



Gwasanaeth Tân ac Achub
Canolbarth a Gorllewin Cymru

Mid and West Wales
Fire and Rescue Service

CALON TÂN

APRIL
2024

NEWTOWN 150TH ANNIVERSARY

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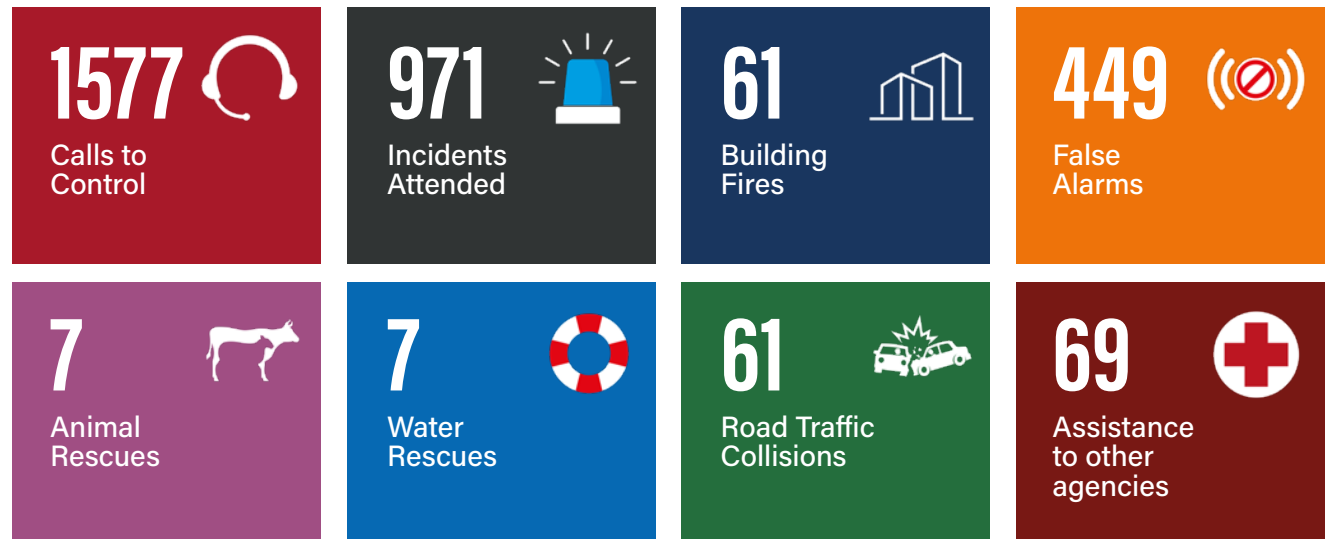
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Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service is responsible for providing emergency response cover to nearly 12,000 square kilometers - almost two-thirds of Wales. Here's what kept us busy last month:



AUTOMATIC FIRE ALARMS

NEW APPROACH PLANNED FOR AUTOMATIC FIRE ALARM RESPONSE

Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service (MAWWFRS) will implement a new approach to its response to Automatic Fire Alarm (AFA) calls, effective from July 1st, 2024. This strategic initiative aims to optimise resource allocation, reduce unnecessary disruptions, and enhance overall efficiency in our emergency response.

Automatic Fire Alarms (AFAs) are designed to detect the presence of smoke or flames and alert individuals to potential fire hazards. However, statistics show that the majority of signals from these systems are indeed false alarms, often triggered by (but not limited to) cooking fumes, dust, or inadequate maintenance.

In light of this, from July 1st, 2024, MAWWFRS will no longer respond to AFA calls, except in specific circumstances including residential premises, nursing and care homes, and premises subject to fire safety prohibition or enforcement notices.

For more information, please visit: [False Fire Alarms from Automatic Fire Alarms - Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service \(mawwfire.gov.uk\)](https://mawwfire.gov.uk)



FIRE SAFETY BUSINESS ENGAGEMENT VISIT

Recently, members of Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service (MAWWFRS) Western Division Business Fire Safety Team (BFS) were invited to Kensington Court in Milford Haven, a housing association run by [Ateb](#), to view improvements that have been carried out to residential flats and communal areas, along with their contractors, [Fire Immunity](#).

