



**AVON FIRE & RESCUE**

# Magazine

Issue One 2010

For employees of Avon Fire & Rescue Service



## Inside this issue



2009 Annual Awards Ceremony



Rescue skills – in the fast lane



Dealing with international emergencies



# Welcome



## From the Chief

Welcome to the new edition of our Magazine. In this issue I was particularly interested to read about the unique work that is taking place at AF&RS surrounding juvenile fire setting.

It's easy to dismiss the behaviour of young fire starters as 'trouble makers' or just 'bad kids', but the truth is many of these children have complex and unaddressed issues.

Over the past six years our Fire Setters Advisors have carried out one-to-one interventions with more than 350 young people. This work has led to many success stories and, I'm sure, to a reduction in the number of deliberate fires we attend.

The only way we can build on this work is through better understanding, which is why we commissioned and funded an academic study into juvenile fire setting. I see this as key to informing our future work.

Taking steps to reduce the number of fires started by young people is not only something which the Government expects us to do, but more importantly it is the right thing to do for the hundreds of young people whose lives we've helped, and will continue to help, turn around.

**Kevin Pearson**

**Chief Fire Officer/Chief Executive**



# 18

**When a devastating earthquake hit Indonesia, one of our staff members was part of the international rescue effort**

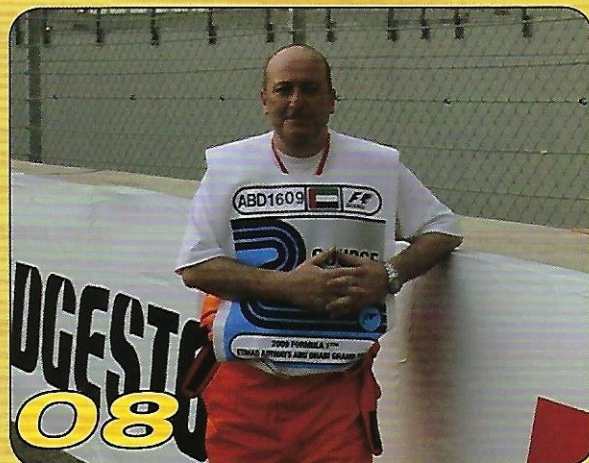


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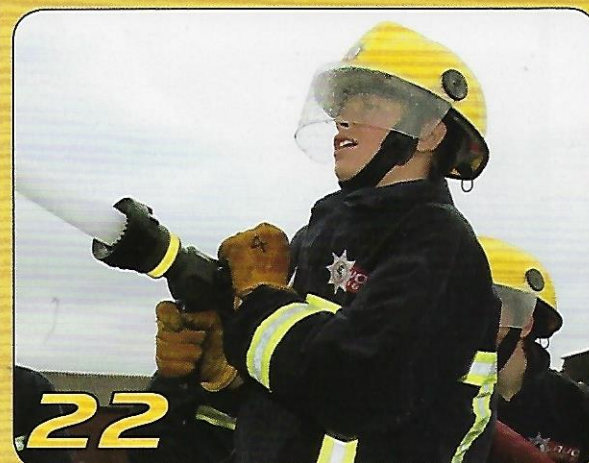
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If you would like to have your say on the Magazine or contribute an article, please contact the Media & Communication Team by calling 0117 926 2061, extension 390, or email [magazine@avonfire.gov.uk](mailto:magazine@avonfire.gov.uk)

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The Magazine is written, designed and published by Creative Services, HQ, Temple Back, Bristol, BS1 6EU.



**recycle**

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# Incidents



## Injured worker carried to safety

Thursday 8 October  
Redcliff Street, Bristol

Firefighters were called to rescue a man who was taken ill while working at the top of a seven-storey building site. Crews used a builder's hoist to rescue the man before carrying him to a waiting ambulance.



## Turntable ladder used in fire rescue

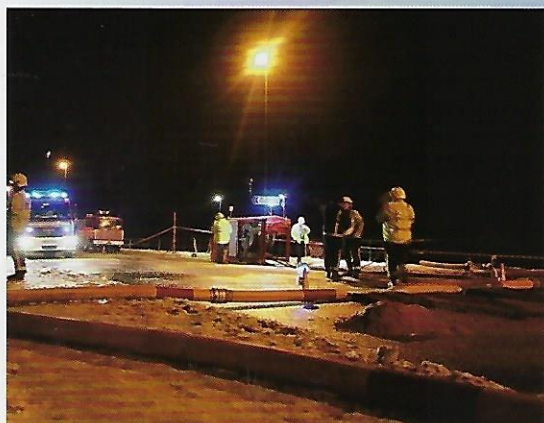
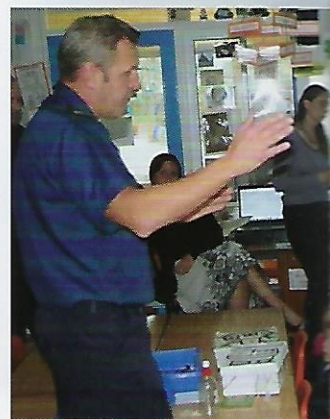
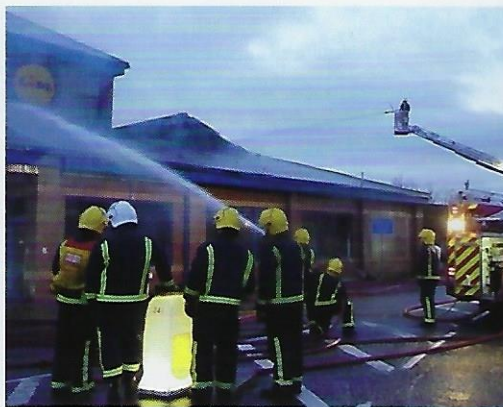
Thursday 19 November  
Old Market, Bristol

A man was rescued by firefighters from the roof of a four-storey building after fire broke out in a block of flats. Crews used a turntable ladder to reach the 37-year old man, who escaped to the roof after seeing smoke coming from the first floor.

