

Winter

# Blue sky thinking

We look at some of the imaginative ways you have been raising cash for the Fire Fighter's Charity

calion tân



## Soft landing for Officer Fry

Richard Fry ends a 40 year association with the RAF

## Jane jogs for a just cause

Jane Rose tells us about the 'Tunnel to Towers Run'

## Here to help

We meet the team at Purchasing and Supplies

# Contents:

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The Calon Tân production team would like to thank everyone who contributed to this edition.

- 03** - Chief in brief
- 04** - Soft landing for Officer Fry
- 05** - Mayor visits Swansea Central
- 06** - Jane jogs for a just cause
- 07** - Charity begins at home
- 08** - Georgia Hill: Firefighter for a day
- 09** - 'Don't touch, tell'
- 10** - Procurement gets sustainable
- 11** - Always thinking ahead
  - Cycling hero
- 12** - Taking on the competition
- 13** - Blanket-y blank
- 14** - Your Young Firefighters need you!
  - Ffynnon is well on the way
- 15** - Service gets IIP Bronze recognition
  - Send us your ideas!
- 16** - Welsh Corner



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# CHIEF IN BRIEF

Welcome to the latest edition of Calon Tan, the first for 2011.

The start of a new year is always a particularly busy time for those who are putting the finishing touches to what will be next year's budget. Setting next year's budget in such difficult financial times hasn't been easy, but it is pleasing to report that senior officers have managed to identify the required savings for 2011/12 without any of the dramatic and drastic effects on your fire service that some were predicting. This has been achieved through forward thinking and prudent planning, but another major part on limiting the effect on all members of staff has been the open and straight-forward way we have communicated with each other throughout. You will remember that effective communication was a promise that I made last year and I am pleased that we have been able to deliver. Surprisingly, we will be starting to develop our budget for 2012/13 soon! I guess a symptom of having a busy job is that the time passes quickly. Your managers will hopefully keep you all up to date with progress for 2012/13 as they have done for this year.

I found reading this edition of Calon Tan to be a very edifying experience, bringing home to me just what is being done around the Service and by whom. There are articles on a whole host of staff raising huge sums of money for different charities as well as people getting involved in extra curricular activities that enhance and add to all of our communities. Well done to each and every one of you. Remember also that all of this is just the tip of the iceberg of what we actually do and so we can all feel justifiably proud of the Service we work for and of those we work with.

There are two articles that I would particularly draw your attention to; firstly the bronze award for Investors In People that the Service has been successful in achieving. It really was great to hear the report of the assessors as they delivered their findings to Fire Authority Members. Very rarely have I heard such brilliant comments from outside awarding bodies and it certainly made me feel very proud to lead this great organisation.



Secondly, I would like to add my congratulations to Dick Fry as he 'retires' again from the RAF. Serving as a RAF Cadet Instructor for nearly twenty years as well as his thirty in the Fire Service shows a real commitment to the community and is yet another example of the great work our people do. Well done Dick.

Can I finally offer my personal thanks to the editorial team for producing this latest edition and, in particular, Dan Owens, who is the Editor. It is never easy producing an in-house magazine so any help and assistance anyone can give with articles and submissions would, I am sure, be very gratefully received.

Richard Smith  
**Chief Fire Officer**



# Soft landing for Officer Fry

Group Manager Richard Fry recently ended a 40 year association with the Royal Air Force when he retired from his position as Officer Commanding 360 (Llŵchwr) Squadron of the Air Training Corps. He first joined the RAF in 1970 as a Radio Technician, and served in Northern Ireland, Belize, Malta, Germany and the Maldives before finally being posted to the Ministry of Defence in London.

"I followed in my family footsteps in a way," says Richard. "My dad was in the air force as a young man, and like me he later joined the fire service. He used to ride the iconic Big Six fire engine in Swansea in the 1950s. When I left the Air Force in 1979 I didn't imagine I'd have much to do with the RAF after that."

But in 1993, when he was serving in the Training Department of the West Glamorgan Fire Brigade, Richard unexpectedly became involved with the Royal Air Force again. "I was asked to help the Cadets of 215 (City of Swansea) Squadron get the Fire Service part of their Duke of Edinburgh Award," he says. "Shortly afterwards I was invited to join the Squadron as an Instructor, and a year later I was awarded the Queen's Commission."

