

COUNTY OF AVON FIRE BRIGADE

AUTUMN 1980



I am Dave Hutchings - a new man in the hot seat. My new job covers Press, Public Relations and Welfare, so if its interesting and you think it could be news, then tell me quick!

The success of the Brigade getting good and just press coverage for incidents, or indeed any activities, whether it be fund raising or sport depends on you. If I don't know about it as soon as possible as regards incidents, or with adequate notice for events taking place, we won't get the coverage. So on return from a job, call me if there was something comical or of interest, as the whole story can only come from the person who attended.

This magazine is your magazine. Only your news, stories or articles fill it. I should welcome any ideas on what, in future, could be included. Any articles, jokes, 'for sale' advertisements etc. can be submitted direct to me or to the Sub Officers on Divisions. Please don't just sit around and complain about what you think should or should not be included. Tell me.

With regards to welfare, again, it's up to you. If I don't know, nothing can be done. Any problems which you may have, get in touch. All matters will be treated in the strictest confidence and every effort will be made to assist whatever the problem.

All articles must be accompanied by your name and Station, but would be withheld if requested.

Editor

The cover picture of this issue shows the scene at the South Stand, Eastville Stadium on on 17th August 1980. Station Officer Ivor Player arrived to find the South Stand well alight. He was confronted by the Eastville Market Stall Holders packing away their wares as the Market was in the process of closing. This made access to the Stand very difficult because of the vans, partly dismantled Stands and crowds watching the fire.

The next problem was getting adequate water supplies for an effective attack on the fire, and pumps were set into the River Frome separator tanks. Intense heat and rapid fire spread made fire fighting operations extremely arduous.

Another major blow for Bristol Rovers who have been plagued with bad luck for the last couple of seasons.

Verena from Brigade Headquarters hopes this is the end of a bad run for Rovers and they should progress to their rightful position in the 1st Division.

A grand total of £1,265 was raised from the sponsored cycle ride on the 15th June. £316 goes to Frenchay Burns Unit.

Station C2 raised £337, followed by Station A2 who raised £206.



This magazine sees changes at the top in 'A' Division with the retirement of Len Silman, 32 years serving the Brigade, formerly with Bristol then Avon.

Len was in the Royal Marines from 1941 to 1946. He served in North Africa and Sicily, and at the end of the war was in Australia. During his service he attained the rank of sergeant. On being demobbed late 1946 Len returned to his previous job with the Co-op but having enough by 1948 he joined the Bristol Fire Brigade.

He then progressed through the ranks and has been closely associated with training. At one stage being the Brigade Training Officer. At the inception of Avon, Len was appointed Divisional Commander of 'A' Division.

He said, 'It is with mixed feelings that I go'.

We all wish this much respected and trusted man, who's retirement can only be a loss to the Brigade, the very best, not forgetting his lovely wife Kit, for a long and happy retirement at Bishopsteignton, Devon, where walking, fishing and gardening become their priorities.



Monty being congratulated by Cllr. Gwynville Lawson

Monty Britton takes up the post of Divisional Commander, 'A' Division. He has been in the Brigade for 27 years and was previously deputy to Len Silman.

He has served at every Station within the former Bristol Brigade and on the opening of Temple was ADO, Officer-in-Charge.

Monty has always been a keen sportsman with special loyalties to football, although at one time he played rugby for Ashley Down Old Boys. He also played football for a Bristol Downs League Team and the Fire Brigade. At present he is Chairman of the Bristol Downs League. His other interests are the Benevolent Fund and Youth organisations and training.

"I am delighted to be taking command of a Division with such high standards and a good relationship between all personnel and I hope to maintain this".

It is with regret that the following retired firemen have passed away and sympathies go to their families:-

Fred 'Ginger' Whitlock who joined the Brigade in 1934 as a Fire Constable. He worked his way through the ranks to become a Station Officer at Speedwell, retiring in 1963. He then went off to Kuwait as a Fire Officer for an oil company. A well known character of the Brigade.

James 'Jock' Saunders who joined the Brigade in 1940 and served for 24 years. For a period during the war years, Jock was recalled to the coal mines.

Arthur Walker who joined the Brigade in 1941 and served for 20 years, was a well known character. He was a regular swimmer until last year, and could be described as a perfectionist in everything he did.



Marilyn with her colleagues from Pill

Marilyn Ackerman, Avon's only Firewoman, is leaving the Brigade to join the Prison Service. She has been a Retained Firewoman for two years at Pill and is sad in many ways to be leaving, feeling that she will miss being part of a team, the involvement in the wide and varied tasks that are undertaken by the Brigade, also the technical aspect of the job.

We wish Marilyn all the best in her new venture, taking up her position initially at Holloway.

If Credit Cards were named correctly - "Debt Cards", how many people would use them?

A member of the Control Room Staff said to Len Silman that the Rovers Ground fire could be his monument. "Very apt", he said, "It was a grandstand finish".

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

The only sure thing about luck is that it will change.



A well-known face will be missed at Brigade Headquarters. Lena Smith retired after ten years with the Brigade. Lena first started in the kitchen at Bridewell with Flo Williams. When the new Headquarters was built she decided to join the cleaning staff as staying in the kitchen would mean shift duty. Lena was very sad to be leaving, after all, still a youngster at 70. She started work, doing early morning cleaning, before leaving school. Her hobbies are reading, listening to the radio and watching television, especially 'Crossroads'.

Station Officer Colin Williams of Station B6 has been made a Serving Brother of the Order of St. John of Jerusalem. This is a rarely conferred title and is a great credit to Colin, who has been involved for some years now with the First Aid Team

Congratulations to Nigel Raymond (C1) on the birth of a son - Matthew Darren, 8lb 10oz, on Tuesday, 30th September 1980

Have you booked your holidays yet?

Fire Brigade personnel are welcome at:-

Roman City Travel,
15, St. James Parade,
Bath

Call in for information, or telephone 331528 - (Manager, Cedric Talbot).

