



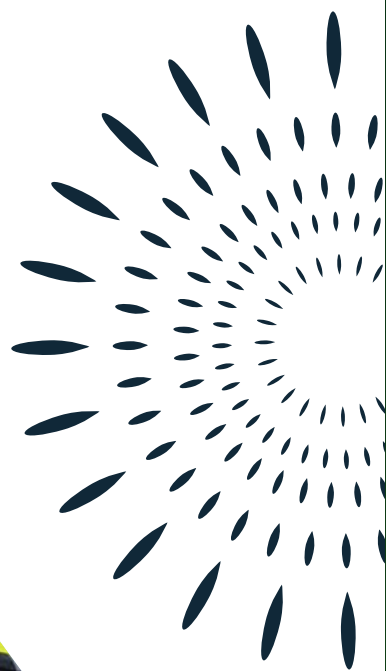
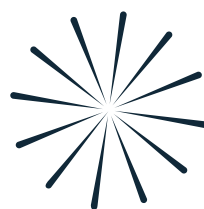
Mid and West Wales
Fire and Rescue Service



YEARLY ROUNDUP 2023 HIGHLIGHTS

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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.

LAUNCHING THE MORE THAN JUST FIRES CAMPAIGN VIDEO

Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service was pleased to launch its new #MoreThanJustFires campaign video, which throws a light on the diverse services it provides, as well as its continued dedication and commitment in ensuring the safety of the communities it serves.

Filmed over a one-year period at various stations, incidents, and the Service's headquarters, the More Than Just Fires video demonstrates the day-to-day operations of our Service, as well as the continual training that is undertaken to ensure the best possible service is provided to keep our communities safe.

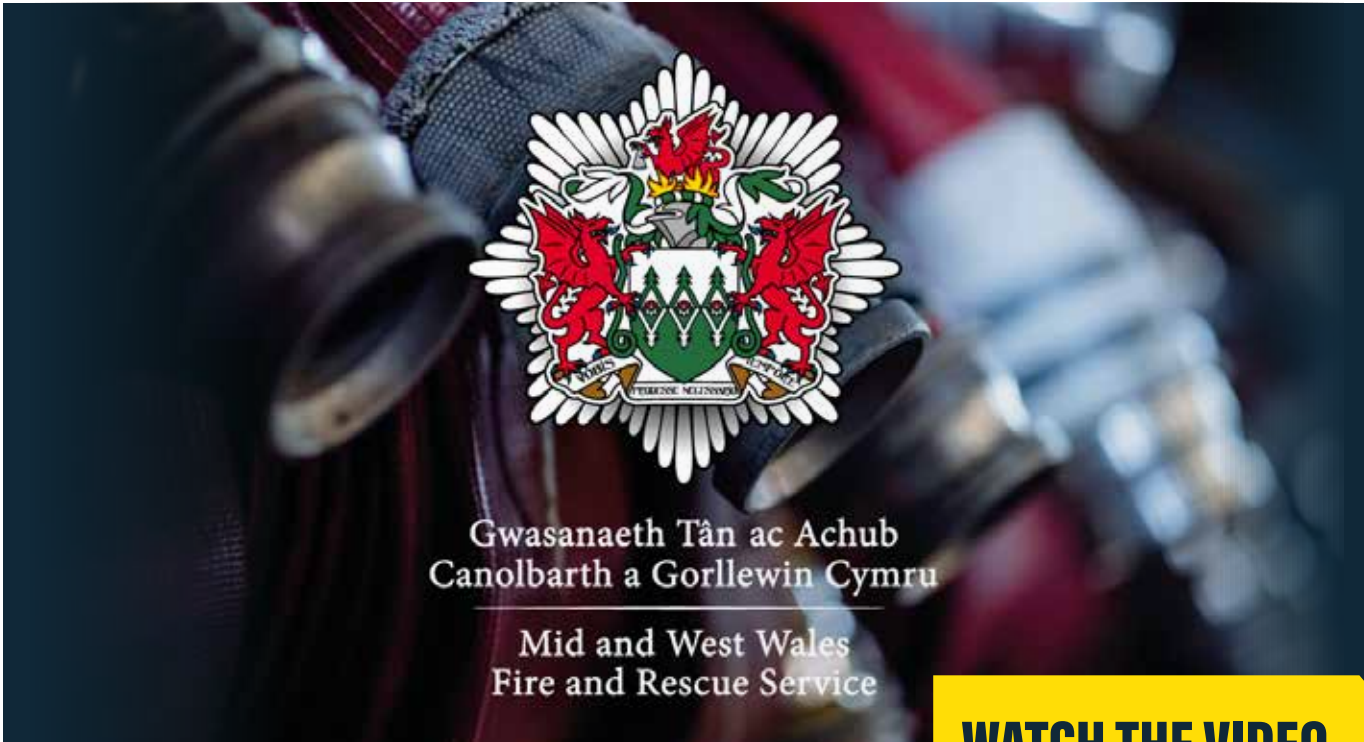
As well as supporting the Service's regular recruitment drives for a variety of firefighting, support and control centre roles, the campaign video will also assist in educating and developing relationships with existing and new partners.

