

# CALONTANI



# Gwasanaeth Tân ac Achub Canolbarth a Gorllewin Cymru

Mid and West Wales  
Fire and Rescue Service

**www.mawwfire.gov.uk**



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# CFO WELCOME

Dear All,

**Welcome to 2022's Winter edition of Calon Tân – our Service magazine.**

**Our 2022 Winter edition of Calon Tan is published with the festive season in full swing.**

**Since our last edition of Calon Tan back in October, it's been a very busy period for us all.**

As well as the numerous incidents we have attended, we have enjoyed two of our annual events, the More Than Just Fires awards and the Annual Charity Carol Service. Both events were a pleasure to be a part of and you can read all about them in this latest edition.

With the changing of the seasons, we have also launched our Winter Safety Campaign which includes, Home Safety, Road Safety, and safety tips for a safe Christmas. This important work continues to have a significant impact throughout our communities as we work proactively to reduce risk within domestic and commercial properties and the wider environment.

Over the last few weeks, the focus for the Executive Leadership Team and I have been on securing the required level of Service budget for 2023/2024. Budget decisions dominate the political agenda across Wales, with the significant rise in inflation, the cost-of-living crisis, the impact of COVID19 and the war in Ukraine causing a real challenge for all public sector organisations as well as the citizens we serve.

Since taking over as Chief Fire Officer in April I, along with the Executive Leadership Team, have engaged with Fire Authority members and elected members throughout all six local authority areas to ensure that our current and future operational resilience requirements are funded on a sustainable basis. We also need to deliver enhanced operational assurance, support

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the outcomes of a green book job evaluation process; implement the real living wage and apply the outcomes of future pay awards.

Whilst the final budget decision will be made by the Authority in their meeting in February 2023, I am hopeful that we will be able to address these issues and secure a budget that ensures that we can continue to provide a first class service for the communities we serve, through our prevention, protection and response activities.

Finally, I would personally like to thank each one of you who helped in promoting the Annual Business Improvement Plan, which resulted in over 250 people completing the survey, letting us know their thoughts on how we can continue to improve our services to protect our communities.

Enjoy the read!

Merry Christmas and a happy new year,



Roger Thomas BA(Hons), MSc







## Recruitment Recruitment



SCAN ME

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or if you are interested in joining  
Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service.

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# Tour of Wales

## Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service staff take on a cycling Tour of Wales.

11 members of Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service staff, along with volunteers recently undertook a 4-day Tour of Wales cycling event in preparation for their LEJOG challenge in 2023.

They are fundraising for three very worthy Charities - The Firefighter Charity, Cerebral Palsy Cymru and 2 Wish.

The ride saw them set off from Service Headquarters on Day 1, cycling from Carmarthen to Machynlleth in the driving rain.

Day 2 took them into the mountains of Mid-Wales and over the Bwlch Y Groes Pass (also known as Hellfire pass), renowned as one of the hardest cycle routes in Britain and the second highest pass in Wales! They did this not only once but twice and then pressed on through to Newtown.

Day 3 was an early start, with the weather finally on side. They set off from Newtown down through Mid-Wales taking in Rhayader, Builth Wells and Brecon. Then up over the Storey Arms down through Merthyr, and onto the Taf Trail to end a 112-mile day in the centre of Cardiff.

The Final day took the group out past Cardiff Airport and along the coast road into Port Talbot, Swansea and Llanelli. Finally finishing back to where it all started in Service HQ in Carmarthen some 380 miles later.



Justin Lewis, our Corporate Head of Organisational Risk, who participated in the Tour of Wales said:

*"It was a great way to start our winter training preparation for LEJOG and will put us all in good stead for what's to come in future training events. We had some great support and encouragement along the route, and we would just like to thank everyone that has supported us so far. Foremost of our minds are the 3 charities that we are raising money for, please give what you can in order to help us reach our target."*

Keep your eyes peeled for more fundraising events and opportunities to support these troupers.





# Swansea Bay Healthy Travel Charter

More Information on the Charter



Our Chief Fire Officer officially signed the service up to the Swansea Bay Healthy Travel Charter on behalf of the Service at our Southern Division Headquarters in Morriston.

