

COUNTY OF AVON FIRE BRIGADE

MAGAZINE



April 1983

Editorial

EDITORIAL

1983 sees us with a new publisher. I must apologise for the delay in issuing the magazine. Gateacre Press of Liverpool have undertaken to produce our magazine, and from now on it will be on a quarterly basis. I will endeavour to promulgate beforehand when copy must be in my hands to forward on to the publishers. We will, however, have two pages for late copy, but this will only be used for events or occurrences which need to be included, not just because you failed to forward material in time. I would personally like to thank Gateacre Press and wish them success with our magazine.

Apologies for articles which have been submitted and have not yet appeared. These we are at present attempting to retrieve from the liquidating company. Every effort will be made to reproduce these articles as soon as practical.

Thank you all very much for your co-operation in the past, and let's look forward now to an even better magazine with your help.

DAVE HUTCHINGS

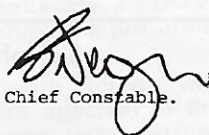


CONTRIBUTION FOR THE AVON FIRE BRIGADE MAGAZINE By B. Weigh, C.B.E., Q.P.M., Chief Constable, Avon and Somerset Constabulary.

I am extremely pleased to be given the opportunity to say a few words in your magazine. It is so important for both Services that we communicate and work closely together. Often we have common interests and the understanding of each other's role is essential in order to give the public the best possible service. We live in difficult times and our work does not get easier. Changes take place at a frightening speed and so often the essential Services find themselves in the front line. Whenever this occurs, we work closely together, as indeed we must, since we both have the same objectives, i.e. the protection and saving of life.

Our paths often cross in the preventive field and the assistance my officers receive in this department can only be described as first class. This was highlighted in a recent joint operation in the city, when we relied heavily on your officers to help us to bring the particular case to a satisfactory conclusion.

There are so many examples of good co-operation between our two Services and I am pleased to have this opportunity to express my appreciation. Long may this continue, and best wishes to you and your families for the future.


Chief Constable.

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.

FRONT COVER PHOTOGRAPH

One of the four new Merryweather Water Tenders on Tilt Test at Cobham.

Faces and Places

RON BOWDEN

Ron retires after 35 years' association with the Fire Service. He first joined the National Fire Service in 1947, following six years in the Royal Navy, during which time the majority of his service as in the Mediterranean serving on such ships as HMS Wheatland, HMS Greyhound and HMS Porlock Bay. The nearest he came to being captured was whilst on exercise in Skios, one of the Greek Islands. Communications broke down and forty Indian troops captured them, and they were held until verification could be made of their identity.



Another occasion which brings a smile to Ron's face, which occurred during the war years was following four days leave in Cairo. He had to return to his ship at Alex and hitched a lift with an Army truck. He bought the sappers tea at the only cafe in the desert, returned to his ship and found that they had taken all his money and the gifts that he was bringing home.

One of the most spectacular sights Ron ever saw was the entire Italian fleet at anchor in Naples after they had surrendered.

Coincidentally, as Ron now retires, the firm he first worked at, Bristol Commercial Vehicles, is now to close down. He worked here prior to joining the Navy when they were building Bristol Beaufighters and Buckinghams.

When Ron first joined the Brigade he was posted to Swindon following his training at Barton Hall. The duty system was a 96 and 84 hour week alternatively with two days leave a fortnight, and the pay was £5.5.0d a week. After much letter writing and pleading with the authorities, Ron was posted to Bristol at the old station 6 at Fishponds, which consisted of two large tin sheds housing an Open Pump and an Open Pump Escape, also ATVs and Trailer Pumps, not forgetting the proverbial hydrant and chimney bike.

In 1948 the National Health Service was formed and ambulances were attached to fire stations. Ron said this was a particularly good time to be in the Service making many friends in a job

holding a great deal of interest. Sadly the period which followed turned out to be long and painful for Ron. Initially he went off sick because of a small spot on his lungs but, due to severe drug reaction, he spent over a year in Ham Green Hospital and was then unable to return to operational duties. He makes a very special mention of the Fire Services Benevolent Fund and said that during his illness having a wife and two children to support, the Fund was "absolutely tremendous. No-one knows until they are in such a position what the Fund will do for people"

In 1955 he rejoined the Fire Brigade in the Control where he worked with people such as the late Cyril Stanley, Doc Wheatley, Iris Owen, Betty Peat and Blackie. As he so rightly says, some great characters and colleagues.

During his service he has seen many changes, maybe not all for the best, but many to the improvement of conditions and also the Service's Welfare.

Ron wishes to thank all who contributed towards his gifts and to the many friends who came to his retirement evening.

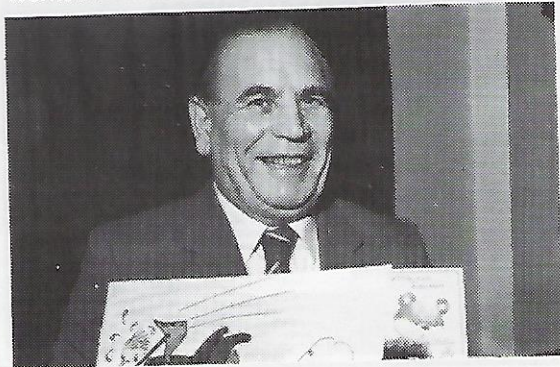
One thing that Ron did not let slip when he was talking to me was that on joining the Navy he had £40 which was the total sum of his wedding presents. He took this money away with him and has never been able to find the money since. No need to say what happened to it!

