



Gwasanaeth Tân ac Achub
Canolbarth a Gorllewin Cymru

Mid and West Wales
Fire and Rescue Service

CALON

TÂN

JUNE
2024

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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:



ROGER THOMAS

CHIEF FIRE OFFICER AWARDED KING'S FIRE SERVICE MEDAL

Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service's Chief Fire Officer Roger Thomas has been recognised in the King's Birthday Honours for his commitment to the Fire and Rescue Service.

Announced on June 15th 2024, CFO Thomas will receive the King's Fire Service Medal which is awarded for distinguished service.

CFO Thomas said;

"I am both humbled and delighted to be receiving this prestigious award. I recognise that this award is testament to the incredible people who work for Mid and West Wales FRS - our operational staff who risk their lives to ensure the safety of others, our Control Room staff who receive 999 calls and deploy resources, prevention and protection officers who reduce risk in our communities and our corporate staff who support our core functions.

I am extremely proud to work for such a highly respected and proud organisation.

I also want to recognise my family. They too have made significant sacrifices to support me both personally and professionally."

Commencing his Fire and Rescue Service career in 1996, Roger has spent his entire career at Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service, becoming its Chief Fire Officer in April 2022. He has enjoyed an incredibly varied career in the Fire and Rescue Service, having worked through the ranks from Firefighter to numerous supervisory and middle manager roles, including a secondment to the Welsh Government in 2007/8. He joined the Executive Leadership Team as Area Manager in 2014, followed by Brigade Manager roles from 2017.

CFO Thomas' recognition in the King's Birthday Honours not only celebrates his personal achievements but also underscores the collective efforts of the entire team within Mid & West Wales FRS. As he continues to lead with distinction, the Service looks forward to further enhancing the safety and well-being of the communities it serves.



PHOENIX COURSE PASSING OUT PARADE

On Thursday, 6th June pupils from Ysgol Strade attended a Passing Out Parade and put their new found skills to the test in front of an audience.

The pupils from Ysgol Strade took part in a week long Phoenix Course held at Llanelli Fire Station. Throughout the week the youngsters had the opportunity learn how to keep themselves and others safe by understanding hazards, risks and

control measures. Also, how to use a mixture of firefighting equipment such as hoses, ladders and much more.

As part of the Passing Out Parade the group demonstrated their new skills in front of parents/guardians and teaching staff from the school and were presented with certificates from Deputy Head of Community Safety, Aled Griffith.

Well done to all involved and a big thank you to the crew at Llanelli Fire Station for all their help during the week.



MID AND WEST WALES FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE FIREFIGHTER EXPERIENCE DAYS

Crews within the Northern Region of the Service, which includes the counties of Ceredigion and Powys, have recently held Firefighter Experience Days to show what the role means for budding On Call Firefighters.

On Saturday, 15th June, the crew at Welshpool Fire Station held an Experience Day, and the Newtown Fire Station crew held their day on Wednesday, 19th June.

During the two days, those present had the opportunity to put on full firefighting kit, meet some of the Firefighters On Call and have a tour of the Fire Stations. They were also able to take part in some of the required entry tests, such as assembling water hydrant equipment and fitness and strength trials.

The Service's Firefighter Experience Days aim to provide more information to those interested in learning more about becoming an On Call Firefighter about what the role entails, as well as the various aspects of the recruitment process and the career paths.

Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service are currently recruiting for On Call Fire Fighters in all our On Call Fire Stations. On Call Fire Fighters are an essential part of the Service and their communities, and the Service's 700 On Call Fire Fighters man 75% of Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service Fire Stations.

For more information on how to become an On Call Firefighter, visit the Service's [website](#).





KEEP WALES TIDY NEW WILDLIFE GARDENS

The [Great Big Green Week](#), 8th - 16th June, is the UK's biggest ever celebration of community action to tackle climate change and protect nature.

To celebrate, [Seven Sisters](#), [Glynneath](#) and [Port Talbot](#) Stations each invited pupils from their local primary schools to spend the day helping the crews plant flowers in the new gardens that have been

funded by [Keep Wales Tidy](#), [Tai Tarian](#) and [Joyner Group](#) also came along to Seven Sisters station to help with the build of the planters.

