

AVON FIRE BRIGADE NEWS

AUTUMN/WINTER 1997



THE OFFICIAL
JOURNAL OF
THE AVON
FIRE BRIGADE





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EDITORIAL

Hopefully as our readers receive this latest edition of the Brigade Magazine, the ground will be covered in snow, all the Officers-in-Charge and Section Heads will have your presents nicely wrapped ready to give you, the turkey will be cooked to perfection, and all the Christmas decorations will be in place. If, for reasons beyond our control, you do not receive the magazine until the New Year...

"We hope you had a very Merry Christmas!"

Old Editors never die, they just fade away. Our thanks go to Geoff Cater and John Dando for all the work they have put into previous editions of the magazine, and we wish them all the best in their new roles. Having now inherited the Editors position of this journalistic jewel, we realise just how demanding and time consuming it is to produce the high quality items you see before you, and also the fact that without your valued contributions there would be no magazine, so please keep them coming in, and don't be upset if they are not used immediately

Items for inclusion don't have to be Fire Brigade orientated, somebody out there must have an unusual hobby or 'fetish' they would like to share with us, so don't be shy, address all articles to the Press Office, Penthouse Suite, Brigade HQ.

Ken Bennett and Geoff Hutchings
Editors

CONTENTS

FOREWORD	3
C1 WESTON-SUPER-MARE OPEN DAY	4
THE THREE PEAKS CHALLENGE	5
LATERAL THINKING	6
AVON FIRE BRIGADE PENSIONERS ASSOCIATION	7
THE DAVID LIDDINGTON MEMORIAL WALK	10
CHARITY SAIL FOR HEART OP BETH	11
THE SEVERN TUNNEL	12
FIRE SAFETY WEEK 1997	13
MARATHON MEN	
PLAIN ENGLISH CAMPAIGN	14
THE ENEMY	15
THE THOUGHT OF THE DAY	16

COVER PHOTO: (See article on Page 8)

FOREWORD



At the time of writing this foreword I am looking forward to taking up the post of Assistant Chief Fire Officer (Operations and Training), and to the challenges that lie ahead for all of us. As a Brigade we have achieved a great deal in the recent past, particularly in terms of appliances, equipment and protective clothing. However, we can never be complacent on these issues and I can assure you that we will continue to give our operational service delivery the highest priority.

I believe that one of the biggest challenges that will face us all in the short term is that of training. Our organisation can only ever be as good as it is trained to be. I know that there is a tremendous amount of commitment and dedication to training across the Brigade, but it is inevitable that there will be some changes necessary in the future.

The commitment and dedication needs to be extended across the organisation to emphasise the significance of training and the crucial role it plays in ensuring our continued success. In the year ahead, breathing apparatus training (including realistic fire training) and driver training (including EFADS training) will be given priority. It is essential that these two vital areas are examined very carefully, and if necessary additional resources and facilities will have to be provided. Given our limited resources, this is perhaps the biggest challenge that faces us in the short term. I am sure that with everyone's support and commitment, we can achieve improvements.

It is difficult these days to mention training without coming across the term 'competence'. This is not something that anyone should fear. It is about applying training in a more job related way, which is something we should all be welcoming. This is an area I intend to develop in the near future.

I am taking up this appointment with a tremendous amount of pride. I am proud to have the opportunity to contribute to the further development of the Brigade. I am also proud of the high regard that is evident on the part of the public towards our Brigade. I want to ensure that we deserve that regard, and that this will continue long into the future. In this we all have an equal part to play. The Fire Service has a long and proud history of rising to very difficult challenges. We will face many such challenges in the future and I am sure that with continued effort, we will rise to them in the best traditions of the Service.

K. Pearson
Assistant Chief Fire Officer
(Operations and Training)

NOTICE TO ADVERTISERS

The Avon Fire Brigade would like to thank all who have advertised within this journal, as it is due to the purchasing of space herein that this journal can be produced and distributed. It must be clearly understood however, that advertising space is purchased from the publishers and not the Avon Fire Brigade.

C1 Weston-super-Mare Open Day

On August 24th, the day started overcast, strong gusty winds brought squalls of horizontal rain, it was a Sunday and the incentive to climb out from under the bed sheets was nil. In true traditions of the Fire Service, this was the date chosen by C1 Weston-super-Mare to have it's Open Day. The late August Bank Holiday weekend. Months of planning, building, begging, stealing and borrowing could be wiped out in a few hours of lousy weather.

Plan B was hastily put into operation, games and displays were set up in the engine house, the barbecue in the reserve garage and other static displays and visiting trade stands in the redundant C1 Workshops.



Advertising boards were set up around the town saying "all under cover" and then... you guessed it... it stopped raining and the sun came out.