A SHORT HISTORY OF THE FIRE BRIGADE AT THORNBURY

Thornbury Parish Fire Brigade began in September 1898 when Inspector Gotts of Bristol City Fire Brigade was asked to advise the Thornbury Parish Council on the best type of fire-extinguishing equipment to guard the town in the event of fire. His advice was to purchase 500 ft of canvas hose in 100 ft sections, a hose cart of the new London pattern with a telescopic ladder, two standpipes, a breeching piece, three branch pipes with $\frac{1}{2}$ in. nozzles, two hydrant keys and one hand-pump of the new London Brigade. The appliances arrived in April 1899 at a total cost of £48. 12s. 2d.

It was later suggested that the Brigade purchase a manual engine and Mr. G. Stafford Howard, the owner of Thornbury Castle, offered to buy a new six-man manual engine and this offer was accepted. The appliance arrived in 1900, the same year that Mr. A.H. Wilkins was appointed captain, a position he retained until 1938.

Captain Wilkins was extremely strict and insisted upon the men looking smart at turn-outs. The firemen had to line up in order and they would then be inspected. If they were satisfactory the captain would take a pinch of snuff and then give the order to 'mount'.

The method of call-out in those days was through the police who told the call boy who in turn ran round the town to individuals giving the alarm.

In 1904 a new sixteen-man manual engine was purchased from Merryweather at a cost of £117. 15s. Od. and the outstanding event of the year occurred when the Brigade was unable to borrow horses from the Swan Hotel and had to pull the machine manually to a fire at Whitfield $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles away. When they arrived they found that they did not have enough hose to reach the fire so they had to get help and extra equipment from the Earl of Ducie Estate appliance. The captain's report stated that the men arrived home 'in a very tired condition'.

In 1910 the Brigade was given notice to quit the fire station by Mr. Weatherhead who had purchased the building. The Brigade then moved to a new station at a cost of £8. 0s. Od. per year rental. Other costs fixed that year included the hiring of horses, 10s per annum and £1. 0s. Od. for the driver; a fee of 5s. per year was fixed for firemen who attended all drills.

A number of men called to the Colours during the Great War and all the vacancies were filled from those who remained, with the exception of the call boy.

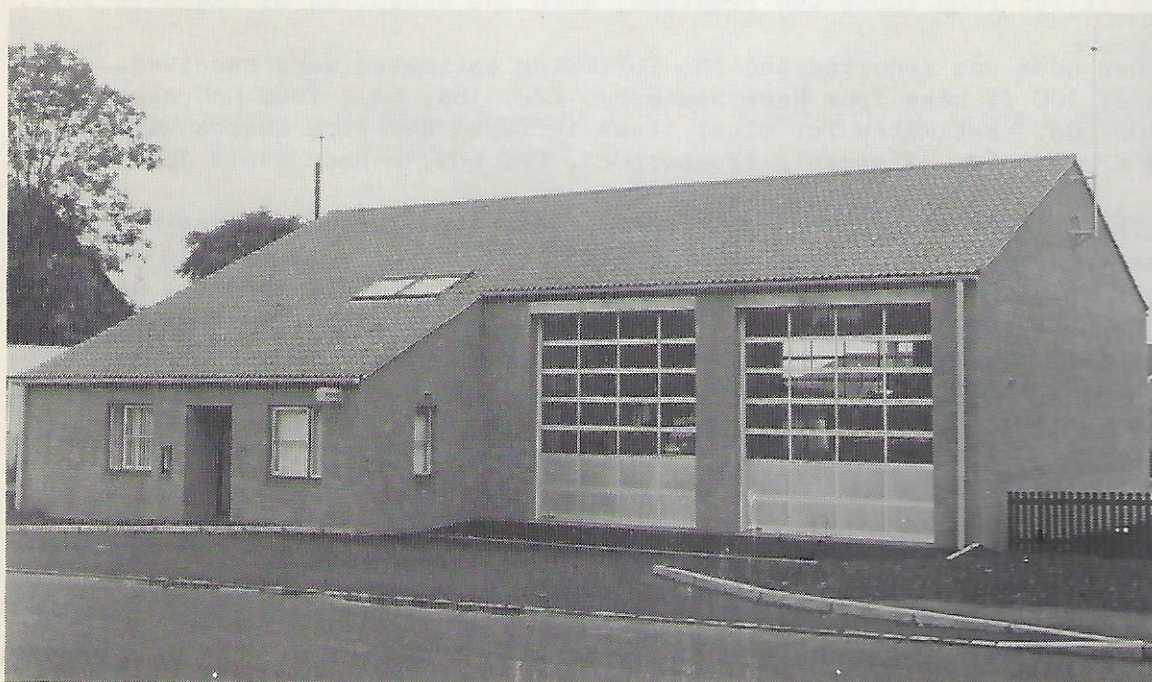
In 1922 new hose was required and the following estimates were received: three lengths of 100 ft hose from Merryweathers, £22. 18s. 6d., from McGregor & Co., £22. 10s. Od. Estimates for other items included new fire tunics with brass buttons £2. 2s. 6d., fireman's trousers £1. 2s. 6d., rubber boots 16s. 6d.

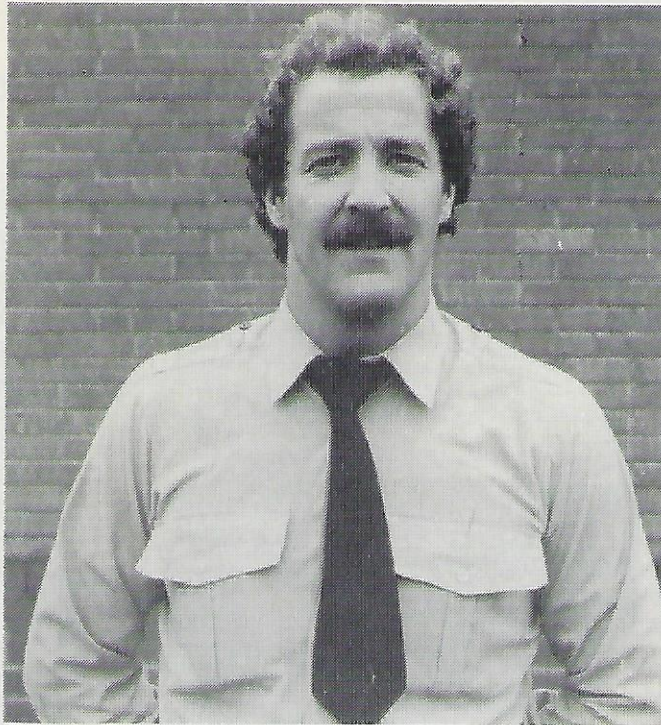
In 1927 the Brigade stopped using horses to take the engine to fires and started to use a motor lorry instead. The fee for the use of this vehicle was £2. 0s. Od. per fire. A fire later that year occurred at Alveston and the lady who occupied the premises refused to pay the cost of the appliance turning out as she did not call for the Fire Brigade herself, and it was after this incident that the Brigade was instructed not to turn out until the occupier of the house concerned signed a form agreeing to pay the £2. 0s. Od. fee. Thornbury became the proud possessors of a Leyland motor fire engine with means of conveying firemen in 1929, the cost being £450.

