

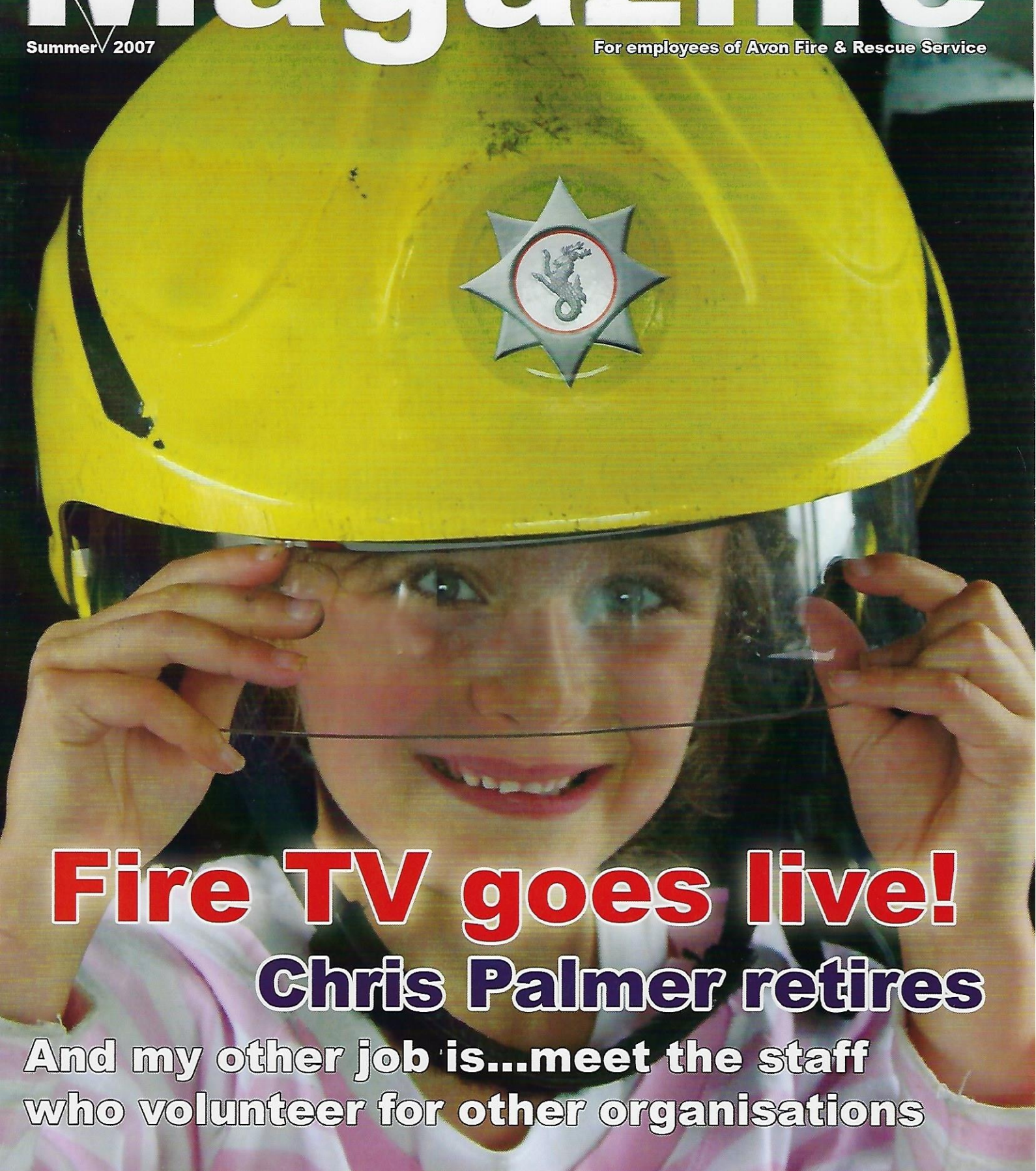


**AVON FIRE & RESCUE**

# Magazine

Summer 2007

For employees of Avon Fire & Rescue Service



**Fire TV goes live!**  
**Chris Palmer retires**

**And my other job is...meet the staff  
who volunteer for other organisations**



**We welcome your comments on the magazine – if you have something to say or have an idea for stories, please get in touch!**

**You can reach us by calling, 0117 926 2061 extension 217, by email, [pressoffice@avonfire.gov.uk](mailto:pressoffice@avonfire.gov.uk) or by writing to,  
Media & Communication Team  
Avon Fire & Rescue Service HQ  
Temple Back  
Bristol  
BS1 6EU**

## From the Chief

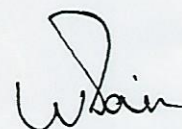


Welcome to the summer edition of AF&RS Magazine. It might have gone a little quiet on the magazine front over recent months, but that doesn't mean as a service we have been any less busy - in fact quite the opposite!

As you will see inside there is much to talk about, from the advent of our new interactive internet service, FireTV, to a host of new equipment – all of which back up our core functions of preventing, protecting and responding.

And as ever, members of staff have been pulling out all the stops for charity with treks to Peru, Polar challenges and activities for GAFSIP all taking place this year. In this issue of the magazine we also highlight the work of staff who volunteer with other organisations in their spare time and the runners who took part in Race for Life in May.

It is fantastic to see so many staff going that extra mile – you all do a magnificent job serving the community at work and it is heartening to see that reflected in your outside interests.

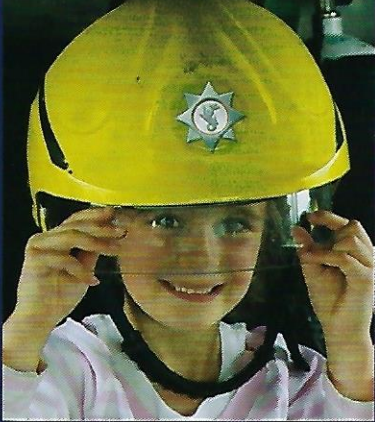


**Kevin Pearson**  
**Chief Fire Officer/Chief Executive**



Summer 2007

## ON THE COVER



A happy customer at Herons Moor Community Primary School fair



INCIDENTS

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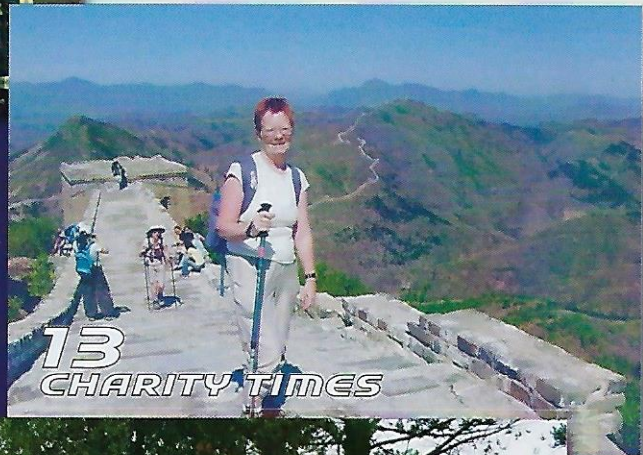
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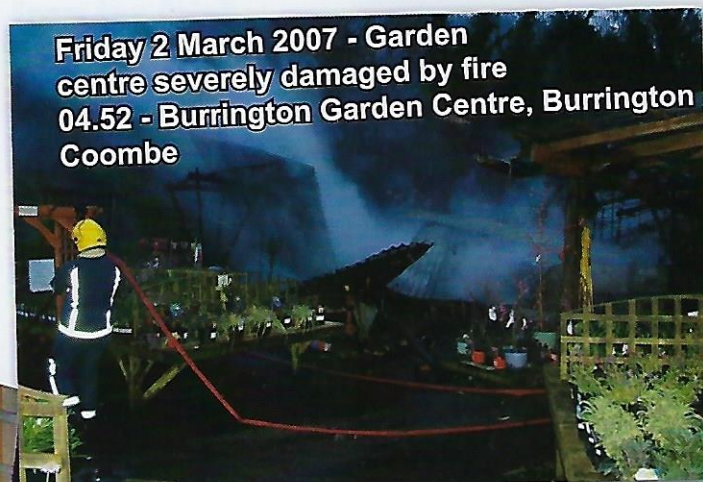


