

STRIKE: Blue watch Firefighters at Caernarfon Fire Station walk out at noon during the four hour strike that took place yesterday. L-R Cemlyn Owen, Stephen Campbell, Arwel Roberts, Shane Price and Mark Jat, back row Steve Harris and Meirion Hughes.

Town firemen on four hour strike

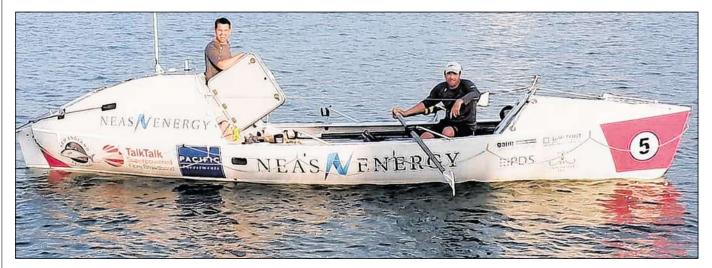
FIRE fighters in Caernarfon joined colleagues across England and Wales in staging a four hour strike in a dispute over pensions yesterday afternoon.

An FBU spokesman said: "We have been paying into a pension scheme which allowed people to retire at 55. Now the government want people to work until they are 60, paying 13% of wages into their pension.

"The issue is we might not be fit enough to do such a physically demanding job."

Chief Fire Officer Simon Smith said: "We were unable to provide the same high level of response to incidents as we normally would and as a consequence prioritised our response to those in most critical need."

Friends to row Atlantic



FUNDRAISERS: Nick Rees (I) and Ed Curtis (r) are to take part in the Talisker Whisky Atlantic C hallenge.

By **DANIEL BISSETT**

AN adventurous duo have signed up for the world's toughest rowing race which will see them cross the icy waters of the Atlantic Ocean.

Lifelong friends Ed Curtis, who works at Plas Menai National Watersports Centre near Caernarfon and Nick Rees will take part in the Talisker Whisky Atlantic Challenge to raise £250,000 for Breakthrough Breast Cancer.

The challenge will have a particularly personal significance for Nick's as his, Ellen, was diagnosed

Pair hope to raise cancer charity funds

with breast cancer in 2009 aged 33. The pair have raised money for various charities over the years

but Ellen's determination to beat the disease has spurred the duo on to sign up to take part in the challenge of a lifetime.

Ellen said: "When people ask

how I feel about Nick and Ed doing this, I struggle to choose a re-

"I feel incredible pride they are stepping up to such a challenge, fear that they will get hurt, deep gratitude, and inspiration to fundraise alongside them.

"I feel they are setting all of our children a wonderful example of how to embrace life's challenges, take social responsibility and make a difference in the world."

The pair will be challenged both

physically and mentally throughout the race, which starts on December 2, from La Gomera to Antigua, rowing shifts of two hours on and two hours off 24 hours per day over 3,000 nautical miles for a minimum of 50 days and facing waves over 40 feet high.

The event is renowned for its

tough conditions and more people having been into space than have rowed the Atlantic.

"We're looking forward to the challenge" said Ed. "Nick and I have been planning

this since February 2012

"Our motivation during the tough times will come from the thought that every pound we raise is making a difference.'

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