

Official opening of Watford Community Fire Station



An historic occasion was marked on Friday (May 14) with the official opening of Watford Fire Station.

After an extended period of planning, design and construction, the new Fire Station on Watford's Lower High Street became the second brand new state of the art community fire station to open during Roy Wilsher's time as Chief Fire Officer for Hertfordshire.

The new fire station has been up and running since November 2009 but the official opening, carried out by the Lord Lieutenant of Hertfordshire, The Countess of Verulam, took place in May.

"The new location has already enabled us to improve our

working and training practices and our building is right in the

heart of the community, creating excellent opportunities for closer working relationships with local people and local businesses," said Chief Fire Officer Roy Wilsher.

"Looking at the overall set up for Watford and the surrounding areas, the new fire station, means that the Hertfordshire Fire and Rescue Service is well placed to provide excellent and balanced operational cover for the whole area."

The fire station offers better training opportunities, including specialist facilities for rope rescue training and provides enhanced facilities for disabled visitors and female firefighters, as well as a meeting room for local community groups.

The Countess of Verulam, Chairman of the County Council

Bernard Lloyd, Hertfordshire County Council Chief Executive Caroline Tapster and Executive Member for Community Safety and Culture Keith Emsall, were part of a wider group of people who had been invited to the official opening and were given a guided tour of the new fire station by Station Commander, Steve Tant.

The Countess of Verulam, said: "It has been a real honour and a privilege to officially open the new Watford Fire Station. It is a good multi-purpose community building and also a museum, which is an excellent addition to the area. The fire station has a nice welcoming feel and is very well designed. This is a fantastic facility for the firefighters and will without doubt benefit the whole community."

The above article and pictures are taken from the May/June edition of In Focus issue 53. Ed



Announcements and Update

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THOSE WHO HAVE DIED



It is with regret that I have to announce the death of **former Retained Fireman Sid Springett**, who died on Saturday 3rd July 2010, following a long illness. He was aged 76.

Sid joined the HFB in 1956, soon after completing his National Service. He served at the old Hitchin Fire Station in Paynes Park, retiring on ill health grounds in 1966 following a training accident.

Sid's funeral took place at 11.00 a.m. on Tuesday 13th July 2010 at Harwood Park Crematorium, Stevenage.

Sid was a very popular local character and most fittingly the Chapel at the Crematorium was full to capacity, with at least 30 of the mourners having to stand in the side aisle.

Sid leaves a wife Mary and two children.

Donation to Sid's memory can be made to the The Fire Fighters Charity.

DECEMBER NEWSLETTER

All copy for the December Newsletter to be with me by **Monday 1st November 2010**

My preferences:

- a) E-mail attachment.
jmbpot@ntlworld.com
- b) Floppy disk.
- c) Typewritten.
- e) Handwritten.



My thanks to all who have contributed to the Newsletter this quarter. Ed.

Update W 619 ~ Well I never!

'They thought I'd never see this fire station',



I attach two photos of Watford's WrE W619 temporarily back in the county - a Fire Service Preservation Group chap from Gloucester has bought the vehicle, and called in on his way home from Ipswich (motor dealers). He will be rallying it around his local area, after some fairly intense restoration work - a number of months in the open air has done the appliance no favours.



**Regards
Roger Middleton**

Roger, thank you for letting us know the outcome of the disposal of W 619. It will please a number of people to know that W619 has been bought by an enthusiast and will be restored to it's former glory, giving it a new lease of life.Ed

Seen on a Wayside Pulpit

*Unlike the Post Office
we have two collections
Every Sunday*

Sent in by Alan Pottle



Letters to the Editor

Fire Services National Museum Trust

The following letters have been received via the CFO from Martyn Emberson, who is a trustee of the above trust.

It is addressed to those of us who may have and interest in the trust and it's work. Ed.

Dear Colleague,

You will recall that in April I circulated an email about the Fire Services National Museum Trust (a copy of which is below, as a reminder). I have now taken on the role of Trustee and thought I would update that information and let you know that the Trust is facing a very busy period of re-energising the push to get the site open to the public.