Richard's main roles on the squadron were as Radio Officer and Health and Safety Officer, but he also trained cadets in shooting, first aid and navigation. "I was extremely proud to serve on such a distinguished Squadron with such an exemplary history", he says. "The squadron was formed in 1941 to prepare young men for service life, and its first Commanding Officer was Arthur Whitten Brown of 'Alcock and Brown' fame - who were the first to cross the Atlantic by plane in 1919. "The squadron won the Lees Trophy for being the best performing in the country in 1970, 2001 and 2005."

In January 2008 Richard moved to 360 (Llŵchwr) Squadron based in Gorseinon, where he had been appointed as the Commanding Officer. "This was an extremely challenging but rewarding part of my ATC career," he says. "I was always impressed by the commitment, dedication and achievements of those cadets. I am pleased to say that those achievements will stand them in good stead for the rest of their lives."

However, due to family and personal commitments, Richard reluctantly decided to retire from the Corps - and so end a 40 year association with the Royal Air Force. "I will take with me some wonderful friendships I have made over the years," he says, "and above all many fantastic memories."

# Mayor visits Swansea Central

In December the Lord Mayor of Swansea Richard Lewis met firefighters from the Red Watch who were on duty serving their local community over the Christmas and New Year periods.

The Mayor paid the visit to Swansea Central Fire Station to launch Swansea Command's Christmas Fire Safety Campaign, which reminded the public to take extra care with fire safety over the festive season.

"We run an annual campaign to help people enjoy themselves more safely, because year-on-year we see an increase in the number of home fires over Christmas," says Community Safety Officer Richie Morris.

"We thought it would be nice to get the Mayor to meet crew members who were working over Christmas, because it's important that we recognise the sacrifices made by our crews, as well as the risks they face."

During the event, which was planned and run by officers in Community Fire Safety, the Mayor was also given a guided tour of Swansea Central Station – and taken out on the road in a Fire Engine.

"The Mayor got to see some of the equipment we use in our emergency response service, and the technology we use in some of our Fire Appliances," says Richie.

Fire Authority member Councillor Cheryl Philpott also attended the event to endorse the festive safety message.

"We are very grateful to the Lord Mayor and Councillor Philpott for visiting Swansea Central to meet staff, and to help us promote our important seasonal safety message," says Head of Swansea Command Richard Webborn.

"By getting the support of high-profile figures we can increase the reach of our safety information. This can help us to prevent fires, and save lives."



# Jane jogs for a just cause



Equality & Diversity Officer Jane Rose flew to New York in September to pay tribute to firefighters who died in the World Trade Centre attacks. Jane took part in the annual 'Tunnel to Towers Run', organised to honour emergency service personnel who died at Ground Zero, and raised £700 for the Fire Fighter's Charity in the process.

Jane was in New York on 11 September 2001, and witnessed first-hand the immediate aftermath of the attacks. She had been up on the South Tower just 18 hours before the first assault took place. Jane said: "I was due to fly back on 11 September, but my flight was grounded so I found myself right in heart of Manhattan while everything unfolded. That day has stayed with me because the sense of bewilderment, shock, and numbness was everywhere.

"I took part in the run because I wanted to commemorate the 343 firefighters who died, and to raise money for the Fire Fighter's Charity which is an important lifeline for many firefighters."

The 'Tunnel to Towers Run' route retraces the footsteps of Stephen Siller, an off-duty firefighter who rushed to the World Trade Centre to join his squadron on September 11, but died with his comrades.

As Jane and the other runners emerged from the Brooklyn Tunnel, the route was lined with personnel from the New York City Fire Department, each one holding a photograph of one of the firefighters who died. "It was very moving, and I'd like to thank my work colleagues and friends outside of the Fire Service who sponsored me and offered me encouragement to take part in this run", said Jane. "It's important that we remember the risks firefighters take every day to protect the public, and make sure that they have proper support and treatment in their times of need."

Anyone interested in making a donation to Jane's appeal can still do so by visiting [www.justgiving.com/Jane-Rose-2-Firefighter-Stephen-Siller-NYC-9-26-10](http://www.justgiving.com/Jane-Rose-2-Firefighter-Stephen-Siller-NYC-9-26-10).



# Charity begins at home

It has been a busy quarter for staff raising money for the Fire Fighter's Charity. As well as Jane Rose's 'Tunnel to Towers Run' in New York, Service personnel have been busy at home too. National Car Wash Day saw firefighters across the Service washing cars to raise money.