It was at this time that the Parish Council decided that the cost of running the Brigade was becoming too much for them to bear and control of the Brigade was passed to the Rural District Council and in 1930 they built the fire station which has now been replaced for £626.

During the 1930's the Brigade covered the area from Sharpness to Severn Beach and also responded to a number of calls within the Bristol area. Their 'new' motor fire engine was last seen in Bristol in the late 40's after one of the air raids. After the war Thornbury became part of the Gloucestershire Fire Service and later with the advent of local government reorganisation part of the County of Avon Fire Brigade. In the early days of the Brigade all the members were locals but with the growth of Thornbury the personnel now hail from all parts of the country.

Thornbury is a retained station with a complement of fourteen firemen, four leading firemen and one sub officer, commanded by Station Officer Paxford. The station responds to approximately 150 calls per year, some of which are to 'make-ups' within the city. The station is justly proud of its long history and its existing members strive to maintain the best traditions of the service started all those years ago when technology was unknown and firemanship the main objective.





Mervyn Smith, A1 Temple - June 1972 - 1980

Its goodbye and good luck to Mervyn who is off to Holland.

Following a holiday in Holland earlier this year, Mervyn was offered a job in a Design Office of a large Dutch factory. He and his wife gave the matter a great deal of thought and decided to go. They are having a belated honeymoon in Paris and then starts work on the 22nd September.

Mervyn said that the drawing skills he gained from OSRA plans was the clinch factor to getting the job.

He served as a fireman at A1 from June 1972

Congratulations om promotion to:-

Station Officer Mike Gribble	-	Station B1
Sub Officer Andy Coe	-	" B4
Leading Fireman Mike York	-	" A1

New man in B.A. Department.

Sub Officer Barry Doull takes over from Sub Officer Dave Miller who has gone to A2 Green Watch.



EXHIBIT OF COUNTY OF AVON SIMON SNORKEL AT HANOVER, INTERSCHUTZ '80

Mr. Fred Abram, Simon Sales Manager Fire Products, presenting Herr Rolf-Dieter Braunig, Chief Officer of Hanover, with a plaque on behalf of the County of Avon Fire Brigade and Simon Engineering Dudley Ltd. Herr Braunig expressed his delight and asked to convey his good wishes to the officers and men of the County of Avon Fire Brigade.

Fireman Paul Walker from Station A2 Southmead has received a letter from the FOUNDATION FOR THE STUDY OF INFANT DEATHS, thanking the Firemen of Avon for used postage stamps so far forwarded. They are delighted at the response.

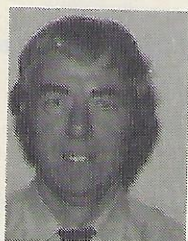
So don't forget, used postage stamps to Paul at A2. They may one day save a child's life.

FACES BEHIND THE 'PHONES

'C' WATCH CONTROL



Let me introduce you to the Fountain Head. I am FCO Smith, Officer-in-Charge of 'C' Watch. I have been in the Fire Service for 9½ years, starting my career in Bristol Fire Brigade. My SFCop is Eileen Sluter who has been in the Fire Service for 18 years, starting her career with the Bristol Fire Brigade. My two LFCop's are Leslie Lee and Lillian Wyatt who have been with us for 3½ years and 6 years respectively. Leslie's brother-in-law is Fireman Ron Tarrant at Station A1 Temple and Lillian's husband is Station Officer Ray Wyatt of Station C11 Nailsea. Then last but not least my two FCOp's are Ian Morgan and Steve Dyas who have been with us 2½ years and 1½ years respectively, Ian's father being Sub Officer Pete Morgan.



Fire Brigades Union

Peter Noble takes up the Chair on the F.B.U. front. He is now the Avon Brigade Committee Chairman. Pete's been at A1 for 17 years and in 1963 received a commendation for rescue work in difficult conditions.

Fireman Tony Sim, A2, was married in August to Kathy, a young nurse from Southmead Hospital. We all wish them the very best for the future.



First Aid Team

The above photograph is of the Brigades First Aid team with some of the plaques and cups that they have won. At the moment the team hold, the William Searle cup the Peter Brend cup, the Perpetual Trust Trophy, the Curtis Shield, the Rowe cup the B.P. cup, the Newton Abbot open competition cup, the Hobart individual award and several other trophies. The Brigade first aid team is and has been since 1974 one of the most successful Fire Brigade First Aid Teams

Team Members are, Left to Right
C. Williams (trainer) D. Causon, R. Underhay, T. Wilson
(Semi_Supine) G. Bowden, M. Smith

An hotel doorkeeper I know calls himself a "Taxidermist" because he stuffs people into cabs.

BERKSHIRE FIRE BRIGADE'S ANNUAL ONE-MILE SWIM

The Brigade's Swimming Team once again participated in the above race at Caversham Reach, Reading. The results were as follows:-

Ian Andrews	-	A1 Temple	-	6th place
Bob Brinkworth	-	B1 Bath	-	33rd place
Rory O'Connor	-	A1 Temple	-	42nd place
Bob Poots	-	A1 Temple	-	47th place

A total of 58 swimmers took place in the race this year, so our team were quite pleased with the results.

FOOTBALL

The Brigade Wednesday XI I am sorry to say have started this season with some terrible results. We have played only three matches and have lost every one, but I am hoping that we shall improve, as we did last season after a disastrous start when we won the Second Division.