This means there are opportunities for Service personnel to not just join and become a "Friend" of the museum, but also for colleagues to take up active roles in this exciting project.

We need volunteers to help with management functions, as well as people helping with the "collection".

If you or any other colleagues are interested in finding out more, or have a particular expertise to offer, they can contact the museum by email either through me or the Chairman (normandickerson@bt-internet.com).

Kind regards.

Martyn Emberson
Chief Fire Officer NF&RS
Trustee of the Fire Services National Museum Trust

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8 April 2010

If you have any difficulty in obtaining the above telephone number please ring

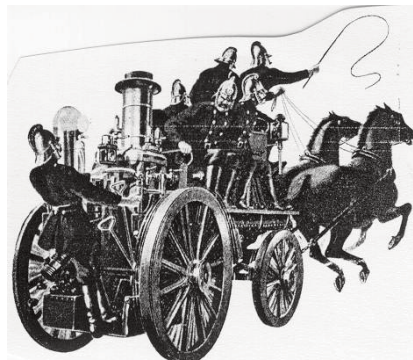
(01604) 797000 or email
enquiries@northantsfire.org.uk.

Dear Colleague

The Fire Services National Museum Trust – Fireworld Project

I would like to draw your attention to the sterling and unsung work of The Fire Services National Museum Trust in its long-standing quest to set up a National Museum of Firefighting on a site in Northamptonshire, to be known as Fireworld.

Originally founded in 1979, the Trust has since built up an unrivalled national collection of vehicles, equipment and a vast array of fire service memorabilia, representing over 200 years of British firefighting history and development. Since 1997, the Trust's collection has been located in the historic Napoleonic former Royal Ordnance Depot at Weedon, Northamptonshire, not far from Junction 16 on the M1.



The Trustees are led by Chairman Norman Dickerson (a Hertfordshire Old Boy), and former CFO of Leicestershire Fire and Rescue Service, aided by Vice Chairman Neil Wallington, former CFO of Devon Fire and Rescue Service.

The Trust has entered into a partnership with the developer of the Weedon site, to include a fire museum as part of the overall restoration of the site. Planning consent was granted in 1999 and upheld one year later following a planning enquiry

Now, after years of intense work and a few setbacks, the Trust is nearing its goal of opening a collection of national

importance. This will not only provide a tribute to all the men and women of the British Fire Service, who in both peace and war, have provided the fire protection of the nation, but to all the firefighters who serve today to protect life and property from the ravages of fire.

On the proposed Fireworld site at Weedon, the museum will aim to educate the public and schoolchildren on the risks of fire, preserve for posterity the proud history of the fire service, entertain with a range of interactive displays, and act as a centre for information and instruction on the whole range of fire safety and prevention issues.

The Grade II listed buildings on the Weedon site are considered by English Heritage to be some of the finest examples of their type, and whilst presenting some challenges in the construction of the Fireworld facilities, will add to the status and reputation of the site as a visitor attraction in the geographic heart of the nation.

It was with pleasure that I recently accepted an invitation to join the Fire Services National Museum Trust as a Trustee. Northamptonshire Fire and Rescue Service will also be exploring ways of providing tangible support for the Fireworld project as it progresses towards its objective.

I would ask all my CFOA colleagues to kindly promulgate this information, in order to widen the current awareness of the work and aims of the Fire Services National Museum Trust and the exciting concept of Fireworld.

More details of the Fire Service National Museum Trust and its work together with that of Fireworld can be found at:
www.fire-world.org.uk

Yours sincerely
Martyn Emberson
Chief Fire Officer



Letters to the Editor

Park Street ST ALBANS

July 2010

Dear Editor,

Leyland Pump Escape - W1

First may I congratulate you on a first class quarterly newsletter that I find very interesting and informative, as I am sure a lot of retired members do, not only in Hertfordshire but scattered around the U.K and in some cases further afield across the sea.

I would like to pass on my thoughts and deepest regrets about the decision to sell off W. 619 along with the wheeled escape ladder. I would have hoped that this could have been stored along side W 1 in the Museum at Watford. What could have been better than to keep one of the first and one of the last escapes that served Herts Fire Brigade for many years.