The gates opened at 11:00 hours and to our immense relief, the visitors started flocking in. Midday saw the official opening ceremony by the Town Mayor Valorie McGann and John Ward (Manager of Bristol City Football Club) and Fireman Sam... or was it ADO Tony Whitwham - the ginger hair makes it so difficult to tell. By now we had several hundreds of spectators and everything was in full flow.

There were the usual games and excellent Firefighting and RTA drills (performed by the duty crew - Red Watch, and Weston Retained). Other appealing attractions included a Birds of Prey display, outside trade stands, children's roundabout, swingboats, Chubb Chip Pan Fire demo, full catering facilities and a large collection of the Brigade's more notable vehicles and visiting vintage appliances, all of which helped to present a very professional image. A free coach service from the sea front was laid on to help us harvest our share of Weston's visiting tourists.

In an effort to offset the disappointing result from the '96 event (which was washed out), contingency plans had been put into place. This was to ensure a nicely 'feathered nest' before the '97 event started. A team from the station had produced our own programme and sold advertising to local companies earlier in the season (Paul Coombs "Salesman of the Year"), and a professionally produced "Win a Holiday in New York" promotion draw was held in the six weeks preceding the Open Day.

The day finished with some 3000+ visitors passing through the site.

In all a sum in excess of £4,500 was raised which, after expenses, should result in a donation of £3,000 being made to the Benevolent Fund. Hopefully, many "a young" pair of eyes will remember an exciting day at the Fire Station... always a worthwhile PR exercise.

On behalf of the organisers, our sincere thanks go to all members of the Brigade (too many to mention) and their respective Department Managers, who have provided us with the assistance to make our Open Day possible.

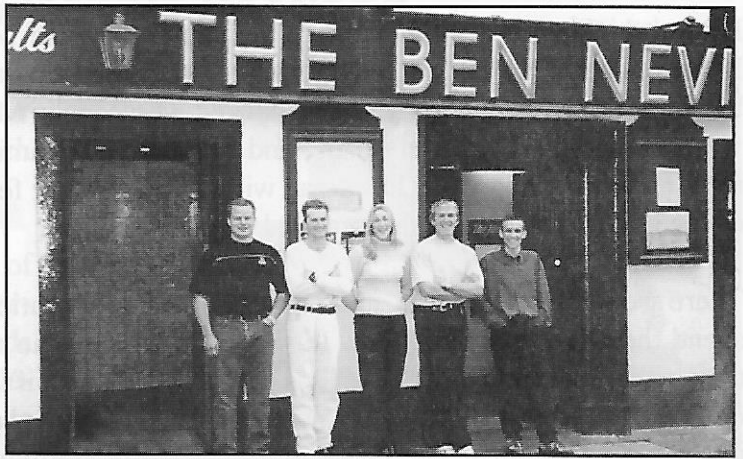
Station Officer R. Jones
C1 Weston-super-Mare
Blue Watch

The Three Peaks Challenge

(10,000 Climb, 20 Miles Walking, 500 Miles by Road)

On Saturday 22nd June we arrived at Fort William in Scotland to take part in the Bristol Fire Services Three Peaks Challenge. The team was Bryan Short, Paul Incledon, Gary Lawrence, Lucy Avery and Gareth Lloyd (driver), all from C5 Bedminster.

Sunday was spent on all the last minute preparations - 75 teams filled the car park in Fort William checking equipment, distributing food, cooking pasta, discussing routes etc.



(Left to right): Gareth Lloyd (driver), Gary Lawrence, Lucy Avery, Bryan Short and Paul Incledon.

We drove to the start point in glorious sunshine, as we were about to get out of the van the mountains around us quickly disappeared in a thick blanket of cloud and the rain rattled down on the roof of the van. We began the challenge at 17:49, after walking for about 20 minutes in heavy rain the cloud cleared and the rain stopped as quickly as it had begun. As we walked up the steep winding path, we seemed to be making no progress, the summit which was shrouded in cloud seemed as far away as ever. We reached the clouds and began the hard climb over rock and loose scree in the cold, wet mist. The last thirty metres was across a snowfield just short of the summit which we reached at 20:26.

We began our descent and soon the walk turned to jog and then to a run, this made up a lot of time.