Mel Rogers,
(Wednesday Secretary)

WILLIAM SEARLE ROSE BOWL

(Late News)

I have to inform you that the Brigade First Aid Team were successful in winning the "Cyril Lavington" Cup at a competition on Saturday 27th September 1980, by being placed second overall.

The competition was held at the Wills Recreation Hall, Bedminster, and the competition organised by the St. John Ambulance Competition Committee.

Station Officer Underhay

JANET SAYS 'THANKS'

Thanks to the overwhelming support from my friends and colleagues in the Brigade, I was able to raise over £200 for the Avon Swifts Sponsored push/walk. The sum raised overall was £1,500 making the event extremely successful.

Avon Swifts are a sports club for the disabled and monies raised will go towards a mini-bus with a hydraulic lift to transport their members to various events, and to assist in annual expenditure incurred by the club.

Once again thank you for your support.

Janet (Headquarters Receptionist)

500 CLUB DRAW



At Station A3 Avonmouth on 28th August 1980, Councillor Mrs. Gwynville Lawson with John Barnes, pictured above, made the draw. The £500 ticket went to Peter Stobart, Station B4 Brislington.

Bill Plenty of Station A3 Avonmouth is forming a Pipe-band and would be pleased to hear from anyone interested in participating. Please contact Bill. Also, any equipment - pipes, drums etc. give him a call (231).

FOR SALE

Whitter Tow Bar. Suit Marina Saloon. Full fitting instructions. £10.
Ivor Astle, 'C' Division F.P.

Congratulations to Brian Counsell (C5) on the birth of a daughter (Rebecca Marie) born on 20th September at 10.58 a.m, and weighing 7lb 11 $\frac{1}{2}$ ozs

The following is a copy of a Fire Notice to residents at ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~

"FOR SAFETY IN CASE OF FIRE"

I have located a tall pair of stepladders in the toilet on the top floor. In the event of persons being trapped on the upper floors, access can thus be gained to the loft in the ceiling immediately above the top flight of stairs. Once inside (take care not to put feet through ceiling - i.e. tread on rafters!) there is a roof access hatch forward and to the left, (you would feel the draught if not visible). Once outside there is completely safe access along the front to all houses in this row.

Please do not go out on the roof otherwise, as it is in poor condition (brittle lead), but an inspection of the loft with a torch using ladder would be helpful in case of emergency".

Some problems student nurses found with exam papers. But were the answers wrong?

"The nurse must be a good bed mater if she is to succeed in her chosen profession".

"Nurses are shown how to put bondage on the patient".

"Heat the bowels with boiling water, swill and empty".

REDRUTH OPEN- 5th OCTOBER 1980

The Brigade First Aid Team were successful in winning a total of six trophies at the above mentioned competition. The team retained the 'Rowe' Cup for overall winners, the 'ECLP' Cup for highest individual test overall, the 'Curtis' Shield for highest No. 1., and the "St. John Ambulance" Cup for highest No. 3. The team regained the "Redruth Divisional" Cup for Team Captains, and the "Redruth Brigade" Cup for second in the team test.

This success was achieved after no less than three "tie breaks", and in accordance with the competition rules, the Team Captain undertakes all tie situations.

The team comprised myself (Captain), Fireman Causon, No. 2; Sub Officer Smith, No. 3; Fireman Bowden, No. 4 and Fireman Wilson (res.), gained a total of 402 points out of 500 with English China Clays Cornwall (men) second, with a total of 398.

Jobs around the Brigade worthy of special mention

Who steals the limelight in this magazine? It must be Blue Watch, C5 Bedminster, Station Officer Mike Mullany's Watch. A superb rescue from 30, Gatehouse Close, Hartcliffe on the 15th September. Two persons assisted down ladders and Sub Officer Brian Counsell carried a 25 year old young lady down from the first floor by ladder. She was unconscious, overcome by smoke. From the time of call to arrival was three minutes, and all the rescues were carried out within three minutes of arrival. Well done Blue Watch.

Green Watch, Temple, excels in a mud rescue at Cumberland Road on the 1st September 1980. The E.T. and WrT called by police to recover a man from the mud on the river bank with the use of a TL and Paraguard Stretcher. He was quickly retrieved, washed down and sent to hospital. Meanwhile there were two police officers to assist out and Pete Noble's boots. The mission failed regarding the boots and following a reprimand by his Officer-in-Charge for failing to take care of personal kit, is buying a new pair for 12¹/₂p per week. This being stopped at source.

A foxy rescue for Sub Officer Stan Tingle's crew on the WrT Green Watch, Station C5 Bedminster. While the above rescue was taking place Stan and his crew were taking soundings around Ashton Park, seeking a dog which had gone underground for four hours. After several bore holes were dug, a little black mongrel dog was recovered making a fuss of its heroes. Just after returning 'Mischief' to his owner, out steps a fox, a little dusty and worn. Giving the surrounding activity the once-over, he ran towards the river.

Station Officer Sharp and his crew avert a serious situation at Watts Garage, Weston-Super-Mare. Three acetylene cylinders involved in fire. Cooling jets were brought into operation. Valve on cylinders closed, then the cylinders submersed in water.

White Watch at A1 Temple are rumoured to be attending Bristol Zoo for first aid and after care of reptiles, following a fire at a flat in Pembroke Road, Clifton. They came across a pair of Pythons, and the Officer-in-Charge of the incident Sub Officer Alan Totterdell was surprised to learn that none of his Watch were keen to render first aid to this pair who may have been suffering from the effect of smoke.

Sub Officer Bob Williams from A3 Avonmouth attended Atlantic Way, Avonmouth. Man trapped under fork-lift truck. Bob and his crew found a young man trapped by his legs under an overturned fork lift truck. With his crew and what equipment they had on the WrT, an effort was made to remove some of the weight until the arrival of the MrT. Meanwhile the Port of Bristol Authority ambulance men administered entonox gas. On arrival of the MrT the difficult and delicate task of cutting away and lifting began, and within twenty minutes the man was released.

