



Gwasanaeth Tân ac Achub
Canolbarth a Gorllewin Cymru

Mid and West Wales
Fire and Rescue Service

CALON TÂN

JANUARY
2024

ANTARCTIC FIRE
ANGELS
PAGE 3



EUROS EDWARDS AWARDED
BRITISH EMPIRE MEDAL
PAGE 8



NEW FEATURE:
MEET THE TEAM
PAGE 4

STATION NEWS FROM
ACROSS THE SERVICE
PAGE 10

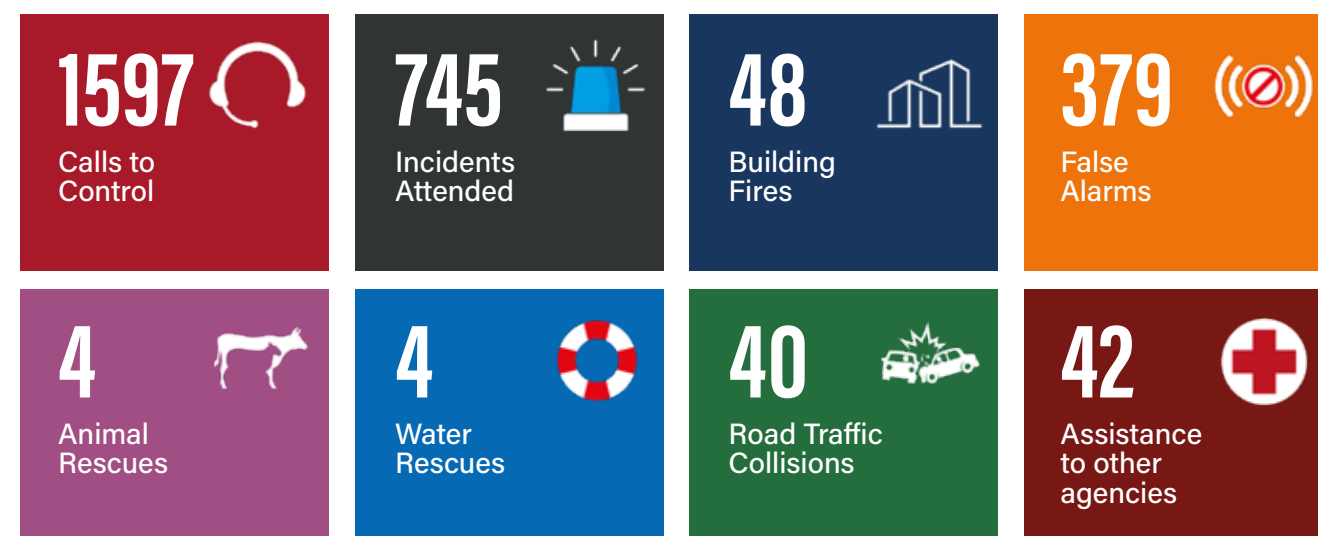
FIREFIGHTER HEALTH
SCREENING
PAGE 19

CONTENTS

ANTARCTIC ANGELS	4
MEET THE TEAM - CCBd, HQ	6
STAFF NEWS - EUROS EDWARDS	8
TRAINING	9
STATION NEWS	10
OPERATION FLORIAN	12
SPORTS AND SOCIAL	13
VACANCIES	16
STRATEGIC EQUALITY PLAN	18
HEALTH SCREENING	19

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:



ANTARCTIC FIRE ANGELS

ANTARCTIC FIRE ANGELS COMPLETE THEIR EXTRAORDINARY EXPEDITION

Firefighters Rebecca Openshaw-Rowe from Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service and Georgina Gilbert from South Wales Fire and Rescue Service have completed their extraordinary Antarctic expedition.

Rebecca and Georgina – otherwise known as the Antarctic Fire Angels – embarked on their expedition at the beginning of November 2023 and reached their final destination on January 12th 2024. They have walked and skied over 1,200km in 52 days, from the coast of Antarctica to the South Pole - the equivalent of 29 marathons!