We drove through the night to Wisdale Head in the Lake District arriving after 5.5 hours. (The minimum time allowed for the journey) and began the climb in darkness. The route to the top of Scafell was very steep over wet muddy rocks and this quickly drained our energy and made the ascent very slow and tiring. Again as the sun rose over the lakes beneath us the summit was hidden in the clouds, we reached the peak at 5:45am. We made our way back down and allowed ourselves a ten minute break for a hot drink before setting off again for Snowdon. Once again Gareth managed to get us there after 4.5 hours, the minimum time allowed for this leg of the journey, his job was now over and after dropping us off at the base of Snowdon, he made his way to the finish point for a well earned rest. We were left with a choice, whether to take our time, as we would still be able to reach the summit in under 24 hours or to push as hard as we could to try to complete the challenge in under 22 hours for a Silver Medal or under 20 hours for a Gold Medal. We decided to go for it and began the climb into the thick cloud which covered the whole of the mountain. We felt we had used all our energy but somehow found a reserve and after pulling, pushing and dragging each other up we finally clawed our way to the summit after 1 hour 48 minutes and 40 seconds. We had completed the challenge in 19 hours 59 minutes and 40 seconds, 20 seconds inside the Gold Medal time.

We sat in the mountain restaurant exhausted, wet and cold, staring at each other unable to raise enough energy for a smile of relief or pride of our achievement. Our muscles stiffened and joints began to ache as we began the 4 hour descent to the base, every step wincing with pain. We all questioned why we had punished ourselves like this, who knows, but we've been there! We've done it! We've even got the T-shirts... have you?

P.S. We raised approximately £600 for the Fire Service National Benevolent Fund and Bristol Childrens Hospital.

Bryan Short

Lateral Thinking

Lateral thinking, that's the name of the game. Anyone who has seen the Star Trek movie, "The Wrath Of Khan", will know that there is no such thing as the no-win scenario (unless you're trying to get your money back on a chipped antique pine flat-packed wardrobe in MFI). To tell the truth, I originally thought the film was called "The Broth Of Khan" and imagined a steaming hot bowl of minestrone flying through space uttering cheap philosophy like "man with hole in pocket feel cocky all day" which, considering the basic plot of the movie, wasn't that far removed from the truth.

There are some people who actually believe that the solution to all their problems can be found in movies, and spend their lives watching films for inspiration. You can normally spot them as they tend to come out with things like "make my day", "live long and prosper", and, if they have recently seen a Tarantino movie "@*##?/ /@£\$**@, you @#!!%@!". Whether watching movies actually helps you develop your lifestyle is open to interpretation, but it helps to pick your films wisely. "Emmanuelle" was in vogue at this period of my life, and because of all the soft-focus stuff I grew up assuming all women had this misty quality to them; took me years to realise I needed an eye-test.

If more movie-makers used lateral thinking, half the films on release would never have got off the ground. Take "The Frighteners" for instance, in which boil-in-the-bag actor Michael J. Fox proves yet again that "Teen Wolf" really was the pinnacle of his career. He plays Frank Bannister (although banister is more his range), a psychic investigator who has a few friendly spooks invade a house, then "exorcises" them, thus fleecing the house-owners. It doesn't know whether it's a comedy, a thriller or a horror movie, and like most people who can't make up their mind it goes nowhere. Slowly. "Hokum", Barry Norman might call it; "genitals" springs more to mind. Worse still was Johnny Depp's art-house western "Dead Man"; dead crap, more like.

However, lateral thinking sprang more to the fore during a recent demonstration of the Chip Pan Unit, and how better use could have been made of that particular opportunity. For example, the Brigade could have sold advertising space on the unit to McCain's, and following the demonstration concluded with the line "save yourself the bother and use oven chips instead." We could even video it as a T.V. commercial, and freeze-frame on the firefighter chomping down on what always looks to me like a sunburned earthworm on steroids. Lovely. And another thing: following the demonstrations, what actually happens to the chips? Couldn't they be sold off after the demonstration? At 50p a bag that would be a tidy little earner, and the concept could be expanded to do burgers and the like. Couldn't be any worse than the stuff they flog from the mobile food stalls in Broadmead. (For another thing, although this is not a commercial point, just one of clarification, which are more effective for the purposes of the demonstration - crinkle cut or straight chips?)

Given the nuclear power stations in the area and the success of the Chip Pan Unit, it is time a bigger display vehicle was commissioned to deal with the potential dangers of both at one display; Avon would then be the first Brigade with such an asset - a mobile fission chip unit.

John Tucker

.....

Quiz (Question)

Finished files are the result of years of scientific study combined with the experience of years.

Read the passage above - How many 'Fs' are there?

(Answer can be found on page 14)

Avon Fire Brigade Pensioners Association

Spring Trip to Bonnie Scotland

Three coach loads of pensioners, their ladies and friends travelled to Scotland in late April for a four day week-end at Arrochar, on the shores of Loch Long.

The trip north was delayed at Birmingham because of a bomb alert, the wait being alleviated by a quiz organised by Dennis Keith, (£100.00 of the proceeds from the entry fees being donated to the Multiple Sclerosis Society), but eventually all 140+ members made it to the Cobblers Hotel in time for dinner.

Entertainment at the hotel was provided every evening after the meal, and during the day the party enjoyed coach tours taking in Stirling with its imposing castle, Edinburgh where the couriers pointed out the places of interest, (not to mention the shopping in Princes Street!) and Aberfoyle amongst the Trossachs.

