

COUNTY OF AVON FIRE BRIGADE

MAY 1981



The Chief Fire Officer Mr Fred Ponsford, receives the Queens Fire Service Medal from Sir John Wills, Lord Lieutenant of the County of Avon.

The Chief served in the war as a glider pilot with the Royal Army Glider Regiment, finishing his time as a Warrant Officer.

He was involved in many famous campaigns such as Arnhem, the Rhine Crossing and D-Day, as can be imagined this was a very hazardous occupation and very few pilots came through unscathed.

At the end of the war Mr Ponsford joined the Fire Service in Gloucester and after a year transferred to Bristol. He subsequently worked his way through the ranks to become Chief Officer in 1980.

The whole Brigade has reason to be pleased and proud of the award to the Chief in recognition of his services to the Brigade and as Mr Ponsford said himself, he received the award on behalf of the members of the Brigade for their courage and dedication to duty, especially during very arduous times last April.

APOLOGIES

My apologies to Jack Church of Paulton as the wrong photograph was shown on the occasion of his retirement in our last issue.

To put this right, a photo of the real Jack Church is shown on the right.

Good luck for the future though Jack and once again my sincere apologies.

Welcome back to Ernie Perrott who has taken up a position as Assistant Divisional Officer on 'C' Division Headquarters, following two years as an instructor at the Fire Service Technical College, Moreton-in-Marsh.

All too often, firemen who are killed or seriously injured protecting or saving life get little or no recognition, so it was very pleasing that this award received National press coverage, as normally the only national press coverage we see is that of disputes etc. As one news editorial read 'All too often we take the Fire Service for granted, by virtue of their work it is hazardous and dangerous but let this be a reminder that these men are always prepared to go where people or our property are at risk and give their all'.

Following repeated queries from the media 'Was the Chief Officer actually at St Pauls?' I was able to give a positive 'Yes' as the Chief Fire Officer is still a 'Fireman' and as such saw fit to be with his men and lead them in these troubles.

DAVE HUTCHINGS (ED).



RETIREMENTS

On Friday, 20th March, 1981 a social gathering at BI Bath said farewell to two old stalwarts of the former City of Bath Fire Brigade.

Station Officer Dick Holley and Leading Fireman Wally Weston both joined the Bath Fire and Ambulance Service, Dick from the Merchant Navy and Wally from the old LMS Railway before the days of British Rail.

The Chief Officer and Mrs Ponsford were in attendance with serving members of the Brigade and a large contingent of old timers including Ben Bath the former Deputy of Bath Fire Brigade.



Whisky tumblers, Binoculars and a bell on a plinth were presented to Dick Holley by the Chief Officer and Divisional Officer Waldron presented a garden seat on behalf of BI Social Club. Mrs Ponsford presented flowers to Mrs Holley.

The Chief Officer made a presentation to Wally Weston of a cassette / radio representing the Avon County Long Service Award and Divisional Officer Waldron presented a sander from BI Social Club. Flowers were

presented to Mrs Weston by Mrs Ponsford.

A very enjoyable evening marked the departure of these two popular old timers.

STATION OFFICER KEITH JONES

Station Officer Keith Jones from C2 retired recently, unfortunately on grounds of ill health.



Keiths involvement with the Fire Service started in 1942 when he was a messenger boy.

During his service he had a long and distinguished involvement with the community which was well noted at his retirement social, held on station, by the number of presentations made to him by members of other emergency services.

Every member of the station had nothing but good comments to make about Keith and all who worked with him commented that he was a most reliable and trusted colleague.

We all wish Keith and his wife, Winnie the very best for the future and would like to assure both that members of the Brigade will always be there to assist in any way possible should they require it.

CREST HOTEL - EASTER PRESENTATION

The Crest Hotel very kindly presented the Control Staff at Brigade Headquarters with a lovely basket of easter eggs as a mark of their appreciation to those staff who had to work over easter.

Pictured right : Members of 'D' Watch receiving the presentation on behalf of the Control Staff.



