



DECEMBER 2019

INFORMATIVE

The quarterly bulletin of the North Wales Fire and Rescue Service

GLITTERING ANNUAL AWARDS CEREMONY

One of the highlights of the North Wales Fire and Rescue Service calendar, celebrating achievements.

ASSISTING AT RECENT FLOODING IN YORKSHIRE

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PROUD TO ACHIEVE WHITE RIBBON ACCREDITATION



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North Wales Fire and Rescue Service has been awarded White Ribbon accreditation in recognition of the actions it is taking to help end male violence against women.

Justin Evans, Head of Community Safety, said: "I'm very proud that the Service has received official White Ribbon accreditation.



"We are ensuring that the unacceptable issue of male violence against women is highlighted at fire stations and workplaces across North Wales, and as a Service we are taking active steps to help stop violence against women by raising awareness and empowering colleagues to speak out.

"We have supported White Ribbon events for a number of years and are currently delivering training for staff in accordance with the National Training Framework on violence against women, domestic abuse and sexual violence (VAWDASV).



"A number of our staff, including our Chief Fire Officer, Assistant Chief Fire Officers and Senior Managers have completed the ambassador or champion training, promising never to commit, excuse or remain silent about male violence against women.

"We have an action plan in place which includes displaying the white ribbon emblem on all fire appliances, and we will be embedding the messages of the campaign across the Service - with the aim of encouraging staff across the region to sign up to become Ambassadors or Champions"

"We will also be exploring the possibility of our fire cadets receiving awareness training through the White Ribbon's recently announced youth advocacy programme, in keeping with the theme of creating a future without male violence against women."

Anthea Sully, Chief Executive of White Ribbon UK, said: "We are really pleased that North Wales Fire and Rescue Service has achieved White Ribbon Accreditation. An organisation delivering its action plan can reach a considerable number of people and really make a difference."





GLITTERING AWARDS CEREMONY CELEBRATES ACHIEVEMENTS

The annual awards ceremony is one of the highlights of the North Wales Fire and Rescue Service calendar and this year’s celebration of achievements took place at Rhyl Community Fire Station in September.

The event brings people together in order to recognise and celebrate members of staff and the community who have worked hard to improve community safety in North Wales.

Eight Community Awards were presented by Chief Fire Officer Simon Smith and Councillor Peter Lewis, Chair of the Fire and Rescue Authority.

This year’s winners were;

Community Awards

STATION OF THE YEAR AWARD

This award is for the station that has carried out notable work during the last 12 months and has been recognised by the Professional and Service Standards Department.

This year the winners were staff from Bala Fire Station.

They are considered to be exemplars in terms of management and cleanliness of the station and they performed well during the operational assessments.

The dedication and commitment of the crew and the management team is considered to be of a standard that other stations should aspire to, as they regularly go above and beyond to manage availability.

THE COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNER AWARD

This award recognises the work of partner agencies or public bodies who work in partnership with North Wales Fire and Rescue Service in their quest to deliver vital community safety messages.

Denbighshire Youth Service were the winners this year for their

partnership working with staff from the Arson Reduction Team to develop a new initiative, designed to engage and educate young people and increase their awareness of the consequences of deliberate fire setting. On completion of the course, the students are awarded a Level One Agored accreditation.

By working in partnership with Denbighshire Youth Service the Arson Reduction Team has been able to enhance the qualification further and help to continue to engage young people across North Wales, whilst helping them gain a recognised qualification.

This initiative has led to a reduction in anti-social behaviour and in deliberate fire incidents within the targeted areas.



OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTION BY AN INDIVIDUAL AWARD

This award recognises a member of staff who regularly works above and beyond their normal duties.

Gary Price, a firefighter at Colwyn Bay Fire Station, won this year for his dedication to voluntary work in his local school and with Duke of Edinburgh Award groups for the past 28 years.

Gary has regularly given his time to support the station, both on and off duty, including bonfire night and charity car washes. He has also taken the role as a mentor to a number of the Firefighter Apprentices who recently joined the Service.

Gary is always willing to assist others and recently assisted the Training and Development Department with recruitment and taster days. He has also assisted the Community Safety Department in the delivery of road safety advice to young people.

COMMITMENT TO THE WELSH LANGUAGE

This award recognises a valuable contribution to the Welsh language, or particular commitment and determination towards learning Welsh over the past 12 months.

Lynne Hindley, HR Management Assistant from Headquarters, was chosen as the winner this year.

