

# STOP MESSAGE

The magazine of the Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service Past Members Association

Issue 25 - April 2021



<https://xhfrs.org>



## Andover tackling a spectacular blaze at Scats Warehouse on Mill Estate early 1970s

### INSIDE



### A GREAT FIND

*Some of Graham Starke's  
blasts from the past.*

### HloW Happenings

*Fleet update & Incidents from  
across the county.*

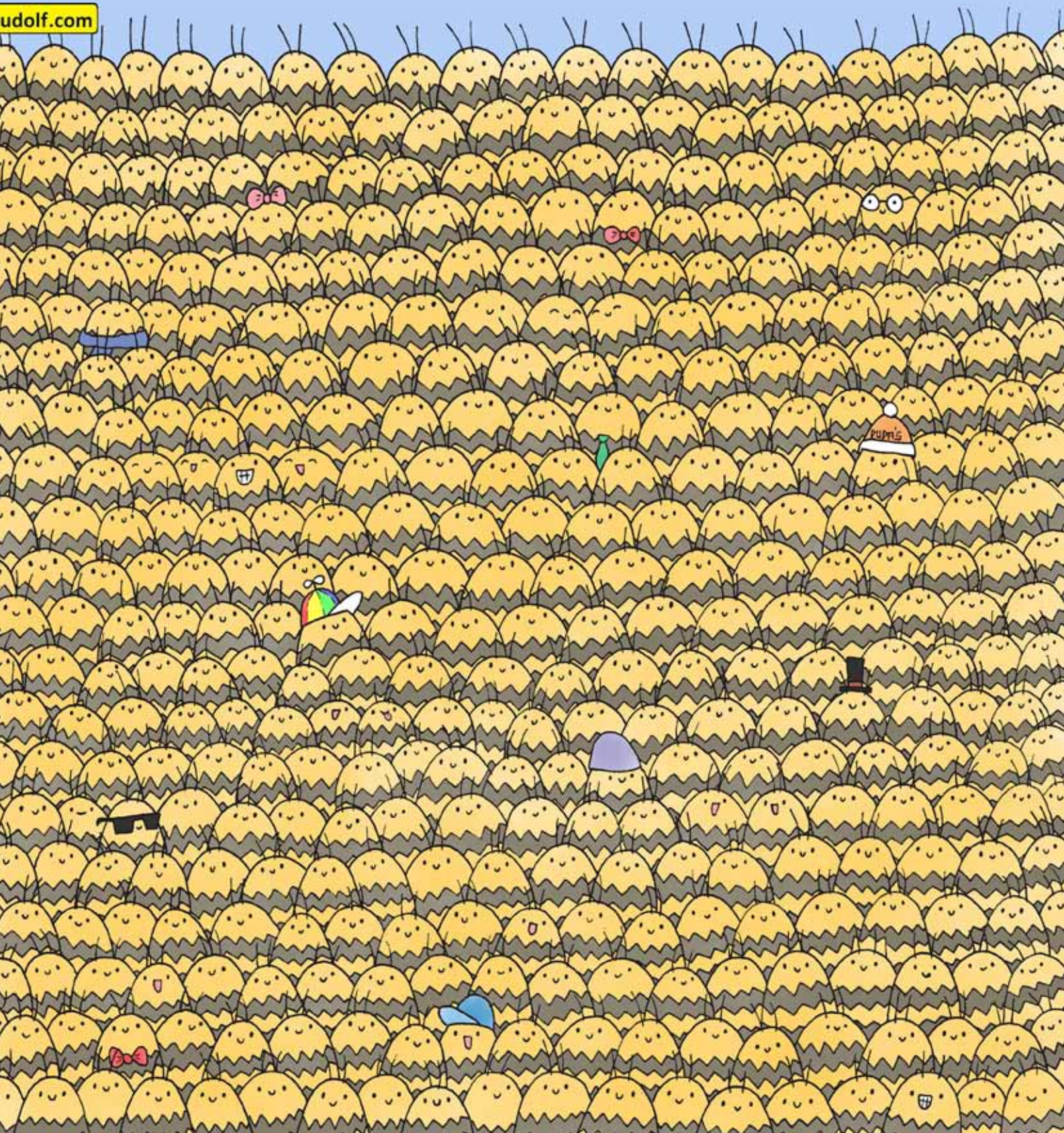
### PAST TIMES

*Focus on Alton  
Fire Station.*



# JUST FOR FUN!

## Can You find the QUEEN BEE among the bees?



Are you reading this magazine and are not a member? Why not join the Past Members Association and receive your own copy? Membership costs just £10 per year.

Magazine contributions sought and gratefully received.

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Date and detail not known, so any info will be appreciated. All three on the branch have their helmets back to front using the longer rear rim to shield the heat.



## STOP MESSAGE



Dennis F38 Pump Hoselayer KCR 475E, 'No2' issued to Redbridge Hill in May 1967. carried 50 lengths (3750ft) of 31/2 inch hose flaked in the hose bed. You did all that you could not to use it as it was a pain to re-stow.

The hose could be laid at 30mph - with a guy hanging on the back operating a buzzer to the cab! It had a long body which you had to remember as a driver and appalling brakes, so you never really knew if you would stop! Electric bell and Bosch two-tones. You always knew it was No 2 arriving.

## From the Editor

What a crazy past 12 months. Although there is better news in respect of the vaccination rollout, the reality is that the virus is going to be with us for some time yet and that means we must all remain vigilant in protecting our health and that of others. Let's hope for better things. Lots of learning for the world about the way we do things and the fragility of things as we know them.

A huge round of applause to all of the front-lines services and the sacrifices they have made in doing what they do. Closer to our own pasts, let's give due recognition to everyone in the Fire and Rescue Service, uniformed and non-uniformed for what they have done and are still doing. Some of the stations in the county have been affected by outbreaks and as crews respond to deal with incidents they do not have the luxury of distancing and not going into buildings and scenarios to deal with incidents. Fire stations are being used as vaccination centres and FRS personnel are also driving ambulances or assisting with patient care in hospitals. Our thanks and respect for those 'just doing the job'. Some PMA members, I am aware, are involved as volunteers in vaccination and community support work, utilising knowledge, skills and abilities from the past.

It is great to see that there are now plans to now replace three stations – Cosham, Bishops Waltham and Redbridge. I will remember discussing the need to replace the first two and many months spent looking at suitable sites for Cosham. I also recall scouting the area to move Redbridge from its current location to a site along the M271, with a view to closing Totton. I drove past Redbridge recently, just before the new build announcement and having served there for a few years, I was saddened to see how jaded it was looking. All great news for the respective station personnel and the communities they serve.

I have just realised that this is Stop Message number 25. I guess it is ok to reflect that this is a bit of a milestone edition.

