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# INFORMATIVE

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



**AWARDS CEREMONY  
CELEBRATES STAFF  
AND COMMUNITY**

**PROMOTING  
FIRE SAFETY**

on Older People's Day

**NEW EDUCATIONAL  
RESOURCES**

available across Wales

# AWARDS CEREMONY CELEBRATES ACHIEVEMENTS

North Wales Fire and Rescue Service's Awards Ceremony was held at the Rhyl Community Fire Station in September to recognise and celebrate members of staff and the community who have worked hard to improve community safety in North Wales. Ten Community Awards were presented by Simon Smith, Chief Fire Officer, and Councillor Meirick Lloyd Davies, Chair of the Fire and Rescue Authority.



The winners were:

## Outstanding Contribution by an Individual

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

This year two individuals won this category – **Lynne Jones** from the Arson Reduction Team and firefighter **Dilwyn Thomas** from Caernarfon.

Lynne took on an extra role to cover a maternity period to provide resilience for the department. Dilwyn assisted in providing first aid at an incident after he witnessed a man falling from a bridge in Caernarfon.

## Outstanding Contribution to the Welsh Language

This award is presented to an individual who has worked hard to promote the Welsh language within the Service.

The winner was **Terry Williams**, Head of Community Safety who used to chair an internal meeting in Welsh, carries out interviews for posts in Welsh and acts as a Welsh spokesperson for media interviews.

## 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.

This year the award was shared between two organisations – **The Early Intervention Team** and **Flintshire and Wrexham Online Watch Link Association**.

Since the Early Intervention Team was established there has been a significant reduction in the number of vulnerable individuals needing police attendances and the team identifies any issues before they occur.

Flintshire and Wrexham Online Watch Link Association has assisted North Wales Fire and Rescue Service to deliver over 3,000 Home Safety Checks.

## Employer of the Year Award

The Employer of the Year Award is in recognition of a local employer who regularly releases staff to carry out fire fighting duties in the community.

This year's winner was **Siemens Healthcare Diagnostics Products Limited**. There are five members of staff at Siemens who respond to operational calls at Llanberis Fire Station. Over the years there have been other staff members who were released for operational incidents from Siemens.

## Station of the Year

This award is for the station that has carried out notable work during the last 12 months.

This year the award was presented to **Llanrwst Fire Station** following a tragic incident the crew attended last October where two people died in a house fire in the town.



Dilwyn Thomas



Dave Harrison, Trustee of Flintshire and Wrexham Online Watch Link association



Chris Catt and Elis Jones



### Young Person of the Year

This award is for a young person who has demonstrated commitment in any activity with the Service.

This year there were two winners **Chris Catt** from Chirk and **Elis Jones** from the Prestatyn branch.

Chris Catt assisted to provide first aid to a passenger who became unwell and at one point had stopped breathing on a flight from Almeria to Manchester last year.

Elis Jones witnessed an accident involving a tractor driven by his brother Rhys that had rolled over twice and assisted with first aid and assisted paramedics.



### The Dedication to Service Award

This award is presented to an individual who has provided excellent commitment to the Fire and Rescue Service in North Wales as a result of extended service as a member of the retained duty system for over 33 years.

This year the award went to **Steven Jones** and **David Jones** both from Abergele Fire Station.



Kayleigh Harper



### Learner of the Year

The Learner of the Year Award is presented to an individual who has shown commitment and determination towards learning Welsh.

The winner was **Kayleigh Harper**, Third Sector Coordinator based at Rhyl.

Kayleigh recently completed a Level 3 course and scored a very high mark in the exam. Since completing this course she has been very enthusiastic about using the Welsh that she learnt and is determined to continue with learning the language to assist in her role within the Service.



### Health Champions Award

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

The winners were the personnel of **Holywell Fire Station** for achieving an outstanding attendance record. Between the 1st January and the 31st December 2014 the 11 members of crew at Holywell managed to achieve a 100% attendance record, as no one booked sick for a 12 month period.



