

Summer 2009

AVON FIRE & RESCUE

Magazine



Inside: Two firefighters take on a huge challenge for charity

Welcome



From the Chief

The summer months have already been filled with lots of opportunities for us to engage with the local community, with events taking place across the Avon area. A round up of some of this work can be found on page five.

Other highlights in this edition of the magazine include an insight into what staff across the service are doing to reduce our carbon footprint, a feature on our summer fire safety campaign and a look back over past magazine stories.

AF&RS played a key role in this year's Networking Women in the Fire Service (NWFS) conference. Read the thoughts of two of our colleagues who attended on pages 20, 21 and 22.

Don't forget we always welcome your feedback on the magazine, so if you have any suggestions for future issues please email magazine@avonfire.gov.uk

A stylized, handwritten signature in white ink, appearing to read 'K Pearson'.

Kevin Pearson
Chief Fire Officer/Chief Executive

04



Contents

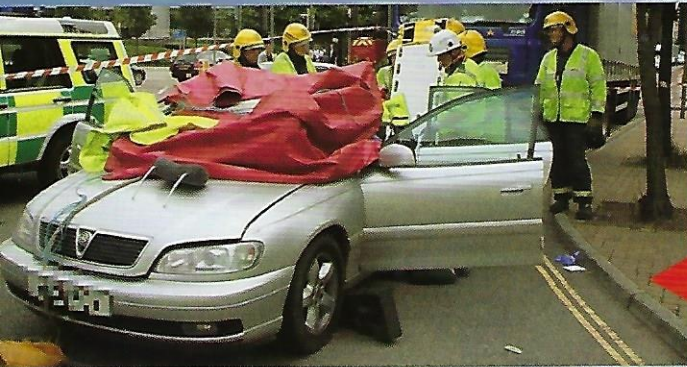
Inside this issue

- 04** Incidents – read more about some of the shouts we have attended.
- 05** Community events – we have been busy reaching out to our target groups.
- 07** Farewell – Jim Rex says goodbye to the service in style.
- 08** Our people – with green issues at the top of the agenda, read about what staff are doing to make a difference.
- 16** The Fire Fighters Charity – find out what two of our staff are doing to raise money.
- 19** In partnership – we teamed up with two aerospace firms to take part in an exercise to test our resilience.
- 20** Developing our staff – an insight into a three day conference at The Fire Service College.

Have your say on the magazine. Please contact the Media & Communication Team at AF&RS if you have any comments about the magazine. You may have an idea for a story or feature, or may wish to suggest some changes.

Contact us: 0117 926 2061 extension 216, email magazine@avonfire.gov.uk or by post to the Media & Communication Team, Avon Fire & Rescue Service, Temple Back, Bristol, BS1 6EU.





RTC a stone's throw from city fire station

Tuesday 30 June
14.04 Temple Way, Bristol

Crews from Temple Fire Station heard the collision from the appliance bay and had just metres to travel to get to the RTC where an HGV had hit a car.

Firefighters tackle blaze at former hotel

Thursday 4 June
17.41 Royal Pier Hotel, Birnbeck Road, Weston-super-Mare

Control received multiple calls to the former hotel and crews found a fire on the third floor, which had spread to the roof.



Fire guts five-storey house

Monday 8 June
17.19 Upper Belgrave Road, Clifton, Bristol

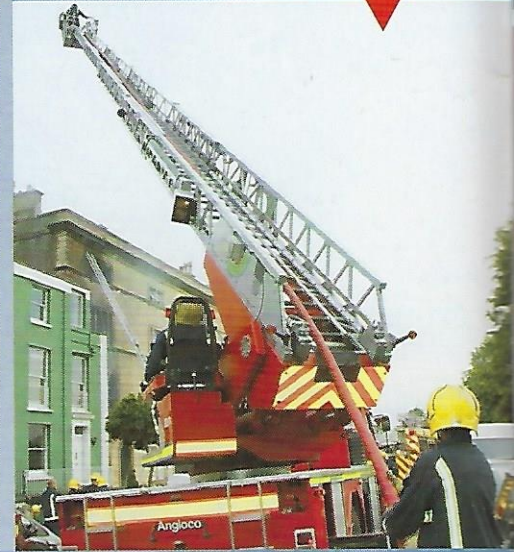
Sparks from a disc-cutter being used by workers led to a severe fire, which quickly spread over all five floors of the property.



Fire breaks out in unoccupied property

Saturday 20 June
09.23 Wilder Street, St Paul's, Bristol

Firefighters were called to an unoccupied property in St Paul's after a small fire broke out in a room on the first floor.



Man rescued after house fire

Sunday 12 July
01.58 Teignmouth Road, Clevedon

Firefighters rescued a man who was shouting for help from an upstairs window after fire broke out in his kitchen.



Community events

RTC demonstration at horse trials

Thursday 7 May

Badminton Horse Trials, Badminton

Crews from Yate (03) took the road safety message to visitors at the Badminton Horse Trials.



Fire safety advice for group

Tuesday 2 June

Vassell Centre, Fishponds, Bristol

Members of the Asian Learning Difficulties Group found out about fire safety from our BME Advocate Nila Rehman.