**Until the next time.... Stay Safe, Stay Well**

**Alan House, Editor**



# A Great Find

**Graham Starke – the former Premises Officer who worked so hard for many years keeping our stations and other properties in good order sent in some photos with the following explanation;**

'I was at school with someone who had an interest in fire appliances and I must have tagged along on a couple of days in the summer holidays, taking a break from photographing Hants and Dorset buses or chasing down the latest Coliseum coach of the time. In those days of my early photography, I did not have much money and that lead to the practice of having a film developed but not printed. I would then select the most interesting images and later have them printed, unfortunately these SFB shots were never printed at the time and the negative strips were stored with all the others in a box.

On a rainy day recently I decided to investigate and tidy a large box of old family photos and negatives and I came across these and instantly thought of you. Parker's of Woolston did a great job enhancing and printing the pictures,

As to the date, the best I can say is on or after 1966 as one of the Ford Anglia vans has a GTR—D registration plate'.

*Ed – what a great find Graham! Thanks for sharing. An excellent snapshot in time' showing the Southampton Fire Brigade and a great example of vehicles and equipment of the period. If you guess at a date is correct, 'Ted' Hayward would have been the CFO, having served in that position since 1 April 1948 and having also been the CFO of Southampton for a short period just before the formation of the NFS. The Deputy would have been Arthur Tanner who succeeded him in August 1968, when Ted moved to become a HMI in the Fire Service Inspectorate.*

*I reckon you are about right with the year as the Redbridge photos show the old Hoes Layer and the new one KCR475e was not issued until May 1967. Surprised myself then as I remembered the reg number – all those Sundays mornings spent checking the logbooks and doing the fuel and oil tallys.*

*Are you sure it was buses you were more interested in or were you really a fire engine buff all the time?*



Note the Station Officers involved in the drills!

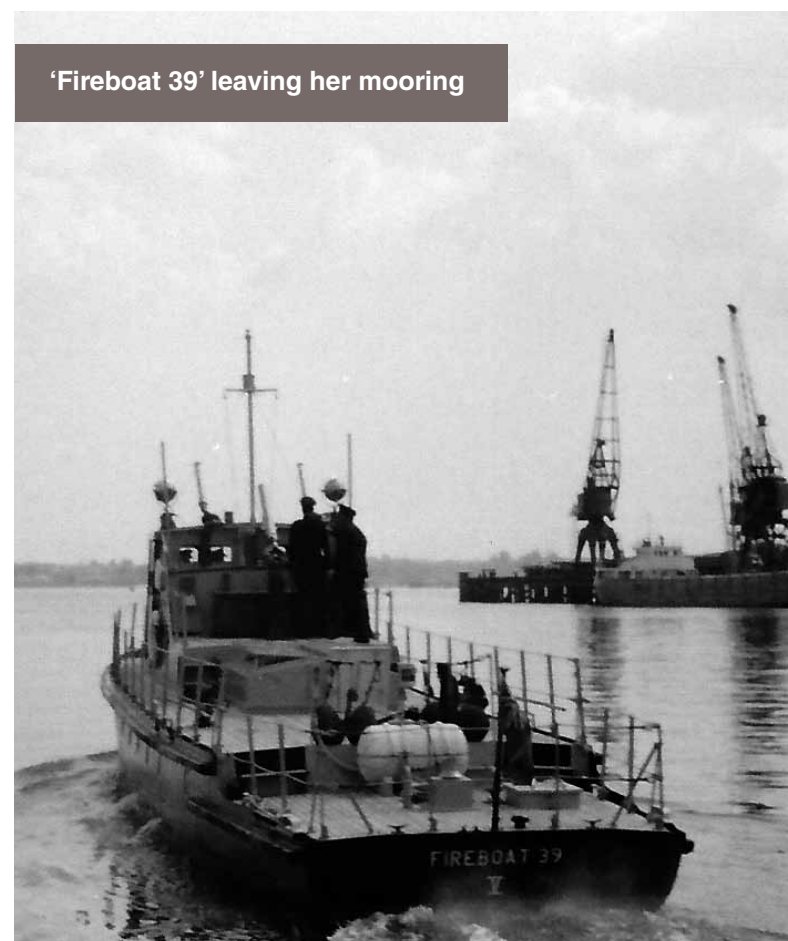
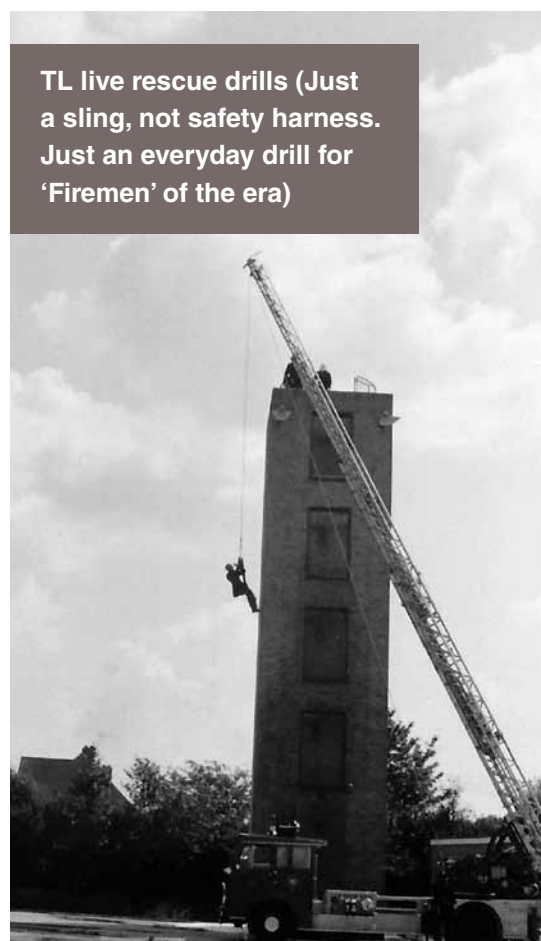
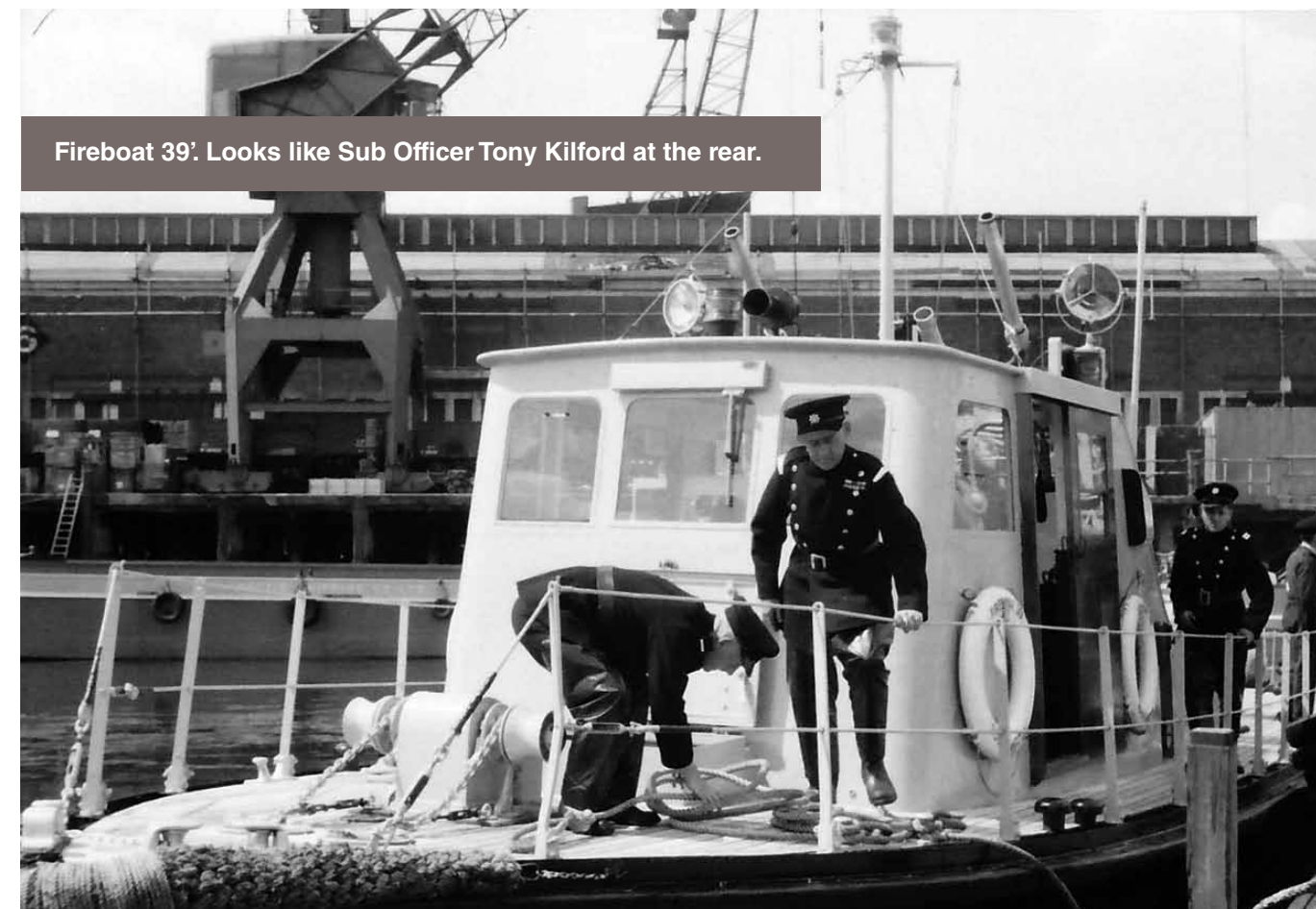


