

AVON FIRE BRIGADE NEWS

HOAX CALLS COST LIVES

WE SAY
"Don't do it"





AVON FIRE BRIGADE NEWS

SUMMER 1998

Summer is here! It's official! We hope you all receive your issue of the Avon Fire Brigade News magazine in plenty of time to ensure you pack it along with your bucket, spade and swimming cossies and whatever else you may decide to take on holiday with you.

As you lie on the beach or around the hotel pool reading your copy of Avon Fire Brigade News, firefighters from all over Europe will approach you and introduce themselves. As fellow firefighters you will be able to swap stories and items of uniform, especially now with our new burgundy gear, and retire to the bar for some friendly banter and to exchange names and addresses!

On a more serious note, we would just like to mention the front cover of the magazine. Quite spectacular we are sure you will agree. We have teamed up with Bristol City and Bristol Rovers to help promote our 'Hoax Calls Cost Lives' campaign. Hoax calls in our Brigade area are actually on the decrease, and we hope this innovative campaign will enable this downward trend to continue.

Thanks again to all who have contributed to the magazine and please keep the articles rolling in.

P.S. Who is the mysterious Station Officer on the poster?

Answers on a postcard to: **Press Office, Fire Brigade Headquarters, Temple Beck**

Ken Bennett and Geoff Hutchings
Editors

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Notice to all 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.

The opinions expressed in this magazine do not necessarily reflect the views of the editors and publishers and may not represent the official opinion of the Fire Brigade.

FIRE SAFETY - Community Fire Safety

Community Fire Safety is "On The Move". On Friday 15th May 1998, Daihatsu Bristol Manager Nick Smart of Hursley Hill Garage, Whitchurch, handed over the keys of a Daihatsu 'move' car to the Brigade's Chief Fire Officer John Terry. The presentation took place at Whitchurch Primary School in front of the Head Teacher and the school pupils.



This is the second sponsored vehicle in the Brigade, the Training Department having taken possession of a Honda car about one year ago. With the ever growing fire safety intervention programme, transport had become a real problem, now community work can more ably be carried out by the use of the new vehicle.

Fire deaths in the U.K. have increased by 14%, and the Brigade is committed to supporting the Government Task Force in tackling this issue in a pro-active way through education, environment change and legislation. Look out for the Community Team and give them a wave, as community fire safety goes "On The Move".

Do You Know European?

Having chosen English as the preferred language in the EEC, the European Parliament has commissioned a feasibility study in ways of improving efficiency in communications between government departments.

In the 1st year, the letter "s" will replace the soft "c". This will certainly give civil servants something to shout about. Next the hard "c" could be replaced by "k" since both letters are pronounced alike. This would not only clear up confusion in the minds of clerical workers, but typewriters and keyboards could be made with one less letter, a significant saving.

Do You Know European? (2)

In the 2nd year, because of growing enthusiasm, it will be announced that the troublesome "ph" will be replaced with an "f". This would make words like "fotograf" twenty percent shorter in print.

In the 3rd year, public acceptance of the new spelling can be expected to reach the stage where more complicated changes are possible. Governments would encourage the removal of the double letters which have always been a deterrent to accurate spelling. We would all agree that the horrible mess of the silent "e"s in the language is disgraceful. Therefore, we could drop these and continue to read and write as though nothing had happened.

Do You Know European? (3)

By this time it would be four years since the scheme began and people would be receptive to steps such as replacing "th" by "z". Perhaps the function of "w" would be taken on by "v", vitch is, after all, half a "w".

Finally, the unnecessary "o" could be dropped from words containing the "ou". Similar arguments could be applied to other combinations of letters.

Continuing this process year after year we would eventually have a really sensible written style. After twenty years there would be no more troubles or difficulties and everyone would find it easy to understand each other. The dreams of the E.U. would finally come true.



THE FIRE SERVICES' NATIONAL BENEVOLENT FUND

What is it?

The F.S.N.B.F. was formed in 1943.

Why?

To help injured firemen and their families and also the widows and orphans of firemen killed during World War II.

What does it do today?

The F.S.N.B.F. is there to help all staff employed by the Chief Fire Officer i.e.

Wholetime Firefighters
Retained Firefighters
Control Room Staff
Ancillary Workers (office staff, mechanics, cooks, cleaning staff etc.)
Former Members i.e. Retired Members

and their families.

The Fund owns and maintains *Marine Court, Littlehampton, West Sussex* and *Harcombe House, Chudleigh, Devon* which are convalescent centres and offer rest and respite to sick and injured members and their families.

Jubilee House, Penrith, Cumbria is the Fund's first purpose built Rehabilitation and Therapy Centre. It is here that members of the Fund and their families receive treatment for injuries and help with rehabilitation.

Since Jubilee House opened in April 1995, 30 members of Avon Fire Brigade have received treatment.

In addition, many people from Avon who have been ill or injured have spent valuable time recovering at Marine Court or Harcombe House.

The Fund also assists members with financial grants where there is hardship.

When people have become disabled, help has been given towards the purchase of aids such as stair lifts and wheelchairs.

At Christmas the fund provides food hampers and gifts for those in need. The delivering of the hampers allows Fund representatives to keep in contact with our older former members and where some are found to be in need either the fund helps meet that need or contact is made with local authority services.

How is the money found?

The F.S.N.B.F. is a charity. It relies solely on donations and fund-raising. Jubilee Centre alone, costs £1,000,000 per annum to run.

Throughout Avon Fire Brigade there are dedicated volunteers who carry out the work of the Fund. They ensure that where a member is in need, the Fund helps to meet that need if appropriate.

What can you do to help?

1. HELP RAISE FUNDS

In 1997 Avon spent £40,000 sending people to Jubilee House, the convalescent centres and providing grants to those in need.

However in the same year we raised only £34,443 (£23,000 of which was raised by 'C' Division). We need to make up the difference.

Can you help organise a fund-raising event?

2. DEED OF COVENANT

Could you give 50p per week to the Fund? If this was done using a covenant, we would receive not only your 50p but a refund of the tax paid on it as well!

Ask your Fund Representative for a Covenant Form.

If every member of the Fire Service paid 50p per week we would no longer need to fund-raise.

3. F.S.N.B.F. CREDIT CARD

How about changing to the F.S.N.B.F. Credit Card?

It works just the same as Visa or Master Card. When you change to the new card they give the fund £20 immediately. You benefit by receiving a lower interest rate and no annual charge.

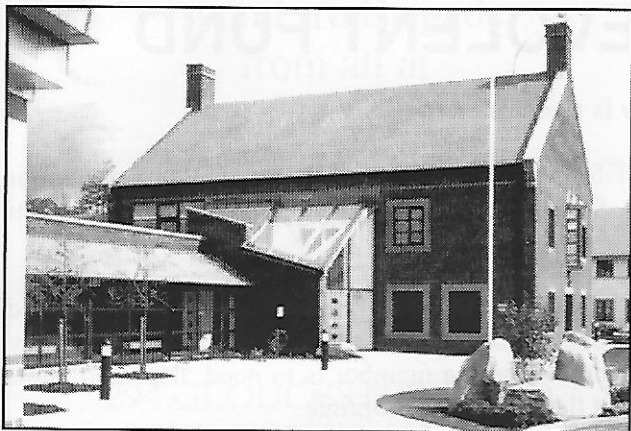
Why not ask your Fund Representative for details?

The Future

If the Fund is to continue to support fire personnel and their families in the future we all need to be involved.

The Fund gives wonderful support to people experiencing sad and traumatic times. Help ensure that it is still there in another 55 years.

F.S.N.B.F. - Jubilee House



22nd October 1997 will long live in my memory as the day I sustained a complete rupture of my left achilles tendon whilst playing squash.

Months of immobility and frustration lay ahead with the prospect of a long battle to regain full fitness. During those early days, lots of telephone calls from colleagues helped raise the spirits, and particular appreciation is paid to Benevolent Fund representatives who offered practical help and made me aware of Jubilee House, the therapy and rehabilitation centre resourced by the Fire Services National Benevolent Fund.

Jubilee House situated in Penrith, Cumbria, offers its facilities to serving or retired uniformed Fire Brigade personnel or their partners completely free of charge. Application to attend the centre is made via the relevant Benevolent Fund representative, the nomination is then endorsed by the Chief Fire Officer and submitted to Jubilee House for consideration.