Watch Manager Jason Woodman helped raise money by cleaning vehicles at Ammanford. "We did a lot of advertising in advance, and we were helped out by some of the local Young Firefighters," he says. "We were busy all day washing the cars - plenty of people came in to get their vehicles clean. Ammanford locals look out for the car wash every year, because it's their way of making a contribution to the Fire Service. Most people were throwing in five and ten pound notes, but we washed one massive camper van and got a bit more for that," says Jason.

Eight members of staff also took part in a charity bike ride over two days in September, enduring a gruelling 170 mile journey from Swansea to Basingstoke. Andrew Williams, Mark Perego, Des Walker, Adrian Davies, Jonathan Williams, Gavin Thomas, Nigel Bradshaw, and Anthony Mathias made the trip to raise money for the Fire Fighter's Charity, and the ARK Centre for Liver Cancer Research in Basingstoke.

They made the journey in the face of difficult circumstances. Anthony Mathias says: "We set off from Swansea West Fire Station at about half past six in the morning, and by the time we had reached Margam Park in Port Talbot we were already dealing with our third puncture." And the difficulties didn't end there. On reaching the Severn Bridge the main group realised that they were two riders short. "I eventually caught up with the missing riders, Des and Adrian, who were furiously cycling their way to Gloucester on the wrong road!," says Anthony.

But the cyclists got some much needed support from some of the local people they met on route. "While we were having lunch in a teashop in Marlborough, the waitress and manager got more sponsorship from the customers and local townspeople who were very supportive of our efforts", says Anthony. "The waitress said it was our lovely deep Welsh accents that caused her to tell the locals that we were from 'Tom Jones country!'"

The cyclists finally arrived at the ARK Centre at Basingstoke Hospital at 4.30pm on the second day, and were greeted by the local press, hospital staff - and the crew of Basingstoke Fire Station. They were invited to attend a reception at the ARK Centre where Fire Fighter Andrew Williams presented a cheque to the hospital.

"It was hard going at times, but it was for two very worthy causes," says Anthony. "We couldn't have done it without the support of Service personnel, so a big thanks to everyone who sponsored us - and especially those who helped to organise and supported us during the ride."



# Georgia Hill: Firefighter for a day

Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service don't usually admit firefighters as young as 10 years old – but we made an exception with Georgia Hill.

Georgia and her friend Alice Greenacre were 'firefighters for a day' after Georgia won first-prize in a poster designing contests at her local youth club in Brecon.

The girls visited Brecon Fire Station and learned about community safety work and took part in hose drills. They tested operational equipment, cleaned appliances – and even got to climb a ladder to the second floor of the station drill tower.

The poster contest was held at Georgia's youth club, which is on the site of Dering Lines training base in Brecon where her dad serves with the Royal Artillery Regiment. The competition, organised by Brecon Fire Station Manager Neil Evans, is part of a partnership between MWWFRS and the Ministry of Defence who run the site. Neil said: "The work we do is designed to make children think about fire safety, and this work is easier and more effective if we can make the message fun. The girls enjoyed themselves.

"They got to see the inside of a fire station, see some of the equipment we use on a regular basis, and they were very brave and climbed the station drill tower with safety harnesses on. We might even have two budding firefighters in the making!

"Our partnership with the Ministry of Defence helps us to get our message out to young people and adults throughout the region, as we are able to reach diverse communities across the armed forces.

"For example, by working with the Nepalese Gurkha community at the training base we have become the first fire service in the UK to produce fire safety literature in Nepali, increasing the reach of our message."





# ‘Don’t touch, tell’

These children are now safer citizens thanks to the hard work of the Community Fire Safety Team.

Thirty pupils at Rhyd Y Fro Primary School in Pontardawe were given safety certificates and treated to a tour of a service fire engine, after a lesson which taught them to stay well away from matches or lighters. Community Safety Officer Gary Davies said: “We taught the kids what steps they should take if they find discarded matches or a lighter, and the lesson was built around a simple message they could easily understand: ‘don’t touch – tell’.

“We used story boards featuring the well-loved ‘Tanni’ character to get the message across, and the kids had a good time at the same time as they were learning.

Gary, and fellow Community Safety Officer Julian Austin, attended the school in November as part of the community engagement work they do with schools in the service area. They get important safety messages across to children at an early stage to help them grow into safe adults.

