



JUNE 2012

INFORMATIVE

➤ The quarterly bulletin of the North Wales Fire and Rescue Service



NEW PARTNERSHIP WITH COASTGUARDS

North Wales Fire and Rescue Service has officially welcomed the Maritime and Coastguard Agency to its fire station at Flint

LAUNCH OF NEW WEBSITE

New website, fresh, modern and easy to use

PUPILS SHINE IN COLOURING COMPETITION

Presentation of the winners of the poster colouring competition with their prizes

DOLGELLAU HAIRDRESSER HELPS TO SAVE LIVES

Hairdressing salon offers fire safety advice alongside traditional cutting and colouring services



NEW PARTNERSHIP WITH COASTGUARD

North Wales Fire and Rescue Service has officially welcomed the Maritime and Coastguard Agency to its fire station at Flint with a new partnership which will see both organisations working alongside each other to protect the public.

The Maritime and Coastguard Agency is responsible for preventing the loss of lives at sea and co-ordinates search and rescue at sea through Her Majesty's Coastguard.

Kevin Brain, Response Manager with North Wales Fire and Rescue Service, said: "As we had the space we were more than happy to accommodate the Coastguard response vehicle at Flint Fire Station.

The official opening ceremony was attended by representatives from the Maritime and Coastguard Agency, North Wales Fire and Rescue Service, local politicians as well as representatives from the RNLI.

Station Officer Garry Jones at Flint Coastguard Station explains: "Flint Coastguard had been looking for a base at Flint for some time and are pleased that North Wales Fire and Rescue Service agreed that we could occupy a bay at Flint Fire Station.

"We recognise the value of partnership working, with many successful partnerships already helping us to ensure we provide the best possible service to the public as well as helping to drive down costs."

"This provided an ideal opportunity to adopt a partnership arrangement which would maximise the use of facilities to the benefit of both parties."



www.viewcreative.co.uk

LAUNCH OF NEW WEBSITE



North Wales Fire and Rescue Service launched a new look website in May in a bid to encourage people to log on and find out more about fire safety.

The new site features a live feed from the official facebook and twitter pages, a direct link to North Wales Fire and Rescue's You Tube channel and a section for children and teachers with animated interactive games.

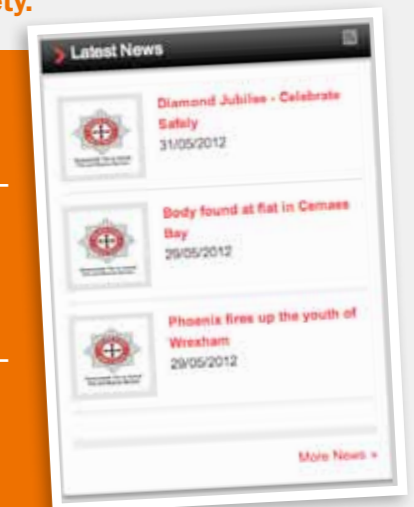
The site also broadcasts the latest breaking news, has all job opportunities listed and has a wealth of fire safety tips for all who live, work and travel in North Wales.

Visitors to the site can also register for a free home fire safety check online as well as finding out more information about the 44 fire stations across the region.

Ruth Simmons, Assistant Chief Fire Officer said:

"We are thrilled to be launching our new look website, which offers lots of new features for the user."

"The design is fresh, modern and easy to use, and the addition of the links from the social networking sites allows us to share all our latest information with those visiting our website."



WWW.NWALES-FIRESERVICE.ORG.UK

ARSON REDUCTION TEAM FUNDS EASTER PROJECTS

More than £7,000 was shared on projects across North Wales in a bid to help reduce anti-social behaviour throughout the Easter Holidays.

Thirty nine projects involving local Neighbourhood Policing Teams and the North Wales Fire and Rescue Service were awarded with funding made available by the North Wales Arson Reduction Team.

Sergeant Melanie Brace, from the Arson Reduction Team, said: "Policing teams across North Wales made a bid for the money in order to hold activities such as Easter Egg hunts to engage with the youngsters in their local communities and provide a diversion away from anti social alternatives.

"These activities will help foster better relationships between police, other agencies and young people.

