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# Robert Lloyd

Robert Lloyd is the print content editor for the South Wales Evening Post

# The world needs more heroes like Mike Walters

**S**KEWEN'S Bonnie Tyler has often sung about the simple truth - we all need heroes! They come in all shapes and sizes - from a streetwise Hercules to a white knight on a fiery steed.

Most often, though, our local heroes can be found living quietly among us, doing what they regard as 'their bit' for the community.

One such local hero is Mike Walters, the lifeboat operations manager at Loughor Inshore Rescue.

Mike received an MBE in the New Year's Honours List of 2022 - and he stepped up to receive his medal from King Charles III in a ceremony at Windsor Castle last week.

Mike's week was crowned off with 'MBE Celebration Party' at Loughor Boating Club last weekend.

Mike, 56, from Llanelli, is the oldest and longest serving member of the lifeboat crew and said he was very proud to receive the MBE.

Modest to the core, he did make a short speech to the packed crowd at the boating club.

He told Loughor Inshore Rescue colleagues and supporters: "We were lucky enough to be one of the last in a long list of people to be called up for an honour, so I had the benefit of watching everyone else take their

turns to receive awards from The King.

"When it came to my turn, I stepped forward and The King said: 'All right. Mike? How's the lifeboat?'"

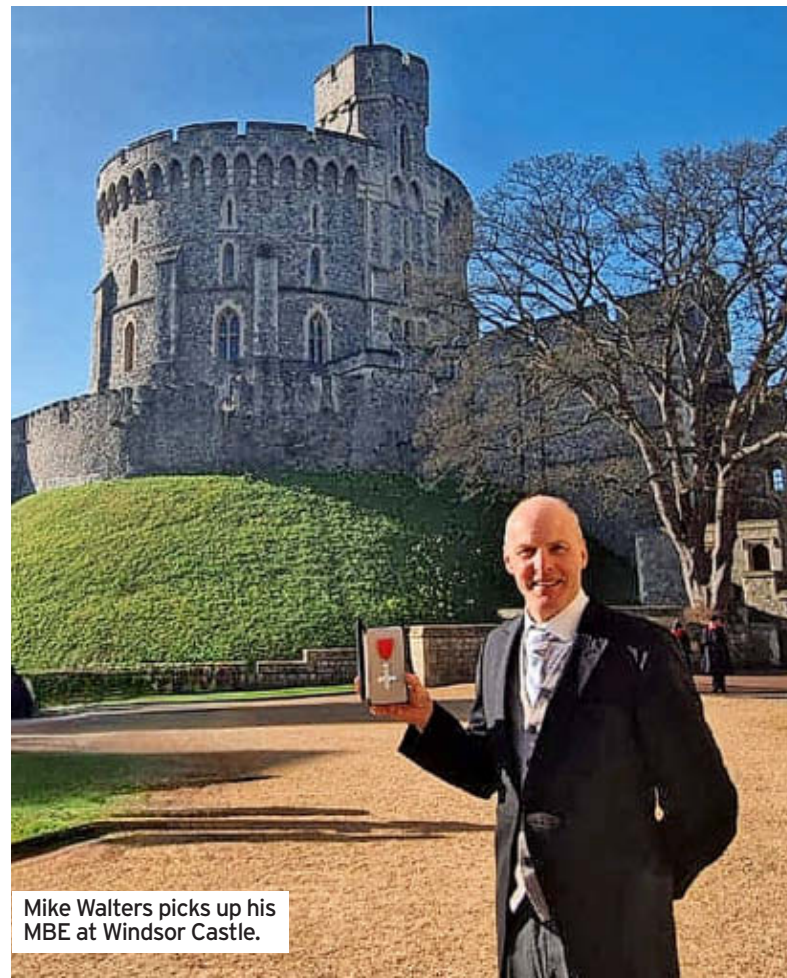
Mike chuckled: "The King had obviously been well primed!"

Mike's MBE was for his services to the community of Swansea.

He said: "It's a testament to past and present crew really; they are the ones who made me decide to carry on and do the work over the years."

Having started at the lifeboat station as a youngster, helping paint the former station and doing odd jobs and making tea, he slowly started getting more involved.

