



# The Branch

APRIL 2014



## Newsletter of Wiltshire Retired Firefighters Association

### Wiltshire Council “Doing Things Differently in Elderly Care”



Jane Scott OBE

Despite the severe financial pressures bearing down upon the unitary authority, Wiltshire Council Leader, Jane Scott OBE, has published a statement declaring the council's commitment to investing in helping the most vulnerable in the county. Councillor Scott makes particular mention of the elderly in the following terms.

***Our growing older population means that we have to do things differently to meet the demand for adult care services. Working with the Clinical Commissioning Group and other NHS partners, we are integrating health and social care to deliver better care focused on helping people stay in their own home and community.***

It is certain that any such changes will impact upon some members of our association and/or their family members. It is already known to us that there is sometimes a shortfall in the quality of the council's support

and the WRFA would therefore like to monitor the experiences of any of our members that are subjected in the future to the “doing things differently” approach that Councillor Scott has signalled. This doesn't mean that the Executive Committee is only interested in a failure of the council to deliver the “better care” referred to by Councillor Scott. If examples of better care are experienced, we should like to hear about them..

### Final Salute to Hughie

#### Hughie Cook's funeral cortege passes Trowbridge Fire Station

Hughie Cook was given a final salute by the station personnel on duty at Trowbridge Fire Station as his funeral cortege passed on its way to West Wilts Crematorium.

Full obituary on page 5 of this newsletter.

Photo by kind permission of Wiltshire Times & Trevor Porter



## SPRING LUNCH

Yet again the **Grasmere House Hotel** in Salisbury treated us to a four-course lunch of amazing quality at an extremely competitive price on Sunday 16th March. The delicious meal was served in the Conservatory Restaurant with its superb view across the river to the Cathedral. Sixty three members and guests enjoyed this occasion and this number included a party of ten from



Three members of the Hampshire party ; Philip and Mary Griffiths and Andy Anderson



The view diners enjoyed from the Conservatory Dining Room

over the border in Hampshire. This made the lunch another step forward in our association forging even stronger links with our sister association, the Hampshire Fire & Rescue Service Past members Association. Just to put the seal on a very happy and successful event, the weather was perfect enabling diners to make full use of the terrace for the partaking of aperitifs.



### SUNDAY LUNCH

1st June 2014

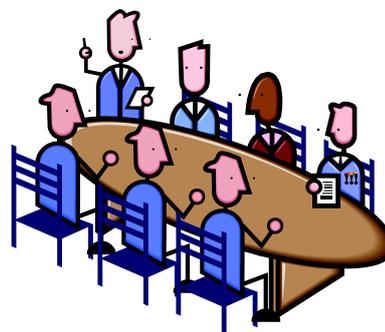
#### Cumberwell Park Golf Club

Our next social event is lunch at 12.30pm on the above date.

We are returning to this venue after a very pleasing experience there last year.

For a superb three-course lunch the price is only £15.00

Booking form via our website



### NOMINATIONS WANTED

The lunch on 1st June 2014 will be followed by a short meeting taking the form of our

#### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

Nominations are now being sought for the election of the Executive Committee.

**THERE IS A PARTICULAR NEED FOR A NOMINEE TO STAND TO REPLACE JIM BETTS IN SOUTH AREA.**

Tel; 01380 726343

## People & Places

### DID YOU TRAIN WITH JOHN?

**John Payne** is trying to track down a course photograph for the recruit's course that he attended at Temple Back in Bristol and he needs to know the course number and precise dates which he no longer has on record. Can you help?

If so, please contact the editor of this newsletter in the first instance on 01380 726343 and you will be given John's contact details.



### NEW MEMBERS

The following have joined the WRFA very recently.

**Maurice Coleman, Ruth Wiltshire, Liz Maggs, Joyce Smith, Rev. Canon Henry Pearson, Charlie Cribbes and Terry Thomas.**

To all of them we extend a very warm and sincere welcome.