## Worle supermarket damaged by fire

Monday 18 January  
Lidl, Summer Lane, Worle

Ten appliances, including two aerials, were called in to deal with a supermarket fire which broke out in the early hours. Local homes were evacuated as crews worked to bring the blaze under control.



## Acetylene blast leads to lengthy operation

Thursday 7 January  
BOC Ltd, Whitby Road, Bristol

An explosion at an acetylene production and bottling plant saw fire crews involved during a 10 day incident. The High Volume Pump (HVP) was used to provide water to cool the cylinders until it was deemed safe to tackle to the fire.



# Community events

## Celebrating Christmas with the Chief

Tuesday 15 December  
Perrett House, Bristol

CFO/CE Kevin Pearson and former ACFO John Dando spread a little festive cheer at a sheltered housing project for elderly people in Bristol when they served them Christmas lunch. The event was part of our winter 'Keep Warm, Keep Safe' campaign.

## Firing their imagination

Thursday 12 November  
St John's School, Midsomer Norton

Firefighters from Bath used the story of the Great Fire of London to demonstrate to primary school children how quickly fire can spread. Crews also used the opportunity to teach the children more about fire safety.



## Community inclusion promoted at Yate

Wednesday 4 November  
Yate Fire Station

Staff from across the service met members of the Community Inclusion and Participation Champion group at Yate to discuss how best the fire and rescue service could engage with people with learning difficulties.

## Nailsea opens its doors to the community

Wednesday 28 October  
Nailsea Fire Station

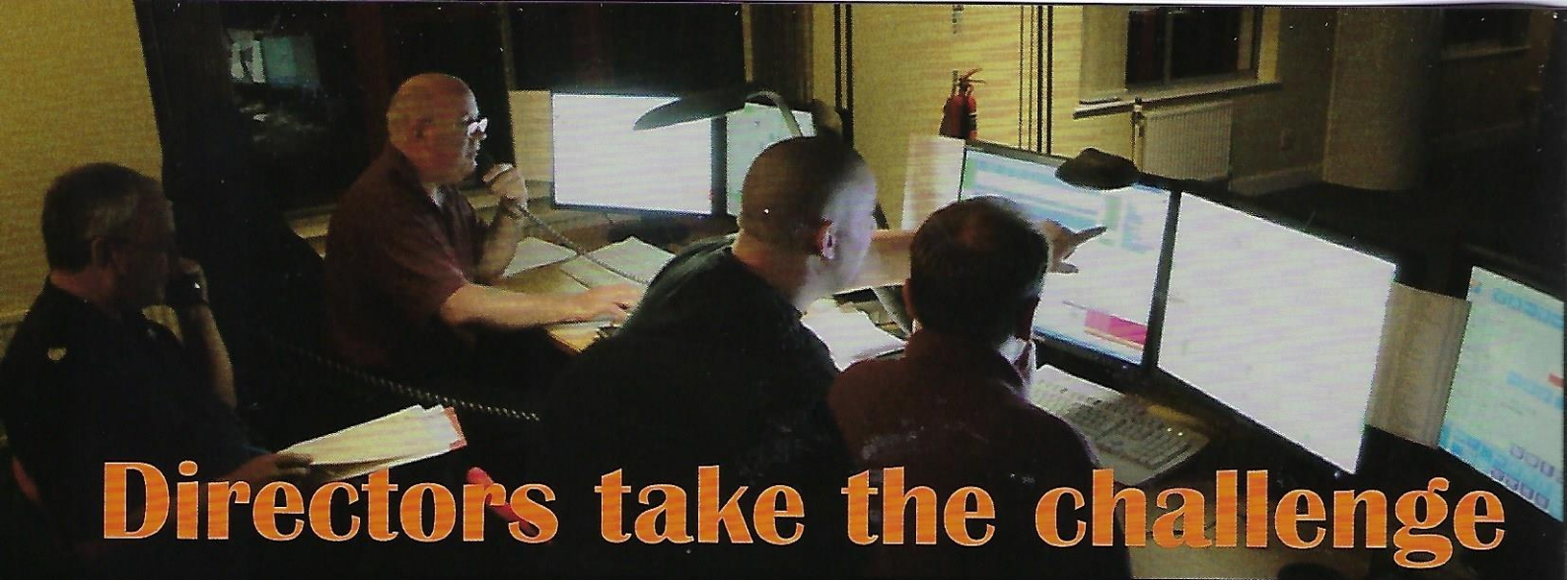
The recently opened extension to Nailsea Fire Station was put to good use when local people were invited to a Safe and Warm event. Representatives from North Somerset Council, Avon and Somerset Constabulary and North Somerset PCT joined AF&RS staff at the busy event.

## Crews the toast of Lawrence Weston juice bar

Saturday 19 December  
Juicy Blitz, Ridingleaze

Firefighters from Avonmouth turned out to be DIY saviours for young people at a juice bar in Bristol. Crews used their handy skills to create an outside decking and BBQ area for the teenage youth group.





# Directors take the challenge

**Our Service Management Board were put through their paces during a major exercise designed to test the service's resilience.**

**E**xercise Vanguard began with an early morning wake up call for the two duty directors, who were informed that an aircraft had crashed into The Mall shopping centre at Cribbs Causeway.

To add to the complexities of the exercise, a fire appliance on its way to the incident was involved in an RTC where a firefighter and a member of the public had died.

Based at the South West Command Development Centre (SWCDC), the directors were quickly thrown into the thick of the action, making key strategic decisions about appliances, health and safety, staff welfare and a range of other issues.