The work that is being carried out happens in five stages - Fire Alarm extensions, Sprinkler extensions, Fire Stopping, Cladding and Evacuation Lifts. This was a great opportunity for members of the MAWWFRS BFS team to visit such an establishment and described the new modifications, as 'exemplary' and will ensure that Kensington Court is safer for its communities and those that live there.

For more information, please visit [MAWW Fire & Rescue visit Kensington Court Milford Haven | ateb \(atebgroup.co.uk\)](#)



RESCUE FROM HEIGHT TRAINING EXERCISE BY ABERYSTWYTH FIRE STATION

The crew at Aberystwyth Fire Station recently held a training exercise at the Aberystwyth Old College on Tuesday, April 16th.

The exercise, which has held in partnership with construction company Andrew Scott Ltd., provided an excellent opportunity for crew members to carry out realistic operational scenarios of rescues from height. It also enabled the crew to utilise their level 2 rope rescue equipment and turntable ladder appliance.

Watch Manager Liam Hinton-Jones said:

"It's vital that we carry out these exercises so that crews are prepared to respond to emergencies and understand the hazards associated with construction sites. We would like to thank Andrew Scott Ltd. for their assistance and we hope to plan further training in the near future."



SEVEN SISTERS FIRE CADETS

This month the [Seven Sisters Fire Cadets](#) were tasked with filling a dam from above as part of their 2-year programme.

With limited information on what they could use or how to carry out certain tasks, they worked well as a team to utilise equipment from the pump to effectively fill the dam.

This exercise took place as part of their 2-year [Fire Cadet programme](#). It assesses their skills and knowledge by using knots and lines as well as working together as a team to solve a problem in order to supply water effectively.

The Fire Cadets greatly benefit from activities like this as it helps them gain confidence with their communication skills, learn to listen to others and by support each other as they work together as a team.



Fire Cadet Coordinator Karen Mayze said:

"At the end of the 2-year programme the cadets achieve a Fire Cadets Award Certificate of Achievement. The young people also feel a sense of belonging within their community and become role models with their peers."

Well done all!

Recruitment for Fire Cadets is now open

If you're interested in joining our Fire Cadet Programme, the following locations are now recruiting Newtown, Abercrave, Seven Sisters, Amman Valley and Gorseinon.

Visit our website for more information: [Fire Cadets - Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service \(mawwfire.gov.uk\)](#)



CYBER SECURITY

SERVICE UP TO SPEED WITH CYBER SECURITY!

As we navigate the ever-evolving digital landscape, it's essential to ensure that Service employees are well-versed in cybersecurity practices.

In partnership with [Tarian](#), the Regional Organised Crime Unit consisting of [Dyfed-Powys](#), [Gwent](#) and [South Wales](#) Police Forces, the Service ICT Department recently arranged a fun and immersive experience for staff, that combined the thrill of an escape room, with building essential Cyber Security Knowledge.

Participants worked together as a cybercrime team, finding clues, solving puzzles, and cracking codes with a Cyber Security twist!

The session aimed to raise staff awareness of cyber security and provide practical ways for individuals to improve their digital hygiene, including advice on using strong passwords, being wary of suspicious emails and links, the misuse of AI, and keeping up to date with digital updates.

We asked ICT Training Officer Lynne Morgan why it's important for these types of sessions be provided to Service staff, who said:

"Cyber awareness is our frontline defence against digital threats. Ensuring continuity, productivity, and integrity of the digital data we consume is paramount in an increasingly interconnected world."

The ICT Cyber Security training campaign will run continuously throughout this year, and it aims to provide staff with engaging and relevant training opportunities to access information that is facilitated differently.

By fostering a culture of security where every employee plays a vital role in protecting data, together we can ensure that personal and organisational financial assets, reputation, and operations are protected."

A big thank you to Lynne for arranging these sessions and to all the staff involved for understanding the importance of these sessions and embracing the experience.

Meet the Team

BLASUS.