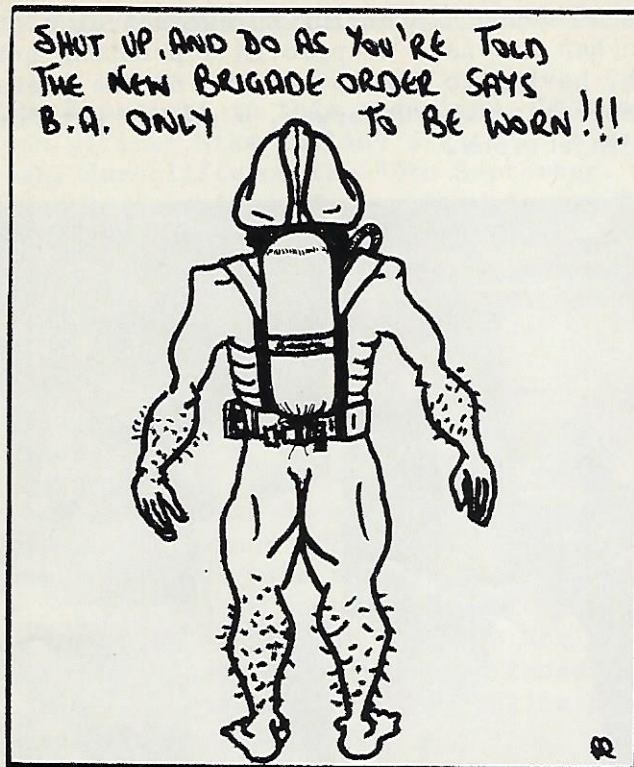
Station Officer Jefferies attended a pressing engagement at a printing works in Bedminster when a young man had his hand trapped in a printing press. A difficult situation faced them, having to dismantle part of the press and cutting away the roller. Whilst the operation was underway, a doctor attended the casualty, giving pain-killing injections.



Station Officer Colin Morris, B1 Bath, turned out to a 'Persons Reported' in Hayesfield Park, Bath. On arrival they found that a 70 year old woman had jumped from the first floor some 30 ft. but with no apparent injuries. After making entry and dealing with the fire, it was found that the woman had not left her room for some years. The whole house was occupied by family whom she had not spoken to or associated with since the war.

As you can see by the photograph of the room, what a potentially hazardous situation.

A2 Southmead responded to a motorcyclist in the Avon Gorge off Bridge Valley Road. On arrival Sub Officer Dave Miller found the motorcyclist some 50 ft. down the Gorge with an ambulance man. They climbed down, secured the ambulance man, strapped the casualty in the Paraguard stretcher and hauled him up. A first class piece of team work by all involved.



Operations & Technical Notes
Part 1, 3.1.6.8.



Surely in these times of economic restraint, Fireman Pat Ryan (C4) must receive a commendation for his courageous actions in saving his Brigade issue of leggins from being devoured, sustaining injuries to his person

RUGBY SECTION

The Brigade Rugby Team start this season with a match against South Glamorgan Fire Brigade to be played in Bristol. This match will be followed one week later when Firemen Steve Hall, Station B1 and Chris Millard and John Taylor, Station C1 will represent the Brigade in the South West District Match v Post Office at Taunton. England Fire Brigade selectors will be present so that should make things a little more interesting.

If you are at all interested in playing for the Brigade Rugby Team please contact Martin Rundle, Station C5, Steve Kelly, Station B1 or Steve Wareing, Station C1. We have plenty of fixtures.

SUPER SPORTSMAN COMPETITION 1980

On 22nd June 1980, another fine day in summer when the rainfall was restricted to just 2" - 3" in the first hour, nine of the fittest and most athletic members of the Brigade (!) set off in their bid to become the Super Sportsman of 1980. Right from the start, it was obvious that a battle was on between Paul Kennedy (B6) and Mark Bryan (B1), a newcomer to the competition. After three events, however, the lead was held by none other than 'OL' Superlip', Adrian Davies from B6. As one thrilling event followed another, keeping the huge crowd on the edge of their seats, the competition was between B6 and B1 for the right to wear the victor's laurel wreath and take possession of one of the most coveted trophies in British sport - a trophy which ranks alongside the British Open Golf, Wimbledon and the F.A. Cup!

The final event - the 1500 metres - and in order to retain his title for the third year, Paul Kennedy must win and push Mark Bryan into no higher than third place. After a fast and exciting race, Paul won the final sprint to the line, but Mark finished in second and so took the title by just one point. Adrian Davies finished third, so these three went forward to represent the Brigade in the District final at Taunton.

Those taking part in the event were:-

M. Bryan (B1); P. Kennedy (B6); A. Davies (B6); C. Jackson (A1);
A. Middleton (C5); E. Coghlan (A1); K. Escott (T/S, now C5);
D. Appleton (A2); N. Mulcahy (A1).

To all those who took part and assisted in the judging and recording, especially Sally Isaacs (Headquarters) who helped to set up the various pieces of equipment during the rainstorms of the morning, very many thanks.

To all those who entered for the events and then did not turn up on the day -- (expletive deleted on legal advice).

Chris Liberty, Secretary.

STOP PRESS: Results from the District Final:-

Paul Kennedy (Avon) - 1st
Mark Bryan (Avon) - 3rd.



IT'S A MESS-UP 1980

Here I am again with the annual report of the Inter Brigade 'It's a Knock-out' competition and once again I seem to be making excuses for not bringing back the cup. Last year, if you remember, we were practically washed away by the rain, and this year we were defeated by the complete lack of organisation.

We were all up and away at the crack of dawn (or so it seemed) to Oxford, on a warm and sunny Bank Holiday Monday. We arrived at Cutteslowe Park - an ideal venue - to find the changing rooms locked and no key, and none of the games assembled. At noon we were informed that when the games had been tried out the day before, some, in fact most of them were found to be too dangerous, so some games were modified and others were scrapped and new ones brought in. Two of the altered games incorporated a Territorial Army assault course net which was about 12 ft. high, not secured properly at the base and with rotten rope already broken in several places.

The afternoon's events were started by an amazing display of parachutists, which was well worth seeing, followed by the parade of the teams.