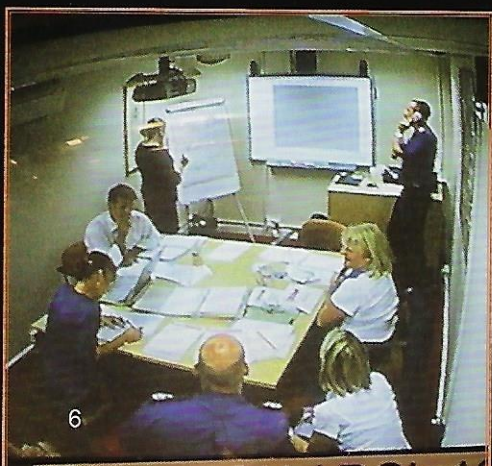
Each member of the Service Management Board was tasked with leading a Gold meeting, alongside players from Avon and Somerset Constabulary, Great Western Ambulance Service and other partner agencies. They then had to front up to the media for a multi-agency

press conference where they each faced intense scrutiny.

CFO/CE Kevin Pearson said: "Although it proved to be an intense day I feel our Service Management Board coped very well with some very difficult decisions and it highlighted our ability as a service to cope with large scale incidents and work well with our partners."

DCFO Jerry O'Brien, who organised the exercise, said: "This type of exercise is fairly unique across the fire and rescue service as not many other services test their directors. As we train, assess and develop all our staff to ensure they can competently carry out their duties, we felt it only right that our directors also be tested.

"The exercise proved to be very challenging for both the Service Management Board and all the staff involved in the planning and co-ordination of events on the day. I would like to thank everyone for their hard work and professionalism to ensure this exercise tested our directors to the limit."





# High Volume Pump - the facts

Capable of moving up to 8,000 litres of water a minute, the High Volume Pump (HVP) has greatly improved fire and rescue services' response to incidents which require large amounts of water to be moved long distances.

There are 46 HVPs at fire and rescue services around the country, brought in as part of the Government's National Resilience programme to provide the capability to respond to major chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear, search and rescue, large scale flooding and major transport incidents. They are mobilised either by the Fire and Rescue Service National Co-ordination Centre or by the individual fire and rescue service's Control.

Most of us will be familiar with the HVPs' roles in 2007 when they were used at Tollbar in South Yorkshire and Walham, Gloucestershire. But as well as taking water away, the pumps have also been used to provide water at fires, such as at the Grand Pier in Weston-super-Mare, where water supplies are limited.

Based at Nailsea (16), our HVP consists of two prime movers, one carrying the Hydrosub (pump and engine) with 1km of hose, the other carrying 2km of hose and ancillary equipment.

With a minimum of five operators required to mobilise with the HVP, all firefighters at Nailsea and Chew Magna have been trained. Four are qualified as instructors.

The HVP is an extremely versatile piece of equipment. It can provide an over-ground water main for firefighting operations with multiple outlets, is suitable for use within any standard water relay and can be used to lift from open water at a depth of up to 55 metres below the level of the pump, compared to just eight metres with conventional pumps.



Crew Manager Neil Stradling, Nailsea and Green Watch Temple, has not only been involved in training crews at AF&RS to deploy the HVP but is also one of nine national instructors who deliver training at the Fire Service College in Moreton-in-Marsh.

As a result of his knowledge of the equipment and experience in using it at incidents, he was identified for the role by the National Resilience Team. Neil is also the South West representative at the HVP User Group and is the National Lead for HVP Research and Development sitting on the HVP National Working Group.

He said: "The capability of the HVP was proven at the recent incident at BOC at which it ran continuously for 192 hours and supplied in excess of 11 million litres of water to the fireground."

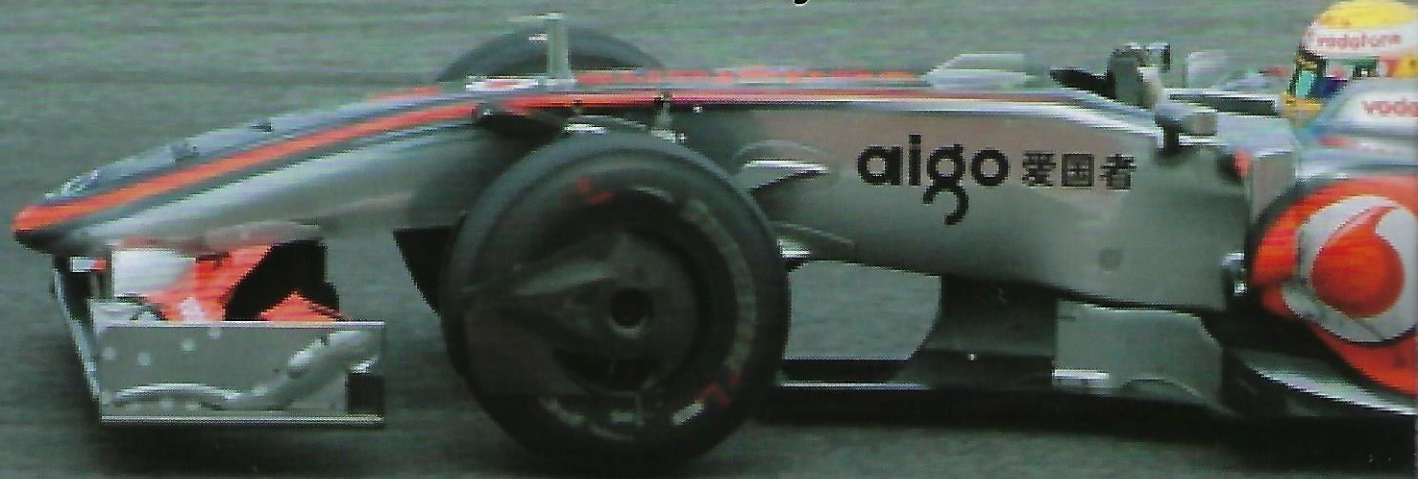
## High Volume Pump – stats

- Pumping ability equivalent to three standard water tenders.
- Hose deployed at 25mph.
- Ability to pump up to 8,000 litres of water a minute.
- An Olympic size swimming pool could be emptied by two HVPs in three hours, compared to just over nine hours with a standard water tender.
- The hose is 150mm in diameter, more than double the size of a standard hose.