### RECRUITING NEW MEMBERS

New members are welcome and if you know of anyone that you think should be a member, please notify John Craig on 01380 726343

### SUPPORT FOR GETTING ONLINE



There are still about 40% of WRFA members that do not own or use a computer of any kind and are therefore excluded from the benefits of internet access. Happily, there is a way forward if you are one of these and you are seeking a painless route to becoming computer literate and opening up a whole new dimension to life in retirement.

The **Wiltshire Council** offers training **free of charge** and if you do not yet own or have access to a computer, tablet or smartphone, this need not be an obstacle to the training because these can be loaned to you. If you would like to receive one-to-one instruction, this is available. Alternatively, you might prefer to attend a computer club and be taught with others. There is choice and flexibility in the way that the

programme operates. To find out more you are warmly invited to call **01225 793349**.

If you have a **disability** and would like to be taught to get Internet access, there is another scheme available to you.

This too is **free of charge**. It is called

**ABILITY NET IT**. The first step to using this scheme is to

Call on **0800 269545**.

**To live in the modern world without basic computer skills is a disadvantage.**





# Health Matters

News and views about health



**MONICA TOVEY**

Monica was admitted to GWH, Swindon twice in the latter quarter of last year. Her treatment has given relief which it is hoped will prove to be a long term cure for gall stones but there is a possibility that further treatment may be necessary. Monica was a nurse before entering the fire brigade and she viewed with particular interest the report in the last edition of THE BRANCH that referred to the Care Quality Commission finding that some wards had unacceptable standards of cleanliness. Monica wishes to emphasise that she turned a critical eye on cleanliness during her two stays in GWH and she could find nothing to criticise and observed that cleaning was done to a good standard.

**PATRICK GILLIAM-HILL**



Patrick is suffering from water retention that has caused his legs to become swollen. He is undergoing tests to find a diagnosis that will hopefully lead to successful treatment. We wish him a speedy recovery.

**LEN & YVE BENWELL**

Always one to be noted for his timing, Len decided to have his heart attack in December while on a flight to Turkey. Despite the spoilt holiday, Len recovered and is now home and responding well to new medication. No more scares like that one, please, Len

Yve Benwell has had surgery to remove a patch of skin cancer known in medical parlance as basal cell carcinoma. She is recovering very well.

**PETE WIXEY**

Pete was admitted to GWH Swindon on 4th April but stayed just long enough for him to be given a course of strong antibiotics before he was discharged to home. We hope those drugs do the trick, Pete. However, it is likely that he must return as an out-patient for further tests and possible treatment.

**ERNIE TOUGH**

Ernie was recently admitted to GWH, Swindon suffering from a chest infection and pneumonia. He is now over 90 years and has lost his sight. We extend to Ernie our warmest wishes for his speedy recovery.

The defibrillator station sited on the exterior wall of  
**Tilshead Village Hall**  
 (See below)  
 Photo by  
**John Craig**



**DEFIBRILLATORS**

Because of the problems the South West Ambulance Trust is having in meeting response times to 999 calls in rural areas, the Trust is providing defibrillators for public use and is providing training to some people in the locality. The Fire & Rescue Service also have this equipment to use in cases of cardiac arrest. So far 171 units have been supplied by the Trust to potential users within Wiltshire.

## Obituaries

### HUGH (“HUGHIE”) STANLEY COOK

Members of our Association were very sorry to learn of the passing of Hughie Cook on 21st March 2014 aged 70. Hughie died in Southmead Hospital, Bristol after a second failed kidney transplant operation. Hughie left school to work on a farm under his father who managed it. However, Hughie soon realised that he could not make a good living as a farm labourer and he took employment at the Avon Rubber in Melksham. He joined the Works Fire Brigade and this led him into applying to become a fulltime fireman with Wiltshire Fire Brigade. At the age of 31, Hughie was accepted into the brigade and he served at Trowbridge for 24 years. Hughie was happily married to Diane for 49 years and he was devoted to his wife, children and grandchildren all of whom adored him..