Ford Anglia Stations Officers Vans outside Redbridge Hill Fire Station



Check out the simple designs of the back ends.





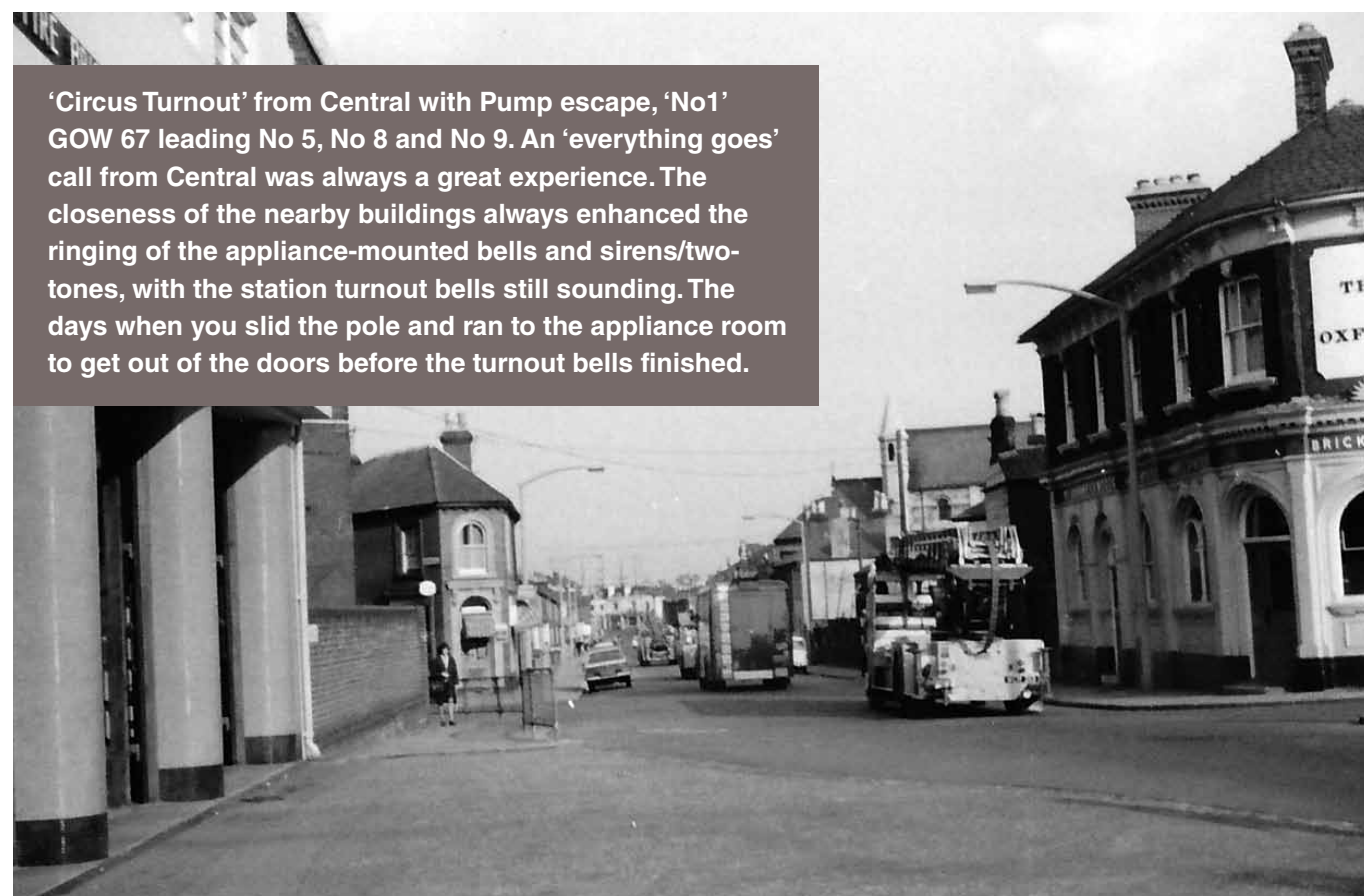




Emergency Tender 'No 8' TCR 644 and Major Pump 'No 5' NTR 134 turning out from 'Central' (St Marys)



ET 8 leaving Redbridge Hill drillyard



'Circus Turnout' from Central with Pump escape, 'No1' GOW 67 leading No 5, No 8 and No 9. An 'everything goes' call from Central was always a great experience. The closeness of the nearby buildings always enhanced the ringing of the appliance-mounted bells and sirens/two-tones, with the station turnout bells still sounding. The days when you slid the pole and ran to the appliance room to get out of the doors before the turnout bells finished.