Crews give advice during Child Safety Week

Tuesday 23 June

The Park, Daventry Road, Knowle West

Youngsters from Footprints Day Nursery tried out firefighting equipment during Child Safety Week.



Carnival-goers get the safety message

Saturday 4 July

St Paul's, Bristol

Visitors to St Paul's Carnival enjoyed the sights and sounds of the annual event and popped into Avon's Interactive Display Unit to gain top tips on fire safety.



RoadSkills advice for young drivers

Sunday 31 May

Tesco car park, Paulton

Firefighters from Bath and Radstock took the RoadSkills programme on the road to young drivers in Paulton to educate them on the consequences of dangerous driving.

Here are some of the stories from AF&RS over the last few months that you may have missed...

In **May** we teamed up with Avon and Somerset Constabulary and the National Farmers' Union to launch Farm Watch, aimed at making farms less vulnerable to crime and fire; Andrew Mitchell MP, Shadow Secretary of State for International Development, visited AF&RS headquarters to learn more about the work of GAFSIP (Gambia and Avon Fire Services in Partnership); and firefighters spent around three hours rescuing a cow trapped in a culvert in Wellow, near Bath.



Avon's Maggie Harte, Director of HR and People Development, was awarded an OBE (under her married name of Haskell) for services to local government in the Queen's Birthday Honours List in **June**; a group of firefighters raised more than £4,000 for Help for Heroes and The Fire Fighters Charity when they climbed Mount Snowdon wearing full firefighting equipment; and around 50 firefighters dealt with a blaze at the former Royal Pier Hotel in Birnbeck, Weston-super-Mare.



Meet Avon's latest addition

We welcomed our new USAR dog Bryn to Avon in **July**, the five-month old Border Collie is based with Cheshire Fire & Rescue Service, but will respond to incidents involving Avon's specialist team; the Combined Aerial Rescue Pump went on the run at Patchway (04) and; with help from Clevedon (17) crews, students from Clevedon School took part in an RTC rescue demonstration during



the school's Emergency Services Day, learning about road safety.

For more news stories please visit our website: www.avonfire.gov.uk



Jim Rex from White Watch, Temple, retires after 30 years with a special trip to mark the end of an era

Sometime ago I said that it would be nice to do something different as a retirement farewell, like a walk or bike ride. In my mind, I thought maybe three or four people would be interested, but in the end nearly 20 cyclists set off from Temple (09) Fire Station for a ride to The Lock Inn at Bradford-On-Avon.

The weather had been very rough on the previous few days, so a bright calm day was a welcome break. With a few quick mechanical checks, frantic pumping up of tyres and an impromptu photocall we were off.

Across the newly completed electricity building development onto the walkway along the waterside towards Temple Meads, we passed over the new shiny steel bridge through The Dings and on to the Bristol to Bath cycle path.

At Bitton we were joined by around ten more friends who had cycled from Bath already.

There was much chatting, coffee and comparing/admiring of fine new machines, courtesy of the highly successful Cycle Scheme available to all staff.

On to Bath and through to the Kennett and Avon Canal towpath. Here there was much jollity through muddy puddles, with splendid views and scenery.

At Bradford-on-Avon we assembled for lunch at The Lock Inn, run by former Fire Officer Dick Barrow, met with a few other retired fellows and compared tales of sights, near misses and sore bottoms.

