



Gwasanaeth Tân ac Achub
Canolbarth a Gorllewin Cymru

Mid and West Wales
Fire and Rescue Service

CALON TÂN

MARCH
2024

COMMS IN
DIVISION

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Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service is responsible for providing emergency response cover to nearly 12,000 square kilometers - almost two-thirds of Wales.
Here's what kept us busy last month:

1394
Calls to Control

448
Incidents Attended

33
Building Fires

422
False Alarms

17
Animal Rescues

18
Water Rescues

58
Road Traffic Collisions

41
Assistance to other agencies



- MORRISTON CAR WASH - 30 MARCH
- BREW WITH A CREW MILFORD - 13 APRIL
- SHOW & TELL RECRUITMENT DAY LLANDEILO - 20 APRIL
- PONTARDDULAI OPEN DAY - 31 MAY
- NEWTOWN EXPERIENCE DAY - 19 JUNE
- HAVERFORDWEST EXPERIENCE DAY - 11 JULY

Our community-based events offer a warm welcome to all, a great opportunity to connect with your local firefighters and support their station led events.

Mark your calendars and stay tuned to our social media pages for event updates and details.

Don't miss out on the excitement - follow us on social media and invite your friends and family.

FOLLOW US ON:

f FACEBOOK

X

INSTAGRAM



PASSING OUT PARADE: MID AND WEST WALES FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE'S LATEST WHOLETIME FIREFIGHTERS

On Thursday, March 21st, a Graduation Ceremony and Passing Out Parade was held by Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service (MAWWFRS) for the latest cohort of Wholtime Firefighters.

Held at the Service's Earlswood Training Centre, the event was an opportunity to reflect on and celebrate the amazing achievements of the 12

individuals - known collectively as Squad 01/24 - who have recently completed their On-Call to Wholtime conversion course, and in the company of their friends and families.

Following an extensive recruitment process where a variety of challenges were met as part of a rigorous selection process, Squad 01/24 began their eight-week residential course on January 25th. Since then, they have each developed the initial skills and attributes needed to undertake their new roles as Wholtime Firefighters.

The Ceremony included the Parade of Recruits, where they were joined by the Service's Colour Party, and an Inspection of the Recruits by Chief Fire Officer Roger Thomas, Chair of Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Authority, Councillor Gwynfor Thomas and Head of Training Delivery, Stuart Bate. Several Drill Yard Displays were then held to fully illustrate the emergency response skills each member of the Squad has developed during their training, which were followed by a Presentation of Certificates and Awards.

Each Graduate will soon start their careers as Wholtime Firefighters in their designated Fire Station. Everyone at MAWWFRS congratulates each of them wishes them long and successful careers.



Cameron Scott
The Highest-Achieving Recruit Award



Thomas Kerton
Physical Fitness Achievement Award



Scott Davies
The Recruits' Recruit Award

FULL ARTICLE

TEIFI THE SHETLAND PONY RESCUE

On Tuesday, March 5th, the Crickhowell, Talgarth and Pontardawe crews came to the rescue of Teifi, a 21-year-old Shetland pony who had become trapped in a cattle grid.

Crews utilised road traffic collision and animal rescue equipment to release Teifi from the cattle grid. Following the incident, Teifi's owner, Beth Watkins said:

"I'm incredibly grateful to the Fire and Rescue Service crews for their help in rescuing Teifi. They meticulously planned his release and showed great care towards him throughout the incident."

I'm pleased to say that Teifi is recovering well and he's since become quite the local celebrity!"

The Country Code

Teifi was able to reach the cattle grid due to a gate being left open by walkers on a right of way through the farm that he lives on.

More information on the Countryside Code can be found [here](#).



HAVERFORDWEST HOSTS FEMALE EXPERIENCE DAY!

Encouraging women to consider a career as a Firefighter. On Wednesday, 14th March we held the first of our two all-Female Experience Days in Haverfordwest Fire Station.

The Female only Experience Day provided the opportunity for women interested in becoming a firefighter to gain a better understanding of the role, the various aspects of the recruitment process, the importance of fitness and much more.

