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INFORMATIVE

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



RECYCLING IN SUPPORT OF FIRE FIGHTERS CHARITY

Clothing banks located at fire stations.

'TIME IT RIGHT - DON'T SET IT ALIGHT!'

Staff return to supermarkets across Wrexham town to talk to shoppers about the importance of cooking safely.

REMINDING FARMERS TO 'CALL BEFORE YOU BURN'

Staff revisit livestock markets to reinforce burning code to landowners.

MONEY FOR OLD SOAP - THOUSANDS RAISED





SHOCK TACTICS DRIVE HOME ROAD SAFETY

Hard hitting images of traffic accidents and video interviews with survivors were used to drive home key messages in a road safety awareness event held at Airbus in October.

North Wales police officers, paramedics from the Welsh Ambulance Service and members of the North Wales Fire and Rescue Service united to highlight the consequences of speeding, not wearing a seatbelt and driving under the influence of drink or drugs to an audience of 160 Airbus apprentices.

The stark reality of what it is like to be involved in a serious road accident was brought home to the apprentices when they watched emergency services personnel in action at a mock crash scene in which three apprentices acted as casualties, one of whom was pronounced “dead” at the scene and placed in a body bag.

Front seat passenger Fleur O’Hagan, a second year apprentice, was given life-saving treatment by paramedics for “serious injuries” and extricated from the wreckage, which involved cutting the roof off the car. She said, “It was a really scary experience – I never want to be in that position for real.”

Ryan Taylor, a third-year apprentice, said: “We have seen some pretty graphic stuff. It makes you more aware of the consequences and makes you think twice about your driving behaviour. It’s especially good for the younger apprentices who have just passed their test, but it will make me think about distances, mobile phone and seatbelt use, especially in taxis where people don’t always use them. It’s really great that Airbus takes the time to put on these kinds of events.”

Two first year apprentices, who are currently learning to drive, said that the event was really powerful, with one adding: “There is a lot of useful information here. It will certainly make me think twice before getting into cars with my mates – some of them use mobiles while driving.”

The Deadly Impact event was aimed at 17 - 25 year olds, who are most at risk of being involved in a crash. Statistics show that most drivers are male and most fatal casualties involve female passengers.

Apprentice Training Advisor Darren Collins, who arranged the event, said:

“We are delighted that the emergency services have come together to educate our apprentices, who are the most vulnerable on the roads. The more we can do to educate our young drivers the better and, hopefully, our apprentices will cascade what they have learnt to their friends. This dramatic way of reminding everyone to use a seatbelt, whether they are a driver or passenger, to keep to the speed limit and not to drink and drive, dove-tails with our Bike Safe, Drive Safe and Pass Plus campaigns.”

www.viewcreative.co.uk

“I’ve worked for Airbus for nine years and in that time have seen some of our apprentices unfortunately involved in accidents. As an employer, we have a duty of care to young people to help them get to work safely. Over the past 12 months we have presented this initiative to over 300 apprentices.”

Gareth Griffiths, Senior Fire Safety Manager for North Wales Fire and Rescue Service added:

“As a fire and rescue service we attend a high number of road traffic collisions involving young people – and we are doing all that we can to educate our youngsters and drive down the number of tragedies on our roads.

“We are using every opportunity to engage with youngsters and educate them about road safety. By using visual displays as well as presentations we are hoping that they leave the events

having learnt something that they will remember and use whilst driving.”

Acting Sergeant Mark Jones from North Wales Police Roads Policing Unit also attended. He said: “Multi-agency road safety events have proved to be an excellent way of getting people to think about the consequences of their driving, and by working in partnership, we want to get across to young drivers messages such as the dangers of not wearing a seatbelt, driving too fast and using mobile phones.

“Today we had the opportunity to engage with young people, many of whom are only just passing their driving tests to further educate them on road safety matters.”

Welsh Ambulance Service Paramedic Dermot O’Leary said: “I wholeheartedly endorse the efforts of all agencies that have been here today. Any opportunity in communicating with young people such as this is a plus.”



RHODRI WINS FIRE SAFETY COMPETITION

Ysgol Bethel pupil Rhodri Campbell is a happy camper now that he has won a brand new tent with a host of accessories after taking part in a summer safety competition organised by North Wales Fire and Rescue Service.

