



The Branch

Newsletter of the

Wiltshire Retired Firefighters Association

AUGUST 2014

NEW MINISTER BRINGS FRESH APPROACH

In the cabinet reshuffle recently carried out by the prime minister, Brandon Lewis MP has been replaced by **PENNY MORDAUNT MP** as the junior minister at the Department for Communities & Local Government with responsibility for fire and rescue matters. Immediately Penny Mordaunt has announced new measures concerning the ongoing and protracted dispute with the Fire Brigades Union concerning pension reform. A concession has been made making the fire and rescue service members exempt from the change in the regulations that made 57 the minimum age at which the occupational pension can be claimed. The exemption allows fire fighters to claim their pension from age 55 and this is in recognition of the special circumstances of their employment.



Penny Mordaunt MP



Wiltshire FBU members picket County Hall

Photo by courtesy of Gazette & Herald

However, of far greater significance is the announcement made by the new minister on 7th August, Penny Mordaunt has set up an **INDEPENDENT REVIEW OF FIREFIGHTER CONDITIONS**. It seems that this review will dovetail with the report by Sir Ken Knight as he left office last year as the Government's chief advisor on fire and rescue. The man deemed by the Government to be capable of producing an independent review is Adrian Thomas. Mr Thomas is an expert in staff resourcing and personnel management. His remit is wide ranging and he is expected to consult widely on the controversial issues that have brought the FBU and the Government into bitter conflict. However, any hope of a swift settlement to the dispute was dashed

when the terms of the review made it clear that the report from Mr Thomas is not required to be completed until 2015 and there will then need to be time for the report's contents to be given careful consideration and debated before any final decisions come from it. The brief issued to Mr Thomas covers **management practices and crewing arrangements, collaboration and integration with other emergency services, the use of 'on call' fire fighters (once known as retained personnel), clarity of process in the fair recruitment and remuneration of chief fire officers and fire officers.**

Clearly, the Government does not feel under any pressure to bring the dispute to a swift conclusion and is using it as an opportunity to deal with a number of issues that it feels need attention other than the pension issue that brought the FBU into battle.

LUNCH AT THE PALLADIAN RESTAURANT, WILTON HOUSE & WESSEX COUNTRY FAIR , AUGUST 16th



Those members that attended the **WRFA** buffet lunch at the **Palladian Restaurant** at **Wilton** partook of a delicious meal. The restaurant is an annex of Wilton House and we were well looked after by the attentive staff. After lunch some of the more adventurous moved to the adjacent land on which the **Wessex Country Fair** was in progress providing much of great interest and entertainment. The weather was very kind and a good time was had by all with proceeds from the fair going to a good cause, Salisbury Hospice. (Photos by John Craig)

MORE HOME COMFORTS NEEDED IN CARE HOMES, SAYS MINISTER

As part of his drive to raise standards of care in care homes, the Minister for Care and Support, Rt. Hon. Norman Lamb MP, has called for more home comforts in the rooms occupied by the elderly. He is referring to items such as curtains and bedspreads being made more homely to remove the austere atmosphere that he has seen in some homes. The minister feels that all elderly patients, but particularly those with dementia, will feel more comfortable and at ease if more effort is applied to making their surroundings more like the family homes in which they have lived most of their lives before being taken into care. The minister was also heard in a recent TV broadcast to declare attempts to co-ordinate NHS services to the elderly with social care services as “hopeless”.



Rt. Hon. Norman Lamb MP

FRANK FIELD MP CALLS FOR PENSIONERS TO PAY NATIONAL INSURANCE AGAIN

It is no secret that the NHS is rapidly running out of cash and is facing a financial crisis. One very experienced Labour Member of Parliament, **Frank Field**, has put together a set of proposals as to how the ‘black hole’ in the NHS budget might be filled. His ideas centre on changes to the National Insurance system and they appear to be attracting attention from both Shadow Ministers such as Ed Balls and also the Health Secretary, Jeremy Hunt. One of the proposals tabled by Mr Field is that pensioners should be asked to continue paying National Insurance contributions after retirement if they wish to continue to receive free care. If they decline to pay NI contributions as pensioners, Mr Field proposes that they should be charged for any NHS services upon which they draw. Mr Field is also in favour of a levy of 10% to 15% on people’s estates after they die to cover the cost of them being in care in the last period of their life.