CHARITY TIMES

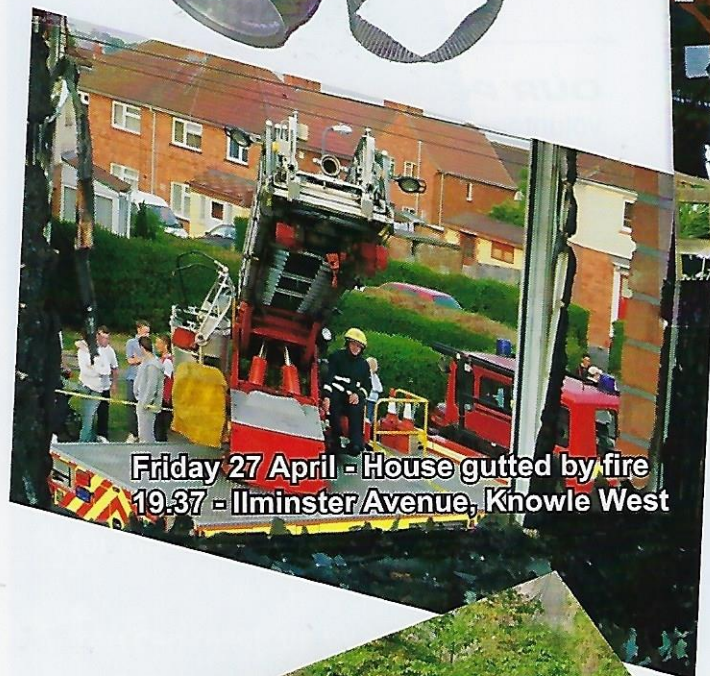


EQUIPMENT

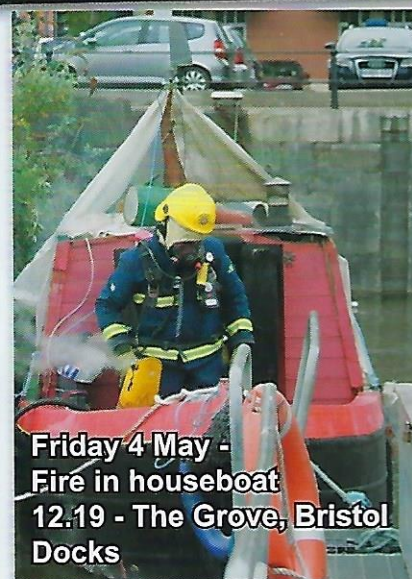




**Friday 2 March 2007 - Garden centre severely damaged by fire**  
**04.52 - Burrington Garden Centre, Burrington Coombe**



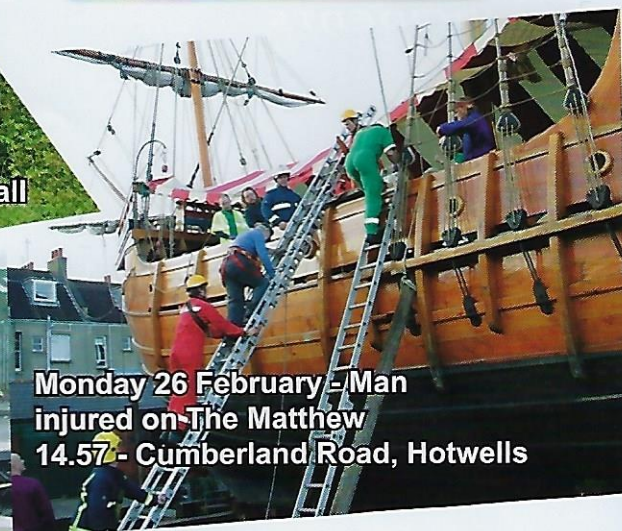
**Friday 27 April - House gutted by fire**  
**19.37 - Ilminster Avenue, Knowle West**



**Friday 4 May - Fire in houseboat**  
**12.19 - The Grove, Bristol Docks**



**Sunday 29 April - Climber rescued after Avon Gorge fall**  
**16.04 - The Portway, Bristol**



**Monday 26 February - Man injured on The Matthew**  
**14.57 - Cumberland Road, Hotwells**



**Saturday 10 February - Industrial unit fire**  
**05.00 - Unity Road, Keynsham**



# INCIDENTS



**Friday 20 April - Dog rescued from drain after three-day ordeal**  
10.27 - Westmarsh Lane, Oldbury-on-Severn



**Monday 9 April - Man trapped in mud**  
17.59 - Sea Mills, Bristol



**Saturday 28 April - Deer trapped in railings**  
18.27 - near Brookleaze Buildings, Larkhall, Bath



**Saturday 19 May - Arsonists target DIY store containers**  
03.57 - Focus store, Old Mills, Paulton



**Tuesday 5 June - Horse rescued from rhyne**  
07.44 - The Grange, Hewish



**Tuesday 13 March - Blaze destroys Lansdown homes**  
21.00 - Brockham End, Lansdown



**Saturday 16 June - Three cut free following RTC**  
13.46 - Bristol Road, Frampton Cotterell



# ROUND-UP



## Sue's fund-raiser on the Great Wall

A SWITCHBOARD worker at the fire services HQ in Temple Back is heading out to China for a charity trek. Sue Nicholls, of Barton Hill, will be trekking along the Great Wall of China next month to raise money for the Breast Cancer Campaign. The task will be a greater challenge for Sue, 57, as she has impaired vision and finds it hard to walk down steps. It will see her walking five to seven miles a day over uneven ground and up and down steps. She is now training hard as she is ready for the trip on April 28. Sue visited China in 1994 and always wanted to go back. She spotted an advert for the event in a magazine and thought it was a perfect opportunity.



**Struck by lightning**  
A COUPLE had a narrow escape from a lightning strike when they were in the garden of their home in the 2000. Brian of Weston & Worle News reported the incident. The couple were in the garden when a lightning bolt struck the garden shed. The man was hit on the head and the woman was hit on the arm. They were both taken to hospital but are now recovering. The house was damaged and the garden shed was destroyed. The couple are now looking for a new home.



**Blaze guts home**  
A FAMILY home was gutted and a family of four was forced to flee their home in the 2000. The fire started in the kitchen and spread to the rest of the house. The family was evacuated and the house was damaged. The fire was caused by a faulty gas boiler. The family is now looking for a new home.



**Rubbish day out with firefighters**  
FIREFIGHTERS from Clevedon helped to give the rubbish day out a special twist. The firefighters spent the day with the children, showing them how to use fire equipment and how to stay safe. The children were given a tour of the fire station and saw the firefighters in action. The day was a great success and the children had a lot of fun.

## In the news - what's hit the headlines over the last few months?

AF&RS has featured heavily across the local media over recent months with a host of stories ranging from animal rescues and house fires, to chip pan demonstrations and hoax call initiatives.

In **January** we signed up to the Government's Exemplar Employee scheme – encouraging women to succeed in the workplace; USAR teams tested out equipment at two derelict houses in Horfield; and a crew from Southmead came under attack from a group of youths hurling paving slabs at them while firefighters attempted to tackle a car fire in the area.

**February** saw Bedminster firefighters help fit 10 bird nesting boxes for a community conservation project in Knowle West; crews from across the area staged chip pan demonstrations to mark National Chip Week; and the rope rescue team were deployed to a man who had taken ill while working on The Matthew - a replica of John Cabot's historic ship.

During Hoax Calls Awareness Week in **March** we revealed that 12 mobile phone users had been cut off for making persistent calls to our Fire Control; Weston-super-Mare's mayor, Paula Howell, visited her local station to observe drill practice and tour the Community Safety Centre; and over 30 firefighters dealt with a major fire at a private house and adjoining flats at Lansdown.

We bade a fond farewell to a familiar face in **April** when Assistant Chief Fire Officer Chris Palmer retired after 30 years with the service (see page 8); in the run up to the Easter Bank Holiday weekend local residents were given tips on DIY safety; and Paulton, Radstock and Bath crews were called to the rescue of an elderly cow which had become trapped in mud in High Littleton.

**May** saw the launch of two new social marketing initiatives at Fire Expo 2007 - our new interactive internet-based service Fire TV and the Hot Air Balloon (see page 19); around 50 elderly residents of a block of flats in Weston-super-Mare were evacuated from their homes when a tea-light candle set light to curtains, severely damaging a fourth floor flat; and members of the Women's Action Group (WAG) ran the Race for Life on Bristol Downs (see page 13).

In **June** we announced that the Arson Task Force's Car Clear scheme has saved local taxpayers over £6.5m in the last year by removing abandoned vehicles before they become a target for arsonists; an elderly couple were rescued from their burning home in Brentry; and curry lovers gathered at Temple for the annual charity Indian Meal in aid of the charities GAFSIP and Frenchay After Burns club.



## Fire crew in a lather

FIREFIGHTERS put their hoses out and had a good scrub down in the name of a good cause. Fire and Rescue Service held a sponsored car wash at The Maze in Worle to raise money for the fire services.



## Firefighters dig deep to rescue dogs trapped under shed

FIREFIGHTERS dug deep to rescue two dogs trapped under a shed. The dogs were found by a firefighter who was called to a house in the 2000. The dogs were trapped under a shed that had collapsed. The firefighter dug them out and they were taken to a vet.

## Safe zone rescued by service

YOUNGSTERS from all over Somerset can pick up vital tips on keeping themselves safe after a unique learning centre in Weston was given a second lease of life with the help of Avon Fire and Rescue Service.







