

YFA News

November 2018



The Young Firefighters Association

The Young Firefighters Association (YFA) helps 13-17 year olds challenge themselves, make new friends, learn exciting firefighting skills and help their communities. A lot of their time is spent on the training yard, practising firefighting drills, but they also get involved in plenty of other exciting and challenging activities. Whether these young people go on to become firefighters or not, they will undoubtedly learn a range of vital skills that will help them in their everyday lives.

This newsletter gives an overview of the activities undertaken in the last three months by members of the YFA.



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FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE

Droitwich YFA get Water Smart

YFA members used part of their summer camp to get 'Water Smart', to develop their water safety skills and pilot a new initiative from the Royal Life Saving Society UK (RLSS UK).

Sixteen members of the Young Firefighters Association (YFA) from Droitwich undertook the RLSS UK programme designed to give children and young people greater awareness of their own and other people's safety and risks in and around open water, whilst on summer camp on the River Wye.

The week-long camp in the Wye Valley also included hiking, kayaking, mountain-biking, bushcraft, and climbing, to encourage team building, communication, and learning to depend on each other.

The Water Smart training was completed recently indoors with the generous permission to use the swimming pool at Bromsgrove School.



Members of Droitwich YFA in the River Wye during and after their Water Smart training



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Redditch Young Firefighter receives High Sheriff Award

At the annual HWFRS Worcestershire Medals and Awards Ceremony, Redditch Young Firefighter Shaun Grice (15) was presented with an award by the High Sheriff of Worcestershire, in recognition of his 'great and valuable services to the community'. The award is presented to the Young Firefighter who has shown the most improvement across a range of skills over the preceding 12 months, and who has demonstrated determination, enthusiasm and a desire to improve their personal skills and work within a team of young people.

Shaun travels a round-trip of 30 miles every week to the YFA and has wanted to be a firefighter from a very young age.

Shaun received his award from (l-r) Cassian Roberts, the High Sheriff of Worcestershire, and Chief Fire Officer Nathan Travis. Congratulations Shaun!



Service Exercise Phoenix

Training Exercise Phoenix flew over Stourport in September, and 200 firefighters and other blue light personnel descended on an abandoned high school for a service-wide multi-agency training event. Young Firefighters from Droitwich added to the authenticity of a major incident by acting as clubbers and casualties in a smoke-filled building, awaiting rescue by the Fire Service, down ladders from first floor windows.

Young Firefighter Molly Fitzpatrick said: "The training exercise was brilliant because we got to be involved in a massive incident and to see how the Fire Service works with other organisations when a huge fire happens. We also got to shout a lot too!"



Wash and shine for charities

Young Firefighters from Redditch spent a day washing and shining cars and raised a fantastic total of £600. Half went to The Fire Fighters Charity and the rest was split between three of the charities supported by the Mayor of Redditch - including Bowel Cancer UK and the Sunnyside Centre in Redditch - and to the YFA, to help fund future projects.

Redditch Young Firefighters with the Mayor of Redditch, Juliet Brunner



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