Frank Field MP



DOES OUTSOURCING IN THE PUBLIC SECTOR REALLY WORK?

Recent high profile failures of attempts to outsource UK public sector services to the private sector are said to have shaken the faith of many politicians in the privatisation of public services. The public is not in a position to make an informed judgement on such matters because the outsourcing contracts issued by government remain secret. This is leading to a growing call for greater transparency in how these contracts are awarded and how well the private companies perform in discharging the terms of the contract. It has long been advocated that outsourcing increases competition, reduces costs and increases efficiency. However, without the evidence to back up such claims there are growing doubts about them.



HEALTH MATTERS

News and views
about our pals facing
health challenges



JOHN & MAUREEN PERRY

John and Maureen have again been to Harcombe House in August.. This afforded John the opportunity of further therapy and Maureen a chance of some respite care. This was all provided by the Fire Fighters Charity. John's leg ulcer has at last healed. Great news!

GLEN FOREMAN

Glenn's tests for bowel cancer gave the hoped for result .He has recently been into GWH, Swindon for the test that gave an all clear. Glenn is expecting a call to go into hospital in Oxford soon for further cardiac surgery. Our good wishes go with him and Angie.

JIM BETTS

After returning home from a relaxing cruise, Jim has been afflicted by gout. He has enough health problems to cope with and we wish him a rapid recovery from this painful condition.

FOOD HYGIENE ALERT AT GWH, SWINDON

An inspection of the catering arrangements at Great Western Hospital, Swindon recently by the Food Standards Agency produced the rating of only 'one star' out of a possible five. This points to the need for considerable improvement in food hygiene at the hospital. Catering at GWH is sub-contracted to Carrillion. This same company was spotlighted recently when the care Quality Commission found cleaning standards of some wards at GWH to be at an unacceptably low standard. (Is sub-contracting a better way of providing services? See also bottom of page 3).

CURING HEART FAILURE WITH A SINGLE INJECTION COMING CLOSER

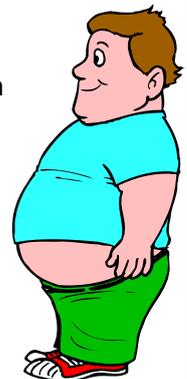
Researchers are very hopeful that they have discovered a new way to deal with heart failure that offers an exciting alternative to heart transplant. The experimental treatment is being trialled by Imperial College, London and it involves a simple injection. The treatment involves the use of gene therapy to repair failing



Injection to replace transplant?

LINK ESTABLISHED BETWEEN OBESITY AND CANCER

The UK is said to be in the grip of an obesity epidemic with more people than ever falling into the category of being overweight. Researchers into the causes of cancer think they have found a definite link between obesity and many different forms of cancer. Doctors and nutritional experts believe that about 12,000 UK cancer patients a year are seriously overweight and their cancer is attributable to this.





BLUE LIGHT NEWS AND VIEWS



UK POLICE MORALE AT AN “ALL-TIME LOW”

A survey published recently by the trade union UNISON has concluded that morale in the British police service has sunk to an all-time low. The prime reason for this the union claims is due to Government cutbacks reducing police resources at a time of increased demand for police services. This is causing great stress on individual officers and threats of job insecurity also extends to back office support staff. The survey also produced strong criticism of police managers claiming that they were giving insufficient support to subordinates at a time when the police service is going through a particularly difficult period of upheaval and challenge.

Speaking on television news in relation to the terrorist threat, very soon after the Unison survey was published, prime minister David Cameron stated that the Government regarded funding of the security and police services as a priority.



AMBULANCE TRUST PAY-OFFS CRITICISED

The huge sums paid to senior staff made redundant by the merger of ambulance services in the south west has been uncovered by the Taxpayer’s Alliance. A total of £2.4m was paid by the new trust to the 53 staff who lost their jobs in the merger. One senior member of staff pocketed £290,000 and several received payments of around £150,000. The Taxpayer’s Alliance has supported the merger in principle but been very critical of what it regards as the squandering of some of the savings by over generous “golden goodbye” pay-offs. The alliance also calls for more transparency in such matters.