## Hunting for clues to garden centre blaze

**By Rory Harrington**  
A massive blaze ripped through a garden centre in a bid to uncover why the fire started. Firefighters were called to the scene at 11.15pm on Friday night, where they found a large fire burning in the garden centre. The fire was caused by a faulty heater, which had been left on overnight. The fire spread quickly, and firefighters were unable to contain it until it was too late. The garden centre was completely destroyed, and the cause of the fire is still under investigation.

## The Bath Chronicle

### Trail-blazing team saves us £6.5m

A Bath-based team, which has been working on a project for several years, has managed to save the city of Bath a massive £6.5m. The team, which is made up of local residents and professionals, has been working on a project to improve the city's infrastructure. They have managed to identify and fix several problems, including faulty wiring and leaking pipes, which could have cost the city a lot of money if not for their intervention.



### Arsonists force out football club

Arsonists have damaged the premises of a football club, forcing them to leave their home. The club, which has been in the area for many years, was forced to relocate to temporary accommodation. The damage was caused by a fire that started in the club's premises and spread quickly. The club is now working to rebuild and return to their home, but the arsonists have made their move.

## 05 Avonmouth Green Watch take starring roles in fire safety film

Firefighters from 05 Avonmouth Green Watch have been tapping into their creative sides by writing and starring in a short movie aimed at promoting Home Fire Safety Visits.

Several members of the watch appear in the film, alongside former Avonmouth cook Monica Fairley and her husband Ray.

Written by firefighter Martin Quigley, the story features Monica as a housewife whose smoke alarm is not working as the batteries have run out. Her son (played by Martin) says he will buy her some new batteries and fix the alarm the next time he visits.

In the meantime Monica's neighbour (played by Ray) suggests she call the fire service to book a Home Fire Safety Visit. To her delight, Avonmouth's crew arrive the next day to fit smoke alarms and discuss fire safety in the home.

Designed to look like a soap opera, the film contains all the important messages about fire safety in the home and also has a few humorous moments. It is hoped that the film will form part of an interactive DVD building on the issues raised and covering many more aspects of fire safety.

The cast fitted in filming during two 12-hour days and had a ten-page script to learn before arriving on set at Monica and Ray's house.

The watch has become well-known in the local community for its annual pantomime at Avonmouth Fire Station and over recent years the firefighters have been keen to use the festive play to get across fire safety messages. Last year they came up with a novel '12 days of Christmas' fire safety song.

Watch Manager Mike Lewis came up with the idea for the film. He said: "The pantomimes are always really popular and I started thinking about what else we could do with the stars that we have on the watch."

"They are quite a thespian bunch, so I approached the talent and we formed a committee to come up with ideas - it just mushroomed from there. Many people then helped bring the project to life - Steve Halstead and staff at Community Safety, Creative Services and Knowle West Media Centre. Thanks must also go to Monica and Ray as they let us use their house for filming - without their help the film wouldn't have been made."

"We have plans for another three short films - hopefully our HFSV film is just the start!"



**AF&RS conference:**  
Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender Equality in the Fire Service – an absolute taboo?  
9-10 October, Bristol

For more information log onto [www.avonfire.gov.uk/avon/equalities](http://www.avonfire.gov.uk/avon/equalities)



# RETIREMENTS



## Chris Palmer

It was an emotional day for Assistant Chief Fire Officer Chris Palmer when he retired from the service after 30 years.

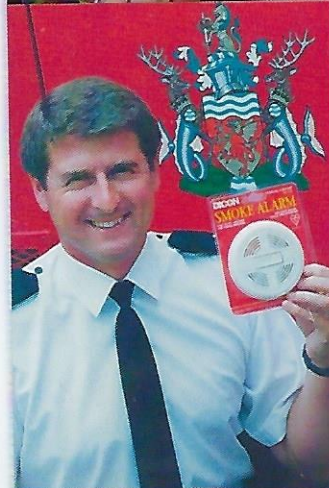
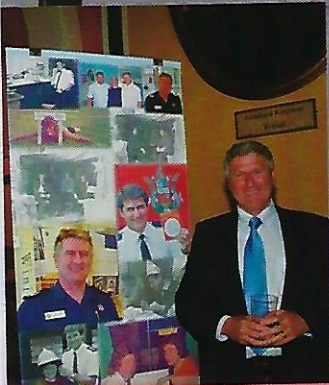
Despite deciding to hang up his uniform a while ago, by his last day on Wednesday 25 April Chris still wasn't used to the idea of leaving AF&RS behind.

It is rare these days to find a principal officer who has stayed with the same service for their entire career, but Chris was proud of his Avon connections.

Writing in a farewell letter Chris said: "The last 30 years serving the County of Avon Fire Brigade, initially, Avon Fire Brigade, in between, and more recently Avon Fire and Rescue, have been an absolute joy for me and I remain convinced that I could not have chosen a better profession to spend the majority of my working life."

Before his final day Chris could often be seen reminiscing about old times and when sorting out his office, he uncovered old uniforms, which he claimed had 'shrunk' and his training books from his days as a young firefighter.

On the big day Chris was treated to a sunset ceremony in the training yard at headquarters, where he was presented with the AF&RS flag and silver axe.



## Rita Phillips

A host of former and current work colleagues helped Rita Phillips mark her retirement after 38 years with the service during a party at Yate Fire Station in April.

Rita began her career at AF&RS in 1969 as a statistics clerk in Fire Safety, Bristol and was quickly promoted to 'A' Division as Divisional Clerk.

Following a successful stint as a member of the 'A' Division Management Team, Rita moved into the role of Management Information Officer and later to the Service Improvement Directorate as Corporate Planning Officer.

Last October Rita became the first recipient of the service's Value Champion Award.

## Other staff members who have retired this year include:

Station Manager (SM) Richard Williams-Jones - Yate;  
Phil Green - White Watch, Contol;  
Chris Grey - Clerk to Avon Fire Authority;  
Watch Manager (WM) Tim Leek - Severn Park; and  
Station Manager (SM) Neil Harper - Weston-super-Mare.



## And my other job is...

Many people from the service give up their time to work as volunteers for a range of other organisations. We spoke to three members of staff to find out more about what they get up to in their spare time.



Workshop Supervisor **Phil James** has volunteered as a Coastguard Officer for HM Coastguard for the last two years.

When not at work, Phil is on call 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

As with the fire service, the coastguard has a wide search and rescue remit including mud, rock and coastal line rescue, guiding Sea King and HM Coastguard helicopters to land and rescuing people trapped by the tide.

Phil and his colleagues are also heavily involved with promoting sea and boat safety at various community events. They do all of this, including responding to incidents, unpaid.

Phil said: "We cover the coastal and waterway areas from Clevedon and Portishead all the way round to Chepstow and the Clifton Suspension Bridge. As you can imagine, it's quite an interesting job!"



**Baz Meadows**, from White Watch, Patchway has recently returned from Afghanistan in his role as a Royal Marine Reserve.

In this role he can be deployed at any time for up to 12 months across a three-year period.

Baz's recent work in Afghanistan saw him spend three months in the war-torn country: "I was working as a vehicle commander supplying outlying posts with water, ammunition and food to build up local positions in towns and villages.

"The convoys operated from Camp Bastion in the middle of the desert and we spent from two days up to two weeks operating in the desert living off rations with the threat of incoming fire. At one point we had about seven or eight rockets fired at us, but luckily none of them landed too close. The first couple of times it was pretty scary, but we got used to it quickly."



During the week **Pete Davis** is the Head of Risk Planning, but come the weekend he hot foots it back to mid Wales where he forms an integral part of the Welsh Ambulance Service.

As a member of the First Responder Scheme in his home town of Rhayader, Pete and his colleagues operate in a similar way to our firefighters on the retained duty system. Staff carry alerters so they can be called in to crew an ambulance if a 999 call is received.

The team of eight all live within five minutes of the home station and respond to more than 200 calls a year, dealing with the same types of incidents a normal front line ambulance would respond to.

The First Responders each bring with them skills from various walks of life, but are reassessed and requalified every 90 days to ensure a constant level of competency.



# OUR PEOPLE

## Blood and organ donation – why it's important to donate



sometimes, but now I am able to lead a normal life.

However, operations like mine and those of thousands of others, can only be carried out with the help of people who give blood and of those signed up to the NHS Organ Donation Register.

Currently there are more than 8,000 people waiting for an organ transplant, but sadly each year around 400 will die before receiving their transplant.

Over 13 million people are on the NHS Organ Donation Register – a database of people who have consented to the use of their organs for donation in the event of their death. There is also a database for people who have agreed to live donation – such as donating a kidney to those in need of a transplant.

Every day people need blood. Over 8,000 units are needed every day and the demand for blood is increasing.

However, blood stores are depleting. Currently only five percent of the population donate around a half a litre of blood during each session – many do this several times a year. During operations like mine the majority of people require anywhere between half a litre to a litre of blood.

