



Women in the Fire Service UK



Welcome to the WFS Winter Newsletter

We would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a
very
Happy New Year and thank you for your continued support.

Last year seemed to fly by but we had a great year with the launch of our Women's Development Programme, an extremely successful Training & Development event and progressing with other projects as you will read about below.

We are looking forward to another really busy year ahead and hope you will join us by keeping in touch.

19th National Training & Development Event

'SAVE THE DATE' 21-23 June 2019

Women in the Fire Service 19th National Training and Development Weekend

Contact us to register your interest or provide a purchase order to secure your place.

Delegate fee £440.00
(Corporate Affiliate Members receive a 10% discount)

Full programme and workshop outlines will be available early 2019

"Thank you!
It's been
brilliant and
inspiring"



"Thank you for
an amazing weekend,
came on my own and
was scared but had an
amazing time"

"I have loved my time
here, it's my 4th time. I will be
back next year. These weekends
have been the making of me.
Thank you"



For further information:
Website: www.wfs.org.uk
Email: contact@wfs.org.uk
Telephone: 01366 381237



Proudly hosted by
The Fire Service College

We had a fantastic Training & Development event last year where we welcomed 214 delegates from over 30 National Fire & Rescue Services, the RNLI and International delegates from The Netherlands and Sweden. Feedback from the event was excellent as you can see from a few below.

'Thank you so much for making me feel so welcome I have been completely humbled by it!'

'Brilliant weekend with good combination of learning and networking'

'Fantastic weekend - bring on 2019!'

'WFS is an incredible organisation, keep up the brilliant work, you are truly making a difference'

Planning has already started for this year's event and our aim is to provide many more places for delegates.

The weekend will have many of the popular workshops on offer and lots more to give delegates new opportunities to learn, develop and share experiences.

So what's not to like "Come and join us".....

This event is open to all operational and support employees within the Fire Service.

The fee to attend is £440 per person with 10% discount for Corporate Affiliate Members.

More information will be available on our website www.wfs.org.uk as soon as it becomes available so keep looking. We hope to have the booking system open at the beginning of March.

Emergency Services Show Birmingham



Last year the WFS stand was in collaboration with the other services under the banner of FIREAID, and included Operation Florian, Saraid, SESHA, UKRO and AFSA all showcasing the difference we can bring to the UK fire and rescue service and beyond.

As in previous years our stand has been very busy with many different enquiries and conversations; some looking for information about becoming a firefighter, some from businesses offering services such as female operational kit, some interested in the network and offering

innovative workshops for our training and development weekend. As always feedback from other services and the public has been positive and supportive reflecting the professionalism of the team and the network.

Women's Development Programme



Delegates at the East Sussex Women's Development Programme

Last year saw the start of the Women's Development Programme delivered by Women to Work. Four programmes have been successfully completed since February in London Fire Brigade, Humberside Fire & Rescue Service, Cambridgeshire Fire & Rescue Service and East Sussex Fire & Rescue Service. The next programme will begin this month in South Yorkshire Fire & Rescue Service. Feedback has been extremely positive and here are some words from recent delegates...

“Alongside additional support and guidance from HR, the initial session, the inspirational speeches and guidance of the sessions made it clear that I was ready to pursue promotion and achieve it temporarily. The sessions are a safe and structured opportunity to share experiences and learn and be guided to move onto the next part of my journey” Delegate, Humberside Fire & Rescue Service

“It’s surprising how useful it is to just get the vague ideas that have been floating around in your head out onto paper and into discussion.” Delegate, London Fire Brigade

The programme covers:

- Work Life Stages
- Role Models
- Values & Behaviours
- Achievements, Strengths & Skills
- Working Identity
- Change & Transition
- Personal Development Goals & Action Plan

All delegates will be provided with a Personal Development Plan Workbook and a range of self-coaching tools to use during the workshops and in the future.

We are always looking for host services so if you are either interested in hosting or attending a programme or please contact Karen Smith at contact@wfs.org.uk or by phone on 01366 381237

Joint projects with FIRE AID in Lebanon and South Sudan

South Sudan

A small team has just returned from South Sudan as part of a joint Fire Aid/Women in the Fire Service mission for the United Nations. This trip was to carry out some training in the camps there for Internally Displaced People.