Ian with W1 at Park Street Fete

On a more cheerfull note I would like to add that our Residents Association in Park Street hold a Biannual Fete and this year was the year we held it. I have always wanted to ask the museum if it would be possible for W1 to attend. I spoke to Roger Middleton and he agreed that it would be at the Fete. As it entered the Recreation Field I heard people talking about what a first class machine it was and in such very good condition, through the afternoon many people stopped and admired this machine and asked about it. It was also made that little bit more special being that it was stationed at St Albans for it's working life. It was difficult to get this photo taken at our fete as there were always crowds around wanting to see this great piece of fire brigade history.

So as you may have gathered by now, wouldn't it have been nice to have seen the latest and the earliest Escape carrying machines kept together.

***Yours sincerely
Ian Getley***

Dear Ian,

Thank you very much for your article and picture of W1, also your kind comments about the Newsletter.

I am sure many old timers, including my self who has ridden out

on W1 to fires, will share your sentiments. However, in these days of financial restraint I suppose we must all be prepared to have to give up some of those things we treasure dearly.

My best wishes

John

Perth - WESTON AUSTRALIA

August 2010

G'day Rev.

Found these in an old briefcase this morning.



Red watch Watford circa 1982 with myself, Phil Castle, Derek Luff, Phil Smith, Laurie Bush, Tony Home, Roger Hesselwood, Bob Jones,



Basil Pryke and Mark Cheshire. Plus Winning Quiz team.

And volley ball winners Hemel Hempstead circa 1972 with myself, Rocky Knight, John York, Andy Ward, Pete Fensom and Dick Peace.

Takes you back eh!! Regards Pete (Brown)



Letters to the Editor & Round Up

Spilsby - Lincs.

August 2010

Dear Editor,

Food For Thought

The Earth is a very small stage in a vast cosmic area. Think of the rivers of blood spilled by all those generals and emperors so that, in glory and triumph, they could become momentary masters of a fraction of a dot. Think of the endless cruelties visited by the inhabitants of one corner of this pixel on the scarcely distinguishable inhabitants of another corner.

How frequent their misunderstandings, how eager they are to kill one another, how fervent their hatreds. Our posturings, our imagined self-importance, the delusion that we have some privileged position in the Universe are challenged by this point of pale light.

Our planet is a lonely speck in the great enveloping cosmic dark, in our obscurity, in all this vastness, there is no hint that help will come from elsewhere to save us from ourselves.

*So wrote Carl Sagan.
Cornell University.1993.*

Regards Fred Caldwell

Watford HERTS

August 2010

Dear Editor,

'Where are they now and what are they doing?



I thought the attached photo (Watford Blue Watch 1989), could go into the September edition of the RMA newsletter.

*Regards,
Roger Middleton*

Now there's a challenge from that nice Museum Curator Roger Middleton - do we have any takers? Ed.

WATFORD WAYS

This is the second article in a series, researched and written by Keith Roszell, which are turning out to be very interesting and informative.Ed.

CALLOWLAND

In 1379 the name first appears as Calloweland and means 'bare land'. There was a Callowland Farm situated in what is now Cecil Street and also an area of woodland called Callowland Spring at the junction of the present Ridge Lane with Nascot Wood Road. As with Longspring, it could well have been an enclosed area for raising game. The whole district was opened up for housing in the 1890's after the Earl of Essex had purchased it in 1881 from the former owners, the Master and Fellows of Merton College, Oxford. An alternative name for the area was Gamell, which was mentioned in a document of 1633, although it was probably used at an earlier date. This latter was most likely to have come from a proper name, as Gamel was an Old Norse word meaning 'old' and has come down as the very rare surname Gamell. Somebody of this name may well have been a now long forgotten owner or tenant of Callowland Farm.

WHATS IN A NAME

HOWELL/HOWEL AND POWELL/POWEL

These are attributed Welsh names although some argue against this but offer no ancient evidence.

