

COUNTY OF AVON FIRE BRIGADE

FEBRUARY 1981



A slight change in format of this magazine - hopefully for the better. I would like to thank Janet Hill from Control for the valuable assistance and hard work. Thank you for articles submitted. Some of these are being held over because of shortage of space this time. Please keep sending material in from your Stations.

DAVE HUTCHINGS

LATE NEWS



C9 Nailsea won the Brigade final of the Retained Firemen's Quiz and now go forward to Cirencester in March.

The Chief Fire Officer remarked on the high standard of technical knowledge of both teams.

Our commiserations to A6 Thornbury who put up a good fight.

FOR SALE

Datson 180B S.S.S. White/Black vinyl roof. 10,000 miles only. 'S' Reg. Super condition. £2,500. Phone Saltford 2233.

FOOTBALL

The annual football dance was held at A1 on the 14th February 1981. Presentations made were 'Clubman of the Year' - Paul Walker, who received a trophy from Reg Stone, Chairman of the suburban league. Richard Gurney received the Championship Cup on behalf of the Wednesday League Team from Monty Britton. Individual player plaques were also presented to the Wednesday Squad.

Flowers were presented to the wives of Roger McKeown and Mel Rogers for tolerating so much absenteeism by these two secretaries.

Leading Fireman Tony Moore of B5 is making steady progress following his fall whilst out on the Benevolent Carol Float. Unfortunately Tony broke his leg in two places and had a very restricted Christmas.

We all wish Tony the very best for a rapid and full recovery.

FRONT COVER - The Co-op, Weston-Super-Mare

The fire was on Christmas Day. One man was rescued by Hydraulic Platform from the roof. The fire was severe and the grocery department and the remainder of the building was heavily smoke logged.

VISITS TO THE BRIGADE

THE LORD MAYOR

The Lord Mayor of Bristol, Cllr. Vic Pople and the Lady Mayoress visited the Brigade Headquarters on Wednesday 21st January 1981, they were accompanied on their visit by Cllr. Coppack Vice Chairman of Avon County, Cllr. Mrs Pitt Chairman of the Public Protection Committee and Cllr Abrahams Chairman of the the Fire Brigade Sub Committee. The Chief Fire Officer showed them all aspects of the H.Q. Brigade Control and AI Temple.

The Lord Mayor presented Long Service and Good Conduct medals to :-

DO Yeates, Sub O Chidgey, FM Pratten, DO Southard, Stn O Black, FM Love, Sub O Jones, FM Sweet, FM Rees, Stn O Gillen, Stn O Lawes and Sub O Parker.

Following the inspection of appliances and crews at AI a short drill and demonstration was put on and the Lord Mayor rode in the cage of the new S220 Hydraulic Platform.



LORD BELSTEAD

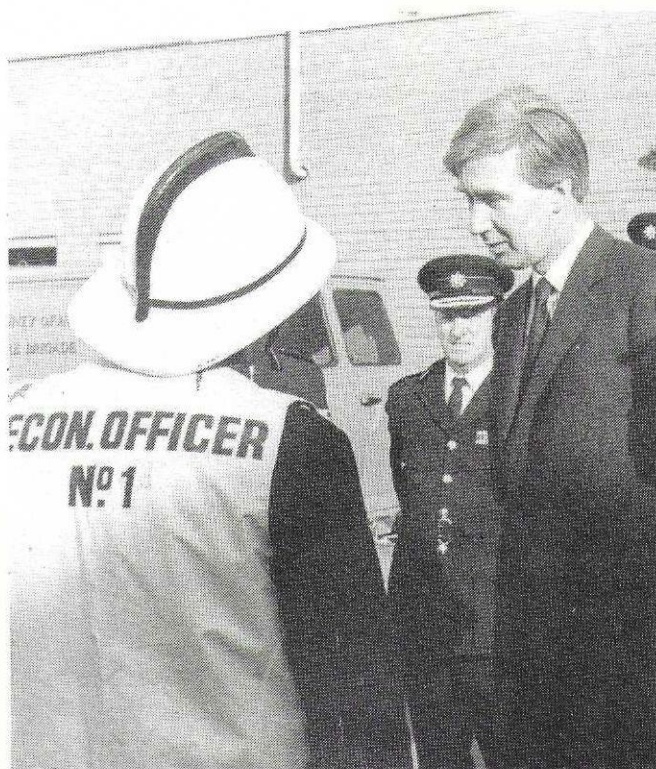
Lord Belstead the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Home Affairs and Mr Peter Darby Her Majesties Chief Inspector of Fire Brigades visited the Brigade on the 4th February 1981.