### Award 10 – Staff Suggestion Scheme

The staff suggestion scheme provides an opportunity for staff to suggest new ideas or initiatives that will improve the way in which the Service can be delivered more efficiently or effectively.

This year there were five winners.

**Steve Morris** who works in the Information, Communications and Technology department in Conwy suggested to develop a smartphone app to provide regular pop-up reminders for people to test the smoke alarm as well as fire-safety based games for children and adults.

**Nicola Jones** works in the Human Resources Department in Headquarters and her suggestion was to increase the use of Welsh in the workplace by highlighting members of staff that are Welsh speakers via the email directory.

**Avril Wright** is responsible for the Stores department. Avril's suggestion will create cashable savings and involves adapting the method of fastening role markings onto undress jackets so that if a member of staff changes jobs, whether temporarily or permanently, the jacket's role markings can be adapted.

**Sandra Fawcett** works in the Joint Communications Centre in St Asaph. Her idea was based on collaborative working with the county councils' recycling departments to incorporate fire safety messages around controlled burning on any literature sent out regarding waste collections.

**Tim Owen**, Operational Trainer with the Training and Development department, suggested a new security system for accessing all premises of North Wales Fire and Rescue Service.



**Nine Long Service and Good Conduct Medals** were presented to members of staff by the Lord Lieutenant of Clwyd, Mr Harry George Fetherstonhaugh OBE. The medal is awarded to firefighters by Her Majesty's Representative in recognition of 20 years service.

#### The recipients were:

- **Stuart Millington**
- **Gavin Roberts**
- **Justin Evans**
- **Mike Owen**
- **Dave Roberts**
- **Dave Hughes**
- **Ian Werner**
- **Arfon Hughes**
- **James Jones**



Justin Evans



The Chair of the North Wales Fire and Rescue Authority, Councillor Meirick Lloyd Davies also presented the **Loyal Service Award** to **Margaret Windrum**, who completed 20 years service as a member of the support staff.

# NEW EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES ROLLED OUT ACROSS WALES

**The three fire and rescue services in Wales have collaborated to create new fire safety educational resources for Welsh pupils.**

After months of concerted development work, the innovative resources were launched in schools across Wales earlier this autumn.

The resources include new workbooks and storyboards to aid in fire safety education targeted at KS1 and KS2 pupils. The star of this educational material aimed at younger age groups is the popular fire and rescue service mascot 'Tanni'.

A video titled 'A Night to Remember' will be targeted at KS3 and KS4 audiences. This hard hitting film will address a variety of common issues amongst those in this older age group, such as underage drinking, peer pressure, the effects of social media, bullying and reckless behaviour.

Stuart Millington, Senior Fire Safety Manager, said: "This project recognises that it is not only a duty on us as fire and rescue services to tackle fire safety issues, but also to address other antisocial problems such as underage drinking, peer pressure, and the effects of social media – all topics which are highlighted in this new DVD.

"Our educationalists worked closely with 'Cwmni Da' to create the film, which gives an insight not only into the dangers of reckless behaviour and deliberate fire setting, but also to what the consequences of these actions are, and how they affect the lives of people involved.



"Tanni is such a success with youngsters that we are really proud of our mascot – and in recognition of this, our much loved character has been given a special makeover to take us into the future. We're now looking forward to seeing the new resources utilised within schools across Wales."

The new DVD was launched with Year 9 pupils at St David's High School, Saltney and the Tanni educational materials were launched at Ysgol Nant y Coed in Llandudno Junction.

Mr Chris Usher, Headteacher at St David's High School, said:

*"We feel very privileged to be involved in such a worthwhile project and hope that the message will get through to as many pupils across Wales as possible. The film itself was very hard hitting but so worthwhile and important. The fact that it has young Welsh actors in it means that all secondary school pupils can relate to it in some way."*



# TRAUMA TEDDIES JOIN FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE

**North Wales Fire and Rescue Service has taken on some important new recruits in the shape of some colourful knitted soft toys.**

The creations are hand made by a local knitting enthusiast and are being used to help comfort children and vulnerable people at upsetting incidents.

