



Gwasanaeth Tân ac Achub  
Canolbarth a Gorllewin Cymru

Mid and West Wales  
Fire and Rescue Service

# CALON TÂN

FEBRUARY  
2024

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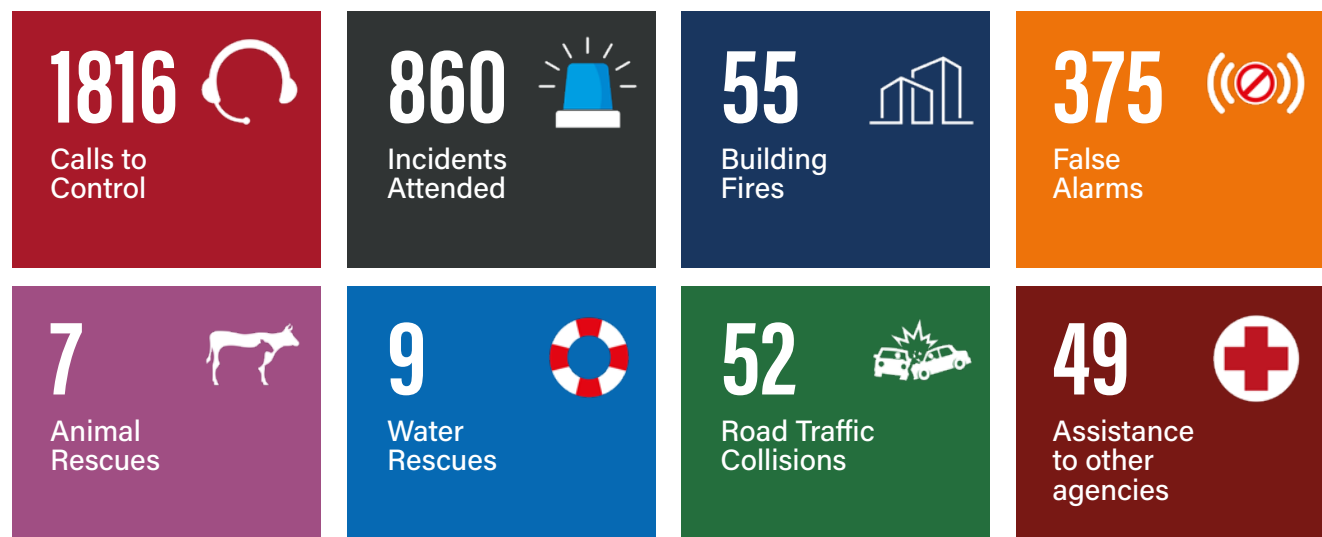


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Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service is responsible for providing emergency response cover to nearly 12,000 square kilometers - almost two-thirds of Wales.

Here's what kept us busy last month:



## LGBT+ MONTH

### FEBRUARY IS LGBT+ AWARENESS MONTH

As a Service equality, diversity and inclusion is at the heart of what we do and are values which sit at the core of our organisational processes, practices and culture.

Together let's stand in solidarity with the LGBT+ community and reaffirm our commitment to creating a more inclusive and equitable future.





# ROAD TRAFFIC COLLISION TRAINING EXERCISE AT ABERYSTWYTH FIRE STATION

The crew at Aberystwyth Fire Station recently held a multi-agency road traffic collision training exercise.

The road traffic collision training exercise brought together firefighters from Aberystwyth Fire Station, paramedics from Aberystwyth and medical students from Swansea University to simulate realistic scenarios where they collaborated to respond to this type of incident.

FULL ARTICLE



# HAVERFORDWEST FOAM TRAINING

On Monday, 19th February Wholtime and On-Call crews from Haverfordwest and Milford Haven Fire Station carried out joint foam training alongside staff from Haverfordwest Airport.

The training session aimed to help crew members develop their practical skills whilst safely utilising

firefighting foam. It simulated methods of how the crew would deal with incidents in and around an airport, as well as a wide variety of other incidents they are likely to attend. The session also enabled crews to develop their knowledge and understanding of the Service's specialist foam unit, which is based in Milford Haven.

The crew would like to extend a big Thank You to Phil Davies and Bryn Etchells of Haverfordwest Airport for helping facilitate the training.

Partnership working at it's best!





# Meet the Team

## MEET THE PROCUREMENT 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 Procurement Department deal with initial acquisition and supply through to disposal, incorporating sustainable considerations such as economic, ethical, moral and environmental factors.



### Helen Rees Head of Procurement and Contracting

Hello, I'm Helen, Head of Procurement and Contracting, and I have worked for the Service for 23 years.

I've worked in the Water, Stores and Procurement Department. My life outside work revolves around my 32-year-old daughter living in London, my disabled mum and my fiancé Mathew. In a *'Colour Works'* world, I'm a fiery red while Mathew is a laid-back green so it's true when they say that opposites attract!

I love theatre and music and have been fortunate to have met The Wanted, JLS, Take That, Peter André, Charlie Puth, Jason Derulo, Blue, Jonas Brothers, and once appeared on television with DNCE (Joe Jonas' band)!