We all take this opportunity to wish Ron and his lovely wife, Betty, all the very best for the future.

Fireman Reuben Simmonds retires after 17 years service at Radstock.

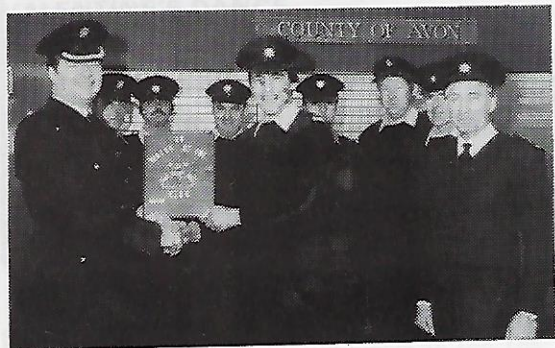
A social evening was held for Reuben at the Lamb Inn where colleagues from Radstock and Paulton made a presentation to him and his wife Nellie. We all take this opportunity to wish them both the very best for the future.

Reuben will be missed by all his colleagues. He was a very keen member of the station. He has worked with three Station Officers over the years.



WASTE PAPER

As you may know, in 1979, Station A2 Southmead started collecting waste paper. So far a grand total of £380.20 has been raised for the Fire Services National Benevolent Fund. Many thanks to all who donate their papers and to the personnel of A2 for disposing of it. Please keep the papers rolling in. J S Dowse, F.S.N.B.F. Area Treasurer.



B4 BRISLINGTON-WATCH OF THE YEAR COMPETITION

The 1981 champions, White Watch, were once again successful, winning the competition for 1982. Each section was keenly contested and included five timed composite drills, fire prevention, technical quiz and volley ball. The final result had to be decided by a "run off" between Red and White.

No doubt the other Watches will endeavour to prevent a hat trick by the winners, but according to their Sub Officer, they will have to be good to stop them.

Stn.O. Jackson

THE BRIGADE RETAINED TECHNICAL QUIZ FINALS

The standard shown by all the teams was remarkably high, and the Chief Officer commented on the amount of study that must have been done by all members during their own time to attain such a standard.

Our congratulations go to Thornbury, and we wish them good luck in the Regional Finals to be held in Exeter.

The teams entering were:

A6 Thornbury

L/Fm N Warr (Captain)

Fm J Locke

Fm J Rolfe

Fm R Pine

Sub/O Lineham

B5 Keynsham

L/Fm M Portlock (Captain)

Fm L Ricketts

Fm J Ridler

Fm G Sobey

Fm A Evans

C9 Nailsea

Fm A Fudge (Captain)

Fm C R Baker

Fm R Hardwidge

Fm P D Henley

Fm M Ryley



Jason Hawkesford, aged 12, received the Chief Officer's commendation at Headquarters. He was presented with the certificate by the Chief Officer. His grandparents also attended and very much enjoyed a look around A1 Temple.

Jason had discovered a fire in his grandparents home in Kingswood. He went to the first floor, found that the fire was in the airing cupboard, closed all doors on the first floor and the ground floor, called the Brigade and told Sub Officer Arthur Kent, who attended the fire, the exact location of the fire and informed him that he had isolated the gas and electricity supplies to the house, and that all the doors were shut. He was very calm and very sensible throughout his ordeal, and the Chief took great pleasure in making this presentation to, as he said, such a sensible young man.

During their visit, it was discovered that Mr Hawkesford, the boy's grandfather, knew Frank Hollister from Control, and that some 20 years ago he had rescued Frank, saving his life in a quarry accident, and neither had seen each other for 18 years.



CAMPING AND CARAVANING

The Cambridgeshire Fire and Rescue Service is to hold its annual National Benevolent Fund Rally on August 5th, 6th and 7th 1983 at Kimbolton Castle, Cambridgeshire. Application forms for the event are available from Mrs. J. Walter, 45, Desborough Road, Hartford, Huntingdon, Cambs—Tel. (0480) 52320.

VALENTINE'S DANCE

On Saturday 12 February 1983, the County of Avon Fire Brigade Football Club held a Valentine's Dance and Presentation Evening at the Headquarters bar at Temple. The dance, which was the brainchild of our Vice President Ernie (if it's possible to arrange, he's your man) Coghlan, was well supported and proved to be a great success. Many old members of the Club attended, and very much enjoyed their trip down memory lane provided by the old photograph display spanning the 50s, 60s and 70s.

During the evening the presentations to the Clubman of the Year and the Player of the Year 1981/82 were made, and the recipients were Ernie Coghlan and Steve Bull respectively, both of whom were worthy winners for the amount they have done for the Club. Even the Chairman, Roger McKeown, excelled himself with his speeches, and then capped it all by winning the raffle prize of a portable television after his mother had made the draw! A special thanks to Bridget, a member of the catering staff, for the excellent buffet laid on.

If we are half as successful on the field for the remainder of the season as we were with the dance, then as a Club we should be very pleased.

Hopefully, by the time this article is published, we should have some positive news on the Brigade's new Sports Ground complex at Napier Miles Road, which is at present, in the final planning stage. Once granted it will be all systems go to launch our new reserve side in the Suburban League next season as well as confirming our success in the Premier One Division under the leadership of Pete Hamblin.