LFB’S NEW TRAINING CENTRE

London Fire Brigade’s new training centre at Beckton was recently opened at a gala event by the Mayor of London, Boris Johnson. The centre is provided by the LFB’s training partner, Bobcock. It is declared to be a state-of-the-art facility that replaces the centre at Southwark that has served the LFB since 1878.

After the actual deed of opening the centre, Boris Johnson donned fire kit and, accompanied by the Fire Commissioner, Ron Ambrose, and the Chairman of the Fire Authority, James Cleverly, entered the fire house to experience some of the conditions that fire fighters under training will endure. The centre covers an area of 3,200 square metres and is indoor and all weather. The facility has been designed and built with an eye to being environmentally friendly.

DEFIBRILLATORS



The South Western Ambulance Trust is providing defibrillators at strategic public places throughout the vast area covered by the service. These are sited in rural areas where the attendance of an ambulance may not be swift enough to benefit a person suffering a cardiac arrest. The defibrillators are stored in a highly visible and easily accessed box. The one pictured is mounted on village hall at Tilshead. The units are safe to use by untrained people because the instructions are provided by the unit itself. Some villages are running training sessions to give added confidence to those who may have to use a defibrillator.

LES FIELDING

Globe Trotting Fire Safety Expert

The WRFA is proud to number among its many members those who have regarded finishing a career in the fire and rescue service as merely laying a foundation for what is to come. **LES FIELDING** is a classic example of such fire brigade pensioners.

Born and bred in south Yorkshire, Les joined the service there but transferred to Wiltshire in junior officer rank serving at Amesbury initially. He was a Group Manager (Divisional Officer to those of us not used to the new titles) when he retired from the service in 2005. In the latter part of his service, Les was given the task of maintaining oversight of the Studley Green Domestic Sprinkler Project in Trowbridge. This project made history because it was the first estate of houses in Europe to be protected by domestic sprinklers in addition to smoke alarms. This placed Les in a unique position to monitor the project from its inception and this allowed him to build a

knowledge base that few could equal outside the USA. It was therefore not surprising that when the **National Fire Sprinkler Network** formed to promote life protection from fire through the wider use of sprinklers in the UK, they eventually turned to Les to be its secretary. This was a key role that demanded tenacity, tact and strong administrative ability. Of course, the fact that Les could bring to the network the breadth and depth of his knowledge and experience of domestic sprinklers was a great advantage.



Les Fielding



Les is an example of those who see finishing a fire service career as laying down a foundation for even better things to come.

Les served the National Fire Sprinkler Network from 2004 to 20011 and did so with great distinction. So much so that when he stood down the gratitude of his colleagues was marked by the presentation to him of the Bernadette Hartley Award. This was presented to him by the then chairman of the NFSN , Ian Cox, (see photo left) . In 2005, Les ended his career in uniform that had started in 1977 when he joined South Yorkshire Fire Service.

Retirement from Wiltshire Fire Brigade opened up new opportunities for Les and he took full advantage of them. He had made a reputation for himself that meant he had little problem in securing a post with a London based and highly respected consultancy firm. The work with which he became involved was incompatible with him continuing to hold office on the NFSN but he has never lost his interest in promoting life protection sprinklers. His work focus changed to that of fire safety in **road and rail tunnels**. In particular, Les became a specialist in emergency response management and safety requirements as applied to tunnels. Sadly, it is a matter of record that fires in tunnels in Europe and world wide have created major problems and have claimed many lives. For example, the Channel Tunnel has already suffered three severe fires in its comparatively short life that have proved very costly and extremely disruptive to cross channel business. (CONTINUED ON PAGE 7)

Les Fielding (continued)

Lorries burning fiercely in the St. Gotthard Tunnel, Switzerland.

