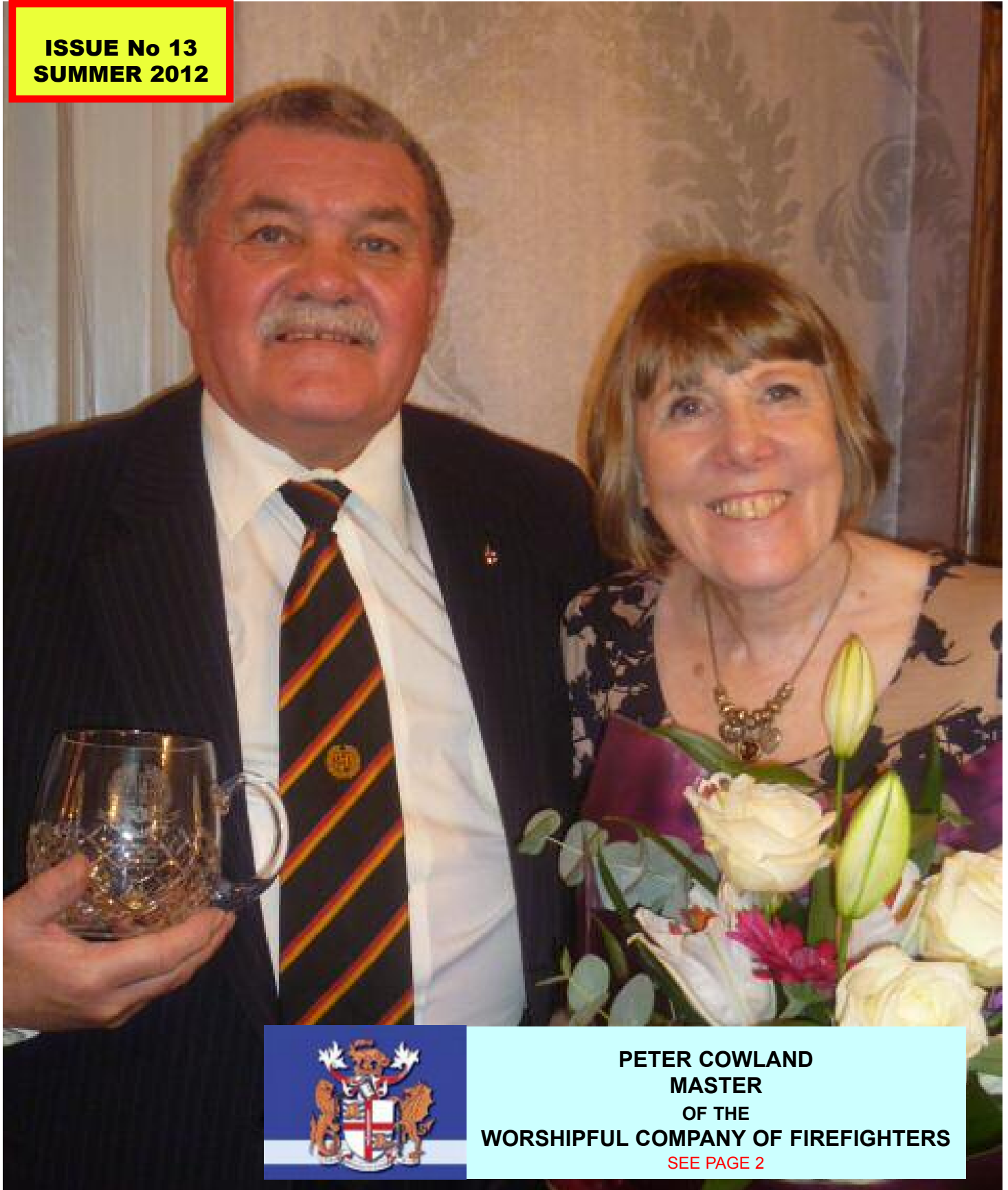




# THE ROUNDTHEADS

NEWS LETTER OF THE LFB RETIRED MEMBERS ASSOCIATION  
PRESIDENT RON DOBSON QFSM [WWW.LFBRMA.ORG](http://WWW.LFBRMA.ORG)

**ISSUE No 13  
SUMMER 2012**



**PETER COWLAND  
MASTER  
OF THE  
WORSHIPFUL COMPANY OF FIREFIGHTERS  
[SEE PAGE 2](#)**

## THE CHAIRMAN WRITES

I hope you all had a good Christmas and New Year. After last September's announcement of the very welcome improvement in our fire service pensions, I am sure everyone is looking forward to receiving the increased monthly payments from this April. This will go at least some way to compensating for the steep rises in the cost of living we have been experiencing over the last couple of years.