A number of the group also took in a short cruise up Loch Lomond, and a few even managed to sample a "wee dram" at a whisky distillery. On the return journey we had a short break at Gretna Green, there was no truth in the rumour that one pensioner had asked for an extended stop so that he "could make it legal!"

This was the largest party ever to have a week-end away with the pensioners association, and it was not without one or two minor difficulties, but over all the group had a good time. The social committee, especially Dick Probert, Mike & Margaret Hares and Dennis Keith (with some co-opted assistance from Fred Hooper, Brian Townley, Mac Aston and Terry Gazzard) worked hard to make the week-end a success.

Our enjoyable trips, coupled with good value for money have encouraged a good response from members - why don't those of you who haven't yet come away with us take the plunge next time? The week-end in Valkenburg (Holland), in December 1997 has all been booked, but plans are being made for a trip to Jersey in 1998, and a number of other days away are being arranged.

Pensioners Trip to London & Kew Gardens

The Pensioners Association regular late summer day trip took place on the 14th September, when just over 100 members, their ladies, families and friends met at Southmead to board the coaches for a trip to London.

With a short stop on the motorway for coffee, the group first had a quick tour of the West End, taking in Kensington Palace, Picadilly, Trafalgar Square and Whitehall before leaving the coaches at Westminster for a 1.5 hour boat trip up the Thames enjoying vistas of London from an uncommon viewpoint.

Our destination was Kew Gardens, to see some of the thousands of exotic plants in 300 acres of tranquil surroundings, enjoying a cup of tea and a welcome rest during the walk. With excellent weather, the day was much enjoyed by all.

Future trips away include long week-ends in Holland for the Christmas Markets and a springtime trip to Jersey. Why not come and join us?

A. J. Townsend
Social Secretary, The Pensioners Association



Small group enjoying pre-dinner drinks at the Cobbler Hotel, Arrochar. Front: Jean Iles, Peter Davis, Sandra Townley, Irene Townsend and Brian Townley. Rear: Pat & Jane Causon, Bett & Ron Bowden.



Date: Wednesday 23rd July, 1997
Time: 15:30 hours
Address: M5 Northbound Junction 18-19
Appliances: A11, A16, A31, C32

On arrival crews were faced with an incident involving 3 lorries one of which was a car transporter. The driver of the middle lorry was trapped in his cab and crews assisted paramedics to release him. During the accident one of the cars on the transporter slipped its locks and ended up balanced between two of the vehicles. It was removed using a crane after the driver had been released.

Date: Saturday 12th July, 1997
Time: 01:49 hours
Address: York Close, Yate
Appliances: A72, B72, B61

Because of the severity of the fire the woman living in this house was forced to jump from an upstairs window, before the arrival of firefighters. The family dogs and some caged animals were not so lucky and died as a result of the blaze.



Date: Sunday 29th June, 1997
Time: 15:47 hours
Address: Ruthven Road, Knowle West, Bristol
Appliances: C51, C52, B42

Crews were confronted with a very severe fire on the first floor of the property. A man was discovered and rescued by Brigade personnel but tragically he died a week later in hospital.

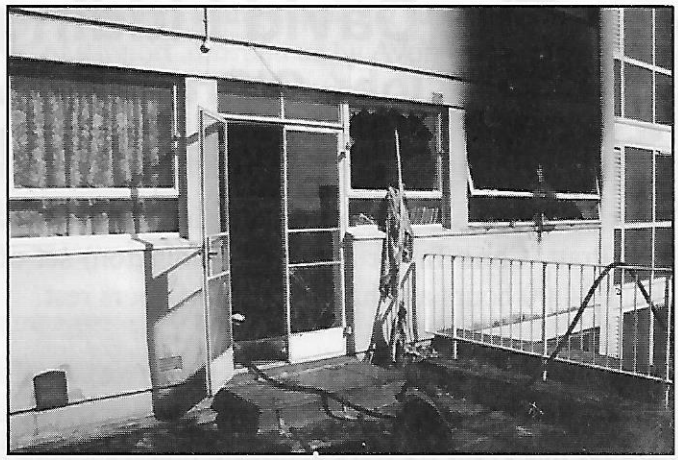
Date: Friday 13th June, 1997
Time: 03:23 hours
Address: Broadoak School, Broadoak Road, Weston-super-Mare
Appliances: C11, C12, C14, C81

Firefighters could see they had a serious fire some distance from the school. The wooden construction classroom was destroyed by the fire but damage to the adjoining classrooms was avoided by firefighters quick actions.