THE 'JOE' & LINDSAY COCKER MEMORIAL NATIONAL RACE THE CROSS-COUNTRY LEAGUE RACE, 9 OCTOBER 1983

This will be a six mile race, again at Blaise Castle, with Brigades invited from all over the country. It will comprise three laps, mostly on grass, and will be a straightforward race, not a relay race. Brigades will compete for the 'Joe' and Lindsay Cocker Memorial National Trophy, other inter-Brigade and Avon trophies, and other details will be announced nearer the date.

ATHLETICS SECTION

The Athletics Section got a shock recently when the advertised six mile cross-country race turned out to be a moorland fell race. Instead of twice through the local woods, low down, it involved splashing to the topmost point of the local moors in a bit of a gale and then back down again. But it's all good fun.

Coming Fire Brigade Races are:

14 May	6 miles, Glasgow.
12 June	5 miles, West Yorkshire
10 Sept	Track & Field Championships, Birmingham.
25 Sept	6 miles, Bolton
7 October	6 miles cross-country, Blaise Castle (see above)
30 October	6 miles cross-country, Coventry
13 Nov	6 miles cross-country, High Wycombe
4 Dec	6 miles cross-country, Cleveland

Other coming races are:

22 May	26.2 miles, Kingswood Marathon
29 June	3 miles, Bath—short road races
27 June	

27 July	7 miles, Gloucester
30 July	7 miles, Lydney
29 Aug	6 miles, Beer Race, Gloucester
3 Sept	3 miles, Bath—short road races
25 Sept	13.1 miles, Burnham half-marathon

In addition there is a 35 mile walk over and around the Malvern Hills on 18 June, which is highly recommended. It is an all day walk between checkpoints/refreshment points, following a good route description, organised by the long Distance Walkers' Association. Details of this event, other long walks, and all of the above races, can be obtained from Dave Hayward (Ext. 217).

2 Knowsley Drive,
Bicton Heath,
Shrewsbury SY3 5DH

Dear Editor,

Thank you for the Fire Brigade Magazine. I got lost in memory lane after reading 1933-80 remembered. I had news of 'Tarka' (Jacks boots) by the same post. I had not heard of her since she was sold in 1980. Some friends visited Alicante

during December and found her anchored off in true Tarka style! (No harbour dues to pay). The young couple who had bought her invited our friends aboard and sent me some photographs, showing how well they are looking after her.

Good wishes for 1983 to you and all who knew us.

Amelia Toogood

Dear Editor

The Old and The New

I have no connection with the Fire Brigade, but was most interested to read your excellent magazine.

Now 85 years of age, I have been interested and awed since childhood by the sight of the horse-drawn fire engine with the Firemen buckling their belts and wearing highly polished helmets, driving furiously through the busy city of Leeds, with horses' hooves clattering and bells ringing, and I spent hours at Station Headquarters awaiting the anticipated exit of the machines.

I am reminded of when I was a very tiny tot being carried on the shoulders of my father (rightly or wrongly) to watch the proceedings at what was known as the "Great Fire of Leeds"—the Queen's Hotel, the railway station and the 'dark arches'—where the water was pumped from the River Aire. Some of the spectators got too close to operations and one of the team turned the hose on them and brought them to their knees. I think one of the Officers was killed and he was buried at the well known Woodhouse Cemetery in Leeds, and the headstone was surmounted by the replica of a Fireman's helmet. I am not sure whether it is still there as the cemetery was, I think, transferred to a Garden of Rest to make way for the building of a new university.

Squire-Hoyle

Wells, Somerset.

B6 SPEEDWELL PRESENTATION EVENING

Members of White Watch present a cheque for over £250 to the Frenchay Burns Unit.

The money was raised at Speedwell's Valentine Dance organised mainly by White Watch.



PRESENTATION EVENING AT MARTELL'S

A presentation evening was held at Martell's Nightclub for all participants of the Water Carnival which took place just before Christmas. Terry Scott, who was appearing at the Hippodrome, presented over £3,000 worth of cheques. They were presented to:

The Special Children's Burns Unit, received by Sisters Sylvia Brookmire and Angela Young.

St. Peter's Hospice, received by the Treasurer, Mr. John Miles.

The R.N.L.I., received by Mike Kennedy, the local secretary.

Our own Chief Officer, Mr. Ponsford, received a cheque for £500 for the Fire Services Benevolent Fund.

Mike Hughes and Blue Watch are to be congratulated for their efforts, and Mike says that he is now waiting to hear from volunteers for the 1983 Carnival. He would also, along with all members of the Brigade who participated like to make a very special mention of the Avon Ambulance Service without whose assistance the event would not have been possible.

During the course of the evening a special presentation was made to Dave Fennell who was, at the time, again attending Frenchay Hospital for more operations to his hands and, as he was to retire at the end of February, colleagues in Avon made a presentation of a carriage clock suitable inscribed and a cheque for over £60 from A. Lawson. When the Chief made the presentation, he made reference to Dave's courage and bravery, not only in the execution of his duty where he received his crippling injuries, but also in the months that have followed and the many more months of operations still to come. Staff at the Frenchay Burns Unit have all spoken of Dave's strength of character, and in the many months he has been in the hospital he has never once moaned, complained or flinched despite suffering great pain, and yet Sister Margaret Thompson, the Deputy Sister in charge of the Burns Unit, openly admitted that all the staff had shed many a tear for him, and without this very strength of character none of these operations would have ever been attempted.