We decided to play our joker on the first game as it seemed the game least likely to go wrong. Unfortunately, go wrong it did! The rules of the game were 6 men in pairs carried 1 girl on a 2ft 6in disc 100 metres each. Our team were battling for second place on the last leg when one of our men tripped and everything ended up on top of our girl - Verena. One of the officials tested her arms and legs for breakages (I think she was enjoying it) but luckily she was all in one piece, although rather battered and bruised. As we didn't finish the game, we were placed last, but doubled our points because of the joker. We then had to quickly find a replacement for her in the marathon, so Janet Hill from Control bravely volunteered to take her place.

Game No. 2 was a game of luck called 'Penguins'. A man wearing one flipper (and kit) gave a girl a piggy back to a pile of straw and they both groped around for a table tennis ball. I don't think there were any balls in that straw as we couldn't find any, and I'm sure all the other teams must have taken their own balls with them. As you can probably guess, we were last in that game too.

Game No. 3, which we considered rather hazardous, lived up to all our expectations and we had our worst injury in it. Janet Hill, remember our replacement in the marathon, gashed open her chin, cut her wrist and bruised the whole of her front, falling on to milk crates from a great height.

Who could rescue us from disaster? Who could now step into the boots and cycle in the marathon? Who else? Me!! Not having been on a bike for years and certainly not a kiddy's bike and never dressed in leggings, jacket, boots and helmet, I was not looking forward to it. At this point I told the team that our 'accidents' were a result of us trying too hard, so as we were somewhere near last place, I suggested that we took things easy and just enjoyed ourselves. This was somewhat difficult as it seemed everyone and everything was against us. A pattern started to emerge of us being asked to go first in every game showing the other teams what, or more to the point, what not to do.

The first game with the assault course net was started, each team going separately, and we finished it without injuries and in a reasonable time. A slight hitch occurred when team No. 2 started and the net practically disintegrated. The game had to be stopped and thinking caps put on. The net was replaced by two ladders and our team had to go again at the end, and of course, as they were not as fresh as everyone else, could not be expected to put in a winning time.

The 2nd game using this equipment consisted of 6 people trying to go up and down the ladders with a hoop as quickly as possible. Once again we were asked to go first with the instructions that only one person was allowed on each ladder at a time. We adhered to these rules and finished with what we thought was a respectable time. However, all the following teams ignored the rules and had up to 5 people on one ladder at a time and consequently recorded better times than us. So we protested! We were told we could go again, but as the girls in this game were the same ones as in the previous game, they were shattered and considered this most unfair. We claimed that as we were the only team to play the game properly, the other teams should be disqualified. Eventually we agreed on a compromise and we were awarded 1st place, the other teams being placed in order of times after us.

The rest of the games for us were uneventful although amusing to watch, in particular the last game. Two girls were on top of a 15 ft. tower trying to catch water-filled balloons which 2 men were throwing to them. When the men had thrown all the balloons up, the girls had to throw back down all the whole ones. One of our problems in this game was getting the girls up to the top of the tower (this was not included in the game), but we managed eventually. Our second problem was getting the balloons straight up in the air. The 1st one went forward at a height of about 4 ft. and the second smashed into the platform which the girls were standing on. We eventually found the technique and the girls caught 2 balloons, which of course, smashed on the way down. Total score - NIL. By the start of this game, however, we had realised that we stood no chance of winning so it was our aim to entertain what was left of the crowd.

Even with taking our injuries and injustices into account we all had a very enjoyable and shattering day, although I was asked by several people if it was a 'closed shop' as far as team membership is concerned. Of course, this is not the case, and in the past we have had difficulty getting enough people for the team. So, if you are interested in being in next year's Knockout Team, let me know now!!!

I think our motto for this year should have been 'It's not the winning that counts, it's the way you play the game', which unfortunately for us spelt DISASTER. Next year, perhaps, it could spell SUCCESS.

The rest of the team were:-

Janet Greaney
Andrea Weston
Verena Sullivan
Janet Hill
Margaret Thomas
Lesley Lee
Diane Jelfs

Bob Poots
John Shrimpton
Barry Smith
Chris Liberty
Mervyn Osborne
Dicky Green
Phil Green
Chris Jackson
Dave Creech
Rob Gregory

Officials & Judges

Pete Yeates
Rory O'Connor

Viv Gregory (Team Captain) Finance Dept.

RUGBY

On Tuesday, 7th October 1980, the South West District played the South West District Post Office at Taunton. The Post Office won 11 - 6 and both Chris Millard and John Taylor of C1 gave a good account of themselves. The next fixture at this level is the National Final versus North West District.

Steve Wareing

'A' Division Fire Prevention

K1 and K2 of the 'A' Division Fire Prevention Department Goodwill Reference wish to state that the rumour that they work by throwing smarties on the plans:-

Red	-	Fire Door
Green	-	Smoke Detector
Blue	-	Fire Exit Sign
Orange	-	Vision Panel
Purple	-	External Staircase
Black	-	Emergency Lighting

is not entirely true.

A spokesman for the reference said, "I wouldn't normally comment on a rumour like this, but there's a lot of it about".

For Sale

Coin operated cigarette dispensing machine. Six Columns, one year old. £50.00. Contact Station Officer Jackson, Station B4 Brislington.

Wanted

Judo suit to fit a seven year old. Contact H. Davies, Station A7 Yate.



CLEVEDON BED RACE

'A' DIVISION TEAM

On Sunday, 7th September, Station C2 Clevedon organised "The Clevedon Bed Race" in aid of the Fire Services National Benevolent Fund.

A total of nineteen beds entered for the race with some 161 people in the teams. The course was of eight miles around the town of Clevedon, taking in both town and country roads, with some tricky hill stages.

There were trophies for the winners of the five classes which were "Fastest Ladies Team", "Fastest Men's Team", "Fastest Mixed Team", "Best Fancy Dress" and the team with the most sponsorship per head on completion of the course. The judging and prize giving was done by the Chief Fire Officer, Mr. Fred Ponsford, Divisional Commander Roy Hayman and Mrs. Hilda Baker, Chairman of Clevedon Town Council.

