Dear Colleagues

Welcome to the 14th issue of the Retired Network Newsletter. I hope you find it interesting and varied. There are a couple of anniversaries coming up which are included. They are; 40 years since the first national strike and in January 2018 it will be 50 years since the Hixon Rail Crash which had implications nationally for rail crossings and for which a special event is being held at Hixon on January 6, 2018. Also of interest to many may be the return of the HMI inspections, albeit probably (and hopefully) in a different format and style to those we used to have.

If you have any suggestions for future editions, please let me know. My email address is shown below (For those that don’t have access to the internet my postal address is also shown). I continue to seek to increase the numbers of email contacts so if you have an email address and don’t already receive any messages from me please let me know so that I can add you to the database. It makes it easier to get information and news out quickly.

Please note that all emails are sent out ‘bcc’ and so do not show any individual email addresses.

Please let me have your email address!

Andy Buttery, Retired Personnel Welfare Network Volunteer

e: a.buttery@staffordshirefire.gov.uk t: 07866 951110
The Oldershaws, High Offley, Woodseaves, Stafford ST20 0NF

Don’t forget if you need any help from The Fire Fighters Charity the helpline number is:

0800 389 88210
e: helpline@firefighterscharity.org.uk
1977: Firefighters strike over pay claim

On November 14 1977
Firefighters across the country
began their first national
strike, over a 30 per cent pay
demand.

Almost 30,000 firefighters were
involved between November 1977
and January 1978 and over 1.25
million working days were lost.
Emergency cover was provided by
10,000 servicemen using a fleet of
‘Green Goddess’ engines.

Firemen earned £3,700 p.a. for
a 48 hour week and there was
widespread public support for the
strikers. The Fire Brigades Union
demand for a 30 per cent increase
was outside the government 10
per cent limit on wage increases.
Talks continued between union
leaders and employers also
focused on the possibility of a
reduction in the 48-hour working
week.

In Staffordshire 96 Army personnel
were called in to provide fire cover
and in the first 24 hours 23 calls
were received in the underground
emergency control room situated
in the County Buildings, half of
which were false alarms.

The morning after a fire Wetmore
Maltings, Burton-on-Trent attended by
Army firefighters together with the Ind
Coope Fire and the Bass Fire Service.

An old ambulance was donated to
strikers at Stafford as a shelter for the
pickets, some of whom can be seen
above.
Next year, January 6 2018 marks the 50th anniversary of the tragic rail crash at New Road, Hixon when a low loader transporter carrying a 120-ton electrical transformer was struck by an express train on the recently installed automatic level crossing.

Eleven people were killed and 45 were injured. An invitation has been received for the Fire Service, including retired staff, to attend the unveiling of a memorial to those killed in the crash on January 6 2018.

The Service has agreed to take part and if any retired personnel would like to attend please let me know and I will forward further details as and when I have them. In addition I have received a couple of accounts from retired members who attended the incident on that day.

They are summarised on pages four, five and six...
Bill Jeynes

Ex Army, been in the Staffs FB five years and already thought I had seen it all; this day proved I had not.

The watch had just been issued with the new Cromwell helmets; they looked like jerry pots and were the cause of more than a few jokes. Big, black, round and shiny and we all wanted to age them a bit, we got our wish.

We turned out to Hixon, The Bedford TK turned out on immediate and the Dennis Pump Escape followed when whole-time retained and retained men turned in to complete the crew.

We were lucky to have Stn O Malpass on the scene who soon took charge and with heavy use of his whistle and loud voice, got silence so we could hear cries for help and locate people. Many passengers were saved due to his organisational skills.

There were many heroes that day from police, ambulance, medics and fire. One doctor was relentless in her efforts to help people. Add to that the red cross and WRVS who came later with a canteen waggon giving sustenance to people who had worked and continued to work tirelessly for many hours.

My thoughts are, as they were then, with all the families that were affected by this disaster.
Blue Watch at Stafford Station were on that day. Sub Officer was Alan Burrows in charge of shift.

Appliances responded to a report of a transformer stuck on the railway crossing at Hixon and I was left behind on station but was instructed to go and fetch the Station Officer who was off duty. His car was parked at the station which was the custom at that time. We both then went on to the incident.