A presentation of a bouquet of flowers was made to Sister Thompson as just a very small mark of all our admiration for the attention that they have paid to Dave, knowing that should any of us ever be in his position we would receive the same attention and dedication from the staff at the hospital.





AVONMOUTH'S PANTOMIME

Originally produced for Avonmouth's children's party and invited orphan's from the local area; 1979—1980—Snow White, 1980—81—Babes in the Wood.

Then in 1982 the production of Aladdin was taken to Kinsweston Special School and Henbury Manor Handicap School.

This year's production of Cinderella shown at the Station on 18 December, and more recently at Kingsweston Special School on 18 January, will

be going to Bristol Children's Hospital on Wednesday, 26 January at 1400 hrs. Ruth Madoc from Hi-De-Hi fame, appearing at the moment in Dick Whittington at the Hippodrome, will be at the hospital to watch the panto and introduce herself to the children and staff after the show.

The panto, written by Bob Williams (Sub. O) and Craig Welsh (L/Fm) also assisted by Richard Taylor (Fm), are all from Blue Watch Avonmouth.

All scenery, props and the stage were built and painted by Blue Watch, Avonmouth. Lighting is by Fm John Chisholm of Blue Watch. The only outsider is L/Fm Chris Deverill, the sound engineer. All the cast this year are from Blue Watch except for Fm A Taylor from Green Watch.

This year's cast for Cinderella:

Buttons — Craig Welsh

Cinderella Stoneybroke — Keith Rogers

Semolina Stoneybroke — Roger McKeown

Gloria Stoneybroke — Bob Williams (Producer)

Baron Stoneybroke — Richard Taylor

Prince Charming — Bob Ewins

Dandini — Arthur Taylor

The Fairy Godmother — Frank O'Brien

Sub O Williams, A3

Miscellany



Councillor F. Cole, Chairman of Avon County Council, seen here inspecting the recruits at the 1982 recruits Passing-Out Parade.

On the Passing-Out Parade, Councillor Terry Walker, Chairman of the Public Protection Committee, officially received the keys of four new Merryweather Water Tenders from Messrs. Merryweather of Ebbw Vale, who have recently started again producing fire appliances at their new factory. Other guests included the Chief Constable, Mr. B. Weigh, and Chief Officers from the region and members of the Public Protection Committee, not forgetting the families of the new recruits embarking on their career in the Fire Service, and we all hope that it will be a long and rewarding career for every one of them.

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

The following article was submitted by Betty Peet who has been retired for nearly ten years and is now living in Keynsham and still does a lot of good work with the pensioners.

SOME OF THE GOOD OLD DAYS

In a recent article in the Evening Post, Roger Bennett recalled his early days in Silver Street, and I must say, on reading it I developed, as often happens with us 'old uns', a fit of nostalgia and my mind went back further than Roger's, of course, to the good old days of the HOs and onwards at Bridewell.

For we women, our day started when we "fell in" on parade in the Control Room. Roll was called, acknowledged with a clip of the heels and a salute, orders were read and we were detailed to our various duties. Those not on duty in the Control were detailed to fatigues, which meant we cleaned our quarters, at that time situated over the Bay Horse. After fatigues and during a short spell of leave we would scour the shops if we had a few clothign coupons left to look for black stockings or a bit of make-up. There were long waiting lists for this, so you just went along to see if your turn had arrived. At various times of the day there were lectures to attend—Paddy Padfield with his communications; dear old Geoff Bennett on water, or maybe someone else, like I believe, Aggie Webber who taught us—or tried to—to darn the hose, not ours but Fire Brigade type! We were also expected to attend the famous sex lessons at

the Moravian Hall, and in those days of tender innocence I don't think there were many of us who had a clue what they were talking about and came away with about as much knowledge as when we went in!

I think we knew a little more about water pressures as we always kept a list in the top of our caps in case, as was the practice, we were given a snap questionnaire. These were the days also of squad drill and P.T. in St. Jame's Churchyard, decked out in our blackout pants made from left over cuttings from the blackout curtains, and of cleaning our buttons on the old button stick and shining our 'orange peel' shoes with the aid of boot polish, the end of a teaspoon and spit!

There was great excitement and preparation when it was decided to have a dance in the basement or engine house. We all washed our only white collar and dried it right away in front of the one bar electric fire in readiness to take the floor. Often was the time after a 'do' and when we were ready for bed that the 'colours' would come through and, as this was the sign that aircraft were approaching, we would scurry to take up our positions. Some of us well remember the night when Blondie Lavington absconded to the toilet when the siren sounded, grabbed the end of the toilet roll and it trailed from there to the Control Room.

When we were on night duty we were expected to clean the Control, wash down and push the red 'bumper' across the wooden floor, and clean the brass. We made tea for those returning from fires and many a yarn was told as the Officers and some of the men sat along the mobilising steps after their return from incidents. I guess there are many of us who remember Bung Leatherby's greeting of "death, glorious death—the working man's salvation" and many others. They were days when almost everyone had a nickname—"Aggie" Webber, "Bessie" Beaumont, "Hobbo", "Lottie" Webster, "Flip" Fortune, "Windy" Weaver, "Pony" Moore, "Lanky" Owen and many others.