“The work we do is important in the short term, as well as in the long term,” said Gary. “Not only do we want to make sure that children are made fire safe for life, but we can also help to reduce the risks right now with their help.

“The session at Rhyd Y Fro was a case in point. After our visit I was contacted by the headmistress who was absolutely thrilled to tell me that, while out playing, pupils had come across a pack of cigarettes with a lighter inside and immediately ran to inform the teacher.

“They told her they remembered what they were told by the Firefighter – ‘Don’t touch – tell.’”



# Procurement gets sustainable

MWWFRS has taken a step closer to being a sustainable organisation by meeting the requirements of the Welsh Assembly Government's Sustainable Procurement Assessment Framework (SPAF). The SPAF initiative is designed to encourage organisations to spend money more cost effectively, more efficiently - and most importantly, sustainably. To meet the high standards set out in the framework, the Service had to demonstrate that it takes into account the impact of its purchasing activities on its immediate community as well as the wider environment.

A working group made up of departmental and County Command representatives was set up in spring 2009 to conduct the final review of procurement practices against the SPAF criteria, some 24 requirements in total.

Head of Corporate Risk, Mydrian Harries, said: "Meeting the objectives of SPAF was a real challenge for the Service, and in particular the Procurement Department who have been working towards the framework principles for a number of years. Striving for the accreditation was the final piece of the jigsaw.

"The key aspect of SPAF is that it has brought about a wider understanding that sustainable procurement is not something that is done solely by our Procurement Department, but is something which affects every single one of us who is involved in purchasing goods and services on behalf of the Service - whether its food for the kitchen, or a state of the art fire and rescue appliance.

"To meet the SPAF requirements we had to show that we take into account more than just the short-term financial cost when we purchase things. For example, buying goods such as cleaning products or work equipment from the other side of the world when we can get the same items locally is wasteful and is not sustainable in the long term. Of course, there is a fine balance to be considered regarding the financial costs involved, but the principal of sustainable procurement is the same."

The Service periodically checked progress with the Welsh Government's Value Wales team to ensure that it was on the right track.

"We completed the assessment in July 2010, and in August we were expecting Value Wales to confirm whether we had met the framework criteria or not," said Mydrian Harries. "In the end we did very well. Not only did we meet all of the criteria, but we scored higher than the all-Wales average. This was a tremendous achievement for all involved. This result has reinforced our belief that sustainable procurement processes are very well developed within the Service. Coupled with our five year Sustainability & Environmental Strategy, this outcome clearly demonstrates that sustainability is becoming a central organising principle in the delivery of service to our communities - which is something we should all be very proud of."

# Always thinking ahead

The Purchasing & Supplies Department is at the heart of MMWFRS - it makes sure that every area of the service has what it needs to get the job done.

“We manage the sourcing, storage and distribution of a wide array of items across the organisation,” says Procurement Manager Helen Rees. “These include operational items like hose and specialist equipment, as well as vehicle parts for transport workshops. Our job is to think and plan ahead so that other people don’t have to. It can be very demanding, because people want things straight away.”

Helen has been with the service for almost ten years, so she knows procurement backwards. This really helps the department in their crucial task of planning ahead. “Rock salt was in huge demand over the winter due to the cold weather,” says Helen. “But we had ample supplies because we’ve been stockpiling it since the summer. We know from experience what happens at this time of year, and forward planning is what this department is good at.”

The Purchasing & Supplies department also manages key suppliers to ensure a good working relationship and reliable supply chain, as well as co-ordinating disposal arrangements for the entire Service.

There are four other people who work with Helen in the department. Purchasing Officer Andrew Davies is responsible for managing the stores on a day-to-day basis, and Senior Purchasing Assistant Daniel Jones and Purchasing Assistant Jonathan Thomas carry out the daily tasks. And they would struggle without Driver and General Assistant Phil Thomas, who delivers essential items to Fire Stations within the service area. He also collects items that need repair to bring back to the stores, and picks up equipment that needs to be tested or refilled like oxygen and breathing apparatus cylinders.

So in practically everything the service does, the hidden hand of Purchasing & Supplies is at work. “We oversee departmental spending across the service too,” says Helen. “We approve all new suppliers to make sure everyone is following the procurement procedure, ensuring best value for money.”