One of the most poignant services that I attend as a representative of the LFB RMA is the Service of Thanksgiving at the Firefighters Monument in the National Memorial Arboretum near Alrewas in Staffordshire. This year the service will be held on Sunday 13th May and is well worth attending to remember past colleagues in a very special setting.

In January I had the pleasure of hosting a lunch in honor of Peter Cowland who is currently the Master of the Worshipful Company of Firefighters. Peter served in the LFB and then transferred to Hertfordshire where he became the Senior Fire Safety Officer. He regularly marches with the complement of firefighters at the Cenotaph on Remembrance Sunday and attends many of the Association's events.



With the Diamond Jubilee and Olympics taking place this summer there will certainly be a lot to see. A very special event will be the Queen's Diamond Jubilee River Pageant - one of the largest collections of boats ever seen on the river Thames. Led by London's historic fire boat, the Massey Shaw, boats representing the fire and rescue service during the Queen's 60 year reign will join up to 1000 other vessels in the pageant on Saturday 3rd June 2012.

It has just been announced that London and the South East are now officially in drought conditions. Many of you, I am sure, will remember the drought of 1976 and the extremely busy period this became for the LFB. There was even a specially appointed Cabinet Minister to take charge of managing the problems. The LFB will already have significant contingency plans for coping with the Jubilee and Olympics so let's hope that a potential water shortage does not cause them too many extra headaches.

I look forward to seeing many of you at the Association's AGM on Wednesday 9th May at the Victory Services Club. My sincere thanks to our Secretary Barry Sargent; the Branch Secretaries and Members of the Committee for all their hard work and support throughout the year. It is a real privilege for me to represent the Association at all these special events and I thank all our members for their continuing support. **Martin Coffey OBE**

## NEW MASTER of the Worshipful Company of Firefighters

The RMA hosted a lunch at the Civil Service Club in January to honor Peter Cowland who is a member of the RMA and was made Master of The WCOFF last July. The lunch was held to acknowledge the appointment of an RMA member and ex serving member of the Fire Service. To mark the occasion the Chairman presented Peter with an engraved cut glass tankard. 35 guests who are members of both organizations, some with partners attended to what turned out to be a very pleasant afternoon.



**Barry Sargent**

**London Fire Brigade  
Retired Members Association**



**AGM & REUNION  
WEDNESDAY 9th MAY 2012  
THE 2012 AGM & REUNION WILL TAKE PLACE IN THE  
CARISBROOKE HALL VICTORY SERVICES CLUB  
SEYMOUR STREET W2  
COMMENCING AT 2:30PM AND WILL BE FOLLOWED BY THE  
ANNUAL REUNION**



**A CASH BAR AND HOT FOOD WILL BE AVAILABLE AT THE REUNION  
TICKETS WILL BE AVAILABLE FROM YOUR BRANCH SECRETARY  
AT A COST OF £10**

# THE ROUNDTHREADS

## LFB Swim Team article

One hundred and eighty cried the counting judge at this year's Purley swimathon. 13 members of the LFB swim team braved the cold, snow, ice, sore throats & chest infections to take part in this year's Purley swimathon which every year is organised by Purley Rotary club, based in South London to raise money for local charities including our very own firefighters charity. We had 55 minutes to complete as many lengths of Purleys 25m pool within our allotted time which was on Thursday 9th Feb 2012 at 8 pm. A very creditable 180 lengths was achieved on the night which once all the sponsorship money is gathered in should be over £500. We normally then call in at the local for a pint & curry, but were confronted with a bit of a snow storm so decided to get home before we were all trapped at the pool!



Our next event will be the FSS & AA National swimming championships which are hosted by a different FRS each year. Details to be confirmed. See [fssaa.co.uk/swimming](http://fssaa.co.uk/swimming), for the latest information.