Major Pump 'No 6' OOW 476 6 at the allocated parking spot, Town Quay



They Also Served

Steve Greenaway gave me a listing of personnel in D Division in September 1979 and I thought it might be fun to just remind you of some of the names we served with. Some names who went on to achieve promotion in their career. Sadly of course there are those who are no longer with us and we remember them.

HAMPSHIRE FIRE BRIGADE 'D' DIVISION - WHOLETIME (SEPTEMBER 1979)

DIVISIONAL HEADQUARTERS

Divisional Commander - SDO HG Stinton  
Deputy Divisional Commander - DO AF Kilford

Fire Prevention

DO V Cavill  
ADO R Luck  
StnO D Johnson  
StnO E Jones  
StnO M Nash  
StnO R Silence  
StnO R White  
StnO AJ Hammond  
SubO B Green  
SubO D Raggett  
SubO K Thomas  
SubO S Woodford  
SubO  
SubO  
LFm A Bennett  
Mr J Lawrence  
Miss D Stinton  
Mrs J Jean

Administration

Divisional Administrator:  
Mr R Bicknell  
Administrative Officer:  
Miss M Lincoln  
Secretary:  
Miss M Baber  
Typists:  
Mrs D Base  
Miss J Rainsley

Catering

Mrs Boyes  
Mrs Stark  
Mrs Hickman  
Mrs Tambling  
Mrs Budd

Staff/Training Office

StnO R Lindsay  
SubO Catt  
  
Switchboard  
  
Mr A Barker

HQ Block Maintenance

Mrs Gallagher  
Mrs Mabey  
Mr Adlington

SUB DIVISIONS

Sub Division D1

D53 Redbridge Hill  
D54 St Mary's  
D55 Docks  
D56 Woolston

Sub Division D2

D43 Lymington  
D44 Hythe  
D46 Totton  
D49 Beaulieu  
D58 Fawley

Sub Division D3

D45 Ringwood  
D47 Fordingbridge  
D48 Lyndhurst  
D50 Brockenhurst  
D51 New Milton  
D52 Barley

SUB DIVISION D1  
SUB DIVISIONAL COMMANDER - DIVISIONAL OFFICER F LOCK

D53 REDBRIDGE HILL - OFFICER IN CHARGE, STATION OFFICER R DENHAM

Red Watch	White Watch	Blue Watch	Green Watch
1. SubO May D	SubO Sexton A	SubO Kidd RJ	SubO Burton T
2. LFm Bailey M	LFm Leonard J	LFm Shawcross R	LFm Barrett GC
3. LFm Jack I	LFm Plummer J	LFm Taylor A	LFm Kendall D
4. Fm Blake RR	Fm Bradford J	Fm Andrews J	Fm Bicknell KA
5. Fm Curtis M	Fm Brattle J	Fm Baby GA	Fm Campbell A
6. Fm Elst JP	Fm Fisher MJ	Fm Curtis A	Fm Hampton MJ
7. Fm Evans S	Fm Parsons A	Fm Freemantle KA	Fm Hoare MJ
8. Fm Harper J	Fm Simpson RL	Fm Gass M	Fm King K
9. Fm Lane T	Fm Smith RJ	Fm Miller R	Fm Marshall B
10. Fm Ridgeon JM	Fm Taylor J	Fm Smith D	Fm Marsland R
11. Fm Shields-Probett B	Fm Taylor W	Fm Smith E	Fm Parsons R
12. Fm Shuck S	Fm Wheeler-Osman N	Fm Turrell T	Fm Wilson RA
13. Fm White PJ			Fm Willey SM
			8358
			8435
			8365
			895
			766
			995
			753
			816
			235
			146
			8404
			780
			770

Day Duty: Fm Jones T 8359      Recruits Course: Riches M 243.

D54 ST MARY'S - OFFICER IN CHARGE, ASSISTANT DIVISIONAL OFFICER T PATTISON

Red Watch	White Watch	Blue Watch	Green Watch
1. StnO O'Brien G	StnO Earl R	StnO Savage AA	StnO Baker I
2. SubO Barrett J	SubO Collins D	SubO Dundee G	SubO Slade K
3. LFm Anderson T	LFm Greenaway SP	LFm Barlow HG	LFm Woodley T
4. LFm Betts C	LFm Fear L	LFm Simpson MJ	LFm Oakley A
5. Fm Brown M	Fm Barker LE	Fm Barnsdall TG	Fm Ashley K
6. Fm Chudley G	Fm Bramley J	Fm Bishop A	Fm Ball KJ
7. Fm Cramer H	Fm Burton T	Fm Bond RJ	Fm Barnes K
8. Fm Davis M	Fm Calverley B	Fm Brown D	Fm Cole A
9. Fm Elston GJ	Fm House I	Fm Cole S	Fm Fairchild RM
10. Fm Harvey J	Fm Melia R	Fm Cox GP	Fm Heather S
11. Fm Jenvey SA	Fm Oliver TJ	Fm Killham A	Fm Lasker G
12. Fm Jevs DP	Fm Presswell DA	Fm Loftus MP	Fm Morris A
13. Fm Knight D	Fm Richardson R	Fm Morris C	Fm O'Brien P
14. Fm Randle N	Fm Rowe EW	Fm Robey PS	Fm Penney MJ
15. Fm Reeve GH	Fm Smith D	Fm Rossi LR	Fm Sleep M
16. Fm Woods P	Fm Stevens CE	Fm Sales RA	Fm Smith RT
17.	Fm Walker KJ	Fm Woodland P	
			5133
			8301
			824
			703
			596
			495
			219
			194
			762
			165
			8421
			990
			227
			948
			790
			8320

Recruits Course: Whalley P 242; Hobbs R 249.



Current station in 1987



# Past Times

## *Focus on Alton Fire Station*

The Alton Volunteer Fire brigade was formed on 15 June 1863, replacing what was regarded as being antiquated and unreliable arrangements prior to this date. In 1864 a Merryweather Steam fire engine 'Firefly' was purchased to add to the existing manual fire engine.

The original station was at the junction of Amery Street and Vicarage Hill. In 1891 a new station was built at Cut Pound, adjoining Wey Iron Works. This was replaced by a new station, as part of the Town Hall, in Market Square in 1922. The next move was 1934 to Westbrook House, part of the Town Council Offices in the Cross and Pillory Lane/High Street. The current station in Butts Road was opened in October 1981 on what was previously the site of the Police station.