The Antarctic Fire Angels are the first people ever to complete their chosen route and their expedition was entirely unguided and unassisted, whilst pulling their own supply and equipment sleds – each weighing over 100kg. In addition to covering this incredible distance, they have had to endure the

extreme conditions of the coldest place on Earth - with temperatures reaching as low as -30°C and wind speeds of up to 60mph.

Their expedition took over four years of careful planning and training, and one of the principal aims was to challenge gender stereotypes and to inspire future generations of women.

Rebecca and Georgina are fantastic role models for women and girls to pursue a career in whichever field they choose and have provided advice and support to women undergoing the firefighter recruitment process.

The Antarctic Fire Angels have also been raising important funds for [The Fire Fighters Charity](#) - which provides lifelong support for serving and retired members of the UK's fire and rescue services - and their [JustGiving](#) page is still accepting donations.

You can look back at the Antarctic Fire Angels' journey via their [tracking page](#), which gives an overview of their route to the South Pole along with video blogs they recorded along the way.

Everyone at Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service congratulates Rebecca and Georgina on their incredible achievement.



Meet the Team

This newest feature of our Calon Tân magazine will highlight a different, non-operational department, so you can get to know who helps MAWWFRS behind the scenes.

MEET THE CORPORATE COMMUNICATIONS AND BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT 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.

In this edition, we meet the Corporate Communications and Business Development (CCBD) Team, who are based at the Service Headquarters in Carmarthen.

The CCBD Team is responsible for internal and external communication, graphic design, management of the Service's website as well as managing the work of the Fire Authority and supporting its elected members.



Aled Lewis
Temporary Head of Corporate Communications and Business Development

Hi, I'm Aled, and I'm the Temporary Head of CCBD.

I think it's fair to say we have a wide portfolio of work in the department that tends to touch most aspects of the Service. That being said, we have a fantastic team of subject experts who ensure we deliver with professionalism and success.

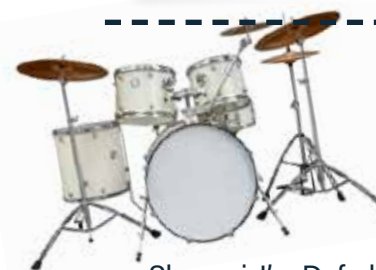
Being responsible for a small but highly functional team is rewarding and challenging in equal measure and with the dynamic environment within which the Service is currently operating, I do not doubt that 2024 will throw up its fair share of challenges that will require us to think innovatively and enhance the way the department delivers its services.

We are always keen to engage, so I encourage you all to connect with us to find out more about how we can support you.



Linsey Perry
Temporary Press and Communications Manager

I'm Linsey, and I have worked for the Service for seven years. My current role of Temporary Press and Communications Manager means that I get to work with a variety of departments and Stations across the Service and can safely say that no two days are the same! Outside of work, family life is busy and much of my 'spare time' is spent chauffeuring my teenagers around, enthusiastically supporting their endeavours in football, rugby, and netball. When time allows, I enjoy traveling, cinema dates with my husband, Jason, and the odd game of Scrabble!



Dafydd Jones
Graphic and Web Design Manager

Shwmai, I'm Dafydd, and my role at CCBD is the Graphic and Web Design Manager. I joined the Service in December 2022, and I really enjoy the wide variety of work and projects we undertake as a department. When I'm not in the office being the chief (and best) tea maker, I spend my time tidying up after my daughters, fulfilling my partners' DIY requests and walking the dogs. My passions are music and football. I play drums and guitar, so if someone wants to start a Service band, get in touch! Occasionally I turn out for Llanboidy AFC reserves.



Angharad Hawkes
Democratic Services Officer



Hi, I'm Angharad, and my role within CCBD is the Democratic Services Officer and I joined the service in April 2022. My role is to help to manage the decision-making process of the Fire Authority which includes supporting our 25 Members (Councillors). This ensures decisions that affect us all are taken in accordance with relevant legislation and the Authority's constitution and ensure all Members have the information and skills to make decisions.