"In many of the areas these activities are being given as part of a reward for the young people's good behaviour within their community by taking part in activities such as litter picking."

Various projects took place such as intergenerational events for young and elderly residents in King's Road and Llys Seiriol, Llandudno, equipment for a recently opened Youth Club in Rhos on Sea, a trip for Conwy youths to Deeside ice skating rink, a gardening project with the West Rhyl Marshalls and towards organising an Easter party for young people attending the Pop In Youth Centre in Prestatyn.



PUPILS SHINE

IN COLOURING COMPETITION

Fire Officers from North Wales Fire and Rescue Service recently visited primary schools across North Wales to present the winners of a poster colouring competition with their prizes.

Six year old Anna Jones, from Nercwys School was judged top of the competition after her poster was selected from over 300 entries from youngsters across North Wales.

Pupils at the school received a presentation on fire safety during their assembly.

Thomas Dantith from Ysgol T Gwynn Jones was awarded the second prize and Osian James Morgan from Ysgol Glan Morfa, Sali Rees Hughes from Ysgol Pen Barras and Jake Jennion from Hirael School were jointly awarded third prize.

The competition involved colouring fire safety posters, produced by the fire and rescue service, which included the message 'Never play with fire'.

All the winning children were presented with Argos gift vouchers.

Gareth Griffiths, Senior Fire Safety Manager, said:

"We are pleased that schools across the region took time to participate in the poster competition."

"The purpose of such a competition is for youngsters to learn about fire safety in an enjoyable way - we then hope that they retain the safety messages for the future."



DOLGELLAU HAIRDRESSER HELPS TO SAVE LIVES WHILE CUTTING AND COLOURING

A partnership has been set up between a hairdressing salon in Dolgellau and North Wales Fire and Rescue Service to protect clients by offering fire safety advice alongside their traditional cutting and colouring services.

Liz Morley, proprietor of GM Hairdressers, Arran Bridge prides herself on the friendly service she provides to her wide customer base, and saw the opportunity to help protect her clients. This came about after one of her customers, a fire and rescue service staff member, explained the importance of fire safety in the home.

Liz explained:

"We have customers of all ages and backgrounds coming into the salon - they love to talk and it got me thinking that I'd like to make sure that they take something away from our chats to help keep them as safe as possible."

Paul Williams, Community Safety Support Worker for North Wales Fire and Rescue Service is one of Liz's regular hairdressing clients. It was while they talked at the salon that the idea to promote fire safety was formed.

Liz now gives basic fire safety advice to her clients on the use of heated hair appliances and the importance of working smoke alarms and promotes the free home fire safety checks offered by North Wales Fire and Rescue Service.

Paul said: "Many of the residents from local residential homes for the elderly and local centres for young people with mental health issues attend regular appointments at the salon - the relaxed atmosphere and rapport the clients have with Liz means that this is a great

way to get fire safety messages across to harder to reach members of the community.

"Liz's commitment to protecting the welfare of her clients is inspirational and the work she's doing is going a long way to prevent fires and safeguard lives within the Dolgellau community."

Liz added: "I'm just happy to be helping to protect the safety of the customers who support me and I hope the advice that I pass on will help them think about fire safety in the home."

LOCAL YOUNGSTERS HELP TO IMPROVE WOODLANDS



The Arson Reduction Team is leading the way with the start of an exciting new pilot initiative in March aimed at protecting woodland areas from deliberate fires and crime.

The 'Woodland Watch' scheme was launched with representatives from North Wales Police, the Forestry Commission, Countryside Council for Wales, the Woodland Trust, local politicians, members of the local community and school children.

The pilot area for the scheme is Gwrych Castle woods on Rhyd y Foel mountain

and Tan y Gopa, Abergele. All activity will be monitored by police officers and the Arson Reduction Team and will be reviewed in September 2012.

Niki Lodge, Police Community Support Officer, said:

"We visited the site with local school children and spent about an hour putting up bird and bat boxes, picking up litter and discussing consequences of deliberate fires."

Melanie Lawton, Arson Reduction Coordinator, said: "We will also put up the new Woodland Watch signs and generally improve the area. We are hoping that this will reduce deliberate fires in these areas."



