

# COUNTY OF AVON FIRE BRIGADE

MAGAZINE

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 1982





# Editorial



It gives me much pleasure to introduce the Brigade magazine in its new format. Over the years it has formed an important link keeping members in touch with Brigade activities and has found its way to the far corners of the world.

A publication such as ours (I emphasize OURS) reflects the morale and 'esprit de corps' of an organisation so I am most anxious the high esteem in which the Brigade is held, both locally and nationally, should manifest itself in the quality and interest of its contents. Submit now any story, humorous or otherwise, experience, hobby, memory, suggestion, recipe, to your station magazine representative.

A brief word on the "tools of the trade". By the time this issue is printed the Brigade will have 4 new appliances which will have been "baptised" many times. Funds are a problem but the new appliances will go somehow to improve our reserve units. Shortly extra Breathing Apparatus will be provided for all first-line pumping appliances. Soon "A" Division will have the Siebe Gorman "Firefighter" set which has had extensive trials at A1 Temple and A3 Avonmouth.

Road accidents are a great problem. I have now, after much experiment, firmly decided in favour of Hurst Power Rescue Tools [Dale Emergency Products (G.B.) Ltd], the Rolls Royce of rescue equipment. When after training it is brought into commission on the Major Rescue Tender, I know you will agree the purchase is an important addition to the emergency special services.

A happy and contented new year to you all.

*F. C. Ponsford, Chief Officer.*

A few words to introduce the new style magazine.

I should like to thank Mr. Ponsford, the Chief Fire Officer for his kind words and for giving his blessing to the team which is now producing your own journal in a rather different style, to keep you in touch with events in your area and from time to time events of interest from outside your region. More than that we hope to provide articles of interest for your wives and any friends who come into your homes.

The intention is that it should be not only a Brigade but also a family magazine with something for all concerned with the fire brigade and that it will be passed around to make as many people as possible aware of how much you do for the general public.

Too few realise what a great service you provide, how many hours you work and how many hours you are on call.

I welcome any suggestions and comments on the magazine. There is always room for improvement.

There will be a free classified advertisement column, please send them in, limited of course by space availability, for all members of the brigade. It will also carry advertisements which will help support the magazine.

Finally may I wish you a very happy and safe New Year.

## Front Cover

The Pendennis Road explosion. See pages 12 and 13.

Copy for the magazine should be forwarded to Stn.O. D. Hutchings at Headquarters Tel. 22061 ext. 272.

Opinions expressed in this magazine do not necessarily reflect the views of the Editor or Publishers and may not represent the official opinion of the County of Avon Fire Brigade.

Published by Avon & London Publishing Limited on behalf of the County of Avon Fire Brigade, and printed by John Wright & Sons (Printing) Ltd, at the Stonebridge Press, Bristol.



# Faces and Places



*Station Officer Keith Jones, now retired, with his good lady wife Winnie. Keith is proudly holding his much coveted British Fire Services Centenary Medal. Winnie must feel as proud as Keith.*



*The Monty Britton Perpetual Challenge Trophy being presented by Monty to this year's winners, White Watch A1. Left to right: John Slieght, D. O. Monty Britton, Chris Jackson, Alan Totterdell, Nigel Muchay, Bernie Beechgood.*

## Ralph Fryer Goodbye and Hello

Goodbye to Ralph Fryer as an active fireman after 35 years at Station C2 Clevedon and welcome back because we know you will still be involved with the Brigade as a keen member of the 999 Association and the British Fire Service's Association.

Ralph joined the Somerset Brigade when he was 22 after serving with the Royal Navy in the war. He distinguished himself while on the battleship 'Duke of York', on 'Escort' destroyers and his first firefighting experience when he was torpedoed north of the Cape escorting a Russian fleet.

35 of Ralph's fellow sailors died on that day. He was one of the firefighting party on HMS Mounsey, using what was left of the ship's installation to deal with fire in a hold containing depth charges. Not the best, or maybe the best, way of starting his firefighting career. Like being thrown into the deep end!

Ralph says he has enjoyed every minute of his time in the Brigade and has so many memories, some not good, some comical. To record two:—

Being called out by steam hooter at the old Gas Works at Clevedon.

When he spent two days at the Avonmouth oil fire in 1951.

Mention must also be made of his last night of duty. It was the Station's Annual Inspection. It was voted to send any comments on his performance that evening to his home address. "No comment!"

Ralph is married to a very special lady, Irene, has five daughters between the ages of eighteen and thirty-two and now two grandsons and a granddaughter.

