

CALONTÂN

Spring 2023



#DAWNSGLAW



Gwasanaeth Tân ac Achub
Canolbarth a Gorllewin Cymru

Mid and West Wales
Fire and Rescue Service

www.mawwfire.gov.uk

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Fire and Rescue Service

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CFO WELCOME

Dear All,

Welcome to 2023's Spring edition of Calon Tân, our Service magazine. Since our last edition of Calon Tan back in December, it's been a very busy period for us all.

We have recently launched our Spring Safety Campaign which includes a focus on a wide range of issues including Wildfires (Operation Dawns Glaw), Water Safety, Garden and Countryside Safety. Our prevention work continues to have huge significance to the Service, and I encourage you all to engage where you can to better protect you, your families, friends, and communities.

It is pleasing to note that the threat of industrial action has been averted following the FBU's acceptance of the revised pay offer. As you will be aware the Service convened a Critical Incident Group to ensure that we were able to mitigate the threat of any industrial action and maintain a proportion of our statutory provision for firefighting, prevention and protection activities. I would like to thank all those who assisted in this process and the commitment that they displayed to support our operational resilience.

It would of course, be remiss of me to not mention the devastating earthquakes that shook Türkiye and Syria last month, a natural disaster on a scale we have not seen for a long time. In light of that, I would like to give a special mention to the UKISAR Team, 77 of whom were deployed, along with 4 rescue dogs to Türkiye to assist via the Foreign Commonwealth & Development Office, in the biggest earthquake

deployment since 2015. I am very proud to say that 2 of those deployed were our very own, Head of Southern Division Steve Davies and Watch Manager Phil Irving – I am sure that you will all join me in thanking them for their commitment and dedication in what I can only imagine were the most harrowing of circumstances. You can read more about their journey in this edition of Calon Tân.

Enjoy the read!

Roger



Roger Thomas BA(Hons), MSc
Chief Fire Officer



Community Safety Pembrokeshire Well-being Walks

Throughout 2023, members of the Community Safety Pembrokeshire team will be walking the entire Pembrokeshire Coastal Path.



Each month, the team will walk a different stretch of the beautiful Pembrokeshire Coastal Path, which includes an impressive 58 beaches, 14 harbours and the UK's smallest city, St David's. The purpose of each walk isn't to raise money, but to focus on a particular mental health and well-being theme, as well as highlighting a different local agency each month and the work they do within Pembrokeshire.

The first walk, from Newport to Goodwick, was in collaboration with the Pembrokeshire Community Hub, a new permanent service in the county that helps connect people to community services, as well as assistance to find solutions in issues they may face.

On embarking on these well-being walks, Tom Wass, Crew Manager at Community Fire Safety Pembrokeshire, said: "A vital part of Community Safety is partnership working and linking in with local agencies. We are keen to raise awareness of the services available, and social media is a powerful tool for us to connect with the community we serve. Being able to shout about our collaborative work is great.

We also aim to cover a broad range of well-being themes over the 12 walks. We are passionate about getting people talking about well-being and these walks are a fantastic opportunity for us to start conversations."

While each walk isn't an open event, the team are hoping to inspire people to get their walking shoes on and enjoy the outdoors – making the most of the many health and well-being benefits that spending time in nature has to offer.

You can follow their progress on the Community Safety Pembrokeshire [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) pages, as well as the MAWWFRS channels – [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#).





Recruitment Recruitment



SCAN ME

Get in touch to find out more about us,
or if you are interested in joining
Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service.

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#DAWNSGLAW

Working together to protect our Countryside and our Country

Operation Dawns Glaw, 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.

Every year fire is responsible for the destruction of thousands of hectares of countryside, open space, and wildlife habitats. We want to work with our communities to build a healthier and more resilient countryside and to develop a more biodiverse countryside for the future. Working with our communities and sharing our knowledge

provides us with a better understanding of what we can do to limit the damage that accidental fires cause to our environment.

