

# Forthcoming Festivals/Commemorations

5 January	Birthday of Guru Gobind Singh (Sikh)
6 January	Epiphany (Western Christian)
6 - 7 January	Christmas Eve and Christmas Day (Orthodox Christian, Rastafarian)
24 January	The Prophet Muhammad's Birthday (Muslim)
27 January	Holocaust Memorial Day (National)
2 February	Candlemas/The Presentation of the Lord (Christian)
10 February	Yuan Tan/Chinese New Year (Chinese)
12 February	Darwin's Birthday (National)
12 February	Shrove Tuesday (Western Christian)
13 February	Ash Wednesday (Western Christian)
13 Feb - 30 Mar	Lent (Western Christian)
23 - 24 February	Purim (Jewish)
24 February	Teng Chieh (Chinese)
1 March	St. David's Day (National)
1 March	Women's World Day of Prayer (Christian)
8 March	International Women's Day (International)
17 March	St. Patrick's Day (National)
18 March	First Day of Lent/The Great Feast (Orthodox Christian)
21 March	Nawruz (Bahai)
24 - 30 March	Holy Week (Western Christian)
25 March - 2 April	Pesach/Passover (Jewish)
27 March	Holi (Hindu)
29 March	Good Friday (Western Christian)
31 March	Easter Day (Western Christian)
4 April	Ching Ming (Chinese)
7 - 8 April	Yom Ha-Shoah/Holocaust Day (Jewish)
13 April	Baisakhi (Sikh)
14 April	Birthday of Guru Nanak (Sikh, Nanakshahi calendar)
21 April - 2 May	Ridvan (Bahai)
23 April	St. George's Day (National)
23 April	Mahavira Jayanti (Jain)
5 May	Easter Day (Orthodox Christian)

Please send your contributions or comments to;  
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For further information, please see NASACRE newsletters at [www.nasacre.org.uk](http://www.nasacre.org.uk)

# SACRE

## Northumberland

Northumberland County Council

Newsletter for the Standing Advisory Council  
for Religious Education for Northumberland

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Please display on your school notice board

## Prudhoe High School's 'Anne Frank' Ambassadors and the Anne Frank Exhibition



It was described by many of the students as "an experience not to be missed" and we were so glad we didn't miss it!

13 GCSE Ethics' students from Prudhoe High School were selected for Anne Frank Ambassador training. For two days, we went into Newcastle to be trained as "good guides" and to learn about human rights' issues past and present. Siobhan Waddell said, "I learned a lot about Anne Frank and I am now more confident about speaking in front of my peers."

To finish, we were privileged enough to hear a speaker who had lived through the Rwandan genocide, which deeply moved the entire room and made us all realize just how fortunate we are.

Our training was put to use when the Anne Frank Exhibition arrived at the Fuse Media Centre at Prudhoe High School. Grace Dunn, who helped with our training for the Anne Frank Trust and staged the exhibition, showed us around and helped us become "experts" on Anne Frank and the Holocaust. Our two days of training certainly helped us!

Over two weeks in November, we guided students around the exhibition from our school and our feeder middle schools. Molly Holmes said, "I was scared to show around people at first, but after training and lots of preparation, my confidence increased!"

All the ambassadors worked hard and really enjoyed the experience.

Ellie James, on behalf of the Prudhoe High School Ambassadors.



## Prudhoe High School's 'Anne Frank' Ambassadors and the Anne Frank Exhibition"

### Continued



The student ambassadors are just too modest to say what a really good job they did. Staff and students from Prudhoe High and Highfield Middle schools, as well as other visitors who experienced the exhibition, were so impressed with their professional delivery. Their knowledge was quite astounding, and the way they asked the visitors questions, and were prepared to engage in discussion about key moral issues, was remarkable. As a school, we are so proud of them, and extremely grateful to the Anne Frank Trust for giving them this wonderful opportunity.

Lyn Atkinson,  
Teacher of Philosophy and  
Ethics, Prudhoe High School.  
[www.resourcescentreonline.co.uk](http://www.resourcescentreonline.co.uk)



## Sikh in sky-blue turban "turns them on" at J.C. Spence College Middle School, Amble

April 2012. Hall booked. Karen, our chief cook, ready with a vegetarian lunch. Children excited because a visitor is coming to see us. Teacher hovering in reception, hoping everything will go OK. Suddenly, in the window, a turban appears, a sky-blue turban crowning a smiling face. Harpal Singh has arrived!