It was an informative visit for Lord Belstead, he looked at various aspects of the Brigade and talked to members of all departments visited.

When Lord Belstead met the press he said ' Avon is typical of the highest standards of the Fire Service in this country'.

He has since written the the C.F.O. to say how much he enjoyed his visit and how grateful he was to see the Brigade and meet so many of the men.

Mr Peter Darby conveys his thanks to all concerned and says it was an extremely successful visit.



RETIREMENTS

MR. K.L. HOLLAND

A formal dinner was held at Brigade H.Q. to mark the retirement of Her Majesties Chief Inspector of Fire Brigades Mr. K.L. Holland.

Among the guests present were Mr Hutchinson Chief Executor Avon, Mrs Pitt Chairman of the Public Protection Committee and Mr Abrahams Chairman of the Fire Brigade Sub Committee.

Presentations were made to Mr and Mrs Holland and Mr Holland remarked on his enjoyable time at Bristol, also that he hoped that the service would now settle into a period of stability saying that recent happenings have affected all associated with the service.



Mr and Mrs Holland are retiring to Wimbourne where he hopes to have more time to devote to his garden and to take

a more active role in the Fire Service Benevolent Fund and Sports and Athletic Association.

MRS MOLLY HELE

Retiring seems to be the thing at B4. Mrs Hele 'Molly' the cook retired in January after four years at the station.

A presentation of a picture and flowers were made by Stn O Tom Jackson on behalf of the station personnel.



Molly who lives at Stockwood does a great deal of voluntary work with elderly people of the district, aims to continue during her retirement and hopefully to spend more time at her caravan in Redcliffe Bay.

MR. ANDREW ADRAIN

We all wish good health and a happy retirement to Andrew 'Mick' Adrain who has retired from the

Brigade and is now happily contemplating his garden and walking his dalmation 'Oh those hairs' dog around Portishead.

Mick joined the Brigade from the Royal Navy with whom he served 12 years from 1942 - 1955, during this time he served in the Atlantic, Pacific, Italy and Burma areas and between 1942 and 1946 was in the Mediterranean and Far East. He ended up as Petty Officer Gunnery Instructor on 'Whale Island' which is a place well known to naval personnel who had a special name for the place and the instructors at times. This is not the



as a reliable and strong willed person who quickly picked up the abilities

of a fireman and was promoted to Stn O in 1964 and on the creation of Avon Fire Brigade was seconded to the P.B.A. and dealt with the problems of a dock and shipping area.

Mick is a keen sportsman who represented the Brigade at football and golf and I believe he is now trying to get his wife, Betty, to carry his golf clubs, as he now has plenty of time for this activity in between time of making his garden the pride of Portishead.

BOB OWEN

The Chief wishes Bob good luck on his last day (pictured below). By coincidence it was Leading Fireman Ponsford who first welcomed Bob to the Brigade on his first day of service thirty years ago.

Bob has served at every station except Southmead during his service. He was born in South Wales and emigrated to Bristol in 1927.

Bob fulfilled his ambition when he became a Boy Seaman in the Navy at the age of 14.



During his service in the Royal Navy Bob served on the 'Illustrious', two destroyers and the Aircraft Carrier 'Implacable' to name a few.

Bob was fortunate enough to visit all continents and thoroughly enjoyed himself despite the war.

Bob intends to cruise to South America and the West Indies in May, followed by a three month stay in Australia starting September.

We all wish Bob the very best for the future.

JACK CHURCH

A dinner was held to mark the retirement of Station Officer Jack Church, B3 Paulton, at the Fosseyway Country Club with over 40 guests present.

The main presentations of the evening were made by the Chief Officer and his wife to Jack and Margaret.