Staff at Jubilee House assess your application - often in consultation with your GP. If the nature of your injury/illness would benefit from the therapies on offer, a place may be allocated. It must be emphasised that Jubilee House does not cater for families, it is aimed at the rehabilitation of the individual.

Therapy programmes require attendance at the centre for a minimum of two weeks, each client signs a contract agreeing to undertake the full range of assigned therapies - this is not a two week holiday in the Lake District! The level of benefit gained from the centre directly equates to the level of commitment demonstrated by the client.

On arrival at Jubilee House each client is assessed and dependant on the nature of injury, a level of recovery is assigned to a group of similar abilities, while also given an exercise programme specific to the individual needs.



Each week day follows a structured programme, with activities including:

- physiotherapy
- circuit training
- mountain biking
- hydrotherapy pool
- relaxation
- health education
- aerobics
- specific exercises tailored to each client
- walking
- swimming pool
- gym

The therapy programme combines all these elements to produce a varied, challenging environment.

Clients can take advantage of optional sessions in their own time, should they so wish, including:

- relexology
- stress analysis
- massage
- health education

As a result of my two week stay, I have achieved full mobility in the injured foot/ankle, thus ensuring a return to the quality of lifestyle enjoyed prior to the injury.

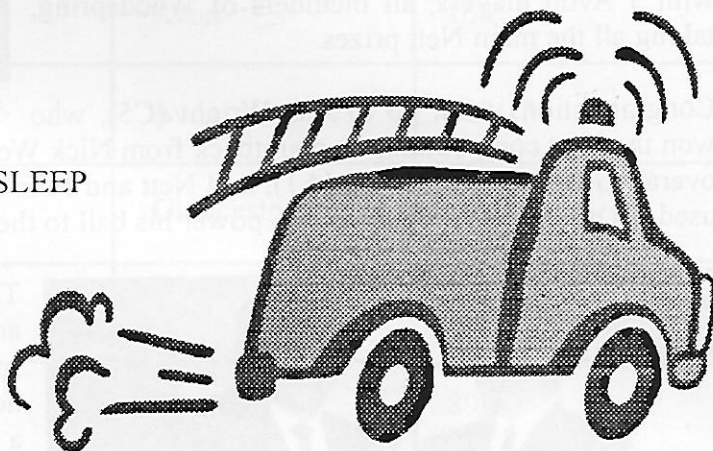
I have nothing but admiration and praise for the dedicated staff who guided me to full recovery, and this view was expressed by all the clients on my course.

Jubilee House costs in excess of £1 million per year to run, they are proud of their independence from Brigades. All therapies and treatments are undertaken in strict confidence with no report back to Brigades unless the client specifically requests.

No one expects to suffer serious injury either at work or elsewhere, however, it can happen. Please support the Fire Services National Benevolent Fund for the sake of those unfortunate enough to need its help now and because we never know what the future may hold for us.

J. Dando

TO THE DAIRY PAULTON WENT
TO FIGHT THE FLAMES WAS THEIR INTENT
THE FIRE WAS ONLY IN A SHED
AND THERE WITHIN, A MILK FLOATS BED
FOUR MILK FLOATS ROUSED FROM THEIR SLEEP
WHEN ONE OF THEM BEGAN TO CREEP
NEARER AND NEARER TO THE TRUCK
IT WAS INEVITABLY STRUCK
THE O.I.C. WIPED OFF HIS EYES
BECAUSE THE FLOAT WAS PASTEURIZED
THE MORAL IS, I'M SAD TO SAY
IS KEEP YOUR TRUCK OUT OF THE WHEY.



Sub Officer Dave "Chippy" Carpenter A1 Red Watch receives an award for his actions at an incident in which a car had entered the feeder.

The award was presented by the Royal Life Saving Society.

Congratulations Chippy!

Overheard by an Area Fire Safety Officer:

"Exactly how many staircases did you ask for?"





F.S.S.A.A.

South West Championships 1998

On 21st May 1998, the Brigade Society hosted the South West Championships, at Woodspring Golf and Country Club. A sunny

morning saw 82 golfers, from seven Brigades, arrive to play 36 holes of Stroke play golf, on a course that turned out to be tougher than usual. This proved the value of knowing the course well, with 3 Avon players, all members of Woodspring, taking all the main Nett prizes.



Ash Wright receives his prize for Nett Winner from C.F.O.

Congratulations must go to Ash Wright (C5), who won the Nett competition, on countback from Nick Weedon. Also, Steve Mankowski (A5), who was 2nd overall Gross, Nick Weedon (A1), 2nd Nett and John Bessex (C1), who was 3rd Nett. John Bessex also used his not inconsiderable size to power his ball to the Longest Drive in the morning round.



Steve Mankowski receives his prize for 2nd Best Gross

The toughness of the course caused many lost balls, and subsequently there were some very long rounds, with some players spending a total of 10 hours on the course. The day was rounded off with a meal and presentation, with prizes being presented by the C.F.O.

The event proved to be a success, although hard work for golfers and organisers alike, and I would like to thank all who helped, including the players, and particularly Chris Liberty and Terry O'Sullivan.

Clive Leech

Avon was represented by the following players:

Avon A	John Cowley (B6), Mick Keepin (C5), Ashley Wright (C5)
Avon B	Richard Orton (B7), John Bessex (C1), Mike Parker (A3)
Avon C	Steve Mankowski (A5), Ross Parsons (C1), Mike Bartlett (B7)
Avon D	Andy Gover (B4), Dave Gaydon (B4), Keven Pearson (HQ)
Avon E	Simon Shilton (A3), Nick Weedon (A1), Nick Carlier (A1)



Nick Weedon receives his prize for 2nd Nett



John Bessex receives his prize for 3rd Nett

F.S.S.A.A.

South West Golf Championships 1998

Results

Winner Best Gross	Chris Coxon	Somerset	165
Winner Best Nett	Ashley Wright	Avon	182/150 Back 18
2nd Best Gross	Steve Mankowski	Avon	168
2nd Best Nett	Nick Weedon	Avon	180/150
3rd Best Gross	Paul Reynolds	Gloucestershire	169
3rd Best Nett	John Bessex	Avon	190/152 Back 18
Best Nett (am)	Chris Hole	Somerset	89/70
Best Gross (am)	Pete Newman	Devon	84 Back 9
Best Nett (pm)	Steve Michell	Cornwall	91/73
Best Gross (pm)	George Slater	Devon	83
Team Winners	Somerset A		475
2nd Team	Avon A (John Cowley, Mick Keepin, Ashley Wright)		476
3rd Team	Somerset B		
Longest Drive (am)	John Bessex	Avon	
Longest Drive (pm)	Chris Coxon	Somerset	
Nearest The Pin (am)	John Grellier	Somerset	
Nearest The Pin (pm)	Dave Ives	Wiltshire	

The following article originally appeared in the Welsh Hawking Clubs quarterly magazine and Chris Lock from C1 Weston Red Watch has kindly agreed to let me use in the Brigade magazine.

Why? Are you thinking is an article on falconry being included in a Fire Brigade magazine.

Two reasons, firstly I think the article will be of interest to a lot of people who may have seen birds of prey being displayed at various country parks and shows or even in the wild. Secondly, it illustrates the fact that all items in the magazine do not have to be Fire Brigade orientated!

It's your magazine so please tell us what you would like included.

Editors

Fair Weather Falcon by Chris Lock

In early Spring '96 I had just finished flying a male Redtail and had turned him loose in his aviary to allow him to moult unrestricted.

I am fortunate to have a job that also allows me to fly most days of the week and have land nearby to fly and hunt on (but most of all an understanding wife, so I guess I am very fortunate).

A few days after I had finished flying, the phone rang and a friend of mine asked if I would look after his Tiercel Lanner for a few months as he had to work away. I explained that I had no aviary space available but if I could fly him I could block him on the lawn and bring him in every night. My friend said that would be fine for the bird as he is a social imprint and 16 years old and was only ever used as a demonstration bird at a falconry centre. Now pensioned off, his name was "Slate" and he's a happy little bird.