The 3-hour experience enabled the attendees to try on a full firefighting kit, practice timing skills when assembling/disassembling equipment, test their strength and agility by carrying hose reel jets, dragging a dummy and test their ability in confined spaces. Participants got a tour of a fire appliance, followed by a question-and-answer session with a Service training expert.

Overall, the day was a resounding success. It gave those in attendance a glimpse of what it takes to be a firefighter and inspired them to start the on-call application process. These Experience Days also serve as a reminder that diversity and equality is key to creating a strong and effective team within the Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service.



More information on MAWWFRS Experience Days that are open to everyone can be found on our [website](#).

If you think you have what it takes to be an on-call firefighter, please complete of [Expression of Interest Form](#) to start your journey!





LONDON LANDMARK HALF MARATHON IN FULL KIT

Watch Manager Nathan Bringloe and Station Manager Richard Davies from Southern Division will be running the [London Landmark Half Marathon](#) on April 7th. They will be taking on this amazing challenge in full Firefighting Kit, including a Breathing Apparatus Set, all to help raise money for four very worthwhile charities – [The Fire Fighters Charity](#), [Breast Cancer Now](#), [Prince Philip Hospital](#) Breast Cancer Unit and [MacMillan](#).

Let's help Nathan and Richard surpass their target. You can show your support by donating straight to their [JustGiving page](#) or by attending their upcoming Car Wash at Morrision Station on March 30th.

Good luck both!

We asked WM Nathan why he decided to take on this incredible challenge and this is what he said:

"I decided on doing a number of events this year to celebrate the fact I'm turning 40. I picked these charities because like lots of families and friends across the UK and the world, both my Aunties and our very own Leanne Macbeth have/are fighting this terrible disease and I just wanted to do something for them, to give something back and to raise awareness and if possible, some money to help the charities."

The reality is what I'm doing is nothing compared to the fight all women have against this horrific disease of Breast Cancer. Hopefully what we all raise together through this run will help develop future care and treatment for all women.

Massive Thank you to everyone who have donated, and a special thank you to those who have helped me raise this money/awareness I owe you all so much."

#TEAMMAWWFRS

RANDOM ACTS OF WELSHNESS

To celebrate St David's Day this year the Service took part in #RandomActsofWelshness

St David's Day, the day we celebrate our patron saint and all things Welsh. When we remember his famous guiding words: gwnewch y pethau bychain — do the little things. What better way to celebrate than our new Welsh Language Officer Llew bringing those words to life with an outpouring of hwyl and kindness.

Pictured are some of the staff members who took part in spreading #RandomActsofWelshness as well as Carmarthen Stations contribution to St Davids Day with their amazing daffodil.



#RANDOMACTSOFWELSHNESS

Meet the Team



MEET THE FITNESS TEAM

Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service employs over 1,300 members of staff who deliver emergency response, public safety information, prevention and protection programmes and more to almost 12,000 square kilometres - almost two-thirds of Wales.

The Fitness Team, based at the Service's Headquarters but working across the entire Service area, are responsible for developing and maintaining the health, fitness and well-being of our operational staff to ensure the highest level of emergency response possible.

Through regular reviews and coaching, as well as their expert skills and experience, they have overseen Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service become one of the best-performing Fire and Rescue Services in the UK in terms of our operational staff's pass rate.



Steve Philpott
Health and Fitness Coordinator

Hi, I'm Steve, I'm the Service's Health and Fitness Coordinator and I've worked at the Service for the last eight years.

I have seen many things improve with regards to health, fitness and well-being within the Service during this time. I love my job and I'm very passionate about the work I do, I enjoy sharing and passing on my experiences with health, well-being and physical training. I'm delighted that the statistics at Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service reflect this work, having accomplished a 99% pass rate for the last six years, making us one of the best-performing Fire and Rescue Services in the UK.

Prior to joining the Service, I spent 38 years working in the Military Services, primarily working with the Royal Army Physical Training Corps.