Date: Thursday 2nd October, 1997
Time: 12:29 hours
Address: Armada House, Dove Street, Kingsdown
Appliances: A11, A12, A13, A15, A22

When crews arrived at this multi storey block, they found a serious fire confronting them on the 3rd floor. Despite their best efforts the male occupier tragically died.

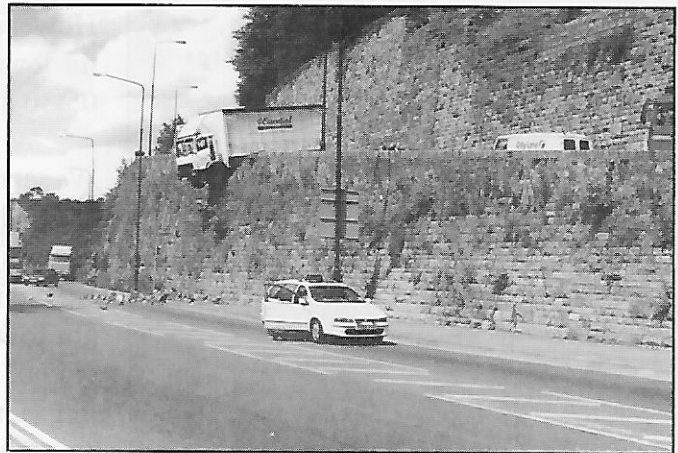


Date: Tuesday 12th August, 1997
Time: 15:31 hours
Address: Westerleigh Road, Mangotsfield
Appliances: A11, A13, A16, B72

Two drivers had a lucky escape following a three vehicle road traffic accident. Tragically the woman driver of the third vehicle died as a result of this collision, and firefighters had to cut her free from the very badly damaged car.

Date: Wednesday 25th June, 1997
Time: 14:12 hours
Address: Bridge Valley Road, Hotwells
Appliances: A11, A16, A22

Following a collision between a LGV and a coach, firefighters arrived to find the lorry teetering on the edge. It was quickly stabilised by the winch from the rescue tender. The driver was rescued by using a ladder pitched into the cab.



Date: Sunday 20th July, 1997
Time: 04:01 hours
Address: PH Laminators, Emery Road, Brislington
Appliances: A11, A12, A13, A15, A16, A19, A32, B42, B61, B62, B77

On arrival crews found three bins on fire at the rear of the premises which they proceeded to extinguish using two high pressure hosereels and one jet. As a result of these fires heat and flames had breached the roller shutter door of the premises and cardboard in the interior of the building was found to be well alight. Pumping appliances were immediately made up to five and the fire was fought by six firefighters wearing breathing apparatus, using three jets and one hosereel. In all, eleven appliances were utilised and fifteen firefighters wearing breathing apparatus fought the blaze.



The David Liddington Memorial Walk

John O'Groats to Lands End in Fire Kit

June 11th - July 11th, 1997

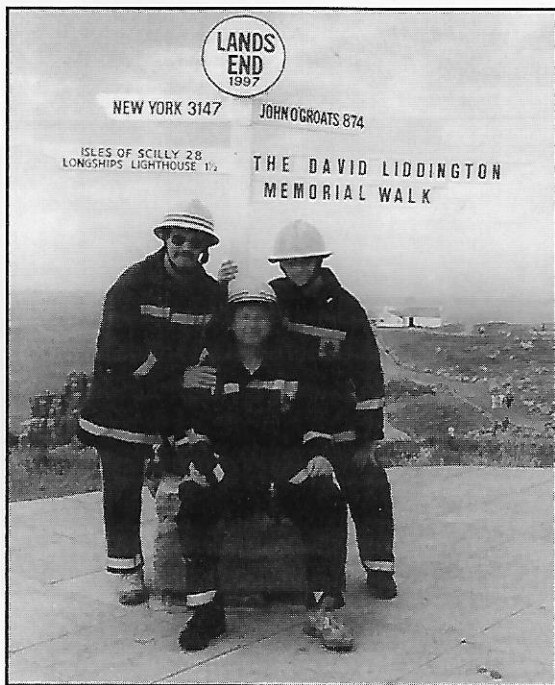


After many hours and hundreds of miles of training walks Judgement Day arrived. On Monday June 9th, we (Bill Pratt, Chris Taylor and Pete Liddington) set off on a 17-hour drive to John O'Groats. We arrived at about 04:00 hours and had a couple of hours rest.

After organising our support vehicles etc., we set off at about 12:30 in our Fire Kit. Ahead of us were 31 days of hard walking on roads that we were to discover were busier than we could have imagined. Having trained hard for this event we were confident that we would complete the walk but were under no illusions that it was going to be easy, and as it turned out, it was a more tiring, painful and extremely punishing challenge than any of us could have imagined.

The reasons for undertaking the walk were:-

- (a) A tribute to my son David who died from Muscular Dystrophy in June 1995.
- (b) To raise money and awareness of Muscular Dystrophy.
- (c) Personal achievement.



