>Sunni Muslim</b>
25th December	Christmas Day <b>Christian</b>
29th December	The Prophet Muhammad's Birthday <b>Shia Muslim</b>
31st December	Hogmanay

P.S. Anyone seeking to find out the dates of additional festivals or commemorations from early September to the end of December should access the many lists available on the internet. Some of the best such lists (in terms of inclusiveness and accuracy) derive from the BBC and RE:Online. The Shap Working Party on World Religion also produces a very good list, but the list must be purchased whether in hard or electronic form.

## Please send your contributions or comments to:

Linda Papaioannou, Democratic Services Officer, Northumberland County Council, County Hall, Morpeth, NE61 2EF  
**Telephone:** 01670 622615 **E-mail:** Linda.Papaioannou@northumberland.gov.uk

For further information, please see NASACRE newsletters at:

[www.nasacre.org.uk](http://www.nasacre.org.uk) and [www.multifaiths.com](http://www.multifaiths.com)

# SACRE

**Northumberland**  
Northumberland County Council

Newsletter for the Standing Advisory Council  
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## Cramlington Learning Village Diversity Project



The following excellent article has been written by sixth form students about their experiences during the project.

We have had the pleasure to be involved in experiencing different cultures and religions around the North-East. The aims of the project were: to promote awareness and develop our understanding of people from other cultures who live in our area; to meet and converse with people from other cultures who live in our area and find out about their lives; and to contribute something to help people less fortunate than ourselves.

Across two weeks in July, we had the pleasure to be invited to many places of worship including a mosque, an ISKCON (International Society for Krishna Consciousness) centre, a Sikh gurdwara and a Buddhist monastery. We have learned a lot about these different cultures and also how diverse the North-East is in regards to the types of cultures that exist here.

Learning about different cultures and religions has been very interesting. I have enjoyed finding out that there is such a range of religions in the North-East, especially in Newcastle. My favourite experience has been the ISKCON Temple because I enjoyed getting the flowery patterns painted on my face and learning how to play the traditional Hindu drums. **Ellie**

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On the first Monday, some of us were able to go to the Refugee Centre in Newcastle where we shadowed workers as they helped refugees. The other half of the group went the following Monday and assisted with the donation of food, clothes, toiletries and more brought in by the public and from our own group.



On Tuesday, we all got to visit the ISKCON Centre and the Sikh Gurdwara. For many of us this was the best day of the two weeks. One student said, "My favourite parts have been the trips out where I have participated in enriching experiences including visiting ISKCON, a gurdwara and a Buddhist temple."

For many, this trip was the most interesting as it was the first and showed that, despite what you may have thought, different cultures and faiths are not that far from what we may believe ourselves. In response to the trip, another student said, "My favourite part of this project has to be going to the ISKCON Centre and realising that I agree with a lot of the traditions or beliefs that the Hindus follow."

Wednesday was a more relaxed day for us as we stayed in school and had visitors come to talk to us about asylum seekers and refugees.



Many of us really enjoyed Thursday, as it was our Buddhist day, with half of us going to visit Harnham Buddhist Monastery and the other half staying in school to participate in a meditation session with a visiting monk. Those of us who visited the monastery participated in meditation, then shared lunch with the monks and took a tour of the grounds. Meditation was found to be "relaxing", "peaceful" and "very enlightening" by nearly all who took part.

*This experience has been refreshing, insightful, and readjusting. It has been refreshing to experience the different cultures and how other people act. It has been insightful to learn about people's beliefs and their way of life. It has also readjusted my perceptions of religions and the common misconceptions.* **Johnny H**

*I have found the community project very enjoyable as we have been doing something different to usual and have had more freedom. Also, I feel like I have learnt a lot over the course of this project.* **Jayne Ireland**

*I have enjoyed this project a lot! It was really interesting to find out about different cultures, which I think will also make me more tolerant of other people's beliefs. I would definitely recommend finding out about other cultures to have a better view of the North-East.* **Daniel**

*This experience has been an eye opener because I have learnt new aspects of different religions across the world, as well as meeting people who belong to different religions. For me, the weeks have been interesting as well as informative because of what we have been able to learn. My favourite part of the week was when we were cooking the curry.* **Aimee**

*One of the parts of the weeks I really enjoyed was buying the ingredients from the Indian supermarkets for all of the group. It let me see what people in other cultures enjoy to eat.* **Luke**

*One aspect of the week that I have enjoyed was the visit from the Buddhist monk to the school. Buddhists believe that our journey to enlightenment and our karma are carried over through our multiple lives. He explained all of this using scientific as well as religious beliefs, which I found interesting as it provided a different outlook on the way the world works.* **Connor**

*I have found this experience very interesting and have learned a lot about new things which I wish to continue to learn more about in the future. The Buddhist monastery was my favourite experience; everything was so calm and totally different to what I expected it to be like.* **Laura**

On Friday, we had an Indian cooking workshop with a man named Dinesh. This was an introduction to Indian cooking for many of us and we all enjoyed finding out about how the blends of spices give their food its unique flavour. This was a chance for us to experience more cultural activities as, whilst it is not religious, cooking is an important part of Indian life, and, as one student said, "It let me see what other people in other cultures enjoy to eat."



The next Monday, we visited the Islamic Society Mosque based at Newcastle University. This was an insightful look into the Islamic faith and helped remove any misconceptions that may have been brought about through the media. The Muslims were very inviting and allowed us to witness their zuhr (noon) prayer.



Our final activity as a group was a Chinese workshop with a group of sixth form students from Excelsior School in Newcastle followed by a picnic and a tour of the school. We all enjoyed the opportunity to get to know people our own age, who were largely from quite different backgrounds to us. The workshop was really enjoyable, and we all got to do something we had never done before. It was a really good end to the project.

*The whole experience has opened my eyes to how peaceful cultures can be. I have now got more respect for others with a spiritual belief. My favourite part was visiting the ISKCON Temple. It was a very relaxed environment and comfortable.* **Hannah**

*My favourite part of Culture Vulture has been visiting the ISKCON Temple, as we were made to feel really welcome and comfortable at the temple and witnessed traditional Hindu rituals and learnt about their God, Krishna, who they focused their worship on.* **Beth**

*I have really enjoyed being a part of Culture Vultures. I have learnt a lot about different religions and cultures that I never knew before, such as the traditional practices of each religion we have looked at. My favourite parts have been the trips out where I have participated in enriching experiences including visiting the ISKCON Centre, a gurdwara and a Buddhist temple.* **Maria Jackson**

*I found the community week very good and interesting, as it is something I have never done before. My favourite part was the monastery because I think it was the most different to our lives and the meditating was really good. I also didn't realise how many different cultures there are in the North-East.* **Laura**

*I have really liked this project, and the fact that we've been able to go on loads of different trips, and we've been able to learn about, and sometimes experience, so many different ways of life. My favourite part was definitely the meditation session at the Buddhist monastery; it was really relaxing and a very peaceful environment.* **Annya**

*My favourite part of this project has to be going to the ISKCON Temple and realising that I agree with a lot of the traditions or beliefs that the Hindus follow. Although I must admit the meditation with Abhinando was very relaxing, 10/10 - I would do meditation again. I came away from the monastery feeling very enlightened.* **Megan**