Although a bit of a blur I remember three, rescue locations,

1. I was on top of a carriage and instructed to cut the overhead cable with bolt croppers!! I was stopped by two workmen just as I was about to do it. They cut it with an oxy-acetylene burner, the cable parted dramatically in whiplash fashion, it would have taken my head off if I had cut the cables. So, they saved my life by stopping me.

2. In another carriage further back two men were in a space big enough for one but survived with only one broken leg between them because the internal seating had imploded around them to cushion them from the impact of the crash.

3. Recovering the body of a lady from under a broken exposed carriage section next to the locomotive the upper torso badly affected by battery acid leaking from train battery system. There was an ADO Bloor who impressed me at the time by his calmness and ability to maintain control of the incident at one stage. He stood on top of the carriages to have an overall view and dictated instructions from there. CFO Blacktop assumed command at a later stage for a while.

continued>>>
As a rookie, I learned a lot of valuable lessons within a short space of time at this incident, which I’d like to think made me a better officer in later years. Things like, observing the maintenance of overall control of events, liaising with other services/public bodies, dealing with personnel requirements on a protracted incident, dealing with the public/sightseers etc. It was all there to be observed if one was interested enough and I was.

“It is right that a warm tribute should be paid to all those members of the Police, Fire Brigade and emergency services, and to the many unofficial helpers, who did such a magnificent job of helping the injured. Their efforts are clearly deserving of the highest praise”.

Extract from the Report of the Public inquiry
Firefighters Charity

75th Anniversary Calendar

To mark the forthcoming 75th anniversary year West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service have kindly published the National Fire Fighters Charity Calendar 2018.

Fire brigades throughout the UK have come together to showcase the great work they do, providing photographs of real incidents attended by members of this great emergency service.

These photographs have been compiled and are displayed in this 2018 calendar, along with details of the contributing fire brigade and some great tips for fire safety.

All proceeds from the sale of this calendar will go to The Fire Fighters Charity to fund the support provided to people in need in the firefighting community.

Only £9.99 Including Postage & Packaging

Buy your copy online, visit: www.firefighterscharity.org.uk
Anything in life which challenges you mentally, physically or emotionally, exposes your own fears of the unknown and failure. The solution is preparation. “Fail to prepare, prepare to fail!”

My niece Samantha is a keen runner and has accomplished a plethora of running achievements, ranging from half marathons to full marathon distances. She has wanted to attempt an Ultra marathon for some time.

An Ultra is defined as any distance over the standard marathon distance of 26 miles 385 yards. Sam knows I’m one for a challenge and last November during a family gathering she asked, “Would you do an Ultra with me uncle Al”? Not being totally aware of what I was letting myself in for and possibly not paying full attention I replied, “Go on then.”

I’m 54 years old and I do like a challenge. I was a member of the Royal Navy’s 1984 Field Gun Crew. I’ve also completed several canoe marathons including the notorious Devizes to Westminster.

I’ve also completed the Ipswich Half Marathon and the London Marathon in 2007. It wouldn’t be an understatement to say I am not built for speed. It’s fair to say I’m not a natural runner, but I’ve done a bit on and off.

Sam had booked and paid for both of us to do the event as soon as I had agreed. The Ultra she chose was the XNRG Isle of Wight (IOW) Extreme Challenge held on July 1 2017. It was no less than the full circumnavigation of the island. Starting in West Cowes and finishing in East Cowes, 70 miles in 2 days, 40 on the first day and 30 (ish) on the second. This is also classified as two ultras back to back.

After a few sleepless nights contemplating various hip and knee replacements, the number of blisters I would have, and how many toenails I would have left afterwards, I thought I’d better crack on with a bit of training.
I kept putting off my first run, delaying the inevitable reality check of my fitness. But 3 days before Christmas, on a dark wet December night I decided to give it ago. I ran around the village 6 times. I was heavy legged, puffing and panting not resembling the ideal budding Ultra athlete of 50+ years but these initial laps certainly focused my thoughts on the size of the challenge ahead. All that was needed now was to commit to the training.

Thankfully I have a very faithful Italian friend. An extremely dependable chap, he likes his treats and exercise daily, so he does enjoy going for a run too. Ernie; or BIG ERN to his mates, is a three-years-old orange and white Italian Spinone. A well-built dog with a carpet of unruly hair, loafing clumsy feet, a big nose; and slightly smelly on occasions. What do they say about owners and their dogs? (Ticks all the boxes apart from the hair!).