By simply making your wishes known and adding your name to the organ donation register and spending 10 minutes giving blood, you can change someone's life. The kindness of others improved my life dramatically and I will always be grateful. ”

\*You can register for Organ Donation at [www.uktransplant.org.uk](http://www.uktransplant.org.uk)

Find out more about giving blood at [www.blood.co.uk](http://www.blood.co.uk)

### The way I see it

Do you have a burning issue you would like to share with our readers for The Way I See It? (page 23)

If you have a topic you would like to get off your chest, please write to us, in no more than 350 words (with a photograph).

Send your comments to: Media & Communication Team, Avon Fire & Rescue Service HQ, Temple Back, Bristol, BS1 6EU

Or email: [pressoffice@avonfire.gov.uk](mailto:pressoffice@avonfire.gov.uk)

**Nikki Rice** from crewing was born with a congenital heart defect and when she was nine had an operation to repair a hole in her heart.

Nine years later she had another operation to replace a faulty heart valve using tissue from an organ donor.

Nikki talks about why it's so important to donate blood and add your details to the Organ Donation Register:

“ On the 21 September this year it will be six years since I had my second open heart operation. My operation changed my life – and can only have been done with the help of donated blood and a donor pulmonary valve.

Before my operation I was always breathless and everything was difficult as my heart was under pressure and working double what it should have been. I needed to have a new aortic valve and my best option was to have a donor valve from someone who had registered their wishes with the Organ Donation Register.

Since the operation I am now able to go to the gym and am no longer always out of breath – I have to be careful



## Annual Award Ceremony

Nomination forms for this year's Award Ceremony have been winging their way to stations and locations this month.

The awards are an opportunity to celebrate successes and recognise outstanding contribution to the service.

All employees of AF&RS are able to nominate and win an award and this year three new categories have been added to the nine presented last year – Top Team, Outstanding Contribution to GAFSIP and Supplier of the Year.

Workshop Supervisor Phil James was named Employee of the Year at last year's ceremony.

Phil, pictured below with Chief Fire Officer/Chief Executive Kevin Pearson and Avon Fire Authority Chair Terry Walker, said: "After the nominees had been announced people kept coming up and telling me they had voted for me – I was really chuffed."

Phil joined the service as a driver handyman at Bath Fire Station in 1989 and was promoted to his current role five years ago.

"There are a lot of people in the service who work very hard and put a lot of time and effort into their job – I don't think I do anything different. But I was very proud to have won the award."

This year's ceremony will take place at Cadbury House in Congresbury on Friday 30 November.



## Caribbean Reunion

Five retired staff members had an unexpected reunion during a recent cruise of the Caribbean when they bumped into each other aboard P&O ship Arcadia.

Former colleagues Martin Palmer, Len Harvey, Adrian Lemm, Derek Commerford and Brian Sharp had no idea they were all booked on the same cruise until they boarded the ship at Barbados.

And it wasn't just a normal holiday for former Bath firefighter Len Harvey who married his fiancée Jacqueline Gomes during the two-week cruise. The happy couple are pictured above on their wedding day.

## Rotary recognition for Dave

Former Chief Fire Officer Dave Hutchings has been recognised by Rotary International for his work as patron of the charity GAFSIP. He is pictured (above centre) with John Walker (left), president of the Rotary Club of Clifton and Rory O'Connor (right), president of the Rotary Club of Bristol Aztec.



Dave is one of a select few outside of the Rotary world to have been given the Paul Harris award, acknowledging his work with the charity he set up in 1991.

GAFSIP was launched to set up a fire and emergency service in The Gambia after Dave witnessed the lack of equipment and expertise available while on holiday in the country.

Since the charity began it has created an extra 970 jobs in The Gambia, employing firefighters and support staff.

Dave was nominated for the accolade by the Rotary Clubs of Clifton, Bristol, and Bristol Aztec.

Usually presented to Rotarians, the award was set up in memory of Paul Harris – a founding member of the organisation – to recognise outstanding contribution to the ideals of the Rotary.



# GETTING TO KNOW OUR PEOPLE



## Steve Rowan

**What's your title and role?**  
Fire Control Operator.

On the front line for answering 999 emergency fire calls, providing fire safety advice and guidance to people in distress.

Identifying the right fire appliances and special vehicles (such as the boats, rope rescue and equipment) required for each separate incident and co-ordinating their mobilisation. Keeping in constant communication with operational colleagues at each separate incident to maintain an overall picture of operations in the Avon area at any one time.

**How long have you been with AF&RS?**  
Five years

**Which three well-known people (dead or alive) would you invite to your ideal dinner party?**  
William Wallace because he had a bad deal and my kids, Danielle and Calum, so that they can learn their Scottish heritage and also because they are great fun to be around.

**What's your favourite film?**  
The 1979 film Quadrophenia – "I was a right mod in my time!"

**What is the best and worst thing about your job?**  
The best thing in my career to date has been receiving the Chief Fire Officer's Commendation at the Lord Mayor's Mansion in January 2005. It was a very proud moment for myself and my family.

My job gives me real satisfaction, but receiving the award really confirmed that the experience I have gained has provided me with the knowledge to save people's lives.

The worst thing ... rubbish fires at four in the morning!



## Maggie Harte

**What's your title and role?**  
Director of Human Resources & People Development. This means I am responsible for the HR service that we provide and for the training arrangements we put in place.

People always have lots of views about how we can improve those services and we are always interested to hear them.

**How long have you been with AF&RS?**  
18 Months

**Which three well-known people (dead or alive) would you invite to your ideal dinner party?**

1. Christian Barnard - I think surgeons are amongst the most brilliant people in the world.
2. Tommy Cooper - because he just made me laugh.
3. Jon Bon Jovi - I'm not saying why I'd invite him!

**What's your favourite film?**  
The Year of Living Dangerously

**What is the best and worst thing about your job?**

Best: the people I work with and the dedicated people in my team.

Worst: the way people criticise the team based on false information, myth or rumour. We can be slow to praise and quick to criticise.



## Getting in the charitable spirit!

Over the last few months a number of our colleagues have embarked on huge challenges to raise money for charity.

### WAG team raises over £1,300 at Race for Life

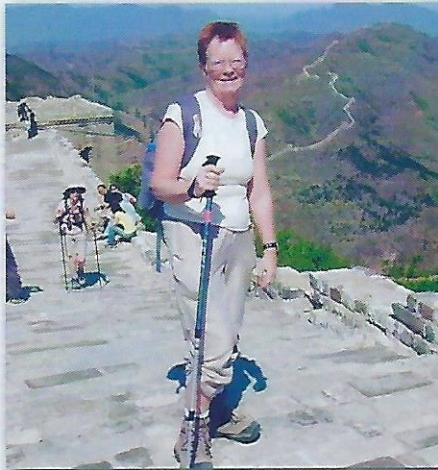
Members of the Women's Action Group (WAG) were among 15,000 people who took to Bristol's Durdham Downs for Race for Life.

The team of 15 donned blue t-shirts with the AF&RS logo and raised over £1,300 for their efforts during one hot Sunday morning in May. More staff members were also spotted around the course that morning and on the previous day, when another Race for Life event took place.

Participants chose to either walk or run the three-mile course spread across the Downs and were cheered on by family and friends. Deputy Chief Fire Officer, Jerry O'Brien, also attended the event to give his support to the team.

Nic Cooper, Assistant HR Officer, co-ordinated our entry. She said: "It was great to see thousands of people out on the Downs raising funds for a good cause and I'm really pleased that we were able to get a team together for the third year running. Everyone who took part did a fantastic job and raised a huge amount of money."

Proceeds from the event go to Cancer Research UK.



### China trek for Sue

If you have ever called the switchboard the chances are you have spoken to Sue Nicholls.

In April Sue took time off from answering the phones to trek along the Great Wall of China, raising almost £8,000 for the Breast Cancer Campaign.

She said: "It was amazing, but very challenging with lots of steps. Some of the steps were so narrow you had to turn your feet to the side to go up them. The scenery was fantastic and the people were lovely."



### Danny's Polar Adventure

Polar bears, sub-zero temperatures and endless snow and ice – just some of the experiences of firefighter Danny Munden, from White Watch, Speedwell, as he took part in this year's Polar Race.

Danny and his two team mates trekked and skied around 13 miles a day from the former North West Territories of Canada, 400 miles to the finish line at the Magnetic North Pole.

He added: "I realised there are a lot of things you take for granted like warmth from a cup of tea or even going to the toilet in comfort. It's not much fun at -30 degrees Celsius with the wind-blowing through your legs."

Danny raised funds for the Fire Services National Benevolent Fund and Wallace and Gromit's Grand Appeal, in aid of the Bristol Royal Hospital for Children.





## Accommodation helps staff get a well-earned break

Taking a break while raising money for a charity which remains close to everyone's heart - that's the aim of the Fire Service National Benevolent Fund (FSNBF), which offers short breaks in its accommodation to Avon Fire & Rescue Service staff.