The Charter has been signed by several organisations in the Swansea area which include, Swansea Bay University Health Board, Natural Resources Wales, the DVLA, Gower College, National Waterfront Museum, Swansea Council, Neath Port Talbot Council for Voluntary Service, Coastal Housing and Pobl.

CFO Roger Thomas said: *"Signing the Swansea Bay Healthy Travel Charter, not only shows our commitment as a Service to endorse sustainable travel, but hopefully will encourage our staff to take action as well. With our cycle to work scheme, agile working policy and our fleet of electrical vehicles, this is definitely the way forward"*



The Charter promotes healthy and sustainable travel through 17 ambitious actions which include encouraging sustainable travel, offering and promoting the cycle to work scheme, reviewing fleet arrangements to allow for ultra low emission vehicles and supporting flexible working.

The signatories of the Charter have made this commitment as they appreciate the urgency needed to tackle climate change.

The co-chair of the IPCC's working group said in February 2022 that *"the scientific evidence is unequivocal: climate change is a threat to human wellbeing and the health of the planet. Any further delay in concerted global action will miss a brief and rapidly closing window to secure a liveable future."*

The Swansea Bay Healthy Travel Charter is the fifth Charter to launch in Wales, following similar initiatives in Cardiff, the Vale of Glamorgan and Gwent.



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## A fantastic achievement Cooper and Chris

On Thursday 27th October our Urban Search and Rescue Dog, Cooper and his trainer Watch Manager Chris Jones passed their grading.

Cooper is a 2-year-old male Labrador cross Belgian Malinois and has been with us in Mid and West Fire and Rescue Service since the 9th of September 2021, just a few days after his 1st Birthday. He was donated to the Service by a lovely woman from Cheshire.

The K9 pathway for both a dog and its handler can normally take up to 18 months to become qualified; however, Cooper and Chris managed it in a fraction over 13 months.

Chris said "Cooper was excelled during his training due to his high work, prey and play drive and has been a pleasure to train. The early morning starts, and late finishes have truly paid-off. The journey at times has been challenging, but I will never forget this part of my career."

**We are very proud of Chris and Cooper and look forward to watching their journey with the Service unfold.**



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# A Moment in History for Stephen Rowlands

It was with great sadness that we learnt of the passing of HM Queen Elizabeth II on 8th September 2022. However, this was a day that had been long prepared for.

Three years prior to this historic moment a select number of Fire and Rescue Service personnel attended a practice and selection day to determine who would represent the Fire and Rescue Service at the state funeral, when the time came.

Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service's, Head of People Development, Stephen Rowlands was selected to represent the Service.

Stephen was involved with the preparations and coming from a military background where he served in the Marines, certainly set him in good stead for the task ahead.

Being part of a group of only 16 Fire and Rescue Service staff from across the UK was a proud moment for Stephen. Having arrived in London on Wednesday 14th September, Stephen was required to attend the first of a series of briefings which took place each evening at 19:00. Later that day, a coach collected the contingent at 22:00 to travel into central London, in full undress uniform for the only

rehearsal. This involved the 100 civilian service contingents, 800 military personnel and three of the country's finest military bands. The contingent assembled at Wellington Barracks in the early hours of the morning to join the military ranks outside Westminster Abbey where they completed their rehearsal some hours later.

The day before the State Funeral, Stephen took the opportunity to take a walk to Hyde Park to view the tributes that had been left for HM Queen Elizabeth II. Stephen said "It was silent within the park, only being broken by parents explaining to their children the magnitude of the event. The smell in the area from all the floral tributes was overwhelming."

On the day of the State Funeral, Stephen was collected in the early morning to travel to the Wellington Barracks, in Westminster, where the preparations to march in the precession behind the Queens coffin commenced.

Stephen recalled: "I remember feeling extremely honoured to be

a part of this historic occasion, as I stood with my other Fire and Rescue Service colleagues behind the Horse Guards marching at the rear of the gun carriage."

Stephen continued: "It was a strange feeling, there were large crowds, but I didn't really notice them; It was like being in a bubble. All that mattered was the march. I felt a pressure to get it right, to ensure that my steps were correct, it was nerve wracking to think that billions of people were watching our every move.

The clapping from the crowds as we passed was surreal and with it brought a wave of emotions, it made me stand tall and feel ever so proud. It was a great sense of pride and a massive honour, to myself and my family to be chosen to represent the Service.