QUOTE OF THE MONTH

Some peoples idea of taking a long term view is a guess at what will happen by tea time - tomorrow.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Caravan rallies, many dates in the year coming have been arranged. Contact D.O. Townsend for booking forms and details.

AUGUST - 7th - 9th Kimbolton Cams.

APRIL - West Yorkshire.

MAY - Lincolnshire, Staffordshire and Nottinghamshire.

So, get those vans out and ready to join in. Newcomers always welcome.

RETAINED QUIZ FINAL

C9 Nailsea won the retained quiz

final against A6 Thornbury. They went forward to Cirencester in Match and unfortunately got knocked out.

Well done though for getting so far.

OBITUARY

It is with deep regret that we announce the death of Len Tovey who passed away peacefully on the 24th January 1981.

Len was a respected member of the Brigade and was associated with it from 1942 until he retired in 1959.

Our sympathies go out to Lydia his wife.

FOR SALE

ROTEL RA-1000 integrated amplifier.
40 watts per channel inc. graphic
Equazer.£65.
Pair Wharfedale Teesdale SPZ Speakers
3 Way. 40 Watts - 80 watts.....£70
Both $\frac{1}{2}$ original price - 10 months old
can be seen working.

Ring Tony Witcombe on W.S.M. (0934)
20944 after 6p.m.

JANET LEWIS

Janet Lewis our receptionist pictured right with her Endeavour Awards. Janet won these awards from Avon Swift Sports Club for her efforts in getting back to sport following her accident and also for her unsurpassed effort in Fund Raising for the Club, raising £200 for walking 400 metres around Whitchurch Sports Centre and a further 400 in her wheelchair.

The Avon Swift Sports Club was started by the disabled and ran by them. It was formed in 1975 for the physically and visually disabled residing in Avon.

Their coach was recently vandalised and set on fire causing severe damage to the interior which is unfortunately beyond repair. The coach had been fitted, through their own fund raising efforts with specialist equipment needed by their members.

Anyone wishing to contribute towards the cost of replacing this equipment please forward your contributions to Janet on the switchboard who will acknowledge and gratefully accept them on behalf of the Avon Swift Sports Club.



C2 VISIT STUTTGART

A party of seven firemen and their wives from C2 flew from Heathrow to Stuttgart on 10th April to spend a week-end at Clevedons twin town of Ettlingen in Germany.

On arrival at Stuttgart, the party was met and conveyed about 80 kilometres via the autobahn, the men travelling by a Metz Water Tender, and the ladies by a personnel carrier.

At Ettlingen they were met by Herr Kurt Wolfmuller, Kommandant of Ettlingen Fire Brigade,

and shown around the Fire Station. The wives were taken on a hair-raising tour around the town by turntable ladder.

On Saturday, at a ceremony held in Ettlingen Castle Station Officer Wilcox presented a mounted axe, helmet and a plate of Clevedon to the Kommandant and in return received a statue of St. Florian and a plate of Ettlingen, each fireman also received a personal gift.

On Saturday after a tour around the six Fire Sub Stations a Family Evening was held in the Town Hall with entertainment dancing and more presentations.

On Sunday a train had been hired for the day, complete with food and wine. This took the visitors and their hosts

for a tour of nearby Karlsruhe, a visit to the Zoological Gardens and then to Bad Herrenalb, in the Black Forest for tea.

On Monday after a conducted tour to see the restoration of their old castle by the Burgermeister (Mayor) Dr. Vetter, a farewell lunch was held before the return journey to Stuttgart and home.

Ettlingen has a population of 27,000 and including the six Sub Fire Stations, there is a compliment of 300 firemen, of which only six men are whole time,

An excellent weekend with many friendships being made. Clevedon hope to return the hospitality next year.

BRIGADE FOOTBALL SECTION

As club chairman I write to inform interested members of the Brigade as to the activities over the last season and outline the hopes for the coming season for the Brigade Football Club.

