



MARCH 2023

INFORMATIVE

The quarterly bulletin of the North Wales Fire and Rescue Service



**PRESENTATION
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ACHIEVEMENT OF NEW
FIREFIGHTER RECRUITS**

**WORKING TOGETHER
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PRESENTATION CEREMONY CELEBRATES STAFF LONG SERVICE



North Wales Fire and Rescue Service has honoured its longest serving members of staff at a presentation evening held at Venue Cymru.

The ceremony recognised more than 20 members of staff who have completed over 30 years of outstanding service to the public through the presentation of 30 or 40-year clasps.

These will be added to their existing Long Service and Good Conduct medals received after completing 20 years of Service.

In addition, a crystal award was presented to a staff member who had completed 40 years of service in a supporting role.



Dawn Docx, Chief Fire Officer, presented the 30-years clasps to serving and retired staff members and Councillor Dylan Rees, Chair of the Fire and Rescue Authority, presented the 40-years clasps and the crystal award.

Dawn Docx said: "Receiving a medal or clasp is an important occasion for every firefighter and this ceremony demonstrates the degree of commitment and dedication each one of the recipients has given to the fire and rescue service in North Wales."





“All recipients can take immense pride and satisfaction in what they have achieved and the clasps and awards are a small token to show the gratitude for their service to the communities of North Wales. The years of commitment demonstrated by them is really inspiring.



“I was delighted to see so many familiar faces at the event in Llandudno, as well as to be able to witness them celebrating their achievement with their families.

your colleagues and by the communities that we all serve.”

“My heartfelt congratulations go to all. Your service is truly appreciated, by myself as Chief Fire Officer, by

Councillor Dylan Rees said: “On behalf of Members of the North Wales Fire and Rescue Authority I would like to congratulate everyone. Many thanks to you for your service and dedication.”





CELEBRATING THE ACHIEVEMENT OF NEW FIREFIGHTER RECRUITS

Our latest firefighter recruits showcased their new skills at Rhyl Fire Station in December.

The Celebration of Achievement ceremony was an opportunity to recognise the 16 new firefighters on the successful completion of their initial training.

These included 12 full-time firefighters who completed a 14-week training course and four firefighters joining our control room who all completed five weeks of training.

Dawn Docx, Chief Fire Officer, said “My sincere congratulations to all the new recruits who completed their training.



“It was great to recognise and celebrate their achievements in the presence of their invited family and friends.



“The new full-time firefighters have all been assigned to their fire stations.

“All four control firefighters are now working on their assigned watches in Fire Service Control at the Joint Communications Centre in St Asaph.

“The second cohort of full-time firefighter recruits have since joined the Service in January and will be completing their course in April.”



WORKING TOGETHER TO PROTECT OUR COUNTRYSIDE

Operation Dawns Glow is a multi-agency task force of specialists from key agencies across Wales launched to reduce, and where possible eliminate, the impact of grass fires across Wales.

Initially established in 2016 by the all Wales Strategic Arson Reduction Board, the task force tackles incidents of deliberate grass fires across Wales and will also be turning its attention to the increase in accidental fires, often caused by 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.

Jane Honey, Community Safety and Arson Reduction Manager, said: “As with previous years, the Dawns Glow campaign comes into operation as the weather starts to improve, when evenings become lighter and our use of the landscape, countryside and grassland of Wales begins to increase.

“It’s 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.

“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.

“We continue to 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), it is important to 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.”

For guidance on how to conduct a safe controlled burn please visit the [North Wales Fire and Rescue Service website](#).





SBARC HELPS CELEBRATE LGBTQ+ HISTORY MONTH

As part of LGBTQ+ History month celebrations in February, staff who attended a Pride Cymru networking event at Deeside Leisure Centre were joined by friendly fire safety mascot Sbarc.

Jamie Lewis, Health, Fitness and Wellbeing Adviser, said: “The day celebrated Pride Cymru’s ‘Get out Get Active’ project and featured guest speakers, information stalls, activities, training information and workshops.