Peter Greenslade, Corporate Head of Prevention and Protection for Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service, and Chair of Operation Dawns Glaw, said:

“As with previous years, we launch our Operation Dawns Glaw campaign as the weather starts to improve, the nights become lighter and our use of the landscape, countryside and grassland of Wales begins to increase.

“It is vitally important that we all continue to work together to build a healthier, more resilient and increasingly biodiverse landscape here in Wales, doing what we can to protect this precious resource for the future.

“We want to work with our communities, farmers, and landowners to share our knowledge and understanding of the effect that both deliberate and accidental fires have on our communities. We understand that controlled burns can have a positive effect on the environment, creating biodiversity and a sustainable ecosystem and we are available for free advice on how to do this safely.

“I would also like to take the opportunity to reinforce our messages that while accidents can happen, there are some within our communities who are deliberately setting fire to our countryside – not only is this a crime, for which they will be prosecuted, but it also places unnecessary pressure on front line services and puts our communities in harm’s way. I would encourage anyone with information relating to such crimes to call 101, or to report anonymously to CrimeStoppers on 0800 555 111”

The Operation is also continuing its work with farmers and landowners across Wales, reminding them that while they may burn heather, grass, bracken and gorse up until the 15 March (up to 31 March in Upland areas), they must have a Burn Plan in place to ensure they are burning safely. It is against the law to burn outside of the burning season and can result in penalties of up to £1000.

Find out more about **#DawnsGlaw 2023** via Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service’s website www.mawwfire.gov.uk/DawnsGlaw, where you can also access some simple safety tips and download the campaign’s safety messages for use on your own social media channels. Together we held stop grass fires and protect our countryside and our country.

Remember - If are out enjoying the countryside and you do come across any suspicious activity, **please call CrimeStoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111, or ring 101. In an emergency, always call 999.**





Welsh Firefighters deployed to assist with search and rescue operations in Türkiye

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.

At the time of their deployment, Station Commander and ISAR Lead for South Wales Fire and Rescue Service, Darren Cleaves, said:

"UKISAR is made up of 14 teams from Fire and Rescue Services across the UK and they respond to international disasters 24/7, 365 days a year.

As part of the UK team, three firefighters from South Wales have deployed to Turkey and have already commenced operations. They'll be utilising their specialist knowledge and experience to support search and rescue efforts on the ground.

We are proud to be able to respond to emergencies and disasters around the world alongside our UK colleagues and our thoughts are with those affected by this tragedy."

The UK government responded immediately to the Turkish Government's request for support and will continue to assess the situation, preparing to provide further long-term assistance as needed.

Chief Fire Officer, Roger Thomas of Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service, said:

"Our thoughts go out to the many thousands across Türkiye and Syria who have tragically lost loved ones following these earthquakes, and to the emergency responders working to locate and rescue survivors. We know that those rescue efforts are taking place in challenging winter conditions, compounding what is already a very difficult operation.

"Two of our operational crew members have now flown out to Türkiye to join the UK team of search and rescue specialists. I have no doubt that Group Manager Steve Davies (Southern Division) and Watch Manager at Haverfordwest Station, Phil Irving, who are highly skilled in Command and Control and have experience of managing in these complex environments will make invaluable contributions to the search and rescue efforts."



Phil Irvin's Family Reunion

In February, a Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service firefighter had an emotional reunion with his family after returning home from saving lives as part of the UK Government's response to the earthquake catastrophe in Turkey.

[There were tearful scenes](#) as dad-of-two Phil Irving surprised eight-year-old son Evan and daughter Esmei, 14, by arranging to have them pulled out of class to let them know he was back home, joined by his wife Lianne.

The 46-year-old is one of 77 search and rescue specialists from 14 fire and rescue services across the UK deployed to Turkey with the UK-ISAR team through the Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office.

Phil, a Watch Manager at Haverfordwest Station, had spent the past week saving people entombed in the rubble of wrecked buildings. As the death toll surges past 40,000, Phil had cause to hug his children a little tighter when he picked them up at Ysgol Caer Elen school, in Haverfordwest, Pembrokeshire yesterday.