Final words which I am sure all wish to endorse. Good luck, Ralph, Irene and the whole family for the future.

Happy New Year.

## Long Service and Good Conduct Medals

Friday November 27 will be well remembered by those who were presented with medals by Cllr. Terry Walker, Chairman of the Public Protection Society.

Sub Officer P. F. Addie, Station C1 W.S.M.; Station Officer I. J. Astle, "C" Division HQ, W.S.M.; Leading Fireman D. C. J. Biggs, Station C1 W.S.M.; Station Officer P. A. Causon, Station B6 Speedwell; Fireman P. J. P. Creton, Station B1 Bath; Fireman D. J. Holley, Station B1 Bath; Leading Fire Control Operator F. L. Hood, Brigade Control; Fireman R. G. Hoskin, Station C1 W.S.M.;



Station Officer M. A. Hughes, Station A1 Temple; Fireman V. S. Main, Station C1 W.S.M.; Station Officer J. D. Mapstone, Station B6 Speedwell; Station Officer C. Morris, Station B1 Bath; Assistant Divisional Officer A. E. Perrott, "C" Division HQ, W.S.M.; Fireman J. A. Pratt, Station C5 Bedminster; Fireman R. G. Pruen, Station C1 W.S.M.; Station Officer C. H. Shilton, Station C4 Pill; Leading Fireman P. M. Till, Station C2 Clevedon.

A very impressive drill demonstration by the recruits followed the presentation on their passing out parade. Pro. Fm. Tony Clarke won the Silver Axe for the best all round recruit. Congratulations.



#### Like father, like son—a special day.

Station Officer Mike Hughes received his 20 year medal on his 45th birthday, the same day that 19 year old Glyn passed out as a probationary fireman.



#### Where are they now?



Shown above—Joe Gore is relaxing at home with his kitten. Joe retired in 1958 after 25 years with the Avonmouth Brigade. He was greatly involved with the fireboat, initially the "Salamander", which was then a steam boat.

During the war Joe's expertise with fireboats was put to good use, serving American and British Fleets. Joe and Bob Hardwick were on the fireboat "Endres Gane" when the explosion occurred at the Avonmouth oil fire. His call was one of the first received.

He now enjoys gardening and do-it-yourself around the house. We all take this opportunity to wish Joe and his wife the very best.

#### Do you know these people?

The Georgians' Reunion Organising Group are organising a grand reunion in March for 1946–1951 scholars and would like to trace the following (all about 46 years old).

Brian Browning  
Malcolm Franklyn  
Bob Flay  
Roy Jefferies  
Lionel Hayball  
Willie West  
Norman Sibley

Mike Lippiatt  
Fred Adams  
Jim Poole  
Wendy James  
Sheila Coy  
Eleanor Maunder  
Elaine Mitchell



Malcolm Brown  
Roy Spackman  
Diane Elsey  
Shirley Broughall  
Winifred Gay  
Margaret Hares  
Ann Jefferies  
Ann Bennett

Annette Davey  
Pamela Hunt  
Diane Blake  
Joy Monk  
Pat Webber  
Beryl Allen  
Moiria Davey  
Edwin Redmond

Please contact Jack Randall at B6 (home Tel. 678883) if you know the whereabouts of any of the above.

## A FIERY HAUNT

According to a report in the Western Daily Press, in October, 1975, a ghost is supposed to haunt the Avon fire brigade's new £1,200,000 headquarters in Temple Back, Bristol.

It has been seen no less than nine times.

The apparition, which walks through the doors, lowers the temperature in centrally-heated rooms and vanishes into thin air, appears only at night.

A cook, Mrs Iris Rhodes, has seen it three times. "I was standing counting my money at about 8.30 p.m. when I saw someone standing by the pillar," she told a reporter.

"As I went towards him, he disappeared."

On another occasion, she chased him downstairs with a glass of water.

"I thought someone was playing a joke on me, but he had vanished," she said. "A person could not have got through the locked doors at the bottom of the stairs."

The ghost looked as if it was between thirty and thirty-six and was wearing a large mackintosh. "He had ruddy cheeks, looked ever so healthy and was of medium height," said Mrs Rhodes.

Some firemen who have seen the ghost say he was wearing mediaeval dress. One theory is that it could be the ghost of one of the Knights Templar, a crusading and banking order, which owned the area from 1140 until 1308, when they were arrested for heresy and blasphemy.