A friendlier, more accommodating person you could not imagine. We were chatting ten to the dozen, even as we crossed the yard to the canteen. As we passed, there were even more greetings than usual from wide-eyed, curious children who had probably never seen a Sikh in his turban before. All the children were hoping to speak to Harpal, and he greeted each one warmly, taking the close attention in his stride.

In the canteen, the ladies had gone out of their way to make a tasty meal and present it attractively. Harpal was most appreciative, and finished every scrap. By the end, he had made several new friends - children who had decided they were going to sit by our visitor and be introduced.

After a few moments alone in the Hall, the massed troops of Year 5 filed in. I think actually

seeing how many children were facing him was a bit of a surprise to Harpal, but it did not faze him one bit. He was soon well into his stride, explaining what Sikhs believe, and how they live their lives as a response to being thankful to the Lord, serving people, doing the best they can. Harpal told our pupils what that means for him personally. For example, part of his service is to come and tell people about the Sikh faith. He also asked the pupils if they wanted Amble, our town, to be a better place. Of course, we all did, so he exhorted us to "make this come true" by doing our best in everything we do.

For almost a term, Year 5 had been studying Sikhism, so they were familiar with the Five Ks and the Khalsa. The boys were particularly fascinated with the sword - the kirpan - and Harpal showed them his. We also had the benefit of the beautiful Sikh artefacts from the North East Religious Learning Resources Centre, which Harpal was able to hold up (two boxes full of "the real things", on loan for just £15 a term. Contact

[enquiries@resourcescentreonline.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@resourcescentreonline.co.uk) for details).

The children asked lots of questions. Some questions were

predictable, such as how do you tie a turban, and some less so, such as whether girls carry kirpans as well. Harpal fielded them all with aplomb and in language everyone could understand. He managed to answer the more personal questions gracefully and humorously, e.g. concerning the length of his hair!

By the end of Harpal's visit, all of us had learnt something new, teachers included. Most importantly, we had got to know a lovely person, a person who truly lives his faith, who is, at the same time, someone just like ourselves.

Perhaps the last words should come from the children:

Owen: We hope you can come again. There was something for all of us.

Kate: My best bit was when you showed us your sword and bracelet.

Luke: Thank you for showing me all your things and telling me how to live like a Sikh.

Ross: The kirpan was cool.

Anon.: Please come again. My best part was... ALL OF IT! You're a star.

Janet Hedley,  
J. C. Spence College Middle  
School, Amble.

## Holocaust Memorial Day, 27th January 2013

Holocaust Memorial Day (HMD) is, as always, on 27th January, and we are confident that many Northumberland schools have already planned events to coincide with the national commemoration. The theme for this year is "Communities Together: build a bridge", and it is likely that many events will feature reaching out to individuals or groups that differ in some way from the majority of pupils and students within the school. Some schools have already arranged to do work relating to Gypsy, Traveller and Roma communities, and others will foster links with local Muslim and Buddhist groups.

If your school has yet to confirm how HMD will be commemorated, we suggest that an outstanding starting point for ideas is the HMD Trust website ([www.hmd.org.uk](http://www.hmd.org.uk)), where, among other things, you can find out what is happening in other parts of the country and access some excellent teaching and learning materials. Every year, the Trust publishes new information packs which are free of charge until stocks run out. The website will advise if any such packs are still available. The website also emphasises that, although the Holocaust is the genocidal act that is most often examined during HMD commemorations,

schools are also urged to consider more recent ones that took place in Cambodia, Rwanda, Bosnia and Darfur.

Above all, HMD is designed to challenge prejudice, racism and discrimination, and to promote diversity, equality and harmony between communities". Consequently, schools which address HMD confirm their commitment to community cohesion.

If any schools wish to share with a larger audience what they did to commemorate HMD, send a summary to Phil André at [phil.andre@ntlworld.com](mailto:phil.andre@ntlworld.com) and we will publish the article in a forthcoming SACRE Newsletter.