Being chosen to attend the State Funeral of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, representing Mid & West Wales Fire and Rescue Service was one of the biggest highlights of my working career – a true moment in history that I will be forever thankful for."





# Rugby this Autumn

Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service Rugby section have been busy this Autumn, firstly with two members of the Service Rugby Team being selected to play in the Great British Service Team.

In October they played the Emergency Service Barbarians in Birmingham. Firefighter Scott Davies from Llanelli Fire Station played centre and scored 1 try for the team with Firefighter Gareth Thomas from Milford Haven Fire Station playing scrum half. It was a huge success and the Great British Fire Service won 53-0.

Another Great British Service Team game took place in Cardiff Arms Park against England Fire and Rescue Service. On this occasion four players were selected from the Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service Rugby Team to play. Firefighters Gareth Thomas from Milford Haven, Ryan Goodwin from Welshpool, Jordan Adderley from Swansea Central and Scott Davies from Llanelli, who after playing 5 times for Wales was rewarded his cap. The English Fire Service took the win for this match 47-7.

Further to these games our Service Rugby Team have also played an action-packed game against the Welsh Air Ambulance Service (WAST) at Morriston RFC in a "Battle of the Services". The game was a pleasure to watch with the MAWWFire Rugby Team taking the win 55-0.

Keep up to date with the Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service Rugby Team via their [Facebook Group](#) or by contacting [Craig Jenkins c.jenkins@mawwfire.gov.uk](mailto:c.jenkins@mawwfire.gov.uk) [Sam Phillips sam.phillips@mawwfire.gov.uk](mailto:sam.phillips@mawwfire.gov.uk)

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It doesn't stop there! The team are now planning on entering a side in the Heart of Wales 7's tournament in June 2023. The team are looking to secure a fixture against other Fire Rescue Services, get regular training sessions back up and running and hold one session per month. And finally, the biggest plan is to set up a fixture against South Wales Fire Rescue Service in the Principality Stadium next year for the Welsh Cup!

The Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service Rugby Section is open to all employees of Mid & West Wales 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.

53-0

47-7

55-0

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# Helen Rees wins Go Awards for Individual of the Year

The GO Awards are Wales's leading public procurement excellence awards, celebrating the very best procurement achievements from across Wales's public, private and third sector organisation. They have been celebrating the best in all aspects of public procurement since 2003.

This year it was an honour to have our very own Helen Rees, Head of Procurement and Contracting nominated and shortlisted for the Individual of the Year Award. This Award recognises individuals who see challenges as opportunities, it's for those who strive for continual improvement and have the vision and courage to make a difference.

Helen was nominated for the award in recognition of her passion for breaking down the barriers for small to medium enterprises, when tendering work for the Service. Also, in relation to the work she has done in terms of sustainability, social value, sharing professional knowledge and expertise with others. Both within the Service - by coaching and mentoring colleagues to achieve their MCIPS qualification and externally - by having a range of articles and interviews published in numerous procurement magazines.

Helen joined the Service in 2001 as a Water Assistant and worked tirelessly to develop and gain the qualifications needed to see her move into Procurement, leading her to the role she has today, as Head of Procurement and Contracting.

On the evening of 8th November 2022 Helen attended the Go Awards along with Director of Resources Mydrian Harris. Helen was honoured with the High Commendation Award for the category of Individual of the Year.

Helen said "When I heard Sian Lloyd speak about the person who had won the Highly Commended individual of the year award, I suddenly realised it was me she was talking about. When my name was announced what sounded like a huge roar erupted in the room. It felt surreal that night and still does.

Helen continued; I feel truly humbled at receiving an award for doing something I have such passion for. I am extremely grateful to the Service for all the opportunities I have had during my career and for allowing me to shape the Procurement Department into what it is today.

I may only have a small team but together we do great things to

ensure that we give something back to the communities that we live and work in."

Mydrian added: "Anyone who knows Helen will be aware of how dedicated she is towards her role, and it came as no surprise to me or the Executive Leadership Team that she had been nominated for such an accolade. Over the last 15 years, we have seen the growing importance of having effective procurement arrangements within Fire & Rescue Services and to have Helen as our procurement ambassador places the Service in such a good position. Helen's attention to detail and passion for her work is infectious and her reputation as a leading voice for effective public sector procurement advice both within Wales and wider is testimony to her character.