Hughie was fun to be around. He had an impish sense of humour and a smile and a cheery word were never far from his lips. He made friends very easily and this was due in no small part to his generosity and kind heartedness.



Hughie Cook

After retirement from the brigade, Hughie and Diane lived for several years in Spain and then later in France. This meant that we did not see as much of them in the WRFA as we should have liked. However, in very recent years, Hughie and Diane joined the WRFA Walking Group and enjoyed several of the well organised santerers that always finish with a meal and welcome drink at a Wiltshire hostelry.

Hughie's funeral took place on 2nd April 2014. On the way to the crematorium at Semington the cortege drove past Trowbridge Fire Station affording the station personnel the opportunity to pay their last respects by parading on the station forecourt to give Hughie a final salute. At the crematorium a massive gathering of mourners meant that there was difficulty in fitting everyone into the chapel. Such a huge turnout said much about the affection and respect in which Hughie was held by so many.

We are already missing Hughie very much indeed. Our sincere sympathy goes to Diane and the other members of Hughie's family. Rest in peace, Hughie.



Martyn Snell

### MARTYN SNELL

It was with much sorrow that our members received the news of the passing of Martyn Snell at GWH, Swindon after a short illness. He was aged 68 years. Martyn was born in Gloucestershire and moved to Malmesbury in the 1960s. He was a qualified plumber and his fulltime employment included work for the Malmesbury Borough Council followed by a time with the Water Authority. Martyn joined the Wiltshire Fire Brigade as a retained fireman at Malmesbury on the day the new fire station in Gloucester Road opened in 1969. He gradually rose through the ranks to become the station commander before being forced in 2000 to retire at the statutory retirement age. However, his service to the brigade continued when he was appointed by Wiltshire Fire & Rescue Service as a Hydrant Inspector, a job to which he was well suited by his previous experience and trade qualifications. He retired from the brigade completely in 2012.

However, in parallel with his fire service work, Martyn served the community as a

local politician. He served on the town council from 1984 until his death. He was honoured by being elected as Mayor in 1985 and again in 1994. Martyn was also appointed as the Warden and Freeman of Malmesbury followed by appointment as Capital Burgess and High Steward.

Martyn developed a strong interest in insurance fire marks and built up an enviable private collection of these. He also recorded the location in a personal register of any fire marks in Wiltshire that were still attached to buildings.

Martyn is survived by his wife, Liz, and 5 children and 10 grandchildren.

The funeral service and burial in Malmesbury Cemetery took place on 8th April Our sincere sympathy has been expressed to Liz and Martyn's family.

### LORNA EVANS

As THE BRANCH went to press the sad news arrived that Lorna Evans, widow of the late Cecil Evans, died on 26th March age 90. Cecil was a WRFA having retired to Swindon after a career in Northants Fire Brigade. John Gentleman represented the Association at Lorna's funeral on 16th April.

# Obituary

## Frank Rushbrook CBE

On 17th February 2014 the world lost a man who must be credited with having made a major contribution to international fire protection, particularly in the maritime world. **Frank Rushbrook** passed away peacefully aged 99, in his native city of Edinburgh.

Frank Rushbrook left school at 14 to be apprenticed in his father's business but the business was not prospering so he left to become a photographer in the Edinburgh Fire Service. He later transferred to become a fireman in the same brigade and then along came the Second World War during which the service was nationalised in 1941. Frank saw action fighting fires started by air raids and he was sent to the head of a ladder to rescue a woman trapped in a bombed house. The lady was reluctant to step out of the window onto Frank's ladder until she had found her false teeth. Frank responded with "what do you think the Jerries are dropping, sandwiches?"



**Frank Rushbrook**  
Photo by courtesy of  
Scottish Fire & Rescue Service

In the 1950s Frank was appointed Third Officer in Leicester City Fire Brigade but quickly moved to become Deputy Firemaster in Lanarkshire before moving south again to become Chief Fire Officer of East Ham. He returned to Scotland in 1960 on appointment as Firemaster (Chief Fire Officer) of South East Area Fire Service that included the city of Edinburgh.