Among the trophy winners were the only team from Avon Fire Brigade personnel to take part. These were 'A' Division Fire Prevention, captained by Andy Young, and who had in his team Bob "Superman" Poots, who reportedly put the rest of the team on the bed after the first mile and pushed it by himself. They tied in a dead heat in the time of one hour fifteen minutes for the Fastest Men's Team.

Local firms and pubs won the other trophies and all competitors received signed certificates. It is hoped that the event will have raised over £1,000 for the Fund.

As it was such a success and a good time was had by all, the men of Clevedon Fire Station are to make it an annual event.

It would be nice to see perhaps more teams from the Brigade entering next year.

HERE LYETH
ye body of
MARTHA DIAS
ALWAYS NOISY NOT VERY PIOUS
WHO LIVED TO YE AGE OF
3 score AND 10
AND GAVE TO WORMS
WHAT SHE REFUSED
TO MEN

FROM A SHROPSHIRE CEMETERY.

ERECTED TO THE MEMORY
of
JOHN M'FARLANE
DROWNED IN THE WATER OF LEITH
MAY 1781
BY A FEW AFFECTIONATE FRIENDS

EDINBURGH PARISH CHURCH.

HERE LIES
JOHN HIGLEY
whose
FATHER & MOTHER
were drowned
on the passage from
AMERICA.
-(H)-
Had they both lived
they would have
been buried here

KERRY IRELAND

Here lies a Lewd Fellow
Who while he drew Breath
IN THE MIDST OF LIFE
WAS IN QUEST OF DEATH
Which he quickly obtained
For it cost him his LIFE
For being in bed
With another MAN'S WIFE
SEPT: 1802
ROBERT MARS.

LINCOLN CHURCHYARD.

THE 1st SPEEDWELL VOLLEYBALL TOURNAMENT.

Out of an original eight, five representative teams took part in the Speedwell Volleyball Tournament, staged over one day, on Saturday 20/9/80.

This resulted in a re-arrangement of the format with 3 teams obtaining a bye to the semi-final and one match being played in the original preliminary round between Blue A and White A. Both teams settled into their respective games very quickly, led by two very experienced captains Allen Oates (Blue) and Derek Summers (White) resulting in a 2-0 win by White.

The next match, the first of the semis, saw Green A beat Blue B by 2 sets to 0 with exceptional play by the very experienced setter/smasher Tim Bolland (Blue B). The second semi final brought out the partisan in the 'crowd' with their support for Red A over White A. Notable smashing from Cordon Feaver and Stuart Coleman and setting from Steve Fry.

The Final (best of 5 sets) took place before a 'capacity crowd'. Green A won the first two sets 15-8, 15-10 and on their present form looked certain to take the third and the match. However, White A raised their game in the 3rd set through their captain Derek Summers and the motivation/setting of Simon Clifford, taking the set 15-13.

THE CLASSIC 5 SETS! It was not to be. Green Watch quashed any hopes White may have had through their blocking, recovering and in particular the smashing of insurmountable Dave Saunders who smashed each ball through and round White Watches defence. The Double Block was needed to stem the Tide, but it was rare to even see a one man block, from White, who relied mainly on their second line of defence, namely the back court players and Green went on to win the set 15-7 to take the match.

A thoroughly enjoyable Tournament and many congratulations to all participants for their high standard of play. Special thanks to Stn.O. Colin Williams for presenting the winners shield and all referees, scorers and linesmen.

Kevin O'Connor.

B6



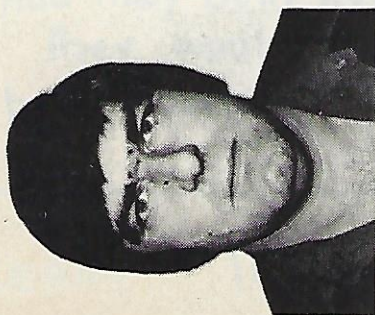
THE LONDON FIRE BRIGADE ROLLER SKATE FROM JOHN O'GROATS TO LAND'S END (1,000 MILES)

The Team

TIME TAKEN - 5 DAYS, AND FUNDS RAISED MAY BE UP AROUND £6,000, DIVIDED BETWEEN F.S.N.B.F. AND CYSTIC FIBROSIS RESEARCH. FANTASTIC EFFORT LADS.

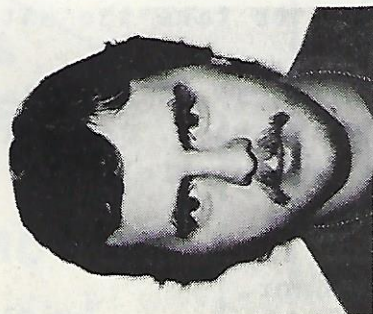
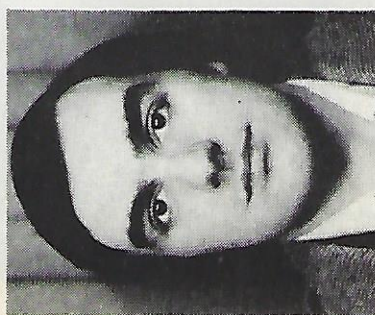
DAVE (ROOF VOID) RUTHVEN

Joined the L.F.B. in 1967 and has served at numerous stations. Interests include organising other peoples spare time, whilst relaxing in Public Houses.



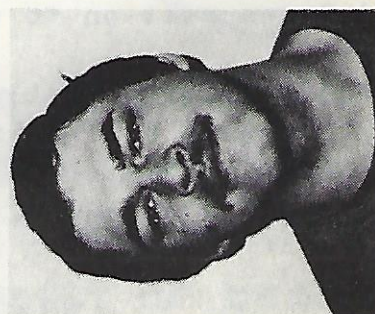
ALLAN (THE WELK) HAVENS

Joined Fire Brigade in 1974. Served at Kentish Town. Skated in the 1977 event.



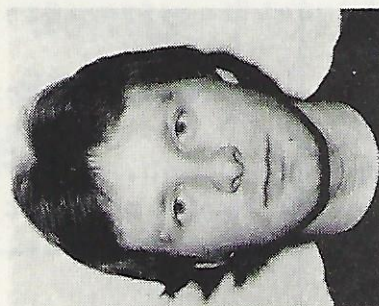
KEVIN (KEEP FIT) REPPER

Joined Fire Brigade in 1973. Has served at Barbekn and Kentish Town. Hobbies include Keep Fit and looing arguments.