We are here for you and here for #MoreThanJustFires

On launching the new campaign video, Roger Thomas, Chief Fire Officer, said:

"This campaign highlights the Service's prevention, protection and response activities, as well as the continued dedication by our staff, and will bring all of our brilliant work to new audiences."

"On behalf of the Service, I would like to extend my sincere thanks to Optimwm for working with us on this project."



WATCH THE VIDEO

A PAW-SOME RESCUE!

In mid January, the Pontardawe crew rescued a dog, Maude, who was trapped in a ravine on the Graig-y-Pal mountain.

Maude, along with two other dogs, had accidentally fallen down a 3m ravine, while the other dogs were able to get out, Maude was unable to.

Crews utilised rope rescue equipment to help bring Maude to safety and reunite her with her owner.

Great work, team, thanks fur everything!



WELSH FIREFIGHTERS DEPLOYED TO ASSIST WITH SEARCH AND RESCUE OPERATIONS IN TÜRKİYE

Five firefighters from Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service and South Wales Fire and Rescue Service were deployed to Türkiye to assist with search and rescue operations following the devastating earthquakes.

A team of 77 UK International Search and Rescue (UKISAR) experts made up of firefighters and staff from 14 Fire and Rescue Services arrived in Turkey

on Tuesday, February 7th. They provided specialist skills and equipment to help locate and rescue survivors and were deployed through the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office.

Deployed from South Wales Fire and Rescue Service were Crew Manager Emma Atcherley of Cardiff Central Station, Firefighter Luke Davison of Malpas Station and Firefighter Robert Buckley of Ely Station. Deployed from Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service were Head of Response Southern Division, Steve Davies and Watch Manager Phil Irvin of Haverfordwest Station, Western Division.

The team were equipped with specialist search equipment including seismic listening devices, concrete cutting and breaking equipment and propping and shoring tools.

FULL ARTICLE



#DAWNSGLAW - WORKING TOGETHER TO PROTECT OUR COUNTRYSIDE AND OUR COUNTRY

Operation Dawns Glow, a multi-agency task force of specialists from key agencies across Wales has reformed to reduce, and where possible eliminate the impact of grass fires across Wales.

The task force, which was initially established in 2016 by the all Wales Strategic Arson Reduction Board to tackle incidents of deliberately set grass fires across Wales, will also be turning its attention to the increase in accidental fires, often caused by our own careless behaviour when out enjoying the countryside.

In 2022 the fire services across Wales attended 3,269 grassfire incidents – this was an increase of 62% on the previous year with deliberate grass fires increasing by 1542 (47%) to 2263. The increase was mainly due to hot dry weather in July and August which resulted in a second spike of incidents in addition to the March/April activity.



FULL ARTICLE

OFF-DUTY FIREFIGHTER DELIVERS LIFESAVING CPR

On Friday, February 3rd an off-duty Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service firefighter administered lifesaving CPR to a gentleman experiencing a cardiac arrest.

Lee Murray, a Crew Manager at Pembroke Dock Fire Station, was enjoying his regular morning swim at Pembroke Leisure Centre when he noticed some commotion at the side of the swimming pool. On leaving the pool to see what was happening, Lee saw lifeguards assisting a gentleman who had collapsed and was experiencing a cardiac arrest.