Frank's deep interest in the control and prevention of fires in ships and port installations gradually grew until he was acknowledged as one of the world's greatest experts on the subject. He wrote two books entitled *Fire Aboard* and *Ship Fires and the Law*, both of which are still regarded as important reference books on maritime fire fighting. In retirement Frank set up a consultancy the services of which were in demand all over the world. Frank was called as an expert witness at several court cases relating to ship fires.

Frank was a lifelong supporter of the Institution of Fire Engineers and was honoured with election as its president. One of his greatest achievements after retirement from the fire service was to persuade the University of Edinburgh to establish a Department of Fire Safety Engineering to which Frank regularly gave his time as a visiting lecturer.

Frank was appointed CBE in 1970.

Although I was a mere boy at the time, I met Frank when he was serving in Leicester City. My father served as an officer under Frank Rushbrook in that brigade and I know that he held him in very high regard. My personal opinion is that when the Fire Service College built the concrete ship to train students in ship fire fighting tactics, the Home Office should have named it after Frank.

**JOHN CRAIG**

# AMBULANCE TRUST CONDEMNS RURAL COMMUNITIES TO SECOND CLASS EMERGENCY RESPONSE

MP CRITICAL OF “CAVALIER APPROACH”

The management of the **South West Ambulance Trust** has notified doctors in rural areas that their attempts to provide emergency ambulance response to meet national standards throughout their area are being abandoned and rural areas will receive a slower response than cities and towns. The trust is duty bound to meet the eight minute target across the whole of its massive area but it proposes to do this by concentrating on making very fast response in urban areas so that when averaged out with the much worse response times in rural areas the target is met. This intention to manipulate the performance statistics might be seen as a mockery of the NHS spending considerable sums on TV advertising encouraging people to call an ambulance without delay if they suspect that someone is suffering a stroke because seconds count. The same can be said of many other forms of medical emergency.



**JAMES GRAY MP**

Whatever means you use to dial 999, this MP knows that those living in rural Wiltshire are going to have to suffer an inferior ambulance service.

The announcement has attracted strong criticism from Member of Parliament for North Wiltshire, James Gray, who has long voiced his concerns about the way that amalgamations of the ambulance service have led to rural areas of Wiltshire and other counties being given a downgraded service. He is calling the attitude of the ambulance trust bosses “cavalier” and is stating that his past warnings have come true.

Even when they have been trying hard to meet the national response time target of eight minutes, the South West Ambulance Trust managers have only been able to provide a service in Wiltshire that is close to being the worst in the UK. It remains to be seen if this will deteriorate further now that the pressure to meet targets in rural areas is deemed to have been lessened.



James Gray, commenting on the proposed new

approach has said that what he feared would happen in the wake of the amalgamation of the ambulance services is happening. Resources are being taken away from rural areas in order to bolster the service to those living in cities and towns.

It remains to be seen what impact if any the new approach from the trust will have on the other emergency services, particularly the fire and rescue service. For many years the Wiltshire Fire & Rescue Service has provided a co-responder service to the Ambulance Trust to give support from fire crews trained in life support techniques when the ambulance control knows it is not able to make a rapid response to a 999 call for an ambulance. However, the fire and rescue service is itself cash-strapped and considering seriously an amalgamation with Dorset Fire & Rescue Service.

The situation concerning the blue light services in Wiltshire seems to become more complicated by the hour. JOHN CRAIG

Photos on this page are by courtesy of the Gazette & Herald



## KEN'S PAGE

Chairman of the Board of Trustees  
Fire Fighters Charity



Ken Seager

In this edition of *The Branch* . I thought I'd concentrate on the importance of our **local volunteer networks**.