Jack received a mounted axe with both Somerset and Avon badges. Margaret received a superb bouquet, which were presented to them by DO Cooper on

behalf of the Officers Club and the Division.

Station Officer Terry Coles made a presentation on behalf of Radstock. This was followed by a varied array of presents from station members.

Jack joined the Somerset Fire Brigade in 1956, at which time he was Transport Manager for Fields of Paulton.

He has always been involved with activities in and around the area and is a well known and well liked figure in the community.

Jack is still with Fields but is no longer Transport Manager, he is now the Company Secretary.

We all wish him well for the future and are sure he will be missed by all, especially his colleagues at B3.

Below:

Jack Church receiving a presentation from Divisional Officer Cooper.



RUGBY SECTION

The 1980/81 season got off to its usual exiting start, with a cancelled fixture against the Post Office. This was followed by a fixture against South Glamorgan Fire Brigade, who cried off at lunch time on the day of the match. As the pitch was already booked, and it was too late to inform the participants, we played 7-a-side, and took the opportunity to hold the A.G.M.

We finally had our first game on October 15th against RAF Rudloe Manor and it was gratifying to have a full team, plus 2 reserves. The pack, which was made up of 1 prop, 2 hookers, 4 wing forwards and 'I'll play anywhere' Jerry (legs) Cox out of retirement after 3 years, did well to hold its own against much heavier opposition, and the threequarters, with another hooker on the wing, achieved a lot of penetration. Unfortunately the final score was 14-12 against us, with the opposition scoring in the last minute.

The following week, we went to RAF Lyneham, expecting a testing game, as they run 3 teams. Again we had a full team plus one reserve, and as their first team was cup tied, we played their seconds, winning 52-0 with a magnificent all round performance in the strong wind and heavy rain.

The 5th November saw

us at RAF Locking where we needed to win to average a double defeat last season. A gale was howling from end to end, and after losing the toss we played into the wind during the first half of the match and had to put up a desperate defence to keep the score line to a minimum. In the second half with the wind at our backs we piled on the pressure and ended up winning by a narrow margin.

On the following Wednesday the venue was Kings Weston and the opponents were Bristol Police who had also beaten us on both occasions last season. Due to some confusion some of our players who thought the match had been cancelled due to the work to rule, only 10 turned up. The police lent us 2 players and with our 12 men to their 14 we ended up with a very satisfying victory of 26 points to 14.

Our next fixture against Bath University was cancelled as it was due to be played on the 3rd December, which as you all know, would have been the first one day national strike.

Due to prior holiday commitments I was unable to turn up at the final match of December, which was against Weston Police, but I am reliably informed that the team performed admirably, winning 21-4.

Pat (Biffo) O'Brien has instructed me to mention that he scored his bi-centennial try, and perhaps, due to his advancing years, the team would vote him

'Man of the Match', or something equally sentimental.

We now look forward eagerly to the new year, when we start with a match against Gloucestershire Fire Brigade on January 7th.

FOOTBALL

A sunny but cold day on 18th December saw the kick off between No.7 District and London at the BAC Sports ground. Both first and second halves were played with maximum enthusiasm and endeavour by all.

Unfortunately no goals were to be seen and when, following a corner the game went into extra time, the South West District put one away, the finisher being 'Biscuit' from Wiltshire. 3 minutes from the end of the game London took a penalty but Bob Baird was not to be fooled and made a truly magnificent save. There is no way any one man could be picked out as 'man of the match' as everyone put their all into the game.

I feel sure that if our own Bristol City or Rovers put up the same enthusiasm for the game their grounds would be filled and they would be up from the bottom.

The South West District now go forward to Scotland in January.

SWIMMING

On Saturday 31st January 1981 the FSSAA Life Saving Competitions were held at Moreton-in-Marsh. Teams from all over the country took part.

The competition was split into three sections, part one consisted of an unknown incident involving one or more subjects having injuries, which the rescuer must diagnose within a limited time.

Part two was artificial respiration both in and out of water, part three rescue and retrieve by line.

In this section Bob Poots broke the all-time record but was beaten by .2 of a second. The final section was to swim and tow in an approved way, for four lengths. Points were on a sliding scale for time taken.