We offer a comprehensive Professional Service  
in all Property Matters  
throughout

**GLOUCESTERSHIRE, THE COTSWOLDS AND NORTHAVON**

REGULAR SALES OF  
ANTIQUES, SILVER, OBJETS D'ART, PAINTINGS ETC.  
at our

CHIPPING MANOR SALEROOMS

*Members of the Society of Fine Art Auctioneers*

**The Estate Office, Wotton-under-Edge (Tel: 3193/4/5)  
and at Dursley, Berkeley, Thornbury, Yate, Nailsworth,  
Stroud, Cheltenham and Gloucester.**



## Brigade suggestion scheme

At a recent meeting of the Brigade Technical Committee, the following suggestions were considered and thought to be of value to the Brigade, and will be adopted as a matter of Brigade Policy.

**Fireman G. R. Bayliss, A1 Temple.**

The utilisation of the reverse side of accident signs as warning notices when decontamination areas are set up.

**Station Officer P. Causon, B6 Speedwell.**

The provision of foam rubber to act as a cushion to prevent damage to plastic foam drums carried on appliances.

**Red Watch, C5 Bedminster.**

Provision of walkways for use on mud as encountered in the River Avon, when recovering persons or animals trapped.



The foregoing suggestions were considered to be of a high technical merit and were recognised by financial awards in each case.

The Committee thank all those members of the Brigade who have come forward with suggestions, and hope that they and others will continue to put forward their ideas whereby they are assured they will receive the closest examination by the Technical Committee.

**Congratulations** to Kate and Paul Walker (A2) on the birth of their baby son, Ben, (9lb 5oz) on Sunday, 6 December.

## Classified Advertisements

Make the most of your magazine—send in your classifieds. They will give an added interest to the pages.

To make sure your free advertisement is included in the next issue Stn.O. D. Hutchings should receive it by 5 February 1982.

**For sale**—Metal Detector, £25—J. P. Randall, B6 Red Watch.

**For sale**—Triumph 1300 G Reg. Over £500 worth of work has been done on this car by "professionals" during past year including bodywork, renewed suspension and clutch. Includes 6 months road tax and 12 months MOT. Price £300. G. Jennings Bristol 22061 Ext 206 or Whitchurch 832137.

**Offshore sailing.** Cruise the Solent or cross the channel under sail in a first class offshore yacht with an expert skipper. Make up a crew of family or friends. Competitive rates by the day, weekend or as required. Ring Roger Justice, Gosport (07017) 82129 or Station Officer Jackson, B4 for more information.

**Holidays**—How about a summer holiday in the USA Florida in August 1982? Twelve nights—eight nights in Miami and four nights in Orlando in the famous Ramada Inn, visiting Disney World, the Kennedy Space Center and Cypress Gardens. All excursions by coach are included in the price but not the admissions.

Prices based on four persons sharing—adults £470, children under 18 £450. Provisional bookings can be made with the secretary at the address below, along with £10 for each seat and the second deposit of £40 is required within 8 weeks after booking. Please note full passports and visas are required for the USA. D. O. Hogan, Secretary, Globetrotters Section, Lancashire County Fire Brigade, "C" Division Headquarters, Blackpool Road, Deepdale, Preston PR1 6US.

---

YOUR ADVERTISEMENT COULD HAVE BEEN  
HERE

---



# Call out

## PENDENNIS ROAD, STAPLE HILL



*Extensive damage to Standing House—lucky escape for 2.*



*Building still collapsing while firemen search.*

On Saturday 14th November 1981, shortly after 8 a.m. a call was received to say that there had been an explosion in a house in Pendennis Road, Staple Hill. Shortly after, a large number of calls started coming in for the same incident, so a further appliance was sent.

On arrival Station B6 Speedwell and B7 Kingswood crews found a shop and house completely destroyed and a third house impending collapse. There was confusion with no-one sure of the location or whereabouts of occupants, so the crews were split up and an immediate search instigated. Following calls for help by some neighbours, it was revealed that a lady was trapped by her legs in the debris. Three local people were with her but were unable to release the lady in question.

The lads from Kingswood and Speedwell Fire Stations entered the area where she was trapped, releasing her legs using hydraulic rescue equip-

**CALL OUT**





*CFO Ponsford explains operation to, from R to L. Cllr. C. Langham, Chm. Fire (Sub) Comm., Cllr. T. Walker, Chm. P.P.C., Cllr. E. Blestowe, P.P.C. Member Ward Cllr.*

ment and sheer physical force. Even after it was thought that all persons had been accounted for, a complete search of the debris was carried out to ensure that no passers-by or children playing in the area had been trapped. Unfortunately Mrs. Kathleen Ireland did not recover from her injuries and died in Frenchay Hospital.