Howel or Hoel was at one time a favourite baptismal name. There was a Howel le Waleys, i.e. Howel the Welshman, or as we should say, Howell Wallace, mentioned in the Parliamentary writs of 1313.

Powel is derived from 'ap Hywel', the son of Howell (draw your own conclusions!), 'ap' being the same as our English 'son' and is far more numerous than either Howell or Howells. There was a 'Ralph ate Powel' (dweller by the pool) in 1288. Powel was also used for Paul and we find that John Paul, in 1296 on his seal, was called John Powel.

The single or double 'L' in names changes throughout history and in my own family they have dithered for ages over one or two 'L's'.

Keith Roszell (two L's)

Thank you to the Old Gits

*'In my recent article I referred to my Canadian uncles killed in WW1. *Mick Howell subsequently e-mailed me with the news that the Old Gits were off to Belgium and would endeavour to locate the grave of my Uncle William who was killed 5th November 1917 at Passchendale. I gave them what information I had and upon their return Mick sent me pictures of the said Gits around Uncle Williams's grave. I could write volumes but, in short, Mick, John, Dave and both Pete's, a most sincere thank you.*

Keith Roszell (Rosie)

** See article on page 6*



Round Up



The British Cemetery at Tyne Cot



Ploegsteert Wood

Despite the best efforts of 'that volcano' to scupper our plans, the Old Gits reassembled for their latest trip back in April. John Bell, Pete Scott, Pete Hazeldine, Dave Wilson and I decided to visit the Menin Gate at Ypres (Iper) and the surrounding monuments and cemeteries. Wils compiled an itinerary and researched the places we might go and a never before known event occurred, we were organised! It proved highly informative and Wils took his task so seriously that the rest of us were compelled, nay ordered, to hang on to every historic word. We dutifully complied if only to avoid toys from his pram littering the hallowed places we visited. They included visits to the nightly playing of the last post at the Menin Gate and also by paying homage to various soldiers killed in action who were known to friends or former colleagues or in some cases "Known Only Unto God." Museums and trenches provided a reminder of the staggering number of lives lost by the allied forces and the terrible conditions, not least of all at Passchendale.



Keith Roszell's Uncle's grave



JB plants a cross for a soldier 'shot at dawn'

The B&B Hortensia www.bbhortensia in the centre of Ypres was an excellent base within walking distance of the Menin Gate, museums and restaurants. We received a warm welcome from Véronique and Michaël and Véronique speaks excellent English. Together they keep a spotlessly clean and recently renovated 6 bedroom B&B. Breakfast was fresh and plentiful and helped set us up for the explorations and diatribes of our 'guide'. On our travels we met firefighters from Nottinghamshire and Berkhamptead, (small world) and of course the wine flowed freely and slurred stories of the old days dominated the evening conversations. As is our custom we also raised a glass to those we had lost in recent times both personally and of course former colleagues. Yet another truly memorable weekend.

Mick Howell



Where are they Now ~ Roger Smith

I mentioned to John Potipher a few years back that I would like to do a small piece for the magazine so now that I am finally retired here goes. First of all many thanks to John for putting me on the mailing list, for producing an excellent magazine and for keeping everybody in touch with the news. I also enjoyed the retired members do last July courtesy of CFO Wilsher which gave the opportunity for Jacky and I to chat with many old colleagues and friends.

I married Jacky 45 years ago at Stevenage; we have two children Matthew and Victoria, and three grandchildren, Ben 14, Emily 11 and Lauren 4 months born to my daughter on the 27th December. Victoria is a nurse and Matthew is serving in Oxfordshire as an operational "officer" somewhere between a sub and a station officer whatever they call that these days! I moved around a bit serving as a Station Commander in Brighton, moving to Edinburgh as the Health and Safety Officer and retiring from Oxfordshire in 1993 as a Div. Commander then later to the College. I carried on working to fund my daughter through University and then finally broke the habit of work at the age of 65.