Outside of work, I like to keep active and my hobbies include martial arts, boxing, skiing, climbing, mountaineering and kayaking – all of which I'm fortunate enough to instruct. I've been married to my wife Ellie for 17 years and I have four children, who all keep me very busy. I also have a lovely white Alsatian named Buddy.



Shane Earp
Health and Fitness Advisor

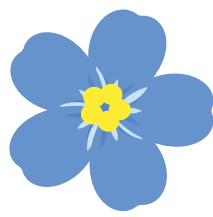


Hi, I'm Shane and I'm the Service's Health and Fitness Advisor. I've worked for Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service for the last four years and I absolutely love my job and all that it entails, from maintaining a high standard of fitness delivery to all operational members of staff and providing the highest level of support and knowledge to all members of the Service.

I have worked in the fitness industry for over a decade and prior to joining the Service, I ran my own personal training business which further developed my passion for health, well-being and fitness.

When switching off from work, my hobbies include training, martial arts and music, over the last few years I've developed a real passion for DJing. This is something I enjoy doing with my family, my young son absolutely loves putting on his headphones and having a bop around!





NEW DEMENTIA HWB

Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service recently partnered with [Dementia Friendly Swansea](#) for the opening of the newest Dementia Hwb drop-in centre at Aberafan Shopping Centre.

Dementia Friendly Swansea is a charity that acts as a beacon of hope to people and families that are affected by dementia. It's a place that is welcoming, supportive, and understanding to the disease and its affects.

As a Service we recognise that some people – including older people and people with dementia – need additional support. Fire safety at home is

an important issue for everyone and particularly for people living with dementia. This is why it was such a privilege for members of our Community Fire Safety Team to be present for the opening.

Safeguarding Lead and a Trustee for Dementia Hwb, Jay Crouch said:

"We see the most vulnerable people out in the community and it's great to have a resource like the dementia Hwb that we can signpost to for support and likewise have them refer to us, for Safe and Well checks."

We encourage people to pop along to either of the Dementia Hwb's and say hello to the team who are there to support people and families affected by dementia.



[FULL ARTICLE](#)



SERVICE AWARDED GREEN DRAGON ENVIRONMENTAL STANDARD FOR 10TH CONSECUTIVE YEAR

Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service (MAWWFRS) has been awarded the [Green Dragon Environmental Standard](#) for the 10th consecutive year.

The Green Dragon Environmental Standard is awarded to organisations that can demonstrate effective environmental management and that are taking action to understand, monitor and control their impacts on the environment.

[FULL ARTICLE](#)

Sustainability and Environment Manager, Jess Millard, said:

"I'm extremely pleased that the Service has successfully maintained its Level 5 Green Dragon Environmental Management Standard accreditation for a 10th year."

This is a fantastic achievement and shows the Service's commitment to environmental sustainability and nature recovery."



OSPREYS' PLAYERS SWITCH THE RUGBY PITCH FOR THE FIRE GROUND!

On Wednesday, 20th March, members of the [Ospreys Seniors Rugby team](#) joined us at Earlswood Training Facility for a firefighter Experience Day.

[Welsh Rugby Players Association \(WRPA\)](#) reached out to Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service (MAWWFRS) regarding its Personal Development Programme (PDP) which assists players in achieving a good sporting/lifestyle balance during their careers, in doing so it ultimately makes the transition out of their professional playing career and into future employment as smooth as possible.

The 3-hour experience enabled the rugby players to try on a full firefighting kit, test their strength and agility by lifting weighted ladders, carrying hose reel jets and face their fears in a confined space whilst blindfolded! Followed by a tour of a fire