The Go Award really was wonderful recognition for Helen and all that she does for the Service"

We are all very proud of Helen for receiving such a huge achievement, **Congratulations!**







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Mid and West Wales  
Fire and Rescue Service

For more information about  
Volunteering with us please visit:  
[www.mawwfire.gov.uk/Volunteering](http://www.mawwfire.gov.uk/Volunteering)



# Stay Safe this Winter!

## Winter is coming, bringing with it darker nights and deteriorating weather.

With the cost of living being at the top of people's concerns we want to urge you to take heed of our safety advice as many may turn to alternative ways of heating and lighting their homes. Taking some time to consider winter safety and any additional risks that this season may bring, will help safeguard you and your property from potential dangers.

We have some helpful information to help you stay safe and we encourage you to request a Safe and Well visit for yourself or your loved ones. These checks are prioritised for those most at risk of a fire in the home and can involve home safety practitioners getting in touch to run through a list of questions and the followed by a visit which may involve the installation of free alarms.

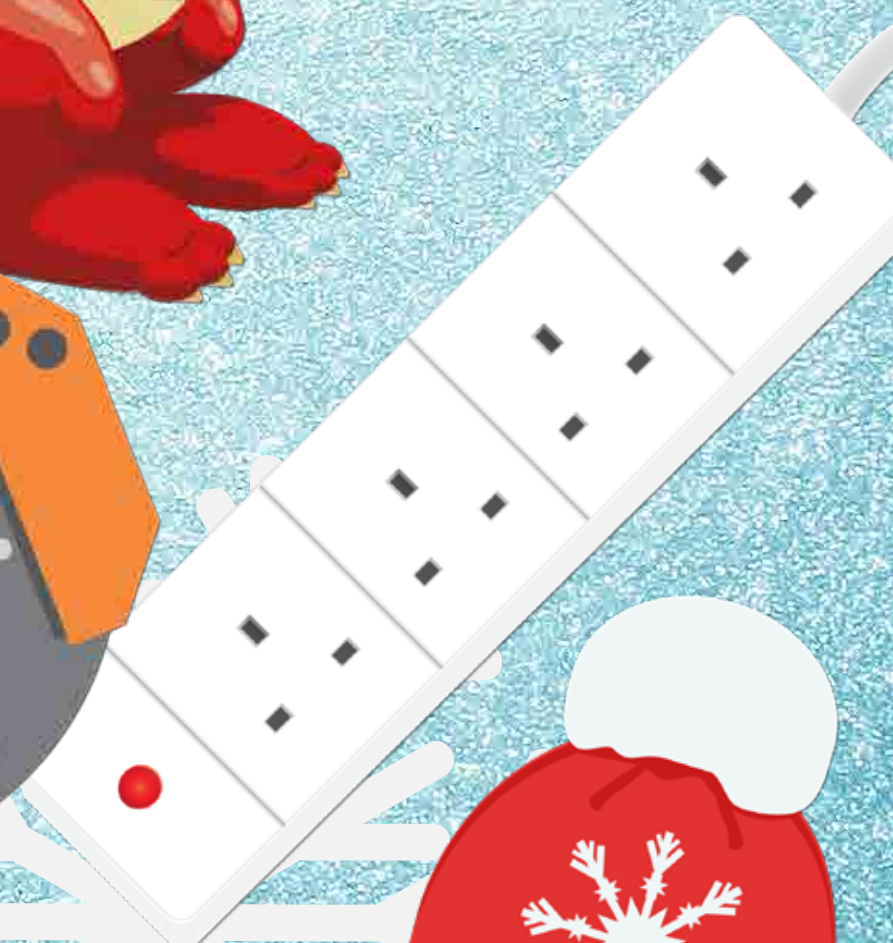
### Richard Felton, Head of Community Safety said:

*"We feel that it's critical for people to ensure they have working smoke alarms, and ideally one on each level of their home. A working smoke alarm can be the difference between life and death when a fire occurs."*

Winter brings many additional risks with cold, wet weather, icy conditions and darker evenings. You are far more likely to experience a fire in the home or have a collision in your vehicle during the winter season simply down to these additional risks.