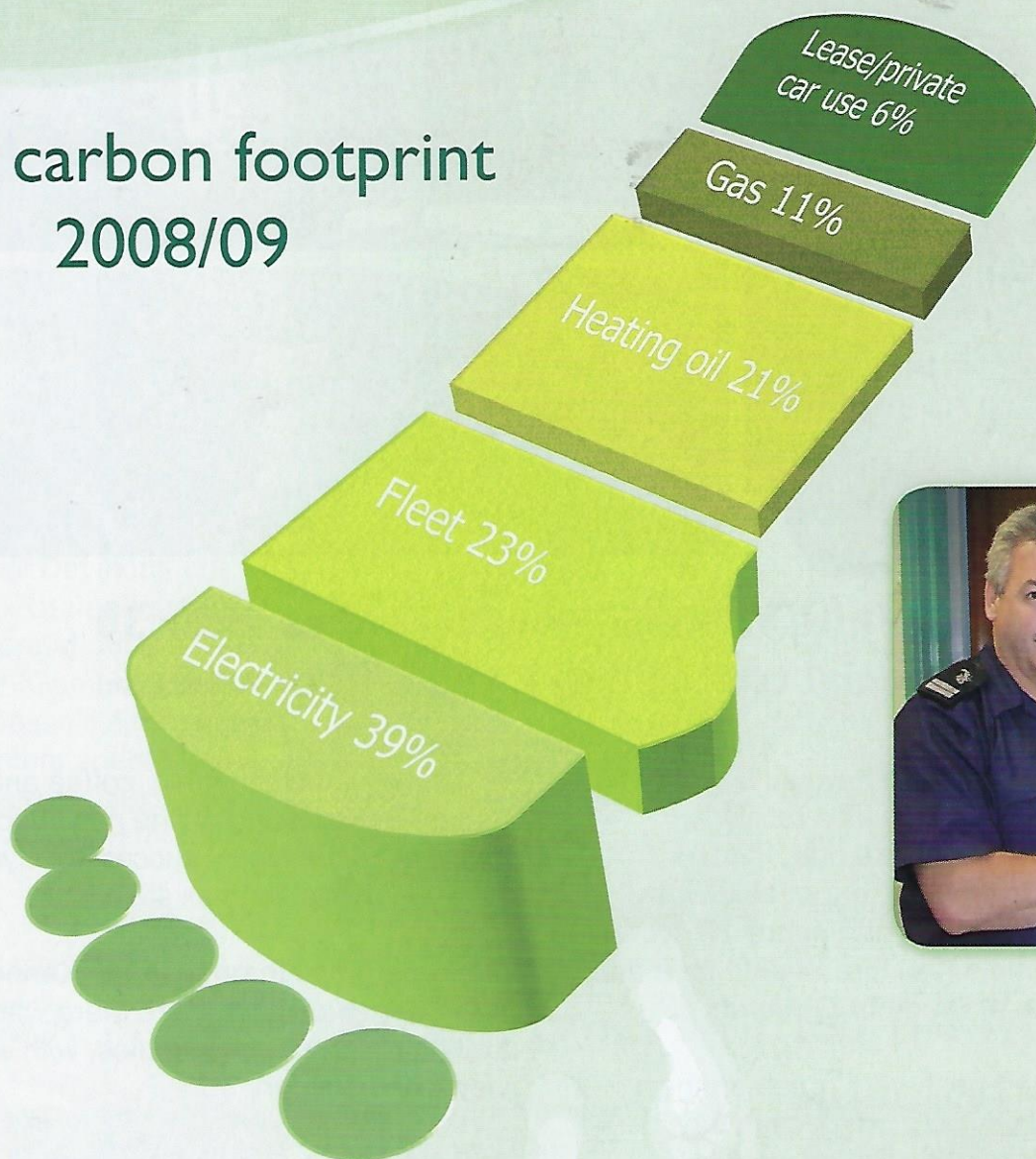
The day far exceeded my hopes and expectations and thanks go to everyone involved, particularly to Martin Shergold and John Martin and my companion Nikki Marshall.

The lonely ride home was filled with memories, smiles and a resolve to do it againplease!

By Jim Rex

Avon going green

Our carbon footprint 2008/09



We all try to do our bit for the environment when at home and now staff across the service are going green at work too. We recently pledged to reduce our carbon footprint by 30 per cent in the next five years, with steps already being taken at our locations to minimise the impact of our business on the environment.



We take a look at some of the initiatives taking place...

The redevelopment of **Nailsea** (16) Fire Station has been completed to the very latest building standards, with many environmentally-friendly features. The main appliance bay has been built using timber from sustainable forests and there is now no heating in the bay itself. The entire station has been well insulated with all windows double-glazed and a condensing gas boiler in place. Room-sensitive lighting features in most of the rooms, meaning the lights only come on when needed.

At the **South West Command Development Centre** (SWCDC), Lansdown, there have been a number of problems with the air conditioning controls in meeting rooms, with each one controlled separately. This means many units are left on wasting huge amounts of energy. New user guidance information is now in place to ensure more efficient use of the systems.

Much of the food waste at **Bedminster** (15) Fire Station is being collected in a composting bin. The compost made at Bedminster has so far been used in the station's hanging baskets and vegetable patch to grow lettuces and tomatoes.

Staff at **Weston-super-Mare** (18) Fire Station also have their own composting bin for vegetable peelings and teabags, and they make sure computers and lighting are switched off at night.

Crews at **Thornbury** (02) Fire Station now have a new condensing boiler, which is more efficient; low energy efficient lighting is in use at **Avonmouth** (05) Fire Station; and new signage has been created for recycling bins at all **AF&RS** locations to ensure the amount of waste sent to landfill is reduced.

Creative Services is also thinking green, with the number of printed Bulletins and Magazines reduced. Electronic copies of the Bulletin are available on the Intranet.



Avon going green



A recipe for disaster

Darren Lewis nearly died when a family BBQ took a dangerous turn – now he is fronting an AF&RS campaign to educate others.

A man who was left scarred for life in a near fatal BBQ fire has become the face of our latest summer safety campaign.

Darren Lewis, 41, from Bristol was left with severe burns to his arms, legs and chest after being covered in burning fuel when he put the highly flammable Nitro Fuel on his BBQ last May. The accident happened in front of his terrified wife Michelle and daughter Rebecca in the garden of their Mangotsfield home.

Crews from Kingswood (10) and Brislington (14) Red Watch were called to the incident and realising the seriousness of Darren's injuries they began to provide emergency trauma care. Firefighter Pat Delaney was later formally recognised for his actions in directing and carrying out this care.

Be BBQ safe



Darren readily admits that he is only here today thanks to the work of Avon Fire & Rescue Service crews.