Slate was a beautiful bird, 1lb 5oz in weight, feather perfect with manners to match, no mantling, no screaming and very very tame. I know very little of social imprinting, but if this was it, then I was very impressed. He would jump from his block to mine or my daughter's lap, lay down and go to sleep (he would also start up a relationship with my shoe or head - very worrying).

I was advised not to fly him too hard because of his age, so with this in mind off we went to our flying grounds and flew most days from then on. I was amazed at his agility as he whistled past me turning into the wind and called back to the fist.

I flew a Kestrel before, but this was something else. On sunny and windy days his speed was awesome as was the sound of venting air as he tore past me downwind. My lure swinging was hopeless and he was catching me out nearly all of the time.

One embarrassing afternoon viewed by some neighbours, I was flying Slate, swinging my lure which slipped out of my hand and as I quickly picked it up Slate turned immediately and flew upwind dropping his speed and undercarriage, then came into land on my head. I raised my gloved fist and he jumped directly onto it, "a change had occurred" and from then on Slate would land on nearby trees or fences posts when cast off and only make 5 or 6 passes when called in to the lure. After that he would land in his favourite tree or even on the ground by my feet. I had to remind myself that Slate was 16 and that would equate to ? in human terms, so I disposed of the lure and flew him from the fist. This was what he was trying to tell me - when called down he would pass on by, turn back upwind to land on my fist - he did not like damp or overcast days and would not fly.

Dry, sunny, windy days were the order of the week, but rarely would he fly above 30 feet, skipping hedges and skimming fields was his joy, and my reward was his utter obedience and perfect manners.

To watch this little pensioner fly was the highlight of the week, following me across the fields on his sunny days out, taking his time.

Then it happened. A friend of mine, Andy from the South Glos. and West Wilts Raptor Club, came down to see Slate fly. So off we went across the fields with Slate showing off once more in public looking very fit for his age. Andy was impressed (it made a change from my other embarrassing moments) then all of a sudden Slate spotted a Green Woodpecker which flew across his path. We didn't know if it was territorial or food-related but Slate changed gear and direction and was on it. We watched as the chase went

straight past us, the Woodpecker was jinking and sliding through the air with my Slate magnetised to its back-end. I gulped and tears filled my eyes with pride. Both birds disappeared through the trees and seconds later Slate came back and pitched on a branch nearby. I looked at Andy who was grinning like a Cheshire cat. "What a flight" he said, as I called in my old boy who had now become a Peregrine.

I then decided that in the Autumn of his life I would fulfil his ambitions, so we set out to look for his natural quarry - Collared Doves or birds of that size.

The next day a good friend of mine, Dave Jones from The Welsh Hawking Club, called in, so I told him our story, and yes, it was a fine day, so I said to Dave "let's go and fly Slate". I quickly got kitted up and we were in the fields within minutes. I decided to put Slate up a tree and we would spread out. Dave quietly walked around the outside edge of the field and was heading for a field that was opposite mine. As soon as he climbed over the gate a Magpie spotted him and took flight away from Dave but towards Slate. Yes, I thought, as Slate powered out of his vantage point - throwing his body and soul into a shallow stoop - with his talons clenched in anticipation and heading straight towards the fleeing Magpie. A burst of feathers was seen as the Magpie was struck to the ground, Slate threw up and turned to come in on his catch but the Magpie took off again and attempted to make it to a thicket. Slate stooped again with another strike, but the Magpie was lost in the thorns and brambles. My little Falcon was furious at not catching his first kill, and was flat out on the floor panting and his plumage was waterlogged as the long grass hadn't dried from a previous shower. It was the first time I had heard him vocalise, whatever he said I

know not, but it was very probably very insulting to the Magpie. The Magpie had shown its true colours, it had beaten the Tiercel by sheer trickery and shown what devious adversaries Magpies can be. A week later Slate took his first kill, a Collared Dove flown from the fist down a long track between two high sided hedgerows, a good flight and

commitment by my little Lanner who kept his grip and completed his life long ambition, to fly free at natural quarry. I sat down beside him and watched him gorge on his prize. Time passed and his owner came to collect him, but not before he had caught another Collared Dove and a Starling. I offered to buy Slate but was not successful, it was a real wrench to

give him back. I consider myself fortunate and very lucky to have had the chance to share the latter part of Slate's life, a little Lanner with his great ambition completed. Slate died last month of natural causes, aged 17. I would like to dedicate this article to my first class "Fair Weather Falcon", Slate.

FIRE VICTIM SUPPORT SERVICE



Following the launch of the service by the Avon Branch of the British Red Cross, in conjunction with Avon Fire Brigade, on 10th April 1996, this worthwhile scheme has gone from strength to strength.

At its launch, Avon was the 6th 'support unit' to go operational. There are now 15, including the neighbouring counties of Gloucestershire and Somerset, operating throughout the country.

As can be seen from the following statistics, the service is being used more and more. This is probably because, over the past 18 months, time has been allocated to take the vehicle around the Brigade, so that operational personnel can see the support the volunteers can offer, both to the Brigade, and the victims of domestic fires and other related incidents.

Call Outs

Persons Assisted

1996	Apr - Dec	12	36
1997	Jan - Dec	23	46
1998	Jan - May	23	62

Reports coming back from the fireground, have highlighted the need for this service, with the volunteers working in conjunction with Brigade personnel, to alleviate the anguish and trauma experienced, when homes have been involved in fire.

As calls increase, we hope that the promptness of turnout, and the service that is offered, can be maintained.

Our teams of volunteers is as committed now as at the outset, and are only too ready and willing to help the Brigade whenever they are needed.

Geoff Bayliss
(Fire Victim Support Service Co-Ordinator)
British Red Cross

After "Wuthering Heights" they're featuring a new version with Cathy and Heathcliff naked on the Yorkshire Moors.

They're calling it "The Full Bronte"

Career Development

Never was there a time when the Brigade needed a Career Development Strategy, like now. With the retirement phase of the seventies draft just around the corner and due to last to beyond 2007. Every Brigade needs to ensure a steady supply of quality recruits into the service and a means to progress potential officers forward and upward.

At times I feel we all take for granted the unique way the British Fire Service is set up, in order to allow a single tier entry system to function.

After all, the progression from Firefighters to H.M. Chief Inspector of Fire Services does not happen by accident. Many elements of the Fire Services Act and the way Home Office and Local Authorities put it into action help shape such a system as the single tier entry.

No formal qualifications are required to enter the service. Instead recruits are required to pass occupationally linked tests to ensure they are capable of absorbing, processing and demonstrating the knowledge and skills required of a Firefighter.

Statutory Promotional examinations as prescribed by the Appointment and Promotional Regulations and executed by the Fire Service Examination Board perform the essential task of allowing Firefighters to accumulate valued qualifications for potential promotion. These examinations being the currency we all use to climb the ladder of promotion.

I use the term currency for what good is currency without the experience to use it wisely.

Progression of a career is both in the hands of the individual themselves and the tiers of management residing above them.

Be honest about what you want. A sincere and honest statement of both your short term and long term goals will assist in giving your OIC, Section Heads and Divisional Commanders an accurate picture of your personal aspirations. This at least empowers them to act on your behalf in recommending you for experience building jobs, posts and skill based instructor and/or progression courses both internal and external.

The rest I am afraid is in their heads. OIC's, Section Heads, Divisional Commanders, indeed anyone involved in fostering talent under their command need to regularly re-visit individuals and review their needs and the needs of the organisation and how any development would contribute to each others goals. Commonly known as Continual Professional Development, CPD is essential in accurately formulating an effective strategy toward developing individuals and utilising their knowledge and skill toward the objectives of the organisation in the most efficient manner possible.

Do not fall asleep while I mention National Vocational Qualifications (NVQ's). Once considered not suitable in their applications toward the Fire Service. Both the Home Office, CACFOA and for that matter the representative bodies hence subscribed to the need for the implementation of these standards within the service. Training for competence (TFC) as an ongoing quality approach to ensuring standards is forming its place alongside the statutory exams, NVQ's and CPD. However, resource barren as we are, these commitments to a quality approach, to a safe person, safe environment and safe organisation concept involving statutory exams, NVQ's, CPD and TFC will take some time to solidify.