On a slightly sad note the club has lost one of its football teams, the 'C' Division Sunday Weston League who after a fine season in 1979-80 struggled to liaise enough players and someone to organise the side and eventually resigned for their league mid-season. If any-one preferably in the 'C' Division is prepared to organise and act as Secretary for the team and feels they have the ability to re-kindle the interest and use the vast supply of talent available in the Division then I would be pleased to hear from them. Tel. Bristol 22061 Ext. 252.

The Brigades Saturday team has now completed their fixtures and finished mid-table in the Bristol Suburban Premiere Division 1. I had the privilege of refereeing one of their last two fixtures when even with my presence in the middle of the park they trounced Bristol St. Andrews by 4 goals to 1 and the teams performance if maintained for the season would undoubtedly leave them as seasons

contenders for honours. I wish to thank all those who have assisted our able Secretary Roger MacKeown whose services are now an essential part of the football Section.

On the Wednesday Team front again the side finished mid-league and several members have graduated to the Saturday side from the Wednesday Squad. Again, both mine and the Clubs thanks to the teams organisers especially Secretary Mel Rogers.

On the representative front, the Brigade supplied eleven players to the District Squad that reached the semi-final stage of the National Championship District Competition. Again this season Chris Tudor and Bob Baird were selected for the England Fire Brigade XI.

The Brigade 5 aside team won the District 5 aside competition and went to Newcastle as the representatives of the District.

What of next season??

It is hoped to arrange a tour abroad next season following an invite to visit Belgium.

We have also been asked to host one of the International Matches in December, plans for which are in hand.

INTERESTED IN PLAYING FOOTBALL
OR ASSISTING IN RUNNING THE CLUB
CONTACT MYSELF OR ROGER MACKEOWN
(A.3 AVONMOUTH).

Ernie Coghlan
Ext. 252.

F.P. VISIT

Recently Mike Black of 'B' Division F.P. made a goodwill visit to a premises at Two Mile Hill, Kingswood, with a Police Inspector and the County Licensing Officer.

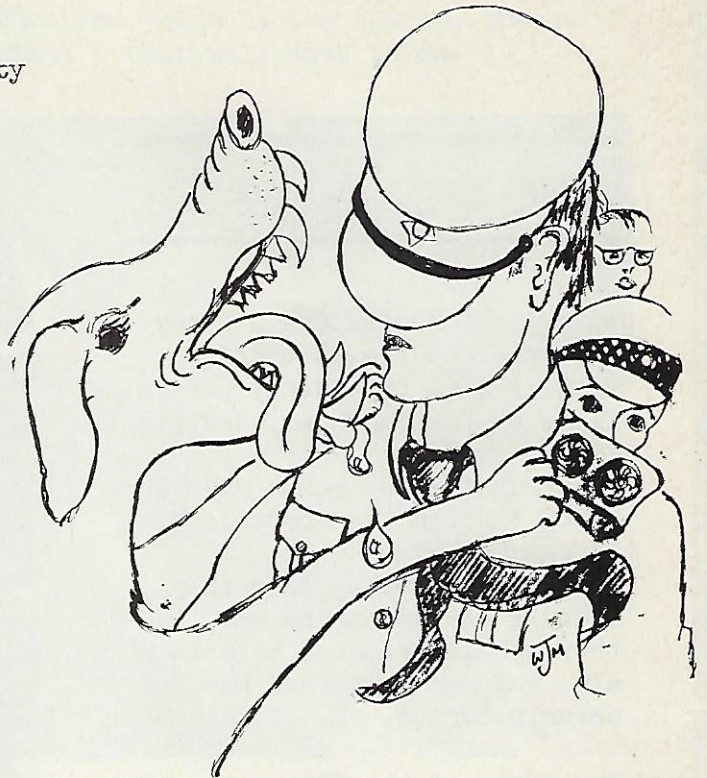
At the premises, they were greeted by a diminutive Greek Restaurant Owner and an enormous Alsatian dog. In the words of our hero 'It was built like a ????? donkey'.

The dogs owner tied the dog to a post in the garden at the rear with a length of clothes line and shut the door, and the inspection was duly commenced.