# Racing around

**Not many people get to combine the skills they learn in their day job and use them during their hobby. But huge Formula One fan Group Manager Malcolm Hawthorn is one of the lucky ones.**



Extrication skills are important to every firefighter, but for Group Manager Malcolm Hawthorn they mean he can take part in one of the most exciting and fast-paced sports in the world.

Malcolm is part of the rescue team which is on hand to deal with incidents during Formula One races and other motor sport events.

They help with marshalling, moving stalled vehicles, putting out fires and extricating drivers who have crashed or been injured.

Licensed by the Federation Internationale de l'Automobile (FIA), Malcolm has been invited to take part in the safe running of races at the British, Italian and Spanish Grand Prix.

In 2009 he was part of the rescue team at the brand new Abu Dhabi circuit in the United Arab Emirates.

Malcolm said: "As this was the first Grand Prix to take place in Abu Dhabi, British officials were invited to run the meeting and pass on their skills and expertise."



# the world



"The circuit was amazing and quite hilly in places, which you can't see all that well on the television. It was a relatively uneventful race, but with a fantastic backdrop." GM Malcom Hawthorn on Abu Dhabi



Malcolm's involvement in the sport has seen him brush shoulders with the likes of Lewis Hamilton and Nigel Mansell. He said: "We have to take part in training for our roles so often we spend time with the teams and their training cars to see how things work and look at how best to get a driver out of a car quickly.

"It is relatively simple to assist a driver out of a Formula One car as there are four clips on the seat, which we just undo and help them out. We use the same techniques, same tools and work very closely with paramedics, just

as we do in the fire and rescue service."

With the 2010 season shaping up to be an exciting one Malcolm is predicting a close fight between the top drivers.

But although the final outcome of the Formula One World Championship won't be decided for some months, what is known is that the safety of drivers and spectators at races around the world is in safe hands thanks to the work of GM Hawthorn and his colleagues.



# The future is dot.coming

Social networking sites have revolutionised the way many of us interact with each other – find out how AF&RS is using the internet phenomenon to reach new audiences

**H**ow many of you have a Facebook account? Know what a 'Tweet' is? Or watched videos on YouTube?

Recent figures from the National Office of Statistics show that online activity is not just a hobby of the young – around 65 per cent of those aged between 55 and 64 years old say they access the internet almost every day.

Social networking sites work by building online communities of people who share the same interests or backgrounds, enabling them to talk to each other by email or 'instant messaging' (similar to sending a text message to someone's computer while they are online).

AF&RS is among an increasing number of fire and rescue services using sites such as Facebook, Twitter and YouTube to promote the work we do and our safety messages.

Gone are the days of reliance on newspapers, radio or television stations, as social networking sites now make it possible to interact with people with current and accurate information, but crucially using a method of communication that interests them.

## YouTube:

YouTube is an online TV station that is used by a huge range of people of all ages and backgrounds. AF&RS has uploaded a range of videos to YouTube, taken from its own website [www.firetv.org.uk](http://www.firetv.org.uk).



## Facebook:

With almost 400 million users worldwide, Facebook is the most popular of the social networking sites. AF&RS launched its Facebook fan page in 2009 which now has more than 600 fans.



## Twitter:

Twitter is sometimes known as the 'text messaging of the internet', enabling people to read messages from the profiles of individuals and organisations they are subscribed to.



You can't access social networking sites from work, but if you'd like to join us online from your home computer you can find us at [www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com) or :



Find us on  
**Facebook**

at Avon Fire & Rescue Service



**Twitter**  
FOLLOW ME

at AvonFireRescue



# Could the Fleur Lombard Bursary help you?



Fourteen years after Firefighter Fleur Lombard's future was cut tragically short, her name still lives on at AF&RS.

The events of Sunday 4 February 1996 will forever be in the minds of her colleagues, and in her memory a fund exists to ensure a legacy worthy of the much-loved firefighter.

The Fleur Lombard Bursary was established by her family to provide unique opportunities for staff from all UK fire and rescue services. The fund offers financial backing for operational and support staff to broaden their horizons and gain experiences to develop

their own careers. Since it was established in 1997 the fund has paid for staff members to visit their counterparts in various countries including Germany, South Africa, America and Australia.

One of the most recent recipients of a grant was AF&RS Crew Manager Wayne Coombs who visited the United States to learn more about Community Safety – the American way.

Wayne was the guest of the Los Angeles Fire Department when he visited Station 29, in Korea Town, and dog handler Ryan Penrod. Ryan looks after Wilshire the Fire Dog who provided fire safety demonstrations to children and now appears in fire safety DVDs. Wayne was interested to learn more about different approaches to youth education and how they could be used in this country.

Following his trip Wayne said: "This has been a life changing experience, seeing the different approaches to work practices and techniques has been extremely encouraging. It has reaffirmed my commitment and enthusiasm for our children's education, as well as confirming the direction the UK fire service is heading to deliver its preventative procedures and interventions.