### Peter Greenslade Corporate Head of Community Safety said:

*"It's vitally important that you ensure that your vehicle is roadworthy, your smoke and CO alarms are functioning, your chimneys are swept, your electric appliances are safe and you take care with the use of candles. Simple actions can make a huge difference and I would personally welcome you to review the information we have provided to help you have a safe and enjoyable winter."*



**Our website offers some essential safety tips from from Home Safety, Road Safety and Flooding Advice**



On Friday 18th of November, crew from Ammanford Fire Station assisted the local community of Pantyffynnon, by providing transport for Santa to the annual Christmas light switch on.

The crew at Ammanford have been providing Santa's transport for this event for the last 15 years however, due to the Covid restrictions, this is something that the crew have not been able to participate since 2020. With all restrictions now lifted the crew were happy to get back to helping the community.

Crew Manager Carwyn Davies explained; "This is one of many community events that we have assisted with over the years, and it makes the job of being an On Call Firefighter even more enjoyable. It was great to see the delight on the children's faces this year, not only seeing Santa but watching him step out of the fire engine." What a hero he is!

## Santa Visits Ammanford!





## MWY NA DIM OND TANAU MORE THAN JUST FIRES

**On Friday evening 18th November 2022, we were proud to present our awards ceremony for the first time since the COVID pandemic and rebranded as the More Than Just Fires Awards.**

More Than Just Fires Awards recognises the extraordinary contributions made by colleagues, partners and members of our community who continue to support the Service in making mid and west Wales a safer place to live, work and visit.

The awards ceremony, which was held at the Stradey Park Hotel in Llanelli and hosted by BBC Radio Wales presenter, Wynne Evans. Eleven special awards were presented to members of staff who were nominated by their peers and colleagues.

# The Winners..

### Outstanding Contribution – Helen Rees



Also shortlisted for this category were Jay Crouch, Community Volunteer Co-Ordinator and Crew Manager Phil Barry.

### Young Achiever of the Year – Tammy Grey and Gwynfor Davies



### Team of the Year - Incident Response Team



The other two teams shortlisted were the Earlswood Catering Team and the Corporate Communications and Business Development team.

### Community and Partnership – Jeremy Turner



Others shortlisted were Steve Jarvis, Response Co-ordinator and The Wallich Charity.

### Volunteer of the Year – Wayne Bream



Also shortlisted in this category were Rob Nicholls and Alfie Morgan.



**Charity Champion – Gonzo’s Game**



Both The Welsh Firefighters Fitness Challenge Team and Crew Managers, Stephen and Harry Ratcliffe were also shortlisted for this category.

**Station of the Year  
Western Division – Pembroke Dock**



Both were Kidwelly Fire Station and Tumble Fire Station were nominated.

**Sports and Social Club - Dominic Norcross  
and the Welsh Firefighter Fitness  
Challenge Team**



Firefighter Joshua Greer and The Golf Society were also shortlisted for this award.

**Station of the Year  
Southern Division – Gorseinon**



Also shortlisted were Pontardawe Fire Station and Reynoldston Fire Station

**Station of the Year  
Northern Division – Llanwrtyd Wells**



Others shortlisted were Rhayader Fire Station and Aberystwyth Fire Station

**Chief Fire Officer’s Bravery Award  
Firefighter Hywel Mathews  
Crew Manager Ffion Evans  
Paul Jones (Fleet, Engineering and Logistics)**



During the evening we also raised a fantastic £824 for The Fire Fighters Charity.  
Thank you to all those that donated and supported this wonderful evening.





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

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



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# FREE Farm Fire Safety Visit

Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service (MAWWFRS) want to work with farming families to keep your loved ones, homes, land and animals safe from fire.