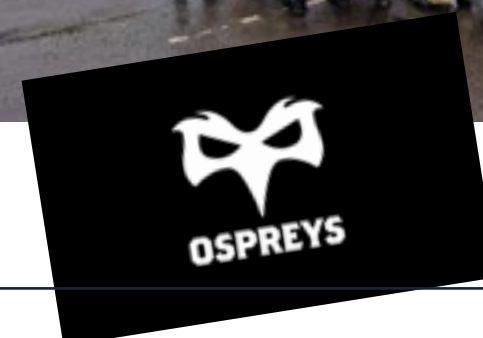
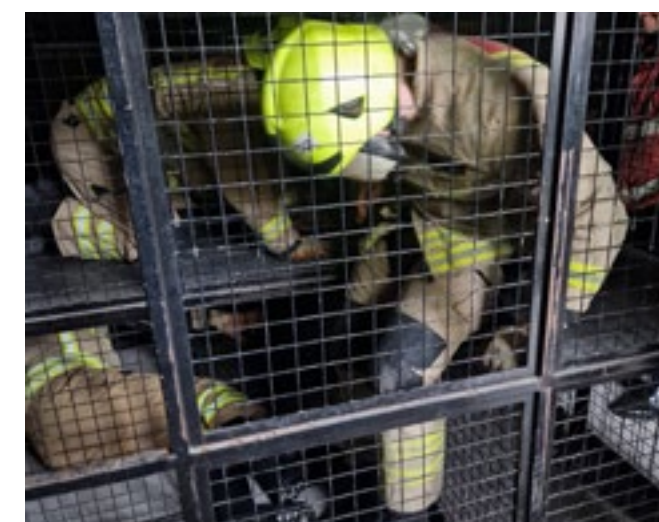
appliance and question-and-answer session with a Service training expert.

Tim Jones, Personal Development Manager from the Welsh Rugby Player Association, based in the Ospreys rugby region said:

"Part of my role is to support players in finding potential careers after rugby life and Experience Days like these are a fantastic opportunity for the players to explore other occupations. They've had a small taste of what the role of a firefighter entails, and this opportunity can help them decide if a future career in the Fire Service is for them. We are all grateful to MAWWFRS for this opportunity, especially Rob and Mark who made the day possible."

Overall, the firefighter Experience Day was a unique and eye-opening opportunity for the Ospreys players, giving them a new perspective on the challenges they may face in a career as a firefighter. More information on MAWWFRS Experience Days that are open to everyone can be found on our [website](#).

If you think you have what it takes to be an On-Call firefighter, please complete of [Expression of Interest Form](#) to start your journey!



INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY 2024

In support of [International Women's Day 2024](#) the Service held an event at the [National Botanic Garden of Wales](#), to celebrate the journeys and achievements of inspiring women, both within our fire family and further afield. The event ran throughout the entire day, with female speakers, peer networking and a fantastic team building exercise.

[Josephine Reynolds](#) who is one of the UK's first female firefighters and author of [Fire Woman](#) started the day delving into her extraordinary story. This was followed by a pre-recorded IWD video for the Service from the [Antarctic Fire Angels](#) where they talked about their incredible expedition to the South Pole.

Corporate Head of Resources, Ceri Jackson, prompted discussions on culture and inclusion within the Service and to round off the day, Safeguarding Lead, Jay Crouch gave a short talk on the importance of inclusivity in sports teams. This was closely followed by a team building exercise of rounders and wellbeing walk around the beautiful grounds.

All the speaker journeys were truly inspirational and left a lot of food for thought, throughout the entire group. As a Service we will continue to challenge gender stereotypes, call out discrimination, draw attention to bias, and collectively **#inspireinclusion**.

We're already looking forward to International Women's Day 2025!



BECOME A MEMBER OF MAWWFRS SPORTS AND SOCIAL CLUB TODAY!

Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service (MAWWFRS) has its own Sports and Social Club. If you are a current or retired member of the Service, you are welcome to join.

The Sports and Social Club is a platform for keeping active, socialising, and having fun. Currently it consists of a variety of sections that you can join, including:



These are the official Sports and Social club section logos – for any logo enquires please contact our graphics team

We are fully supportive of starting new sections, so if you don't see a sport or social activity that you enjoy, why not get in touch, and start your own section.

Be a part of the Sports and Social Club for just £2 a month. assist with the running of all our sections. For more information on how to join, please email Steven Philpot - s.philpott@mawwfire.gov.uk

SPORTS AND SOCIAL SECTION MONTHLY FEATURE - FOCUS ON GOLF!



As part of our monthly insight into MAWWFRS Sports and Social clubs, in March's edition we are highlighting the Golf Section!