Darren was rushed to Frenchay Hospital's Burns Unit and immediately taken into the Intensive Care Unit with partial thickness burns to 40% of his body. Five days after the accident, and slipping in and out of consciousness, doctors were so concerned about his health that on a number of occasions Darren's wife was called in amid fears that Darren could die at any time.

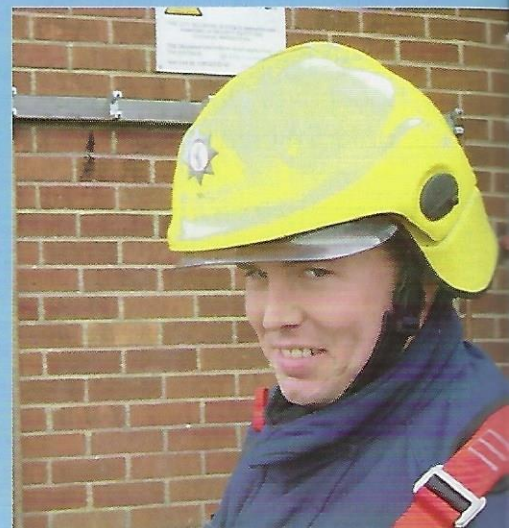
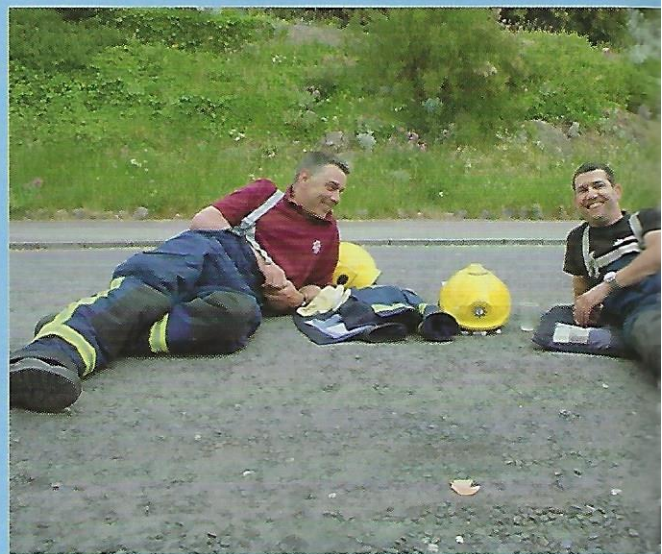
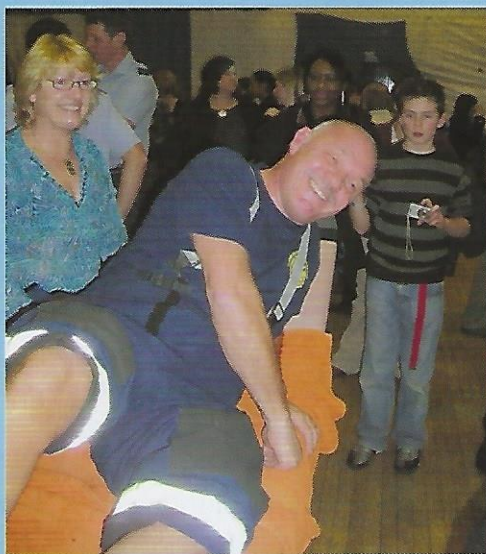
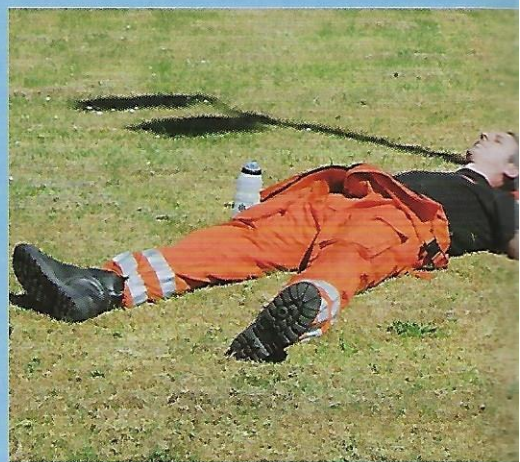
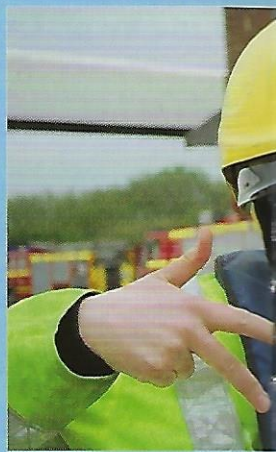
Over the following weeks Darren made a slow, but painful recovery. He underwent three operations to have skin grafts during six weeks in hospital. His rehabilitation continues to this day.

During planning for the summer safety campaign Creative Services came up with the concept of using Darren's story to highlight the dangers of BBQs. With help from Kingswood (10) Red Watch, Creative Services approached Darren and he readily agreed to feature in a leaflet, film and press campaign to put a real-life story to a vital safety message.