There are three properties around the country, all of which have accommodation that can be rented for short breaks.

The charity needs to raise around £9 million a year to continue its vital work providing a variety of specialist services.

At certain times of the year the centres are available to rent – the revenue raised generates vital funding for the charity.

Harcombe House in Devon is a Grade II listed building in 300-acre grounds with lakes, woodland and gardens. The site has 28 three-bedroom bungalows, as well as 24 en-suite rooms in the main house. Facilities include a restaurant, indoor swimming pool, gym, sauna and tennis court. Prices start at £99 for a week off peak, with self-catering and full board options available.

The FSNBF also owns apartments at Marine Court in Sussex, as well as a three-bedroom house in the grounds of the Jubilee Therapy Centre in Cumbria.

The charity supports serving and retired fire service staff and their families by providing therapy, recuperation, sheltered housing and grants for specialist equipment that could improve their lives.

Information and tariffs can be found at [www.fsnbf.org.uk](http://www.fsnbf.org.uk) or by emailing [reservations@fsnbf.org.uk](mailto:reservations@fsnbf.org.uk).

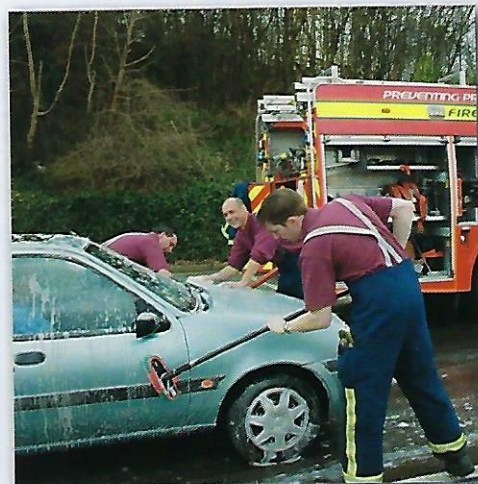
## Car Wash



Firefighters from stations across the service got their hands dirty and raised over £5,000 for the FSNBF when they soaped up for the Benevolent Fund car wash.

Drivers turned out in force to have their vehicles cleaned by White Watch crews across Avon, as well as firefighters from Radstock and Paulton (pictured).

Yate crews were given a boost when representatives from South Gloucestershire's Youth Offending Team and a group of young people joined in to help.





## Knowle West Media Centre

Over the last few months AF&RS has been strengthening links with Knowle West Media Centre (KWMC), based on Morpeth Road in Knowle West.

KWMC is an independent organisation and charity that came into existence in June 2002. The centre works with local people to use video, photography and multimedia to explore different ways media can be used to benefit the community.

KWMC values include:

- a commitment to the cultural, social and economic regeneration of Knowle West;
- a commitment to collaboration and partnerships with a variety of Government and voluntary organisations, educational institutions, and the network of media organisations in Bristol and the South West;
- a proactive approach to inclusion and access;
- a commitment to providing opportunities which enable local people, individually or in groups, to explore their own identities and both find and express them in a unique voice; and
- a commitment to learning as a guiding principle in all activity, whether in the development of skills which might increase a young person's chances of employment or their entry into the creative industries, or informally through including a wide range of people in the work and activities of the centre.

Working in partnership with organisations, artists, businesses and groups across the city, KWMC develops concepts and projects for people to express their ideas, learn new skills, bring about change, explore issues and work collaboratively.

Our working partnership with KWMC is still in its early days, but we are already seeing the benefit.

With Knowle West one of our key

KNOWLE WEST  
MEDIA CENTRE

target areas in the Avon area, this partnership is providing us with the opportunity to engage with local people in a new and innovative way.

Much of the work is with young people, who we hope will become advocates of the many messages we have from hoax calls and the dangers of arson, to reckless driving and the importance of working smoke alarms.

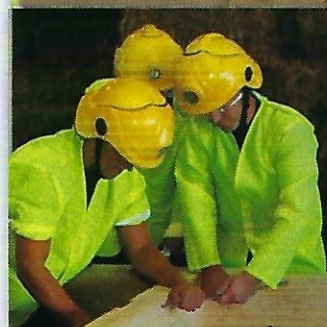
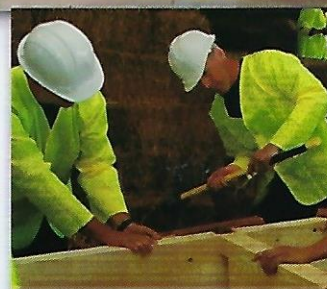
The centre is currently building a new premise on Leinster Avenue, which will become one of the largest 'straw-bale' buildings in Europe.

The building is due to be finished towards the end of this year and in June crews from Green Watch at Bedminster Fire Station were involved in helping build some of the panels that will go to make up the walls of the building.

To help the project on its way AF&RS has sponsored two of these panels, which will form part of the exterior walls of the new build.



Green Watch help build the straw bale building



KWMC 'News hounds' cover the launch of FireTV



## A collage of 25 photographs featuring firefighters. The images show them in various settings: some in full uniform with helmets, some in casual clothes, and some in a mix of uniform and casual wear. They are posed in groups, individually, and in candid moments. The background includes fire stations, fire trucks, and outdoor environments. The collage is arranged in a grid-like fashion with some overlapping images.







A variety of new vehicles and equipment have joined the service since the last magazine – here's an introduction...



## Environmental Response Unit Command Support Unit (CSU)

Based at Brislington (14), the Environmental Response Unit (ERU) is used to tackle environmental or chemical hazards.

The unit can be called to all kinds of incidents including chemical spillages, whether on the road involving hauliers or at business premises, and swimming pools where chlorine is leaking.

As well as carrying chemical suits, an inflatable decontamination unit and a host of hazard tackling equipment, the ERU also contains computers with access to the internet. These computers have a variety of uses - including to help identify chemicals on the scene of an incident.

Most of the equipment we have in AF&RS is used to help members of the public and keep them safe. However, the ERU is more about aiding and protecting fire service staff, who are attending incidents involving chemicals and other potentially harmful substances.

The service's vehicle fleet has been bolstered this year by the introduction of a new Command Support Unit (CSU).

The eight tonne vehicle will be based at Speedwell (11), offering a high tech presence at major incidents.

The former CSU, now renamed the Command Unit (CU), will continue to act as the principal control point at jobs it attends, but its new title comes as a response to the expansion of the Command Vehicles Fleet, following the introduction of the new CSU.

The latest addition to the fleet is divided into two sections; the forward, office section has computers, plasma displays, a Smartboard and seating to provide an area for 'Silver' command meetings to take place in the event of an incident requiring multi agency input, or for officers to use as a base.

The vehicle can also provide a stand-alone incident command function for a smaller incident if required.

The rear section of the appliance will be used to carry a range of specialist equipment, including four powerful, digital quality, wireless cameras. Deployed on tripods, or street furniture, the cameras are controlled remotely and feature 360 degree vision and a zoom facility in order to provide streaming of fireground footage directly to the CSU and the CU, or via a satellite uplink back to Headquarters or a Gold Command.

Software on the vehicle also allows the crews to update and contribute to the Incident Commander's overall view - information which can also be accessed remotely via the satellite uplink.





## Welfare Unit

Introduced in September last year to provide refreshments during prolonged incidents, the Welfare Unit is often a welcome sight.

The self-contained unit has a range of drinks and snacks on board including tea, coffee, soup, cold drinks and self-heating food cans. The vehicle also carries 1,000 litres of water and has a hand-washing facility and on-board generator.

Based at Winscombe (24) and staffed by a crew of two, the unit is the former vertical line rescue trailer.



**The Welfare Unit in action at Burrington Coombe Garden Centre**

## Hot Air Balloon

Spreading messages about fire safety has reached new heights with the unveiling of AF&RS's hot air balloon



The first of its kind for a UK fire service, the balloon was a hit at this year's Fire Expo with many people stopping to ask questions and take photographs.

Bringing the way we promote the service and our safety messages into the 21<sup>st</sup> century, the balloon will fly at local events and at other times to promote seasonal and topical messages.

Fire safety messages will be displayed on the lower part of the canvas and these can be changed depending on the occasion.

Deputy Chief Fire Officer Jerry O'Brien said: "Hot air balloons are proven to be successful in delivering messages and raising brand awareness with the public.

"Everyone is mesmerised by balloons and will stop to watch their flight – even taking photographs of them. What better way to promote key messages such as 'smoke alarms save lives' and 'hoax calls cost lives'."

## Hazard House

Our Community Safety Team has a new tool to help promote the fire safety message to children.

The giant inflatable Hazard House will be taken to community events across the service area over the summer months, targeting young people.

It has three rooms downstairs and an upstairs bedroom. Each room contains a number of hazards such as matches, an open fire or overloaded plug sockets.