MAWWFRS invite you to request a **FREE** Farm Fire Safety Visit to help **prepare a plan to reduce the risk of a fire**. We will assist in:

- Making sure that you have a current Fire Risk Assessment.
  - Developing a FIRE BOX at the property entrance containing details such as location of water supplies, a map of land, a list of livestock, and types and locations of hazardous materials. This information will help keep our response crews safe.
  - Helping you identify areas to relocate livestock in your emergency plan.
  - Providing guidance on keeping entrance and exit routes clear and ensuring sufficient space for fire appliance access.
- We will also complete a Home Fire Safety Check for all domestic properties and provide and install free smoke, heat and Carbon Monoxide alarms if needed.
- Clear and accurate directions. We recommend the use of What3words to pinpoint a farm's location to a three-meter square.
  - Tell the operator what is on fire and what may be at risk of becoming involved in the fire.
  - Inform the operator of any issues that may affect crews attending. Ask for 4x4 capability if required.
  - Send someone to meet oncoming appliances at the farm entrance (take a torch at night) and display your farm name at the end of the driveway.
  - Make yourself known to the fire crew on arrival and remain on hand to answer any questions.
  - Be ready to assist fire crews with on-site farm machinery such as front-end loaders and telehandlers.

## If a fire occurs:

Only tackle the fire if it is safe to do so and you have sufficient extinguishing media available (water, foam, CO2, dry powder etc.). If the fire is not extinguished within 20 or 30 seconds, then move to safety and call the fire service. Please provide the following information: -

## **Never tackle a fire if you will place yourself at risk.**

*"I have visited numerous farms this summer following a fire and have seen the worry and devastation left in its wake. It is important to recognize that no farm is exempt from the risk of fire. Pre-planning is a key component to preparing ourselves for the event of a fire. I recommend that members of the farming community take advantage of the FREE services that are available from MAWWFRS."* **Jeremy Turner, the Farm Liaison Officer for MAWWFRS**



**FREE FARM FIRE SAFETY ADVICE**

Gwasanaeth Tân ac Adnab Canolbarth a Gorllewin Cymru  
Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service

- ☒ Free assessment of the risk from fire in the home.
- ☒ Crop & machinery storage advice.
- ☒ General fire prevention & fire safety advice.
- ☒ Arson prevention advice.
- ☒ Grass fire & controlled burning advice & guidance.

**For more information call**  
**0800 169 1234**

Diogelwch Cymunedol  
Community Safety

FFW  
UNDEB AMAETHWYR  
CYMRU

NFU  
CYMRU



# Medal Ceremonies

At Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service we value all our employees.

This year, for the first time we introduced our Divisional Medal Ceremonies. This was an opportunity to present our long serving members their medals and certificates in recognition of their hard work and dedication to the Service over a period of years.

These are presented by the Lord Lieutenant of the Service area, along with our Chief Fire Officer Roger Thomas in an intimate gathering in their divisional area.

In October we held our Southern and Western Division Ceremonies and look to hold the Northern Medal Ceremony early in 2023.

Medals were awarded for 20, 30 and 40 years of service to Mid and West Wales.

## Western Division

Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service held the Western Division Long Service & Good Conduct Medal Ceremony on the evening of Wednesday 26th October 2022. The ceremony took place at St. Brides Spa Hotel in the coastal village of Saundersfoot. There were 7 Medals presented on the evening by Chief Fire Officer Roger Thomas and His Majesty's Lord Lieutenant of Dyfed, Miss Sara Edwards. All medal recipients also received a framed Certificate of their achievement.

Station Manager Scott O'Kelly, Watch Manager Alun Griffiths, Crew Manager Paul La Rosa, Assistant Chief Fire Officer Craig Flannery and Group Manager Chris Rees all received their 20 Years of Service Medals and Certificates. Whilst Crew Manager Timothy Frost received his 30 years of Service Medal and certificate.

Last but by no means least Watch Manager Euros Edwards received his 40 years of Service and Good Conduct Medal and certificate, such a special and momentous moment.

The evening was a celebration of all their long service achievements and dedication to the Fire Service throughout the years.

Head of Western Division Chris Rees said: *"The evening was a wonderful success, and I was very proud to play my part in hosting the ceremony, it was a privilege to welcome friends and colleagues, to receive the recognition for all their hard work and years of commitment to reach their milestone of 20, 30 and 40-years' Service."*

*I would like to personally thank all those that contributed to making the ceremony the success that it was and look forward to providing the opportunity for next year's recipients, to enjoy an equally wonderful evening with their partners and friends."*

## Western Division Medal Ceremony





# Southern Division

On Thursday 20th October Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service held their Annual Long Service & Good Conduct Medal Ceremony for their Southern Division. The evening event took place at the River House Restaurant in Swansea SA1.