Surrounding houses had windows blown out, people were reported being thrown from beds due to the blast and tiles were ripped off roofs 100 metres away.

The Brigade were on the scene for over 30 hours salvaging other premises, sheeting down roofs and providing illumination. We were also requested by the police to salvage from the stricken premises valuables and undamaged articles.

The Chairman of the Public Protection Committee, Councillor Terry Walker, Chairman of the Fire Brigade (Sub) Committee, Councillor C. Langham, Councillor Blestowe, who is a member of the Public Protection Committee and also the Ward Councillor for the area visited the scene to see the role and work of the Fire Service.

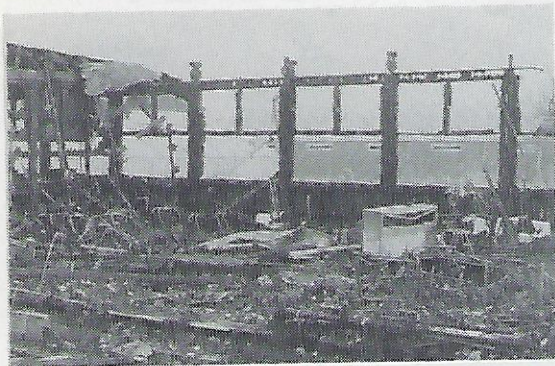
Divisional Officer Southard received a letter from the Chief Superintendent of Avon and Somerset Police (for the area), praising the work of the Brigade and the conduct of the Firemen at the scene. He remarked on the professional way in which the firemen conducted themselves, giving the other Emergency Services confidence in what could have been an unknown situation. He also praised their pure physical effort and determination at this incident.



- (1) Crews searching debris for possible victims.
- (2) Salvage operations on surrounding houses.
- (3) The area affected by blast.
- (4) Hole from which Mrs. Ireland was released by B6 & B7.



## Withywood School



*Severe fire damage to Rural Science Block, Withywood School.*

In the early hours of the morning several calls were received to Withywood School. On the arrival of Station Officer Mick Mullancy and his crew from Bedminster they found the Rural Science Block well alight. Two jets were immediately brought into use. It transpired that the buildings had been broken into and some vandalism carried out, so the Fire Investigation Team were called in.

Over £100,000 worth of damage caused again by sick vandals.

## Fire at Bristol General Hospital, Guinea Street

Shortly after lunch on a Sunday a fire was spotted in the roof of the General Hospital. On arrival a complete section of roof running along Guinea Street above the Nurses' Home and some wards were found to be well alight.

Scaffolding already round the area gave easier access to the roof but with the age and construction of building, it proved to be a difficult fire to fight. A make-up message was sent and upon instructions of Divisional Officer Kennedy, evacuation of the affected area was instigated. The Chief Officer took charge of the incident and checked total evacuation.

Due to the good efforts of the crews attending, a good stop was made and the fire was confined to the original roof area over the Nurses Home, although appliances remained at the scene for some twenty hours, maintaining a watch and carrying out salvage operations.

The Chief Officer praised the Hospital staff for the most efficient way in which they conducted the evacuation. He also praised the patients for their tolerance, most of them being in a very uncomfortable situation as it is predominantly a surgical hospital and patients were removed with drips and bedridden patients had to be removed in beds or in wheelchairs.

## Changs Take Away Chinese Clevedon Ralph Fryer's Finale

Station C2 Clevedon arrived to find the ground floor of the Take-Away well alight and were informed that the Chang's three children were missing. Despite intense heat and smoke, two men in breathing apparatus with a jet made entry to the first floor to search, while two F.B. 5X's were brought into use. Fortunately the children were out of the building. Severe damage was caused to the shop by fire, heat and smoke.

This was Ralph's last fire. Well done C2.