Phil said: *"I've witnessed the pain and anguish of so many people in Turkey who will never get to see their loved ones again. It really emphasises the importance of family."*

My eight-year-old boy Evan is my shadow and, unfortunately, he really struggled emotionally with me being away.

My biggest takeaway when you consider what the people of Turkey are going through, is that it emphasises the importance of family. It so easy to take our lives for granted."



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Remarkable footage from Saturday, showed Phil and his UK-ISAR colleagues saving the lives of a man and woman who had both been trapped in a collapsed multi-storey building for 120 hours. Phil has been a firefighter for almost 24 years and has been volunteering with UK-ISAR for 17 years, playing a part in the Indonesia (2009) and Haiti (2010) earthquake responses.

Phil continued: *"I think that everyone in the country should be proud that the UK Government funds resources like UK-ISAR and the UK-Emergency Medical Team, which stand ready to step up and save lives when there is a humanitarian disaster such as what we are seeing in Turkey and Syria right now."*

As the situation on the ground moves into in a new phase, from rescue to recovery, the UK is committing a further package of support to address urgent humanitarian needs in Turkey and Syria.

Phil and the rest of the UK-ISAR team were deployed to Turkey through the UK Government's Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office.

UK Minister for Development, Andrew Mitchell, said: "The UK Government is proud that brave Welsh firefighters and medics have been at the very heart of our efforts to help the Turkish people in their hour of need."

Both the UK-ISAR and UK-EMT pool world-leading expertise from across Britain to make a real difference in reacting to humanitarian disasters around the globe."



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Gwasanaeth Tân ac Achub
Canolbarth a Gorllewin Cymru

Mid and West Wales
Fire and Rescue Service

For more information about
Volunteering with us please visit:
www.mawwfire.gov.uk/Volunteering

Coming soon...The Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Authority is due to publish its Annual Business Improvement Plan 2023/2024.



On the 06 February, the Fire Authority approved the publication of the Annual Business Improvement Plan for the 01 April 2023, so keep an eye on our website www.mawwfire.gov.uk for further information.

The Plan sets out five Improvement and Well-being Objectives, which will be delivered over the coming 12 months and focusses on our business and the improvements we want to make to ensure we remain fit for purpose.

A comprehensive consultation and engagement exercise was undertaken to help develop the Plan and we would like to thank everyone who took the time to provide us with their valued feedback, whether that was by completing the online questionnaire, writing to us, chatting to us at events or engaging with us on our Social Media platforms.

The responses were considered fully, and each Improvement and Well-being Objective was reviewed and amended accordingly to reflect the feedback received. Further information on our consultation responses can be found in our [consultation report](#).

We welcome your comments and suggestions and encourage you to provide us with your views on how we can improve the service we provide to the communities of mid and west Wales.

**YN DOD CYN HIR
COMING SOON**

**Please get in touch
to have your say**
haveyoursay@mawwfire.gov.uk

Stay Safe this Spring!

This month is the launch of Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service's Spring Safety campaign.

The Spring months traditionally come with warmer weather and with the evenings getting increasingly lighter, we can start to enjoy the outdoors more. This time of year also opens up many opportunities to catch up on the things we couldn't do through the winter months. Whether you are clearing the garden and having a bonfire, enjoying your first BBQ of the season, or even taking that first swim in the sea, we want you to keep your safety at the top of the list.

Richie Felton, Head of Community Safety said

"This month sees the launch of our Spring Safety Campaign and with the warmer weather and an increase in visitors to mid and west Wales, we want to ensure that we keep you and your families safe."

Last year, during the Spring months, our firefighters responded to around 580 grass fires, with 448 of those recorded as being deliberate. We want to ensure that in 2023, our communities and visitors enjoy the Spring weather, and the wonderful landscapes and environment that mid and west Wales has to offer.

Our operation #DawnsGlaw, also launches this month and will provide focus and advice on how we can work with our communities to ensure just that."