'Trauma Teddies' have been used for a number of years, but stocks had been running low. A recent incident where the teddies were used to comfort a young boy and girl at the scene of a road traffic collision prompted firefighters to put out an appeal to keen knitters.

Patricia Morris, 72, from Wrexham heard about the appeal through her daughter Denise who works as a cook at Wrexham Fire Station. She has knitted dozens of bears and continues to produce multi-coloured creations.

Patricia said: "It's a lovely idea, and I'm happy to help North Wales Fire and Rescue Service. I may even mention it to my other knitting friends so they can make even more teddies!"

The toys Patricia has knitted will be kept on board fire engines based across North Wales, and will be handed out by firefighters as and when needed.



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**Paul Scott, Community Safety Manager for Wrexham and Flintshire, said: "The 'Trauma Teddies' scheme is an excellent way to provide comfort for children and vulnerable people at traumatic incidents. Having a physical item to hold on to can really help relieve anxiety, especially in children.**

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"We are proud to be working with the community in this way. We would like to thank Patricia for getting involved and taking the time and effort to create each individual toy."

# 'HAVE A CUPPA ON US!' TO PROMOTE FIRE SAFETY FOR OLDER PEOPLE

North Wales Fire and Rescue Service took part in an Older People's Day 2015 initiative in October aimed at encouraging people to take responsibility for looking after their health and wellbeing as they age.

VIP invites were issued to older people to 'Have a cuppa on us!' and help spread the word about fire safety.

Statistics show that the risk of dying in a fire for those aged 65 and over is more than twice as high as the average risk for all ages. This is especially of concern with an ageing population, with 23% of the UK expected to be aged 65 and over by 2035.

Although older people are at greater risk from fire there are a few simple precautions they can take to make sure they are as safe as possible.

Staff from the Service attended a variety of local events to promote fire safety for older people at Connah's Quay, Llandudno and Dolgellau, as well as hosting an event at the Community Fire Station in Rhyl.

Gwyn Jones, Community Safety Manager for Conwy and Denbighshire, said: "We work hard to ensure that members of the public from across all age groups receive the vital fire safety information they need.

"This was the first time we held such an event at a fire station, and it was great to get to meet visitors on a less formal basis over a cup of tea.



*"We provided 'special edition' boxes of teabags for everyone to take home with them - so they can continue to spread the fire safety message, and the support we provide to their friends and families over a cup of tea."*



# RAISING THE PROFILE OF PROBLEM GRASS FIRES

North Wales farmer and well known TV personality Gareth Wyn Jones is lending his support to Welsh fire and rescue services this autumn to help promote and raise the profile of the importance of following the Heather and Grass Burning Code.

Gareth, who farms in Llanfairfechan in Conwy, is starring in two new safety videos – the first aimed at encouraging landowners to notify fire and rescue services prior to conducting their burns, and the second to help stamp out and report deliberate fires caused by irresponsible firestarters.

The new ‘Call before you burn!’ and ‘Help stop deliberate fires’ videos, are both available to view on the Service’s YouTube channel and were launched at Ruthin farmers market in October

Gareth’s messages are simple – ‘Don’t put the lives of others at risk. Be responsible!’ when it comes to conducting a controlled burn.

‘Deliberate fire setting is not just a form of antisocial behaviour, it is a criminal act’ – encouraging the reporting of irresponsible fire starting to Crimestoppers.

Gareth said: “I was only too happy to promote these messages to help protect the public, property and the wider environment.

“As farmers it’s our responsibility to protect wildlife – if we burn natural nesting areas out of the burning season we will not only be breaking the law but severely damaging the ecology of our landscapes.