Sarah Hopkins
Catering Assistant

Hi, I'm Sarah, and I've been working at Blasus since March 2022. I assist the Head Cook, Ianto, daily with the preparation of meals for the staff at the Service's Headquarters in Carmarthen.

I accidentally got into the catering industry in 2018 while working at a gelato shop and a Caribbean restaurant in Carmarthen.

I have a 19-year-old daughter named Shannon who is my world. I've been with my partner for nearly two years, who is one of the head chefs I previously worked with – funnily enough, neither of us liked each other while working together!

I have a seven-year-old poodle and chihuahua cross called Peanut and a 15-year-old cat named Blackie. Family is everything to me and thankfully mine is very close knit.



Gemma Rasmussen
Catering Assistant

Hi, I'm Gemma, and I've been working as a Catering Assistant in Blasus for almost a year. I'm really enjoying my time working at the Fire and Rescue Service.

I've been married to my husband for 16 years, he also works for the Service as an On-Call Firefighter at Carmarthen Fire Station. When I'm not busy with my three children, I enjoy going to the gym to take part in cardio and strength training. I also enjoy baking and I have a qualification in cake decorating, which often comes in handy for family birthdays!

I have two King Charles cavalier dogs, who love having a good run at the beach.



Ianto Howells
Head Cook

Leading Sarah and Gemma, and ensuring the staff at the Service Headquarters, Carmarthen Fire Station and everyone who attends meetings and training there is Head Cook, Ianto.

Ianto has worked at the Fire and Rescue Service for over 22 years and celebrated his 20 year anniversary in 2022.



WELSH FIREFIGHTER CHALLENGE

WELSH FIREFIGHTER CHALLENGE 2024

On Saturday, June 1st 2024, 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 fire kit, which are designed to showcase the skills and strength of firefighters. The event 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 achievement 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 service community throughout the UK.

The Welsh Firefighter Challenge 2024 is currently **sold out** for competitors, but spectators are encouraged to attend the event which will be taking place in Dylan Thomas Square, Swansea. The first race will start at 9am.



We are calling for Service registered volunteers to help on the day.

There will be lots to get involved with on the day.
We need you to:

- Be able to reset equipment on course
- Assist with BA equipment
- Assist with competitor welfare

So if interested in becoming a registered volunteer, please contact Roshnara Ali at r.ali@mawwfire.gov.uk.

Any help you can provide for the day is much appreciated, so please get in touch!

EXCITING EVENTS AHEAD!



18th May - Swansea Pride 2024

20th May - Hay-on-Wye Recruitment Evening

31st May - Pontarddulais Open day

1st June - Welsh Firefighter Challenge

19th June - Newtown experience Day

24th June - Hay-on-Wye Recruitment Evening

11th July - Haverfordwest Experience Day

31st July - Pembroke Dock Open Day

Our community-based events offer a warm welcome to all, a great opportunity to connect with your local firefighters and support their station led events.

Mark your calendars and stay tuned to our social media pages for event updates and details.

Don't miss out on the excitement - follow us on social media and invite your friends and family.

Follow us on



60 YEARS OF COMBINED SERVICE AT LAMPETER FIRE STATION

On Tuesday, April 2nd, three Firefighters from Lampeter Fire Station were each presented with a certificate for 20 years of dedication and service to the community of Lampeter.

With a combined total of 60 years of service Watch Manager Aled Morgan and Firefighters Huw

Rowcliffe and Glyn Jones were presented with long-service awards by Station Commander Danny Bartley.

On presenting the awards during the Station's drill night, Station Commander Bartley said:

"I would like to congratulate Aled, Huw and Glyn on their remarkable achievements, this marks a significant milestone in their careers with Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service.

May I thank them all for their commitment and dedication to the safety of their local community."

30 YEARS OF COMBINED SERVICE AT TREGARON FIRE STATION

Two firefighters at Tregaron Fire Station have recently been awarded long-service awards for their continued service and dedication to their local community, with a combined total of 30 years of service.

Crew Manager Meilyr Hughes has marked 20 years of service, while Firefighter Gareth Jones marks 10 years.