Four year old Rhodri took part in a quiz highlighting a number of fire hazards set up within a special tent on the maes of the National Eisteddfod in Glynllifon in August.

Thousands of youngsters took part in this and other similar competitions at events attended by North Wales Fire and Rescue Service throughout the summer, and Rhodri’s answer sheet was the lucky winner whose entry was chosen at random.

Rhodri won a luxury six berth tent along with inflatable beds and sleeping bags, all kindly donated by Gelert Ltd.

Terry Williams, Community Safety Manager for Gwynedd and Môn, said: “The summer safety competition has seen youngsters from across the region

taking part in quizzes to highlight common fire safety dangers and help them understand how to keep as safe as possible from fire during the summer months.

“We had a great reaction to the campaign while out and about at events and we’re thrilled to be presenting this amazing prize to Rhodri, thanks to the generosity of Gelert Ltd.”

A spokesperson from Gelert Ltd said:

“We’re proud to be working in partnership with North Wales Fire and Rescue Service to ensure that everyone using our products in the great outdoors is kept as safe as possible from fire.”



FIREFIGHTERS REMIND FARMERS 'CALL BEFORE YOU BURN!'

Following on from the successful controlled burning campaign which has been running for the last two years, North Wales Fire and Rescue Service visited livestock markets across the region in October and November to ensure landowners take on board some basic safety procedures and notify them when conducting their burn.

The Heather and Grass Burning Code states that burning is allowed only between the 1st of October and the 31st of March in upland areas and the 1st of November and the 15th of March elsewhere.

Many farmers will now be taking the opportunity to undertake controlled burning of heather, grass bracken and gorse on their land.

Staff visited markets in Mold, Gaerwen, Dolgellau, Bryncir, Llanrwst, St Asaph and Ruthin and gave away specially designed calendars and air fresheners branded with the controlled burning number, together with leaflets reminding landowners how to conduct a safe controlled burn.



Building on last year's partnership working, North Wales Fire and Rescue Service also teamed up with officers from the Clwydian Range and Dee Valley Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and the Heather and Hillforts project at some of the markets. The aims is to help encourage farmers in areas of outstanding natural beauty to undertake their controlled heather burning safely, whilst still improving the habitat for agriculture, wildlife and the landscape.

Gareth Griffiths, Senior Fire Safety Manager, said:

"Every year during controlled burning season we are called to countless false alarms and controlled burns which have spread - so we decided to take this campaign to the livestock markets and make face to face contact with landowners to get our messages across."

"We are urging all landowners undertaking controlled burning to notify us by calling our control room on **01745 535805**. This will help avoid false alarms and crews being sent out unnecessarily as well as ensuring we are ready to respond in the event of a burn getting out of control.

"We are also asking these landowners to be responsible when it comes to controlled burning. The fires are set in areas where access is extremely difficult and water supply is limited - should the fire get out of control, this can place tremendous pressure on resources, with firefighters tied up for a considerable length of time trying to bring them under control. These fires can put homes, livestock and the lives of crews and residents at risk as firefighters are kept from attending genuine emergencies."

Staff will visit these markets again early in the new year to continue to promote the campaign before the burning season ends in March.



CEREMONY CELEBRATES COMMITMENT AND DEDICATION

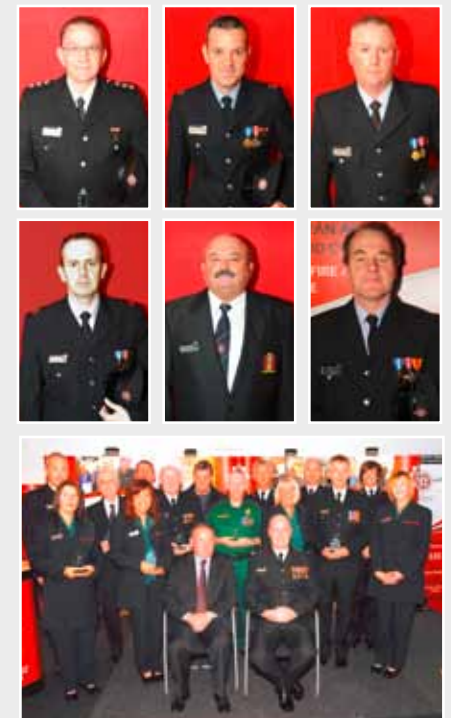
The Lord Lieutenant of Gwynedd, His Honour Huw Morgan Daniel, presented Long Service and Good Conduct Medals to five members of staff during a presentation ceremony held at Rhyl Community Fire Station in September.