Eleven people died in this fire that

taught many lessons to fire safety experts and fire fighters, including the importance of providing emergency smoke ventilation



In the latter part of his service with Wiltshire Fire & Rescue Service, Les was involved with two major projects that clearly gave him knowledge and experience that provided him with a useful base on which to work in private consultancy focused on tunnels. Les was the fire officer delegated to represent the fire & rescue service on the project that was set up to build a tunnel carrying part of the A303 road adjacent to Stonehenge. The project was eventually shelved and Les puts this down to the lack of political will to face up to the financial aspects of the project.

The other project before he retired was the review of the fire safety arrangements at the underground risks in the Corsham area of Wiltshire. Les was appointed lead officer and worked closely with HM Inspector of Mines, the mine owners, the MoD.

To run one's eye over the list of work with which Les has become involved as a consultant is very impressive to say the least. To quote but one example, Les has been deeply involved in the planning and development of the Hindhead Tunnel on the A3 in Surrey. This work was relatively close at hand for him but other assignments have taken him to remote parts of the world. For example, he has worked in Vietnam on the Haivan Tunnel. He was instrumental in the commissioning of the zero velocity longitudinal ventilation system there.

Les's globetrotting really took off when he became involved as a technical committee member of the **World Road Association (PIRAC)** on which he represents the UK. The work of the association spans the globe and Les has so established himself that he has been elected to chair the working group dealing with fire safety. This is an honour that reflects the way in which the other group members, who come from countries all over the world, have recognised in Les a man who has the skills and other personal qualities necessary to successfully face the challenges of heading such a group. Anyone that has had experience of working on international committees will tell you that it is usually like trying to herd cats and the chairman must command the respect of those sat around the table if any progress is to be made. Les is frequently called upon to travel to meetings all over the world and his passport must be looking somewhat worn and dog-eared by now. In fact, at the very moment this article is being typed, Les is packing again and this time he is headed for a meeting in New York. Happily, on some of the overseas trips, he can take his wife, Louise, so it is not all work and no play.



Louise works in the human resources department of Wiltshire Fire & Rescue Service and so can take an intelligent interest in matters in which Les is so busily involved. The picture left shows the couple on a visit to New Zealand recently. Les and Louise enjoy being members of our association although their busy lifestyle at present limits the number of social events that they can support. We hope to see them both soon. **JOHN CRAIG**



Dr Jill Tollfrey



The newly appointed Chief Executive of the FIRE FIGHTERS CHARITY, Dr Jill Tollfrey, has been giving her views on the charity to 'FIRE' magazine and it is clear that she is quickly getting to grips with the challenges facing it and the direction in which she wishes to lead it. She begins by giving her assessment of the services provided by the charity as being "second to none". In order to help her and the trustees to plot a sound way forward, they have available the Peer Assessment Review recently conducted. In the very informative aforementioned article, Dr Tollfrey states much to give encouragement to all connected with the charity.

Dr Tollfrey does not take over the CEO role as a complete stranger to the charity. For three years she was its Director of Operations bringing to our charity her clinical background. She is a highly qualified physiotherapist who also has experience in education, research and in social care. Before coming to the FFC she was the Allied Health Professional lead for a Strategic Health Authority.

Dr Tollfrey states that when she first came to the charity as Director of Operations her first day was the last for the CEO who preceded John Parry in that position. Dr Tollfrey found the staff were well paid but not prepared to think for themselves and had an attitude of waiting to be told what to do. She noted quickly that the charity's three sites plus the head office operated almost in isolation from each other and one of her first priorities was to overcome this fragmentation and give a charity-wide vision to all staff. John Parry's appointment as CEO was exactly the right one in Dr Tollfrey's opinion and she is loud in her praise of the positive contribution John Parry made during his three years as Chief Executive. Dr Tollfrey points out that she supports the changes John brought about and can add to his contribution by her clinical knowledge and experience.

The Peer Assessment Review noted the considerable progress made under John Parry's guidance but has strongly pointed to the need to consolidate on the changes. Dr Tollfrey accepts that this is going to be a major challenge and has a clear vision of how to approach it. There is a need for the organisation to evolve further and it is embarking on a **Customer Relationship Management (CRM) project** that is seen as biggest cultural change project the organisation has ever seen. Much effort will be directed to helping managers actually to manage the necessary changes. Dr Tollfrey has made it known that she intends getting around the fire and rescue service, not just meeting chiefs but talking and listening to people on the ground who support by fundraising and/or as users of the services on offer.