You could ask the question, who is responsible for effective career development? The answer would be everyone. The organisation in fostering a healthy and buoyant culture of career development, Divisional Officers for recognising the essential need for continual development and placing a high priority on career development. The Watch Manager and Junior Officers providing support and acting as mentors. And finally but most importantly the individual for as much as assistance is offered it must be accepted and at times sought. The old saying is very true - the world helps those who help themselves.

Fire Service

	<i>Qualified Firefighter</i>	<i>Leading Firefighter Part 1</i>	<i>Leading Firefighter Part 2</i>
<i>Jan</i>	Exam date and closing date published in Brigade Bulletin		Closing date for entries Confirmation of dates and candidates entered published in Brigade Bulletin
<i>Feb</i>			Practice sessions ran at Exam venue (See Decembers Brigade Bulletin)
<i>Mar</i>		Exam date and closing date published in Brigade Bulletin	Last chance to withdraw (21 day rule)
<i>Apr</i>	Examination Day (usually first week in April)		Examination day Held over 4 to 6 days in the middle of April
<i>May</i>			
<i>Jun</i>		Workshop for candidates taking written examinations	List of equipment for Section C (lecture) published in Brigade Bulletin Results of this years exam due
<i>Jul</i>		Closing date for entries (usually first week in July) Exam details and list of candidates entered published in Brigade Bulletin	Reminder of First Aid qualification needed to sit exam Courses booked through training section
<i>Aug</i>	Exam date and closing date published in Brigade Bulletin	Pre-test Objective questions held at Brigade HQ Last chance to withdraw (21 day rule)	
<i>Sep</i>	Exam details and list of candidates entered published in Brigade Bulletin	Examination Day (usually third Friday in September)	
<i>Oct</i>	Examination Day (usually second week in October)		Dates and details of Workshops to assist candidate prepare for the part 2 exam published in Brigade Bulletin Held in December at T/Section
<i>Nov</i>	Success list published in Brigade Bulletin	Success list published in Brigade Bulletin (usually last week in November)	Exam and closing date published in Brigade Bulletin
<i>Dec</i>			Workshops for candidates taking the part 2 exam held at Training Section
<i>Note</i>	Examination held every six months Candidates must have at least 2 years experience		

Exam Planner

	<i>Sub Officer Part 1</i>	<i>Sub Officer Part 2</i>	<i>Station Officer</i>	<i>IFE Examinations</i>
			Confirmation of exam centre details and list of candidates published in Brigade Bulletin Pre test Objective questions held at Brigade HQ	Confirmation of exam centre details and list of candidates published in Brigade Bulletin
		Closing date for entries (usually first week in February)	Examination Day (usually last Thursday and Friday in February)	
	Exam date and closing date published in Brigade Bulletin			Examination Day (usually first Thursday and Friday of March)
	Opportunity to sit pre-test Objective papers published in Brigade Bulletin	Last chance to withdraw (21 day rule)		
		Examination Day Held over 4 to 6 days in the middle of May	Success list published in Brigade Bulletin	Success list published in Brigade Bulletin
	Workshop for candidates taking the written statutory examinations		Workshop for candidates taking the written statutory examinations	
	Closing Date for entries (usually third week in July) Dates and details of Written communication paper workshops published in Brigade Bulletin	List of Subjects for Section C of the part 2 exam published in Brigade Bulletin	Exam date and closing date published in Brigade bulletin Details of study group Published in Brigade bulletin	
	Pre test Objective questions held at Brigade HQ			Exam date and closing date published in Brigade Bulletin
	Workshop for candidates taking the written comm's paper held at T/Section Last chance to withdraw		Opportunity to sit pre-test Objective papers published in Brigade Bulletin	
	Examination Day (usually first Friday in Oct)	Dates and details of Workshops to assist candidate prepare for the part 2 exam published in Brigade Bulletin Held in December at T/Section		
		Exam date and closing date published in Brigade Bulletin	Closing Date for entries (usually last week in November)	
	Success list published in Brigade Bulletin	Workshops for candidates taking the part 2 exam held at Training Section		
				Sylabuses and handbooks for students will be despatched to applicants as they join the IFE. Any queries call: 01162553654

So you see the British Fire Service, in order to keep single tier entry. Brigade's who wish to push home grown talent and not have to rely on personnel from other Brigade's to fill essential rank positions. Along with yourselves as people eager to move up through the ranks have a vested interest in career development.

The Chinese say a journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step. That step has to be taken by you. Before this Brigade can develop your career, you must have the necessary qualifications well and truly in place.

The Career Development Officer assisted with the full backing of the Training Section, Personnel and most importantly Principle and Divisional Management has the power to assist you to make that first step and will walk with you every step of the way.

The centre pages of this magazine have been set aside to a year planner which covers all aspects of the statutory examinations, and the preparation courses provided in order to assist you in your campaign.

In addition to all the services mentioned in the planner do not forget that you have the support and experience of myself and all nominated Fire Service Examiners who you'll find listed below. So call upon us, whenever you feel you need guidance, clarification, support and encouragement.

Do not forget these services and courses are provided for you so please, please use them.

Good luck with your first and/or subsequent steps, I'll see you on the road.

A. J. Southard
Station Officer
Career Development Officer

List of Examiners

Divisional Officer Bolland
Divisional Officer Manners
Assistant Divisional Officer Baker
Assistant Divisional Officer Roberts
Assistant Divisional Officer Vile
Assistant Divisional Officer Whitwarm
Station Officer Southard

Divisional Officer Palmer M.
Divisional Officer Witcomb
Assistant Divisional Officer Cox
Assistant Divisional Officer Smith M.
Assistant Divisional Officer Waft
Station Officer Glanvill

"Can You Keep A Secret?"



A window fitter got a surprise when he became a firefighter for a day thanks to his step-daughter. Michael Beard was kidnapped by Westons' Red Watch and taken back to the Station to help in a mock rescue of 10 year old Martine Souch.

The surprise was part of a TV series fronted by Michaela Strachan and shown on HTV.

Thanks go to 'C' Division and particularly to members of Red Watch for assistance.

Photograph shows (L to R): FF Nigel Raymond, Michael Beard, FF Chris Cambridge, Martine's Mum, FF Paul Thompson, Martine, Michaela Strachan, FF Gareth Vaughan and Sub Officer Bill Beachgood.

SOUTH GLOUCESTERSHIRE RAMBLING SOCIETY NEWSLETTER January 1998 Lansdown Section Special Edition

Geographical Surprise

South Gloucestershire's many ramblers and walkers may be surprised to know that there is a section of the Cotswold Way extending southwards from the Greville Memorial towards Bath.

A team of keen explorers from this Society took advantage of the recent hot summer to penetrate the fog and snow which perpetually render this high southern section unfindable and impassable, and were surprised to discover a former Royal Observer Corps site there, comprising a bunker and offices.

The site was originally built to watch and track the clouds of fallout from nuclear explosions - a clear example of military incompetence, given the prevailing fog. Then after several years a visiting General actually found the place, realised its ineffectiveness, and it was taken over by the Avon Fire Brigade a few years later after an extensive search.

This month's Lansdowner is a Special Edition covering the many interesting activities at that site.

Earwig Infestation Terrorises MIS

The statistics-gathering nerve centre at Lansdown recently suffered an infestation of earwigs.

"They were everywhere" said a spokesstatistician, "and we had a real problem getting rid of them - until someone discovered a can of flying insect killer in the Stationery cupboard.

"That then gave us the difficult choice of either catching them and flinging them into the air, so that it could work, or waiting until one by one they attempted to drop into our cups of tea and zapping them then.

"We chose the latter. It was a slow

job, but we got rid of them in the end.

MIS staff have subsequently been overheard singing the classic football supporters' song, "Earwig go, earwig go, earwig go..."

Song Of The Hairy-Nosed Fireman Discovered In Bunker

During a recent root-around in the old, scrappy desks in the Bunker, the following torn and semi-illegible fragment of a song was discovered. (Illegible letters are indicated *)

"He was only a lavender Fireman,
The hairs up his **se, they were few
But he want* to..."

Does anyone know the full and correct version of this song?