The Golf Society is the longest running section within the MAWWFRS Sports and Social club. The section was formed in the late eighties by Howard Jones and was initially run within the Dyfed County Fire Brigade. The running of the golf society was taken over by Trevor Davies and Graham Jackson from Northern Division following an amalgamation within the Service in the mid 90's. The section has continued to grow and now boasts more than 30 members from all corners of the Service.

The Golf Section runs 8 fixtures per season at various golf courses across the Service area. Members compete in a table of merit with the winner at the end of the season picking up the trophy for Service Champion and a prestigious spot in the Wales Fire Service Golf team.

Golf days are a real social occasion attended by serving Service personnel, retired personnel, and families. They are inclusive to all and offers a great

way of meeting new people. The days are filled with fun and give you the chance to socially meet before for breakfast, play golf at a reduced rate on some of the area's best golf courses and end the day with a nice meal.

The golf section is continuously looking for new members and welcome all, whether new to golf or those who regularly play. Members of the Golf Section also have the opportunity to compete for the Welsh Fire Service in the 4 Nations and attend numerous FiresportUK Golf events which are placed across the UK throughout the year.

Attendance is not required at all events; the Golf Section is very flexible, and people are free to participate in the events that they wish to join. The section is looking 'Four' ward to seeing some new faces!

For further information and registration at events please see: MID & WEST WALES GOLF SOCIETY - Home (weebly.com) or contact the Chairman/Captain - Charlie Taylor on c.taylor@mawwfire.gov.uk



Bowood Golf Course on Sunday 10th March 2024

VACANCIES

WORK WITH US!

When people think of a career in the Fire and Rescue Service, they tend to think of Firefighters responding to emergency incidents, but it's not just Firefighters who make mid and west Wales a safer place.

Behind the operational scene, the Service has a large range of other posts within different departments which are either office based or in our workshops, and we employ people in professional, technical, and administrative roles.

VIEW CURRENT VACANCIES >

BENEFITS

- Competitive rates of pay
- Local Government Pension scheme
- Generous Annual leave – 26 Days plus bank holidays, going up to 33 days after 5 years employment.
- Flexi Scheme
- Access to Blue Light Card discount scheme
- Car Leasing Salary Sacrifice scheme
- Sports and Social Club
- Free on-site parking
- Cycle to Work scheme
- Staff Discount scheme
- Health and Wellbeing

& MANY MORE!

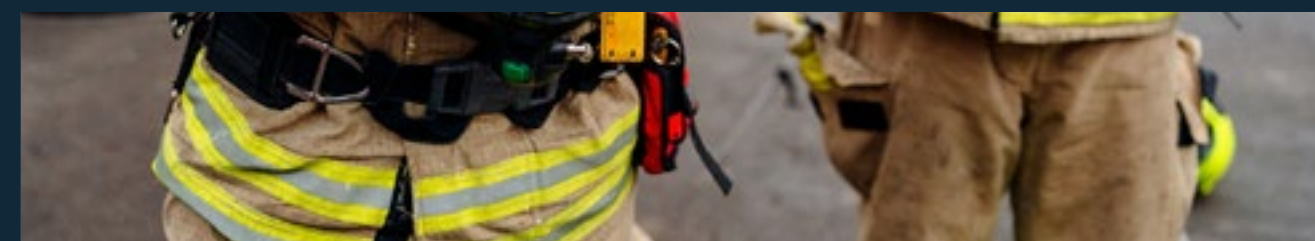


AR ALWAD
Recriwtio Diffoddwyr Tân
ON CALL
Firefighter Recruitment

ON-CALL FIREFIGHTERS – WE NEED YOU!



Do you live within 5-10 minutes of your local Fire Station?
We currently have on-call firefighter vacancies – head over to our [website](#) to find out more!





Gwasanaeth Tân ac Achub
Canolbarth a Gorllewin Cymru

Mid and West Wales
Fire and Rescue Service

#MwyNaDimOndTanau
#MoreThanJustFires



www.mawwfire.gov.uk

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