We wish Dr Jill Tollfrey much success and happiness.

How to contact



Call the Helpline 0800 389 8820

Advice, Recuperation, Therapy, Grants

SALISBURY FIRE STATION

50th ANNIVERSARY

To mark the 50th anniversary of the opening of the fire station in Ashley Road, Salisbury, an ad hoc committee of serving and retired station personnel formed to organise several events. One of these was an Open Day at the fire station held on 12th July and it attracted massive crowds helped by the superb weather. The Wiltshire FRS received generous support from several other organisations including the Defence Fire & Rescue Service.



Arena displays on the Green opposite the Fire Station.

There was plenty of water flying about to keep everyone cool on a very hot afternoon.

Photos by JOHN CRAIG



LADDER CLIMB WORLD RECORD

The Open Day at Salisbury Fire Station was used as the opportunity to stage a successful attempt by **KEITH SAUNDERS** of Warminster to break the World Record for ladder climbing within 24 hours. The old record of 13,120 metres was broken and a very tired but triumphant Keith, pictured right, is rejoicing in having raised enough through sponsorship to fund his involvement in Operation Raleigh International.

The climbing was done on a 13.5m fire brigade ladder pitched to the station drill tower. (Photo by John Craig)





OUR SOCIAL LIFE



DINNER AT THE ANGEL

Market Place, CHIPPENHAM

Delicious two-course menu

£22.50



FRIDAY 19th SEPTEMBER 2014

7.00pm for 7.30pm

LAST DATE FOR BOOKING

3rd SEPTEMBER

Booking form with this newsletter or download from website

CANCELLATION

The Salisbury Fire Station 50th Anniversary Committee has cancelled the celebratory dinner on 12th September 2014 due to lack of ticket sales. Please note that this was not a WRFA event and enquiries should NOT be directed to our association on this matter.

SKITTLES & LUNCH

Our friends in Hampshire have invited WRFA members to join them at a lunch and skittles event at East Wellow on 19th October 2014. Please notify John Craig if you wish to attend because there is a limit on our numbers.

REMEMBRANCE EVENT

8th November 2014

6.30pm

Devizes Town Hall

At the time of going to press, details of catering and menu etc are awaited from the caterers.

Details and booking form will be available very soon.

The evening will commence with a two-course dinner and will include a

Concert by

Devizes Town Band





Book Shelf

Where members share their opinions
on recently read books



LIFEBOATMEN

Author: Simon Wills

For those familiar with the seas in and around Poole, this book will make particularly interesting reading, enabling the reader to easily visualise the scenes.

The year is 1866 and the worst hurricane for over a century is devastating the south coast of England, at a time when the emergency services are in their infancy. Poole's first RNLI lifeboat has not long been delivered and the crew, although experienced seamen, have only had very limited training and no operational experience to date. When the storm strikes, a number of ships are sheltering at anchor in and around Poole bay, (outside Poole Harbour) . As the storm worsens, many are driven onto rocks and smashed to pieces by the ferocious seas.

The newly appointed lifeboat is launched to aid the numerous stricken ships but fails to save any lives. Many sailors are drowned. In an era when gallantry and self-sacrifice are

expected, the lifeboatmen are publicly accused of cowardice causing a serious rift in the close-knit community. The book describes the atmosphere of suspicion and blame in which the coxswain has to rebuild his team and prepare them for the next maritime emergency. It is about leadership and building the right team, as well as confidence within the team and their equipment. This early form of RNLI lifeboat was basically a large open-top rowing boat, albeit self-draining and self-righting, requiring great courage and stamina of all the crew members.