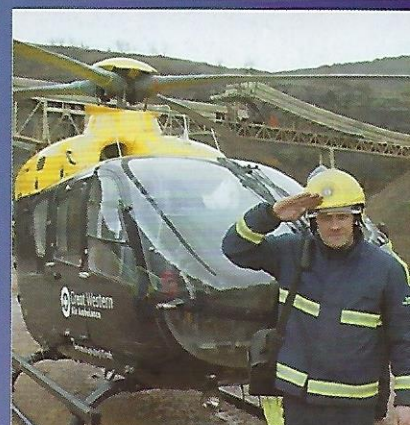
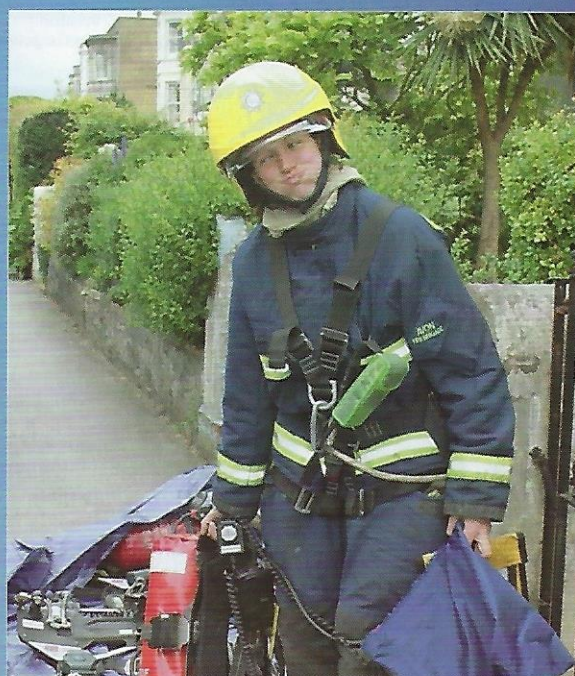
Darren's story has been filmed for FireTV and his experience appears in a series of new leaflets on BBQ safety. A number of recipe cards have also been produced with safety advice and tips on gas, charcoal and disposable BBQs on the reverse side.

Crews planning summer events can contact Creative Services for supporting materials.

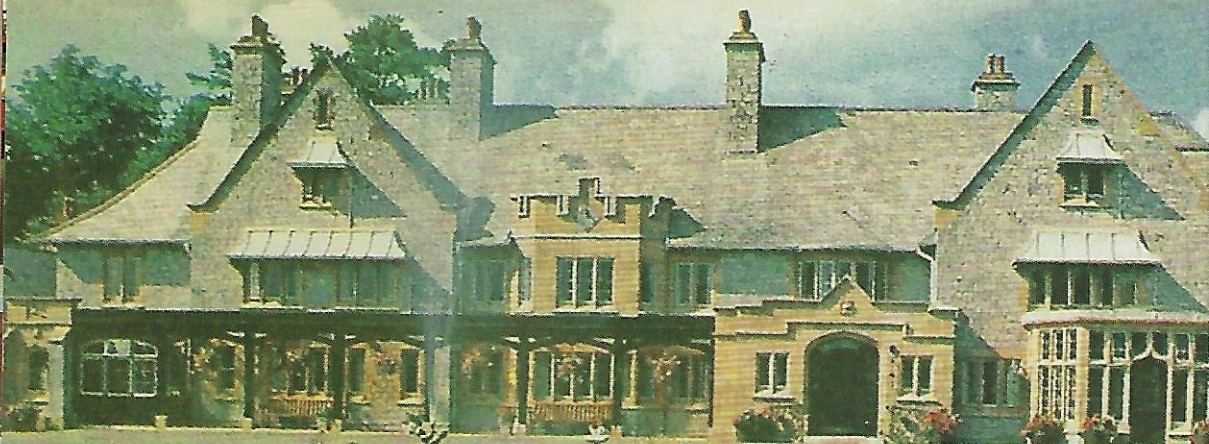
every Rogues' gallery Rogues' gallery



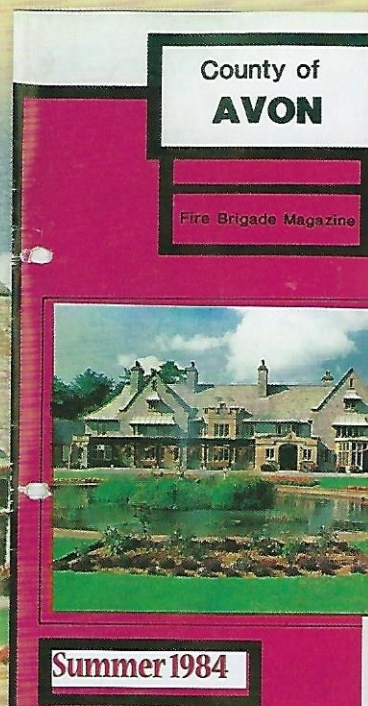
every Rogues' gallery Rogues' gallery



Looking back... We revisit the 1980s



Rehabilitation and therapy centre for The Fire Fighters Charity, Harcombe House, Devon