Keep Wales Tidy has been offering communities across the country a chance to revamp and transform their local areas with free garden packages. The idea is to transform an unloved area into a garden that will benefit both nature and the local area.

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



RECYCLING BATTERIES SAFELY

Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service crews from Newtown and Llanidloes Fire Stations were recently called to an incident along the Newtown Bypass.

Crews responded to a LGV containing approximately 13 tonnes of mixed recycling that was smouldering in areas with high temperature readings. This fire is believed to have been caused by disposable vapes which had not been correctly disposed of. Several disposable vapes were found within the lorry's contents, which seemed to have been crushed and damaged, which would have sparked and ignited the rest of the rubbish within the lorry.

Research by the National Fire Chiefs Council (NFCC) and Recycle Your Electricals has found that the number of battery fires in bin lorries and at waste sites in the UK have reached an all-time high, with an increase of 71% from 700 in 2022 to over 1,200 in the last year.

With an increase in the number of portable electrical items containing lithium-ion batteries, there comes a significant fire risk if they are binned instead of being recycled.

Not only do battery fires endanger lives, but they can also cause serious environmental and health risks.

For more information on how to correctly recycle batteries, please visit the [Recycle Your Electricals website](#). To find your nearest recycling facility, please visit the [Wales Recycles website](#).



Meet the Team



MEET THE ESTATES TEAM

Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service employs over 1,300 members of staff who deliver emergency response, public safety information, prevention and protection programmes and more to almost 12,000 square kilometres - almost two-thirds of Wales.

The estates team are responsible for ensuring that the Fire Service estate is fit for purpose and available for operational duties. The teams responsibilities range from major building projects, such as the acquisition and redevelopment of the Services new Fleet Engineering and Logistics facility at Dafen, Llanelli, through to maintenance of lighting, heating, security systems and reactive maintenance.

A diverse team of 11, who are always happy to help and advise - you can find them at their office in HQ or out and about across the Service!



Huw Davies
Head of Estates

I joined Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue in September 2019, and I am responsible for reactive and planned maintenance, minor works and capital projects.

I started my career as an electrician for the family business. I have worked in the health and education sectors where I learnt the various systems that support a range of facilities. I own several motorcycles and enjoy touring Europe to visit WWI and WWII historic sites.

I recently joined the On-Call Firefighter crew at Carmarthen Fire Station where I'm able to experience a huge range of capabilities, professionalism and dedication first hand.



Alex Rowlands
Deputy Head of Estates

I am Alex Deputy Head of Estates supporting the Head of Estates and the team in ensuring that the Service property portfolio is fit for purpose to support the Fire and Rescue Service.

I deal with the management of operational and administrative buildings and assist with budgetary control of projects, as well as the quality assurance of projects and services. Undertake feasibility studies of potential major capital works and projects and develop documentation for submission. Manage compliance within property management and co-ordinate legal matters relating to the Estate.

When not in the Estates Department I enjoy the great outdoors with my family.



Rob Thomas
Estates Capital Project Manager

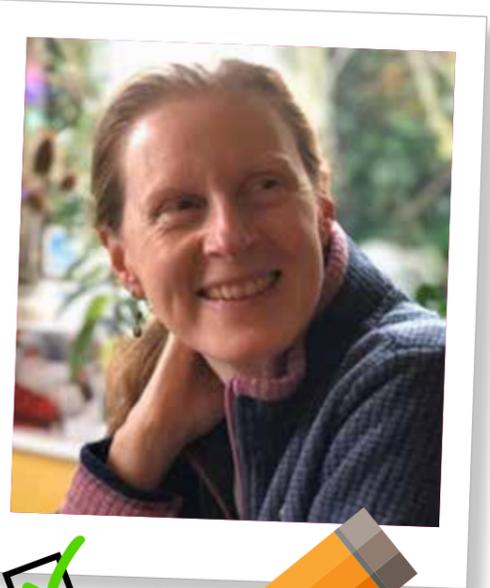
Shwd mae! I'm Robert and I am the Estates Capital Project Manager for the Fire Service.

I've been in this role for nearly 3 years, doesn't time fly when you're having fun. I am responsible for the development and delivery of capital projects from establishing the initial brief with the "internal" client through the construction phase to practical completion and final account stage.