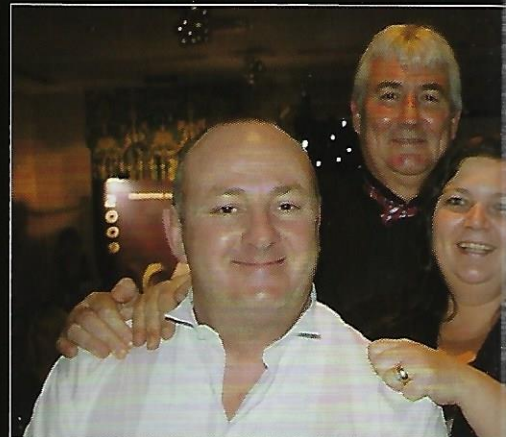
"I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Trustees and members of the Board, for giving me this chance to pursue my passion for educating our children."

If you are interested in finding out more about the Fleur Lombard Bursary and how you can apply, contact Helen Howells on extension 283 or download the application form, found on the 'Benefits and Discounts' area of the Intranet.

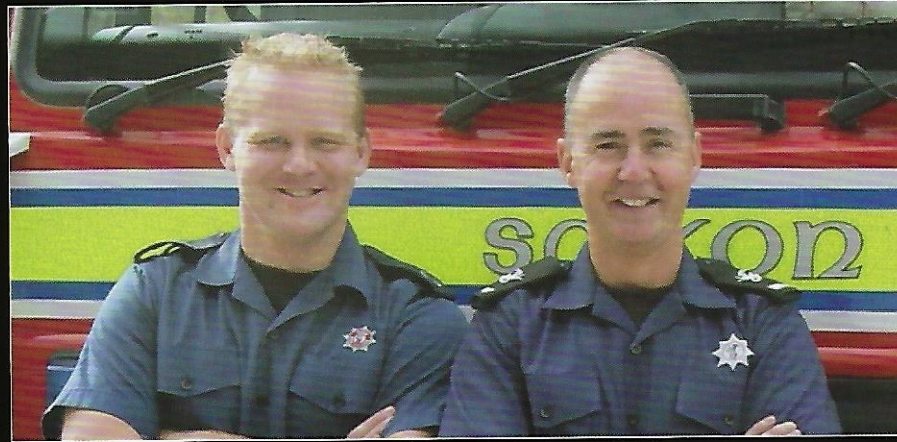
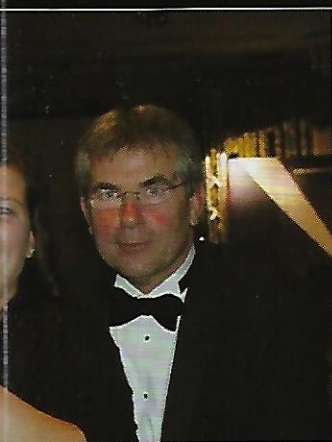
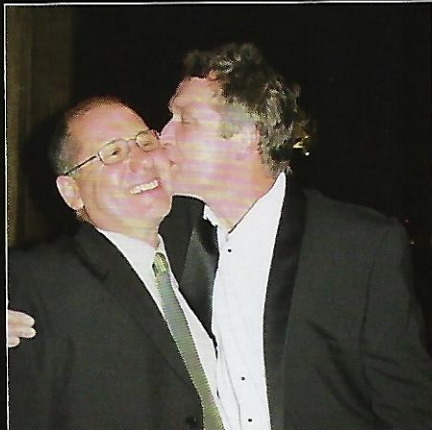
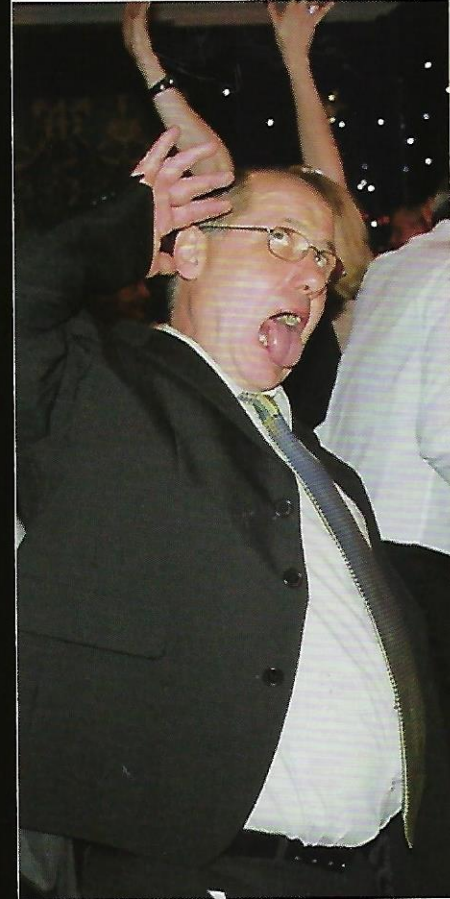




# Rogues' gallery









# Understanding fire setters

Juvenile fire setting is an issue which poses problems to every fire and rescue service in the country, but help could be on the way thanks to a unique research project carried out here in Avon.

In 2006 the Government's Strategy for Children and Young People placed an emphasis on the fire and rescue services to reduce deaths and injuries suffered by children and teenagers, and bring down the number of deliberate fires started by the same group.

But surprisingly there is little research, domestic or international, which looks at the root cause of fire setting behaviour among young people, and the steps that can be taken to tackle it.

Numerous successful youth intervention projects have been delivered in Avon over the years, from Sparks visits at local primary schools through to FireSkills courses for teenagers. But in the future these projects will be even better informed thanks to a three year academic study funded by AF&RS.

Donna Lovell, who is studying for a psychology PhD, has worked with 12 families and 18 young people referred to our Fire Setters scheme. The initiative provides one-to-one interventions with young people who have a history of interest in fires and fire setting. During the research Donna carried out in-depth studies into the families, interviewing both the young people and their guardians. She also surveyed 321 school children aged between 11 and 16 years old from across the South West to find

out how common fire setting behaviour is among the general population.