John P and I served in Fire Prevention as it was then back in the 70's and years later met at the College where I was serving as the Staff Officer to the CEX and Marketing Manager a combined role. John was attending the Chaplaincy Conference for the UK Fire Service and I had just organised and conducted a visit to the Fire Service College by Hertfordshire Public Protection Committee Councillors. It was particularly pleasing to do that having started my career at Stevenage in 1962. Bob King the CFO, post visit, sent a nice letter of thanks and the "Hertfordshire Medal" which I very much appreciated.

The only sad part of the Magazine I suppose is the obituary, reading about people recently such as Harold Adams, Mick Bowman, John Miles, Brian Parker, Gordon Strickland, Bill

Odell, Roy Sibley, Stuart Orvis, "Dad" Rumbold, Don Huddle and others I have either known or served with. Having moved around the UK Fire Service my one regret is that inevitably you lose touch with people you have liked/respected. I remember my time as a recruit Fireman on watch with Sub Officer Chris Preston, Leading Fireman Ron "Steve" Sheppey (my mentor), Joe Walker, Bill Garrett, Tony "Bushy" Ferne, Mick Applegate and the venerable "Gunner" Hammond.

The Stevenage Mess was run by Ron Ambrose and I remember the standard breakfast of "Eggsa breada beans" as Joe Walker put it. Service Van 3 was manned (sorry cant say that any more CREWED) by L.Fm Eric Upchurch and Fm Price (David Price ending up in the Inspectorate). I recall Uncle George seeing me with my Finchley Training School report and saying let's put it like this boy, you can only improve! I did improve a little and later on served in John Gray's Fire Prevention Department, as part of "Reader's Raiders" with Ivan Reader, George Brignall, Bob Hull, Allan Rayner other stalwarts such as Sid Gifford, Dick Beavis, Pete Lester and Ron Rudman were there as well (sorry if I cannot remember everybody). I was in charge of Welwyn at that time as a retained Sub Officer for some six years under the undoubted Leadership of ADO Bill Naismith (Uncle Nay) serving with Roly Palmer, David Smith, Graham Seagroatt (never could spell that name) David and Peter Young and Tony Pateman. I recruited my friend Richard "Andy" Anderson into the service and he subsequently went whole time retiring from Hampshire as a DO. I was also friends with Trevor Kendall who become the Fire Chief of Sark where Jacky and I visited him some years back

My job at the College (when it was the place and meant something!) was unique working directly as the uniformed PA (Staff Officer) to Terry Glossop the then Chief Exec and Commandant together with the Sales and Marketing Director, a lady called July Tew. Not only did I host visiting councillors and International Groups I also had the opportunity to visit many other countries representing the Service through the College. With the Civil Service takeover of the College (was that a good move for the Fire Service ?) I was re-contracted as one of the International Managers and continued selling College expertise around the world as well as doing Conference papers and consultancy.

Jacky and I still like to travel abroad but last year we bought a small caravan and have started to go to all the places in the UK we haven't been to, what happened to the Barbeque Summer last year?

Like many in Hertfordshire I trained at Finchley in the old Middlesex Brigade, my course ran in 62/63 which was one of the worst winters on record. I have a Pathe Newsreel clip, which I have converted to a digital format, of the training school and a squad doing Escape Drill and Hook ladders. Following the do last July I sent copies to Ron Gibson and my old friend Fred Smith who thought it was good so if anyone else would like a copy please contact me on roger@bryonyhome.co.uk or give me a ring on 07725 413388

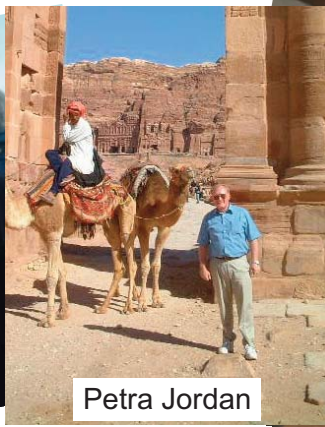
Regards Roger Smith



Roger Smith Working Around the World



Australia



Petra Jordan



Kuwait



China Conference



Mess President



Taiwan Director



India



With HMCIFS Ken Knight in Taiwan.



Saudi Officers at No. 10