Mike, who works at Swansea Bay University Health Board's Morriston Hospital, recalled: "I was 15 when I had my first rescue and have been there ever since. I'm very proud to be



Mike Walters picks up his MBE at Windsor Castle.

part of such a great team."

The Feelgood Factor at Mike's MBE party was practically contagious as inshore rescue fundraising buckets were filled up with loose change by visitors to the bar.

Then, when Mike finished telling the audience about the £26,000 a year needed to fund the service, one of

his hospital colleagues stepped forward with a surprise - an envelope containing £350 raised for the lifeboat team by a 'Ladies Day' event at Morriston.

Mike finished by telling his audience that Gower MP Tonia Antoniazzi had arranged a special post-MBE afternoon tea for his family at Westminster.

"So, all in all, the MBE day was a very memorable day indeed," he said.

Yes, our local heroes aren't always the most high profile people we know, but they do have the secret to making our communities tick.

The world needs more heroes like Mr Mike Walters MBE.

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## Losing patience with the post

SOMEWHERE, out there, is a postman missing his box.

Not his letterbox; his Christmas Box!

Time was when we knew our postmen - and postwomen - by name. They had regular routes, arrived at regular times and could be considered as neighbourhood chums.

How times have changed . . .

These days, the powers-that-be seem to chop and change the posties quicker than Premier League football clubs switch their managers.

Our most recent postie was on the route for about three months - before he was switched to another neighbourhood during the Christmas chaos.

Poor postie! He missed the handing over of the Christmas Box (ie festive cash gift to reward sterling service over the year).

His successor hasn't yet qualified for any outstanding service award as the daily delivery of the mail is now getting later and later.

My letters arrived at 5pm last Saturday. On most days of the week, they now usually land at about 4.30pm, which can be very irritating for those of us waiting for the cheque to arrive in the post! As our nearest bank shuts at 4pm, the cheque processing is delayed 24 hours - or much more when it lands on a Saturday!

One of the complaints in the continuing Royal Mail industrial dispute is that the service is concentrating on the lucrative parcels market - to the expense of our less profitable letters.

It's hard not to see that as a major problem.

Most of us are sympathetic to the average postie who turns out in all weathers.

But, one suspects, some (or most) of us are losing patience with Royal Mail.



A good turnout at the MBE celebration party for Mike Walters at Loughor Boating Club.

### TIDES (Height in metres)

Location	Day	Time	Height (m)
Swansea King's Dock	Friday	3.24am	10.49
		3.56pm	10.78
	Saturday	4.33am	11.24
Saturday		5.00pm	11.45
	Sunday	5.29am	11.95
		5.54pm	12.03
Port Talbot	Friday	3.15am	7.91
		3.55pm	8.13
	Saturday	4.27am	8.66
Saturday		5.01pm	8.85
	Sunday	5.25am	9.45
		5.55pm	9.51
Llanelli	Friday	3.12am	6.30
		3.51pm	6.49
	Saturday	4.23am	6.93
Saturday		4.56pm	7.09
	Sunday	5.20am	7.59
		5.49pm	7.64

Lighting-up time: 5.03pm

Tidal predictions for Port Talbot, Llanelli and Swansea King's Dock (outer sill) computed by the National Oceanography Centre. www.noc.ac.uk. Swansea: 2.30 metres below Chart Datum; Port Talbot: 5.20 metres below; Llanelli 3.66 metres below

## Weather

### Around the Country

City	Friday		Saturday	
	Cloud	Temp	Cloud	Temp
Birmingham	cloudy	13 55	cloudy	12 54
Bristol	mist	11 52	cloudy	12 54
Cardiff	overcast	11 52	cloudy	11 52
Carlisle	pcloudy	11 52	cloudy	10 50
Exeter	overcast	14 57	overcast	13 55
Gloucester	cloudy	13 55	cloudy	13 55
Leeds	cloudy	12 54	cloudy	11 52
Liverpool	cloudy	12 54	cloudy	11 52
London	overcast	13 55	cloudy	13 55
Manchester	cloudy	12 54	cloudy	11 52
Norwich	overcast	14 57	cloudy	13 55
Nottingham	overcast	13 55	cloudy	13 55
Plymouth	overcast	12 54	cloudy	12 54
Swansea	mist	11 52	cloudy	11 52