Now, the dog took a very dim view of being tied up in the garden when there were three tasty morsels in the house just waiting to be made a meal of, so, it broke loose and charged the door completely off its hinges and entered the room like a rocket.

Mikes two companions, with remarkable agility and speed, moved to the only safe place available - behind him. The dog, being a very single minded animal selected the only target available - Mike - and proceeded to do its best to bite large chunks out of his somewhat ample leg.

'Jill SOMEBODY TELL THIS DOG THAT THIS IS A
"GOODWILL VISIT."



Fortunately for Mike, and perhaps also for the dog, he only succeeded in grabbing huge mouthfuls of raincoat. Just another indication of the hazards and trauma faced by our intrepid FPO's.

CONDITIONS OF LICENCE : Dogs must be kept under control.

PROMOTIONS



Congratulations to John Williams of C Division on his recent promotion to Divisional Officer.

John first joined the Fire Service in 1958 at Pontypool and subsequently transferred to Somerset where he became a Sub Officer and later Station Officer.

Until his recent promotion he was serving as ADO (FP) in C Division.

John describes himself as a home bird enjoying music and home winemaking. He is married and has two teenage girls.

JOB CENTRE

DOWLING ROAD

C5 Red Watch with Stn O Terry Condon in charge attended a call of fire to elderly persons flats at Dowling Road, Hartcliffe.

On arrival, 2 B.A. men made an entry through the front door.

In the bed-sitting room they found a person on the bed, who they quickly removed to open air. The man concerned was severely burned.

The cause of the fire was believed to be smoking materials in the settee.

It appears the occupier of the flat above had got up some two hours before the call and found smoke in the kitchen, he opened the windows, had breakfast, and returned to bed.

When he could stand the smoke no longer he called the warden who after investigating, called us.



WORTHING ROAD

A5 Green Watch responded to a call of fire to Worthing Road, Patchway

On arrival the rear ground floor was well alight and a jet was brought into use. Meanwhile Fm Dave Webb made an entry in the front where he found an elderly man sitting in the front room unaware of what was happening. Dave assisted him from the building where his kindly neighbours took him in.

Unfortunately his wife was found dead, in the rear of the house, severely burned, having fallen onto an open fire.

A2 quickly brought the fire under control when they arrived.

LOCKING ROAD.

On arrival at Bob Hopes Fish Bar, CI Blue Watch with Sub O Addie in Charge, found the shop to be well alight.

Persons were believed to be involved and 4 B.A. and one jet were quickly brought into use. The building was thoroughly searched and found to be unoccupied.

Em John Malloney received cuts to his hand, wrist and ankle when a section of glazing blew out due to the intense heat.

A first class save by blue watch,

wishing to fill up the entire centre pages with incidents involving animals have decided to stop here.

Pictured below is the cow and the car wheel - that will have to do.



ANIMAL MAGIC

Well, what can be said about the animal rescue jobs we've had of late ?

It seems every time the Ed has picked up an incident sheet they have involved animals in one way or another, be it in fires or rescues.

Horses have been everywhere, except in stables, sorry, tell a lie, C5 had one trapped in a stable, well in a field then, no C3 and C5 had horses in a field, one trapped in a gate and the other in a ditch.

It goes on - dogs trapped after being chased by randy buck rabbits, cats trapped having been chased by ducks, budgies overcome by smoke, most of whom survived and then to top it all a cow who had somehow managed to get its hoof stuck through the centre of a car wheel.

There have been so many, and not



A NEW ALTERNATIVE TO 999 ?