I also work closely with the Maintenance Manager and oversee the minor works and Planned Preventative Maintenance programme of works. Outside of work I enjoy time with the family, camping, fishing, and walkies with our black lab 'Lola'.



Susan Fallon
Estates Project and Office Coordinator



Hi, I'm Sue and I have worked for the Service since 2022. I am a Coordinator in the Estates Department and my role involves providing support around capital and minor works projects. This currently includes the new CFBT at Earlswood, ongoing drill tower works, and the installation of EV charging points, as well as a number of the smaller but vital maintenance works that are underway across the estate.

You'll find me in Carmarthen HQ, ensuring the efficient and accurate handling of the documentation relating to the broad array of maintenance tasks which the Estates Department manages, and working on the Helpdesk system, dealing with tickets that arrive from across all our sites.

OTHERS IN THE ESTATES DEPARTMENT

Ronald Goldsbury
Estates Facilities Officer

Gregory Hughes
Estates Maintenance Technician

Graham Jones
Estates Maintenance Technician

Ian Phillips
Estates Maintenance Technician

Kelsey Tiffin
Estates Contracts and Performance Coordinator

James Thomas
Estates Maintenance Officer

Phillip Lees-Griffiths
Estates Maintenance Officer

ANIMAL RESCUE

MORRISTON FIRE STATION CREW HELP RESCUE CROW

The **RSPCA** has issued a renewed warning on the hazards of plastic bags and litter to wildlife, following an incident where a crow became entangled on an aerial.

On Saturday, June 1st, the Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service (MAWWFRS) crew from Morryston Fire Station was called to assist in the rescue of a crow that was entangled on an aerial of a terraced property. The bird's leg had become trapped in a plastic bag on the aerial and MAWWFRS crews utilised an aerial appliance to free the bird.

The crow was then handed to RSPCA Animal Rescue Officer Ellie West to be assessed and cared for.

"This crow was well and truly entangled and was clearly in distress," said Ellie. "We're very thankful to the Fire and Rescue Service who attended and used their specialist equipment to reach the bird on the roof which was two-storeys high."



BRECON FIREFIGHTERS RESCUE TRAPPED LAMB

On Wednesday, June 19th the crew from Brecon Fire Station came to the rescue of a lamb that had become stuck in a 6 foot deep ditch in Llanfaes, Brecon.

The incident involved carefully navigating steep terrain as well as overgrown vegetation which needed to be cut back using hand saws to access the lamb. Demonstrating their animal rescue training and skills, crew members used a triple-extension ladder to reach and to successfully and safely rescue the lamb and return it to its farmer.



EVENTS

PONTARDDULAIS OPEN DAY - A GREAT SUCCESS!

On Friday, 31st May Pontarddulais Fire Station held its Open Day, offering a fantastic opportunity to the public to visit their local station, meet the crew and get involved with a day full of activities.

The Open Day was action-packed with a variety of entertainment which included a local DJ, Geraint the Snakeman and his creepy crawlies, cake stalls, glitter tattoos, fun fair rides and much more!

Over the course of the day, the station's crew held live demonstrations including a road traffic collision scenario and a chip pan fire demo, each keeping the crowd captivated, whilst sharing important safety messages. The day came to an end with the Pontarddulais Station duck race, which proved to be hugely popular!

The Open Day was run in memory of Stuart Richards, a member of the Pontarddulais community and a friend to many in Pontarddulais Station. Stuart tragically took his own life recently, and the crew wanted to raise funds in memory of Stuart for [The Jac Lewis Foundation](#) - a local men's mental health charity that have supported Stuarts family at this heartbreaking time.

We would like to say a massive thank everyone that attended Pontarddulais Open Day and big thanks to the crew that made the day possible.

Overall, the Open Day raised nearly £800, which will be shared between [The Fire Fighters Charity](#) and [he Jac Lewis Foundation](#).

Thank you to all involved, and a special shout-out to the wonderful community of Pontarddulais for their incredible support and enthusiasm.



EXCITING EVENTS AHEAD!



From action-packed open days to car washes and experience days, there's something for everyone.