While presenting both with their long-service certificates, Station Commander Danny Bartley said:

"I'd like to give my sincere thanks to both for their contribution and service to the local community. This represents a real commitment to the safety of the Tregaron community and we are very grateful for their continued service."



Crew Manager Nigel Bowden Celebrates 25 Years of Service

Crew Manager Nigel Bowden, from Aberystwyth Fire Station, has recently been recognised for 25 years of dedicated service as an On-Call Firefighter.

During Crew Manager Bowden's quarter of a century of service, he has demonstrated unwavering commitment and bravery in protecting the communities of Aberystwyth.



Watch Manager Tom Boyle, from New Quay Fire Station, was recently recognised for 20 years of dedicated service.

While presenting Tom with his long-service certificate, Station Commander Danny Bartley said:

"Today marks a display of incredible commitment by WM Tom Boyle to not only Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service, but also to the community of New Quay. I would like to congratulate Tom on his remarkable achievement and thank him for his continued service."



CELEBRATING 150 YEARS OF THE FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE IN NEWTOWN

The crew at Newtown Fire Station recently marked a remarkable milestone in their history, by celebrating 150 years of the Fire and Rescue Service in the town.

On Saturday, April 6th, a special celebration event was held at the Fire Station which brought together current and former members of Service staff, as well as invited guests.

Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service's Chief Fire Officer Roger Thomas opened the event and spoke about the history of the Fire and Rescue Service in Newtown and its formation.

In April 1874, the Newtown Volunteer Fire Brigade was formed, and it has been through several iterations since then. In 1948, the Denbighshire and Montgomeryshire Joint Fire Service was formed following the National Fire Service handing over

fire control to regional county and county borough services. In 1974, each of the newly-formed County Councils maintained their own, separate Fire and Rescue Services and in 1996, the Dyfed, Powys and West Glamorgan Fire Brigades were merged by the Welsh Government Wales Act 1994 to create Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service.

Significant moments and incidents in Newtown's Fire and Rescue Service include a catastrophic fire at the Cambrian Mills in 1912, the arrival of its first steam fire engine in 1913, the siren alerting firefighters of an incident replaced with pocket 'bleepers' in 1971 and a large fire at Newtown Tannery in 1981.

There is no doubt that the Fire and Rescue Service in Newtown has seen immense change throughout its history, from horse-drawn carts to state-of-the-art fire engines and lifesaving equipment. Throughout its history, the firefighters at Newtown Fire Station have all demonstrated dedication, courage and service to the local community, and have undoubtedly saved countless lives.

By celebrating the 150th anniversary, it is not only a reflection on the past, but is a reaffirmation of the Fire and Rescue Service's commitment to the community of Newtown for the future.



NEWTOWN FIRE STATION RECOGNISED AT THE CELEBRATION OF NEWTOWN AWARDS

On Wednesday, April 10th, the Newtown and Llanllwchaearn Town Council held their annual Celebration of Newtown Awards at The Hafren

The crew from Newtown Fire Station were invited to the event to not only celebrate the recent 150th anniversary of the Fire and Rescue Service in Newtown, but also to recognise the crew for their continued dedication in protecting the local community.

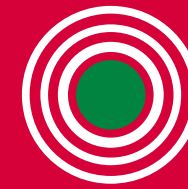
Attending the event on behalf of the Fire Station were Group Manager and Head of Northern Division Teri-Ann Parry, Station Manager Andrew Richards, Watch Manager Mike Wareing, Crew Manager Ewan Jones, Firefighter Ian Howells, Firefighter Sue Richards and former Watch Manager Dai Pryce.



COMMUNITY RISK MANAGEMENT PLAN

You told us what you thought, and we listened...

Our Community Risk Management plan is now available, visit [Community Risk Management Plan 2040 \(mawwfire.gov.uk\)](http://Community Risk Management Plan 2040 (mawwfire.gov.uk)) to have a look at what we plan to do from now until the year 2040.



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ON CALL
Firefighter Recruitment



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Or call us for health and wellbeing support on **0800 389 8820**



THE WALES WILDFIRE BOARD LAUNCH

The Wales Wildfire Board have launched their new Wales Wildfire campaign #WildfireWise.