For more safety messages, information, advice or guidance during Spring Safety please check out our Social Media channels and visit our

[Spring Safety Campaign Page.](#)



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Recently we presented plaques to three local businesses in Kidwelly. Gravells, Reflect Education and IWECElectricals Service for their ongoing support towards Kidwelly Fire Station. Allowing employees to be released for operational incidents as and when required.

The Service appreciates that this can have an impact at times, however without the support of local businesses, we would be unable to provide a resilient response to our local community, so thank you.

Kidwelly Fire Station Plaque Presentations



AR ALWAD
Recriwtio Diffoddwyr Tân
ON CALL
Firefighter Recruitment

Check out which [stations are currently recruiting](#) then fill in [our expression of interest form](#) **TODAY!**



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



DIWRNOD RECRIWTIO DANGOS A DWEUD

GORSAF DÂN KIDWELLY FIRE STATION

SHOW & TELL RECRUITMENT DAY

12 / 03 / 2023 11.00 - 16.00

AR ALWAD
Recriwtio Diffoddwyr Tân
ON CALL
Firefighter Recruitment



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- Arddangosiadau Byw
- Cyfle i Gwrdd a Chyfarch Staff
- Lluniaeth

Including

- Recruitment Information
- Live Demonstrations
- Meet & Greet Staff
- Refreshments



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

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



Codi Arian i Elusen Charity Fundraiser

GOLCHI CEIR CAR WASH




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**DYDD SADWRN | SATURDAY
MAWRTH | 18 | MARCH
09:00 - 13:30**

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mawwfire.gov.uk

Q&A Session with On-Call Firefighters Ceulyn and Sally

Have you ever thought about becoming an On-Call Firefighter, but unsure what it entails, or if it's the right career path for you?

We recently held a Q&A session with two of our female On-Call firefighters, Ceulyn and Sally, who are based at Whitland Fire Station. They gave us an insight of what it's like to go through the process of becoming an On-Call firefighter for Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service. Here's what they had to say:

What gave you the motivation to become an On-Call Firefighter?

Ceulyn: "I had always considered joining the Service and Covid-19 gave me the opportunity to join whilst studying at university. After discussing what it involved with friends, they encouraged me to give it a go. This gave me the confidence to go ahead and apply!"

Sally: "Both my dad and brother were On-Call Firefighters, this gave me a really good understanding of what exactly the job entailed. My dad has been in the service for 30 years, and my brother has only recently left. Growing up, we used to attend all the family fun days and events that took place at our local station. This enabled me to see first-hand how the Service cared for the community. One of the Firefighters at Whitland station asked if I would consider joining, as they were short staffed. I had never really thought about joining but then thought I would give it a go."

How long have you been an On-Call Firefighter?

Ceulyn: "I will have been at Whitland Station for 2 Years in June. It feels like it has flown by."

Sally: "It's 2 years for me too but feels like I have been here so much longer!"

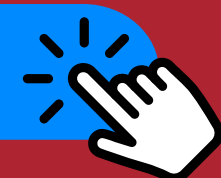
What is the training process like?

Sally: "Initially there's a pre-entry test, if you pass that you then go on to do a fitness test. After that, a medical, DBS check, formal interview, and a final exam. After completing all of that you'll go on to do a two-week training course and a 4-day RTC course. It's important to say that commitment right from the start is key and whilst it's a lot of hard work - it's totally worth it!"

Ceulyn: "From the Initial testing day to getting on to the course, it was a little lengthy and the actual training course is two weeks long. Once on board, you go on to complete a trauma and Breathing Apparatus course which broadens your capabilities at incidents. Over the following two years' probation you follow a development plan and complete exercises to show you've practiced your micro skills."

If you are interested in taking part in one of our Experience Days, then register your details [here](#). Or for more information visit Experience Days - Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service (mawwfire.gov.uk)

[Click here to read the full Q&A](#)



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The Big Challenge

12 members of Mid and West Fire and Rescue Service will take on The Big Challenge this summer



Putting a Welsh spin on the well-known LEJOG challenge, cycling from Land's End in Cornwall, the most South-westerly point of Britain to John O'Groats in Northern Scotland.