She explained: "I was asked to carry out research to look at the motivation for their interest in fires and fire starting behaviour, looking at young people and their lifestyles. The aim was to look at what was going on with these young people's lives and show how and what interventions work. For a researcher it was a fantastic topic as there is a lack of research in this area.

"The findings from the study suggest that many children and adolescents have an interest and involvement in fire, with some youths experimenting with fire and others being involved more frequently and taking more risks."

Donna's research has already been recognised at the Gore / Fire Research Excellence Awards 2009 and has been presented to the Chief Fire Officer's Association. The findings of the study were unveiled at the British Psychological Society's Annual Conference in April.

The research will be made available to AF&RS staff following its publication, so for more information keep an eye on the Intranet and Bulletin.



Donna Lovell



## What is the Fire Setters intervention scheme?

Jane Carvell, AF&RS Youth Engagement Manager, explains:

"Prevention is the key to the Fire Setters intervention scheme and it is clear from Donna Lovell's research that the involvement of young people in fire behaviour is prevalent.

"We are only aware of the fires that are brought to our attention through contact with our operational firefighters or referrals, so we never know about the near misses and luck that prevents unnecessary tragedies.

"The Fire Setters scheme exists because it intervenes in negative fire behaviour, but also raises awareness in communities of the issues. Over the past six years, through one-to-one interventions at homes or schools, we have engaged with more than 350 fire setter cases. Referrals to the scheme come from parents, schools and other agencies that have concerns, but crucially they also come from crews that have attended homes where children have been involved in starting the fire.

"The cases we see range from four-year olds starting to play with matches to more severe cases where children have set fire to paper and curtains in the house. The scheme also engages with convicted arsonists. The aim of the scheme is to raise awareness of the consequences of fire play and fire setting with families, children and other agencies and to create positive links with the fire and rescue service.

"We currently have 30 trained advisors who use a range of techniques to generate conversations that highlight the consequences of fire and then help in changing behaviour. We also have a trained youth worker who focuses on more complex fire setting and arson cases.

"The scheme is non-judgemental and supportive. Sometimes it is the first contact a family has with any external agency, so there is the opportunity to look at wider issues that may be creating an unsafe environment for that young person.

"Over the past year we have focused on creating robust processes to ensure the delivery of a professional scheme and that Fire Setters Advisors have the training and tools that they need.

"We're always looking to recruit new Fire Setters Advisors from support and operational staff. Not only is this a great development opportunity, but proof of the positive impact the fire and rescue service can have."

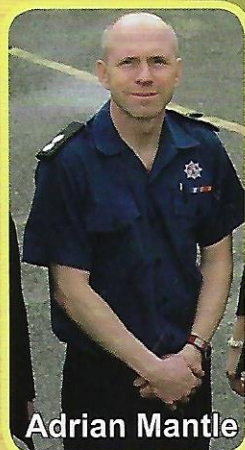
If you would like to find out more about becoming a Fire Setters Advisor please contact Debbie Blight on extension 8269.



Jane Carvell

## What does a Fire Setters Advisor do?

Watch Manager Adrian Mantle tells his story.



Adrian Mantle

**How long have you been a Fire Setters Advisor?**  
About six years

**Why did you get involved?**  
I was asked to take part by the co-ordinator. At first I was reluctant, having never worked with young people, but it soon became obvious how valuable and rewarding the work can be.

**Can you describe your role?**

We try to engage with the youngsters and get them to talk about their behaviour. Our role is not to punish, but to make them understand how dangerous fire can be.

**What do you get out of it?**

Apart from the obvious satisfaction in knowing that you have kept a child safe, our work contributes significantly to reducing arson and fire casualties.



# Celebrating our success

## Employee of the Year, 20 Years Long Service Good Conduct Medals and Outstanding Contribution to Values, Equalities and Diversity...

Staff from across the service gathered for a night of glitz and glamour at Tortworth Court Hotel in South Gloucestershire in December for the Annual Awards Ceremony.

Nine awards were handed out on the night, along with presentations of 20 Years Long Service Good Conduct Medals for both operational and support staff, Chief Fire Officer's Commendations, Local Government Long Service Certificates and recognition for former Avon Fire Authority Members.

The evening was hosted by BBC Points West presenter David Garmston, who was joined by The Lord Lieutenant of Gloucestershire, Sir Henry Elwes, for the presentation of the 20 Years Long Service Good Conduct Medals.

The Glyn Duck Award for Outstanding Contribution to The Gambia & Avon Fire Services in Partnership was presented to Sandra Connolly from Creative Services.

This year was the first time The Fire Fighters Charity Award was handed out, with Louisa Blackwell, Sam Lambourn and Natalie Venn from Control scooping the accolade.

The Fleur Lombard Award for Outstanding Contribution to Community Safety was presented by Fleur's father Roger Lombard to Jo Maggs from the Youth Development Centre.

Community Safety Advocate Nila Rehman was recognised for her Outstanding Contribution to Values, Equalities and Diversity and the Top Team Award was won by the Combined Aerial Rescue Pump (CARP) trainers at Patchway Fire Station.

Nailsea Fire Station scooped the award for the Highest Performing Retained Station, with Temple Fire Station receiving the award for the Highest Performing Wholetime Station.

The Outstanding Sporting Achievement Award was presented to the AF&RS Rugby Team.



Equalities and Diversity



Top team



Fleur Lombard award



Sporting achievement



## ...just some of the accolades up for grabs at the 2009 Annual Awards Ceremony.

The most coveted award, Employee of the Year, was won by Steve Quinton, from Fire Safety, Weston-super-Mare.