MONEY FOR OLD SOAP - THOUSANDS RAISED!

Fire crews from across North Wales got all in a lather in March - raising over £5,000 towards the national car wash in aid of The Fire Fighters Charity.

The money raised for the charity was boosted by an agreement with Barclays Bank, who pledged to match fund the proceeds from the fire stations.

Paul Claydon, Assistant Chief Fire Officer, said: "We raised a staggering amount of money for The Fire Fighters Charity this year, and I'd like to thank all the staff, their families and friends who have put in the effort to raise funds for this worthy charity, as well as the public for supporting us by having their cars washed at the station."

ARSON REDUCTION TEAM RECEIVE EXCEPTIONAL AWARD

The High Sheriff of Clwyd, Mr E F Lloyd FitzHugh OBE DL JP, awarded a certificate to members of the Arson Reduction Team at the annual Community Service Awards in March.

Melanie Lawton, Lynne Jones and Amanda Venables received the honour at an event held in Yale College in recognition of their exceptional commitment to community safety in North Wales.



BOWLED OVER BY MATCH AT WREXHAM FIRE STATION



Wrexham Fire Station hosted the Clwyd Short-Mat Bowls Competition in March.

The society also raised money for charity - funds from the competition were donated to 'Macmillan Nurses'.

Freda Hancocks, Chair of the indoor bowls club, said:

"Eight teams entered and all the players enjoyed the day."

"We would like to thank Chief Fire Officer Simon Smith, Watch Manager David Bithell, and White Watch personnel at Wrexham Station for their generosity in allowing us to use the fire station for this event for the fifth year running."



LAUNCH OF SEAT BELT CAMPAIGN

An all Wales campaign to encourage motorists and passengers to wear seatbelts was launched in March at the Airbus UK plant in Flintshire.

More than 2,000 motorists across Wales were prosecuted for not wearing a seatbelt during a month-long, multi-agency crackdown last year.

Nearly 100 people were also caught not wearing seatbelts throughout North Wales during a separate week-long campaign in September 2011.

This year the Welsh emergency services, with support from councils and road safety groups, will continue to make a robust effort to ensure all drivers and passengers buckle up.

It is estimated that every year more than 1,000 lives are saved in the UK as a direct result of wearing a seatbelt.

Motorists and passengers who choose to risk their lives by not wearing a seatbelt could receive a £60 Fixed Penalty Notice or a court imposed fine up to £500.

During the two week campaign, police officers will be carrying out targeted patrols to stop, and if appropriate, fine drivers and passengers not wearing seatbelts.

Every year police throughout Wales along with partners run a number of road safety campaigns based around the 'Fatal 5' – the five main contributory factors in fatal road traffic collisions.

- driving without a seatbelt
- drink and drug driving
- driving while using a mobile phone
- speeding
- careless and dangerous driving.

The March seatbelt campaign for 2012 will be followed by campaigns focusing on these contributory factors during the year.

Deputy Chief Constable Ian Shannon said:

"It is disappointing that more than 2,000 motorists in Wales were caught not wearing a seatbelt during last year's campaign."

"The consequences of not belting up can be fatal and we are determined to reduce the number of deaths and serious injuries on our roads.

"We will continue to be robust to ensure all drivers and passengers wear seatbelts and pursue an active approach, all year round, to educate motorists and enforce seatbelt laws."

Head of the Airbus Plant at Broughton, Paul Mckinlay said: "Airbus is pleased to host

the launch of the 2012 National Seatbelt Campaign. With over 6,000 people now working at the Broughton plant, we are keen to promote travelling to and from work in a safe manner.

"We have worked in partnership with Flintshire County Council for a number of years and we have supported over 100 of our apprentices during the last five years who have successfully completed the Pass Plus Cymru Driving Initiative."

Gareth Griffiths, Senior Fire Safety Manager, said: "We are pleased to be supporting this launch at Airbus. The fire and rescue service is always trying to get the message across that wearing a seatbelt really could mean the difference between life and death, and that applies just as much to passengers as it does to drivers. The majority of people are aware of the risk of not wearing a seatbelt, but there are still some who choose to ignore the dangers."