MICK (ROCKEY) KELSEY SKATER

Joined Fire Brigade in 1978. Served at Kentish Town. Hobbies include Athletics and Boxing.

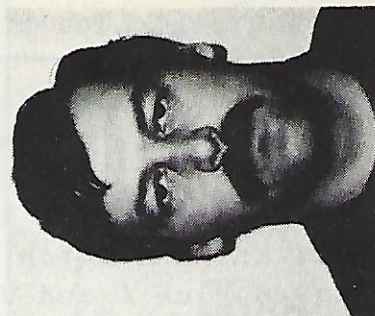


ROY (BIG JO) TOLAND SKATER

Joined Fire Brigade in 1974. Served at Kentish Town. Hobbies include heated discussions on nothing particular.

BOB VRIJ SKATER

Joined Fire Brigade in 1974. Has served at Clerkenwell and Kentish Town. Hobbies - repairs cars.



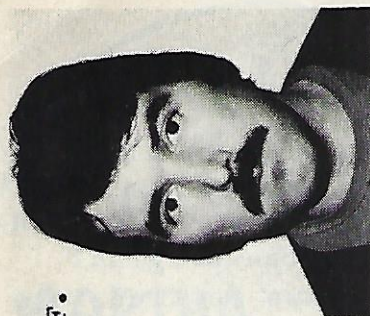
TIM (DINO) EVERSON SKATER

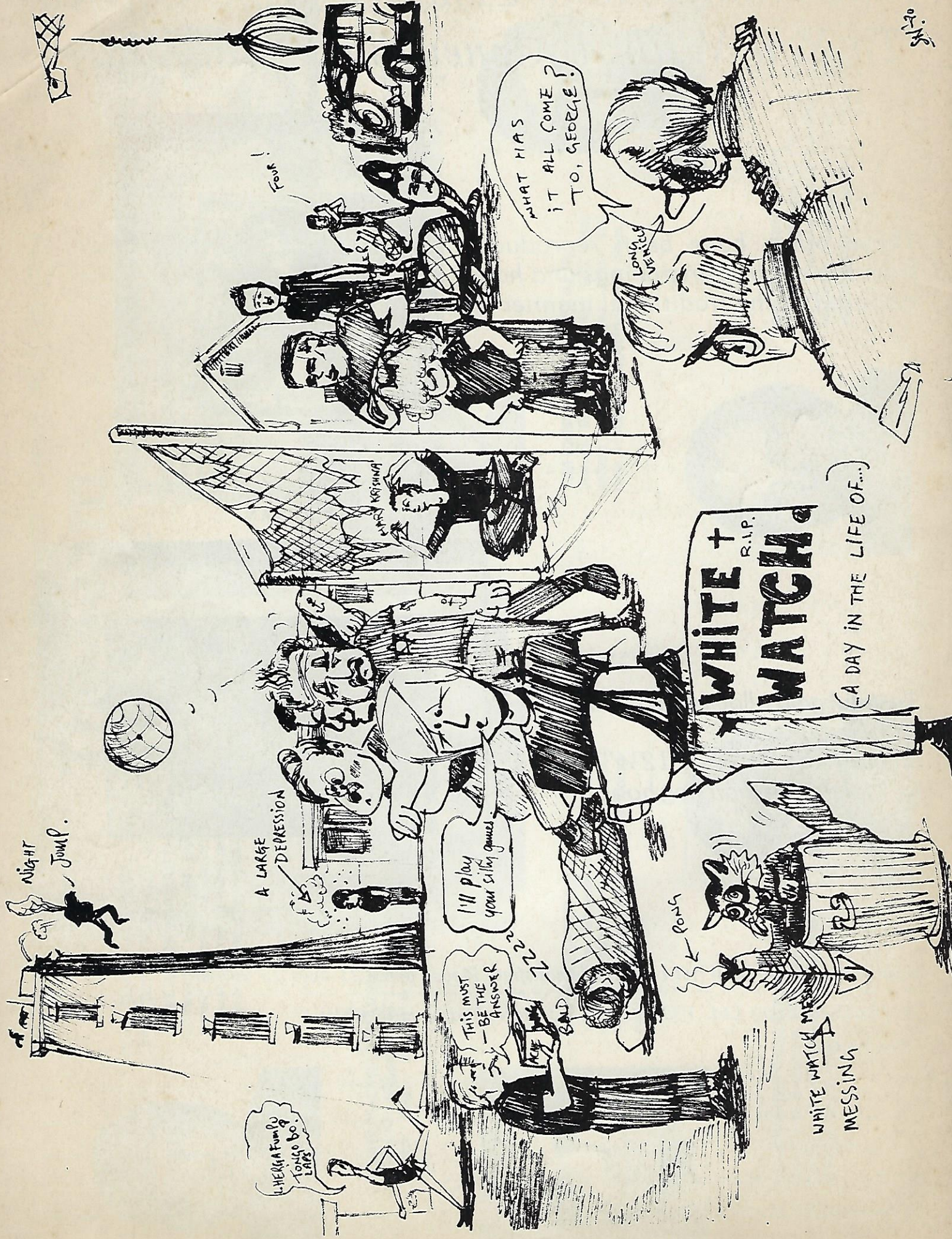
Joined Fire Brigade in 1979. Has served at Kentish Town since that date. Hobbies - repairing motor bikes.



MICK GEORGE DRIVER

Joined Fire Brigade in 1974. Has served at Clerkenwell and Kentish Town. Hobbies include drinking large quantities and debating in a loud voice.





NIGHT
JUMP.

WHEREA Family
TONGUE BO.

A LARGE
DEPRESSION

THIS MUST
— BE THE
ANSWER

I'll play
your silly games

BAUD

2222

Pony

WHITE +
R.I.P.
WATCH.

(A DAY IN THE LIFE OF...)

WHITE WATCH MESSING
MESSING

WHAT HAS
IT ALL COME
TO, GEORGE?

LONGER
FRANK

Foul!

S. King