*“Wales is renowned for its areas of outstanding natural beauty, but sadly we are frequently seeing these areas being destroyed due to deliberate fire setting. A fire can spread quickly and is extremely unpredictable.”*



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.

Stuart Millington, Senior Fire Safety Manager at North Wales Fire and Rescue Service, said: “Every year during controlled burning season we are called to countless false alarms and controlled burns which have spread resulting in valuable land and property being destroyed as well as tying up our resources which could be put to better use elsewhere.

“We urge all landowners undertaking controlled burning to notify us first by calling our control room on **01931 522 006** to help avoid false alarms and fire crews being sent out unnecessarily.



“We are also asking these landowners to be responsible when it comes to controlled burning – with detailed advice available on our website [www.nwalesfireservice.org.uk](http://www.nwalesfireservice.org.uk) on how to avoid unnecessary risk.

“Unfortunately, we also often see a rise in deliberate fires at certain times of the year, frequently caused by young people. So Gareth is also helping us to highlight that setting fires is a criminal offence and that we actively work with police to combat deliberate incidents. We appeal to anyone with information on such activities to report it to **Crimestoppers** or contact **101**.”

# COOKING SAFELY COMPETITION WINNER ANNOUNCED

**Marianne Wright from Rhyl was thrilled to be presented with £100 worth of supermarket vouchers after being picked at random as the lucky winner in our recent 'We Don't Want to Come Dine with You!' Facebook cooking safety competition.**

She helped to promote cooking safety by sharing one of the competition messages on the Service's official Facebook page.

Residents can continue to take part in the quiz online at: [www.facebook.com/Northwalesfireservice](http://www.facebook.com/Northwalesfireservice) for a chance to win £100 in vouchers. The next winner will be announced in March 2016.



## HAVE YOUR SAY!

**North Wales Fire and Rescue Service recognises it's essential that the communities we serve can shape and influence the services we deliver as well as how we deliver them – and that it's important to provide people with an opportunity to tell us their specific needs so that we can set our priorities accordingly.**

We're committed to promoting equal opportunities in employment and service delivery across the whole organisation – and have recently launched a consultation encouraging the public to have their say on our future equality objectives.

Assistant Chief Fire Officer Ruth Simmons said: "It's our policy to ensure that all service users, job applicants and employees are treated fairly and with care. We recognise that people can experience disadvantage and discrimination for many reasons, and fully support the provisions of current legislation to remove these barriers.

We are committed to leading in this process, not only because of a legal imperative but also because to do so helps us in achieving our operational and business goals as well as demonstrating the role of the Service in promoting community cohesion within the region.

"Equality is about creating a fairer society where diversity is valued and respected, where people do not face discrimination and prejudice and where everyone can participate, flourish and have the opportunity to fulfil their potential."

North Wales Fire and Rescue Service is therefore mindful of the need to:

- Eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation
- Advance equality of opportunity
- Promote good relations between different groups of people and communities.

The Equality Act 2010 harmonised and strengthened equality legislation under one new Act which requires public sector bodies to have due regard to these issues.

We are therefore actively encouraging people to inform the Service how we should work towards our equality objectives over the next four years. The Act lists a number of characteristics which must not be used as a reason to treat some people worse than others – these are the 'protected characteristics'.

Assistant Chief Fire Officer Ruth Simmons added: "The purpose of this consultation is to find out what people feel are the greatest barriers facing those with protected characteristics in North Wales and what our equality objectives should be for our Strategic Equality Plan 2016-2020.

"This is an important consultation that covers equality in relation to a variety of different areas. Please take this opportunity to tell us what you think our equality priorities should be."

Please visit [www.yourvoicewrexham.net](http://www.yourvoicewrexham.net) to have your say. Further information, including the closing date, can be found at [www.nwales-fireservice.org.uk](http://www.nwales-fireservice.org.uk)

## Wishing you a safe and happy Christmas

from all the staff at  
North Wales Fire and Rescue Service!