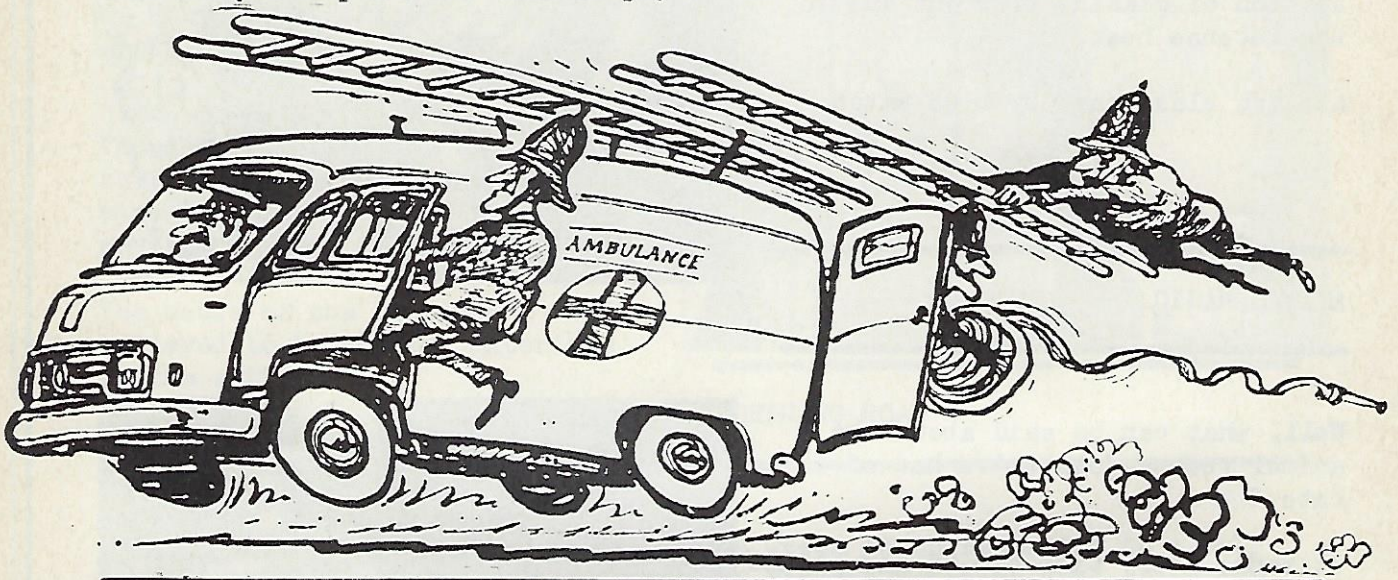
Rumour has it that the Post Office is considering offering a new emergency service to members of the public. Up until now callers have to go through the emergency operators before getting in direct contact with the appropriate emergency service.

Under the proposed scheme, simply by dialling 9999 you will be automatically locked into the 'Superemergency Service' which will not even wait to ask you which service you require but will simply

despatch an ambulance full of policemen carrying ladders and hoses ?.

A small surcharge will be debited from your telephone bill and it would be anticipated to keep this service down to £100.00.

An alternative but cheaper service would be for you to dial 9998. A plain van would be despatched to your house containing a helmet, a stethoscope, a bucket, and a book of instructions.



H.Q. AND DIVISIONAL STAFF NOTICE NO. 5/1980
DATED 9TH DECEMBER 1980
SECTION 4



I said you gave her too much Baby Bio !

FISHING COMPETITION

The end of the Season match was held at Claverham on the Avon recently. A bitterly cold day and the fish were not biting too well but a good attendance was made by our keen fishermen.

Jim Cordy had the best catch of the day, but overall for the season Bert Sheppard took the trophy

The fishing section is an active and lively part of the sports in the Brigade, the fixtures and competitions are always well organized, so if you have a rod and are partial to a breath of fresh air give Jerry Cox (B7) or Dave Perryman (B1) a ring.



F.S.S.&.A.A.

A.C.O. Steeples received a beautiful Silver Salver from sports colleagues at the recent A.G.M. of the South West District Committee of the FSS&AA.

The gift was made to acknowledge his work as Chairman of the District for the past ten years, that in itself is a unique record.

Mr Steeples, who last year was elected Honorary General Secretary of the F.S.S.&.A.A., is well known for his efforts in promoting sport throughout the British Fire Service.



Successor to Mr Steeples as District Chairman is A.C.O. P. Whitehouse of the Devon Fire Brigade.