One of Alton's claim to fame was that the Officer in charge, 'Bill' Mawditt was uniquely promoted in 1973, as a retained member of the service, to Assistant Divisional Officer, thereby giving him an extension of service by 5 years in the days when anyone of Station Officer rank and below were forced to retire at age 55. Not confirmed but probably unique in the British fire service. He had joined the service at Alton in 1948

and 4 years later in 1952 he was promoted to Station Officer, in charge of the station. Another remarkable achievement. Sadly he died in 1981 not live to see the opening of the new fire station in the same year.

Alton became a very prominent Brigade during the early years of the 20th century, with CFO W Bradley-Trimmer in particular becoming a leading figure in the development of the fire service nationally and who served as Alton's CFO from 1909 to 1942. Members of the Brigade were keen participants in local and national drill competitions and won many trophies.

On the outbreak of WW2 and AFS station was laced at Church Street Council Depot. It would seem that there was another AFS/NFS unit at a location covering Froyle and Bentley.

During the era of the National Fire Service, Alton became station 14A 2Y and then on the creation of the Hampshire Fire Service on 1 April 1948 became station 06 in 'A District' (later retitled 'Division').



HFS built Dodge WrT with front mounted Barton pump turning out circa late 1950s



Competition crew circa 1953, Bill Mawditt on the left and Don Welton on the right





1908 Cut Pound, Steamer 'Firefly, Hosecart, Manual, Hosecart and Escape



Market Square station 1922



Alton with Alresford tackling a roof fire circa 1969



Westbrook House circa 1972 (Photo Lionel Williams)





Escape Drill Winners 1905



Westbrook House 1981 - last parade before moving

# HIoW Happenings

## FLEET NEWS

Ten Volvo FLL 'Light Rescue Pumps' had been delivered from Angloco. Allocations will be Hightown, St Marys, Rushmoor, Southsea, Winchester, Andover, Havant, Fareham, Gosport and Basingstoke. Hand-down moves had started to occur.

Tenders have been invited for sixteen Light Rescue Pumps and three Rescue Pumps per year for the next three years.

The original trial First Response Vehicle, SF66 LZC, Iveco Daily/Emergency One has been sold and is now with the London Heliport in Battersea.

## STATION NEWS

Approval has been given to build replacement fire stations at Redbridge, on the same site and at Cosham on the old Portsmouth Craft and Engraving site on the roundabout of the A3 and Spur Road. It is hoped that work will commence later this year. Plans are also in progress for a replacement station at Bishops Waltham.

## OTHER NEWS

ACO Shantha Dickinson has been appointed as the new DCFO taking over from Steve Apter who retires in June.

As of the 1 April the service will combine with the Isle of Wight and will see the formation of the Hampshire and the Isle of Wight Fire and Rescue Service. A new badge has been designed and will be adopted on appliances, stations and uniform in the coming months. A new Combined Fire and Rescue Authority is now in existence

*Ed – I am sure that there will be mixed emotions for some, just as there was with the merger, then referred to as 'amalgamation', on 1 April 1974. Then, the Island was able to retain its independence, even though originally it was destined to be 'E Division' of the new 'Hampshire Fire Brigade'. I am though equally sure that public served by the new CFRA will serve the interests of communities on both the mainland and the Island and that the men and women who serve in all roles within the new Hampshire & Isle of Wight Fire and Rescue Service. Hampshire was the only local authority FRS to be permitted to use a royal crown in its badge.*

*The HIWFRA is made up of 11 elected members – 8 Hampshire County Council, 1 Southampton City Council, 1 Portsmouth City Council and 1 IoW County Council.*

*The additional 10 stations are: Bembridge, Cowes, East Cowes, Freshwater, Newport (Shift Crewing/Retained), Ryde (Day Crewing/Retained, Sandown, Shanklin, Ventnor. Yarmouth.*

*The one thing I cannot get used to with the new badge, is the way that the area surrounding the shield is displayed void of the colouring of the star it is mounted on, so it adopts the colour of the background it is mounted on – so far I have seen blue, red, silver and white which seems for fly in the face of the principles of corporate identity and a standard 'coat of arms', but I guess that is just the dinosaur in me!*



**Hampshire  
& Isle of Wight**  
FIRE & RESCUE SERVICE





Light Rescue Pump



Nearside Locker Layout



Offside Locker Layout

## INCIDENTS

### 6 November 2020

Make pumps 8, ALP, WrC 2, Anglesey Lodge, Anglesey Road, Gosport. ToC 18.30. ToS 04.48. Fire involving derelict building of traditional construction, 2 floors and basement, 35m x 36m. 90% of building damaged by fire, 2 CAFS jets, 5 jets, ALP monitor in use. Attendance RP and WrT Gosport, RP and WrL Fareham, WrT Portchester, RP Cosham, WrL Bishops Waltham (from standby at Fareham), WrL Wickham (from standby at Gosport), ALP Southsea, EPU Romsey, WrC's Eastleigh and Bordon, CSV Eastleigh, ICU Headquarters. Stand by moves WrL Waterlooville and WrT Hightown to Gosport and RP Havant to Fareham.

### 7 November 2020

Make pumps 6, Persons Reported, Shedfield Lodge Residential Home, St Annes Lane, Shedfield. ToC 08.11. Fire involving laundry room of care home. Attendance WrL Wickham, RP Fareham, WrT Botley, WrL Bishops Waltham, RP and WrT Hightown, CSV Portchester, ICU Headquarters. Stand by moves WrT Hamble to Hightown.

### 22 November 2020

Make pumps 6, ALP required. 10 Wellow Close, Havant. ToC 16.04. ToS 20.27. Row of terraced properties, four in total, two storeys, 23m x 10m. Fire involving roof of number 10, 100% by fire, spread to roofs of number 9 and 11. 2BA, 3 jets, ALP in use. Attendance RP WrL Havant, WrT Emsworth, RP LRP ALP Southsea, WrT CSV Portchester, ICU Headquarters. Stand by moves RP Hayling Island to Havant, WrL Fareham to Cosham, RP WrL Cosham to Southsea.

### 16 December 2020

Make pumps 6, ALP required. Stevens Washrooms, Burrfields Road, Portsmouth. ToC 1952. ToS Fire in commercial two storey building of steel and sandwich panel construction, 80m x 80m, 6BA, 3 hose reels a and 3 covering jets. Attendance RP and LRP Southsea, RP Cosham, WrL Wickham, RP Havant, WrT Emsworth, RSV and RP Redbridge, ALP St Marys, CSV Eastleigh, ICU Headquarters. Stand by moves RP St Marys to Redbridge, RP Hayling Island to Southsea and WrT Horndean to Havant. Attendance at this incident was due to a four pump ALP in fish and chip shop fire in Gosport at the same time.

### 19 December 2020

Thatch roof alight, Old Fromans Farm, Cow Drove Hill, Kings Somborne. ToC 20.26. ToS 23.47. Fire involving thatched outbuilding 10m x 10m adjacent to large farmhouse 30m x 20m. Farmhouse being protected by dry CAFS. 5 jets, 4 CAFS jets. Attendance WrL Stockbridge, WrL and EPU Romsey, RP Winchester, RP Andover, RP, FoU and CSV Eastleigh, RP Redbridge, WrT Sutton Scotney, LRP Whitchurch, ALP St Marys, WrC Fareham and ICU Headquarters. Stand by moves RP Cosham to Fareham, WrL Alresford to Winchester, WrL Bishops Waltham to Romsey, LRP St Marys to Redbridge and WrLR Ludgershall to Andover.