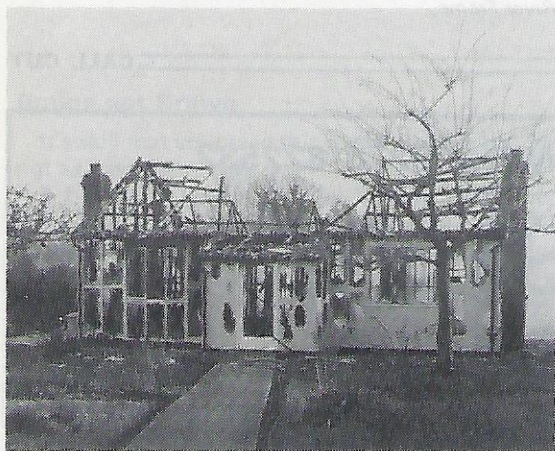


## C1 Weston-Super-Mare

C1 Weston faced a very nasty hazard involving two LPG cylinders at a caravan fire at Landhouse Farm, Puxton, near Weston. On arrival they found a forty foot residential caravan alight. Two jets were immediately brought into use. They then found two 45 kilogramme propane cylinders also involved in the fire. One burning fiercely at the valve. Both cylinders were heated. So a cooling jet was brought into use. They were carried and submersed in a nearby pond. The caravan was severely damaged. The occupier had not followed the manufacturer's instructions for installing a wood burning stove.

## B5 and B4

A tragic loss for a family of four at Compton Dando. As the picture tells you, a very rapid and severe fire swept through the home of Mr. Ronald Ford and his family. Tragically, Mr. Ford's daughter, Teresa, and her husband Nigel, who were recently

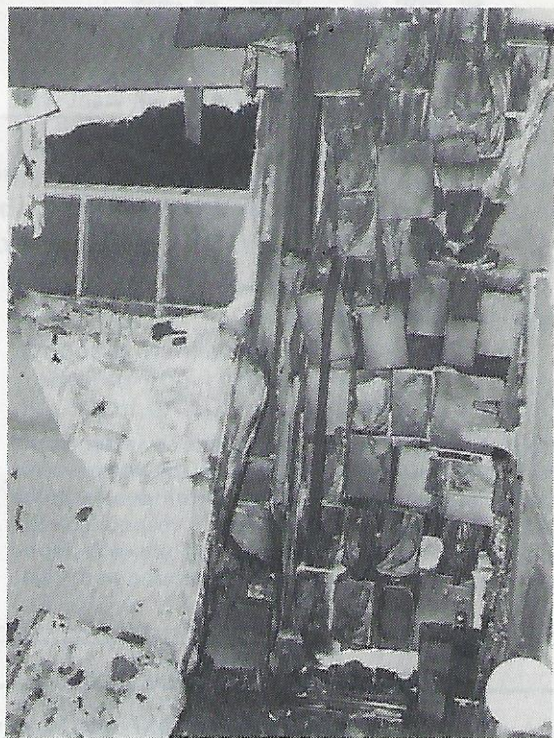


married and awaiting their own accommodation, had all their presents stored in the bungalow. These, along with all the family's possessions, with the exception of the clothes they stood up in, were lost in the fire. The type of incident at which a Fireman feels upset for he is unable to salvage those personal belongings which mean so much to people.

## A1 Temple

A call in the early hours to Armoury Square off Stapleton Road, revealed this tragic and bizarre fire situation. Unfortunately, the occupier lost his life.

He had affixed mattresses, etc, covering



windows and doors. Each room was done up as a family shrine. When the lads from A1 White Watch entered the building they were faced with a very dangerous situation, a tremendous build-up of flammable liquid vapours in a super-heated atmosphere. Ventilation was carried out as rapidly as possible. Branch men were at the ready for any flash-over that may have occurred. Every part of the house was severely damaged by fire, heat and smoke.

## B1 Bath—Superglue

Look before you sit—It may sound comical but not for the man involved. B1 Bath were called to the Bath Bus Station to find a man stuck to a lavatory pan. This sounds like a Peter Seller's scene but you must be involved to realise how horrendous it is for the poor innocent victim of such a silly and dangerous prank.

Arriving, the Brigade found the man stuck to the ceramic pan by both thighs and buttocks. It was difficult to work in the confined space of the closet. The lavatory pan had to be removed complete, taken into the wash room where an angle grinder



was used for the delicate task of cutting away the pan.

The lads were able to remove most parts of the pan, although some sections of the rim went with him to hospital. The rest of the "operation" on the victim took four hours by careful nursing at the Royal United Hospital. Just warm water and washing-up liquid was the answer.

The young man had a "quiet rest" on his trip, a trip I am sure he will never forget! I am sure his best memories of Bath are the help given him by the Brigade and the Hospital.