In spite of poor pay, strict discipline and all the restraints of war generally, a rich and memorable life went on, friendships of a lifetime were made and continue to this day. I was fortunate in that I was given the chance to stay on in the peacetime Service and so my second happy and extremely satisfying period of life began. I only hope that in the years to come the young ones of the present Fire Brigade will remember their Service years as we old uns do and remember it with great pride and a whole lot of happiness as we do.

"OLD BET PEET"

TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

1982 was a busy year for the Committee, with some 70 suggestions of a wide and varied nature submitted by members of the Brigade for consideration. Awards were made to five Brigade members, and many others were worthy of merit

and will remain under investigation and, hopefully, many of these will come to fruition in the future.

The Committee also spent a considerable time on the future design and development of fire appliances (WrTs) to which Brigade members again contributed a wide selection of suggestions, each one of which was carefully considered. In looking at the design and development of appliances, there are many constraints which have to be considered, such as availability of vehicle chassis, manufacturing constraints and JCDD specifications, and sometimes constraints of this nature do have a limiting effect on the type of suggestion which can be considered.

I would like to take this opportunity of thanking all those members who contributed suggestions, and I hope you will continue to submit your ideas to which you are assured the closest attention will be given.

Unfortunately, in the coming year the Brigade again finds itself under financial restraint, and many of the ideas which we had hoped would come to fulfilment will have to be shelved. However, every effort is made, certainly in the area of design and development of appliances, to ensure that maximum use is made of the many good suggestions which have been submitted.

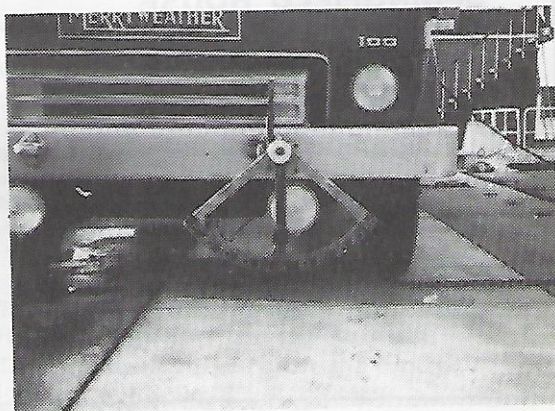
The forthcoming year, hopefully, will also be a busy and interesting one. The Committee's major concern will be to look into the future specifications of specialist appliances. Keep those ideas coming in. If you require advice or guidance in formulating an idea, contact ADO B Townley at Brigade HQ.

Also in this issue are photographs illustrating one of our latest Water Tender acquisitions undergoing tilt test trials at the Motor Vehicle Experimental Station, Chobham, Surrey.

Tilt test with appliance fully laden.

Min. road angle to be achieved 35°—37°.

Actual attainment 36° road tilt = 70° body roll 43°.
This is done whenever design is changed on an appliance.





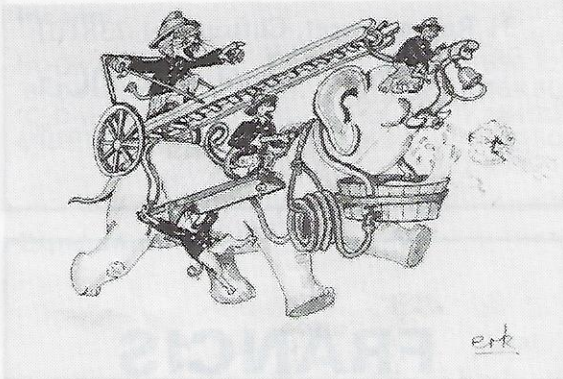
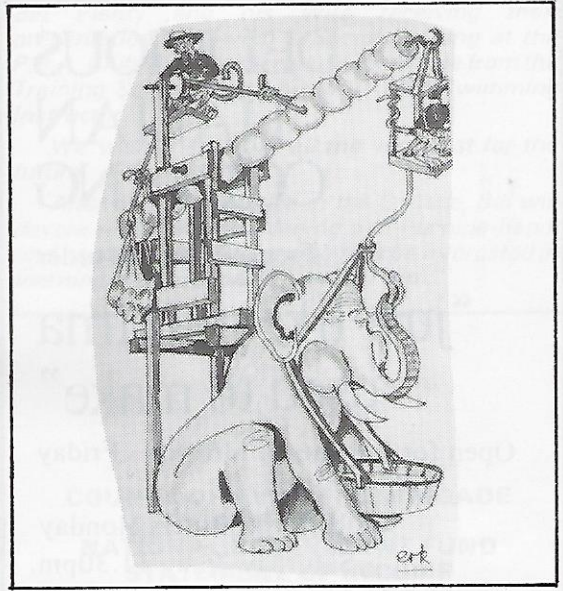
OTHER SERVICES?

Having read your excellent articles in the County of Avon Fire Brigade Magazine on other branches of the Emergency Services, I feel it is about time that we at Bristol Zoo inform the public of our own highly trained Works Fire Brigade.

As you can see in photograph 1 H.C.B. Angus have done an excellent coach-work job on a chassis provided by us to give us a perfect example of a Water Tembo Escape which can be deployed rapidly anywhere on the site (except the RODENT house).