The Avon team came third with only four points between them and the winners.

The team : Maggie Thomas
(Capt)
Bob Poots.
Rory O'Connor.
Nick Baker.
Ian Andrews.

ACO Norman Steeples and the Secretary of the FSSAA attended and supported our Avon Team. A superb effort doubtless next year we will manage to erase those four points and we will be First.

BI SNOOKER TEAM

The members of the Brigade (pictured below) are a part of the Bath Fire Station Snooker Team. They are, at present, in the Bath Billiards and Snooker League, Division Three and are lying in second position. They hope to win promotion into the Second Division shortly.

The team has been reformed after a seven year period without competition.

In the early days they had a team in the First Division Billiard League. Subsequently they had teams in both the Billiards and Snooker Second Divisions.

Their table originally came from the Hotel Empire, Bath. It is assumed that it was not required by the Admiralty when they took over the hotel. When the table was required to be taken upstairs at BI, for an exhibition by the late Joe Davis in the lecture room, it was quite a mammoth task for all concerned. The table has recently been refurbished and new equipment and balls purchased. The cost was met by BI Social Club.

It was decided last year to resurrect the Annual Snooker Competition for BI Social Club members only and Chris Ware won with Brian Wetten (retired) as runner up. The event was sponsored and made £42 for the BI childrens party.

Attention is drawn to the fact that the team is open to any friendly challenge matches from other stations in the Brigade. All interested should apply to Chris Gingell, Blue Watch, BI Bath.



JOB CENTRE

'LIVING AND LEARNING'

On Thursday 8th January 1981 at 1630 hours Stn C5 Bedminster responded with a Wrt and Wrl with myself in charge to a 'Persons Reported' fire at 46, Knowle Road Totterdown. On our arrival after driving through very dense rush hour traffic, that stretched for almost 2 miles, we booked in attendance at 1644 hours. Smoke was issuing from the ground and first floor windows, the first two people I encountered on the path leading to the front door assured me, after I had asked, that everyone was out of the building. On entering the hallway I immediately changed my order for a hose reel and asked for a jet and proceeded along the hallway where we found a severe fire in the back room which was, as I found out later, used as a bar / clubroom by the Hells Angels who owned the 3 storey house.

Because of the intense heat and thick smoke the two breathing apparatus wearers, who had donned their sets on the way, were left to tackle the fire. When I emerged from the house into the front garden the men outside were extending the IO5 ladder to the second floor front window where there were four faces peering down, a young baby, two women and a man. By this time thick smoke was pumping out of the first floor window below them. ADO Roe was now in attendance and instructed two firemen, John Cowley and Mike Owen to climb the ladder, enter the room where the people were and stay with them until the fire had been contained. I immediately re-entered the building with Sub O Stan Tingle (who had infiltrated my crew from the night shift to find out exactly how to put out a fire) instructed the two B.A. men at the branch to go to the top of the staircase and reassure the people on the top floor, and waited for two relief men to arrive and take over at the branch. During the incident I was aware of members of the crew taking outside several 24lb propane cylinders that they had found in other rooms, so with this in mind and still unable to enter the room because of the heat and smoke told the two branch men Andy Chappell and Robin Manners (who between them have less than three years experience) in case there were any cylinders in the room, not to go past the doorway and to stay under cover of the wall.

On reemerging into the front garden I was again aware of the smoke that was still pumping out of the first floor window and for a few moments wondered if the fire had penetrated the ceiling and was spreading up the staircase. Fm Cowley who was patiently waiting with the people on the top floor called out that the people should be taken out as conditions were getting too uncomfortable especially for the child. My crews then proceeded to first bring the baby down then the two ladies followed by the man all with the minimum of fuss and bother. They were then escorted to the ambulance for treatment. On my request the ambulance crew stood by in case there were any injuries received by the firemen whilst they tackled the blaze.

When the fire was extinguished and we were able to enter into the room of origin - lo and behold - standing right in the centre of where the fire had started stood a 50lb 5 ft' tall propane cylinder and believe you me it was too hot for comfort. I would guess, had it exploded, it would have taken the ground floor out and filled the building with a fireball. The cylinder was taken out into the open and placed in a dustbin with a cooling jet played onto it.