As an extension of our current schools programme, children will be invited into the house to visit each room to identify any possible risks. Once they have done this, the children will then talk about why they think the items are hazardous.

It is hoped the house will prove to be an attractive tool for educating children about fire safety.





# FIRE EXPO 2007



May's International Fire Expo 2007 gave the service an opportunity to launch two exciting new tools to promote our key messages to the public.

The three-day event saw the awaited 'switch on' of our new internet TV channel, FireTV, as well as the unveiling of the service's hot air balloon.

FireTV went 'live' on Tuesday 22 May at a launch hosted by BBC Points West newsreader, David Garmston. He was joined by the Chair of Avon Fire Authority, Councillor Terry Walker, Chief Fire Officer/Chief Executive Kevin Pearson, and DCFO Jerry O'Brien as the site was shown off to interested viewers from fire and rescue services across the country.

The website, [www.firetv.org.uk](http://www.firetv.org.uk) will include films uploaded by AF&RS featuring fire safety messages as well as educational games aimed at younger viewers.

As part of the FireTV launch, we also held a Bristol launch at Hartcliffe Engineering Community College, with students who had been involved in the development of the site.

The launch in Bristol linked live with Birmingham to demonstrate the 'Live' zone of the site. The 'Live' zone will be used to show footage from incident cameras and can be used to air 'warn and inform' messages to the public if a major incident were to happen.

At present FireTV is Avon based, but it is hoped that fire and rescue services across the country will link up and partner Avon to provide a national FireTV to the UK public.





Deputy Chief Fire Officer Jerry O'Brien said: "Digital media is becoming ever more important when it comes to reaching teenagers, one of our key targets, and we believe FireTV will be crucial in educating young people about issues such as the dangers of hoax calls and dangerous driving."

Chair of the Fire Authority, Councillor Terry Walker, said: "We are delighted to have launched these two new and innovative community safety tools. We have a legal duty to promote a safer environment for our community via initiatives and we need to continually think of new and 'modern' ways in which to do this."

"The Authority is proud to be leading the way among fire and rescue services. Both FireTV and AF&RS's hot air balloon are entirely new concepts and we look forward to seeing the results."

Both FireTV and the hot air balloon represent the first steps in a marketing strategy being developed in a bid to engage with the public using modern methods and non-traditional techniques.

\*Turn to page 19 for more information on our hot air balloon.



# Balloon rises to fire safety cause

## FIRETV

WATCH LIVE PLAY FIND HOME

BROUGHT TO YOU BY



AVON FIRE & RESCUE

Can't see the video? [Click here.](#) RealPlayer

WATCH

LIVE

PLAY

FIND

**WHAT IS FIRE TV ...**

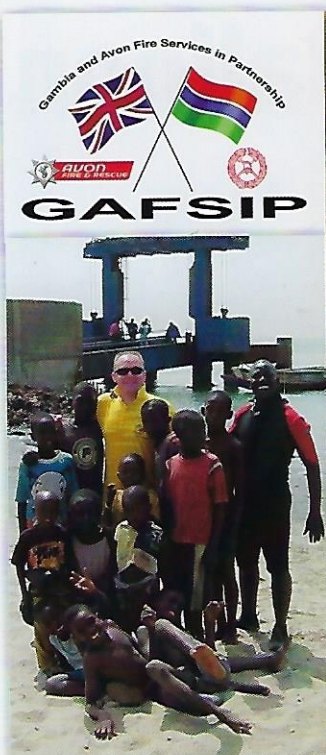
Here you can watch, learn, play and find out more about the fire and rescue service. Make sure you keep an eye out for our regular competitions and new films. [Learn more about Fire TV](#)

**INTERACTIVE AREAS ...**

Select one of the areas above to view and Find, Live, Archived and Play TV...







## Gambia and Avon Fire Services in Partnership

Set up 16 years ago, GAFSIP is a charity much at the heart of AF&RS life.

The charity was founded by former Avon Fire Brigade Chief Dave Hutchings who saw first-hand how poorly equipped the local fire and rescue service in The Gambia was after coming across a road accident while on holiday in the country.

As a result of that experience Dave created GAFSIP, which has helped build up the Gambian Fire and Ambulance Service (GFAS). GFAS now employs more than 1,000 people using vehicles and equipment donated by AF&RS after they have come to the end of their service life here.

GAFSIP continues to draw support from the service, with staff turning to more extreme methods of raising funds for, and awareness of, the charity.

### The Ultimate Challenge

Two long hot weeks cycling, canoeing and running across the Gambia; it was a tough job, but someone had to do it - and who other than Deputy Chief Fire Officer Jerry O'Brien.

All along the 500-mile route as DCFO O'Brien made his way to schools, fire stations and other locations, he was greeted by cheers and applause from the hundreds of people lining the streets.

Speaking about the challenge, DCFO O'Brien, (pictured top) said: "Physically it was obviously very demanding as I was battling against temperatures in excess of 30 degrees, combined with unmade dusty roads, littered with pot holes. "However, it was great having the

opportunity to see what a difference the vehicles, equipment and training that GAPSIP can provide is making to the communities, particularly those in the rural areas."

### The Bristol to Banjul Challenge

In January Sean Heighton (pictured middle) from Brislington White Watch and his friend Simon Vann Jones completed a 3,700 mile expedition through Europe and Africa in a 1992 Landrover.

The pair, known as The Desert Cowboys, spent three weeks driving through varied terrains for the challenge, helping to raise over £2,000 for GAFSIP.

During a ceremony the day after their arrival in Banjul, Sean and Simon handed over the vehicle to the Gambian Fire and Ambulance Service (GFAS).

### Another container wings its way to The Gambia

Boat engines, medical supplies, bikes and books were among the latest shipment of goods packed up by volunteers ready for delivery to The Gambia.

The container left Yate Fire Station on Thursday 24 May brimming with boxes full of equipment that will be put to good use in The Gambia.

Also winging their way to The Gambia are ten rescue boats, which will help the GFAS provide a service across the Gambian river.

The boats, engines and life preservers have been funded by the Rotary Club of Bristol Aztec which raised around £25,000 for the charity.



### Women's Action Group - WAG



Watch Manager Janette Morris from Green/Red Watch Yate, takes a look at why WAG is an important aspect of AF&RS life:

Several colleagues have quite genuinely asked me the question 'Why do we need a Women's Action Group?' The name I think is a bit misleading – it is more of a women's support group.

But it is a good question, and one that is quite hard to answer. It prompted me to do a bit of investigation into why women's (and other minority) groups formed.

When I first joined the fire service I really did not think there would be any problem for me being in a male dominated work force. I had an excellent watch, and got on well with my male colleagues.

I was also lucky enough to have a female colleague with many years service with whom I could chat through anything that may have been on my mind.

It did not occur to me for some years that some of the issues that affected me were not common to those that affected my male colleagues.

After a short stint on light duties at HQ, I built up a network of friends among the female staff and found many of them admired and supported women firefighters.

It was then I realised I needed this outlet, or support network, and also found many issues that bothered me, affected them also.

It also concerned me that some women on stations were somewhat isolated from the female support staff.

Historically, women's support groups were founded when women started challenging their position in society, which has changed drastically in fairly recent times.

Many realised that to challenge the traditional view, 'a woman's place is in the home', brought up many problems and gradually they started to get together to discuss various women's issues.

The fire service was, operationally, a male-only service for many years and has only recently started to realise that female employees have as much potential as their male counterparts.

Watches, being all male, never had to consider the issues that might arise for female firefighters. WAG does not deny that male colleagues can feel isolated, or be a minority group, but recognises there are some women-specific issues that need to be addressed.

The arrival of women on stations understandably caused men to be a little unsure as to how to behave or what to say – even leading some to question whether their female colleagues would be strong enough to take on the role.

This resulted in many negative comments suggesting standards were being dropped in order to accommodate women; that women were only being promoted because they were women and so on.

Comments such as these do, over time, undermine confidence – no matter what gender, race, cultural background or age.

Sharing these concerns with others who may have been in a similar situation can be very beneficial and help someone feel that they are not on their own.

Women being employed in the fire service has undoubtedly created a very different working environment for many men. Most have embraced this and enjoy working with their female colleagues – but there is still a long way to go.

My belief is that we are all equal – but we are different. We should all respect, value and enjoy each other's differences. Women and men are all entitled to the same opportunities, privacy and respect.

The Women's Action Group is not about feminism or sisterhood, but simply a point of reference for any woman who has, or is experiencing, any difficulties in what is still a very male dominated workforce.

WAG is purely a support group and open to anyone who has any problems or queries relating to gender specific issues.

**Comments published in 'The way I see it' are from individuals and do not necessarily represent the views of AF&RS. The Editor reserves the right to edit any comments sent in for publishing.**



## Rugby



The rugby team played two games in 2007 but despite some encouraging passages of play the squad finished as runners up in both contests. Attention has now turned to this season's endeavours, due to begin with a couple of friendly fixtures before Christmas.