We have a great charity and like the very best fire and rescue service, we have great staff. They're well trained and highly motivated; we have fantastic facilities that were in fact described ,quite correctly in my view ,as "world class" by a peer review. We're ready to respond at a moment's notice when someone in the fire community is in crisis.

So far, so good, but where the parallel ends is that in the case of a fire and rescue service almost everybody from an early age knows to call 999 if they need help. In the case of the Fire Fighters Charity, there is a patchy system for ensuring those

who need help can find it. Yes, we have a website and a simple free helpline number **0800 389 8820** but it is not as well known as 999.

When I talk to our beneficiaries at our centres, I am struck by how many, in fact nearly all, say that **someone else** suggested they should contact the Fire Fighters Charity when they needed help. What this tells me is that despite all the advantages of modern technology and communications, there is still and probably always will be, a need for that personal touch in putting those in need with those who can help.

As people in the fire community we grew up looking after our mates and being there for others. It was second nature. In many places, that same spirit is harnessed and we have a strong network of **station representatives** keeping an eye out for people in need. In other places, we don't have that network, and it must be the case that some people suffer in ignorance of what we can do for them. We are working hard to rebuild our station representative network across the UK's fire and rescue services. If you're a serving member reading this, ask yourself, do you have a Fire Fighter's Charity representative in your workplace? If not, why don't **you** take it on? You don't have to worry about knowing much about our charity. We're happy to give advice in all circumstances and point people to help even if we cannot give it ourselves. Just encourage those in need to call our friendly helpline people and your job is done. You could be the key that unlocks all our services and makes a difference to one of your mates.

**You could be the KEY that unlocks  
all our services and makes a difference  
to one of your mates**



For those of us in the **RETIRED COMMUNITY** , personal contact is even more important because we lose touch with our former colleagues over time. I know **WRFA** sets a high value on this. I applaud that and only wish that others were as diligent. Keep an eye on your old friends, if only by the occasional telephone call, and remember when chatting to ask if there is anything the Fire Fighters Charity can do to help them. You can even call us on **0800 389 8820** and give the name and number of someone needing help and **we will call them**, so long as they have given you permission to act on their behalf.

Thank you for all you do for us and your old colleagues. Until next time, keep safe and well.

*Ken Seager*



# WELCOME !

## About some of our new members

### CHARLIE CRIBBES

Charlie Cribbes has recently joined the WRFA. He was a retained firefighter in Oxfordshire for 15 years. He served initially at Eynesford and then at Burford.

Charlie is married to Heather who is the daughter of our Chairman, Chris Wannell. Charlie and Heather live near Burford and Heather works in a legal practice based in Malmesbury. Charlie is an engineer . They have no children but delight in a common interest in steam traction. They own a steam traction engine named 'Jimmy'.

We extend a warm welcome to Charlie and Heather.



Charlie & Heather  
Photo by John Craig



Judith and Henry Pearson

### THE REVD. CANON HENRY PEARSON

Canon Henry Pearson has recently joined WRFA. He served as a retained firefighter at Debenham in Suffolk from 1983 to 1991, incorporating those duties with those of Brigade Chaplain and local Vicar. He moved to Marlborough in 1993 to become Vicar and on promotion to Canon took up a church appointment in Dorset. Henry and his wife Judith have moved back to Marlborough after retirement. We wish Henry and Judith a very warm welcome.

### TERRY THOMAS

Terry has been warmly received into the WRFA very recently. He served for 20 years as a retained firefighter at Malmesbury.

We hope to see him with his wife Betty at many of our social functions and we wish them many years of happy fellowship with us in the future.