[11th July - Haverfordwest Experience Day](#)

[13th July - Port Talbot Open Day](#)

[20th July - Ammanford Show and Tell Recruitment Day](#)

[31st July - Pembroke Dock Open Day](#)

[10th August - Neath Open Day](#)

[17th August - Ammanford Show and Tell Recruitment Day](#)

[23rd August - Llandrindod Wells Biker Down Cymru](#)

[28th August - Ammanford Biker Down Cymru Course](#)

[7th Sept - Haverfordwest Open Day](#)

[20th Sept - Llandrindod Wells Biker Down Cymru](#)

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



WELSH FIREFIGHTER CHALLENGE 2024

On June 1st, Firefighters from across the UK gathered in Swansea Marina to take part in the [Welsh Firefighter Challenge](#), which is part of the regional race of the [British Firefighter Challenge](#).

Organised by Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service (MAWWFRS), the [Welsh Firefighter Challenge](#) helps to raise important funds for [The Fire Fighters Charity](#), which supports the mental wellbeing and physical health of all serving and retired members of the UK's fire family.

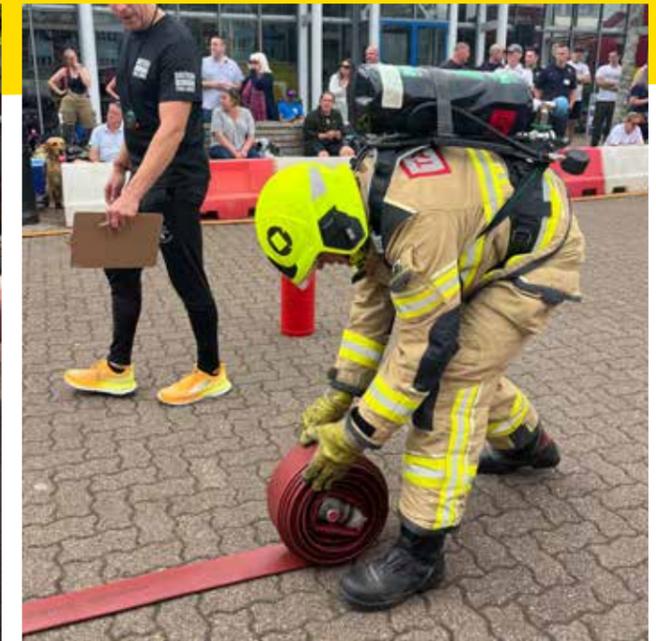
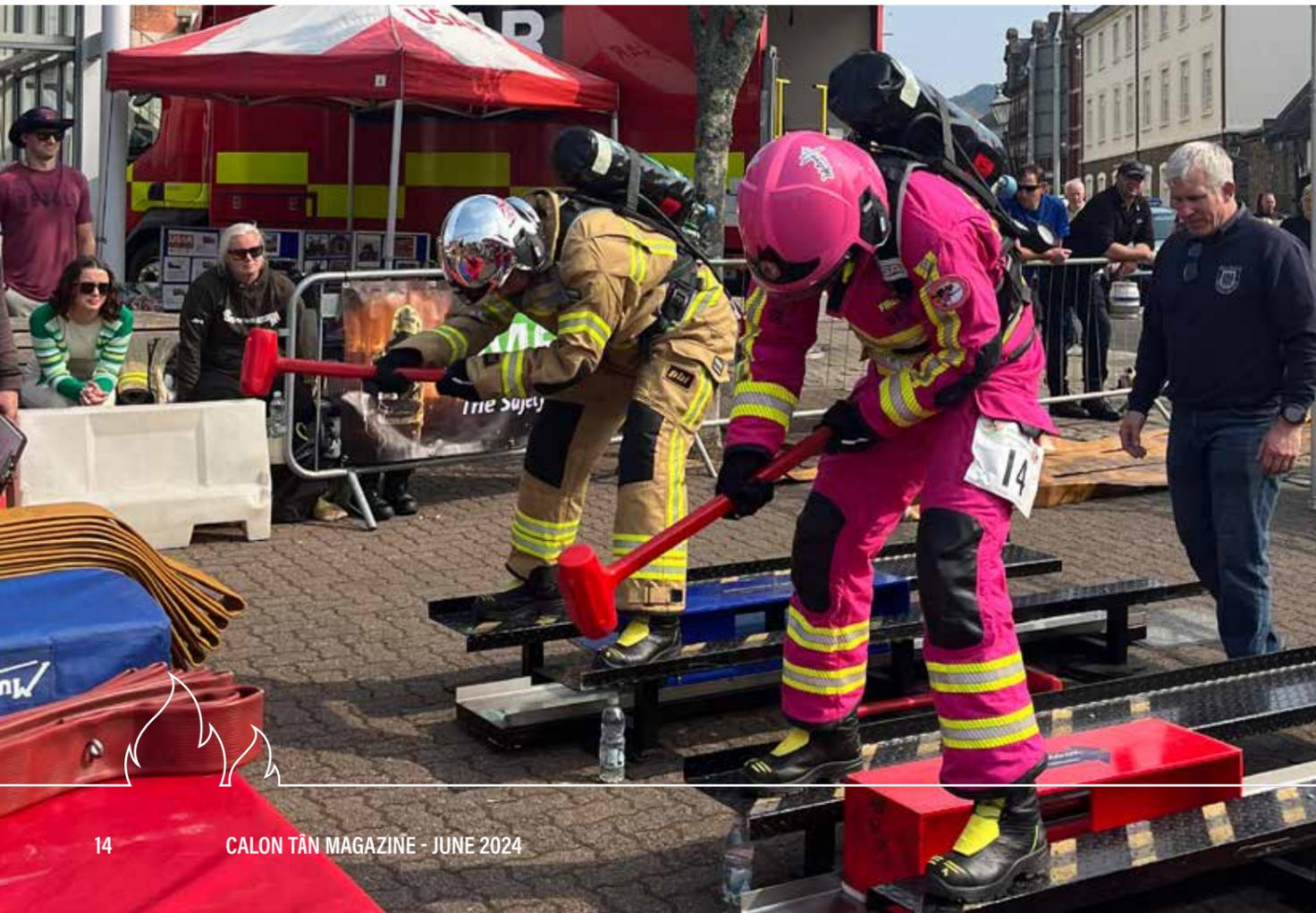
The event, which sold out in a record time of 8 hours, took part at a new location for this year at the Dylan Thomas Square, Swansea Marina. The