The team will cycle just short of 1000 miles in 10 days throughout the UK. Cycling on average 100 miles a day, through three countries and climb an impressive 54 thousand feet. This challenge is not for the faint hearted.

The ultimate goal is to raise as much money as possible for three charities close to their hearts:

- [The Fire Fighters Charity - Changing The Lives Of Our Fire Fighting Heroes!](#)
- [Cerebral Palsy Cymru](#)
- [2wish Support for those affected by death in young people](#)

The Big Challenge will start on Monday 5th June 2023. However, the team have organised a series of smaller challenges in the run up to the big one! Keep your eyes peeled for the team in local supermarkets and other community events as they train for The Big Challenge.

We'll be sharing some fun facts about the team very soon so don't forget to follow them on social media:

[Yr Her Fawr / The Big Challenge | Facebook](#) [YrHerFawr/TheBigChallenge \(@yrherfawr\) / Twitter](#)

[Yr Her Fawr / The Big Challenge \(@yrherfawr thebigchallenge\) • Instagram photos and videos](#)

Chief Fire Officer, Roger Thomas said: *"The Big Challenge is a great opportunity for past and present Service Members to come together and take part in a cycling challenge, a sport that they are all passionate about. This fundraising event is in support of three very worthy charities and I'm looking forward to following their journey Best of luck team!"*

You can donate to The Big Challenge by visiting their Peoples Funding Page here: [Fundraiser - LEJOG 2023 \(peoplesfundraising.com\)](#)



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!



Off-duty firefighter gives 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.

Lee immediately took control of the situation and directed lifeguards to retrieve a defibrillator and to call for an ambulance. In the meantime, Lee administered 'hands-only CPR' to the casualty and once the defibrillator arrived, he attached it to the casualty in order to administer a shock. By the time the ambulance arrived, the patient had regained consciousness.

On Lee's actions, Pembroke Dock Station Watch Manager, Phil Barry, said: "I have no doubt that Lee's actions and quick-thinking helped save the patient's life. Following the incident, the patient spent a week in hospital and is expected to make a full recovery and he has expressed his deep gratitude to Lee for saving his life."

Station Manager, Kevin Hughes, said: "The way in which Lee was able to take control of the situation with confidence and help save this patient's life is testament to the continual training he and the rest of the Service's crews receive, as well as the annual Fire Trauma assessments every operational member of staff attends."

Coincidentally, this incident occurred during the Welsh Ambulance Services Trust's annual month-long 'Defibuary' campaign, which is designed to raise public awareness of the importance of bystander cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and defibrillation.

According the British Heart Foundation, **only one in ten people survive an out-of-hospital cardiac arrest in the UK**, and it can happen to anyone, at any age, so knowing how to do CPR and how to use a defibrillator can improve the chance of survival.

Fiona Maclean, the Trust's Patient Experience and Community Involvement Manager and Defibuary Lead, said: "Immediate CPR and defibrillation can more than double the chance of survival, Defibuary is all about education and taking away the fears people may have in dealing with cardiac arrests.

You don't need to be trained in CPR, as a 999-call handler will talk you through exactly what to do, but knowing how to perform CPR can help you remain calm in an emergency."

If you see someone having cardiac arrest, phone 999 immediately and start CPR.