Betty and Terry Thomas

### COMING OUR WAY

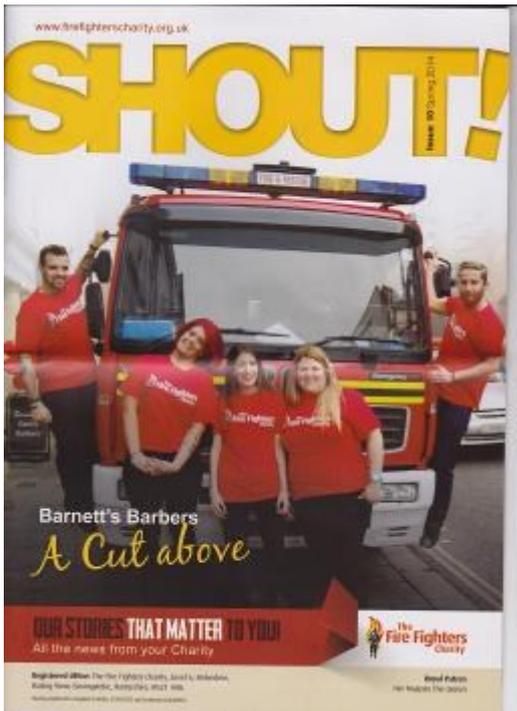
We hope to be welcoming into full membership very soon **DAVID TURNER** who, with his wife Isobel, is in the process of moving home from Barnstaple in Devon to Warminster. David has served in Greater Manchester Fire Service, the Crown Property Inspectorate and in Devon before retiring. David and Isobel found our website and made an enquiry through it about joining us. Having discovered a little of what we do and who we are, David and Isobel have indicated that they are looking forward to becoming active members and meeting up with some of the membership. David and Isobel hope to move to Wiltshire towards the end of May. David and Isobel, a warm welcome awaits you here.



## JOHN PARRY RETIRES CEO OF OUR CHARITY DEPARTING



**John Parry** will be leaving the Fire Fighters Charity soon after three years as its Chief Executive. He will depart as soon as a replacement can be appointed. News of John's decision to retire has been received with much sadness by the Board of Trustees and throughout the charity. John has been a good friend to this Association and we wish him health and happiness in the future.



## DID YOU GET YOUR COPY?

All members of the WRFA should have received a copy of the Spring edition of 'SHOUT' magazine published and distributed by the Fire Fighters Charity. Your copy should have arrived by post.

If you have not yet received your copy, please contact JOHN CRAIG 01380 726343.

If you have any items for publication in 'SHOUT' they can be forwarded to the editor via John Craig.

## WRFA WALKING SECTION

**If you will excuse the pun, our Association's WALKING SECTION continues to take great strides.** The group meet monthly and the next occasion after this newsletter is likely to reach you will be on **28th May, 2014**. The route for this walk is still in planning stage so watch for details on the website or contact **PHIL APPLEBY** via John Craig on 01380 726343



A typical walk inside the county covers about 5 miles at a not too

arduous pace, always finishing at a place where refreshment is available in adequate quantity and quality (a good pub!).

So successful is the section proving that a more ambitious venture is at advanced planning stage. On **July 15th 2014** the group will travel to the Gower in South Wales for a two-day expedition. Hotel accommodation is being booked at a very reasonable rate in Swansea. Transport will be by minibus from Chippenham. An attempt is being made to recruit Ken Power to act as interpreter. For more information, contact **PHIL APPLEBY** via the editor of this newsletter.

# ABOUT YOUR PENSION AND BENEFITS



**STEVE WEBB MP**  
Minister for Pensions

## Government may forecast date of your death

The pensions minister, **Steve Webb MP**, is reported to be giving serious consideration to offering pensioners a forecast of when they are likely to die. The minister believes that by taking into account factors such as family history, health records, smoking habits, exercise regime, occupation before retirement, he will be able to give pensioners a fairly accurate estimate of the date when they will die. The purpose behind this is to help pensioners regulate their financial affairs so that they do not run out of savings before the Grim Reaper comes to call.

Actuarial forecasts are not new and have been used by life insurers for many years when working out life insurance premiums on an individual basis. However, it is breaking new ground for the government to want to dabble in such delicate matters.