Latest Avonmouth Oil Fire News

Extensive research has revealed that the first victim of the massive oil tank farm fire which so nearly destroyed the Avonmouth Docks in 1952 was not a man, as formerly thought, but the tea-lady, Ethyl, who was blown into many pieces by the enormous force of the explosion and buried piecemeal wherever the parts fell.

Each little grave was marked with a simple notice, still readable today, stating "Ethyl Sludge buried here".

History Of Guide Lines

The Lansdowner is able to throw more light on the origin and history of guide lines.

Following the great Gingerbread House fire disaster, in which brave firefighters Hansel and Gretel died after birds ate the trail of bread and cake they left to mark their return path, it became necessary to look for alternative and better ways to mark a Breathing Apparatus wearer's return route to safety.

Various methods were tried and rejected, until one day a firefighter's NATO pullover snagged at the entrance as he went in to perform a snatch rescue, and it had half unravelled. The rest, as they say, is history.

Incompetence Denied

Rumours that the ban on drinking on duty was introduced to disguise the fact that today's officers cannot organise a piss-up in a brewery have been denied by an Officer's Club spokesperson. "We simply haven't wanted to re-visit Courage's during the last couple of years.

"Anyway, do you know there are some Junior ranks who are apparently unable to dispose of a bonfire in the run-up to Bonfire Night."

Control Passing Out Demonstration Success

Faced with the problem that the firefighter recruits had passed out from the Welsh Language Intensive Training School at Butlins, Barry, several weeks earlier, and there could not be the usual combined passing-out spectacular involving ladders, rescues, fires, rescues from crashed cars, etc., Control supremo PFCO Bob Smith none the less organised a wonderfully spectacular recruit Fire Control Operator passing-out demonstration involving as its highlight a four person radio mast disassembly and re-erection drill, executed in record time.

Another problem overcome was the unavailability of ace bagpiper Bill Plenty, but SubO David Hayward stood in at short notice with his recorder, achieving a remarkably similar effect.

Stop Press

The Lansdowner can reveal that the Bunker was not, as formerly thought constructed by the Royal Observer Corps but by an oil company drilling in a vain attempt to discover oil deposits suspected to lie beneath the Cotswold escarpment.

"It was a fool's errand" said a spokesoildrillingspecialist. "We drilled down 800 feet, but couldn't

even strike water."

The oil drilling rig was later adapted to become a radio mast, which still rises occasionally above the fog to this day.

So strong are the links between the Fire Service and the oil companies that until recently the Fire Service basic operating manual continued to be known as 'The Drill Book'.

Glowing Reports On New Anorak Issue

As all ranks know to their chagrin, anyone wearing undress uniform - especially the former Bristol version - was likely to be mistaken for a bus conductor and stopped and asked about bus routes.

Substituting NATO pullovers has helped somewhat, except that in any supermarket you are now likely to be mistaken for a security guard and stopped and asked the way to the toilets.

The new day-glo yellow anorak has solved both these problems, but initial experience shows that you are now likely to be stopped and asked about the amount of litter in the streets.

Fire Safety Training Officer ADO John Dando is one person who is unreservedly delighted with his bright new anorak, which he wears constantly when in his office. He told our reporter, "You know, it's such a dark little hole in here, that if it wasn't for the brightness of the anorak I wouldn't be able to see you properly, Sir."

On really dim days, John organises meetings of the Community Unit in his office, with all required to bring and wear their new anoraks.

Top Award Goes To Community Unit Duo

Tom Edwards and Roger Farrant were the recent proud winners of the B&NES Lifeskills award for outstanding gross over-acting.

However, on hearing the news of the award ADO Gordon Adams put the duo firmly in their place by

immediately improvising an inspired routine entitled "Look at me, I'm a Fire Safety ADO and I'm actually washing my cup" - a routine completely unpractised and unheard.

From The Padre

I was shocked to hear on the radio the other day that some University Economics researcher has surveyed prostitution in London, and reached the conclusion that the gross annual takings of London prostitutes exceeds that of the London Underground.

I like to look on the good side of everything, and I guess it shows that at least you get a nice cheap ride on the London Underground, if nowhere else.

This sort of thing is evidently rife in the Avon Fire Brigade too, for Fire Safety Supremo DO Keith Smith has recently been overheard remarking, "Being an officer at Bristol, I'm all too aware that they're expecting one WP operator to service eighteen people."

Changing the subject, have you noticed how our old churches and cathedrals not only have graveyards outside, but have been vandalised in times past by also being made into graveyards within.

Did you know that in the beliefs of the Moslems everyone is protected - and reported on at Judgement Day - by two guardian angels during the day, and another set of two at night.

Sunset and sunrise are the times when they change shifts, and these are considered times of great danger when evil can sneak in undetected, especially the times twice a year when the clocks go backwards or forwards an hour, which confuses the angels no end.

A little boy told me the other day, when I asked him what he thought God is, that, "God is a cleaner, and he used to do our housework for us."

Intrigued, I asked him how he knew that, and got the reply that he'd heard his mum and dad singing

about it in church: "Oh God, our help in ages past..."

In these ultra-materialistic days of hectic shopping for expensive presents, people sometimes ask me to remind them what Christmas is all about.

I answer them by saying it is the time of year when our Good Shepherd was born.

And as every sheep knows, no matter how good and kind the Shepherd is, there comes a time each year when they get well and truly fleeced.

And that's what Christmas is all about.

Bunker Bunks Debunked

Rumours have been quashed that during the recent visit to the Brigade by German firefighters they were quartered in the Bunker.

Apparently they left their towels in what was to become Brian Holmes' office immediately on arrival, and refused to budge, saying they had got there first.

Personal Ads

Interpreter needed, to wade through voluminous quantities of Lansdowner articles and explain to me the weird and obscure jokes it contains. Apply S. Stewart ext 311.

Silly Old Moos

Lansdown scientists recently prevailed upon the government to prohibit the burying in ordinary farmers' fields of the carcasses of cows killed by Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy, popularly known as Mad Cow Disease.

"It was obvious to us that because of the food chain we would soon have Mad Worms, Mad Birds, Mad Cats, Mad... well, everything.

"Does no-one in government know the song 'On Ilkley Moor'?"

Water Supply Problem Solved

The chronic problem of the water

supply to Lansdown has at long last been solved, in an inspired stroke of genius, by the use of an Aqua-Pura bottled water dispenser.

Slight problems remain, principally concerning the number of trips which have to be made along the corridor in order to flush the loo. But at least it can be flushed, now.

The water problem seems to have originated many years ago when the oil drilling rig that was originally on the site penetrated the underlying belt of clay, causing a substantial lowering of the local water table.

Battle Of Lansdown

A small group recently met in the Bunker to discuss the Battle of Lansdown. Said a spokesofficer, "It's typical of this place - no pre-planning, and everything much too little, much too late - nothing's changed.

Community Unit News

The Community Unit based at Lansdown recently welcomed its latest new member, Station Officer Brian "Badger" Holmes.

Brian coped easily with his initiation rite of being given the room with the nearly-impossible-to-open door and wiped the grin off the many knowing faces by asking to keep it.

"It's great. People knock, push on the door, intending to give me work, find they can't open it, and walk off - time and time again. And when it is going-home time my wife pushes and I pull and I have no trouble getting out."

But master prankster John Sleight, whose recent exploits include designing a First Aid Course booking system of frightening bureaucracy and unnecessary repetition and then handing it over to a subordinate, has other tricks in store for Brian.

Fireworks Night To Be Modernised

The Fire Brigades Union has prevailed upon the new Labour government to officially discard the title,

'Guy Fawkes Night', based upon a failed attempt to blow up Parliament many centuries ago, and retitle it after the modern successful blowing-up of a hated government.

It will now be called 'Brighton Bombing Night'. And the 'Guy' will be replaced by the 'Maggie'.

Bunker Ghost

Stories that Father Christmas has taken up residence in the Bunker were today denied by official sources.

"The large red plump 'man' striding the Bunker corridors forlornly is the spirit of Welephant, who was cruelly dropped from the job he loved so well, of entertaining children, after complaints that parents pushing their children towards a seven foot six inches tall furry red elephant is in fact a form of child abuse; after a lengthy period of pining he departed to the Welephant's Graveyard.

"His spirit now strides these corridors looking for Junior schoolchildren - or indeed anybody - to accost and tell stories to.