“We rationalise suppliers so each department isn’t spending money here and there, thereby missing out of the economies of scale we can achieve with a bit of strategic oversight.”

Calon Tan asks Helen what’s the strangest thing she can remember being asked to source?

“I once had to get hold of a full-size replica of a human skeleton. This was to help train staff on the problems caused by back injury,” says Helen. “I also had to source a model ear to help staff learn about the perils of noise pollution. It can be taxing, but working in Purchasing & Supplies is never boring, because no two days are ever the same!”



## Cycling hero

Forget Lance Armstrong, because MMWFRS has found a new cycling hero – County Commander Jonathan Evans.

By visiting every fire station in Powys on his bike, cycling enthusiast Jon has pedalled a massive 261 miles. He has also raised over £1,200 for cancer charity Tenovus into the bargain.

“It was hard going at times, but it was well worth it for the money raised,” says Jon.

“Tenovus is a fantastic charity that does very important work in the prevention and treatment of cancer.

“I hope I’ve done my bit, not only by raising the money, but also by increasing people’s awareness to make sure they spot the warning signs in good time and get an early diagnosis.

“I would like to thank those who kept me company on the ride, and give a special thank you to the generous Fire Service personnel who sponsored me.”

# Taking on the competition

In October, MWWFRS staff competed against almost 50 other teams in a rescue contest run by the United Kingdom Rescue Organisation.

Two teams from the service took part in separate challenges where they had to save a casualty from a simulated disaster. Ian Bevan, Richard Vaughn-Williams, Dean Charles, Chris Cole, Kevin Morgan and Terry John had to steel themselves to rescue a 'survivor' from a car trapped under the rear of a refuse lorry – a task they completed in appalling weather conditions and against the clock.

Meanwhile, Darren Wilson, Andy Davies, Anthony Mathias, Nigel Bradshaw, Steve Richards and Vince Thomas were involved in a series of rope rescue challenges - including a simulated building collapse which left a worker suspended two floors above the ground.

Business Fire Safety Officer Ian Bevan, who was team leader on the car rescue task, said: "The scenario was very challenging, because we had to stabilize the large goods vehicle - a difficult task in itself - and the car before we could start getting the trapped driver out.

"The team worked incredibly well together to complete a very difficult challenge, and demonstrated great skill and awareness of safety issues in difficult circumstances with stabilization tools unavailable in our brigade."

Training Officer Darren Wilson was the team supervisor for the rope rescue challenge. He said: "Each time we send teams to the UKRO challenge they learn new skills, and they are made aware of new procedures and equipment. They bring this knowledge back to individual stations and watches, and this enhances our rescue capability and awareness across a broad spectrum.

"The competition is also an excellent method of maintaining and testing the quality of the Line Rescue and RTC techniques we teach in the Training Delivery department, ensuring that they fit with the latest methods, principles, and good practice."





# Blanket-y blank

Service personnel have been busy over the autumn and winter helping their local communities by checking and testing electric blankets. Crews have been holding blanket-testing events across the region in cooperation with Age Concern.

Between August and November crews in Carmarthenshire alone checked a massive 412 blankets at public meetings in Fire Stations and Community Halls. But it was well worth the hard work, because only 190 blankets passed muster - the other 232 were deemed a risk.

“This work is illustrative of the kind of work we do at CFS,” says Community Fire Safety Officer, Sean Lloyd. “We can achieve so much more by working in partnership with others than we can alone, and we couldn’t have done this without support and assistance from Age Concern.”

Was Sean surprised by the volume of defective blankets uncovered by firefighters?

“Whenever we do electric blanket checks, we always uncover large numbers of defective blankets,” says Sean. “Many older people keep their electric blankets for longer than is safe. If a blanket is over 10 years old, it can no longer be considered safe to use.”

Teams were taken aback by some of the shoddy electrics they saw at the meetings.

“We saw some surprising things during the initiative, including a blanket that had been chewed up by a dog, and some very questionable wiring,” says Sean.

Powys County Command were also busy checking blankets, and held events in Welshpool, Newtown, Llanidloes, Llanfyllin, Brecon, Crickhowell and Llandrindod. They tested 547 blankets, and replaced 201 faulty ones.

“Even though we’ve been testing blankets in Powys for a decade now, we still get some extremely old and potentially dangerous examples being brought in,” says Powys Command Community Fire Safety Officer Tim Williams.