The Medal is awarded to firefighters by Her Majesty's Representative in recognition of 20 years of service.

The Chair of the North Wales Fire and Rescue Authority, Councillor Aled Morris Jones presented the Loyal Service award to a member of the Service's support staff who has completed 20 years of service.

Simon Smith, Chief Fire Officer, said: "Receiving a medal is an important occasion for every firefighter and this ceremony collectively represents over 100 years of commitment and dedication to the fire and rescue service in North Wales. All recipients can take pride and satisfaction in receiving their Long Service and Good Conduct Medal s or Loyal Service Awards."

Eight Community Awards were also presented by the Chief Fire Officer and Chair of the Fire and Rescue Authority in order to recognise members of staff and the community who have worked hard to improve community safety in North Wales.



RECYCLING IN SUPPORT OF THE FIRE FIGHTERS CHARITY

North Wales Fire and Rescue Service has signed up for The Fire Fighters Charity Recycling Scheme – a national initiative where clothes banks are placed outside fire stations across the UK.

The Fire Fighters Charity is the UK's leading provider of services that enhance quality of life for serving and retired fire fighters, fire personnel and their families. Their vision is to make a positive difference by supporting people in the fire and rescue community when they are in need. Over the years, they have helped hundreds of thousands of individuals by providing world-class treatment and support services.

Stations in Abersoch, Amlwch, Barmouth, Caernarfon, Llanberis, Llandudno, Pwllheli

and Rhosneigr are all taking part in the pilot and have the charity clothing banks located outside their buildings.

Philip Morris, Environmental and Energy Conservation Engineer for North Wales Fire and Rescue Service and North Wales Police, explains: "Britain produces around 650,000 tonnes of textile waste a year, and textiles make up 12% of landfill sites. Sadly, only a quarter of this is recycled.

"This scheme involves textile items, donated by members of the community, being recycled, with wearable items being sent to developing countries and unsuitable items being recycled for the rag trade.

"The items are collected by the charity's recycling partners, who pay the charity a fee for the textiles received. Supporting the recycling scheme not only raises funds for injured fire fighters but also has a positive environmental and economic impact."

Paul Claydon, Assistant Chief Fire Officer for North Wales Fire and Rescue Service added:

"Across the UK, over £200,000 is raised every year for The Fire Fighters Charity through this recycling scheme. We're hoping to boost this figure further with the new clothing banks we're placing outside these stations in North Wales."

"Currently we are running this as a pilot project at eight stations – but if it's successful we'd like to roll it out to more stations across the region.

"My appeal to our residents is to use these clothing banks to get rid of unwanted clothes and textiles and help protect our environment as well as supporting The Firefighters Charity in the amazing work that they do."



MONEY FOR OLD SOAP - THOUSANDS RAISED!

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

The money raised for The Fire Fighters Charity was boosted by an agreement with Barclays Bank, who pledged to match fund the money raised at a number of the fire stations.

Paul Claydon, Assistant Chief Fire Officer, said: "I am delighted we were able to raise so much money for this worthy charity - thanks to the hard work put into the fundraising by all the staff, their families and friends, and to the public for supporting us by having their cars washed at the station."



'FISH NOT FIRE' FISHING COMPETITION

Robert Wyn Davies, Watch Manager at Blaenau Ffestiniog Fire Station, presented trophies at a fishing competition held by Cambrian Angling Association, North Wales Fire and Rescue Service and North Wales Police during the summer.

The aim of the event was to engage with youngsters in the Blaenau Ffestiniog area and take the opportunity to educate them about deliberate fires whilst taking part in a fishing competition.

Thirty three youngsters took part in the event on Llyn Morynion and 70 fish were caught.

The Arson Reduction Team supported the event as part of its youth activity programme. The team has donated The 'Sgotwr nid Llosgwr' cup for the past seven years.