and some of the articles featured in the then brigade magazines

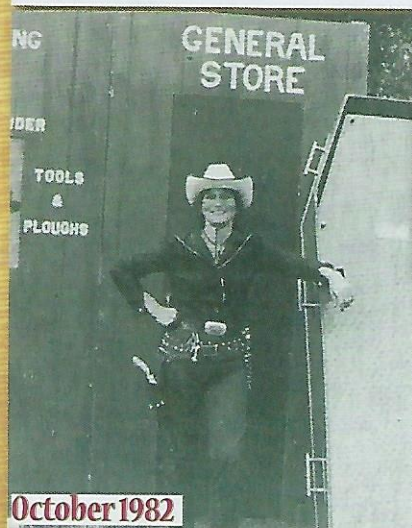
C1 Weston Open Day

This year's event was kindly opened by Graham Miller of HTV and proved to be an interesting and enjoyable day for well over 2500 visitors. Entertainment was provided by the Bristol Unicorn Youth Band and Courage Cowboys; also there were drill demonstrations by the crews of C1. The Lifeboat, Coastguard and Avon County Ambulance Services were represented, plus many stalls, side-shows and competitions. To add to the interest of the afternoon, the Kent Fire Brigade Trishaw Marathon team arrived for an overnight stay, which was part-way on their 1600-mile round Britain sponsored marathon to raise money for the Fire Services National Benevolent Fund and the British Heart Foundation. They all joined in the spirit of the

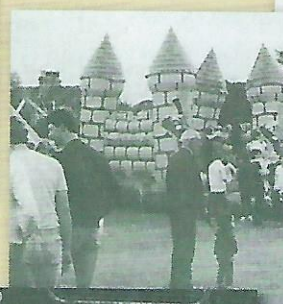
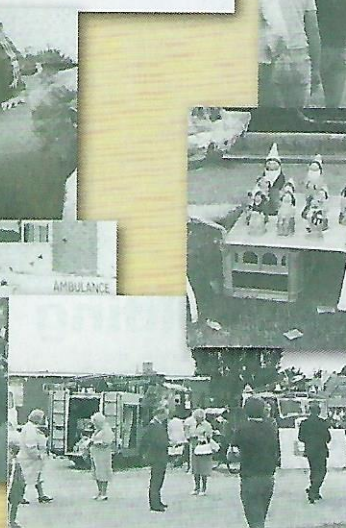
afternoon, volunteering for the ducking stool and helping with the other sideshows. Station Officer Neil Humphries and his committee certainly put a tremendous effort into the event, which is anticipated to have raised over £1000 each for the Benevolent Fund and the Weston-super-Mare Lifeboat Centenary Appeal. All who helped and took part are to be congratulated.

Winner of holiday from Weston Open Day programmes: Susan Hobbs, Locking, Weston.

Susan is getting married next March and is going to use the holiday as her honeymoon.



October 1982



COUNTY OF
FIRE BR
MAGAZ

OCTOBER

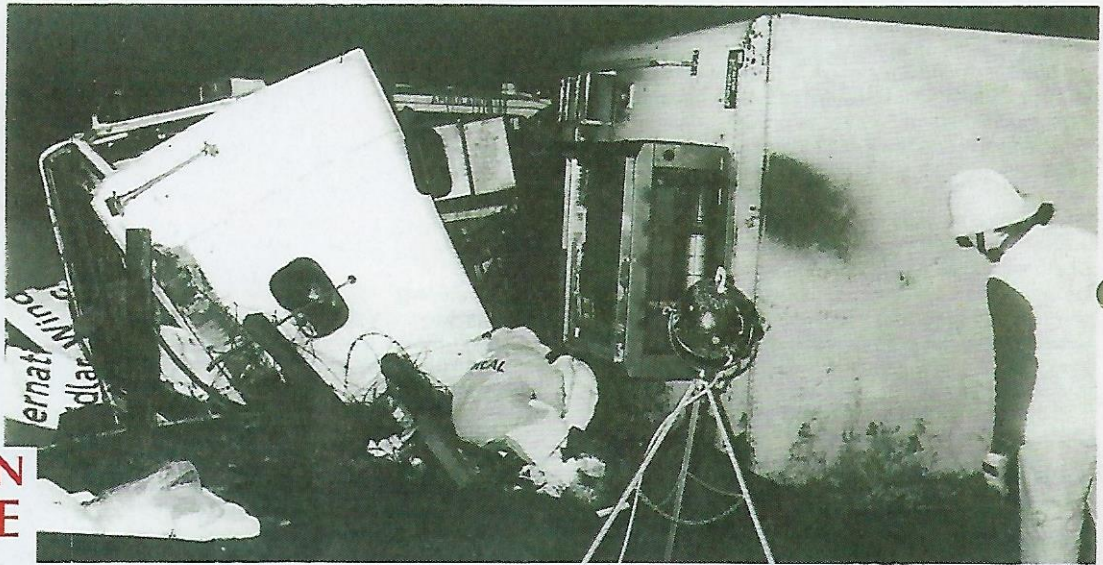


October 1982

Call out

Spring 1982

Motorway Accident near Cribbs Causeway



trapped driver is attended by the doctor.