### 25 December 2020

Fire, make pumps 6, ALP required. 18 Hewitt Road, Fareham. ToC 11.25. ToS 15.15. Fire involving mid terrace domestic property, brick and sandwich panel construction, 9m x 40m. Fire in first floor bedroom, spread to roof space of number 18. 50% damage by fire, 100% damage by smoke and water. Damage to roof of number 19. 6 BA, 2 hose reels, 2jets, PPV in use. Attendance RP and WrL Fareham, RP and WrT Hightown, RP and WrL Cosham, ALP Southsea, CSV Portchester, ICU Headquarters. Stand by moves WrL Wickham to Fareham, LRP St Marys to Hightown and WrL Waterlooville to Cosham.

### 1 January 2021

Make pumps 6, ALP 2, WrC 2. Gas explosion, 127 Whale Island Way, Portsmouth. ToC 12.14. ToS 16.18. Terrace consisting of 12 properties of traditional construction, 60m x 15m. Explosion, fire and partial collapse of number 127. Fire spread to number 125 and partial collapse of number 125. 20 properties evacuated. Ongoing gas leak being dealt with by gas board. One male casualty to hospital, two female casualties assessed and discharged on scene. 10 BA, 2 hose reels, 3 jets. Attendance RP, LRP and ALP Southsea, Rep, WrL and RSV Cosham, RP and WrC Fareham, WrT and CSV Portchester, WrL Havant, ALP St Marys, WrC and CSV Eastleigh, EPU Romsey, ICU Headquarters. Stand by moves RP Gosport and WrL Waterlooville to Southsea, RP Havant to Cosham and WrT Emsworth to Havant.

### 4 January 2021

Make pumps 12, WrC 2. Thatched cottage, Corboy, Wiltshire Road, Bransgore. ToC 20.56. ToS 14.59 (5th January 2021) Fire involving grade 2 listed domestic thatched property consisting of thatched roof and two floors, 20m x 10m. Roof and first floor 100% by fire, ground floor 70% by fire. 60 BA, 4 jets, 3 hose reels, 2 135 ladder and Grindex pumps used to recycle water. Attendance WrL Burley, WrLR, WrT and WrC Christchurch, RP an WrC Ringwood, WrLR Wimborne from stand by at Christchurch, WrT New Milton from stand by Burley, RP Fordingbridge from stand by at Ringwood, WrL New Milton, WrLR Redhill, WrLR Ferndown, WrLR and ALP Westbourne, WrLR Springbourne, ISU and support WrLR Poole, CSV Beaulieu and Portchester, EPU Romsey, ICU Headquarters. Stand by moves RP St Marys

to Ringwood, WrT Hightown to New Milton, RP Lyndhurst to Burley, RP Southsea to Lyndhurst, RP Redbridge to Fordingbridge, RP Fareham to New Milton, WrLR Verwood to Christchurch, WrLR Poole to Redhill and WrLR Hamworthy to Springbourne. Relief crews RP Lyndhurst, WrT Hightown, RP St Marys, RP Southsea, RP Basingstoke, RP Fareham, WrL Romsey, LRP St Marys, WrT Totton, RP Hartley, WrT Beaulieu, WrL Wickham, RP Hightown, CSV Beaulieu, RP Winchester, WrL Burley and WrL Lymington.

### 10 January 2021

Make pumps 10, WrC 3. Thatch roof fire, Underwood Cottage, Winchester Road, Langrish, Petersfield. ToC 20.40. ToS 11.35 (11 January 2021). Fire involving single thatched property of traditional construction consisting of two floors measuring 10m x 6m. Fire involving roof and first floor, 100% damaged by fire, 100% ground floor damaged by water. 3BA, 5 jets, 2 CAFS jets, 1 hose reel. Attendance RP Petersfield, WrT Horndean, WrL Liphook, WrL Waterlooville, RP Havant, RP Alton, RP Cosham, (both Alton and Cosham mobile to stand by at Petersfield), ALP Southsea, WrC Bordon.

On make pumps 10, RP Winchester and WrT Droxford from standby at Petersfield and LRP Southsea (already requested for UHPL), EPU Alton, CSV Portchester and Eastleigh. Make WrC's 3 WrC Eastleigh and Fleet, ICU Headquarters. Stand by moves WrL Alresford to Petersfield, RP Eastleigh to Winchester.

### 2 February 2021

Make pumps 6, ALP required, 6 Shire Close, Whiteley, Fareham. ToC 03.04. ToS 06.20. Fire involving detached domestic property 18m x 10m consisting of two floors, brick and tile construction. Roof and first floor 100% by fire, ground floor 100% by water damage, 4 jets, 2 hose reels, ALP in use. Attendance RP and LRP Hightown, RP and WrL Fareham, WrT Botley, RP and ALP St Marys, RP Cosham, CSV Portchester and ICU Headquarters. Stand by moves RP Eastleigh to Hightown.

### 12 February 2021

Make pumps 8, ALP required, Stuart Crescent, Stanmore. Winchester. ToC 22.50. ToS 05.20 13th February. Fire involving shed that spread to four properties of brick and tile construction, 70m x 10m. Each property have common roof void. No 23 100% by fire and water, adjacent properties 50% by fire, smoke and water. 25 people displaced. 12BA, 4 hose reels, 3 jets, PPV level 1, ALP in use. Attendance RP Winchester, RP, WrT and CSV Eastleigh, LRP and ALP St Marys, WrT Sutton Scotney, RP Redbridge, WrL Romsey from standby Eastleigh, WrL Alresford from standby Winchester, CSV Basingstoke, EPU Romsey and ICU Headquarters. Standby moves LRP Whitchurch to Winchester, WrT Totton to Eastleigh and WrT Hamble to Redbridge replaced with RP Cosham.

Colin Carter



# Snippets

## A Life Remembered -

**SubO Don Cole BEM. OiC C40 Bishops Waltham 1951-85**



**A great character, always one to greet with a warm smile, chatty, sincere and well respected. The 'Coles' seemed to virtually run Bishops Waltham, certainly the Post Office and the fire station.**

I well remember as DC 'C', when doing the rounds of a few retained stations during an evening, dropping in on Bishops Waltham with the intention of going onto Droxford. Don would often tentatively ask if he could come along to Droxford with me and be dropped back in Waltham on my way home.

Don and Dave Fletcher were buddies - who was I to say, no! We would arrive at Droxford; with formalities out of the way and chatting with the crew it would sometimes be noticed that Don and Dave were nowhere to be seen.