'TIME IT RIGHT - DON'T SET IT ALIGHT!'

Staff have returned recently to supermarkets across Wrexham town to talk to shoppers about the importance of cooking safely.

Over half of all accidental fires in the home in North Wales involve cooking food – and this figure rises to over 58% in the Wrexham region, where there's the highest number of cooking related fires per head of population.

The 'Time it right – Don't set it alight!' campaign highlights the dangers of getting distracted whilst preparing food and the risks involved with leaving cooking unattended.

Forgetting to turn off the hob, leaving food in the microwave for too long, overheating a chip pan, burning the toast, leaving the oven on – all of these can spell disaster in the kitchen and can lead to serious injury or, even more worryingly, the loss of life.



Staff from the Corporate Communications Department and firefighters first hit the shops to talk to shoppers in March and April of this year, and the second phase of the campaign has just finished in November. Advice was provided on how to stay safe in the kitchen, with free kitchen timers used to encourage people to think safe when they are cooking and to remember to time their cooking correctly. Those entering a cooking safely quiz were entered into a competition with the chance of winning a hamper full of luxury items.

Paul Whybro, Community Safety Manager for Wrexham and Flintshire, said:

"We had a great response to the 'Time it right – Don't set it alight!' campaign launched earlier this year which was why we went back for the second phase, visiting Sainsbury's, Asda, Tesco and Morrisons on a number of Fridays in October and November."

"Time and time again we attend house fires which have started in the kitchen – it is so easy to forget your cooking, especially if you are tired, distracted or have been drinking. But the consequences can be devastating.

"Hopefully, if you live in the Wrexham area, you will have come across us at a supermarket near you – we ask that you please take notice of our campaign. And don't forget – smoke alarms save lives. For a free home fire safety check call our 24 hour freephone number on **0800 169 1234.**"



MERRY CHRISTMAS

WISHING YOU A SAFE AND HAPPY CHRISTMAS FROM ALL THE STAFF AT NORTH WALES FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE.

STUDENTS HELP BRING FIRE SAFETY MESSAGES TO LIFE

Students starting their university life in North Wales were given fire safety advice courtesy of a series of imaginative videos created by young actors at Glyndŵr University.

North Wales Fire and Rescue Service commissioned the group of theatre and performance students to produce the short clips, which have been posted on YouTube.

Each of the student safety videos features a fictional story based on a different safety theme – all with a hard-hitting message.

These include Miss Flame 1963, a spoof chat show which features guests with burns caused by fires, and Seven Deadly Sins, where clips focusing on seven different actions including gluttony, lust and avarice reinforce the fire service's **'Get Out, Stay Out'** message.

Students delivered the project from scratch, devising their own story ideas and then scripting, storyboarding and acting them out. Filming and editing was led by another Glyndŵr University student, Chris Mungovan, who studies creative lens media.

Elen Mai Nefydd, senior lecturer in theatre and performance, said:

"We work with external organisations constantly to provide our students with real-life projects and this is the latest one."

"North Wales Fire Service wanted to do something a little bit different to promote fire safety to freshers students and they approached us to see if we wanted to be involved.

"They were originally only going to pick one of the five videos to use in their publicity but they liked them so much they decided to go with all of them."

Paul Whybro, Community Safety Manager for Wrexham and Flintshire, said:

"We were thrilled to be working with students from Glyndŵr University and were very impressed by the standard of their work. It's important that students understand the importance of staying safe while having fun – and by working with Glyndŵr to create these short, quirky videos we hope our potentially life-saving messages will really hit home."

The five videos were used in a North Wales Fire and Rescue Service Facebook competition where viewers were encouraged to 'like' their favourite.

To view the videos visit:
www.youtube.com/nwalesfireservice



FIRE FIGHTERS CHARITY DRAWS WINNERS

Paul Claydon, Assistant Chief Fire Officer, picked the winners of this year's Fire Fighters Charity Raffle in November.

The winners were Kate Hughes from Amlwch who was presented with the first prize of £150, Mark Ellis from Rhyl who received £100 and Sheryl Teal Bromley from Mostyn who received a prize of £50.

Paul Claydon said: "I'd like to thank everyone who donated to this worthy cause by buying a ticket over the summer and congratulations to all the winners."