Anyone interested in getting involved in the rugby team should contact Crew Manager Aaron Waltho at Temple (09) White Watch.

### Devon 39 Avon 12

The first fixture saw an 18 strong team made up from wholetime, retained and support staff travel to Brixham to play the defending national champions.

Despite periods of good play, which included a try from man of the match Gavin Wills, Devon were able to impose their dominance and ran out comfortable victors.

### Avon 14 Cornwall 18

Cornwall started the stronger of the two sides, running in two early tries inside the opening 15 minutes.

15 minutes from time Gavin Wills' converted try brought the deficit back to one point and provided hope of a last gasp victory, but sadly those hopes were put soundly to bed five minutes from the whistle, with a final score of 14 to 18.

## Golf

The Golf Section has had a storming start to the 2007 season having notched up a clean sweep of prizes at the South West Championships.

Brian Lindsay was named South West Champion at the event in Cornwall, with the best gross score of 77 and 76 strokes.

Not to be outdone, Andy Potheary scooped best net score with 69 and 66 strokes and together with Mike Parker and Jim Britton, made it a hat-trick for the group by winning the team stableford with 190 strokes.

12 members of the group, both serving and retired, headed off to Truro Golf Club for the first round of the championships. By the end of the showery day, four had won through to the second round at Newquay Golf Club.

Brian's win means he will now represent the South West at the Four Nations competition in Northern Ireland next year. Andy will also represent the South West at an England v Scotland match in September.

Our golfers also put in a strong showing at June's annual Sheriffs Cup, finishing a respectable fifth out of 47 teams at the Glasgow event.

After the first day the team had a combined score of 140 (net level par) and the second day's individual rounds ended with Dean Faulkner, Jim Britton, Andy Potheary and John Cowley achieving gross scores of 82, 87, 88 and 89 respectively.

Anyone interested in golf is welcome to join the society which has monthly meets around the service area. For more information contact Andy Potheary, Red Watch Patchway (04) on extension 8040.



The Golf Section had a very successful start to 2007 with the annual opener at Thornbury, a match between officers, serving members and retired staff.



## Down at the bottom of the garden

In this edition we turn our attention to a little corner of Nailsea, to a traditional patch of flowers and green in Lynn Brimmell's (Creative Services, HQ) garden.

Lynn's garden is the Debenhams of the garden world, with a different department for each type of plant, separated into themed sections including herbs, conifers, giant plants, woodland and various colour schemes.

The garden is also home to a veritable mass of frogs, the odd garden gnome, joss stick, and wind chime, with a traditional potting shed where Lynn spends a lot of her time re-potting and rescuing her plants.

Lynn says: "My family always took pride in their small gardens in South London. My aunt in particular was always taking cuttings from plants and giving me them, and always seemed to have lots of cuttings and bits from plants whenever I visited."

Lynn grows mostly perennials in her garden and has a collection of over 300 different types.

She said: "Like people, keep plants happy, put them where they need to be, appreciate and enjoy them and

make sure they have all the feed and water that they need to thrive.

"If I see a plant that doesn't look happy, I might move it three or four times, until I find the right place for it, whatever the season."

Lynn's impressive range of homegrown herbs from marjoram to thyme would turn Jamie Oliver green with envy.

### Lynn's top herb tip:

Supermarket pots of basil are usually made up of lots of seedlings. If you use what you want and repot the rest individually, you'll have a constant supply of basil.

### Lynn's top gardening tips:

**Care** - give your plants all the attention, food and water they need.

**Share** - when plants get overcrowded, split them up and give some away.

**Sit and stare** - with a glass of wine - the best way to enjoy the garden!

And finally, if you have a garden that could give some of Lynn's plants a home, let her know: [lynn.brimmell@avonfire.gov.uk](mailto:lynn.brimmell@avonfire.gov.uk)



## Email at work

Did you know that 'Outlook' lets you put a 'time limit' on your emails? For example, if you've sent an email to a group of people about an event at the end of the week that you need help with or to let people know the telephone system will be down on the Friday, you can time the email to expire on the Saturday. As the message won't be relevant to anyone who hasn't read it by a certain time, this means they won't have to read and delete it when they next check their email. Saving them time!

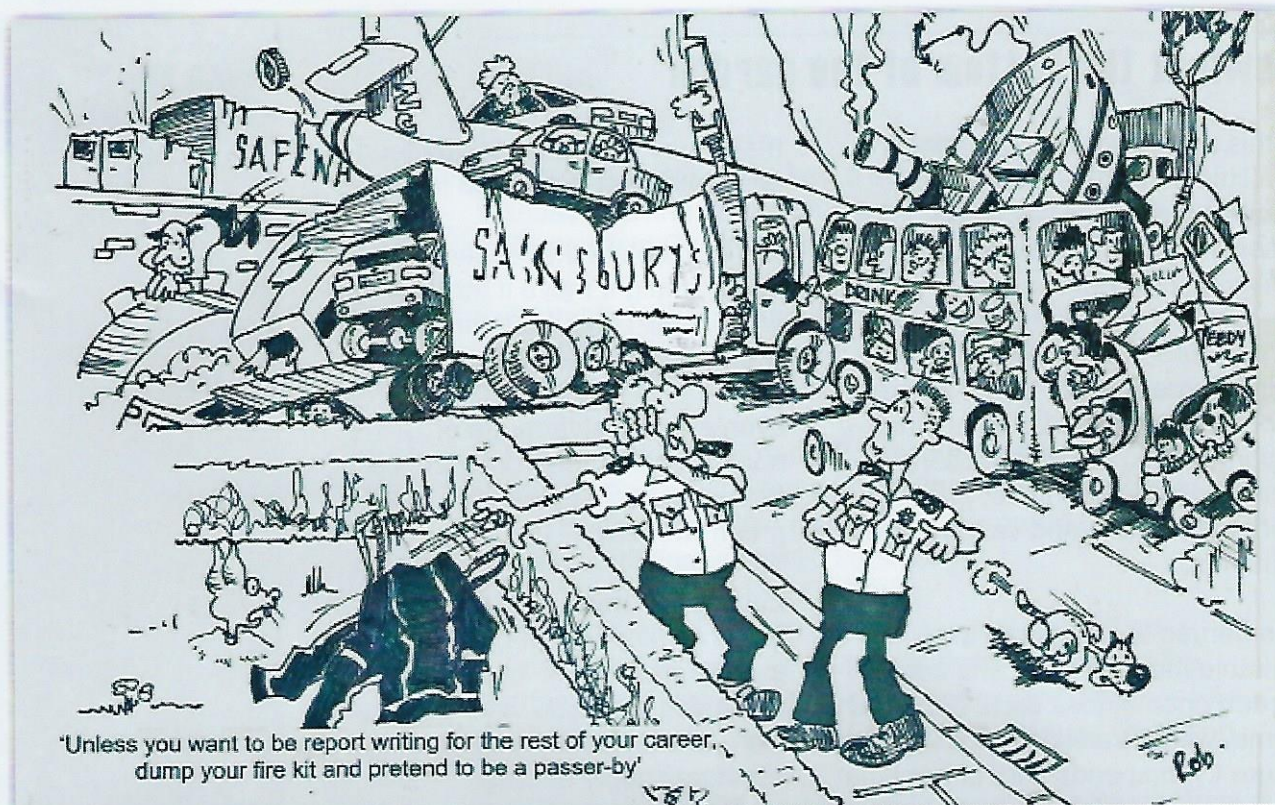
To do this, first create your message. Then click on 'View' then 'Options' (you might also see 'Options' on the toolbar). Select the 'Expires after' check box, and enter the date you want. There's a drop down calendar for the date - fill in the time using the 24-hour clock.

You can also recall a message you've already sent, as long as the recipient has not read or moved the message. To do this go to your 'Sent items' and open the message. On the 'Actions' menu click 'Recall this message' and then 'Delete unread copies of this message'. This function is also handy if you send an email to the wrong person.



# A LITTLE LIGHT RELIEF

Cartoon



## Who are they now...



If you have any photos that you would like to send in for 'Who are they now', please send them to Louise Hart, Creative Services. Please include who the photo is of, and your name and work location if you would like the photo back.



## BBQ recipes

Now summer is upon us (well almost) it's time to give the barbecue a quick clean up and head out to the garden to enjoy some al fresco dining.

But if burnt sausages and charred burgers are the usual results of your outdoor cooking experiences, it could be worth taking a few tips from Bedminster Blue Watch who have come up with a few special recipes that are sure to hit the spot with friends and family.