FULL ARTICLE

TRAILBLAZING KIA SPORTAGE JOINS MID AND WEST WALES FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE

Five Ultra-Low Emission Kia Sportage were introduced to Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service's fleet in March, and have been specially equipped with emergency response warning systems.

Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service (MAWWFRS) is responsible for providing public safety information, prevention and protection programmes, and emergency response for mid and west Wales, covering nearly 12,000 square kilometers - almost two-thirds of Wales. With 58 stations across six counties, MAWWFRS attends around 255 incidents weekly on average.

The five Kia Sportage PHEV 'GT-Line' in eye-catching infra-red paint, were bought from business specialist Gravells Kia Bridgend. As part of the selection process, a number of different vehicles were tested and the Kia Sportage offered the best mix of practicality, performance and economy to meet the Service's requirements.

As Deputy Chief Fire Officer, Iwan Cray affirms:

"The Service continues to demonstrate its ongoing commitment to reducing its environmental impact by expanding the use of Ultra-Low Emission Vehicles (ULEVs) wherever possible. This initiative is part of the Service's broader objective to work towards Net Zero Carbon Status by 2030."

FULL ARTICLE



ANNUAL BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT PLAN 2023/2024

Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Authority published its Annual Business Improvement Plan 2023/2024, which is designed to help deliver our vision, mission, values and commitments set out in our Strategic Plan 2022-2027.

The Plan outlined five Improvement and Well-being Objectives which will be delivered over 12 months and will focus on:

- Developing our people and creating a diverse workplace that is attractive to join,
- Looking at new ways to positively impact our communities,
- Continuing our journey towards becoming Net Zero by 2030,
- Embedding opportunities to capture, communicate and implement all aspects of organisational learning,
- Continuing with our work on the development of community risk management focussed improvements, objectives, and initiatives,

Councillor Elwyn Williams, Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Authority said:

"We are committed to investing in our people and making the best use of our assets and resources, ensuring our staff are fully equipped to deal with emergencies and better protect themselves and the communities they serve."

Chief Fire Officer, Roger Thomas said:

"We are delighted to introduce our Annual Business Improvement Plan 2023/2024. We are confident that our Improvement and Well-being Objectives will enable us to deliver our statutory duties and contribute to the requirements of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015."

FULL ARTICLE



HEALTHY WORKING WALES GOLD EXCELLENCE AWARD

Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service (MAWWFRS) have been successfully awarded a Gold Standard accreditation from Healthy Working Wales.

The Healthy Working Wales (HWW) programme aims to support and encourage employers to create healthy working environments, take action to improve the health and wellbeing of their staff, manage sickness absence and engage with employees effectively. All of which can help to achieve a range of positive business and organisational outcomes.

Well done to Sarah Davies and Seamus Doyle from MAWWFRS Corporate Risk team for their dedication to completing the process.



FIRE CADETS PASSING OUT PARADE

On April 24th, a Passing Out Parade was held at Newtown Fire Station to celebrate the achievements of the latest cohort of Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service (MAWWFRS) Fire Cadets.

The aim of the Fire Cadets Programme is to create safer communities through developing young people's knowledge and raising their awareness of the importance of keeping safe from fire. Fire Cadets learn how to keep themselves and others safe by understanding hazards, risks and control measures, how to use a mixture of firefighting equipment such as hoses, ladders and squad drills. They also participate and attend events within the community and learn how to be positive and active members of their communities.

MAWWFRS Chief Fire Officer, Roger Thomas, who attended the parade, said:

"I'm delighted to be here at Newtown Station to recognise the achievements of our amazing cadets tonight. Their hard work and determination is inspiring and I'm sure the skills and confidence they have learnt during this programme will not only help their development in future years, but will also keep our communities safer."

Fire Cadet Co-ordinator, Karen Mayze, said:

"I'd like to give a massive congratulations to the Newtown Fire Cadets. I'm incredibly proud of them all, passing out and completing the Cadet programme and achieving their Bronze Award. They are community role models and inspirational young people."



MID AND WEST WALES FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE ATTENDS CORONATION

On Saturday, May 6th, the Coronation of Their Majesties King Charles III and Queen Camilla took place at Westminster Abbey, the first Coronation Service in almost 70 years.

As part of the day's processions, over 1,000 Armed Forces route liners from all three Services and Standard Bearers of the Royal British Legion, Uniformed Civilian Services (UCS) and Community Organisations were involved.