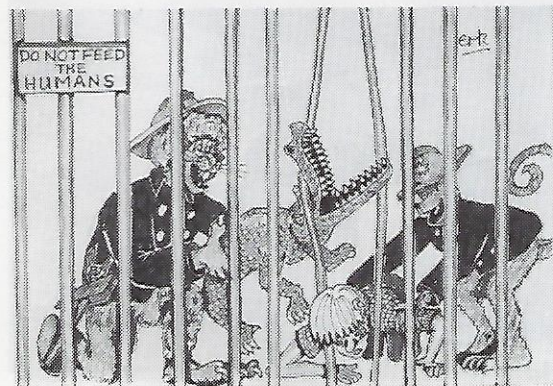
The second photograph shows how using the 'Pod' system H.C.B. have made our chassis instantly convertible into an H.P. Although we must admit that it does not quite have the reach of the 'Snorked' version and other than our drill night it is very seldom used. It did come in very handy when the giraffe got a stiff neck and began to get thirsty. We must admit, however, that apart from the latter occasion it is a bit of a white elephant.

The third photograph shows the versatility of our equipment and its efficiency in use. Here we see our Chief Officer (he likes us to call him that, and let's face it, who's going to argue with him?) using the new 'Hurts' rescue gear (so named because the Gorilla who developed it once carelessly closed the 'jaws' of the prototype) to free a client who got too friendly with one of our staff and wanted to rub noses with her.



I hope this brief article has been of interest to the members of your Brigade and please assure your distinguished Chief Officer that if ever our assistance is needed by him that we are ready, willing and hopefully able to be of assistance.

P.S. I hope none of the Councillors read this and decide to Axe Temple and Southmead and replace them with our services, but never fear if they do, for rest assured, we can cope!



W.R.V.S.-Emergency Services

There once was a member dressed in green driving alone in the Mobile Canteen answering the call of the Fire Brigade who had asked us to come to their aid. Tea! they said, is what we need— Please bring it along with all possible speed.

The fire they were tackling was on a ship, Grappling with a cargo that threatened to slip. The hold was filled with smoke and dust— Refreshments were an absolute must!

Through the docks she drove the canteen looking out for the rest of her team. They had all been told just where to meet,

down at the bottom of this very dark street.
Where was the ship?—and where should she
park?
driving this thing in the dark was no lark!!
Then she saw them—in tabards orange and green
all very smart—all very keen.

They opened the canteen—got out the stuff,
Tea urns a-bubbling—there'd be more than
enough.

Sandwiches too they started making
Soup as well, was there for the taking.

Down came the firemen in a tired dusty group
anxious to sample that welcoming soup
The sandwiches too went down a treat, followed
by tea, hot, strong and sweet.

They kept up the supply for hour after hour
All they longed for was a warm bed and shower.
At last it was over—the fire under control
nothing was left, not even a roll.

So back once more to Whiteladies Road
went the mobile canteen with its weary load
Glad it was over, but glad to be called
No-one was injured, not even a scald.

The Team Leader thanked them, as did the men
and when they are needed—they will do it again
Ready to help and give satisfaction
Priding themselves on their quick reaction
The Emergency Service is pleased to say Yes
yet one more side of W.R.V.S.

I.S.
Bristol City Office
W.R.V.S.

THE FOURTH TIME

For the fourth year running, C2 Clevedon have won the Divisional Shield for money raised for the National Benevolent Fund. To date no other station in the division has made this achievement. As this (1982) was my first year as Benevolent Representative, I feel very happy about this and would like to record my thanks to the personnel of C2 and their wives for the help they gave. Also to the friends of the Station, without whose help a lot of the work would have not seen completion. Hope we can have another successful year for 1983.

Fireman E. Pimm
Benevolent Representative, C2



Bill Plenty and his Wife receiving their presentation, following a Social Evening at the P.B.A. Club. Bill also received a certificate from the Training School for all his work as a Swimming Instructor.

We wish them both all the very best for the future.

After 30 years service in the Brigade, Bill will devote his time to gardening and his pipe-band, and he asks that anyone who may be interested in learning the bagpipes to contact him.

COUNTY OF AVON FIRE BRIGADE FIRE SERVICES NATIONAL BENEVOLENT FUND STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE FOR 1982

Income

	£
'A' Division	2,530.32
'B' Division	2,485.50
'C' Division	7,184.39
Misc; Donations	299.50
	12,499.71

Expenditure

	'A' £	'B' £	'C' £	Total £
Hospital				
Parcels	19.23	31.10	51.72	102.05
Xmas				
Hampers	396.00	672.00	876.00	1944.00
Death				
Grants	—	250.00	550.00	800.00
Hardship	378.00	594.00	290.00	1262.00
Orphans	367.00	1462.00	2025.00	3854.00
Widows	580.00	170.00	170.00	920.00
Handi- capped				
Child	150.00	300.00	150.00	600.00
Prolon- ged				
Sickness	—	—	250.00	250.00
Funeral				
Spray	—	—	10.00	10.00
	1890.23	3479.10	4372.72	9742.05

The above statement shows a decrease of £1,626.90 on 1981's figure of £14,126.61. Despite this decrease, plenty of hard work has been undertaken to raise this year's amount, and the Committee wish to thank those people who have supported the Fund during 1982. We hope this support will continue through 1983.