“The number of dangerous blankets we found justifies our decision to issue free replacements. We also generated over 130 Home Fire Safety Check requests – and that can only be a good thing.”

So it’s been a worthwhile exercise, and as long as people keep using electric blankets, the service will keep checking them.

“Electric blankets are now double-insulated as standard, but many older blankets do not conform to this basic safety benchmark,” says Sean Lloyd. “It’s the role of the Community Fire Safety Officers to make sure that vulnerable members of our community are made aware of the dangers.”

# Your Young Firefighters need you!

Do you enjoy a challenge? Do you like working with young people by helping them to learn new skills and become good citizens?

If so, the Young Firefighters at Gorseinon are looking for enthusiastic individuals who would like to become instructors at the branch – and it could be just the thing for you.

Youth Development Officer Graham Jenkins said: “Being an instructor is a challenging experience, and it can be very rewarding knowing that you have played a part in assisting an individual to enjoy their life to the full.

“It’s about giving your time to do something useful and productive, and in return you get the satisfaction of time and effort well spent. Passing on expertise and knowledge to a younger generation is also a very worthwhile and rewarding experience.”

The YFF scheme gives young people from all areas of the community the opportunity to develop key skills and to help prepare them for the challenges that face them as they grow up.

Graham said: “The Young Firefighters is a great initiative. It aims to encourage personal development, and teaches young people how to work together and be a part of a wider community.

“This helps to strengthen community links, and provides young people with a sense of purpose and belonging. This can be a valuable experience for instructors and students.”

For further details on the rewards and benefits of being a Young Firefighters’ instructor, please contact Graham Jenkins at [g.jenkins@mawwfire.gov.uk](mailto:g.jenkins@mawwfire.gov.uk).



## Ffynnon is well on the way

As of the 1 April 2011, Ffynnon will be the Services’ new Performance Management System.

To ensure that Ffynnon is a success, the Strategic Planning and Performance department are taking steps to make sure staff know how to use the new system - and are ready for it when it arrives.

Area Manager Derek Masson said: “The department is carrying out its promise to help drive and support performance improvement, so it’s important that we introduce Ffynnon carefully and train employees in its effective use.

“To ensure that all watches and RDS have an opportunity to attend the training, sessions will be run in each Command on two different days, and also in the evenings.”

Training sessions will be available throughout February and March for all Managers and identified users.

If you require any more details on the training dates, contact either your County Commander/Head of Department or the Strategic Planning and Performance Department.

# Service gets IIP Bronze recognition

The Service is delighted to announce that the IIP review conducted at the start of October in line with the quality assurance guidelines monitored by Investors in People Wales, confirmed that Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service has met the requirements of Investor in People Bronze status.

Investors in People co-ordinator for the Service, Craig Flannery, said: "We chose to go for the Bronze standard to test how we would fare against the additional 26 performance criteria that were above and beyond the normal award, and to gain feedback in order to seek out ways in which we could improve what we're currently doing."

The review covered all sectors of the workforce - Support, Retained and Whole-time duty systems - and looked not only at how we learn and develop our people but how the organisation sets its vision and objectives, and how these are recorded and measured.

Even though achieving the Bronze award places the service at the leading edge of the best people management practice in the UK, the organisation recognises the need to continually strive to improve the way it manages and develops its people in order to achieve its corporate objectives.

Kevin Jones, Corporate Head of People and Organisational Development, said: "We would like to thank the colleagues who took part for their candidness and openness which were essential for the Assessors to gauge where we are currently at as an organisation. Achieving the Bronze IIP award recognises the investment made by the Service to Learning and Development, and the hard work and dedication of employees in developing their skills which ultimately leads towards organisational success."

For any further information regarding Investors in People, please contact Craig Flannery in People and Organisation Development.

## Send us your ideas!

Calon Tân is pleased to publish this photo of Pembroke Dock Watch Manager Gerwyn Howells's wedding to his new wife, Jessica. The couple married in October near their home in Haverfordwest, and then went on an exotic honeymoon in Thailand.

Do you have any nice photographs or stories you think would make a good article for Calon Tân? Then why not send them in to the Media & Communications Team at [calontan@mawwfire.gov.uk](mailto:calontan@mawwfire.gov.uk)?

We get a lot of suggestions for articles, so unfortunately we can't use every one we receive – but every idea you send us will be given serious consideration.