They'd sloped off to the pub for a quick one and a chat, turning up back at the station just prior to the close of drill night in time for Don and me to wend our way home, when Don would expound his immense gratitude for the opportunity to have had the chance to meet up with Dave.

I met Don in Bishops Waltham twice during more recent years. Firstly, in 2014 when driving into Bishops Waltham I spotted a vaguely familiar face as that of a 'Cole' doing postal deliveries.

Sure enough it was one of Don's sons. Asking the whereabouts of his dad I was directed, as far as I recall, to the Bunch of Grapes in St Peters Street where

I was most likely to find him at that time of day. Sure enough there he was enjoying a pint and a chat with friends. Following a familiar warm and jovial welcome, introductions to his friends and swift half he took me to his home to meet his wife and a cup of tea.

The second occasion I met him in Bishops Waltham was the funeral of his brother David in February 2015. An occasion very well supported by present and former brigade members in respect of a fellow comrade in arms. Don, who was I believe a few years older than his brother, was incredibly philosophical: saddened, though openly and in the manner and style that we knew, saying it would likely be his turn next.

I'm pleased that my life took me to places and times when I would meet, know and enjoy the company of people like Don. A truly great and memorable character and someone who did a huge amount of work for the 'Ben Fund'.

Alan Wells QFSM

DC 'C' Division 1984-88

20 STOP MESSAGE

## Book Review A Woman of No Importance

**Author: Sonia Purnell - Publisher: Virago Press  
ISBN 978-0-349-01016-8**

If, like me, you enjoy factual stories and records related to WW2, I can recommend this as an interesting and eye-opening read. I have read a lot of such books but I have never heard anything about Virginia Hall, who was the first woman to go undercover, operating for both the SOE, created on the orders of Winston Churchill and then the newly created American OSS in Vichy France, before finally becoming a member of the then fledgling CIA post-war.

This secret agent, who operated at the time of the infamous cruelty of the Nazi officer Klaus Barbie, in opposition to both the Nazi regime and the Vichy administration organised resistance groups amidst various double-cross plots and logistical support failures, but managed to become one of the most successful agents during this period of war. She was regarded by the Gestapo as, 'the most dangerous of all Allied spies'.

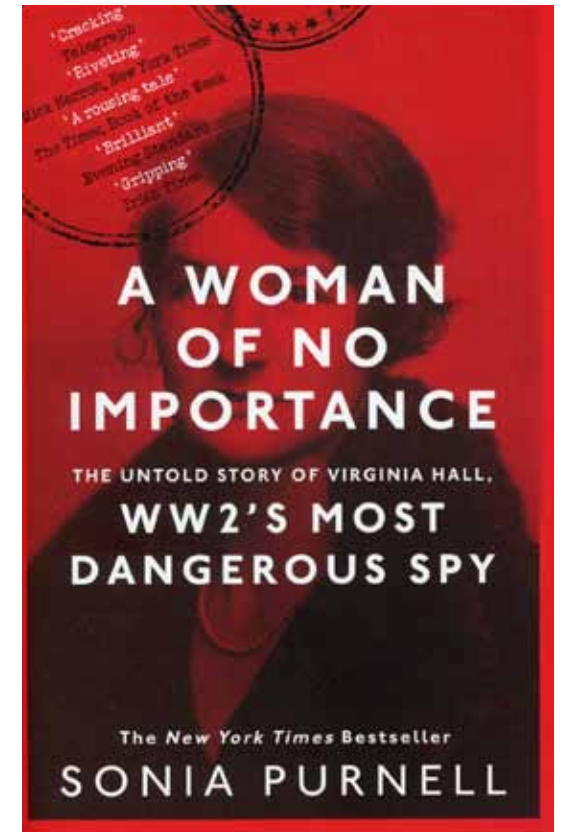
She also faced many acts of discrimination against her, as she was a woman, despite how successful she was in her role. To add to all of this, she also had one of her legs amputated as a result of an accident in her teenager years.

She was awarded the DSC, Croix de Guerre and made an MBE for her work

It is an outstanding story, well researched and one, which leaves you wondering why it has remained untold for so many years.

I realise now, after reading the book, that I had previously watched a movie called 'A Call to Spy' which does her real story no justice and mixes the story of Virginia in with the story of Noor Inayat Khan GC, born in Moscow to an Indian father and an American mother, a Muslim princess who died in Dachau concentration camp whilst working for the SOE. Another relatively untold story, (which I will be reading next!)

Alan House



## From Eddie Winter

**Lin and I were just going through some old photos and came across the attached, which I thought you might find interesting for the magazine.**

It came about because I was chosen to represent the Officers Retirement Gift Fund and present Malcolm with his retirement gift.

Because of his height Malcolm had jokingly, over the years, rested his elbow on my head on many occasions, so I decided that it wouldn't be happening at his retirement. I made the stilts myself and practiced for weeks in order to be able to 'walk' and 'stand still', walking was definitely easier.

Graham Reeve was my accomplice on the night, allowing me to keep out of the way before making a grand entrance at the appropriate time. My idea worked a treat as Malcolm just roared with laughter.

I've still got the stilts in the garage but I won't be repeating the performance.



STOP MESSAGE 21



# Scrapbook Memories

*Bedford SS RAA 513 issued  
March 1957 to Horndean*



*Bedford SS TAA 718 issued  
in March 1958 to Grayshott*



*Bedford SL VOR 258  
issued in June 1959  
Farnborough*



*You will have seen that Hampshire has moved to a shorter wheel base pumping appliance in the form of the new Light Rescue Pumps and these are seemingly proving to be popular. SWB versions of pumping appliances are not though new to Hampshire. Here are two SWB Bedfords, in comparison of the longer wheelbase and more commonly used Wt of the period (Farnborough). Photos- Dennis Wills ex-A Div and B Div*



*The idea of the small fires unit  
in Hampshire is being scrapped,  
but it seems that a trial may  
begin from Headquarters!*

*making sure that the  
suction stays well and  
truly in the dam during  
AFS drills is AFS  
Fireman Mick Haggard*



*AFS pump drills with  
AFS Fireman John  
Cox starting the hose  
run to the target.*





*RTA on the A30 between the Sun Inn and the Wheatsheaf Hotel, late 1960s. Army Hillman car in collision with a Bedford Army lorry. Minor injuries it seems. WIT Overton EAA 870D in view with Land Rover Rest behind. Reg Noddy Fell by the ambulance.*



*The trial of the 'Pisspot' helmet, not sure of exact date but somewhere around 1966 or 67 at a guess. Basingstoke Firemen Derek Nichols (left) and Pete Broad (Right). I am so glad that some trendy thinking officer did not think these were a good idea!!*



*Blue Watch Redbridge, date unknown but perhaps 1979/80. One of you scallywags will not doubt know and advise what the occasion was and why Ken Slade has a suitcase and a pipe, unless it was when he was promoted to Sub officer and was leaving the Watch? L to R Ken Slade, Jerry Leonard, Dave Kendall, Eddie Smith, Ray Kidd (get yer haircut Kidd!), Derek Smith, Trevor Turrell Dusty Miller*

*Top Two Photos Leighton Reed, ex- Basingstoke, with recognition to his father, Graham Reed (Graham Photography) who attended so many fires and events as a professional photographer in the north of the county.*

# Marathon Man

## David Howells

**Former Director of Corporate Services**

**David is still a keen runner. He is a member of four local running clubs and puts in a considerable amount of training in all weathers - one might even say he is obsessed! He says it doesn't get any easier as the years go by, but his determination keeps him going.**

David first ran the London marathon in 1986 and completed 23 London marathons. His best marathon time since becoming a 'past member' is 3 hours 34 mins.