## STATE PENSION SERVICE COULD BE PRIVATISED

A document not meant to be seen by the public has been leaked to the Guardian newspaper. It is marked 'restricted' and runs to 80 pages that contain details of a proposal to privatise the State Pension Service that sends out 4.5m pension statements every year and administers pension

payments close to £100bn annually. The Department of Work and Pensions is facing the challenge of cutting its budget by 2016 by 34%. This will leave it with a mere £6.5bn to spend compared to the £9bn it currently has budgeted. Outsourcing the service to a private company is being seriously considered as a means of finding the savings.

However, not surprisingly, critics of the proposal are appearing and pointing out the risks associated with placing such an important government service in the hands of a private company.



## ARE YOU CLAIMING ATTENDANCE ALLOWANCE?

**Are you over 65 and finding life a struggle because of health issues?** If you have answered 'yes' to the above you may be entitled to **Attendance Allowance which is not means tested and is tax free. WRFA can advise you how to apply.**

If you tick all the boxes below you could be eligible for Attendance Allowance.

I have a disability or illness

I need help with washing and dressing, or supervision to keep me safe day or night

I've needed help for at least six months

The allowance is currently £79.15 per week if you need help in both day and night

The allowance is £53 per week if you need help in day or night.

# WILL WE SEE THE RETURN OF “FIRE-BOBBIES”?

## Interoperability of Blue Light Services is Being Explored



They do say that true innovation is very rare but cyclic behaviour is very common. If you examine the history of fire protection in UK you don't have to go back very far to discover that police and fire brigades were integrated closely in some parts of the country, even to the point of the 'bobbies' performing the dual roles of police constables and firemen. At present, one of the 'buzz' words in the emergency services is INTEROPERABILITY, and some very interesting work is in progress in certain areas to try to see how police, ambulance and fire services can integrate and work more closely together. The driving force behind this is the need to save money, of course.

From 1877 until Nationalisation in 1941, Bristol Fire Brigade was run as an element of the police force with the Chief Constable carrying the title of 'Chief Constable & Director of Fire Brigade'. The senior rank in the fire brigade carried the rank of Superintendent .

After the NFS was disbanded in 1948 it became illegal for police to be employed as fire fighters and the law as it presently stands requires the governance of the separate services to be managed by a Chief Constable and a Chief Fire Officer respectively .However, this could and probably will be changed.

The lead in investigating closer interoperability between police and fire is being taken in **Northamptonshire**. The **Police and Crime Commissioner** for that county, Adam Simmonds, has gone public with his ambitious plans to draw the fire and rescue service under his wing and create the **Northamptonshire Emergency Service**. The government has blessed this research by providing funding for it . In a paper just published this month, Mr Simmonds goes so far as to ask the question “*why can't fire officers be empowered to act like Police Community Support Officers?*”

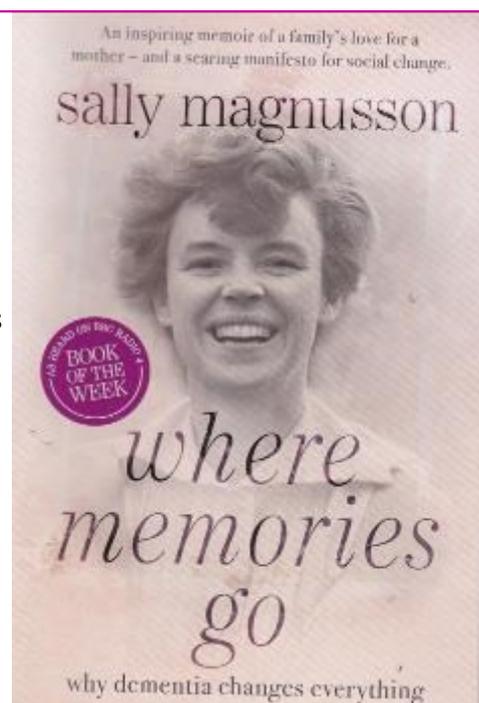
Mr Simmonds comments that he is encountering opposition to his proposals and still needs to win many hearts and minds. However, Mr Simmonds claims that his primary objective is to give the public a better service.