"As to the other ghost, the rumour that it is Lord Lucan, wandering about in a vain attempt to find his way out can be largely discounted."

Another theory, that the ghost was any one of a number of people taking shelter in the Bunker as the only place in Britain remote enough to be free of Diana Death Hysteria, can definitely be discounted. After all, everyone in the whole country without exception deeply loved and grieved for her, didn't we!

Sweepstakes

Following ex-Firefighter, ex-Draughtsperson, ex-Hydrant Inspector Tony Miller changing jobs yet again and becoming a Fire Control Operator, MIS is organising two sweepstakes.

The winners will be the persons who judge most nearly: how long he remains in the post; and to which Avon Fire Brigade uniformed or non-uniformed post he will next move to.

Informed sources believe Tony is trying to emulate Kevin Pearson, who rocketed to Assistant Chief Officer within a few months of taking up a new post at Lansdown, and that Tony has his eye on Bob Smith's job.

Photos

Dave Boulter and Rod Bidder were recently ignominiously dismissed after they were overheard discussing how they had used the controversial ID card photos as their way of calling their colleagues a load of fatheads.

Books Under Review

"Tall Tales",
by Ivor Guddun

"Coping With Shock",
by Anna & Phil Actic

Mathematics Quiz No. 1

If it takes three men two days to dig a trench two feet deep, one foot wide, and one hundred feet long, how long will it take one-and-a-half men? (Answer on page 27)

Rolling Stone

Sources have revealed that the reason why new Community Education Officer Brian Holmes spends so much time in the Lower Ranks office, hogging the phone, is that he cannot open the door to his own.

Letters To The Editor

Dear Madam,

I wish to complain about the incredible number of letters which have appeared in your newsletter over the years giving fulsome and sycophantic praise to your Primary Schools officer, Tom Edwards for his delivery of the Fire Safety Message to schoolchildren.

In my many years of touring the schools in this my home town (the town which gave me my nickname) I never once received a "well-done" letter and furthermore never expected one.

So please stop publishing these letters immediately.

Your faithfully

Colonel I. (B.) Madd, Berking

Playing With Fire

Following the recent Firesetter Intervention lectures by top psychologist Andrew Muckley, in which he said that it is relatively easy to divert youngsters away from fire play and firesetting because these have a poor "payoff" compared with, say, theft or burglary - just a short feeling of excitement, as compared with actually gaining material possessions - the Avon Fire Brigade has embraced his teachings wholeheartedly.

"Acting on his teachings, we find it's fairly easy to turn children away from fire play towards theft, embezzlement or joyriding, or to turn them from the more serious firesetting behaviour towards burglary or mugging old ladies" said Senior Community Education Officer John Sleight recently.

"Trouble is, a lot of the kids in the inner city areas are into these already, so we have to teach them GBH and armed robbery in order to divert them.

"But, as I discussed with Brian through his office door the other day, it's saving an awful lot of lives that otherwise would be lost to fire."

New Course Announced

Teacup Washing, for Fire Safety ADO's.

IFE Examiner Shame

Lansdown's scientists were recently disconcerted to read the recently published Report of the IFE Examinations 1997. For in the Membership examination, Question 1 of the Fire Engineering Science Paper asks:

"A pump supplies 4kW of energy to the water flowing through a 45mm hose. The water flows 15 metres vertically and through a 25mm branch at a rate of 500 litres/minute. Use Bernoulli's Theorem and find the pressure at the branch."

Readers will immediately spot that if 500 litres/minute of water are flowing 15 metres vertically, then through a 25mm branch, the pump

must be supplying 2426 Watts, not 4000 Watts - unless there are energy losses of 1574 Watts due to friction, turbulence etc.

The brightest readers will have spotted that Bernoulli's Theorem applies to flow that is steady and frictionless, and so cannot be used to answer this question.

The disconcerting thing is, though it is a rare officer who has ever used Bernoulli's Theorem/Equation in practice - despite it being about as simple a fire engineering calculation as you can get - BSDD240 and really testing fire engineering calculations it requires is now looming on the fire safety horizon; so it is appalling that the IFE examiners should prove themselves so lacking in understanding of something so simple as Bernoulli.

The question is actually very similar in principle and practice to the question slagged off in the Sept '94 IFE magazine by a Fire Service College lecturer. They just don't learn, do they!

Other IFE Science Exam cock-ups include asking candidates to use Bernoulli's Equation to calculate the shock pressure when a hydrant is suddenly shut off - despite this being the extreme example of unsteady flow, wholly unsolvable by Bernoulli's Equation and giving the ridiculous answer of about a hundredth of a bar if you mistakenly try to. (It is easily solvable using the Momentum Equation, providing the question gives the speed of sound in water, which it didn't). Though the error was pointed out to them, they asked the same silly question again, only a few years later.

Another question, answered correctly by a Lansdowner correspondent but with incredulity, involved scaling values off a pump pressure vs output diagram that was; a) tiny - the portion of the curve measured along was 1cm long; b) flouted normal axis numbering conventions; c) curved impossibly backwards at the right-hand end, contrary to both knowledge and commonsense, and; d) looked like it had been drawn by the examiner's six-year old.

And there was the recent question where a jet was issuing at 12 metres per second directed horizontally, and candidates had to calculate how high the branch was if the water hit the ground 0.5 seconds later. The question was fine, but the model answer given that September treated the jet as having been directed vertically downwards, yielding the wrong answer - a case of applying a formula without understanding it.

This catalogue of incompetent examiners ought to be hilariously funny. Even funnier should be the pretensions of the IFE towards acquiring the status of real engineers without the competence.

Lansdown's scientists and engineers have decided to resign en masse from the IFE at the end of the current membership year.

Tomb It May Concern

Avon Fire Brigade's Fire Safety Headquarters and Control personnel may be surprised to know that Lansdown's Bunker was not built by the Royal Observer Corps to track and predict the path of nuclear fallout, as formerly thought, but by the ancient Britons as the tomb of their beloved Welsh princess, Dhyanna.

Inscriptions on the wall of the burial chamber, discovered by a panic-stricken firefighter on encountering Welephant's ghost and attempting to evade him in the labyrinthine depths of the Bunker, record that Dhyanna was killed in a chariot crash while attempting to flee the cavalry of an invading foreign army.

Interestingly, the army is recorded not as a Roman army as expected, but as the marauding Paparazzi.

The tomb was built under the direction of the famous Turkish architect, Quillroy Wazir, whose inscription graces many other classic ancient buildings, and is even faked in modern buildings.

Good Wishes Bill

The Lansdowner has heard through

the grapevine of the recent marriage of William Hague and wishes a long and happy marriage to him and his new bride.

Unfortunately, The Lansdowner is short of details, but the very shortage of details leads us to believe firstly - because nobody outside of the Fire Brigade seems to have heard of him either - that he must be a firefighter, secondly, that he must be a very recent recruit, and thirdly, that he must have been posted to somewhere just as obscure as Lansdown, somewhere like Weston-Super-Mare.

IT News

Lansdown has now been fitted with networking cables. So staff there will be pleased to know they will soon be able to network their typewriters.

From The Parson

I remember reading about a researcher who did maze type experiments, but on beetles instead of the more usual rats. She found that beetles would, in roughly equal numbers, either turn left or turn right at the junction their first time through. What puzzled her was that each beetle continued to turn the same way on each subsequent run.

And she wondered, "Why do you have beetles that are always left-handed, beetles that are always right-handed, but no ambidextrous beetles that will turn sometimes this way and sometimes that?"

It continued to puzzle her until some years later someone suggested a simple explanation: life is hazardous for a beetle, and having turned the way they did the first time and survived - the other direction having unknown survival value - the beetle turned that way on each and every subsequent occasion.

I look around my parishioners and I see so many of them continuing in what are plainly unsatisfactory circumstances, afraid of change; and I wonder: how many of us are left-handed beetles, going the same way again because it's the way we've always gone; and no matter

how bad, it's the only way we know.

Bunker Refreshments Mess

Seminars and other group events in the Lansdown Bunker are to cease following Mess Manager Nick Skudder's recent revised scale of charges to the Brigade for tea, coffee and biscuits of £10,000 per event.

"We've got to charge a realistic price", said Nick, "and I reckon I've calculated one that's not at all unreasonable."