### Around the World

City	Friday		Saturday	
	Cloud	Temp	Cloud	Temp
Amsterdam	rain	11 52	rain	10 50
Beijing	overcast	6 42	snow	4 39
Corfu	pcloudy	13 55	sunny	13 56
Majorca	sunny	15 59	sunny	16 60
Mexico City	sunny	24 76	sunny	24 75
Moscow	cloudy	-6 21	cloudy	-6 21
New Delhi	overcast	29 84	pcloudy	30 86
New York	rain	14 58	sunny	7 45
Paris	cloudy	14 57	cloudy	13 56
Rio	cloudy	33 92	rain	28 82
Rome	pcloudy	15 59	sunny	15 59
Sydney	sunny	27 80	rain	28 83
Tokyo	overcast	9 49	sunny	12 53

### Today's Weather

Skies will be mostly cloudy to cloudy today with isolated areas of fog and areas of mist. Afternoon highs will range from 10 to 13C.



### Sun & Moon

Sunrise	7:23 a.m.
Sunset	5:29 p.m.
Moonrise	6:18 a.m.
Moonset	1:10 p.m.

### Almanac

Location	Yesterday's High (°C/°F)	Yesterday's Low (°C/°F)	Yesterday's Precip
Aberystwyth	14/57	8/46	0.00"
Cardiff	12/54	7/45	0.40"
Conwy	14/57	7/45	0.00"
Brecon	13/55	7/45	0.00"
Carmarthen	10/50	7/45	0.30"
Swansea	10/50	7/45	0.30"

### Wales' Four-Day Outlook

Day	Forecast	Temp Range
Saturday	Overcast. W wind 13 mph.	11°C/ 52°F to 6°C/ 43°F
Sunday	Cloudy. W wind 11 mph.	10°C/ 50°F to 8°C/ 46°F
Monday	Overcast. WSW wind 13 mph.	10°C/ 50°F to 8°C/ 46°F
Tuesday	Overcast. WSW wind 11 mph.	10°C/ 50°F to 5°C/ 41°F

### High Tides

Location	Friday				Saturday			
	Time	Height	Time	Height	Time	Height	Time	Height
Holyhead	4.8	7:41 a	4.9	8:20 p	5.2	8:40 a	5.3	9:16 p
Pwllheli	4.0	5:13 a	4.1	5:47 p	4.5	6:13 a	4.5	6:45 p
Aberystwyth	4.1	5:19 a	4.1	5:51 p	4.5	6:18 a	4.5	6:45 p
Milford Haven	5.6	3:15 a	5.8	3:54 p	6.2	4:25 a	6.3	4:58 p
Llanelli	6.3	3:12 a	6.5	3:51 p	6.9	4:22 a	7.1	4:55 p
Swansea	7.6	3:24 a	7.9	3:58 p	8.4	4:33 a	8.6	5:01 p
Port Talbot	7.9	3:23 a	8.1	3:59 p	8.6	4:33 a	8.8	5:02 p
Barry	9.2	3:44 a	9.6	4:22 p	10.1	4:59 a	10.4	5:31 p
Cardiff	9.7	4:00 a	10.1	4:37 p	10.6	5:14 a	11.0	5:45 p
Newport	9.6	4:03 a	10.0	4:42 p	10.5	5:18 a	10.9	5:51 p

### PHARMACIES

The following are open tonight from 5.30pm to 6pm unless stated:

**Clydach:** \*Lloyds, Heol y Nant, and High Street. **Cwmfelin:** Carmarthen Road, Swansea. **Cwmlllynfell:** Well, Gwyllym Road. **Llangennech:** \*Gravelle Pharmacy. **Morriston:** Lloyds Pharmacy, Strawberry Place, 8.30am-6pm. **Penclawdd:** \*Huw S Rees, The Pharmacy. **Swansea:** Swansea Sainsbury's Instore Pharmacy, Quay Parade, 8am-10pm; Tesco Forestfach, 8am-8pm; Boots Morfa, Morfa Shopping Park, 8am-10.30pm. **Uplands:** \*Well Pharmacy, 55 Uplands Crescent. **\*Oxygen equipment stocked.**

For details of pharmacies (including out of hours) contact NHS Direct on 111 or www.nhsdirect.wales.nhs.uk

### LOTTERY

Wednesday, February 15