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



More Than Just Fires

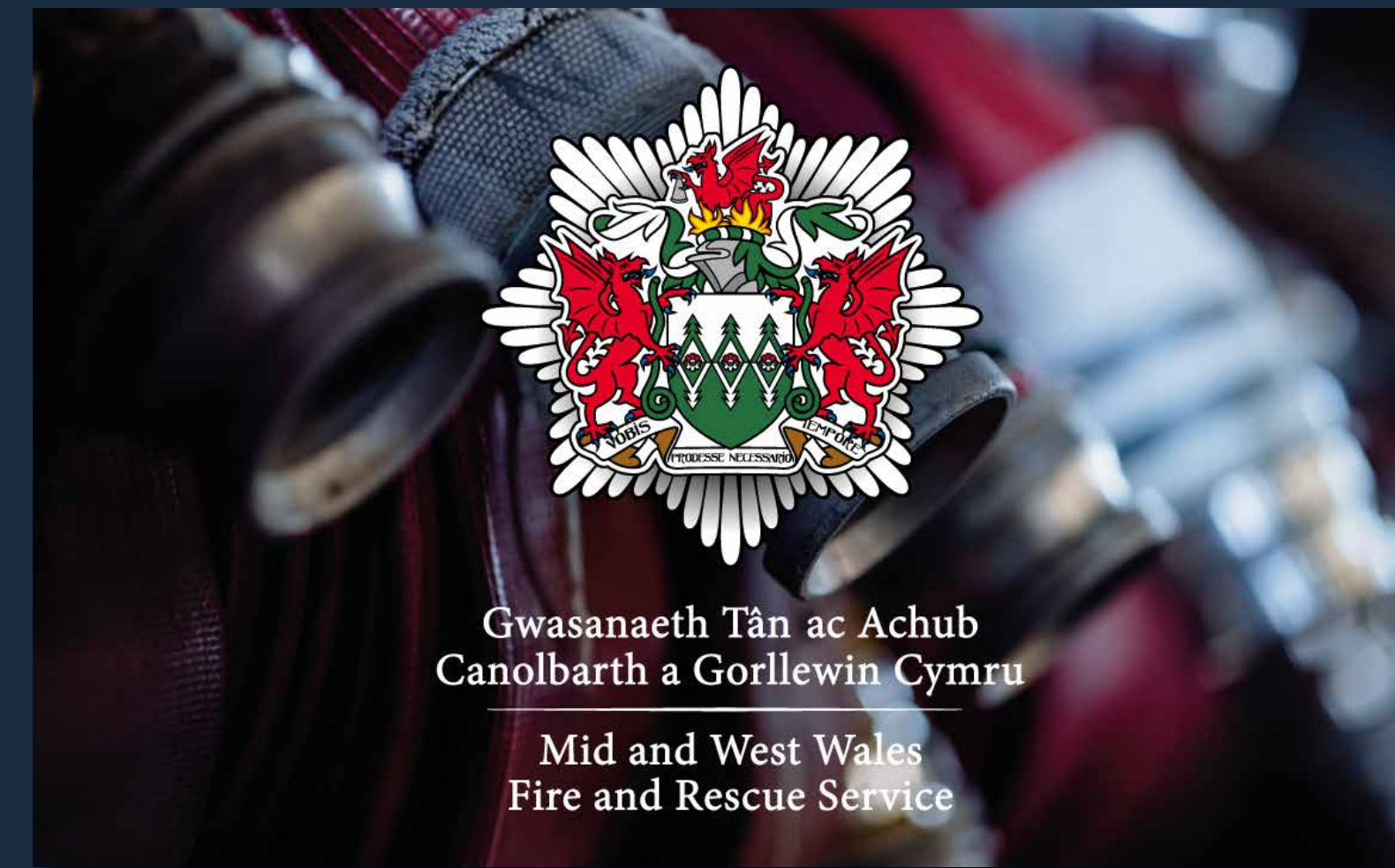
Earlier this year, Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service launched its #MoreThanJustFires campaign video, which throws a light on the diverse services it provides, as well as its continued dedication and commitment in ensuring the safety of the communities it serves.

In terms of landmass, Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service is the third largest Fire Service in the UK and is responsible for providing emergency response cover, prevention and protection programmes across six counties.

On launching this 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."

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. The Service covers 4,500 square miles - almost two-thirds of Wales - with a population of approximately 913,000 living in over 431,000 households. In the last 5 years, the Fire and Rescue Service has attended 2,516 house fires, 4,012 road accidents and 6,910 medical emergencies.

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.**

[View the full video here](#)



Wildfires Controlled Burn

During the first week of March, members of the Pembrokeshire Community Fire Safety team and Haverfordwest Station visited Carningli Mountain to oversee preparation works and a control burn, in readiness for the summer and as part of responsible land management.