Supplies Supplies

Item S/650/01 in the new Stationery Stores Bin List is listed as "Label Tie-on, police body."

The mind boggles!

Creative Maths

What can be more simple than $1+1=2$? So it may come as a surprise that in their textbook, the famous Principia Mathematica, it took the two brilliant mathematicians Russell and Whitehead 362 pages of densely written logical argument to prove it.

Except they didn't prove it, they got the proof wrong at very fundamental stage, and nobody has been able to prove that $1+1=2$ since.

Later, another mathematician called Godel proved that $1+1=2$ can never be proven. (The so-called "Incompleteness Theorem").

This has interesting implications: if neither you nor anybody can prove something as simple as $1+1=2$, neither can you nor nobody prove that $2+2=4$; and neither can you nor nobody prove that $2+2$ is not equal to 5.

And this opens up the possibility of an interesting defence to an embezzlement charge.

Nick Skudder is known to be interested in using these mathematical findings to help him assess the correct level of seminar refreshment charges.

Avon Fire Brigade Pensioners Association



(L to R) Dee Bennett, Sandra Townley, Beryl Davis, Irene Townsend, Jean Probert, Jean Iles, Pam Henly and Joyce Tremlett

PENSIONERS TRIP TO HOLLAND'S CHRISTMAS MARKETS

The very early hours of a cold December morning saw 95 pensioners, their ladies and friends gathered at A2 Southmead to board 2 coaches for a trip to Valkenburg, a picturesque town in the heart of South Limburg, a part of Holland that belies everyone's impression that Holland is a flat country.

Here there are rolling fields, hills and valleys, and Valkenburg has the only castle in the country built on a hill top, although the castle itself was finally destroyed just over 300 years ago. Each December the extensive network of caves that lie beneath the

town, formed by the quarrying of limestone by the Romans, are turned into Christmas grottoes with fairy lights illuminating the stalls selling all manner of Christmas goodies, and judging by the number of carrier bags being brought back to the hotel, the group made a fair number of purchases.

During the weekend, visits were made to Cologne, a city of some 1 1/4 million inhabitants, and the largest German city on the Rhine, and to the extremely pretty medieval town of Monschau, which was even more like a Christmas card when it started to snow as we arrived. Then on the following morning the coaches took us back into Holland to tour Maastricht and back to Valkenburg for a "train" ride through the extensive caves viewing the carvings and drawings on the walls dating back a number of years.

On the journey home there was a short break in Bruges, the "Venice of the North", and purveyor of the best chocolates around, and a short hypermarket stop for cheese and pate, and beers & wines as well!

The general opinion of the trip was very favourable, and quite apart from the regular attenders, there were a number of "first timers", many of whom are looking forward to our next trip. For those pensioners still to chalk up a few days away with a friendly group, why don't you join us.

PENSIONERS ENJOY A WEEKEND IN JERSEY

With many of the pensioners having just attended the retirement party for Barry Hook, they moved down Southmead Road a short distance and boarded 2 coaches in the early hours of Friday morning, the 24th April, en-route for Poole and the ferry to Jersey.

Some of the 90 travelling found the crossing a little choppy, but they were soon having cooked breakfast at the Hotel Le Coie, their base for the weekend. The rest of Friday allowed them to find their way about St. Helier, and catch up on some lost sleep, before a full day coach tour of the island on Saturday. Entertainment was laid on at the hotel each evening, and most of the crowd took full advantage of this (and the adjacent bars!!). Just to make them feel really at home one of the evening meals was interrupted by the hotel fire alarm, resulting in an evacuation of the building, and of course some pertinent comments to the officer-in-charge of the 2 pump attendance.



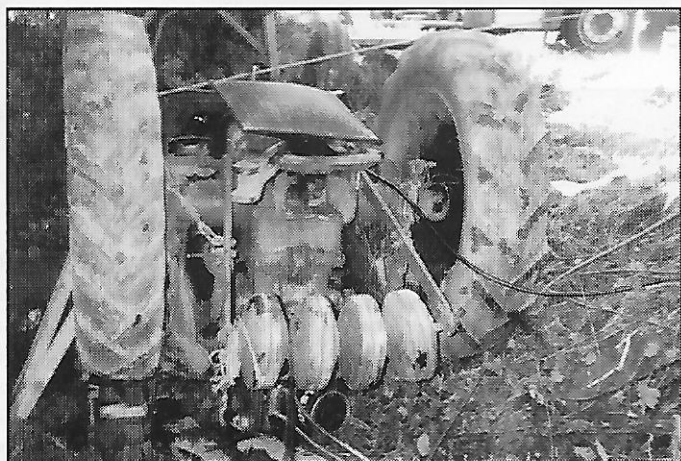
Pensioners Group enjoying a tour of Jersey

Visitors are well catered for in Jersey, and the underground German Hospital and the various gold and pearl outlets attracted quite a few of the 90 strong contingent.

With the return journey not starting until Monday evening it really was a long weekend, and quite a few members thought it was one of the best trips we had done.

A. J. Townsend
Social Secretary, Pensioners Association

Highbury Farm, Hallatrow Rescue



At 15:05 hours on 10th October 1997 the Brigade was alerted by Ambulance Control to an incident at Highbury Farm, Harts Lane, Hallatrow to a person trapped underneath a tractor. B31 was dispatched with B12, B16 and ADO Rice.

En-route to the incident all responding appliances were advised by radio that the person had been trapped beneath the tractor for over four hours.

B31, with SubO. Broderick in charge, was the first appliance in attendance. He was faced with an old style tractor (without cab) that had rolled

completely over and dropped down a bank of about 6' depth and come against a building's wall, trapping the driver completely underneath.

SubO. Broderick, having assessed the situation, asked for A56 (MRT) for lifting, but the Major Rescue Tender was not available. B31's crew had got to work with high pressure air bags in an attempt to lift the tractor, but this was to no avail. B12 and B16 were in attendance 13 minutes after B31.

The casualty was found to be fully conscious and was able to talk to his rescuers, and advised that the tractor was slowly sinking into the soft ground and was pressing heavier onto him. An attempt was made to use high pressure air bags again, but with Bath's as well as Paulton's, but again this failed to lift the tractor. The low pressure air bags normally carried were not available.

I then took the decision to use the Hurst spreaders as the only readily available means of trying to lift the tractor, but at the same time asking for the attendance of A16 with its high-ab and low pressure air bags for a backup.

With all crews working in very close co-operation, and with the farm hands supplying a stream of packing planks, B1's spreaders were put to work on a base of planks and in the centre of the tractor near the rear. The tractor was stabilised using a turfor winch anchored to another tractor, and a high pressure air bag was placed between the building and the large tractor wheel. Slowly the tractor was lifted using the jack and pack method until a point was reached when B31's crew using their Hurst Combi-Tool, could cut off the gear stick and push back the tractor's mud guard.

It was at this point that the casualty wriggled himself out with the help of firefighters pulling him. Apart from getting diesel and hydraulic fuel oil in his eyes and all over him, his only injury was to his left arm.

From the time of the arrival of the Brigade it took nearly 50 minutes to release the casualty. This was a very precarious rescue, and was a superb effort by all concerned.

Sub Officer Bob Bunyar
B1 Bath



Date: Sunday 23rd November 1997
Time: 21:14
Address: Old Crow Public House, Crow Lane, Henbury
Appliances: A22, A31, A32, A35, A52, B61, B69

The Officer-in-Charge of the first attendance immediately made pumps four and requested the attendance of a hydraulic platform as soon as he arrived as flames were visible through the roof of the premises all along the first floor level. Four jets, 2 high pressure hose reels and an aerial monitor were required to bring the blaze under control. Crews were in attendance for about four hours. The cause of the fire was thought to be an electrical fault.

Date: Wednesday 11th February 1998
Time: 17:30
Address: Chelwood Bridge to Pensford on the A37
Appliances: A1, A16, C6

The female driver of the Montego was badly trapped in the wreckage of her car following this R.T.A. It took about 1.5 hours to cut her free and a medical team from the B.R.I. also attended due to her injuries.