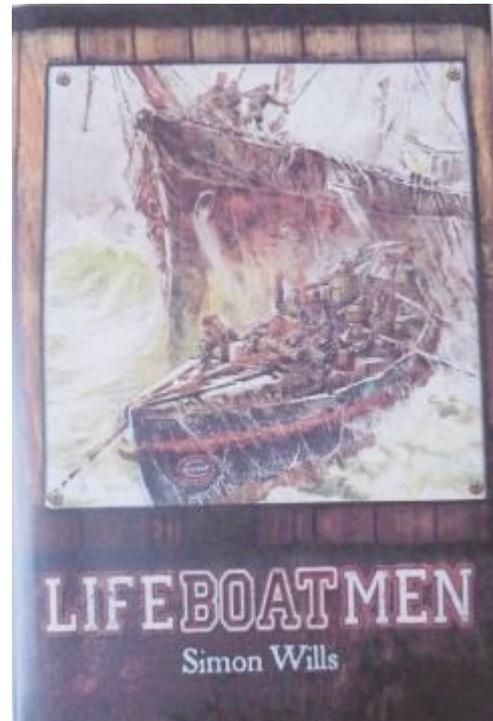
A year later in 1867, with a stronger and better prepared crew, the lifeboat is called out to a large cargo vessel run aground under violent weather conditions and starting to break up from pounding seas. The rescue of 46 seamen under extreme seas is described in some detail and really emphasises the stamina and courage required of the lifeboat crew. Not a single life is lost and the lifeboatmen are the heroes of Poole and can once again hold their heads up with confidence.

The author, Simon Wills, has undertaken extensive research into the social and maritime history of Poole and the early days of the lifeboat service. This true story provides an authentic and enthralling picture of a nineteenth century seafaring community on the brink of great change.

I heartily recommend this book.

John Cox

Publisher: Pen and Sword ISBN 978 1 78346 288 9



READ ANY GOOD BOOKS LATELY?

Book reviews from WRFA members are always welcome for publication.

Your contribution to 'BOOK SHELF' is awaited.



NEWS IN BRIEF



TONY ANDREWS CO-OPTED ONTO EC

Jim Betts has asked to gradually be relieved of his duties as a member of the WRFA Executive Committee on the grounds of ill health. He serves as one of the three EC area representatives covering the south of Wiltshire.

Tony Andrews has offered to stand for election in Jim's place at the AGM next year (probably in May). In the meantime, the Executive Committee has asked Tony to accept being co-opted onto the EC so that Jim can begin a smooth and unhurried hand-over to Tony. Tony served at Salisbury fire station retiring as a wholetime sub officer. He then worked for many years as the Hospital Fire Officer at Salisbury District Hospital. He is now fully retired. He lives at Downton.



Tony Andrews



Councillor John Thomson

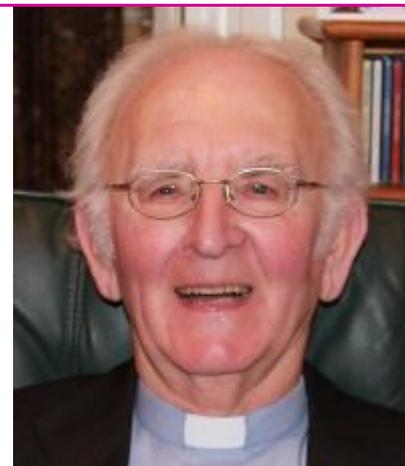
RURAL BROADBAND IN WILTSHIRE

The Government has made a huge investment of tax payer's money in getting superfast broadband to over 90% of the UK. The Wiltshire element of this project is being overseen by **Councillor John Thomson** who is deputy leader of Wiltshire Council and cabinet member for Highways and Broadband. The fact that so much money and politician's time is being devoted to this project is indicative of the fact that the lack of fibre optic links to many parts of the UK puts those areas at significant disadvantage in many ways. Councillor Thomson was recently quoted in the *Western Daily Press* as saying that the broadband project was "a nightmare" but he has since made a follow-up statement in another publication attempting to retract such a damning assessment.

It appears that some rural communities that have been some of the first to receive super-fast broadband have been very disappointed with the internet speeds and others have simply given up waiting for the scheme to reach them and have tried to go it alone using a commercial provider.

CHARLIE THE CHAPLAIN DOES IT AGAIN

Rev. Charles Sutherland has followed up on his recently published novel with a 30 page booklet in which he shares some of his thoughts and experiences in chaplaincy work. Eight years of that work was spent as Chaplain to Wiltshire Fire Brigade and the latter part of his booklet deals with this without, of course, breaching any confidences. Other parts of the booklet refer to his work in acute and mental hospitals. The booklet is being hailed as a useful guide to anyone involved in Christian counselling work and it is flying off the shelf at **DEVIZES BOOKS** in Sidmouth Street, Devizes. Profit from the booklet sales is going to cancer research.