Rachel Kestin
Communications, Engagement
and Consultation Officer

I'm Rachel and I have worked for the Service since August 2022. I'm the Communications, Engagement and Consultations Officer and make up a quarter of the communications team. I work closely with other departments to share all the latest safety campaigns as well as being the communications representative for Western Division. I'm married to Ross, and we have two teenage daughters and cheeky two-year-old son that keep us on our toes! My husband and I have a rather unusual hobby, we are keen ghost hunters! But we aren't weird... honest!



Courtney Price
Graphic and Web Design Assistant

Hey, I'm Courtney and I'm the Graphic and Web Design Assistant in the CCBD team. I joined the Service in July 2022 and my role is to make everything look pretty and always on-brand! My favourite part of my job is being able to attend events and seeing all my designs brought to life. When I'm not designing, I enjoy ticking destinations off my travel list and spending time with my friends and family.



Steffan John
Communications Officer

Shwmae, I'm Steffan and I'm the Communications Officer at the Service. I joined the Service in December 2022 and as part of my role, I write a variety of press statements and news stories. I get to meet different people from across the Service area and I'm the communications representative for the Northern Division. I'm Gwendraeth Valley born and bred and outside of work I enjoy spending time with my family and going out-and-about with my analogue camera.



Llew Davies
Welsh Language Officer

Shwd mae! I'm Llew and I have only just newly started in my role as the Welsh Language Officer for the Service, working two days a week. I'm responsible for ensuring that the fire authority works in accordance with the Welsh Language Standards set out by the Welsh Language Commissioner. Aside from this role, I am a singer/songwriter, an actor and most importantly (it seems) a full-time butler for my kids!



Lily Evans
Temporary Digital Marketing Officer

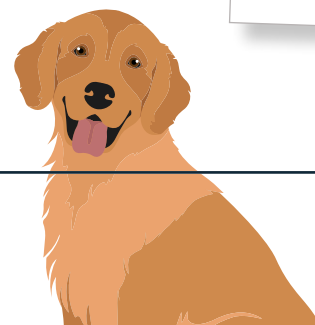
I'm Lily and I only just started working for the Service this month. I'm the new Temporary Digital Marketing Officer in the Comms team so I'll be working primarily on social media campaigns as well as being the communications representative for Southern Division. I'm originally from mid Wales but moved to Pembrokeshire two years ago where I live with my partner Dan. I spend most of my spare time at the beach or taking TikTok's of my dog Bruce!



CONTACT CCBD FOR

- Press enquiries
- Graphic Design and Print
- Website
- Social Media advice and guidance
- Welsh Language Standards
- Visual Brand Guidelines
- Internal Communications
- External Communications
- Fire Authority and Member engagement
- Events (Service wide)
- Freedom of Information (FOI) Requests
- Photography
- Guidance around good governance and decision-making

To get in touch with the
CCBD Team, please
email [pressofficer@
mawwfire.gov.uk](mailto:pressofficer@mawwfire.gov.uk)



EUROS EDWARDS AWARDED BRITISH EMPIRE MEDAL

Watch Manager Euros Edwards of Crymych Fire Station has been awarded the British Empire Medal (BEM) in the 2024 New Year Honours List.

Euros has served the communities of Pembrokeshire and Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service faithfully for over 44 years and has played a prominent role in maintaining high levels of availability at Crymych Fire Station during this time.

In 1998, he was instrumental in introducing a voluntary Co-Responder scheme to Crymych, an initiative which has provided invaluable support for local ambulance has saved many lives in the communities of north Pembrokeshire.



FULL ARTICLE



MAWWFRS VOLUNTEERS ASSIST WITH TRAINING

On Saturday, 13th January, Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service (MAWWFRS) volunteers joined members of our crew at FIBUA (Fighting in built up areas) training weekend.

The training weekend, which is organised for operational personnel, utilises a purpose-built military training area known as FIBUA. This facility allows realistic training scenarios to take place including

Road Traffic Collision's, property fire's, working at height, HAZMAT, entrapment and much more.