I would like to think that we achieved all these goals. The walk took many months of planning and we were helped by many different people who, to name them all would take far too long. However, they know who they are and they know we are grateful for all they did for us. Our days consisted of being up at 05:30 and not sitting down until 21:30, sometimes even later.

We set ourselves a tight schedule with most days having to walk 30+ miles, with no rest days. The weather was far from kind to us with it either raining or blazing sunshine and wearing Fire Kit did not help. Your feet are burning and you know you have got to walk another 30 miles today and as the days went by it did not get any easier. To spend 5 weeks in close company of the same people, all with strong individual personalities was never going to be easy, but on the whole apart from the odd harsh word we survived quite well, even when later in the walk you start suspecting the others of hiding precious plasters and felt padding that we came to rely on.

As to the actual walking we all suffered with our feet for a large part of the walk with blisters, sores and swelling and we resorted to all sorts of remedies from injecting blisters with Friars Balsam to cutting holes in our trainers until they looked like flip-flops. Walking mile after mile on roads, your ankles start to swell brought on by constantly trying to adjust for the constant camber of the road and having wet feet for most of the day did not help. We suffered sweat rash and ulcers caused by the constant rubbing of the tunics and leggings but our sense of humour never strayed far having covered the low points there were many high points to reflect on. To have a car stop and a perfect stranger give you a £10 donation always gave you a boost, we had children wait for us with their money boxes which always brought a tear to your eye. We had tremendous coverage on local radio and also carried out live interviews for them, this all helped to boost interest and awareness of the walk.

The treatment afforded us by local Fire Stations was outstanding with many supplying supper and breakfast and many making donations to the fund. Likewise the level of support afforded us by Avon Fire Brigade from help with transport etc., to sponsorship from all personnel uniform and civilian alike.

At Lands End as we crossed the line we were given a tremendous reception by a fairly large crowd. There were a lot of emotional scenes with very few dry eyes amongst ourselves and our supporters and after 31 days and 950 miles it was all over!!

After a photo session at the famous post, a bottle of Champagne or two, we headed back up the road to our hotel where our celebrations continued. I am sure we will remember this walk for the rest of our lives, especially the kindness shown to us on many occasions. Finally, I would personally like to thank Bill and Chris and their families for giving up 5 weeks of their lives to help me raise funds for a cause very close to my heart - their commitment was absolute.

The total raised to date is over £13,000 - my heartfelt thanks to all concerned.

Pete Liddington

Charity Sail for Heart Op Beth

Stuart Aston was so grateful to the medical team which saved his tiny daughter's life that he launched his dinghy on the English Channel - for the challenge of HIS life.

In completing a trip around the Isle of Wight, he managed to raise £10,000 for a leading West charity - the Bristol and South West Children's Heart Circle.

The 31-year-old, son of ex-driving instructor Mac Aston and a sailing friend Chris Haworth, were prompted into action after his baby daughter, Beth, was diagnosed as having a heart defect at three months old.



Stuart and his wife Hayley, aged 29, spent six weeks at Bristol's Children's Hospital last year in preparation for Beth's operation in May.

Beth came through the intricate surgery to restore her heart to normal and is now leading a normal life, but the experience made Stuart realise how much was done by the charity and how much help they needed.

Our thanks go to many members of the Brigade who sponsored this event particularly at A7, B7, A2, A5 and C6, through the Brigade skittles team.

Knocker White
On behalf of Mac and Maggie Aston

Stress

The confusion created when one's mind overrides the body's basic desire to choke the life out of some so and so who desperately needs it!

The Severn Tunnel

The Severn Tunnel completed in December 1886 took thirteen years to build. It is a rail tunnel four and a quarter miles long connecting England and Wales beneath the River Severn, and is one of the most striking feats of civil engineering to have ever been carried out.

However, if it hadn't been for the efforts of one man, the tunnel might never have been completed. His name was Alexander Lambert, and he was the leader of the diving firm of Siebe Gorman and Co. In his early 40's, Lambert wasn't a tall man but he was very strong with a massive chest and powerful arms and legs. To entertain children he would grip the back of a heavy chair with his teeth and hoist it clean over his head.

On the 16th October 1879 with less than 140 yards before the East and West tunnel sections joined up all hell broke loose. A huge body of water was tapped which poured into the tunnel workings. Many lives would have been lost if the men had not been changing shift, but it was still a mad terrifying scramble to escape.

By the beginning of November 1880, after many trials and tribulations they had managed to reduce the water level, but a diver was required to go down and shut a heavy iron door and two valves that had been left open in the general melee to get out; this is where Alexander Lambert came in.