## BOOK REVIEW

You can count yourself lucky if you have reached retirement age without having encountered a family member or friend suffering from some form of dementia. The new book entitled **Where Memories Go** written by Sally Magnusson will therefore be of interest and assistance to many people. Sally will be known to many for her work as a TV presenter. Her mother, Mamie, was married to another broadcaster, Magnus Magnusson, and the book takes the reader in very sensitive fashion through the stages of the crisis that engulfed Sally and her family when Mamie developed dementia. Mamie was a respected journalist, said by many to have been one of the finest of her generation. However, the disease robbed her of her many gifts, talents and endearing personality traits. Sally writes about just how the family tried to cope with this .

The book is published by Two Roads

ISBN is 978-1-444-75178-9





## MONEY MATTERS

News about financial issues of relevance to pensioners

### CHANGE OF BANK ACCOUNT

On the advice of our bank, Lloyds, the WRFA has recently opened a new account that is said to be more appropriate for our type of association. It was not accomplished without considerable difficulty and the bank has paid £250 compensation for poor service. However, the new account is now in use. The account number and details are as follows

**Wiltshire Retired Firefighters Association**

**Account Number 28196668**

**Sort Code 77 50 05**

The old account is now closed and those members that pay their subscription by **standing order** will need to cancel the old one and make new instructions to their own bank. I shall be writing to help you do this as easily as possible well before next April. JOHN CRAIG



### DELAY IN COLLECTING SUBSCRIPTIONS

**This item is for the attention of those members that pay their annual subscription by automatic deduction from their fire pension paid through Wiltshire Council.** Due to an oversight at Fire & Rescue Service HQ, there was a delay in forwarding the relevant information to the payroll section which resulted in the deductions not being made from the April pension payment. This deductions should now be made from the May pension payment and the payment advice slip that is sent out towards the end of April should show a deduction of £10.00 against the code 'ARF'. This stands for Association of Retired Firefighters.

### PREMIUM BOND CHANGES

The maximum holding that you can have in PREMIUM BONDS will change from 1st June 2014 from £30,000 to £40,000. There are no plans to change the tax-free interest rate of 1.3% that forms the prize fund, nor the odds of each bond winning which are 26,000 to 1. If you hold the current maximum of £30,000, the NS&I state that you can expect to win about 13 prizes a year.

### TWO TOGETHER RAILCARD

The first new railcard for 30 years has just been launched, known as the Two Together Railcard.

The card allows couples or two friends or relatives to travel together with a saving of one third of the normal ticket price. Both people named on the card must travel together on the same journey. The card costs £30 and lasts for a year. However, it cannot be used in conjunction with a Senior Railcard issued to the over 60s. To obtain a card call 0844 871 4036





## CAPTION COMPETITION

Len Benwell and a plate of cakes.

Your suggestions for a caption  
are invited, please.

Entries on a postcard or by email

Winner to be judged by

Yve Benwell.

## ANSWERS TO THE LAST COMPETITION



Hawker Hunter jet is parked outside Riverside  
MOT Centre, Melksham



Pub sign hangs outside the CASTLE & BALL hotel in  
Marlborough High Street



Road sign on the Calne to Lyneham road at  
GOATACRE

## DOWN MEMORY LANE



### DOES THIS JOG YOUR MEMORY?

A type and make of fire extinguisher once ubiquitous in the UK.

CAN YOU NAME IT?

When did you last use one?

Why was the extinguisher often found to be empty or in need of  
a top-up?

What was the name and chemical formula of the usual contents of these extinguishers.

What deadly gas was said to form if you sprayed the contents on a hot metal surface

(photo by JOHN CRAIG)

### DISCLAIMER

Views and opinions published in this newsletter are not necessarily those shared by the Wiltshire Retired Firefighters Association or the Wiltshire & Swindon Fire Authority