The heading I used for this article is quite significant, for those readers who are wondering what connection it has to do with the fire. It's a well known saying 'We learn something new daily' and on this day that was certainly true, listed below are a few things I was made aware of :-

a). Never take it at face value when told that everyone is out of the building. Always double check. On arrival when I asked the two men who lived there, Was everyone out they both replied "Yes". Maybe they thought I meant out of the room that was on fire, I don't know, but there was still four people trapped on the top floor.

b) Take more care whilst tackling a fire in a private house, By now we are all aware of the poisonous gases that are given off from burning furniture and decorations so we always wear breathing apparatus, but more and more homes are being heated by portable gas fires and although we were lucky on this incident a week earlier at a fire in a private house in Yeovil a cylinder exploded **severely** damaging the house and two firemen fighting the blaze were injured.

c). We as firefighters must sensibly resist cuts in the Fire Service, not only to keep jobs but more important , with less men on an attendance the dangers to the lives of both the public and firemen would greatly increase and fire damage costs would soar. On the incident I reported I was lucky to have 2 crews of 5 riders (a rare luxury) and I needed every one of them. Incidentally a week later I was in the process of writing this article when we attended a garage / workshop fire which, on arrival, we found to be well alight from end to end, we were informed that there were 2 gas cylinders inside. When it was possible they were retrieved from the building and immersed into a temporary dam constructed whilst firefighting took place. On this occasion we were riding 4 and 4 and found ourselves stretched for manpower and that was with no rescues being undertaken.

d). Also, I learned never to judge a person by the clothes he wears or the life he leads. We left a salvage sheet behind to minimise any water damage that may have occurred and 2 days later the owners, all of them Hells Angels, returned it together with £20 for the Benevolent Fund, not that it was expected but it just showed their generosity and appreciation



T. CONDON. (STN 0)
OIC RED WATCH
STN C5 BEDMINSTER

TYNDALL HOUSE. ST JUDES

Blue Watch AI Temple dealt with a very severe fire at Tyndall House St Judes on Sunday 4th. January at 0501 hours. Despite the intense build up of heat in the flat, B.A. men managed to get into the room of origin but unfortunately were unable to save the life of a female casualty who they found there, despite tremendous efforts made by all concerned. The other two occupants of the flat managed to escape suffering the effects of smoke.

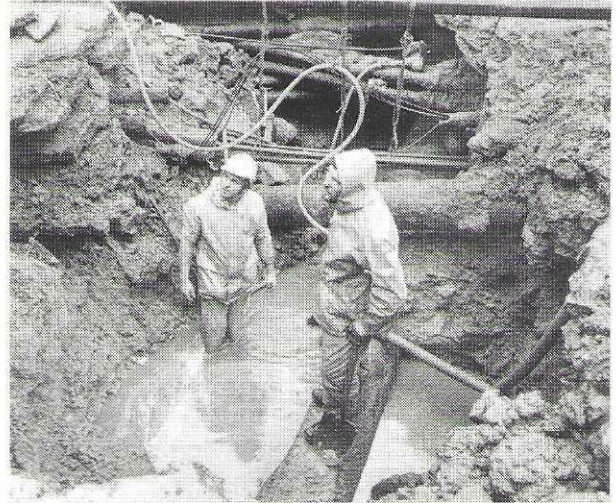
Due to cars being parked obstructing the fire exit a problem was encountered, which necessitated manoeuvring the appliances into position, the slight delay was overcome by pitching the TL to the third floor balcony.

Neighbours and Police were full of praise for the crews attending particularly for the way in which they quickly dealt with and overcame the problems they encountered whilst trying to gain entry.

VICTORIA ST. CITY.

Green Watch AI Temple were called to a fractured water main in Victoria St City, where, on arrival they found a 27 inch water main burst, ripping a 12ft crater in the road. Water was pouring in and out of everywhere around.

Approximately 35 minutes after the time of call workers from the water board managed to seal off the main and pumping out began. This continued for some



fifteen hours. The water board informs us that some three million gallons of water was lost through the fracture.