Our volunteers became real life scenario actors over the weekend, playing a variety of different roles including victims, casualties, and unhelpful members of public to name a few. Their input brought a realistic aspect to the training, enabling our crews, officers, and junior managers to progress their development in a practical learning environment.

Thank you to all the volunteers who took part.



NEW FLOOD AND WATER RESCUE EQUIPMENT

Following a recent investment in our water response capabilities, our Southern Division invited local Councillors and Fire Authority members to attend Gorseinon and Port Talbot Fire Station, to view demonstrations of our new water response capability equipment.

As a result of these stations completing their water first responder training, we are now better equipped to provide a swift and efficient response to the ever-increasing number of water incidents that we deal with in mid and west Wales. All who attended were impressed with the equipment and agreed it would form an essential part of our capabilities when considering recent and future weather events.

Head of Southern Division Steve Davies said:

"I'm sure the new stations will play a key role in keeping our communities safer building on our water response and resilience within division enabling us to ensure greater safety with operating capabilities of our fire crews."



CARMARTHEN FIRE STATION FUNDRAISING

Carmarthen Fire Station crew have recently raised important funds for two worthy causes.

On Friday, December 15th and Saturday, December 16th, the crew from Carmarthen Fire Station were out-and-about in Carmarthen town centre to fundraise for The Fire Fighters Charity and Myrddin School's Special Needs Unit.

Over the course of both days, crew members raised an impressive £1,600! The money will be shared equally between both causes and we thank everyone for their generous support and donations.



GIFT COLLECTION FOR CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL WARD

The crew at Carmarthen Fire Station held their annual Christmas gift collection again this year, for the Cilgerran Children's Ward at Glangwili General Hospital.

On Wednesday, December 20th, the crew, along with members of the Community Safety team, visited the Cilgerran Ward to hand over the gifts that had been generously donated by local businesses and members of Service staff.

Thank you so much to everyone for their generous support and donations!



OPERATION FLORIAN

DONATION OF LEGACY FIREFIGHTING KIT TO THE PHILIPPINES

Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service (MAWWFRS) has recently donated approximately 4,500 items of legacy firefighting equipment to firefighters in the City of Manila in the Philippines, through Operation Florian.

Operation Florian - named after Saint Florian, the patron saint of firefighters - was established in the UK in 1995. The charity promotes protection of life worldwide by providing equipment and training to improve firefighting, first aid and rescue capabilities.

On Thursday, December 7th, team members from Operation Florian visited MAWWFRS's Earlswood Fire Training Centre to receive a donation of legacy firefighting clothing, no longer worn by Service crew members. MAWWFRS and Operation Florian team members filled an entire 40ft shipping container with approximately 4,500 items of equipment, including tunics, leggings, flash hoods and helmets.

Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) Coordinator, Nick McAllister, who was responsible for organising the donation on behalf of MAWWFRS, said:

"By working with the team at Operation Florian, we have been able to recycle our legacy structural PPE, which will not only reduce our environmental impact, but will also ensure that it will continue to make a difference to the firefighters and, ultimately, the people of the Philippines."



FULL ARTICLE



**CLWB CHWARAEON A CHYMDEITHASU
SPORTS & SOCIAL CLUB**

**Dewch i ymuno
HEDDIW
Become a member
TODAY**

I gael rhagor o wybodaeth am y Clwb Chwaraeon a Chymdeithasol, anfonwch neges e-bost

For further information regarding the Sports & Social Club, please contact

Steve Philpott - S.philpott@mawwfire.gov.uk

Mae'r Clwb Chwaraeon a Chymdeithasu yn agored i holl aelodau presennol y Gwasanaeth, a'r aelodau sydd wedi ymddeol.

The Sports and Social Club is open to all current and retired members of the Service.

SPORTS AND SOCIAL

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 ROUNDERS!

We want to keep you updated about each section of our Sport and Social Club, so let's take a closer look!

This month's featured section is... Rounders!

Jenny Clarke and Jay Crouch are joint captains of the Rounders section – Flaming Fierce, established in February 2023 and has been thriving ever since.

The team has over 30 players from across the Service in variety of different departments, including Community Safety, Business Fire Safety, Fire control, Service Headquarters and Operational staff.