### **Toby.**

Control received a telephone call to say a dog could be heard howling somewhere in the River Frome between Houlton Street and the roundabout at the M32. A Water Tender from A1 responded and eventually, using hand torches, Toby was found shivering on a small piece of dry ground at the side

of the river. Fortunately he had a dog tag giving his name and owner's address, and it transpired that the dog had been missing for ten hours.



*Apart from a cut to his head and being soaking wet and cold, Toby was still friendly following his rescue from the River Frome.*

**Telephone Westbury (Wilts) 0373-822532**

# **LANCASTERS**

**FOR ALL YOUR**

**Commercial & Private Vehicle Refinishing  
Industrial Stove Enamelling  
and Shot Blasting**

**FREE ESTIMATES —**

**COLLECTION & DELIVERY ARRANGED**

**PENLEIGH, FAIRWOOD ROAD, DILTON MARSH, WESTBURY, WILTS.**



## **The first Charles Rowell Six Day Race. Harvey Haddon Stadium, Nottingham noon Sunday 8 November to noon Saturday 14 November 1981**

For six days you run, walk, hobble, crawl, sleep, eat, bath or get away from it all when you please. The winner is the person who completes the most laps in the time. The professional record is  $623\frac{3}{4}$  miles, the amateur 506 miles.

Sub-Officer David Hayward, Brigade HQ, aged 29, runs for Bristol Athletic Club, has been running for  $5\frac{1}{2}$  years, raced 19 marathons

and 31 longer races. This year he ran 2 marathons at Kingswood and 11 longer races.

Results from his Nottingham event—placed 9th out of 17, he completed 353 miles and the next day ran a  $2\frac{1}{4}$  fun race, a  $5\frac{3}{4}$  mile cross country race just to prove a six mile race does not reduce him to a wreck! Four others did the same.

Well done, Dave.

### **Brains not Brawn**

It's skill that counts in this game. Believe me, it is not as easy as it looks.

A big thank you is in order for the Southmead Road Police Station. They challenged the lads from A2 Southmead to a skittles evening at the Redland Police Club and a superb night it was, with the police laying on a free barrel of beer and buffet. Not a barrel each. That would be expecting too much!

They donated a Challenge Trophy for an annual event. As you can see it is a wooden lavatory seat, french polished and lettered to a very high standard. This type of event can only improve the

working relationship between the services, which is very good to see.

Superintendent Tim Hurford, the Sub-Divisional Commander, led his team to victory on this occasion but, in fairness, seeing it was the police, we had to allow them to win the first year. It is unlikely that after this year it will ever hang in a police station again!

During the course of the evening a raffle was held which Bob Stone from Control won. Is he always that lucky? It yielded a profit of £14 which they generously gave to the Brigade to be donated to Leading Fireman George Ridgeon's Fund—he is the Gloucester fireman paralysed following his unfortunate accident.

Once again, from all the lads at Southmead, thanks to Southmead Police Station and in particular the organiser, Sgt. Jeff Morgan.

### **First European Fire Services Underwater Swimming Championships**

The championship hosts were the Dutch Fire Service. It was held in Appeldorn, about 40 miles east of Amsterdam. The British team, two Sheffield firemen, three London firemen and myself, drove in a PVC loaned by the London Fire Brigade, via the Ramsgate-Dunkirk ferry, through France, Belgium and into Holland. Accommodation was in a motel on the outskirts of Appeldorn where all the teams taking part were very well looked after.





Wednesday, October 21, we travelled and all teams stayed in the motel for a meal and a quiet evening.

Thursday was the first day of the competition. Eight countries were represented at the event. England, Holland, Belgium, Denmark and Germany. Ireland, Gibraltar and Luxembourg did not have full teams. After the first day's swimming the Dutch were ahead and maintained the lead throughout the competition.

Friday came the crunch with two long swimming events crammed into one day. This is where the team training began to tell. Most of the others had been training for months before. Our team was so spread out that we only had two sessions together before the event. Also the other European Fire Brigades have firemen trained as professional divers so they had diver-training as part of their programme. The British team had no chance against the professionals.

The final results—England came in the first four—not bad considering we were only amateurs.

Friday evening a dinner dance was laid on at the local station which was about the size of Temple. All had a good time. Luckily, all spoke English! (Why not learn another language).

Saturday, again we spent travelling. We caught the Dunkirk ferry and arrived off Ramsgate about 9.30. The sea was too rough for the ferry to enter the harbour so we anchored in the channel until 3.00 Sunday morning. Needless to say there were many green people on board. One woman decided to go into labour so she had to be taken off by the lifeboat. After docking we drove back to London and dispersed to our Brigades, intent on trying better in the 1983 championship.