SHELDON BUSH NARROW PLAIN

Bob Smiths' watch in the Control Room turned out the normal attendance to Sheldon Bush, Narrow Plain when they spotted smoke issuing from the roof of the factory.

Until the arrival of the Brigade employees of Sheldon Bush were unaware of the fire in the ventilation ducting in the factory.

The extractor plant and ducting were severely alight but were quickly brought under control by the use of 2 X CO2 and a Hose Reel.

The management of the factory expressed their thanks to the Control Room staff stating that had it not been for their observations and quick response thousands of pounds worth of damage could have resulted.

HARTCLIFFE SCHOOL

Severe damage was caused to the

store / staff room in the gymnasium block at Hartcliffe School recently. C5 dealt with this incident and encountered considerable problems with the ventilation, or lack of it. Subsequently as both gym blocks were heavily smoke logged the Angus Turbex was used to extract the smoke as there was very little natural ventilation.

The Head of the Sports Department remarked on how easily years of work could, so quickly, 'go up in smoke'.



There is no doubt that this was a deliberate ignition. The building had been broken into and ransacked.

CHURCH ROAD. REDFIELD.

On arrival at the flat, B6 Red watch were informed that the woman who lived there could possibly be inside. Two B.A. men searched and found the woman at the top of the stairs. Having been taken to open air FM Steve Clarkson and FM Alan Ferris gave her mouth to mouth and cardiac massage. This was kept up until the arrival of the ambulance. Sadly she was found to be dead on arrival at the hospital.

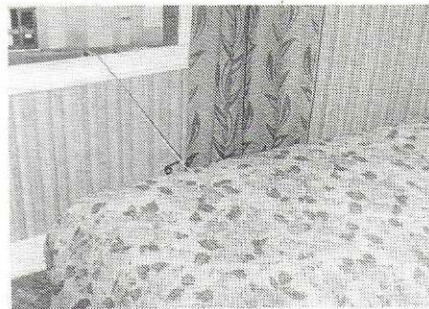
The fire, comparatively small but very smokey, appeared to have been caused by a short circuit adjacent to a gas pipe.

CHURCH RD. WHITCHURCH.

On arrival at Church Road B4 were informed that persons were believed to be inside. Crews from White Watch B4 and C5 commenced a search and quickly located the female casualty who was immediately brought out to open air where it was found she had stopped breathing. She was revived by the quick actions of our men who used the Saburn Saturn. Her next door neighbour, a Doctor, praised in particular the calm, precise actions of FM Bernard Bennett of B4.

OXFORD ST. WESTON-SUPER-MARE

Six persons were reported involved in a fire in a restaurant WSM. On arrival at the scene the crews from CI immediately made entry on the ground floor, front and rear. The HP was put to the second floor. Fortunately the owner and his family had managed to escape, using a replacement sash cord for a window which happened to be in the bedroom.



Mr McGregor had tied the sash cord to the bed to lower himself down having already lowered down his family.

The only injury sustained was a small cut to Mrs McGregors leg.

THE WHEELED ESCAPE

The end of an era . On wednesday 28th January 1981 the last of the wheeled escapes in service with the Brigade was withdrawn. This type of equipment has seen long service with Brigades throughout the country and was a feature of the cities and towns well before present day Fire Brigades were conceived.

Developed on the 1800's, they were principal provided as a result of many tragedies resulting in the loss of life where persons were unable to escape from buildings built without any consideration for safety from fire.

The wheeled escape came about with the need for a long ladder that could be kept readily available in the streets and moved into position when needed.



With the advent of organised Fire Brigades the wheeled escape was adopted as an important item of equipment and over the years had been developed by the use of modern design and engineering techniques. Standardisation during the Second World War resulted in it being generally designed to reach a height of 50ft and this formed the basis of the specification used to this day.

However, with the advancement of engineering expertise and materials, it has become a more practicable proposition to produce ladders of similar height at a fraction of the weight of the wheeled escape. The modern ladder is easily manouverable without the necessity of a carriage and wheels mechanism.

So, after some 180 years, the original needs which resulted in the design of the wheeled escape, no longer apply and another step in history is recorded.