His recent results put him well within the 'good-for-age' category, which guarantees him entry to certain prestigious marathons around the world. (Most runners have to go into a ballot for places in popular events.)

David has run several overseas marathons (encouraged by his wife, Elaine, whose passion is travel) and he is now aiming to complete the six 'majors'. They are London, New York, Berlin and Tokyo and Chicago, (which he has already run). If successful, he will achieve the coveted Abbott World Marathon Majors medal.

On several occasions over the years David has sought sponsorship for the MS Society and has raised many thousands of pounds. Sadly, both his daughters have been diagnosed with MS.

Marathons are not the only events David tackles. Many other distances have their appeal, including the 5k Saturday morning 'parkruns' which have sprung up all over the UK and many other countries, and some tough cross-country runs, e.g. in the New Forest, on the South Downs and the Clarendon Way.

David says his aim is to keep on running and to complete the London Marathon again when he's 70.

*Ed – with thanks to Elaine for sending this to me (some while ago -sorry for the delayed inclusion). Let's hope that the major events that David wishes to complete and the travel associated with them both become a reality in the near future. Good on you David for your ever increasing achievements and the money you raise for the charity very close to your heart.*





# Final Salute

*It is with regret that we record the death of the following past member of the Service:*

## ***John ‘Pony’ Moore***

3 September 2020 - Aged 92

John joined Southampton Fire Brigade in January 1956 and served at Central and Woolston before retiring in June 1976.

## ***Michael Smith***

15 September 2020 - Aged 67

Michael served as a Fireman at West End from January 1974 until the station was closed in January 1996

## ***Ivor ‘Darky’ Hobbs***

28 September 2020 - Aged 90

Ivor joined Twyford in April 1957, retiring in July 1974 as a Leading Fireman.

## ***Arthur Levy***

September 2020 - Aged 94

Arthur joined the NFS as a part-time member at Twyford in November 1942, joining the Hampshire Fire Service whole-time in April 1948. He served at Eastleigh and Winchester and for a period was the Service Photographer in the rank of Sub Officer before moving on to be the Communications Officer in charge of technical turnout systems and the radio scheme, rising to the rank of Divisional Officer, until April 1986.

## ***Nigel Smith***

3 October 2020 - Aged 70

Having previously served with the RAF Fire Service, Nigel joined Southampton Fire Brigade in January 1971, he served in Hampshire until his retirement at the rank of Sub Officer in February 1997. During his career he served at St Marys, Woolston, Copnor, Botley, C Division and D Division HQ Fire Safety.

## ***Martin Loftus***

6 November 2020 - Aged 78

Martin joined in April 1975, and served his entire career as a Fireman at St Marys fire station, up until his retirement in February 1997.

## ***Michael Elleker***

8 November 2020 - Aged 84

Mick served at Petersfield from October 1959 until his retirement as Sub officer in charge in April 1990. Mick also served as a member of the RAF Fire Service.

## ***Cyril Sankey***

16 November 2020 - Aged 70

Cyril served at Sutton Scotney from February 1982 until retirement, as Watch Manager, in July 2011

## ***Paul Murray***

21 November 2020 - Aged 64

Paul joined in April 1981 and served at Basingstoke, A Division HQ, Training Centre and with USAR until retirement as a Watch Manager

## ***John Peters***

23 November 2020 - Aged 72

Joined served at Alton from September 1973 until his retirement as Sub Officer in charge in February 2003

## ***Pete Curl***

24 November 2020 - Aged 84

Pete joined the Southampton Fire Brigade in January 1962, serving at Docks and at St Marys, before retiring as a Fireman in November 1991. Pete was famous for the many ships crests he collected or created for the ships calling into Southampton and which were displayed firstly at the Docks station and then at the old St Marys station

## ***Bob Bicknell***

On 26 November 2020 - Aged 85

Bob served as the D Division Admin Officer from March 1978 until March 1996

## ***Jim Barron***

In November 2020 - Aged 68

Jim served at Woolston, Havant & Copnor from 1978 until retiring and moving to America in 1989

## ***Bert Skew***

On 29 November 2020 - Aged 91

Bert served at New Milton from April 1957 to October 1974 and was a Leading Fireman when he left the service. He was also a Sub Officer with the ISR Fire Department, Hardley.

## ***Dave Fox***

On 6 December 2020 - Aged 72

Dave served joined the Portsmouth City Fire brigade in August 1969 and served as a Fireman at Copnor, Southsea and Fawley (Hardley) until January 2000

## ***Trevor House***

On 17 December - Aged 67

Trevor served as a Fireman at Fleet from April 1973 until July 1985

## ***Fred Taylor***

In January 2021 - Aged 89

Fred served at Fleet from October 1961 until his retirement as a Leading Fireman in April 1976

## ***Harold Stinton QFSM***

On 12 January 2021 - Aged 91

Harold began his fire service career in Staffordshire Fire Brigade in May 1959. In June 1971 he transferred to Hampshire as the A Division, Divisional Commander, further promotion saw him serving as SDO Divisional Commander in D Division and Deputy Chief Fire Officer until his retirement in June 1989

## ***Ray Sexton***

On 14 January 2021 - Aged 73

Ray joined Portsmouth City Fire Brigade November 1971. During his career he served at Cosham and Southsea, before retiring in May 2002 as Sub Officer in the B Division HQ Staff Office.

## ***Steve Shuck***

On 8 February 2021 - Aged 63

Steve joined in 1978, serving at Redbridge before transferring to Dorset in July 1989.

## ***Don Cole BEM***

On 14 February 2021 - Aged 90

Don joined August 1951 serving at Bishops Waltham until August 1985 when he retired as Sub Officer in charge, a position he held for 18 years.

## ***Brian Smith***

On 15 February 2021 - Aged 74

‘BJ’ joined in July 1977 and served at Redbridge, St Marys, and Hardley before retiring as a Fireman in December 2001

## ***Brian Cowin***

On 23 February 2021 - Aged 74

Brian served at Droxford, retiring as a Leading Fireman in 2001

## ***Mark Harris***

On 14 March 2021 - Aged 61

Mark joined in 1978 and served as a Firefighter at Farnborough, Aldershot and then Rushmoor





*C Division team? Date not known.*

*Cup Winners in 1974-75, but which cup? Photo does not indicate.*