Lebanon

A small team from Fire & Rescue Services across the UK including some ladies from WFS will be visiting the refugee camps in Lebanon at the end of January to carry out gender specific research on how best to deliver fire safety advice to women and children in the settlements. Temperatures are likely to be sub-zero and therefore fire risks within the camps will be at their highest. Gaining an understanding of the challenges families have to face along and their cultural differences will give valuable insight in how best to support them with fire safety advice and guidance.

Photos and a full reports will follow in the next newsletter.

Meet the Team

Alex Johnson
Assistant Chief Officer
South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service
WFS Executive Member



What a whirlwind of a year! I took up post of Assistant Chief Fire Officer in South Yorkshire in December 2017, leaving my beloved Derbyshire FRS after more than 26 years. It meant so many changes- moving house, my daughter Nell moving schools and my hubby changing jobs. Not at all stressful!

But changing how different could things really be? After all flames are still yellow and we still put water on them, don't we!

It's fair to say it's been a steep learning curve and I now realise how comfortable I was in Derbyshire. I didn't like not knowing everyone's name, what they did and where they were from. There are also different relationships with Rep Bodies. Not to mention all the different policies and procedures, meeting structures and shift systems- the list goes on! There have been a few occasions where I thought my head would explode with information overload.

Regrets? I've had a few! However, the people who work for South Yorkshire are as committed, caring and professional as the people of Derbyshire. They have welcomed me into the SY Fire family and I am glad I made the move. I still use a sat nav to get everywhere but home and I'm still learning people's names. But I don't say 'In Derbyshire' quite as often as I did, and I now feel like I've been here forever.

What next? I will become temporary Deputy Chief in January (I didn't see that one coming!) with an ambition to get that post permanently in spring.

I still doubt myself as an ACO as much as I did as a CM. I still worry I won't be good enough, but I seem to be doing ok. Seize the day ladies, you won't know if you don't try!

General Data Protection Regulations

GDPR

Most of you will have contact with this new legislation either at work or home. WFS is no different and we have to make sure all the personal and sensitive information which comes our way is taken care of properly which is no more than you would expect no less. We have received our registration certification from the ICO, have developed an action plan which we are working through and have agreed a privacy policy which can be found on the web site. Whilst we do not store masses of information, we have carried out a check of how we deal and store data and have made some changes to our processes. If we have an email address for you and you really do not want to hear from us anymore, do let us know why, it is important we understand the reasons. Of course, we will remove all your details from our system to ensure not to bother you again.



Following on from the 1st ever awards ceremony aimed at blue light emergency controls and to celebrate the unsung heroes of the control room APD are now well into making arrangements for the 2nd event.

At the 2018 Control Room Awards, recipients from FRS were

Northern Ireland FRS Crew Commander **Clive Hamilton** for Community Champion

Cornwall FRS **Edd Redwood** Control Room despatcher

London Fire Brigade **Two watch** team of the year (who received a standing ovation)

London Fire Brigade Lifetime achievement award **Lyn Juby**

There are several awards to consider, so do you know someone, a team or entire Control who might be eligible

for recognition. 2018 awards saw some contenders from the FRS, but let's make 2019 full of FRS nominees. Cheryl has been invited to be a judge again for these awards so please don't make contact with her in relation to any applications.

So, can you put your thinking caps on for

- Lifetime achievement
- Awards for services to the Public
- Control Room Call taker of the year
- Control room dispatcher of the year
- Young achiever of the year
- Community Champion award
- Leader of the year
- Team of the year
- Special recognition award for bravery & courage

For more details, go to control room awards @CR_awards. And let's get these nominations flooding in for FRS unsung heroes

All contributions welcome

Do you have any news or views you would like to share, if so please email to contact@wfs.org.uk

Become an Individual member of WFS
by completing the membership form on our website and
email to Karen Smith
<https://wfs.org.uk/membership/>

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