### David Williams Procurement Officer

I'm David and I have worked for the Service since August 2009 as Procurement Officer within the department. My role includes working with departments, providing procurement advice and guidance to ensure that goods, services and works are procured compliantly and deliver value for money for the Service.

Outside of work, I enjoy spending time with my family and friends, walking my dog and travelling. I also enjoy watching a range of sports and try to attend as many Scarlets games as I can, when time allows.



### Liann Phillips Procurement Officer

Hi, I'm Liann, I'm a Procurement Officer and I have worked for the Service since 2005. I recently achieved my Level 6 Professional Diploma in Procurement and Supply and I undertake a range of Procurement activities for a variety of departments across the Service.

As a mum to three boys, there isn't much that scares me these days, when I am not running around after the boys, I can be found with a tape measure adding to the never-ending list of DIY projects that keep my partner Dafydd on his toes.



### Dianne Wooles Contracts Officer

Hi, I'm Dianne and I have worked for the Service since 2019. I'm the Contracts Officer in the small but efficient Procurement Team. In a nutshell, my role entails updating and maintaining the contracts to ensure departments are compliant with their contracts.

I like listening to all kinds of music and would love to learn to rock 'n' roll, although I do have two left feet! I have a black labrador who keeps me active with long walks along the beaches and woodlands. I enjoy travelling and my favourite place is Menorca - it is such a beautiful island.







**UK-ISAR TRAINING EXERCISE**



## INTERNATIONAL SEARCH AND RESCUE TRAINING

Six crew members from Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service, who also form part of the United Kingdom International Search and Rescue (UK-ISAR) Team, have recently been deployed to attend various courses in recent weeks.

Two UK-ISAR technicians attended cold weather survival courses in Sweden, where they were taught how to survive and work in environments as low as -22°C for seven days at a time. Sleeping in tents in forests, they were taught personal

administration, map reading, how to interpret weather conditions, cooking skills, surviving falls in cold water and building fire and shelters in conditions that are difficult to duplicate in the UK.

Meanwhile, Operations Commander and Crew Leader courses were held in the mountains of Shropshire, with four UK-ISAR technicians in attendance. As part of the course, UK-ISAR technicians had to collate, evaluate and assess information given to them by the instructors and members of the Crew Leaders course.

**FULL ARTICLE**



## EVENTS

**MILFORD HAVEN BREW WITH A CREW - 13 APRIL**

**PONTARDDULAIS OPEN DAY - 31 MAY**

**NEWTOWN EXPERIENCE DAY - 19 JUNE**

**HAVERFORDWEST EXPERIENCE DAY - 11 JULY**

To keep up to date with all of our community events, please follow our events schedule on Facebook [Gwasanaeth Tân ac Achub CGC / MAWW Fire and Rescue](#) | Facebook



# LIFESAVING COMMUNITY DEFIBRILLATORS INSTALLED AT FIRE STATIONS

The work to install new public access defibrillators (PAD) at 23 of Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service's (MAWWFRS) Fire Stations has now been completed – which now means that all of our Fire Stations are located within 500 metres of a PAD.

Throughout the month, we've been sharing some of our new PADs across social media to encourage the public to be more defib aware and learn that defibrillators are simple and safe to use, with no prior training required to operate one. When you dial 999, the call taker will instruct you on where the nearest registered defibrillator is located and a code to open the cabinet if required.

This has been made possible through a partnership with Save a Life Cymru (SALC) and the Welsh Ambulance Services NHS Trust (WAST), which identified 23 MAWWFRS Fire Stations that were not in close proximity to a PAD.

The partnership was officially launched at MAWWFRS's Headquarters Open Day in September 2023, [with the unveiling of the first unit funded through the partnership at Carmarthen Fire Station.](#)

Thanks to WAST and Save a Life Cymru, we now have 23 new PADs at our stations.

FULL ARTICLE

#DEFIBUARY



Speaking at the launch of the partnership, MAWWFRS Chief Fire Officer Roger Thomas said:

"MAWWFRS Fire Stations are recognised as community landmarks and are strategically located throughout our communities. I am delighted that this new partnership means that an increased number of our Fire Stations will now have 24-hour access to PADs which will greatly improve patient outcomes in the event of a cardiac arrest."





# LLANDEILO SHOW & TELL DAY, A ROARING SUCCESS!

On Saturday, 10th February, Llandeilo Fire Station held their first of three recruitments 'Show and Tell' days.

During the day, potential new recruits had the opportunity to meet the crew and discuss the requirements and entry process for becoming an On-Call firefighter. Those interested had the opportunity to experience using some of the Point of Entry Test equipment, and gain vital safety advice from Elinor Goldsmith, MAWWFRS School Education Officer.

The day was a great success, with five potential new candidates expressing an interest in joining

the Service. The station even received a visit from Mayor of Llandeilo, Christoph Fischer!

Huge thank you to Watch Manager David Lewis and the rest of the crew at Llandeilo station, including Station Liaison Officer's (SLO) Dan Ward and Emyr Davies, and finally Elinor Goldsmith and former Watch Manager John Herman for their help throughout the day.