Date: Thursday 12th February 1998
Time: 03:50
Address: 66 Howes Close, Longwell Green, Bristol
Appliances: B6, B7

Firefighters arrived to find flames coming out of the lounge window and persons were unaccounted for. The first BA crews located the occupier on the first floor landing and rescued him, tragically he died later in hospital. A total of 6 firefighters in BA used 2 H.P.H.R. to extinguish a severe ground floor fire which also killed the family pet dog.

Date: Saturday 14th February 1998
Time: 14:05
Address: Old Hospital, Uphill Road North, Uphill, Weston-Super-Mare
Appliances: C11, C12, C14, C15, C21, C22, C8, B77, A55

Firecrews were called to a fire in the roof void which rapidly escalated and required six pumps and two aerials to bring under control. Approximately 30% of the roof was destroyed but firefighters actions prevented the fire spreading into the nearby chapel roof. The incident closed at 21:04.



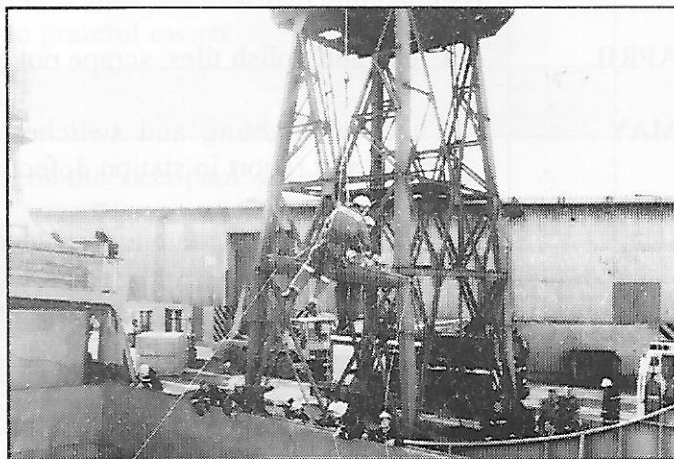


Date: Sunday 22nd February 1998
Time: 12:29
Address: Old Railway Tavern, Belmont Street, Easton
Appliances: A11, A12, A13

Three pumping appliances from Temple Back were called to a fire in a derelict public house and on arrival were faced with a well established and intense fire on the ground, first and second floors. Four firefighters wearing BA quickly brought the blaze under control using five jets and two high pressure hosereels.

Date: Tuesday 24th February 1998
Time: 10:48
Address: R Shed, Avonmouth Docks, Avonmouth
Appliances: A32, A36, A11, A13, A15, A16, A17

Whilst unloading granite from the hold of the M.V. Kim, approximately two tons of baled timber fell on to a docks worker trapping him in the hold. High pressure air bags were used to remove the wood along with a fork lift truck, which allowed paramedics access to the casualty. A dockside crane was used to lift the casualty onto the quayside. Tragically the man died as a result of his injuries. A docks police officer also had to be rescued when he fell into the water between the ship and the quayside.



Date: Wednesday 11th March 1998
Time: 15:37
Address: High Bannerdown, Bath Easton
Appliances: B11, B12

Firefighters arrived at this garage fire with flames through the roof and exploding aerosols coming at them. The fire destroyed a vintage Rolls Royce and Bentley, and the elderly house owner was badly burnt and lucky to survive.

Date: Monday 30th March 1998
Time: 13:07
Address: Champion Chemicals, Bristol Road, Portishead
Appliances: A12, A13, A19, A31, A32, B42, B49, C32

Following a spillage of hydrochloric acid from a tank making a delivery, firefighters were at this incident un. 17:00. Teams of 2 in chemical suits and BA used 1.5 tons soda ash and 1 ton of sand to deal with the spillage and total of 18 firefighters were used to make safe.



Monthly Routines

(With Effect From 1st April 1999)

This list is intended as an 'aide memoire' (to remind you) to enhance the efficient administration and operational readiness of premises and personnel.

1st MONDAY OF EACH MONTH

JANUARY	Thoroughly clean and bleach bath, sinks and urinals.
FEBRUARY	Polish chrome work and wash, dry and iron shower curtain.
MARCH	Replace tap washers as necessary and clean and de-scale inside of 'U' bends.
APRIL	Clean and polish tiles, scrape out loose and flaking grout and replace as necessary.
MAY	Check all lighting and switches for defects, trace all surface wiring, including loft space, and report in station defects book.
JUNE	Remove, dust, vacuum and replace all loft insulation as necessary.
JULY	Stop and fill any visible infestation holes in beams (paperwork to Estate Services and enter SR3 as necessary).
AUGUST	Re-render outside of building and pebble dash as required.
SEPTEMBER	Replace all windows with new double glazed units.
OCTOBER	Rotate anti-clockwise by 15 degrees the tower, (16 degrees in a leap year), to minimise weathering effects.
NOVEMBER	Dismantle a maximum of 1 sq metre of brick work and count, by weighing, the wall insulation. Replace and make good the wall.
DECEMBER	Stand down 24 days prior to, and 6 days after Christmas Day. All other days to be worked as per Bank Holiday routine.

2nd MONDAY OF EACH MONTH

F.B.U. OFFICIAL	Arrange all notices within the building, so as to present a uniform and aesthetically pleasing appearance.
CANTEEN REP	In order to maintain good healthy crews, all goods to be bought and stored by descending calorific values, left to right.

Just remember boy's "A GOOD SHIP IS A HAPPY SHIP", of which you are the duty crew, whose moral and ethical responsibility to off duty watches is only usurped by the trust and admiration instowed (and bestowed) upon you by the aforesaid general auditor (and his dog). Remember, by carrying out these simple jobs, you could turn a 'minus two' into almost anything.

A.D.O. R.M.S. TITANIC

**Anonymous
Avonmouth, Green Watch**

Direct Action Firefighters' Test (D.A.F.T.)

Subject: Special Services Calls

Tick appropriate box - Time allowed 3 hours? Take 5 if you need it.

		True	False
	Cat up a tree		
1A	Climb the tree wearing heavy duty gloves and try and grab the beast, or knock it down with a well aimed jet		
1B	Call out the cat's name or "puss puss" and the little darling will immediately come scampering down to be handed over to grateful owner		
	Persons locked out		
2A	Find open window and gain access, present the occupant with a whopping great bill		
2B	Produce a bunch of skeleton keys and nonchalantly let the occupant in, leave some free tickets for the next 'Firefighters Ball' and depart with a cheery wave		
	Flooding		
3A	Turn off the stop-cock		
3B	Bail out every droplet of water, dry clean the carpets, replace all damaged light fittings, artex the ceiling, re-tile the bathrooms and service the boiler. Before leaving the crew offer to come back on their 4 days off to do some decorating		
	Persons trapped in lift		
4A	Send for the caretaker		
4B	Firefighter absails down lift shaft, drops into lift car through emergency escape hatch, hands out replacement under garments to frightened passengers, he then proceeds to jemmy open door and all concerned scramble out, just as the cables snap...		

N.B. Answers will be in the next issue, or they can be obtained on the Internet Web Site at:
www.daft.flip/flop.sad.com

Alfie Hynds
B6 Green Watch

Details from a Service Report

Turnout: A13, A15
 Fire Type: "Dangerous Balls"
 Address: Galaxy 101, Baldwin Street, Bristol

"It's not all chip pans and chimneys!!"

Mathematics Quiz No. 1 (Answer)

Four Days

(Just because it's logical doesn't mean it has to make sense.)

The Bath Christmas Draw



B1 Bath's annual fundraising Christmas draw was once again a huge success. Firefighters Paul Briant, Mike Dwyer and Jon Godwin organised the raffle, which is held at the Fire Station, and are very grateful and wish to thank all the traders and organisations which donated prizes.

Our photograph shows childrens TV presenter Jenny Powell drawing the winning ticket. Jenny was appearing in pantomime at the Theatre Royal in Bath, and kindly volunteered her services.

A grand total of £732 was raised, and a cheque for £323 was presented to the Dorothy House Foundation, a Winsley based hospice. From the proceeds they were also able to entertain 12 children from the John Apley Ward, Royal United Hospital at the Fire Station's Childrens' Christmas Party, which was enjoyed by over 60 children.

A 30lb turkey was presented to the hight shelter in Monves Street, and a donation was made to the Fire Services National Benevolent Fund.

Well done to all involved from B1 Bath!

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