### Bob Shapcott's barbecue American steaks

Serves four

- 1/3 cup white vinegar
- 1/3 cup oil
- 3 tbsls brown sugar
- 3 tbsls soy sauce
- 1/2 tsp coarse black pepper
- 2 medium onions, peeled and sliced
- 1 garlic clove
- 1 1/2 lbs beef steak

- Mix together all the ingredients in a non-metallic bowl or sandwich bag.
- Add the beef and coat with the ingredients.
- Refrigerate for eight hours, turning beef at least once.
- Remove beef and onions from marinade.
- Once the barbecue is hot cook the beef for 12 minutes, turning halfway through.
- At the same time place the onions in foil and cook on the barbecue.
- Once the beef is cook remove from the heat and cut in thin diagonal slices.
- Serve topped with onions.



### Bedminster Blue Watch honey-ginger grilled salmon

Serves four

- 4g ground ginger
- 6g garlic powder
- 160ml soy sauce
- 160ml orange juice
- 120ml honey
- 2 chopped onions
- 1.3kg salmon fillet

- Mix the ginger, garlic, soy sauce, orange juice, honey and onion in a large, sealable plastic bag.
- Place the salmon fillets in the bag ensuring they are coated with the marinade and seal tightly.
- Refrigerate for 15 to 30 minutes.
- Once the barbecue is hot, oil the grill and remove the salmon from the bag.
- Shake off the excess marinade and discard the remainder of the sauce.
- Cook the salmon for 15 to 20 minutes per inch of thickness, or until the fish flakes easily with a fork.
- Serve with new potatoes and salad.

### Summer Tipple

- Shot of Archers
- Shot of vodka
- Shot of gin
- Large splash of orange juice

Mix in a cocktail shaker with ice then pour into tall glass. Add a dash of cranberry juice to the top for colour.

### Top Banana Smoothie

- 1 banana
- Two teaspoons drinking chocolate powder
- Two teaspoons honey
- 1/2 pint milk
- Sprinkle of nutmeg
- 8oz yoghurt

Mix in a blender until smooth, then dust with chocolate sprinkles.



## Cocktail recipes

Nikki Rice and Lucy Warren  
HQ support staff

### I Scream Baileys

- Shot of Baileys
- Shot of mint liquor
- Two scoops vanilla ice-cream
- 2 - 3 Oreo cookies crushed

Mix in a blender then pour into a tumbler. Use chocolate ice cream if desired or experiment with other flavours.



# LETTERS

**Celebrating the hard work carried out by you all. Below are just a few of the letters we have received over the last few months.**

## **Winscombe 24**

I write to convey my gratitude and appreciation of the help and efforts provided by your Winscombe team in rescuing my Jack Russell.

On Sunday 17 June, having confirmed her location, the fire crew quickly set to work, successfully released the dog from her potential grave within 30-40 minutes.

I appreciate that fire crews have experience of a multitude of diverse situations, but the fantastic teamwork, organisation, good humour and sheer common sense were obvious and key to the end result.

A brilliant effort and very much appreciated. Please pass on my, and I am sure the dog's, sincere thanks to all involved for their time and hard work

**Katherine Cooke  
Upper Langford**



## **Keynsham 13**

Re: 1<sup>st</sup> Saltford Beaver Scouts visit to Keynsham

The Beavers had an enjoyable time at Keynsham Fire Station on 6 January. The station was deserted at 9am [as the crew was at an incident], but one of the retained firefighters called a colleague, Helen, who came to our rescue.

She talked to the boys and showed them the engine and had only just got into bed when her phone rang. It was really kind of Helen to give up her time for us.

**1<sup>st</sup> Saltford Beaver Scouts**

## **Yatton 19**

I am writing on behalf of the Yatton Infant School Association to thank you for the attendance of the Yatton appliance at our bonfire and firework display on 4 November.

Despite the crew being called out during the evening, they still returned later and entertained the children (and some adults) by extinguishing the remains of the bonfire. The attendance of the Yatton crew at this large village event certainly helps to cement relationships between the fire service and the community as well as getting across important fire safety messages.

**Yatton Infant School Association**

## **Bath 12**

On behalf of the Junior Cadets and staff that visited the fire station on 14 December, I would like to thank the firefighters who did a fantastic job in showing the cadets the fire station and highlighting important safety facts.

It puts the lessons we teach into perspective, helping them realise that the fire station is essential, no matter how young or old you are.

When we returned to the unit they were telling the others what they had learned, so much so that it was quite difficult to keep them quiet for the evening colours! You obviously made an impression!

**Midshipman RNR**

## **Speedwell 11 – Blue Watch**

Re: 66<sup>th</sup> St John's Cub Pack visit to Speedwell

I just wanted to say a big thank you for arranging our trip to Speedwell Fire Station last week. The children had a fantastic time and the event had the perfect balance between being educational and fun. The children will be writing to the firefighters to thank them too, but please could you also pass on our thanks to them for organising such a fabulous evening.

**66<sup>th</sup> St John's Cub Pack**



### **Re: Call Point Actuation – 28 January**

We are two students from UWE and currently live on the student village on Frenchay Campus. On 28 January we activated the manual call point [in our halls of residence].

We are writing to apologise sincerely for this incident. We understand the seriousness of this matter and the outcome of our actions could have had a detrimental effect.

We hope you understand we are deeply regretful and can assure you it will not happen again, and [we] will strongly advise our peers against any such behaviour.

### **Brislington 14 – Red Watch**

Re: St Brendan's 6<sup>th</sup> Form College visit to Brislington

A big thank you for arranging our visit to Brislington Fire Station – the students really enjoyed the visit and found it very informative.

The really keen ones got their hands on hoses as well which really whetted their appetites.

Please do pass on our sincere thanks to the Red Watch crew – their time, enthusiasm and professionalism was greatly appreciated.

**St Brendan's 6<sup>th</sup> Form College**

### **Chew Magna 20**

I would be most grateful if you could pass on our thanks to Paul Cornelius and the firefighters from Chew Magna Fire Station who visited our nursery on 31 January.

The children had a wonderful time (as did the staff!). The visit was a great mix of information on safety and 'hands on' experience which provided the children with ideas for role play, arts and crafts and 101 other activities.

The crew were approachable, friendly and above all knew how to let the children have fun, while still putting the safety message across. We would love to see them back next year!

**East Harptree Nursery Pre School**

### **Speedwell 11 – Green Watch**

Re: 36<sup>th</sup> Bristol Anchor Boys visit to Speedwell

Thank you for arranging the visit on 28 November, it was very successful and we now have 25 little boys who want to be firefighters. More importantly, the boys now have an understanding of what to do in the event of a fire at home.

Please pass on our thanks to the officers and firefighters of Green Watch who with great enthusiasm and care made our visit so interesting, successful and worthwhile.

**36<sup>th</sup> Bristol Anchor Boys**

### **Bath 12 – Red Watch**

I would like to thank the crew who rescued my two dogs from under my garden shed on 22 March. They were efficient and courteous and I am so grateful to them for their assistance.

**Judy Veale  
Batheaston**

### **Nailsea 16**

Thanks for organising a very successful visit by Nailsea's firefighters to Holy Trinity Church's 'Fabulous Friday Night Club' on Friday 25 May.

The event was a total surprise to the Friday Nighters who interacted really well with the firefighters, making it a very satisfying occasion for all concerned.

Please pass on my special thanks to the Nailsea firefighters who attended and gave such a lively and interactive briefing on the fire triangle, various types of first aid, fire appliances and their purposes, fire alarms and evacuation procedures. Add to that a walk around and briefing on the fire appliance in attendance and a chance to hose down the local environment, and the Friday Nighters' evening was made!

My thanks also go to AF&RS headquarters for authorising an event which I'm confident has brought fire prevention and safety awareness to an interested group of youngsters in our local community.

**Holy Trinity Church Fabulous Friday Night Club**



# BRAINTEASER



## Sudoku grid

	7	5				4	6	
6				5				2
9			6		3			7
		1	3		8	7		
	6						1	
		7	5		6	3		
4			1		9			8
1				2				9
	5	9				2	3	

## Phrases

Can you identify these common phrases from the Dingbats clues?

put  
ton

Roger

just

Trans

it

ATL NTIC

↓  
A

Bed

FA

ST

## Answers:

## Phrases

(1) Put on weight, (2) Roger over and out, (3) Just right, (4) It fell off the back of a lorry, (5) A drop in the ocean, (6) Bed and Breakfast

## Sudoku grid

8	7	5	2	9	1	4	6	3
6	1	3	4	5	7	9	8	2
9	4	2	6	8	3	5	1	7
5	9	1	3	4	8	2	7	6
3	6	4	9	2	7	8	1	5
2	8	7	5	1	6	3	9	4
4	2	6	1	3	9	5	7	8
1	3	8	7	5	2	6	4	9
7	5	9	8	6	4	2	3	1



# COMMUNITY EVENTS



Filton Soccer Day (Patchway Green) - April



Temple Fire Station Curry Meal - June



Clevedon Litter Pick - April



Easton Week of Action - June



Kingswood Environmental Action Day - June



Refugee Week Fun Day, Queens Square, Bristol - July



National Child Safety Week Keynsham - June