Wish you well next time.

*Sub-Officer Nick Baker*

## Sea Angling

On the 20th and 21st October 1981 Dave Jenkins, Bob Pegden and myself took part in the FSSA National Sea Angling Competition at Brighton.

Due to the weather conditions both beach and boat contests were reduced in time. However, in each event we succeeded in catching fish, although we were not among the prize winners.

On behalf of the team from Avon, I would like to thank the Brigade Sports Committee and the Sea Angling Club for the £20 grant towards expenses.

Next year's event will take place in Scotland and I hope that the Avon Brigade will be fully represented by a team or teams.

Normally the first notification of the venue etc., is sent to Brigades about February or March, in order that arrangements can be started locally.

As I have "organised" the Brigade entry for two National Competitions at Bridlington and Brighton, I will gladly offer any assistance I can to the Brigade Sea Angling Club in entering next year's competition.

*Bob Taylor*

## Fund Raising—A Marathon

Warwickshire County Fire Brigade's sponsored run—Rugby to Plymouth. Warwickshire's Chief Officer wrote to the Brigade thanking us for the assistance given to the runners. He says over £1,700 was raised to be divided between the Year of the Disabled and the FSNBF.

Well done to Station Officer Brian Sharp and his colleagues at C1. The open day and fête they organised raised over £2,000. The Organising Committee decided to buy an amplifier and speakers and a set of playground swings for the William Knowles Handicapped Centre at Weston. The balance has been given to FSNBF.

The amount collected by White Watch was approximately £100. White Watch also won the trophy for fancy dress. A good effort by the White Watch team.

## The Rotoract Sponsored Wheelbarrow Race

On Sunday, 1st November 1981, members of White Watch C1 Weston took part with eleven

*Some of the members of White Watch Weston partaking in the sponsored Wheelbarrow Race.*





other teams in a Rotoract sponsored wheelbarrow push-around, a 200m course in Locking Road car park.

Each team had to push a wheelbarrow with passenger around the course as many times as possible. White Watch came fourth, completing 63 laps in one hour, covering an estimated 8.5 miles; the winning team having covered 73 laps.

The sponsor money collected by each team was divided 50% to the handicapped and 50% to the charity of their choice. (Benevolent Fund).

#### **Books Available**

The RSPCA now has a publication available for 60p. The title is "Animal Welfare at Work". A copy is held in the Brigade Library for inspection.

Now available a book on Fire Appliances from Shire Publications. Written locally it is available for 95p. A copy is also held in the Brigade Library for your inspection.

### ***Recipe of the Month***

#### ***Winter Soup***

##### **Cauliflower and Tomato**

1 large Cauliflower  
2 lbs Tomatoes  
2 pints Chicken stock (cubes)  
1 large Onion  
1 tsp Vinegar  
1 oz Butter  
2 tbs Double Cream  
Salt and pepper to taste

Cook cauliflower in salted water for 15-20 mins and mash. While cauliflower is cooking, slice onion and gently heat in butter until transparent. Add cauliflower, skinned tomatoes, vinegar, sugar. Cook for 5 minutes. Liquidise or press through fine sieve.

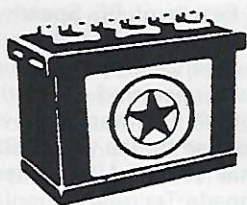
If you have a freezer, now tuck it away. To use immediately or after freezing, add cream and warm, do not boil.

An extra touch for a cold day, add small fried croutons. That's a meal in itself.

*Next issue I shall give general advice on soup making and another recipe.*

*As this is a new column I welcome your suggestions and comments.*

# **BLUE STAR BATTERIES**



**FAMOUS**  
for  
**VALUE  
QUALITY**

**RELIABILITY** and

# **PRICE**

**CHARGED & FITTED FREE**

**PLUS...**

**2 YEAR**

**WRITTEN GUARANTEE**

**BRISTOL  
550535  
(2 Lines)**

**BRISTOL  
BATTERIES LTD**

**105-107 Newfoundland Road,  
Bristol BS29LV**



# and in my spare time...

## 'Do it yourself' can be fun

Early in 1980 Gordon Feaver of B6 Speedwell and Ian Morrissey, an Almondsbury policeman, decided to obtain a fire appliance for preservation.

Several vehicles were considered, but they settled on Bedford NGL 664. This appliance was built in 1963 as a pump escape for the City of Bath Fire Brigade, where it remained until 1976, when it was transferred to the Brigade Training School.