In Winter months the team trains in sports centres but during Summer they train at evenings and weekends at local parks across Swansea and Neath. The Service rounders team encourage family involvement, where children of the members often attend the training sessions, which usually ends with a group picnic, fish and chips or ice cream! Making is a really sociable event!

Every Sunday the team competes in My Rounders League mixed league in Port Talbot against different organisations.

The Rounders captains have a strong focus on wellbeing and strive to maintain a strong bond throughout the team by planning extra activities, such as camping weekends and social gatherings, which strengthen relationships both and on and off the pitch.

If you would like to join this vibrant team, please contact Jenny Clarke jenny.clarke@mawwfire.gov.uk



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.

Benefits

- Competitive rates of pay - recently reviewed to ensure fairness across all roles; with annual increments to the top of your salary band, as you build knowledge and experience.
- Local Government Pension scheme - A generous pension scheme, with the Service making a substantial contribution (currently 15.2%) to funding your retirement, as well as the option to increase your benefits by purchasing additional pension or investing in Additional Voluntary Contributions (AVC).
- Generous Annual leave – 26 Days plus bank holidays, going up to 33 days after 5 years employment.
- Flexi Scheme – Opportunity to flex your working hours to help accommodate life outside of work.
- Access to Blue Light Card discount scheme
- Car Leasing Salary Sacrifice scheme
- Let's Connect IT equipment loan scheme
- Subsidised canteen facilities
- Sports and Social Club
- Firefighters Charity
- Free on-site parking
- Cycle to Work scheme
- Staff Discount scheme
- Health and Wellbeing

VIEW CURRENT VACANCIES >



AR ALWAD
Recruiwtio 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!



SHAPE THE FUTURE: SHARE YOUR VOICE ON OUR STRATEGIC EQUALITY PLAN

At Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service, we are dedicated to creating an inclusive and equitable future, and we believe that your input is essential. As part of our commitment to transparency and community collaboration, we invite you to contribute to our Strategic Equality Plan.

What is the Strategic Equality Plan?

Our Strategic Equality Plan is a roadmap that guides our efforts in fostering diversity, equality, and inclusion. It's a collective vision shaped by the voices of our community, and your insights play a pivotal role in its development.

Why Your Input Matters:

Your experiences, perspectives, and ideas are invaluable. By sharing your thoughts, you help us understand the unique needs of our diverse community, ensuring that our initiatives truly reflect the richness of our collective identity.

How You Can Get Involved:

Complete the Survey: Take a few moments to fill out our Strategic Equality Plan survey. Your responses will directly influence our strategies and initiatives.

Spread the Word: Encourage your friends, family, and neighbours to participate. The more diverse voices we hear, the stronger our plan will be.

Together, Let's Build a More Inclusive Tomorrow:

Your involvement is crucial in shaping a future where everyone is heard, respected, and included. We are committed to creating an environment that reflects our community, and your input ensures that our Strategic Equality Plan is a true reflection of our shared aspirations.

Thank you for being a vital part of Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue's journey toward a more inclusive future.

COMPLETE THE SURVEY

Closing date 16/02/2024



MID AND WEST WALES FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE PARTICIPATES IN UK FIREFIGHTERS CANCER AND DISEASE REGISTRY

To support and assist with a research study being conducted by the University of Central Lancashire (UCLan), over 100 serving and

retired Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service (MAWWFRS) firefighters recently volunteered to take part in health screening sessions..

Led by Professor in Fire Chemistry and Toxicity, Anna Stec, UCLan's UK Firefighters Cancer and Disease Registry (FCDR) is developing a better understanding of the increased occurrence of cancers and diseases among firefighters and to identify the association between firefighter's occupation and exposure to fire effluents and residues.

FULL ARTICLE





Gwasanaeth Tân ac Achub
Canolbarth a Gorllewin Cymru

Mid and West Wales
Fire and Rescue Service

#MwyNaDimOndTanau
#MoreThanJustFires

www.mawwfire.gov.uk

CALON TÂN MAGAZINE - JANUARY 2024