J S Dowse, Hon. Treasurer

Call out

R.T.A. HUTTON MOOR LANE

The report was that a car had gone off the road, down a bank and into a pond. On arrival at the scene we were met by a man looking over the fence and down the bank at a car which was upside-down and completely submerged in the water.

I scrambled down the bank tying a rope from the rescue kit around my waist, and by this time my crew mate Trevor Cole had the flood-light shining down on the water. I jumped into the water with a crow bar and tried to spring the door open, but without any success. The longer I was in the water the more numb my hands became and it was hard to feel anything under the water.

By this time Weston Fire Brigade had arrived on the scene and with their winch, towed the car over and out of the water. Inside the car was a youth aged 15 years whom we carried up the bank on to a stretcher where Trevor and I carried out resuscitation, but sadly, it was too late.

Ambulance Man David Rawles,
Avon Ambulance Service
Weston-Super-Mare Ambulance Station.

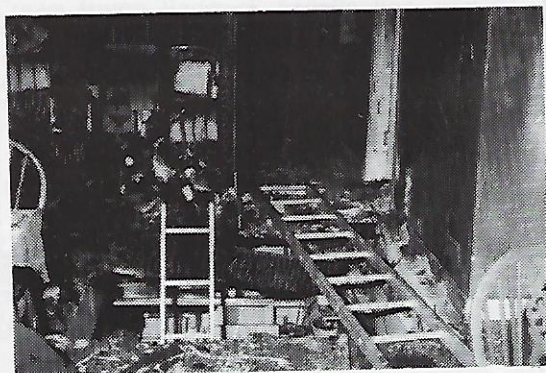
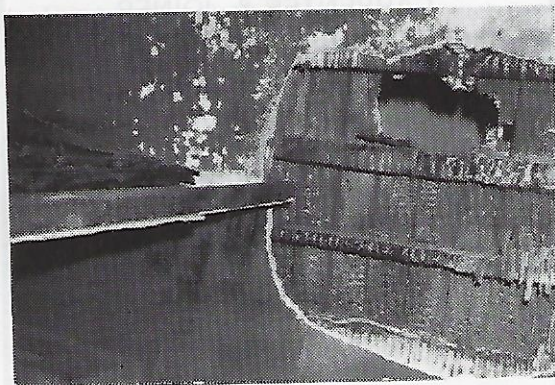
Following a call at No. 111, Whiteladies Road, Clifton, a young lady was found outside the premises, saying that the smoke detector system had actuated and she did not know where the fire was.

Station Officer Mike Hughes and members of Blue Watch inf act found a fire situation in the Latin Quarter Restaurant next door. B.A. men entered both premises and the flats above.

An 84 year old woman was found unconscious on the second floor above the restaurant. She was carried to safety and revived by firemen and on arrival of the ambulance conveyed to hospital. Unfortunately, despite many attempts to revive her pet cat, it died. The fire had burnt through the floor of the restaurant and also up through the ceiling into the flat above, setting fire to furniture in a lounge and a bedroom, and the woman had been overcome by inhalation of smoke.

Had it not been for the smoke detectors actuating in the premises next door, the woman most certainly would have died. Possibly a delay of only a few more minutes would have cost her life.

Crews attending were congratulated by neighbours, the owners of the restaurant and the police for their prompt and effective rescue of the woman.

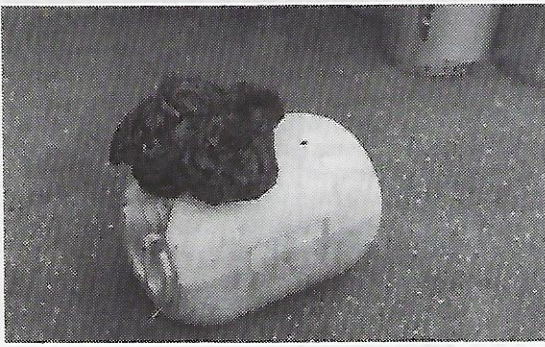


A1 TEMPLE

Blue Watch, A1 Temple, led by Station Officer Mike Hughes, dealt with an extremely hazardous situation at the Clifton Burger Bar, Park Street, in the city. Initially, crews found smoke in the Burger Bar and in a fur shop. Upon investigation, a fire was located in the basement of the Burger Bar; the crew became aware of petroleum vapours to such an extent it aggravated breathing and was painful to the eyes. This was in addition to the heat and smoke. A can containing about four gallons of petrol was found on its side with the top off. It was also ascertained that the fire had been burning for several hours and absolutely no satisfactory explanation could be found for the petrol or the origin of the fire, so police officers were informed.

To the fire crews present this was a harsh reminder of Stapleton Road where six people died using only one gallon of petrol.

When any fireman enters a building involved in fire or when he is attempting to rescue a person from any situation, risking his life is expected, but when people set such lethal sick situations such as this, all firemen get very angry, as, even without incidents like this, far too many colleagues are killed or maimed for life each year.



C2 CLEVEDON

C2 Clevedon and a Rescue Tender from C1 Weston dealt with a difficult and tragic road accident in the village of Kenn, outside Clevedon. A collision between two cars left two people trapped and two young men in their twenties dead. The casualties in one of the vehicles, a Mini, a young couple, posed a difficult rescue operation for the crews attending, but after some 25 minutes, they were released by the Brigade both with severe injuries.