“It was a great opportunity for us to promote fire safety and recruitment across our fire and rescue service.

“We spoke to hundreds of people about the opportunities to work with us - thanks to Sbarc who proved to be a big attraction at our stall.”



SUPPORTING INTEGRATED AUTISM EVENT AT LLANDUDNO

Staff from Conwy and Denbighshire’s Community Safety Team took part in an Integrated Autism event at Llandudno’s Imperial Hotel in February to promote safety advice to those attending.

Quita Williams, Partnership Manager, said: “We want to build a relationship with a variety of different partners and this event was a great opportunity for us to engage with an audience that we want to support by providing fire safety in the home advice.

“It was a really worthwhile event and we are glad to have been able to take part and attend.”



CELEBRATING ST DAVID'S DAY



North Wales Fire and Rescue Service is committed to providing a bilingual service and staff were proud therefore to take to the streets of Wrexham as part of the annual St David's Day Parade organised by Menter Iaith Sir y Fflint a Wrecsam.

It was an opportunity to celebrate being Welsh and also to promote recruitment opportunities in the Service – where having Welsh language skills is beneficial and essential for some vacancies.

Natalie Jones, Welsh Language Officer, said: "Staff from different departments and the local fire station promoted the services that we offer in Welsh.

"It was a great feel-good event that enabled our staff to celebrate being Welsh and what it means to them."



SEARCH FOR CAREERS WITH US ON FACEBOOK

You can now follow our new Facebook page set up to highlight career opportunities within our fire and rescue service.

The Human Resources recruitment team set up the page in February to help boost recruitment and share stories from current staff, as well as advertising our latest vacancies and upcoming opportunities.



Gyrfaoedd Tân Gogledd Cymru / North Wales Fire Careers

84 likes • 179 followers

Bethan N. Jones, HR Specialist, explained: "We wanted to set up a page focusing purely on recruitment, to be able to share insights with potential applicants about what it is like to be part of our fire family."

"We already have a few hundred followers on the page who are asking questions regarding vacancies and careers in the Service."

You can follow the page [Gyrfaoedd Tân Gogledd Cymru / North Wales Fire Careers](#) on Facebook.

NEW FIRE CADET UNIT SET UP IN BALA

A new cadet unit has been set up at Bala Fire Station following an open evening held to recruit local young people.

The National Fire Cadets is an educational youth organisation run by fire and rescue services in partnership with the National Fire Chiefs Council. The aim is to create safer, stronger communities through developing an individual's knowledge and awareness of their community to enhance citizenship skills.

The initiative provides an opportunity for young people between the ages of 12 and 16 to achieve a Level 1 to 3 Award in Fire and Rescue Services in the Community and vocational certificates of achievement in a variety of areas. Young people are taught various skills including teamwork, problem solving and communication alongside enhanced life skills to strengthen their employability.

North Wales Fire and Rescue Service now has four fire cadet units running in North Wales - including Amlwch, Menai Bridge and Chirk in addition to Bala.



Jane Honey, Community Safety and Arson Reduction Manager, said: "As the lead officer for youth engagement, I have witnessed first-hand the commitment and passion of staff who run these units - and the benefits for the people involved cannot be underestimated."

"I am pleased that we now have a fourth unit here in North Wales and hope to see more in the future."

For information about the Fire Cadet scheme or to apply to join a unit visit the [North Wales Fire and Rescue Service website](#).



CONNECTING WITH MULTICULTURAL COMMUNITIES

A multicultural event hosted by North East Wales Cultural Hub provided an excellent opportunity for staff to engage with people from across Wrexham, Flintshire and beyond.

It was the first time since the pandemic that the hub had been able to hold their annual multicultural day – organised in partnership by the Wrexham African Community, Ty Pawb and Race Council Cymru.

The event included an eight-hour programme featuring traditional African music, dance demonstrations, food tasting and a fashion show.