The remaining two events will take place on Saturday, 16th March and Saturday, 20th April, so if you're interested in finding out more about becoming an on-call firefighter at Llandeilo station, pop along because we'd love to see you!

You can also visit our Facebook event pages to express your interest – <https://fb.me/e/4bJ4qyZuh> As well as our On-call Firefighter Recruitment - Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service ([mawwfire.gov.uk](http://mawwfire.gov.uk))

We look forward to welcoming you.





# PONTARDDULAIS STATION'S NEW WILDLIFE GARDEN

Nature lovers will appreciate the new wildlife garden that has been built and planted at Pontarddulais Station. The garden was created with the help from local primary school children.

Since 2020 the leading Welsh environmental charity, [Keep Wales Tidy](#) has been offering communities across the country a chance to revamp and transform their local areas with free garden packages.

The idea is to transform an unloved area into a garden that will benefit both nature and the

local area. Eager to improve an empty space at [Pontarddulais Station](#), our Sustainability Manager Jessica Millard took the initiative to apply for one of these garden packages and get involved.

The aim of the project is to improve the health and wellbeing of the local community, with the main purpose of the wildlife garden bring a community together by getting more people involved in volunteering and of course, connect them with nature.

On February 21st, children from [Pontarddulais Primary School](#) were invited to spend the day at the Station to help the crew plant the new wildlife garden.

Well done all – we look forward to seeing it all grow and bloom!





# FROM WALES TO THE SOUTH POLE

You'll have already heard about the [Antarctic Fire Angels](#) that trekked the coast of Antarctica to the South Pole as they aimed to become the first emergency service team to get to the bottom of the Earth unsupported.

ITV Wales have produced a documentary, released earlier this month, so you can now follow their incredible journey from the comfort of your own home.

Firefighters Rebecca Openshaw-Rowe from Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service and Georgina Gilbert from South Wales Fire and Rescue Service embarked on their expedition at the beginning of November 2023 and reached their final destination on January 12th 2024.

Their new documentary, Fire and Ice, allows viewers to follow their journey and see how they walked and skied over 1,200km in 52 days from the coast of Antarctica to the South Pole. That's the equivalent of 29 marathons, in freezing conditions!

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.

The Antarctic Fire Angels have been raising important funds for [The Fire Fighters Charity](#) - their [JustGiving page](#) is still accepting donations.

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

If you didn't catch the live showing on ITV Wales, the documentary is still available to watch online on ITVX.

#LIKEAGIRL



# FIREFIGHTER CRAIG NEIL SUCCESSFULLY TACKLES THE 496 CHALLENGE

Firefighter Craig Neil, from Newtown Fire Station, has completed his remarkable 496 Challenge - by running a total of 496km during January.

The 496 Challenge involves running 1km on day one, 2km on day two and so, increasing to 31km on day 31 - which is the equivalent of completing 12 marathons in one month!

On Wednesday, January 31st, Craig successfully completed the challenge and crossed a makeshift finish line at Newtown Fire Station. There, he was met with his fellow crew members and his family who have all supported him throughout this epic challenge.



FULL ARTICLE





# 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](mailto:s.philpott@mawwfire.gov.uk)

# SPORTS AND SOCIAL SECTION MONTHLY FEATURE - FOCUS ON RUGBY!



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... Rugby!

The well-established Rugby section has been running for many years, in 2021 Sam Phillips and Craig Jenkins took over as the section managers, with a focus on breathing new life to the section and recruiting more players. The section now boasts over thirty active members!

Team Captain Scott Davies is a long serving member of the Rugby section, he joined as an On-Call firefighter but recently began his transition to become a wholtime firefighter and is a regular starter for the Welsh Fire Rugby section.

Vice-Captain for the team, Gareth Thomas is a wholtime Crew Manger at Milford Haven fire station and an On-call Crew Manager at Morriston, Gareth also plays for the Welsh Fire Rugby section.

The Rugby section has seen many players capped for the Welsh Fire Service team, playing against

Fire and Rescue Service's in Ireland, England, and Scotland. The team have attended tournaments including the Heart of Wales 7 and the Ospreys mixed 7's, both a real test of the team's fitness and agility.

The team have a strong bond and keep in close contact, planning training session and matches to fit around everyone involved. They actively raise money for various charities, including The Fire Fighter Charity, Ukraine appeal, and Pembrokeshire Vikings and pride themselves on their community engagement sportsmanship and camaraderie.

The MAWWFRS Rugby Section is open to all employees of the Service including volunteers, wholtime, On-Call, support staff and retired members. All are welcome to join or help in anyway whether that be in playing, coaching, physio or come along for the social side of the game.

If you would like more information or interesting in joining the Rugby section, please contact Craig Jenkins - [c.jenkins@mawwfire.gov.uk](mailto:c.jenkins@mawwfire.gov.uk) or Sam Phillips [sam.phillips@mawwfire.gov.uk](mailto:sam.phillips@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!







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Mid and West Wales  
Fire and Rescue Service

# #MwyNaDimOndTanau #MoreThanJustFires



[www.mawwfire.gov.uk](http://www.mawwfire.gov.uk)

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