Representing Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service (MAWWFRS) at the Coronation and forming part of the UCS was Head of Training Delivery, Stuart Bate, following a nomination by MAWWFRS Chief Fire Officer, Roger Thomas.



FULL ARTICLE

SERVICE PARTNERSHIP WITH GUIDE DOGS UK

On Thursday, May 18th, we welcomed the beautiful Bonnie, a seven-month-old Guide Dog puppy in training, to our Service Headquarters!

As well as bringing a smile to members of our HQ staff, this visit was part of a wider safeguarding partnership with Guide Dogs UK to upskill our Service teams who work with people in the communities we serve with a visual impairment.

This partnership will also work to raise awareness of guide dogs within Wales.



FULL ARTICLE

EISTEDDFOD
YR URDD 2023

Spotted
ON THE MAES!



JUNE



WELSH FIREFIGHTER CHALLENGE 2023 – A ROARING SUCCESS!

On June 3rd, Firefighters from across the UK, Germany and Kuwait gathered in Swansea City Centre to take part in the Welsh Firefighter Challenge, which is part of the regional race of the British Firefighter Challenge. These events raise important funds for The Fire Fighters Charity which supports the mental and physical health needs of the UK Fire Family.

Each contestant was dressed in full structural firefighting kit and took part in a series of physical challenges designed to test their strength, agility, and stamina, along with showcasing their firefighting skills to the crowds of spectators. There was a total of 8 challenges that had to be completed in full, in the fastest time to win the race, and consisted of a 50m run, dummy drag, container carry and more.



FULL ARTICLE

THE BIG CHALLENGE!

On 5th June 2023, 12 members of Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service (MAWWFRS) set out on an epic cycling challenge, that would put their physical and mental strength to the ultimate test!

The team cycled just short of 1000 miles over 10 days throughout the UK on the iconic journey of Lands' End in Cornwall, the most South-Westerly point of Britain to John O'Groats in Northern Scotland. Cycling on average 100 miles a day, passing through three countries and climbed an impressive 59 thousand feet!

Their goal was to raise £10,000 that would be shared between three charities close to their hearts. Not only did they achieve what they set out to do but they smashed the target and to date have raised a whopping £14,701! All in aid of:

- The Firefighters Charity
- Cerebral Palsy Cymru
- 2 Wish



FULL ARTICLE



WALES WILDFIRE CHARTER LAUNCHED AT THE ROYAL WELSH

Monday 24 July 2023 saw the launch of the inaugural Wales Wildfire Charter at the Royal Welsh Agricultural Show, Builth Wells.

Iwan Cray, Chair of the Wales Wildfire Board and Deputy Chief Fire Officer of Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service said,

"Our new Wildfire Charter is built on the knowledge and experience partners on the Board have gained over the last decade in dealing with the impact of wildfires across Wales.

"Under the collaborative approach of the Strategic Arson Reduction Board, we have seen considerable successes, achieved through a great deal of

determination and hard work by all the agencies involved. However, wildfires across Wales continue to present a clear and present danger to our environment, economy and communities. In recent years, we have seen the early signs of plateauing in incident numbers, indicating a new approach is needed to ensure we can deal with the emerging challenges we are facing."

Andrew Wright, Deputy Chair of the Wales Wildfire Board and Senior Specialist Advisor - Plant Health and Knowledge Transfer at Natural Resources Wales said, "Our wildfire charter is formulated around three key themes, each designed to ensure we are able to focus on the areas which not only require the most attention but will also have the biggest influence in improving our understanding of wildfires and how the Board can positively manage their impact."



Bwrdd Tanau Gwylt Cymru
Wales Wildfire Board



FULL ARTICLE

MID AND WEST WALES FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE'S PIONEERING TREATED WATER INITIATIVE

Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service is leading a pioneering initiative to use treated wastewater to tackle fires.

In a first for Wales and through working in partnership with Dŵr Cymru Welsh Water and Natural Resources Wales, Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service (MAWWFRS) is trialling the use of ultra-violet (UV tertiary) treated effluent water at fire incidents attended by the Service, as an alternative to drinking and other water sources.