Benji Evans, Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Officer, said: “The Wrexham African Community organises various events like this during the year – these offer a great way for us to engage with people from different backgrounds, some of whom are seldom heard.

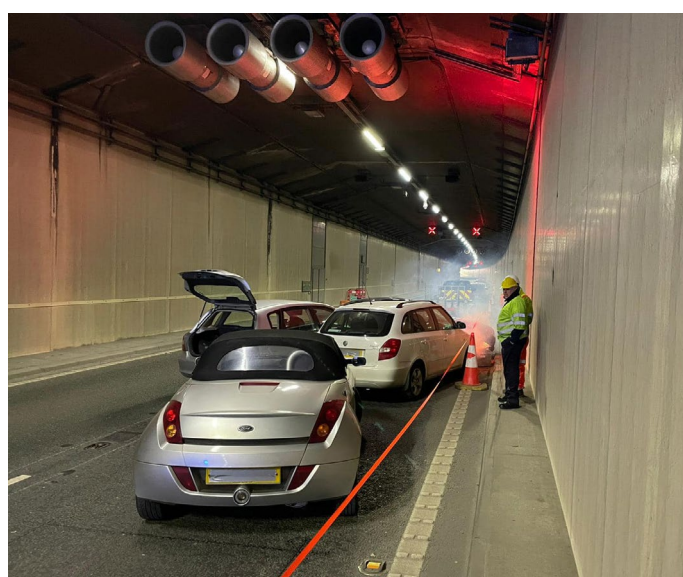
“Staff from our Wrexham station attended to promote our safe and well checks, highlight career opportunities, signpost people to our website and encourage them to follow us on social media.”

CONWY TUNNEL MULTI-AGENCY TRAINING EXERCISE

Staff have taken part in a training exercise and familiarisation visit at Conwy Tunnel.

Bob Nellist, Operational Preparedness Manager, Central Area, said: “As the westbound carriageway of the A55 was closed for a week for maintenance, we were able to utilise the opportunity to take part in both a training exercise and familiarisation visit within the tunnel.

“Last year, we saw a 16.32% increase in emergency calls and our control operators handled 12,465 emergency calls, and we met our target of answering 92% of 999 calls within seven seconds.



“This was followed by a familiarisation visit for fire officers, facilitated by the tunnel engineers and North Wales Trunk Road Agency.”



WATER RESCUE COURSES UNDERTAKEN AS PART OF SERVICE COMMITMENT TO WATER SAFETY TRAINING

Staff from across the Service have been taking part in water training courses at Menai Bridge over the past few months.

These represent the latest in a series of courses focusing on water safety as part of the Service's commitment to keeping our communities safe.

Eilian Roberts, West Area Training Manager, said: "Over the last two years the Operations and Training departments have been working collectively to ensure that the Service complies with both the DEFRA Flood Rescue Concept of Operations Guidance and the newly published Rescue Boat Code for the Fire and Rescue Service, not only by training its crews but by also purchasing new equipment and personal protective equipment.

"By working in collaboration with all three Welsh Fire and Rescue Services and the RNLI, we have also developed a course which allows us to deliver Water Team Type B Instructor courses. To date we have upskilled six boat operators to be instructors within the Service, with a plan to train a further three instructors later this year.

"In November 2022, following a successful Royal Yachting Association (RYA) application, Menai Bridge Fire Station has become an approved RYA

Training Centre, which allows us as a Service to deliver and issue RYA Powerboat Level 2 licences. This course, along with the Water Rescue Boat Operative course enhances the skills of the Team Type B operatives and gives them confidence when working with boats in challenging environments.

"Last year we delivered our first in-house Water Incident Manager's course - this course develops our managers to use computer software to create flood plans and manage the deployment of resources when dealing with local or large-scale flooding events across our Service area.

"From January this year, we have been delivering an updated Water Team Type D re-accreditation course in Bala, which now includes night time training in the syllabus. This allows crews to experience the challenges encountered when working in deteriorating and dark conditions."