Chief Fire Officer's Commendations were handed out to Rob Sullivan, who rescued a baby girl from a house fire in Southmead and Jenny Ware, who helped her neighbour to safety during a fire in Clevedon.

Crew Manager Iain Campbell also received a Chief Fire Officer's Commendation after an incident involving a member of the public with a firearm.

Sandra Connolly, Phil James and Julie Pound were recognised for their 20 Years Long Service to AF&RS and Jane Graham, Pam Henry and Margaret Southgate received 20 Year Local Government Long Service Certificates.



Employee of the Year



20 Years Service



Highest Performing  
Wholetime Station



20 Years Service



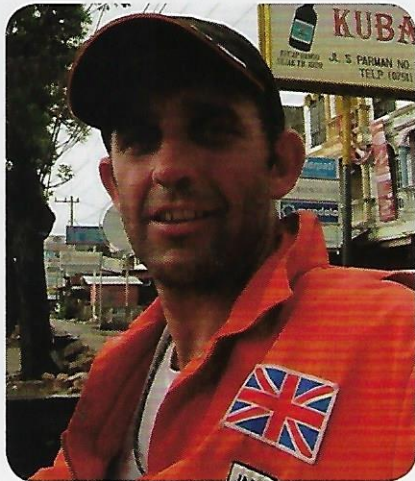
Highest Performing  
Retained Station



# Dealing with

# DISASTERS

A member of the AF&RS Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) team used his skills in Indonesia to help people who were trapped after the massive earthquake last year. Here we find out more about Crew Manager Paul Incledon's story.



It was back in October when a massive earthquake measuring 7.6 on the Richter scale struck Indonesia, killing around 1,000 people and trapping hundreds more.

As a member of the international rescue charity SARAID (Search and Rescue Assistance in Disasters) Paul was among a team of

ten to offer assistance to the country.

On arriving in the city of Pandang, Paul's team was assigned to search the southern sector of the city.

Paul said: "At first many of the buildings didn't appear to have been badly damaged, but on closer inspection we found



**For most people attending a training course in another part of the country can be a bit of an adventure, but for AF&RS's Jos Wood her trip turned out to be an experience she would never forget.**

Unprecedented rainfall, strong winds and rising river levels – not quite what Jos, from the Improvement Co-ordination Unit, thought she would experience on an auditing course at Cumbria Fire & Rescue Service HQ, in Cockermouth, last November.

On the third day, the course had to be abandoned as severe flooding struck the county and many of the delegates were needed to help with the emergency.

From her hotel room Jos could see local people struggling to protect their homes and businesses. So after dressing for the bad weather she headed downstairs where she carried sandbags and moved valuables to upper floors.

After a number of hours helping out, Jos spent the night trying to sleep but was woken regularly by helicopters winching people to safety.



# 七世

that many had dropped whole floors and what appeared to be the ground floor was actually the first floor.”

There had been reports that a tourist guide was missing inside one of the hotels so using specialist technical search equipment, and with the help of USAR dogs, Paul's team spent many hours trying to locate the man. Sadly he was not found alive. Not long after this the search and rescue phase of the mission

was called off by the UN, as there was little chance of finding any more survivors.

Paul said: “Although tragically we didn't find anyone alive, it was a chance for us to test our new procedures and it was interesting to see the way buildings drop and separate under different conditions. Many of the experiences I saw I have fed back to the USAR team and hope I will be able to use this information in my work at Avon.”



When morning finally arrived the water levels had started to recede, giving Jos the opportunity to try and get out of the water-logged town and back to Bristol.

Speaking about the experience Jos said: “Despite the intensity of the situation I felt very moved to have been involved in the flooding relief effort and have immense pride in belonging to the fire and rescue service.

“Staff from all the emergency services didn't think twice about helping the people of Cumbria.”





# A trip

## Looking back...

### The Avonmouth Dock fire, 1951

During the Second World War Bristolians were a tough breed, having endured years of assaults from German bombers.

By the 1950s, and with Europe at peace, the once familiar orange glow in the night sky and the sight of firefighters desperately battling to stop the city burning were a thing of memory.

However all that changed on Thursday 6 September 1951 when a huge explosion rocked Avonmouth, sending a plume of thick black smoke into the sky. The blast originated from the Regent Oil Company's 15 acre compound which formed part of the 120 acre Avonmouth Docks site on the banks of the Severn. The storage facility was capable of holding 12 million gallons of petroleum spirit.

As the tanker, MV Fort Christine, pumped its cargo of oil ashore something went catastrophically wrong. At roughly 14.50hrs an explosion ripped through tank number 13 causing a fire to break out, which quickly spread to 12 other tanks, containing almost four million gallons of oil.

Just before 15.00hrs Bristol Fire Brigade was alerted and sent a pump, a foam tender, a wireless car from Avonmouth Fire Station and the fireboat 'Endres Gane'. Once crews arrived they soon realised the scale of the fire and called for assistance from five other city stations. During the course of the afternoon

and evening crews from neighbouring fire brigades were asked to attend and by 21.00hrs 150 firefighters and 30 appliances were battling to contain the fire and cool the other tanks.

During the long night an explosion in a tank containing 417,000 gallons of motor spirit caused a rapid spread of fire and sent firefighters running for their lives.

By Friday morning the fire was occupying the front pages of national newspapers – the Buncefield of its time. A total of 26 foam branches, supported by 30 cooling jets, were put to use throughout the day by crews working in shifts of 200 at a time to put out the blaze.

At 04.50hrs on Saturday 8 September, 38 hours after the first explosion, a message from the Chief Fire Officer was sent, "Stop – Fire out".