Our preferred training area is off road at Cannock Chase. I acquired a running harness for BIG ERN and we were off. We concentrated on time, not distance and we ran in all weathers. It took me about a month before I could run non-stop for an hour. As the weeks and months passed we built the time up to 5 hours, and ran regularly four or five times a week averaging about 14 miles a day. Running on tired feet was the norm. Navigation in an Ultra is important, getting lost wastes energy and requires more physical and mental efforts, which are in short supply. I brought an Ordnance Survey map of the Isle of Wight back in January and studied the coastal path, contour lines and waypoints meticulously to familiarise myself. The time spent studying the map turned out to be time well spent (we never got lost once in the race, many did). Eight months of training flew by and to be fair I felt prepared.

We arrived in Cowes well prepared and ready to face our Ultra marathon weekend. We were given route cards and basic maps prior to start. At 09:03 on July 1 2017 about 100 competitors started. Due to the heat (28 degrees) lots of runners were suffering from various levels of dehydration and unfortunately five competitors dropped out on the first day.

We finished the first day in a time of nine hours 42 minutes. I’m not sure how to describe how I felt. Very low energy levels, hungry, stiff and wondering how we would make the start at 7am the next morning to complete another Ultra distance of 33 miles.
Both of us were suffering dehydration stiffness and muscle pain. Through the night we didn’t sleep much and ended up eating Jammie Dodgers and fruit cake at 3am, must have needed the sugar. Throughout the night I divulged to Sam about the size of breakfast I was going to devour in the morning.

I was clock watching from about 4:30am, waiting for that magical time when the canteen would open. 6am on the dot and you bet I was front of the queue. The doors opened but no waft of bacon gently sizzling in the pan greeted me... only the colourless lazy drift of porridge. Porridge, the only thing on offer was porridge, PORRIDGE!!

We started our second Ultra very gently at 7am, the temperature again started to rise quickly, we both had extra water bottles with us this time. We progressed well and our pain was manageable.

If you’ve never been to the island go; you won’t be disappointed, it has stunning view at every turn. The second day was a real grind, but in a funny way the dawning of the achievement was getting closer with every step.

I don’t really do the emotional thing at the end of races, I’m just glad to have completed. We finished the second day 8 hours 29 minutes. We finished overall 84 out of 94, Woman’s open Sam was 11th out of 30, 50+ age I was 10th out of 28.

Both of us knew what we had done was pushing the boundaries of what we were capable of. We had enjoyed the adventure. After we packed up our gear we headed down to the Red Funnel Ferry.

We passed a kebab shop, within seconds, probably the fastest I had moved all weekend I was in ordering chips and kebab meat with tomato sauce and a sprinkling of salt, HEAVEN we’ve never tasted anything like it. I said straight after that I would never ever do anything like that again. Now a few days have passed I’m in contemplation mode and thinking about going back next year.

I’ll let you know, of course if anyone would like to join us your more than welcome, after all what are boundaries for if not for pushing them?

Alan B.
Hi, I’m Bob Eaton and some of you may know, I used to be a Firefighter from 1974-1988. I retired from the service due to an injury. I am now a Chaplain to the Service along with another 17 Chaplains who are spread throughout Staffordshire serving 33 Fire Stations plus HQ; we are also here to serve our retired service personnel.

A brief history

Chaplaincy in the Service has been around for a very long time, the first on record began in 1854, in the London Fire Brigade. With the help of the London City Mission, the then Chief Officer James Braidwood, requested that a person be made available to look after the spiritual welfare of his firefighters. From that time, Chief Fire Officers have been keen to establish this kind of support within their Services. A Fire and Rescue Service Chaplain is an unpaid volunteer and is involved in many other ministerial and pastoral activities outside the service. At any time, the Chaplain may be called to respond to a particular request for service.

What does a Chaplain do?

The duties of the chaplain vary greatly, from visiting stations and offices, to being called to attend large fires or incidents. The Chaplains will endeavour to visit their allocated stations and offices in the service on a regular basis.
Fire Service Chaplains

Being seen regularly ensures that when the Chaplain is called on to render some particular service, at the very least the people know who it is they are dealing with. The object of the many informal contacts and conversations is to build bridges and make it easy for people who want to approach the Chaplain about something that is on their mind. It is the aim of every Chaplain to be available to all of the Service personnel including non-uniformed members of staff and those who are now retired. Chaplains are available to visit those who may be in hospital, or in times of crisis at home. From time to time they are asked to perform other pastoral and ministerial services for members of the service, this is perfectly natural.