Lynne has completed the Level 3 Welsh language course voluntarily

and is always eager to practice her Welsh by email and through apps and chatting sessions in the workplace.

During the latest recruitment campaign Lynne ensured that candidates were offered language choice at each stage and ensured there were sufficient Welsh speaking officers to undertake Welsh interviews.

She always ensures that the Welsh language is high on the agenda for the Service and the HR Department.

EMPLOYER OF THE YEAR

The Employer of the Year Award is in recognition of a local employer who regularly releases staff to carry out

firefighting duties in the community. These employers are essential in assisting to keep fire appliances available across North Wales.

Flintshire Auto Services NW Limited was recognised this year. The company is based on Bromfield Industrial Estate in Mold, and has a long history of supporting the fire and rescue service by allowing employees to respond to emergency incidents.

The owner of the organisation has allowed Kevin Ford to be released for fire calls for six years and last summer Kevin was required to respond to operational incidents on a number of occasions and had the full support of his employer.



Without the co-operation and understanding of employers, a fire station's availability could be affected - the unavailability of just one member of the crew could make that station unable to attend calls within the community.

DEDICATION TO SERVICE

This award recognises an individual who has provided excellent commitment to the on-call or retained service in North Wales for over 33 years.

There were three individuals who won the award.

Edryd Williams joined Gwynedd Fire Service in 1986. He is currently Crew Manager at Pwllheli Fire Station.

Brian Williams joined Gwynedd Fire Service in 1986 and has served his entire career at Dolgellau Fire Station.



Stephen Hill joined Clwyd Fire Service in 1986. He was promoted to Crew Manager in 1991 and is currently acting Watch Manager at Mold Fire Station.

HEALTH CHAMPIONS

The Service recognises the link between healthy employees and an efficient, productive workforce and encourages staff to maintain their fitness to ensure their safety as well as the safety of others in the community.

This award recognises an individual or team who has worked hard to raise the profile, or be exemplars of health and fitness.

This year Jennifer Roberts, Firefighter Control Operator working in the Joint Communications Centre in St Asaph, won the award.

Jenny decided to promote the national Health and Wellbeing Week within the Joint Communications Centre this year.

She wanted to raise the profile of health and wellbeing amongst the staff who work in the control room and planned various activities that would take place throughout the week.

She organised activities including, walks around the site, completing puzzles to stimulate the mind, sharing tips on exercise and healthy eating. During the week, visits were arranged from the Service's Health and Fitness Advisors and from Buddy the Pet Therapy dog.

CHARITY AWARD

This award recognises an individual or team who has worked hard to raise money for a charity.

The winners this year were the crew at Mold Fire Station.

Mold Fire Station organises and facilitates the local firework and bonfire event. Thousands of local people from the surrounding community attend the Mold annual bonfire, which assists in keeping people safe during the bonfire period.

The funds raised during this annual event are donated to local charities and other worthwhile causes. In addition, the event provides an opportunity to give safety advice and encourage members of the community to complete safe and well referral forms.

Mold staff have organised this successful event and provided a vital service to the community for over 20 years.

LONG SERVICE AND GOOD CONDUCT MEDALS

During the ceremony, 11 members of staff were presented with Long Service and Good Conduct Medals by the Lord Lieutenant of Clwyd, Mr Harry George Fetherstonhaugh OBE.

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

The medal recipients this year were;

Jâmi Jennings
Tim Owen
Gareth Threlfall
Ernest Hughes
Jonathan Thomas
Gwyndaf Williams
Stuart Bell
Paul Higgins
Mark Jones
Neil Jones
Andrew Kilpatrick.



Simon Smith presented the Loyal Service award to Tina Gray, retired ICT support officer, and Peter King, Operational Trainer, who both successfully completed forty years of exemplary service.

Certificates were also presented by Simon Smith, Chief Fire Officer to six firefighters for the completion of the Firefighter Apprentice qualification earlier this year;

Thomas Brain
Jamie Williams
Chris Holgate
Dan McNulty
Charles Mills
Tomos Givelin.

FIRE CONTROL STAFF PRAISE NEW LOCATION FINDER APP

Peter Davis, Head of Control, explains more: "We're echoing the words of police forces across the UK who have been promoting this app recently and encouraging the public to download it on their smart phones."

"The purpose of the app is to pinpoint unique locations down to a 3m x 3m square."

"The smartphone user will identify from the app which three words are the unique identifier for the location that they are in and it is then possible for others to identify their specific location once these words are conveyed."

"This is very useful for places that do not have a recognised address or for individuals that are lost or unsure of their location."