The entire incident involved 55 pumping appliances, 667 firefighters from 25 fire brigades, staff from the armed forces, 55,000 gallons of foam and more than 100,000 feet of hose. It also left seven firefighters in hospital and two port workers dead.

An official report by a Government Inspector found the explosion was most probably caused by a spark of static electricity, which ignited motor spirit vapour present in the shore tank.

Everyone likes to read stories and see photos from days gone by, so many thanks to all who contributed items. More would be appreciated – send your photos and stories to the usual address.



# down memory lane



## Colleagues remembered

Representatives from AF&RS attended the Annual Firefighter Service of Remembrance in London.

Last September Jim Pratt from the Pensioners Association visited the Church of Bartholomew in the City of London for the memorial service organised by London Fire Brigade. The Avon Drill Squad acted as stewards at the church.

After the service a parade of vintage fire appliances was followed by bands, including Avon's, standards of around 30 fire and rescue services and principal officers and VIPs. The procession made its way to the Firefighters' Memorial opposite St Paul's Cathedral where a wreath laying ceremony took place.

## Rugby players identified

In the Autumn Magazine Phil Haskins issued a call for help to put names to faces in the photograph below.

Time has clouded Phil's recollection but retired firefighter Colin Williams was able to identify a few of you.

Colin writes: "The photo is pre-1969 as John Hedges is in photo and he emigrated to Australia around August 1969.

"As with Phil, the memory is not brilliant but the following are the names I recall.

Back row: Richard Probert, Phil Haskins, ?, Pete Hewitt, ?, Brian Bowden, Ben Probert, John Hedges, Colin Williams and Barry Hook.

Front Row: ?, ?, Dave Williams, ? and Tony O'Driscoll."



**A firefighter from New Zealand is interested in swapping fire and rescue service memorabilia with current or former staff from Avon Fire & Rescue Service. If you are interested in finding out more you can contact Bill by emailing [neate1@extra.co.nz](mailto:neate1@extra.co.nz).**



# IN THE NEWS...

'Read all about it' as we look back at some of our stories that have made the news



In **November** eight students from The Gateway School in Lawrence Weston took part in the first FireSkills course to be run entirely by a watch on station.

The teenagers, who had a range of emotional and behavioural issues were mentored by Avonmouth Green Watch crews supported by our Youth Development Centre staff.



The same month saw positive results from South Gloucestershire where there was a fall in the number of injuries suffered in road traffic collisions. In the unitary area where RoadSkills was first developed, deaths and injuries dropped to their lowest level for 13 years.



**December** saw a group of firefighters from the most recent training school taking on an impressive charity effort. The new recruits were at Cabot Circus for a 9,000 metre ladder climb, the equivalent of climbing Mount Everest, to raise money for The Fire Fighters Charity.

Also reaching new heights was the whole of AF&RS. The Audit Commission published its Comprehensive Area Assessment results in which Avon was found to be 'Performing Well' and the second highest performing fire and rescue service in the country.



# The equivalent of climbing Mount Everest, to raise money for The Fire Fighters Charity



**January** brought with it freezing conditions and plenty of snow. But despite widespread disruption across the region it was business as usual at AF&RS with many members of staff going to extraordinary lengths to get into work.

In the slightly warmer climes of The Gambia, Avon Fire & Rescue Service was recognised in the country's New Year Honours for its vital contribution made to the Gambia and Avon Fire Services in Partnership (GAFSIP) charity.



In **February** all eyes were on the Caribbean island of Haiti where a devastating earthquake killed thousands and left many more homeless. Two AF&RS firefighters were among rescuers from the international community who flew into the island, while back home colleagues at four stations raised more than £5,000 for the emergency appeal through car washes.

Also during the month there was a royal visitor at Nailsea Fire Station for the official opening of the Urban Search and Rescue Station. The Duke of Gloucester was shown around the new facility by Councillor Terry Walker, Chair of Avon Fire Authority and CFO/CE Kevin Pearson.





# A little light relief Spot the difference

Crews at Bath Fire Station were hard at work during a charity car wash. Can you spot the 10 differences between the two pictures below?



## Dingbats



Can you identify the phrases from the clues?

1.

Aston Villa 4 - 1 Charlton  
Arsenal 4 - 1 Everton  
Liverpool 4 - 1 Bradford  
Manchester United 4 - 1 Chelsea  
Sunderland 4 - 1 Leicester  
  
West Ham 4 - 4 Tottenham

2.

ground  
feet  
feet  
feet  
feet  
feet  
feet

3.

NE1410S

4.

Shop, shop, shop  
U

## Brainteasers

See if you can work out these well known phrases from the letter and number clues. Just to get you started 3BM would be 'Three blind mice'.

- 1) A B A T 40 T
- 2) 26 L I T A
- 3) 20,000 L U T S
- 4) 88 K O A P
- 5) 90 D I A R A
- 6) 200 P F P G I M
- 7) 24 H I A D
- 8) 57 H V
- 9) 29 D I F ( I A L Y )
- 10) 12 I I A F

Can you find the penguin hiding inside this edition?

The first person to email [magazine@avonfire.gov.uk](mailto:magazine@avonfire.gov.uk) with the correct location will win a prize.



**recycle**

Please recycle this magazine when you have finished reading it.

## Answers

**Brainteasers:** (1) All Baba and the 40 thieves, (2) 26 letters in the alphabet, (3) 20,000 Leagues under the sea, (4) 88 Pounds for passing go in Monopoly, (5) 90 Degrees in a right angle, (6) 200 Keys on a piano, (7) 24 Hours in a day, (8) 57 Heinz varieties, (9) 29 Days in February (in a leap year), (10) 12 Inches in a foot

**Dingbats:** (1) All for one and one for all, (2) Six feet underground, (3) Anyone for tennis?, (4) Shop 'til you drop