Square was filled with spectators from start to finish throughout the entire day. Luckily the sun was shining which made it great for spectators but also that much tougher for the contestants.

Alongside the firefighter challenges, MAWWFRS hosted a 'Community Safety Village' where members of the public were able to access free safety advice and information from our Community Safety Team as well as from a variety of partnership organisations.

Chief Fire Officer Roger Thomas said:

"I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who attended and got involved in making the Welsh Firefighter Challenge the huge success it was."



EISTEDDFOD YR URDD 2024

Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service (MAWWFRS) were in attendance at this year's Eisteddfod yr Urdd which took place at Meifod in Powys from 27th May to 1st June.

The [Eisteddfod yr Urdd](#) is an annual Welsh-language youth festival filled with music, literature and performing arts organised by [Urdd Gobaith Cymru](#).

Our Community Safety Team were located in a stand near the entrance of the festival offering members of the public free safety advice and information as well as the opportunity to sign up for a free home fire safety check.

There was plenty of fun activities for children to take part in, including trying on the firefighter kit and taking part in our 'spot the hazards' competition to try and win a Lego firefighting set. Sbarc, the Service mascot also made an appearance throughout the week, providing safety advice and fantastic photo opportunities for passersby.

Even with grey clouds above and muddy conditions, it was a successful week with a lively atmosphere from start to finish.

We would like to give a big thank you to all that got involved with the festival and we look forward to [Eisteddfod yr Urdd 2025 in Margam](#), Neath Port Talbot!



POINT OF ENTRY TEST



Training Delivery Lead on the day of the Point of Entry Test, Station Manager Wayne Jarrett said:

"Experience the role of a Firefighter when attending our Point of Entry Standard Tests (POEST). Requiring physical and mental strength to complete a series of tasks simulating a normal day in the Fire Service ranging from climbing ladders, crawling through confined spaces, rescuing a casualty, lifting, assembling and carrying equipment - all while wearing Fire Kit. Have a go you might enjoy it!"

Following successful references and completion of the above tests, candidates will be offered an appointment at Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service and required to attend an Initial Recruits Course.



ON-CALL POINT OF ENTRY TEST

On Monday 24th June candidates were invited to Haverfordwest Station to undertake their Point of Entry Test to become On-Call Firefighters.