There were 10 Medals presented on the evening by Chief Fire Officer Roger Thomas and Deputy Lord Lieutenant of West Glamorgan Martin Trainer. All medal recipients also received a framed Certificate of their achievement.

Group Manager Dave Morgans, Station Managers Richard Davies, Chris Coles and Stuart Bate, Watch Managers Richard Hanney and Anthony Dight along with Crew Manager Andrew Francis each received their 20 Years of Service Medals and Certificates.

Also, Firefighters Simon Bevan and Stuart Grove, along with Sara Thomas our Arson Reduction Officer all received their 30 Years of Service Medals and Certificates.

The evening focused on celebrating their long service achievements and dedication to the Fire Service throughout the years.

Head of Southern Division Steven Davies said: *"It was great to see so many of the recipients able to attend this year, after the last couple of years due to the pandemic. Once again, my sincere thanks to all those continuing to serve the communities we live in."*



## Southern Division Medal Ceremony



# Annual Charity Carol Service

**Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service held its Annual Charity Christmas Carol Service on Tuesday 13th December 2022, at St Catherine's Church in Gorseinon.**

Chief Fire Officer, Roger Thomas said; "The Annual Charity Carol Service is an event we look forward to each year. Not only is it a wonderful way to give back to the communities that we serve, but it also allows us to promote and support our two nominated charities. This year, the money raised will be shared between The Firefighters Charity and the Richard 'Decky' Memorial Fund which is part of the Swansea Bay Health Charity.

He added; I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who attended the Service, and to the community of Gorseinon for extending such a warm welcome.

Thank you also to Canon Illtyd Protheroe for delivering the order of service, our volunteers, Gorseinon cadets, and finally to the choir from Penyrheol School for their participation in proceedings.



## Textile Bins

An amazing **£14,251** has been raised in April - September from Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service fire stations and community site clothing banks.

Over **64,779 Kg** of clothing has been re-diverted away from landfill!

The full report can be found on Connect @work, with a breakdown of how much each station has raised individually.

**FIND YOUR NEAREST TEXTILE BIN**







— “ —  
**COULD YOU BE AN  
ON-CALL FIREFIGHTER**  
— ” —





# Executive Leadership Team volunteer for local charity in Pembrokeshire.

Our Chief Fire Officer, Roger Thomas, along with members from the Executive Leadership Team took a day to volunteer at The VC Gallery, helping to paint a number of rooms for veterans and members of the community to use and enjoy.

Chief Fire Officer Roger Thomas said:

*"Our Executive Leadership Team 'Give Back Days' are a fantastic opportunity to provide practical support for our charitable partners, engage with our communities and also promote team building for all those that get involved. The VC Gallery highlights the importance of welfare support for armed forces veterans and the wider community and assists in signposting individuals to the bespoke services they provide. As a Fire & Rescue Service we were both humbled and honoured to be part of this and thoroughly enjoyed our time with everyone we met."*

The VC Gallery (Veterans and Community) is a registered Charity based in Haverfordwest, Pembrokeshire and was founded by Barry John MBE. Barry served 24 years in the Army and with his artistic background and involvement in Mental Health work, he realised that the community would benefit from his expertise and experiences. Now the VC Gallery works with veterans, older people, children, and anyone who feels they need time out to socialise and express themselves through art.

The majority of veterans fair well after leaving the armed forces, suffering no ill effects, entering full-time employment and leading meaningful and fulfilling lives. However, The VC Gallery is a "single point-of-access" welfare and support hub for veterans providing, for those that need it, support to readjust back to civilian life. They also act as a signposting and referral service, a community social hub, and a charity, working in partnership with public and third-sector agencies as well as specialised national charities.

By running projects and workshops for the community, The VC Gallery aim to engage with people of all ages and enhance their personal, social, and educational development. Their work is not limited to veterans as they are also open to people with mental or physical disabilities, to both the young and elderly, and to anyone who feels alone, disadvantaged, or isolated. The VC Gallery projects run all year round and provide the ability to build self-confidence and new skills.







Gwasanaeth Tân ac Achub  
Canolbarth a Gorllewin Cymru

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Mid and West Wales  
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