Wearing his 20lb diving boots, 40lb breast plate, 60lb metal helmet and trailing his heavy air-line he had to descend a shaft and make his way 1,000 feet through the cold dank water filled tunnel, in total darkness, over and around the debris, tools and equipment left behind on the previous October, to close the door and turn off the valves.

On the 3rd November 1880, Lambert went down the shaft and made his way along the tunnel, scrambling and groping his way in the total darkness, but 200 feet from the door he was forced to admit defeat. His return was even more hazardous as he had to unkink his air-line that had got tangled up in the supporting timbers and discarded machinery. He eventually arrived back at the shaft bitterly disappointed by his failure.

A Wiltshire man called Henry Fleuss now arrived on the scene. He had been making experiments with self-contained underwater breathing apparatus. Although he had little experience as a diver he was asked to try and carry out the task Lambert had attempted. Assisted by Lambert, Fleuss went down but after two attempts he came out a gibbering heap vowing never again, not even for £10,000.

Fleuss was persuaded to lend his apparatus to Lambert, with the assurance that this would be the best possible advertisement for his invention if the attempt was successful. So after a few practice dives, on the 8th November 1880, Lambert started his perilous journey. After an hour and a half, Lambert re-surfaced, he had reached the door and closed one of the valves. On the 10th November, Lambert went down again, this time he managed to shut the door and close the remaining valve. He emerged triumphant and showing little evidence of his ordeal.

There were to be many more setbacks before the tunnel finally opened; thanks in no small part to Alexander Lambert.

Food for thought next time you go on one of those *interesting* Severn Tunnel exercises.

Alfie Hynds
B6 Speedwell
Green Watch

Fire Safety Week 1997

Each year the Brigade actively supports Fire safety Week by staging a wide range of both educational and environmental initiatives.

This year was no exception, with a comprehensive programme of activities targeting specific age groups, as well as the general community. The Brigade welcomed its first working partnership with the Avon Ambulance Service, Frenchay City Life Savers, British Red Cross and the St. John Ambulance Association in providing 'Save a Life' first aid training courses at 20 of our 23 fire stations. These two hour sessions attracted over 500 participants, all of whom received a course certificate.



Over 2,000 elderly people and groups with special needs benefited from Fire Safety in the Home educational talks, which committed all Fire Safety Officers in the Brigade. Statistics demonstrate that over 50% of fire deaths in the home involve the over 60's, of which many are known to be preventable. This activity was supported throughout the week by a number of trained volunteers who provided their time in fitting free smoke alarms in older peoples homes, supporting the Brigade's 'Smoke Alarms for Elderly People' project.

Over 600 primary aged school children attended five fire stations on a pre-arranged schedule. There, they experienced realistic education/training given by the multi-agency Avonsafe team. Examples of these activities include a safety puppet show, a firework/bonfire static display, a smoke simulation room - action to take training, fire safety education, fire appliance familiarisation, treatment for burns and scalds.

The Chip Pan Fire Demonstration Unit gave dramatic displays at both French and Blackberry Hill Hospitals, regularly attracting large crowds of health care professionals.

The slogan 'Smoke Alarms Saves Lives' was promoted by the use of posters on the rear of buses in and around the Brigade area. We are grateful for the continued sponsorship from Channel One Television.

Other locations chosen to promote the week included health centres, building societies, libraries and local shops.

A detailed diary of events and activities was recorded, and extensive media coverage was provided by local and national press, radio and television.

Community Fire Safety Education carried out by the Brigade is based on a sound strategy and action plan. Fire Safety Week forms an essential part of the continuing programme of work in order to make fire safety information readily available to the community to save life and reduce injury from the harmful effects of fire.

Without the support of both uniformed and non-uniformed personnel, the ambitious programme of activities could not have been carried out. Sincere thanks to everybody who played a part in the success of this year's Fire Safety Week.

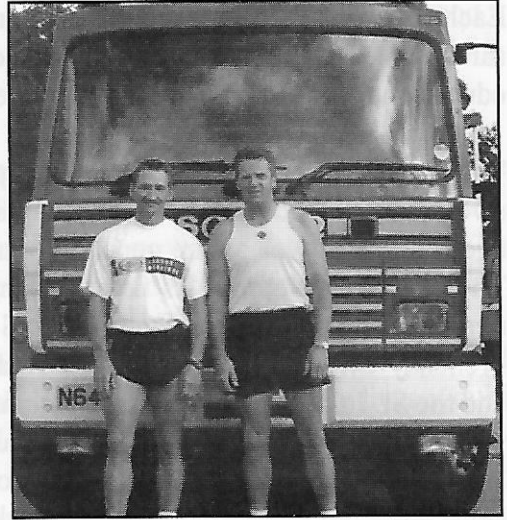
John Sleight
Assistant Divisional Officer
Senior Community Education Officer

Marathon Men

Congratulations to Graham Blight of A2 Blue Watch and Simon Hill of A2 Red Watch after successfully completing the Bristol Half Marathon which took place on 4th May this year. Between them they managed to raise £300 in sponsorship money, which they kindly donated to the Brigade's Smoke Alarm Campaign.