KEEPING FIT

Lots of people are nervous of taking up running because they have read so many stories of joggers collapsing while on the run. Excuses, excuses, say the Aerobatic Research Institute in Dallas.

During a five year study they discovered that a normal person has very little chance indeed of having a heart attack whilst running, swimming, or playing tennis.

Cardiologist Dan Tunstall of St Barts Hospital (London) says someone with a normal heart runs virtually no risk at all of a sudden collapse whilst jogging.

WEIRD WORDS

The English language is full of weird words. We use many of them every day. It is only when we stop to study them that we realise just how odd they are. For example, can you name :

1. A reasonably common word which contains all five vowels, each used once and in their correct alphabetical order ?
2. A seven lettered word which does not use any of the five vowels ?
3. A reasonably common word which contains the letters 'shch' grouped together in the middle ?
4. A word which contains the letters 'tchphr' grouped together in the middle.
5. A word with more than 15 letters in which the only vowel is 'E'.
6. A word which contains three pairs of identical letters, each pair coming directly after the one before ?
7. The shortest common word to use each of the five vowels only once ?
8. Do you know the longest word in the Oxford English Dictionary ?

Long words are a constant source of fascination. One favorite is 'antidisestablishmentarianism' (which has 28 letters and means ' the act of opposing the separation of Church and State '). There is even a chemical term for a protein (written C₁₂₈₉H₂₀₅₁N₃₄₃O₃₇₅S for short) which has 1913 letters when written out in full. It begins :
'Methyianylglutaminyl.....!' and ends 'alanylalanylthreonylarginyl-serine'.

Try passing that to Brigade Control at three in the morning !!!

ANSWERS

1. fAcEtIOUs.
2. rhythms.
3. puSHCHair.
4. caTCHPHRase.
5. strengthlessness.
6. bOOKKEEper (the pairs can be increased to 4 if you accept 'soBBOOKKEEper')
7. sEqUOIA.
8. 'Floccinaucinihilipilification'. It has 29 letters and is sometimes spelt 'floccipauci.....' . It means 'The act of estimating something to be worthless.

C LIBERTY (STN 0)
OIC RED WATCH
A3 AVONMOUTH

FUND RAISING

CHARITY DANCE

Dave Causon and Blue Watch B6 is running a charity dance at B6 Speedwell.

It is anticipated that a cheque for over £300 will be presented to the South West Welfare Association for cancer in children.

F.S.N.B.F.

The Fire Services National Benevolent Fund for the first time in its history has raised over £1 million, through the hard work of many throughout the country.

Group 7 consists of the following Brigades :-

Avon	£15,877.46
Dorset	£11,260.35
Cornwall	£ 5,363.27
Devon	£ 9,856.57
Gloucestershire	£ 4,943.55
Wiltshire	£12,585.95
Somerset	£10,570.69

	£70,457.84

At Brigade level Avon raised £15,877.46 and came 11th in order out of 69 Brigade Areas.

The Avon Committee wish to thank all those who worked so hard during 1980 to gain such fine rewards on behalf of the fund and look forward to your continued support during 1981.

J.S.Dowse. (Hon. Treasurer).

Clevedon Bed Race

On Sunday 6th September, Station C2 Clevedon will be holding the '2nd Clevedon Bed Race.'

This event is in aid of the Fire Services National Benevolent Fund and local Charities.

The race will start at approx 11:30am from the Salt-house Fields. The course is a similar route to last year, with a small extension making the total course approximately 9 miles.

There are several classes in the race, each class winner will be awarded with a Trophy, also, each individual competitor receiving a signed certificate. The classes are as follows:-
1) Best Fancy Dress, 2) All Ladies Team, 3) Fastest Male Team.
4) Fastest Mixed Team, 5) Team with most sponsorship per hedd after completing the course.

Although last years 'race' was a success, so much so, it was decided it would be an annual event, it is hoped that this year will be even bigger and better with perhaps a little more response from the Brigade, eg. more teams.
'Many Hands Make light Work', the saying goes, so any offers of help on the day will be greatly appreciated.