“For all without exception”

When the Chaplains pay a visit to a station or office, some perhaps imagine that their real interest is first of all in the people from their own denomination. Some may also be very wary, since they don’t normally go to any place of worship and may not even be particularly religious. They think that the Chaplain will try to ‘ram religion down their throats’. Nothing could be further from the truth. The Chaplain is there for everybody without exception and may come from any number of religious persuasions or denomination but as a Chaplain they will always remain neutral. In our multi-faith society they are aware that there are people from other religious traditions and are sensitive to that. Chaplains are there because of their belief that people matter irrespective of who they are, what they are, or what their particular beliefs may be, whether they are church members or not.
Fire Service Chaplains

The Chaplain is there to share concerns, interests, problems and the opportunities of Fire and Rescue Service personnel in their working lives. Above all, the Chaplain is there to make a positive contribution to the life and well-being of everyone involved.

The Chaplain is there to be part of the personnel support system and is a resource that is available, which can and should be used.
If anyone wishes to contact me I am available 24/7 on:-
M: 07747010799 or T:01538 528583
robert.eaton@staffordshirefire.gov.uk;
obmentor@msn.com

Role of the Firefighters Charity
In addition to the work of the Chaplains, the Fire Fighters Charity, among the usual services of rehabilitation, recuperation etc provides an Advice, Information and Support Service (AIASS). This service supports individuals in the community covering areas such as social care, advocacy, financial support, home adaptations and equipment provision, bereavement support. Working closely with the Registered Home Visitors, the team of Community Case Workers and volunteers will handle cases on a national basis, allowing for a cost effective, efficient and timely response to meeting beneficiary need. If you require the support of the AIASS contact the Customer Care Team in the first instance as the team is trained to ensure you are directed to the most appropriate service for your needs.
Customer Care Team: 01256 366566 and Services Access Line 0800 3898820
The Home Office has announced a ‘significant’ new role for Her Majesty’s Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC) - as it will now oversee the new fire inspectorate regime.

HMIC will become the single inspectorate for policing and fire and be re-named Her Majesty’s Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services (HMICFRS). There is a recommendation to HM the Queen, that Sir Thomas Winsor (currently Her Majesty’s Chief Inspector of Constabulary) is appointed as Chief Fire and Rescue Inspector for England.

Roy Wilsher, Chair of the National Fire Chiefs Council (NFCC) said: “I am pleased that the Home Office has now made the announcement regarding the Fire Inspectorate, which will be carried by Her Majesty’s Inspectorate of Constabulary.

This is a major move in demonstrating accountability and transparency across the fire and rescue service. The Inspectorate will ensure the public, official and stakeholders have more access to how fire and rescue services perform, along with data from their local services”.

The Home Office stated: “The inspectorate will help support the continuous improvement of this critical public service and support fire and rescue authorities to become even more effective. It will also support continuing collaboration between policing and fire and rescue services, offering the opportunity for future inspections of joint areas of work or where support functions have been combined.”

The new regime is likely to come into place early next year, with every authority in England inspected by the end of 2019. HMIC will shortly begin work developing an inspection framework and programme to be published for consultation in the autumn.

The introduction of an independent inspectorate is just part of the Government’s fire reform programme which aims to make fire and rescue services more effective, efficient and professional than ever before.
BLUE LIGHT CARD
The discount service for the Emergency Services, NHS and Armed Forces

As retired members of the Fire and Rescue Service you are eligible to register with ‘Blue Light Card’ to access discounts online and on the high street through a physical card. It is now easier for retired staff to receive the physical card as they can now be sent to the home address (as opposed to place of work) by the provision of some evidence of previous employment e.g. a letter from a Service address.