Simon finished the race in 1 hour 30 minutes, and Graham was not far behind at 1 hour 44 minutes.

They would like to say a big thank you to everybody who sponsored them, and a special thank you to the staff at the Halifax regional office in Bristol for their support and sponsorship.



Well done lads!

Quiz (Answer)

Answer: 5 - Finished, Files, Scientific, Of (twice)

This is the silliest mistake in the world.

Man of Steel

A fireman using a metal detector to trace water hydrants covered by Tarmac on roads in Bath dug seven holes in the wrong places - then realised that his steel toe-caps had been activating the device.



Um!! Not bad these new lightweight BA sets.

Plain English Campaign

The following section appears in the new Fire Precautions (Workplace) Regulations 1997. What does it mean?

- (2) Unless the context otherwise requires, any reference in these Regulations to -
- (a) a numbered regulation is a reference to the regulation in these Regulations so numbered;
 - (b) a numbered paragraph is a reference to the paragraph in the regulation in which the reference appears; and
 - (c) a numbered sub-paragraph is a reference to the sub-paragraph in the paragraph in which the reference appears.

Rules for Stifling Innovation

- Regard any new idea from below with suspicion - because it's new, and because it's from below.
- Insist that people who need your approval to act, first go through several other levels of management to get their signatures.
- Ask departments or individuals to challenge and criticise each other's proposals. That saves you the job of deciding; you just pick the survivor.
- Express your criticism freely, and withhold your praise. That keeps people on their toes. Let them know they can be fired at any time.
- Treat identification of problems as failure, to discourage people from letting you know when something in their area isn't working.
- Control everything carefully. Make sure people count anything that can be counted, frequently.
- Make decisions to reorganise or change policies in secret, and spring them on people unexpectedly. That also keeps people on their toes.
- Make sure that requests for information are fully justified, and make sure that it is not given out to managers freely. You don't want data to fall into the wrong hands.
- Assign to lower level managers, in the name of delegation and participation, responsibility for figuring out how to cut back, lay off, move people around or otherwise implement threatening decisions you have made. And get them to do it quickly.
- And above all, never forget that you, the higher-ups, already know everything important about the business.

(Source: Kanter, 1984)

The Enemy

I am more powerful than the combined armies of the world. I have destroyed more men, women and children than all the wars of all nations. I massacre thousands of people every year. I am more deadly than bullets, and I have wrecked more homes than the mightiest guns.

In the United Kingdom alone, I steal over five billion pounds each year. I spare no one and I find my victims among the rich and the poor alike, the young and old, and the strong and the weak. Widows know me to their everlasting sorrow, I loom up in such proportions that I cast my shadow over every field of labour.

I lurk in unseen places and do most of my work silently. You are warned against me, yet you heed me not. I am relentless, merciless and cruel. I am everywhere, in the home, in the schools, in the factory, on land, in the air, and on the sea.

I bring sickness, degradation and death, yet few seek me out to destroy me. I crush, I maim, I devastate - I will give you nothing and rob you of all you have.

I am your worst enemy - I Am Fire

The Thought of the Day

Did you know who, in 1923, was:

1. The President of the largest steel company?
2. The President of the largest gas company?
3. The President of the New York Stock Exchange?
4. The greatest wheat speculator?
5. The President of the Bank of International Settlement?
6. The Great Bear of Wall Street?

These men would have been considered some of the world's most successful men. At least they found the secret of making money.

Now, after all these years, what has become of these men?

1. The President of the largest steel company, Charles Schwab, died a pauper.
2. The President of the largest gas company, Edward Hopson, is insane.
3. The President of the New York Stock Exchange, Richard Whitney, was released from prison to die at home.
4. The greatest wheat speculator, Arthur Cooger, died abroad, penniless.
5. The President of the Bank of International Settlement shot himself.
6. The Great Bear of Wall Street, Cosabee Rivermore, committed suicide.

The same year, 1923, the winner of the most important golf championship, Gene Sarazan, won the US Open and PGA Tournaments.

Today, he is still playing golf and is still solvent.

Conclusion: Stop Worrying about business and start having fun!!!

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A newspaper cutting which needs no further comment.

Crazed Firefighter Shoots Bosses

Firefighter Kenneth Tornes shot his wife dead yesterday and then killed four of his bosses. Tornes, 32, was later seriously wounded after a shoot out with the police near Jackson, Mississippi. Colleagues said he had threatened for years to shoot his superiors and finally cracked when reprimanded over a typing error.