Entry forms may be obtained from J. Hutchinson,
28, Griffin Rd
Clevedon
Tel. 874198

✂ Bill Harrison C2 ✂

The above article for inclusion in this mag was recently received from C2. It was so beautifully written we felt it would be a shame to type out the article so have left it intact for you.

TABLE TENNIS

Avon Fireman have completed the Table Tennis Season winning Division 6C by 3 points from their nearest challengers Brunel College.

Played.....26

Won.....23

Lost.....2

Drawn.....1

Steady reliable play from Roy Weston and Eric Turner in backing up Ian Andrews who only lost 3 singles matches all season made them formidable opponents.

Thus with gaining promotion three times in its four years of existence the team can be justifiably happy and confident for the next season in Division 5. So watch behind you Deemond Douglas.

E Turner (A3).

CONGRATULATIONS

The Brigade wishes to extend its congratulations to Andrea (Brigade Workshops) and Graham Harrison (AI) who recently married. Graham and Andrea spent their honeymoon on Teneriffe.

Also married recently were Stn O Pete Shilton and his fiancée Julie at Thornbury Methodist Church, their honeymoon was spent in Yugoslavia.

Best wishes to you all.

See rear cover photos

FOR SALE

Mirror Dinghy 54736 v.g.c.

2 suits of
2 spinnakers
All racing gear
Trolley
Certificate, Measurement
Club and open meeting winner
£450 o.v.n.o.

CONTACT..... Sub O Aston
Training School OR
Tele Keynsham 2056

A2 NEWSPAPER COLLECTION

Please send only newspapers.
NO MAGAZINES

STATION OFFICER PETE COLES

Congratulations to Pete Coles 'A' Div FP who is off to America.

Pete won a scholarship with Simon Engineering to study Fire Stations in the U.S.A. for 2 weeks but it is a double bonus for when Pete returns he takes up the post of Station Officer in Charge Great Yarmouth Fire Station in the Norfolk Fire Brigade.

In the 7 years Pete has been with Avon he has gained an Open University Degree in Science and Technology then to Edinburgh University to win a Masters Degree in Fire Engineering.

So, good luck to Pete and his family for the future we may see him back as Chief Fire Officer one day soon.

CONDOLENCES

The whole Brigade wish to express their sincere condolences to LFM Lenny Hill A7 Yate who recently lost his wife leaving him with two young children.

CHRIS TUBEY

Chris joined the Brigade in 1974, prior to which he was employed by the Inland Revenue as an Assistant Inspector of Taxes. (We do pick 'Em dont we ?)

After initial training he was posted into Control on Phil Blackmores watch.

In 1976 he was promoted to SFCO and many of his hidden talents came to light. He had a flair for training and lecturing.

Without doubt, he will be remembered most for putting to use the tricks he learnt at the tax office i.e. the lengthening of his trouser pockets, by doing this he could never quite reach his money for his round.

Following several attempts to escape to other Brigades, a ransom was paid by his friends, to Wiltshire Control who found the offer too good to refuse so on 2nd March Chris took up his new post as OIC Wiltshire Control.

We all wish Chris and Heather the very best for the future.

A very enjoyable evening was held at Brigade Headquarters where Chris was presented with a briefcase (for his sarnies) and Heather with a bouquet.



'A' Watch (the old one) wish to express their sincere gratitude to Chris for the way he so generously bought us all some fresh cream doughnuts.



Above Left : Chris receiving his Official presentation.

Above : Chris receiving his not so Official presentation so generously donated by members of Green Watch

(A Watch last seen sniggering in Control)



Julie and Peter



Andrea and Graham

LADIES AND GENTS
Volunteers are needed
for
1981 It's A KNOCKOUT COMPETITION
on
SATURDAY 22ND AUGUST
at
WYNDLEY LEISURE CENTRE, SUTTON COLDFIELD.
Please contact VIV GREGORY ext 225
- NOW!!!