Of the other vehicle, a Hillman Avenger, two young men, both on the offside of the car were killed outright and, tragically, with very few marks upon them. One other passenger escaped unaided with back injuries. ADO John Moore praised all the firemen for their professionalism at this very unpleasant incident.



Station Officer Phil Haskins and members of Red Watch C1, are to be congratulated for their efforts in a rescue bid at Land Farm, Hewish.

A horrific and tragic task faced the crews when they arrived to find two men missing in a closed type slurry pit; the only opening being less than 18in—a suction shaft.

No-one could at this time confirm how long the casualties had been missing. Station Officer Haskins immediately entered the pit with the hope that life still may be present. The pit was 8 foot deep and slurry came up to his chest. Unfortunately he located the first casualty fairly

quickly and was then removed from the pit. Station Officer Haskins then re-entered to find the other victim, which he did. The remainder of the crew and an ambulance crew made a tremendous effort to revive the two victims, but tragically to no avail. They were both males, aged 30 and 18.

This horrific episode began when a pitch fork was dropped into the shaft. An attempt was made to recover the fork by the 18 year old; then the other man lost his life trying to rescue his colleague. What a price to pay for a pitch fork!

Station Officer Haskins said this was the most tragic and horrific task that he has undertaken in his 22 years service as a fireman. He praised his crews for their assistance and determination. A report by Assistant Divisional Officer J. Moore is to be submitted to the Chief Officer regarding the actions of all members concerned.

RADSTOCK & PAULTON

Crews from Radstock and Paulton, and B1's Rescue Tender won praise and credit for the way in which they dealt with an incident when a man was trapped in a collapsed trench at Radstock. Particular mention was made of Station Officer Terry Coles, Firemen Stuart Young and Dave Ross.

Without shoring up they dug away to release the man with the sides of the eight foot deep trench collapsing on them. Tragically the man was eventually recovered dead.



A1 TEMPLE

A1 Temple, Green Watch, dealt with a leak of in excess of 300 gallons of ammonia at the United Yeast Distillers. They spent many hours with up to twelve men at a time wearing breathing apparatus and protective clothing pumping the spillage using featherweight pumps into another storage tank. They also used high pressure water sprays to disperse the as. Fortunately weather conditions were on their side and the task was completed in some six hours.

Firemen Ernie Wise, Martin Glanville and Bev Bell were conveyed to the BRI suffering from ammonia burns. All were treated and allowed home later. The operation in the main was led by Divisional Officer Roy Kennedy.

B5 KEYNSHAM & B4 BRISLINGTON

B5 Keynsham and B4 Brislington attended a fire at a detached cottage at Chewton, just outside Keynsham. B5 arrived to find the ground floor section of the cottage well alight and the remainder heavily smoked logged. Four Breathing Apparatus and one jet was used to bring the fire under control and, once the premises had been ventilated, it became apparent that the house had been "turned over", although there were no signs of a forced entry as the initial crew had to force an entry into the house. The police were subsequently called and the seat of the fire was in the kitchen area. Both the occupiers were out at the time.

M5 R.T.A.

A protracted and difficult rescue operation on the M5 Northbound at Junction 16.

A Ford Capri collided with a road sign and the two occupants were well and truly trapped in the wreckage.

The Officer-in-Charge of the incident, A.D.O. Bowden, said "It had to be a very slow and protracted operation with extreme care being exercised so as not to aggravate the casualties"

injuries". He praised the team work of the crews and the ambulancemen from Almondsbury who worked to stabilise the condition of the casualties.

As you can see from the photograph, both people were lucky to be alive as the roof of the car was ripped off and the whole car was firmly wedged underneath the road sign.



COME HOME TO A LIVING FIRE SAYS "HUTCH"

WELL KNOWN T.V. & RADIO PERSONALITY

COME HOME TO A LIVING FIRE!

Whilst at A2 Southmead on a Saturday morning, the system went down. Lo and behold, my address was passed over-not a good feeling! I decided to proceed, seeking further information en route, only to be informed that the call originated from my home telephone number.

Fortunately, on arrival the fire was out. Needless to say, the remainder of the weekend was spent redecorating.

There is, in fact, one error in the cartoon. A2 never arrived; they said they "... could not find it". But many thanks to Station Officer Fred Rivers. He arrived to help.



A2 SOUTHMEAD

A2 Southmead dealt with a job with a difference. Sub officer Dick Green and his crew arrived at St. Monica's Home of Rest where they were called to a fire in the Church. On arrival the fire was under control, but what happened was the Altar Server, a Mr. Hugh Bunting, aged 76, went behind the altar to light the candles. His surplice caught fire when it was resting on a quartz halogen light used to illuminate the rear end of the church. He quickly came away from the altar and, in doing so, his surplice then ignited the velvet drapes. The Canon taking the service attempted to extinguish the

flames using his hands. Meanwhile, a resident of the home, a Mr Hugh Watling, aged 86, ran up from the congregation to assist but fell at the steps injuring his hip. Nursing staff quickly extinguished the flames with a bucket of water.

Three persons were conveyed to hospital—the Altar Server with burns to his hips, the Canon with burns to his hands, and the willing helper with a fractured hip!

TO say the least, a very unfortunate incident in a church on a Sunday morning just prior to the service.