Prior to the test, candidates had filled in an application form, completed an optometric assessment and had an initial meeting to discuss joining the Service as an On-Call Firefighter.

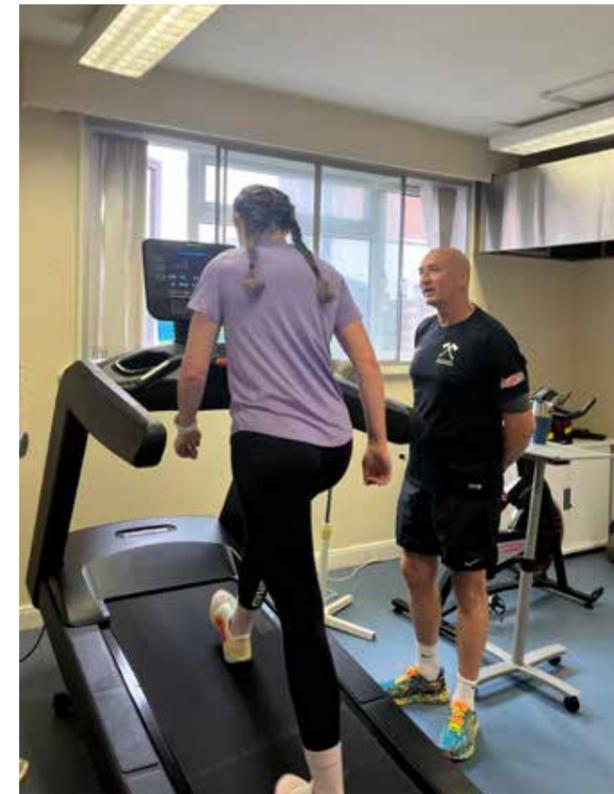
The day began with a fitness assessment which involved doing the Chester treadmill test, a 12-minute graded treadmill walk test designed to

assess whether they can achieve the minimum recommended standard for aerobic capacity.

Candidates were then asked to take part in the physical assessment which consisted of a casualty evacuation, ladder climb, ladder lift, confined space test, equipment assembly, and finally the equipment carry.

Have you got what it takes?

If you're interested in becoming an On-Call Firefighter, you can find more information on our [website](#).



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 FEATURE

AS PART OF OUR MONTHLY INSIGHT INTO MAWWFRS SPORTS AND SOCIAL CLUBS, FLY-FISHING IS THE CATCH OF THE MONTH!



The Fly-Fishing Section is one of the longest running sports sections in Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service (MAWWFRS). It's been running for over 45 years, with retired and current serving Service members. The section has represented MAWWFRS at the Fire Sport UK Games International every year since its inception, having enjoyed great success and winning the last five years consecutively!

This year's event was held at **Grafham Reservoir**, Cambridge, with Phil Hooper and Hugh Bryant (MAWWFRS Section members) coming in first place netting 12 fish for the win! Phil Hooper was the overall individual winner of the event - hook line and sinker for MAWWFRS that day!

A few of the Section members have represented Wales at international level too. Last year Jason Hucknall attended **Draycote Reservoir**, Warwickshire and Nigel Worvell at the **Lake of Menteith**, Scotland. The section wishes Nigel good luck and tight lines for September, having successfully qualified to represent Wales again, at home on Llyn Clywedog where he'll gain his 4th cap for Wales, go Nigel!

Fishing has many benefits and is recognised for its ability to reduce stress, alleviate symptoms of depression, and boost overall mental well-being. Advice and guidance on the benefits of fishing can be found at **Why Fishing? - Tackling Minds** and with this in mind, we are holding a competition at **Llyn Clywedog** on the Saturday, 24th August 2024 against the Royal Navy. If anyone would like to attend, please contact Nigel Worvell via email n.worvell@mawwfire.gov.uk for further details.



You can join the MAWWFRS Fishing Section TODAY!

Open to all employees of the Service including volunteers, wholetime, On-Call, support staff and retired members. Contact the Sports and Social Club secretary, Steven Philpott at s.philpott@mawwfire.gov.uk to find out more.



VACANCIES

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
Reciwrtio 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!





Gwasanaeth Tân ac Achub
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Mid and West Wales
Fire and Rescue Service

#MwyNaDimOndTanau
#MoreThanJustFires



www.mawwfire.gov.uk

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