To help you get articles in, here are a few tips:

- Get your suggestions in early. Article ideas sometimes don't make the cut because they are too similar to existing content - and it's first come, first served, so be quick!
- Make sure your story is about something that has happened recently. We don't use older stories, because it's important that we keep Calon Tân current and up-to-date.

The final decision on content and style will be made by the editorial team, but we can't make the magazine without your help. So send us your ideas!



# Welsh Corner / Y Golofn Gymraeg

Welsh language skills have become increasingly important in Wales following the Welsh Assembly Government's vision of creating a bilingual Wales, where people can choose to live their lives through the medium of Welsh or English.

Mae sgiliau iaith Gymraeg wedi dod yn fwy pwysig yn dilyn gweledigaeth Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru o greu Cymru ddwyieithog, lle gall pobl ddewis byw eu bywydau trwy gyfrwng y Gymraeg neu'r Saesneg.

Practice makes perfect! Go on; give it a go! Wrth ymarfer byddwch yn gwella. Rhowch gynnig arni!

## Starting the meeting / Dechrau'r cyfarfod

Dear friends...  
– Annwyl gyfeillion...

Welcome to the meeting and thank you for coming.  
– Croeso i'r cyfarfod a diolch am ddod.

I'd like to welcome you all to the meeting.  
– Hoffwn i'ch croesawu chi i gyd i'r cyfarfod.

To begin, may I welcome you to the conference?  
– I ddechrau, ga i'ch croesawu chi i'r gynhadledd?

It's good to see so many new faces.  
– Mae'n braf gweld cymaint o wynebau newydd.

It's good to see so many old faces.  
– Mae'n braf gweld cymaint o hen wynebau.

I'd like to welcome the new members, especially...  
– Hoffwn i groesawu'r aelodau newydd, yn arbennig...

## Dealing with items on the agenda / Ymdrin ag eitemau ar yr agenda

The first item on the agenda is...  
– Yr eitem gyntaf ar yr agenda ydy...

The next item on the agenda is...  
– Yr eitem nesaf ar yr agenda ydy...

Let's move on to the next item.  
– Gawn ni symud ymlaen at yr eitem nesa.



# Dealing with minutes / Ymdrin â chofnodion

Cwestiynau – Questions:

Has everyone received the minutes?

– **Ydy pawb wedi derbyn y cofnodion?**

Has everyone received the minutes of the last meeting?

– **Ydy pawb wedi derbyn cofnodion y cyfarfod diwethaf?**

Are the minutes correct?

– **Ydy'r cofnodion yn gywir?**

Are there any matters arising from the minutes?

– **Oes materion yn codi o'r cofnodion?**

Ymateb – Responses:

Yes.

– **Ydyn. (We have)**

– **Ydyn. (They are)**

– **Oes. (There are)**

No.

– **Nac ydyn. (We have not)**

– **Nac ydyn. (They have not)**

– **Nac oes. (There are not)**

I haven't.

– **Dw i ddim.**

I haven't received everything.

– **Dw i ddim wedi derbyn popeth.**

## Dealing with apologies for absence / Ymdrin ag ymddiheuriadau

We have received apologies from...

– **Dyn ni wedi derbyn ymddiheuriadau gan...**

Mr Williams is apologising that he cannot be present.

– **Mae Mr Williams yn ymddiheuro nad ydy e'n gallu bod yn bresennol.**

Mr Rhys has phoned to say that he will not be at the meeting.

– **Mae Mr Rhys wedi ffonio i ddweud na fydd e yn y cyfarfod.**

Dr Rhys has phoned to say that she will not be at the meeting.

– **Mae Dr Rhys wedi ffonio i ddweud na fydd hi yn y cyfarfod.**

Mrs Jones will be late.

– **Bydd Mrs Jones yn hwyr.**

Mr Hughes will be here for the afternoon session.

– **Bydd Mr Hughes yma ar gyfer sesiwn y prynhawn.**

Mr Richards is at another meeting.

– **Mae Mr Richards mewn cyfarfod arall.**

## Closing the meeting / Cau'r cyfarfod

Thank you for showing us your support this morning.

– **Diolch am ddangos eich cefnogaeth i ni'r bore yma.**

Thank you for taking part in the meeting today

– **Diolch i chi am gymryd rhan yn y cyfarfod heddiw.**

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