To register go to:
https://www.bluelightcard.co.uk/

Tuesday December 12
NARF Christmas Lunch
Service HQ at 12.30pm

The Retired Network/NARF Christmas lunch, which is open to ALL retired staff, will be held on Tuesday 12th December at Service HQ commencing at 12.30pm. The National Association of Retired Firefighters is the organisation that is dedicated to safeguarding the interests of EVERY former Fire and Rescue Service Employee and their families. Widows and widowers are eligible to be members and do not now have to pay any subscription. The benefits of membership are detailed on the NARF website – www.narfire.org.uk

If anyone is interested in joining or would like further information please contact either Ron Biggs or Alan Smith

Book by December 5
The cost is again held at £10 per person. Numbers are required by December 5 at the very latest to:
Ron Biggs M: 07512 737222
E: ronniethewolf22@icloud.com
or Alan Smith T: 01782395557
Local artist Sid Kirkham has very kindly produced this painting to celebrate the work of Staffordshire Fire and Rescue Service and to help them raise money for local charities and the Fire Fighters Charity.

If anyone would like a mounted copy either A4 or A3 size then these are only available direct from Hanley Fire Station priced at £25 and £45.

This print would make a nice present for anyone in the fire service or who would like to add it to their Sid Kirkham collection. Christmas is fast approaching so get your orders placed. If you are not local these can be sent out by Royal Mail.

*Hanley Fire Station would like to thank Sid and the staff in the gallery for their support in helping us to raise money for local charities within Stoke on Trent as well as The Fire Fighters Charity.*

To place your order please contact Kelvin Chell either by email k.chell@staffordshirefire.gov.uk or call him on 07742 688047
Incident 1
The exercise included a range of terrorist related ‘incidents’ which unfolded within Staffordshire.

The first incident started with reports of a house fire near Rugeley Power Station at 9am. When the five crews arrived they soon found the incident actually began in a disused building on the site and six people who signed into the site were unaccounted for. Two firefighters entered the building wearing breathing apparatus. The sound of two explosions then sounded and the crews had to deal with the loss of contact with the two firefighters inside the building and the casualties, many of which were played by actual amputees in order to give the crew an insight into what this sort of incident would actually be like. When the police confirmed fatalities at this incident the rest of the Service and those on the ground had to deal with the impact of two firefighters and four other members of the public dying during the incident. The support staff then had to deal with incoming social media posts and calls from volunteers pretending to be concerned residents, family members and councillors.

This incident turned out to be a bomb factory and was categorised as terrorism.
Incident 2
The second incident took place at the Burton Albion FC stadium at midday and began with reports of white powder being thrown into the crowd.

The incident was attended by eight appliances including the DIM team. The actors were decontaminated and the crews wore their hazardous materials protection whilst the white powder was tested and identified.

There was a second hazardous chemical which was a liquid and was thrown in a police officer’s face. The incident concluded with seven fatalities and 60 casualties.

The white powder was found to be calcium hydroxide and was not harmful however the acid was harmful and caused one death.

Incident 3
The final incident in the exercise began at 6.30pm at Alrewas, Burton-on-Trent and involved a vehicle attack which severely injured four people.

The attackers then got out and proceeded towards the National Memorial Arboretum. Dozens of volunteers and actors played casualties with various injuries including gunshot wounds. Police marksman arrived allowing the emergency rescue services to attend to the injured. They then saw more victims outside and the marksman proceeded to cover as the emergency services tried to treat the injured and retrieve the victims wearing their bullet proof protection.

The criminals then attacked again but were subdued by the police marksman.
Reflection of the Cerberus Excercise

“Recent terrorist attacks within the UK really emphasises the importance of exercises such as the one we carried out. It is essential that we are prepared and equipped to act quickly and effectively with our partners to keep the community of Staffordshire safe. The exercise has been months in the making and has been well and truly kept under wraps so that firefighters, staff and partners could respond as spontaneously as possible.

It proved to be a valuable day, with some exceptional team work but also some real development opportunities identified. Of course I hope that we never have to put our well-laid emergency plans into practice for real and I want to stress that there is absolutely nothing to indicate that there is a specific threat to Staffordshire. It is important we and our partners are prepared as we possibly can be. Our communities can be reassured that we work closely with our colleagues at the police and ambulance service to ensure that our staff are appropriately trained and prepared to respond in the event of a localised incident.”

Chief Fire Officer Becci Bryant
New Training Facility Officially Opened by Royalty

A new training complex at Service headquarters in Stone has been officially unveiled by The Earl of Wessex KG GCVO.

HRH officially opened the Villa Training Centre on Friday September 8, after being given a tour of the innovative facility, which will provide improved training opportunities and contribute to the safety of Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent residents and firefighters.