A5 Patchway was called out to an accident on the M5 northbound at 0600 hours on February 18 when an articulated lorry carrying 20 tons of fish went off the motorway adjacent to Cribbs Causeway. The driver had been thrown out of the cab and the lower part of his body was trapped under the trailer unit. An ambulance crew requested the attendance of a doctor and nurse from Frenchay, who set up drips, etc.

The only way to lift the trailer from the victim was by the use of air bags but because of the load carried and the state of the trailer it became necessary for the Officer-in-Charge, ADO Robbins, to call for the attendance of another rescue tender. Despite the use of four air bags it was still necessary to remove two-thirds of the load and to call upon the assistance of the breakdown vehicle from Gordano Services. The crews greatly appreciated the availability of high-pressure mini air envelopes. Some two hours later the victim was released with serious leg injuries and conveyed to hospital.

A senior police officer on the scene remarked on the hard work and enthusiasm of the crews in this difficult and protracted rescue operation and on the skill and expertise of the ambulance and medical crew attending the victim during his harrowing experience.



Scooping out earth to enable air bags to be placed under trailer.

COUNTY OF AVON
FIRE BRIGADE
MAGAZINE

APRIL/MAY 1982

Spring 1982

OF AVON
GADE
NE

Spring 1985



The Fire Fighters Charity offers a range of support for firefighters, their families and support staff, those who have retired from service life.

Tunnel to Towers

AVON
FIRE & RESCUE

To sponsor Sean and Matt, visit www.justgiving.com/tunnel2towers

How The Fire Fighters Charity can help you

The charity's three UK centres in Cumbria, West Sussex and Devon provide therapy, rehabilitation and recuperation facilities.

Its residential therapy programmes are run by teams of dedicated professionals and offer physical treatment for a wide range of conditions.

For more information visit www.firefighterscharity.org.uk

Need help or advice?
Call the charity's helpline

services for
as well as



The
Fire Fighters
Charity

The Fire Fighters Charity is one of two good causes set to benefit from a forthcoming challenge by two Southmead (06) Blue Watch firefighters.

Watch Manager Sean Spearing and Crew Manager Matt Osbourne are set to take part in the Tunnel to Towers event in New York on Sunday 27 September.

The annual event was set up in memory of a firefighter who died following the terrorist attacks in New York on Tuesday 11 September 2001.

Sean and Matt will join hundreds of competitors on the day, following a five-kilometre route from the Brooklyn Battery Tunnel to the former Twin Towers site in lower

Manhattan. They will stand out from the rest of the crowd, however, as they will complete the race wearing firefighting kit.

The duo will be raising funds for both The Fire Fighters Charity and GAFSIP (Gambia and Avon Fire Services in Partnership). For GAFSIP, Sean and Matt are aiming to raise enough to help set up a radio communications network for the Gambia Fire and Rescue Service (GFRS). GFRS currently relies on mobile phones to cover its 300 mile area.

vice?

s Beneficiary Support Helpline on 0800 389 8820

It costs the charity:

£40 to provide a day's recuperation at one of its three centres.

£300 to cover the cost of the helpline for one day.

£1,200 to provide a week's intensive physiotherapy.

PREVENTING PROTECTING RESPONDING

Light-weight hoses and gloves will also form part of the kit. These can be used to engage with young adults, who may be considering becoming a firefighter.

To book out the kit or for more information please contact Events Co-ordinator
Louisa Goodey on extension 381 or email louisa.goodey@avonfire.gov.uk



Now whenever you receive an email from that person it will appear in your inbox in the colour you have chosen.



Avonimouse

Testing resilience



Ensuring we are fully prepared for a real emergency is a major part of life in the fire and rescue service, so staff from AF&RS have been assisting Bristol-based firms Airbus and BAE Systems.

The scenario involved a plane carrying staff from Airbus' Broughton site, in Wales, to Filton Airfield, which crashed on arrival.

Crews from Filton Airport Fire Station were first on the scene, closely followed by firefighters from Patchway (04) Fire Station.

A number of the passengers on board, mostly volunteers from Filton College, had managed to get off the aircraft and were wandering around the airfield injured and in shock.

Police, fire and ambulance crews quickly established Silver Control to oversee the tactical management of the incident and Airbus set up a crisis centre for survivor information and business continuity. The exercise was designed as a test for staff working at the airfield to ensure they will have

the necessary procedures in place in the event of a real emergency of this nature.

Firefighters and a number of Flexi-Duty Officers from AF&RS gave advice and talked through how events would play out for real.

Fire Service Manager at Filton Airport and former AF&RS Chief Fire Officer, Dave Hutchings, organised the exercise. He said: "The aim of the day was to test how staff here would tackle the fire, deal with injured passengers, handle the media and ensure business continuity. The airfield has a legislative fire and rescue service, but as proven on the day the support from Avon and other statutory services is absolutely essential to deal with an airfield incident of this nature. The exercise was about ensuring we can all work together in a real crisis."

Developing our staff



AF&RS played a key role in this year's Networking Women in the Fire Service (NWFS) conference.