"The caller simply tells the control operator the three-word location and this is loaded into a website that shows with a high degree of accuracy their location."

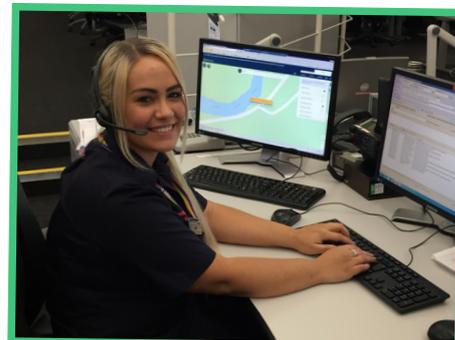
"The control operators are now able to guide those who may be lost or unsure of where they are to download the app and assist them to use it to help locate them. While this will not replace our current use of standard gazetteers and mapping it may help assist in those cases where all other methods of location have been exhausted."

"Here at North Wales Fire and Rescue Service the app was used within a few weeks of going live with

the trial to pinpoint the map reference of a fire at Gwydr Forest, ensuring that the correct appliance



Staff from North Wales Fire and Rescue Service's control room are encouraging residents and visitors to the area to download the increasingly popular What3Words app which can help pinpoint locations in the event of an emergency.



was mobilised to deal with the incident as quickly as possible.

"The app can be used in emergency situations and is also a useful aid for anyone who needs a better understanding of their location."

"It's great to see new technology being developed which is accessible for most of us and can really make a big difference in times of need."

SUMMER COMPETITION WINNER ANNOUNCED



Visitors to the North Wales Fire and Rescue Service stand at events which took place over the summer months were given the opportunity to take part in our fire safety competition by answering five questions about smoke alarms.

Llew Roberts from Gwynedd won the competition and visited Caernarfon Fire Station with his sister to collect a Fitbit watch as his prize.



WE WILL REMEMBER THEM



Members of staff from across the Service, joined by some of the Fire Cadets, took part in remembrance events throughout the region in November to commemorate Armistice Day which marked the 100 year anniversary of the Festival of Remembrance.

Officers represented the Service at the Cenotaph in London, Cardiff and Durham and marched along with other emergency services staff from the United Kingdom.





NORTH WALES FIRE CREWS ASSIST AT YORKSHIRE FLOODING

Fire crews from North Wales were deployed under National Resilience arrangements to support the flooding response in South Yorkshire in November.

Stuart Millington, Senior Operation Manager, explains: “Staff from Deeside and Bangor Fire Stations worked alongside colleagues from South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service, the Environment Agency and their partners.

“They were tasked to support a multi-agency response to ensure the continued operation of a key pumping station located in one of the areas that is significantly affected by floodwater, and were also deployed to Fishlake to provide emergency supplies to residents, and to Doncaster Fire Station to provide a water rescue capability.

“They also helped rescue a driver and two others from a vehicle which was transferring fuel and had become stranded during operations.

“Partnership working in times of crisis is key – and once again these incidents serve as a showcase for how agencies across the UK can and should come together in times of need to protect and serve our communities.”





VISIT BY DEPUTY MINISTER

Deputy Minister for Housing and Local Government Hannah Blythyn AM visited Wrexham’s Ambulance and Fire Services Resource Centre in October to discuss the preventative work carried out across the Service.

She met with Simon Smith, Chief Fire Officer, and Mr Peter Lewis, Chair of the Fire and Rescue Authority, and was taken on a tour of the facilities at Wrexham before meeting local staff.

EDUCATING STUDENTS ABOUT FIRE SAFETY

Fire and rescue service staff have been targeting students during September as part of a campaign to educate about fire safety in the home.



Representatives from the Service visited Freshers Fairs at both Bangor and Glyndŵr universities where students took part in a short safety quiz in return for a free reusable coffee mug.

Gwyn Jones, Community Safety Manger for Gwynedd and Anglesey,

said: “The Freshers Fairs were extremely busy and we spoke to hundreds of students about the importance of fire safety, sharing our tips to keep them safe.

“We’ve also been giving advice on how to avoid false alarms at the halls of residence – in fact we have been working in partnership with both universities on this issue for a number of years and have seen considerable progress.

“Many of these young people are living away from home and their parents for the first time and are potentially very vulnerable.

“Our messages were promoted on social media, encouraging students to like and share our Facebook posts and to follow us on Twitter and Instagram for further fire safety advice.

“We will continue to work with staff at the universities throughout the year to promote fire safety at various events at their sites.”