DOWN MEMORY



I can still recall with much amusement an episode in an old film starring Bob Hope.

Bob was tasked with setting up the washing machine but loaded it with a whole box of washing powder. When the machine began its cycle it started to produce bubbles in vast quantities. Soon, the whole house in an American suburb was filling with bubbles. There was even soapy foam coming out of the chimney!

In desperation, Bob ran down the street yelling 'FIRE'...'FIRE' and he stopped to pull the street fire alarm. (This was in the 1950s when such means of calling the fire service was common on both sides of the Atlantic).

Very quickly, a fire engine arrived and the Captain in charge of it leapt down from his seat to survey the house filled with a mess of suds.

Turning to Bob, the fire officer said, "Why did you shout FIRE?". Bob replied, "Who would have come if I'd shouted BUBBLES?"



"Hold very tight, please! We're going to a FIRE!"

The first 8 years of my fire fighting career were spent in Leicester City Fire Brigade. It was run by a thrifty Scot, Errington McKinnell, who took pride in running the Brigade on a shoe string budget. Chimney fires were very common but to commit a red fire appliance and crew to what was regarded as a trivial type of fire was not

CFO McKinnell's policy. We had Ford pick-up trucks that were indistinguishable as a fire service vehicle, being painted blue and having no blue light, bell or two tone horns. It was in these tiny trucks that had no radio that a two-man crew was sent to any chimney fire call in the city of 280,000 population and a fairly large chunk of Leicestershire that we covered by agreement for the County Fire Service. To deal with the fire, we had a stirrup pump, a set of chimney rods and a hearthstone kit. Of course, more than once, the 'Chimney Crew' arrived to find that it wasn't just the chimney on fire and a gallop to find a phone to send for assistance was the first action to be taken.

However, if you think that the Leicester approach to chimney fires was underplayed, you should take notice of the way that the Bristol City Police Fire Brigade handled such jobs in the early part of the 20th century. Believe it or not, a call to a chimney fire was occasionally dealt with by one fireman being sent **on foot**! It is also a matter of record that the Bristol fire fighters made use of trams to get to suburban fires. If there happened to be a **tram** passing the Central Fire Station when a call was received rather than turn out a motor pump the tram was flagged down and the hose cart was hitched to the back of the tram. The tram driver co-operated by driving at full speed, clanging the tram's bell all the way to the job and leaving passengers at stops frustrated as he sped past them with the tram acting as a temporary fire engine. **JOHN CRAIG**

CAPTION COMPETITION



Entries are invited for the competition to think up a witty and appropriate caption for this wartime photograph. Submit your captions to John Craig. Closing date for entries is 30th September 2014. Photo by courtesy of John Leete (Southampton)

CAPTION COMPETITION WINNER

The winner of the June edition caption competition was Janet Gurney with her entry **“Do I look like a scratching post?”** The picture showed a lion cub attacking John Craig. The photo was taken by Margaret Craig who judged the entries. Other entries that can be reproduced were **“OK, that’s the starter, now for the meat and two veg”** by Peter Capes; **“it’s a pocket not a cat flap”** by Dan Gurney; **“John’s luncheon menu...rump for starters”** by Joe Nash; **Rump steak with chips”** by Joe Nash. Thank you to all contributors. Janet will be receiving a £10.00 gift token.



WHERE IS THIS SIGN POST?

As voters living in Scotland prepare to determine whether Scotland stays in the UK, this roadside sign in Wiltshire might raise a few eyebrows. Do you know its exact location within our county?

The answer will be published in the October edition of THE BRANCH.

Photo by JOHN CRAIG.

DISCLAIMER

This newsletter is published by the Wiltshire Retired Firefighters Association. Views and opinions published in it are not necessarily those of the WRFA and should certainly not be attributed to the Wiltshire Fire & Rescue Service or the Wiltshire and Swindon Fire Authority.

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