Avon staged the first day of the event with a programme called 'Leaders in the fire and rescue service – it's time to influence, inspire and initiate change'.

The day saw Chief Fire Officers, Elected Members and managers discuss ways to recruit, retain and provide development opportunities for women.

Workshops including life as a firefighter, practical road traffic collision rescue and incident command exercises, alongside classroom-based sessions on building confidence and empowerment also took place over the weekend.

Over the next two pages our staff share their experiences...



By Stuart Matthews (Watch Manager)

I was fortunate enough to be given the opportunity to attend the NWFS conference.

The three-day event is open to everyone, male and female, operational and non-operational, to share experiences and face new challenges in a supportive atmosphere, making new friends along the way.

The aim of the event is quite simply to contribute to making the service a place where women and men can work together harmoniously and professionally.

I attended numerous workshops on topics including how to influence, inspire and initiate change, conflict, emotional intelligence, Hazmat and supporting disability.

Having taken the time to engage, speak and listen to individuals at the conference, I became aware of the scale of the issues on the agenda.



One of the most interesting parts of the conference was when a Station Manager shared a story of how the station was adapted to accommodate a place where firefighters could relax during their time of rest and read poetry, without their colleagues making comments. The only major change was to the culture and traditions of the station, a change to accept people's differences.

The weekend was an amazing experience and I would highly recommend it to others.





By Emma Williams (Firefighter)

I attended the NWFS event because I felt it would be a fantastic opportunity for self development. I also wanted to mix with firefighters from around the country to learn more about some of the issues they face and how they have dealt with them, for example clothing, maternity policies, facilities, bullying and harassment, and myths.

I had the opportunity to do operational training and/or classroom-based workshops. I opted for the latter because I hoped to learn more about my own weaknesses and limitations and how best to address them.

The tutors were very knowledgeable and understanding which allowed for a relaxed and open environment and I came away from the weekend with a clear plan of what I would like to achieve and how to make it happen. I also learnt a lot from other firefighters about the differences between fire and rescue services and how they have gone about challenging unacceptable standards and working towards change.

This training event supports and gives opportunities to everyone. I think it is an amazing chance for men, as well as women, to develop their skills and knowledge in a range of areas, while understanding and gaining an appreciation of some of the issues facing women.

It was a fantastic environment to challenge myself in and I would highly recommend that all staff seriously consider taking part next year.



our staff

Developing

A little light relief

Spot the difference



Can you find the ten differences in these two photos of firefighters at an incident in Upper Belgrave Road, Clifton, Bristol? See below for the answers.

Pick up a penguin

Did you find the penguin?

Well done to White Watch, Temple (09), Green Watch, Control (01), Katie Llewellyn, Cheryl Rea, Louise Storey, Jane Williams-Lock, Christine Read, Natalie Wilson, Laura Tate and Dawn Wright for correctly identifying where the penguin was hiding in the spring edition of the magazine.



In fact there were two penguins hiding – one on page three and one on page 18.

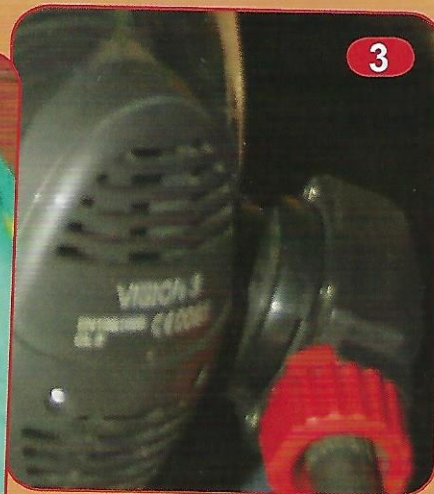
Can you find the penguin hiding inside this edition?

The first person to email magazine@avonfire.gov.uk with the correct location will win a prize.

Spot the difference
Answers: Hot air balloon, extra tree below balloons, extra chimney pot, house colour, tree removed from above the door of property, extra rear light on the turntable ladder, extra hoses, extra ladder up to window, indicator panel, extra white line on road.

And finally... Kit check

Can you identify where these pieces of equipment come from?



Answers: 1. High Volume Pump 2. decontamination suit 3. breathing apparatus set 4. Firelink radio 5. hovercraft controls 6. Killo's shoe.

Editor: Steph Mounsey

Regular contributors: Ruth Baker, James Bladon, Louise Lever, Helen Shrimpton

Guest contributors: Stuart Matthews, Jim Rex and Emma Williams

Design and layout: Annabel Brito, Carol Meredith and Mark Rumble

Thank you: To all our contributing writers, as well as everyone who supplied pictures and ideas.

Views expressed in articles are those of the individual, and do not necessarily reflect those of the publishers or AF&RS.

All content is subject to copyright and no part of this publication may be reproduced or transmitted in any form, without prior consent of AF&RS Media & Communication Team. Images are the copyright of AF&RS or the relevant supplier.

Written, designed and published by Creative Services, HQ, Temple Back, Bristol BS1 6EU.

Tel: 0117 926 2061 extension 216 or email magazine@avonfire.gov.uk



recycle

Please recycle this magazine
when you have finished reading it.