FULL ARTICLE

HIGH SHERIFFS VISIT SERVICE HEADQUARTERS

On Tuesday, 18th July we welcomed the High Sheriffs of Dyfed, Powys, and West Glamorgan, - Messrs Meurig Raymond, Reg Cawthorne, and Alan Brayley respectively, to Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service (MAWWFRS) headquarters.

All three High Sheriffs were 3 months into their year long term and are enthusiastic supporters of the emergency services. They were eager to learn more about how we work and the support we provide to the communities we serve.



FULL ARTICLE

FIRE CADETS GAMES 2023!

On Saturday, 12th August, MAWWFRS Fire Cadets and the Service mascot, Sbarc, attended the Fire Cadets Games in Merseyside. Joining more than 140 cadets, 18 teams and 13 different Fire and Rescue Services from across the UK to compete in events around the iconic Royal Albert Dock in Liverpool.

The Cadets took part in activities that reflect what young people do within their Fire Cadet unit, including water rescue, home fire safety checks, public engagements, a presentation, first aid scenarios, and the main event which was a Fire Service relay race.

As a Service, we would like to say well done and thank you to all the Cadets and Instructors for their commitment and dedication to the weekend, and for the time they give to Fire Cadets scheme.



FULL ARTICLE

CAROLYN HARRIS MP HOLDS MENOPAUSE TALK AT MORRISTON FIRE STATION

On Friday, August 4th, Carolyn Harris, Member of Parliament for Swansea East, visited Morriston Fire Station to deliver an informative and inspirational 'Menopause at Work' talk.

During the session, Carolyn Harris MP, who is also Chair of the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Menopause, spoke openly and honestly on her own experience of the perimenopause, including the effects the menopause can have on women's home and work life, as well as the various support and treatments available.



FULL ARTICLE

ROYAL WELSH 2023

Spotted
AT THE SHOW!



SEPTEMBER

SERVICE HQ AND CARMARTHEN STATION OPEN DAY

Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service welcomed hundreds of people to its Headquarters and Carmarthen Fire Station Open Day on Friday, September 1st.

The Open Day provided visitors with a behind-the-scenes experience at Carmarthen Fire Station, through a variety of demonstrations, such as search and rescue dogs and chip pan fires, and activities such as face painting and turntable ladder rides – which made for a fantastic day for all. The underlying emphasis of the day revolved around community safety and raising funds for two worthy causes – [The Fire Fighters Charity](#) and [2wish](#).

FULL ARTICLE



OVER £3,000 RAISED THROUGH OPEN DAY ACTIVITIES!



INSTALLING PUBLIC ACCESS DEFIBRILLATORS AT OUR STATIONS

Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service (MAWWFRS) is working in partnership with Save a Life Cymru (SALC) and Welsh Ambulance Service Trust (WAST) to increase the number of lifesaving public access defibrillators.

By working in partnership, MAWWFRS and SALC have identified 22 Fire Stations that do not have a public access defibrillator (PAD) within 500 metres and are working to correct this. During MAWWFRS's Headquarters Open Day on Friday, September 1st, the PAD rollout programme was officially launched, with the first unit being unveiled at Carmarthen Fire Station.



FULL ARTICLE

JANE DODDS MS VISIT TO NEWTOWN FIRE STATION

On Monday, August 21st, Member of the Senedd for Mid and West Wales, Jane Dodds MS, visited Newtown Fire Station to meet the crew as well as members of the local 'Knit and Natter Newtown' group.

The 'Knit and Natter' group have recently been busy creating a collection of colourful teddy bears, each one with its own unique character. The purpose of the teddies is for them to be given to children involved in incidents, who may find the experience overwhelming and frightening.

FULL ARTICLE



NEW ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGING POINTS AT FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE HEADQUARTERS

As part of its commitment to achieving Carbon Net Zero Status by 2030, Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service (MAWWFRS) has recently installed new electric vehicle (EV) charging points at its headquarters site.

Building on a positive existing relationship, MAWWFRS has worked in partnership with **Pod Point**, one of the UK's leading providers of electric vehicle charging infrastructure with over 9,200 public charging bays.

The new Pod Point charging facilities, installed during July 2023, include two 150kW rapid chargepoints and two 22kW twin chargepoints, which can charge up to eight vehicles at any one time, as well as a new 33,000-volt substation to supply the necessary power for the charging infrastructure.