The Board is a multi-agency approach to better understand and manage the risk of wildfire on the environment and the communities of Wales.

It's aims and objectives, delivered through a Wales Wildfire Charter, build on the knowledge

Bwrdd Tanau Gwyllt Cymru
Wales Wildfire Board
Doeth i Danau Gwyllt Wildfire Wise

and experience gained over the last decade whilst paying cognisance to the ever-present danger of climate change and the value of encouraging communities and individuals to work together to protect the areas where we live, work and visit.

The #WildfireWise campaign aims to educate individuals on the best practices for avoiding and preventing wildfires in Wales. For more information on the #WildfireWise, please visit our [website](#).

#WILDFIREWISE



USAR TRAINING EXERCISE



WALES URBAN SEARCH AND RESCUE TEAM TRAINING EXERCISE

The Wales Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) Team recently attended a training exercise at the Waddington Training Centre, Lincolnshire.

The Wales USAR Team is comprised of crew members from Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service and South Wales Fire and Rescue

Service – who have highly specialised training in Urban Search and Rescue environments.

Gareth Lewis, Wales USAR Team Manager, said:

"This deployment was a testament to our readiness and expertise. Our team excelled in a realistic scenario, demonstrating our ability to respond swiftly to any incident in Wales and beyond to support our partners across the UK."

FULL ARTICLE

SPORTS AND SOCIAL

BECOME A MEMBER OF MAWWFRS SPORTS AND SOCIAL CLUB TODAY!

Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service (MAWWFRS) has its own Sports and Social Club. If you are a current or retired member of the Service, you are welcome to join.

The Sports and Social Club is a platform for keeping active, socialising, and having fun. Currently it consists of a variety of sections that you can join, including:



These are the official Sports and Social club section logos – for any logo enquires please contact our graphics team

We are fully supportive of starting new sections, so if you don't see a sport or social activity that you enjoy, why not get in touch, and start your own section.

Be a part of the Sports and Social Club for just £2 a month. assist with the running of all our sections. For more information on how to join, please email Steven Philpot - s.philpott@mawwfire.gov.uk

SPORTS AND SOCIAL SECTION

MONTHLY FEATURE - FEMALE FOCUS



This month's edition of Calon Tân features an insight into the Female Focus Section of MAWWFRS Sports and Social clubs.

The Female Focus Section is a stepping stone to help promote women in sport! The aim is to help create a network across the Service that encourages women to come together and take part in a sport they love or would like to try with like-minded people.

We have seen individuals selected for the female **GB Fire and Rescue Service Rugby team**, as well as partaking in Cross Country. A Rounders section has been developed over the last year by Jay Crouch- Safeguarding Lead for MAWWFRS, which has been hugely successful.

A Female Focus survey has recently been undertaken to see what sport women in the Service have an interest in, we received 37 responses.

Netball was a clear winner, with Cross Fit and Running looking popular too! Following these anyone is interested in starting a new team, please get in touch!

The Sports and Social Club is a great platform, and the Female Focus section is fully supportive of starting new sections, so if you don't see the section you enjoy, why not get in touch!

Please contact Steve Philpott - s.philpott@mawwfire.gov.uk for more information.

Please don't forget the first All Wales Women in the Fire Service Development and Training event is being held in Cardiff on 18th and 19th October 2024, please put your expression of interest to Hannah Lodder-Rodda - h.lodder@mawwfire.gov.uk

Sport of Interest	Yes
Rugby	7
Touch Rugby	9
Football	9
Rounders	15
Running	11
Crossfit	13
Netball	19
Boxing	5
Golf	1
Fishing	3
Bowls	1
Triathlon	4
Cycling	9
Cricket	5
Other	5

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
Recruiwio 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



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Ebrill 2024
Dathlu 150 Mlynedd o Wasanaeth
i'r Drenewydd a'i chymunedau cyfagos

April 2024
Celebrating 150 Years of Service
to Newtown and its surrounding communities

www.mawwfire.gov.uk

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