The plain structure of metal containers looks very unremarkable from the outside but it contains a labyrinth of rooms and stairways which cleverly provide realistic environments to deliver the safest and highest quality training possible. This ensures firefighters are fully prepared to tackle current and emerging risks.

Firefighters will benefit from using the Villa to train in the following areas:

- Incident command training
- Breathing apparatus
- Positive pressure ventilation (PPV) and tactical ventilation
- Hazmat training (hazardous materials)
- Confined space training
- Search and rescue
- High rise/bridgehead
- Working at height exercises
- Fire investigation training

The training facility will allow the Service and partners to meet the challenge of new nationally developed concepts in operational procedure and training for staff.

Prior to opening the Villa HRH watched a hose demonstration by the Service’s newly recruited firefighters and a demonstration of positive pressure ventilation (PPV) where part of the Villa was filled with smoke. After HRH had officially unveiled the Villa plaque he was shown a live sprinkler demonstration by the British Automatic Fire Sprinkler Association (BAFSA) before leaving the site.
On October 3 the Police Crime and Commissioner published the response to his consultation and submitted his business case to the Home Office for the governance of our Service. The Home Office will review the business case and the Home Secretary will then approve or reject the case, this decision is expected at some point in January 2018.

Approximately 35 per cent of Service staff responded. Of those 60 per cent were opposed to any change. Of the 40 per cent that were open to change the representation model was the favoured option.

The overall consultation response from all sectors, including the public, was a 50/50 split between those that thought change is needed and those that suggested no change. Of those who believed change from the current arrangements would be better, the PCC Governance model was most widely favoured.

In his report Staffordshire Police Crime and Commissioner Matthew Ellis said:

“It is clear that there are substantial opportunities for the two services to work more collaboratively with no risk of ‘muddying’ the roles but instead making the most of each service’s strengths.

It also means that both services could free up more money for frontline operations in local areas by sharing support functions and administrative needs alongside dual use of some buildings and other estate.”
Staffordshire Emergency Services Humanitarian Aid Association (SESHAA) have recently returned from their second humanitarian trip to Tajikistan. The focus of the trip was to equip the Tajikistan Fire Service with expert training, equipment and skills to help them deal with Road Traffic Collisions (RTC’s) effectively from both a medical and technical rescue perspective.

It is estimated that in Tajikistan you are eight times more likely to die or be injured on the road than in the UK. RTCs currently cause more than 18 deaths per 100,000 population in Tajikistan – a considerably high road death rate. SESHAA delivered equipment and trained staff in two key problem areas of Tajikistan; Dushanbe which is the capital city and Khorog, which is located in the Pamir Mountains. The highway between these locations is the fifth most dangerous road in the world.

Station Manager, Neil Pedersen from Longton, who coordinated the training in Dushanbe and the Khorog said: “It is a great feeling to know that we have improved the emergency response in Tajikistan and have improved the response arrangements to one of the key risks that the country faces. The Tajikistan Fire Service is very appreciative of the training they have received and hopefully we can get the funding and equipment to support future programmes in the region”.
Recent Retirees

Those who have retired since the last newsletter are:

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<td>Lee Urwin</td>
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Body worn video and dash cams for vehicles

CCTV has been fitted to fire appliances for a number of years. We are now looking at extending this provision to include dash cams for all smaller vehicles such as officer and pool vehicles. Body worn cameras are being adopted nationally by other services and have proved useful in a variety of situations from Fire Investigation, Training and Conflict Management.
Community Wellbeing Week

The Service held events throughout Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent between October 16 and October 20 to promote physical activity and interaction within the community.

We worked closely with West Midlands Ambulance Service and supported The Resuscitation Council’s Re-Start a Heart campaign by holding several CPR sessions throughout the county. Alongside these we also held community walks and exercise classes for the elderly and opportunities for those who may potentially suffer from social isolation to meet with other members of the community. These were a fantastic way for us to support the public in living healthy, active and safe lives.

Memorial Garden New Sculpture

The Memorial Garden Trust is in the process of developing a memorial area for ‘National Fire Fighters Memorial Day’ which takes place every year on May 4.

The new memorial will be developed in Yew Tree Avenue within the memorial garden. This has become a reality because of fundraising and the kind donations of local companies.

Work is in progress to develop this area of the garden and so far we have taken delivery of a sculpture to the value of £2,000. We hope that the area will be a place of reflection and remembrance for all fire service staff and their families.