[Read the full article here](#)



International Women's Day

at The National Botanic Garden of Wales

In support of International Women's Day 2023 the Service held an event at The National Botanic Garden of Wales to celebrate the journeys and achievements of inspiring women, both within our fire family and locally. We will challenge gender stereotypes, call out discrimination, draw attention to bias, and seek out inclusion to

#EmbraceEquity



International Women's Day

Firefighters test their strength, endurance, and teamwork skills



On Saturday, June 3rd 2023, Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service firefighters will be competing in the Welsh Firefighter Challenge, a regional race of the British Firefighter Challenge.

The Welsh Firefighter Challenge is a set of tough physical and mental tests, undertaken in full structural fire kit, which are designed to showcase the skills and strength of firefighters. The Welsh Firefighter Challenge isn't just a day for firefighters to test their strength, endurance and skills, it's also an opportunity to come together as a community, to support and celebrate each other's achievements and to highlight their continued professionalism and dedication in keeping their communities safe.

As well as providing a day of entertainment for firefighters and their spectators, the Welsh Firefighter Challenge will also be raising important funds for The Fire Fighters Charity, which offers specialist and lifelong support for members of the fire services community throughout the UK. Watch Manager Dominic Norcross, one of the Challenge's main organisers, said: "This will be a fantastic day for firefighters across Wales and further afield to get together and to enjoy some friendly competition. We currently have firefighters from Wales, England, Scotland, Ireland and Germany registered to compete on the day and we look forward to welcoming them all."

The Welsh Firefighter Challenge 2023 is open to current and retired firefighters and will take place in Castle Square, Swansea. The first race will start at 10am and [registration is now open](#).

**To Register for the
Welsh Firefighter Challenge,
please follow this link**



Bag it and Bank it - and help support your local firefighters

The Fire Fighters Charity (FFC) have announced a record-breaking year of their annual Bag it and Bank it Recycling Championship – and Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service (MAWWFRS) have made the top 5 of UK fire and rescue services!

Every January, the Fire Fighters Charity ask their supporters to drop any unwanted clothing off at their recycling banks, which are located outside fire stations or within the community. More than 405 tonnes of unwanted clothes were donated throughout January 2023, which has raised a record-breaking £89,162 from fire stations alone. Overall, 457 tonnes of clothing have been donated at recycling points across the UK, bringing the grand total to a fantastic £96,394.

Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue stations have collectively raised £3,898 from over 17,500 kgs of clothing. As well as the Service as a whole being included in the top 5 of UK services, two of Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service's stations – Neath and Glynneath – have been named in the top 20 fire stations from across the UK. An amazing achievement!

On MAWWFRS's success in this year's Bag it and Bank it Championship, Chief Fire Officer Roger Thomas said: "This is a great reflection of the excellent relationship MAWWFRS has with the communities it serves. As well as working to make mid and west Wales a safer place to live and work through our prevention protection and response activities, the Service also regularly holds community and fundraising events, such as car washes at stations, our annual charity Christmas carol service and Executive Leadership Team 'Volunteering Days'."

www.mawwfire.gov.uk



The
Fire Fighters
charity

Textile Bins

Every penny raised through clothing donations assist in helping the Fire Fighters Charity continue their work in supporting all serving and retired members and their families, of the UK's fire services community. Established as the Fire Services National Benevolent Fund in 1943, the FFC is celebrating their 80th anniversary this year with a programme of fundraising events across the UK.

[FIND YOUR NEAREST TEXTILE BIN](#)



The Fire Fighters Charity clothes banks accept donations all year long and all donations help make a real difference to people's lives. FFC clothes banks can be found at many of our fire stations, community sites and supermarkets, and they have the Charity's logo on them. If you're planning a spring clean soon and would like to support a worthwhile cause, find your nearest clothes bank and what type of textiles are accepted [here](#).



Gwasanaeth Tân ac Achub
Canolbarth a Gorllewin Cymru

Mid and West Wales
Fire and Rescue Service

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