It was disposed of by the brigade in May 1980 and then purchased at auction in Cardiff.

Once returned to Bristol the task was to restore it to its original condition. The first job was a repaint, inside and out. Several mechanical problems were ironed out and the next step was to find a wheeled escape.

Fortunately, a wheeled escape was up for disposal, and this was purchased, but in the vehicle's later years the trunnion bar had been removed and a long and frustrating search proved negative. After several days of welding, drilling and trial and error, the trunnion bar from an E.R.F. was fitted. Equipment was gradually being obtained from various sources and the restoration was slowly taking shape.



*Ex City of Bath Pump Escape*

The first major outing was to the 1980 Bus Rally in August when the appliance was awarded the prize for the best fire engine. The next step was in October 1980 when permission was obtained to use the facilities of a disused garage in Filton where the vehicle could be stored and work on it continued through the winter months.

By Spring 1981 the restoration had been completed and "NIGEL", as it had now been nicknamed, was completely re-equipped to its 1960's standard.

The summer saw its appearance at various fêtes, shows and rallies, notably the Cardiff Historic Vehicle Rally (1st prize), Bristol Bus Rally (Runner-up) and Kenilworth Fire Engine Rally (Runner-up in post 1955 vehicles). An invitation was received to appear at the Science Museum Open Day at Wroughton, where it lined up with some twenty other preserved fire appliances, and it also attended at U.S.A.F. Fairford for the conclusion of Fire Safety Week.



*Commer/Whitson Water Tender.*

Towards the end of 1980, Alan Grimstead moved into the Filton garage with his Commer/Whitson Type "A" Water Tender MYB 902.

This appliance was originally supplied to Somerset Fire Brigade and posted to Paulton in November 1950, where it remained until April 1961. It then became a reserve and was finally disposed of in 1965.

It was purchased by Rank Xerox, Micheldean, for the Works Brigade and scrapped in 1979. Alan then purchased it for use at the Dean Forest Railway at Lydney.

Restoration was initially slow as it was stored in the open, but once under cover at Filton the prospects brightened up and Alan hopes to have it



on the road by next Spring. It will then be on show at the railway on certain weekends throughout the year.

During the year the Group 3 grew to five members and in June 1981 they had donated an ex-City of Gloucester Dennis F12 Pump Escape which had been standing in the open for the last ten years.

This vehicle is in a very sorry state, but eventually it is hoped to have it running and fully restored.

The next problem to be fixed is accommodation, as the garage site is likely to be redeveloped in the New Year, and so the search for premises has started over again.

The long term aim of the Group is to establish in the Bristol area a small museum of West Country fire appliances rather than let them all disappear without trace.

By next summer there will, hopefully, be two appliances on the road which can be brought along to fêtes or open days. All we ask is a small donation towards the cost of petrol.

For further information contact either Gordon at B6 or Ian on Bristol 686300.

The Group would like to thank all the members of the Brigade who have, in various ways, given their help and advice to this project.

## FOR THE STAMP BUG

### SPECIAL STAMPS ISSUES FOR 1982

*10th February*

#### **Charles Darwin**

Giant Tortoise

Iguanas

Finches

Prehistoric Skulls

*24th March*

#### **Youth Organisations**

Boys' Brigade

Girls' Brigade

Boy Scouts

Girl Guides

*28th April*

#### **British Theatre**

Ballet

Harlequin

Drama

Opera

*16th June*

#### **Maritime Heritage** (Naval Leaders and their Ships)

Henry VIII and the Mary Rose

Blake and the Triumph

Nelson and the Victory

Fisher and the Dreadnought

Cunningham and the Warspite

*23rd July*

#### **British Textiles** (Men and their Designs)

William Morris—Strawberry Thief, 1883

F. Steiner—Silver Tulips, 1906

P. Nash—Cherry Orchard, 1930

A. Foster—Chevron, 1980

*8th September*

#### **Information Technology Year**

Two stamps only for this issue, the designs and values have not been decided upon yet.

*13th October*

#### **British Motor Cars**

Metro

Escort

Jaguar

And, of course, the Rolls-Royce

*17th November*

#### **Christmas Issue** (This year will depict carols)

The Holly and the Ivy

While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks

I Saw Three Ships Come Sailing

We Three Kings of Orient Are

Good King Wenceslas

Ted Street of A2 Red is the man to contact if you would like to start collecting.