We can all look back on this period of history and think of the wheeled escape with affection in the knowledge that it served us well.

FUND RAISING

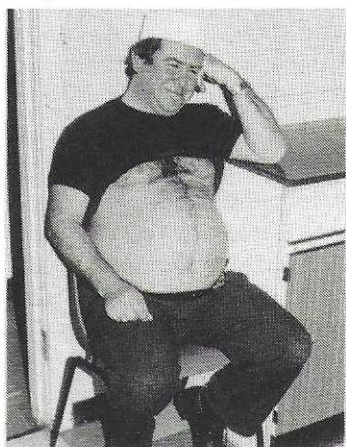
SPONSORED JOG

The Brigades sponsored jog was held at Brigade H.Q. on 28th December in aid of the Bristol Maternity Hospital Premature Baby Unit.

Approximately £1,000 was raised by the people taking part, which included the Chief Officer, Deputy Chief Officer, Richard Wyatt from HTV and 12 children.

The Bristol Hippodrome kindly presented the children with tickets for the current pantomime starring Danny La Rue.

Members of the Green Watch gave valuable assistance with lap counting and it was noted one of them had a recusitator close at hand which fortunately was not required this year.



Mike Parker (A3) did a superb job with the organising. His thanks

go to all those who assisted him, in particular the wives and off duty personnel.

Evening Post reporters, who declined to take part very kindly sponsored Dave Hutchings who, incidently, didn't quite finish.

WHITE LION P.H. YATE

The White Lion Public House opposite Yate Fire Station is raising money for the Benevolent Fund. The Landlord, Colin Parks, hopes to raise £500 to purchase a bath hoist for handicapped persons to be installed at Marine Court.

The money is to be raised by means of a 'Penny Column' and should be completed by March.

POSTAGE STAMPS

Fm Paul Walker of A2 would like to remind everyone that he still collects used postage stamps for Premature Infant Deaths.

Please keep sending your used stamps to Paul at A2.

CECIL COX B6 SPEEDWELL

Cecil is raising money for cancer research by going on a sponsored diet and has to loose 3 stones in 3 months. If Cecil is successful, and we're

sure he will be, he should raise £300 We all wish Cecil well and look forward to seeing the new slim line figure in our next issue.



CLUBS

TABLE TENNIS.

Result:
Avon F.B. 6 Police 4

Avon Fire Brigade are still on top of Division 6C Bristol and District League.

Played.....17
Won.....14
Lost.....2

DODGE DRIVER CLUB

Any Brigade Driver wishing to join the Dodge Driver Club please contact me, Dave Hutchings for enrolment forms.

Enrolment is free, also free accident insurance and quarterly magazine is provided.

BENEVOLENT FUND

Once again C2 have won the Benevolent Shield which is awarded to the highest fund raisers in the Division.

This year C2 have raised £2,596 for the fund.

They are pictured right dressed in full rig to attend a Victorian Fayre at Clevedon.



F.S.N.B.F. FIRE SERVICE SPORTS AND ATHLETIC ASSOC. NATIONAL FOOTBALL SECTION

The winner of the dinghy and outboard motor was Brighton Fire Station Social Club.

The draw raised slightly in excess of £1,000.

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

When it takes all night to do what you used to do all night. It's time to retire.

ODE TO A DRINKER

The horse and mule live 30 years
And nothing knows of wines or beers.

The goat and sheep at 20 die
And nothing knows of scotch or rye.

The cow drinks water by the ton
But by 18 is mostly done.

The dog at 15 cashes in
Without the aid of rum or gin.

The cat in milk and water soaks
When in 12 short years it croaks.

The modest, sober bone dry hen
Lays eggs for men and dies at 10.

All animals are strictly dry
They sinless live and sinless die.

BUT Sinfull, Ginfull, Rum Soaked Men
Survive for three score years and 10.

TED STREET (A2).

ANDIE AND BOB

Monday 8th December at Quakers Friars Registry Office saw Bob Poolman (AI Red Watch) making life legal by marrying Andie Clutterbuck (one of our lovely Control Room Girls).



It was a joyous happening not even marred by the fact the Bride was last seen pushing the 'wedding car' towards the Isle of Wight.