This newly enhanced charging infrastructure will not only comfortably accommodate the Service's existing EVs, but will also allow for future expansion.

FULL ARTICLE

SWANSEA PSB WALKING IN OUR SHOES

On Tuesday, 17th October, Chief Fire Officer Roger Thomas hosted a 'Walking in our shoes' event as part of Swansea Public Services Board Well-Being Plan, inviting members of the Swansea Public Services Board and community partners to our Earlswood Training Facility.

The event was organised to broaden the awareness of our partners' work and improve networks, particularly amongst those who engage directly with our communities. The event focused on three principal areas of the Service: Operational Response, Prevention (Community Safety) and Protection (Built Environment).

FULL ARTICLE



NEATH AND PONTARDAWE CREWS RESCUE WEDDING DAY

On Saturday, October 7th, the Neath and Pontardawe crews from Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service were called to an incident at the Glyn Clydach Hotel in Bryncoch, Neath.

Crews responded to a fire confined to a small storage cupboard in the hotel's reception area. Crews extinguished the fire, ventilated the area and silenced the fire alarm panel.

The fire was caused by sparklers being stored inside the cupboard, ready for the wedding ceremony of Sarah and Luke Jones later that day, who both had a very unexpected start to their wedding day!

FULL ARTICLE



MORE THAN JUST FIRE AWARDS 2023: CELEBRATING HARD WORK AND DEDICATION

On Friday, November 10th, Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service (MAWWFRS) hosted its annual More Than Just Fires Awards Ceremony at the Metropole Hotel and Spa in Llandrindod Wells.

The evening was hosted by the most-capped referee in world rugby, Nigel Owens MBE and was a special opportunity to give thanks and recognise the remarkable efforts, hard work and dedication by Service staff and volunteers from across the Service area, over the 12 months.

The ceremony included a total of 11 award categories, which were awarded to individuals and teams who were nominated by their peers and colleagues, it included an award for Outstanding Contribution, Charity Champion and the Chief Fire Officer's Bravery Award, to name but a few.

FULL ARTICLE



THREE GENERATIONS OF FIREFIGHTERS: OVER 73 YEARS OF SERVICE

Three generations of the family - Gareth, Emyr and Cian - have each served as firefighters at Newcastle Emlyn Fire Station, with a combined current total of over 73 years of service and dedication - and counting.

Teamwork and protecting our communities are at the heart of everything we do at Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service, and this has been epitomized by the Jones family from Newcastle Emlyn.

FULL ARTICLE

CARBON MONOXIDE AWARENESS WEEK 2023 #REMEMBERINGRHYS

As part of Carbon Monoxide Awareness week 2023 we shared the tragic story of Rhys Sheridan on our social media channels - #RememberingRhys.

Rhys' family asked us to share their harrowing story to highlight the importance of having a working Carbon Monoxide monitor.



FULL ARTICLE



CHRISTMAS CAROL SERVICE 2023

On Thursday, December 14th, Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service (MAWWFRS) held its annual charity Christmas Carol Service in Christ Church, Carmarthen.

The evening included a variety of festive carols, readings from MAWWFRS staff and performances by guest singer Einir Dafydd with guitarist Dafydd Jones, the Colour Party and University of Wales Trinity Saint David's Côr y Gangen.



FULL ARTICLE



INNOVATION AWARD FOR SEAMUS DOYLE

Congratulations to the Service's Health, Safety and Welfare Manager, Seamus Doyle, who was recently awarded the Innovation of the Year Award at the Excellence in Fire and Emergency Awards 2023!

The Awards Ceremony, hosted by the Fire Magazine in Westminster, gave the opportunity to recognise and celebrate the achievements of fire and emergency services across the UK.



FULL ARTICLE



AWARD FOR BUILT WELLS EVENTS SAFETY GROUP

The Built Wells Events Safety Group are celebrating their recent success Safer Communities Awards 2023.

The Group, which includes representatives from Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service, was awarded the Public Safety Award at the awards

ceremony, organised by Wales' Safer Communities. The Inaugural Safer Communities Awards Ceremony was held on Thursday, November 30th at the Village Hotel in Swansea and was an opportunity to celebrate and showcase the great work being undertaken across Wales to make communities safer.

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 - 2023 HIGHLIGHTS