All thanks to everyone who attended.

DEAR ED

It has come to my notice, after a visit to Brigade Stores, that black Brigade issue shoes are being given rank.

After three months of to-ing and fro-ing of much paperwork, and during that time, receiving II rubber (too small), II leather (too tight) and I2 leather (too f..... normous), I requested permission to pay a personal visit to this gentlemens outfitter (stores).

On explaining my predicament, I was invited (great honour) to go around the back.

A glorious sight beheld me. Box upon box of II¹/₂'s EUREKA, On trying on a pair (they were OH SO comfortable), I thought my troubles were over but not to be.

'You can't have those. THEY are for Officers'.

After walking around Headquarters in my personal trainers and undress uniform, I was spied upon by a friendly face, who whisked me up to the necessary office, which produced the magic piece of paper, enabling me to go back to Stores with a smile on my face.

On summary of my experience, is that I am the proud owner of

TWO pairs of OFFICERS SHOES which, on closer inspection, differ in three ways :-

- a). Large toe cap for the use of licking ?
- b). Large toe cap for the use ofkicking ?
- c). Slim lace-up look, perhaps for dancing ?

'Bootsie'
CI (W/W).

N.B. I am still awaiting my issue of NATO jumper and car coat ? ? ? ? ?

THE UNDERGROUND MENACE

No not the Clerk of Works, we mean the 'Grey Drip' which falls from ceiling to cars below eating into paintwork, old and new, at the underground car park at Brigade HQ. Many methods have been tried. Alas..... no success and then Chris did it with a magic touch tried 'JIF' the household cleanser. YES it works, with a soft moist cloth, a small ammount of elbow grease and patience.

Anon
Brigade Control.

QUESTION Does Avon have a new R/T procedure ?

ANSWER No it's Jan getting confused again.

Having been used to a very rigid R/T and message procedure for the last 9 years one of the biggest problems I've had since transferring here has

been to forget the old ways and to learn the new.

Now most of the time it's not too bad but when we get busy.... well old habits die hard don't they ?

I'll try and show you what I mean the first phrase is my old jargon.

WRL AII / WRL AI2
Stand Easy / Tea Break.
Lay In / Sick for the watch.
Take Appliance / supporting appliance.
Return to Base / Return home station.
No further traffic (I've nothing else to say).
QG Out / M2FS Out.

SO... if I ever call your WRL and say 'AII from M2FS I ve returned your take appliances, on your return to base following your stand easy please contact control re a member of your watch laying in. No further traffic QG Out'

You'll know exactly what I mean wont you ? Well wont you ?

Janet Hill
Brigade Control.

C Div Switchboard
' Hello Fire Brigade'

Voice on other end.
' Ello Ello Germany here'

Will someone PLEASE tell the operator when our Divisional boundary changed.

She's always the last to know. C DIV HQ.

MESSAGE FROM: CHAIRMAN OF PUBLIC PROTECTION COMMITTEE

I think it can be said that none of the services administered by the Public Protection Committee are fully appreciated until tested at a time of emergency. Because of the horrifying speed at which fire can bring about its devastation, this fact applies to no service more accurately than the Fire Brigade.

Keeping that service in good and efficient shape is the ultimate responsibility of the Fire Authority - in our case the County Council. The heart and soul of a Brigade can only be found within the workforce, but the vital link is the partnership between the two.

As Chairman, I have no hesitation in saying that, in spite of problems that are common in all Brigades, we in Avon have worked together exceptionally well. To achieve the high standard so obvious in Avon requires a high degree of commitment from Councillors and Firemen alike and also from the non-uniformed staff whose contribution is equally valuable. Where would we be without Barry Hook's jokes or "meals like mother makes" in the canteen?

The whole image and reputation of the Avon Brigade is the source of tremendous pride both to me and my colleagues.

I wish to take this rare opportunity to thank everyone for their contribution to that reputation. Very little can be achieved without sincerity and goodwill. I believe we have that and I am grateful.

We have a "Chief" who is entirely worthy of his title.

What more can we ask?
Perhaps I should ask that!!

Good fortune to you all.



Councillor Mrs Jean Pitt