Anyone interested in joining the section should contact Seth Why, Kay Broom, Sam Groves or Bob Bray via Brigade e-mail. (Name) @london-fire.gov.uk

[Bob Bray LFB swim Team organiser](#)

## IMPORTANT NOTICE

It has been noted on the recent Diary of Events Sheet that the following information regarding the Annual Memorial Service in September was wrong. Please note the change, which should now read:-

**11.30 hrs National Memorial Service followed by & Wreath Laying, Church of St Bartholomew, (by St.Barts Hospital)& the National Firefighters Memorial (by St. Paul's Cathedral)**

Further information is shown on the website: [firefightersmemorial.co.uk](http://firefightersmemorial.co.uk) , expressions of intention to attend can be made via e-mail to [firefightersmct1@btinternet.com](mailto:firefightersmct1@btinternet.com) or by 'phone to the Firefighters Memorial Trust secretary; Paul Settle 01233 732348

Hi all,

Sorry it has taken so long to write, but with work now coming in thick and fast I have been up to my "ears" with jobs ( thank god ). Anyway, the picture was taken at my local RSL (Returned Servicemen's League) at the Remembrance Service held on 11/11. The Club is a bigger version of the Royal British Legion but, I have to say it is more involved and caters for a whole range of people, though like all clubs, pubs etc they still serve that gassy stuff they call beer. Viv and I have now decided that we are going stay, the house in Lincolnshire is going on the market in the next few weeks and we are hoping that we can achieve as much as possible from it, the market out here is as bad as the UK. Both of us have been made to feel very welcome and have found some real good friends, we have found though it is not

that cheap to live out here. Apart from the expenditure of getting out here it took 3 years of paperwork and a lot of dough. So far we have had to lay out \$100,000 with the final payment of \$50,000 due at the end of August 2012. Australia has to be one of the most highly taxed countries in the world, so a warning to all those that

want to move here. Slight change of subject, Membership fees I believe are due in January?? I will need to sort out payment, I don't have a UK bank account anymore so suggestions?? Please. Well, better get off and get some work done, can I take this opportunity in wishing you all a happy a Happy New Year, Regards to all that know me.



[Mick & Viv Maddox New South Wales, Australia.](#)



# THE ROUNDTHEADS

## DEAR EDITOR

### Dear Editor

I have received my copy of roundthreads and the diary and the Christmas card. I would like to thank those responsible for including these items. They are very much appreciated.

(I was disappointed that the welfare no longer can do diaries, so the LFB/RMA have made up for this, So well done)

Chris Addis

### Dear Editor

The picture of the Leinster Towers Hotel fire brought back memories, although I did not go onto the job, I was on duty that night. When it went to 20 pump fire, the pump escape crew Red Watch B24 Dockhead Sub Officer Bob Franks i/c (me as the driver) were ordered to stand by at A22 Manchester Square, with the proviso that if the job was made up to 25 or a 30 pump fire we would go. Also standing by at A22 with us was C26 Barbican Stn O Nigel Musselwhite i/c, who's career later took him onto be an HMI. Any thoughts of us going on to the Hotel with the chance to use the escape were dashed when we picked a 4 pump basement fire in Oxford Street. So, no glory there!

On a separate note, there must be numerous retired members who have a picture or two of their service time you could publish that would be of interest to the rest of us - food for thought?

All the best Harry Paviour.

### Dear Editor,

When I read the article from Tim Jones ex Lfm G31 Northolt I totally understood exactly how he felt and agree with all that he had said. As I have felt very much the same, I felt I wanted to put pen to paper. I completed 13 years service before being retired from the brigade due to injuries received following a roof collapse which resulted in operations to both my knees and two op's on my back. This led to my subsequent retirement. The day I handed my ID card over at Lambeth was a very sad day, as I had lost the career that I loved. It took two years to come to terms with all this as my wife can confirm as she also went through the rough times ( I think she deserves a medal). I am grateful that I receive my pension and I do have my letter of acceptance into the LFB which I kept. I also have my mounted axe with my cap badges from London and Hertfordshire which my grandson often looks at when he visits, as his dad, my son, is a serving firefighter of which I am very proud. I look back now and am grateful that I had the opportunity to serve as a fireman and the many memories I have and the colleagues I served with. Why can't a medal be produced to be awarded to firefighters in all brigades throughout the UK which I'm sure there are many who through no fault of their own have been retired Due to Service injury. At the end of the day I am alive and quite well, a colleague and close friend of mine lost his life at a fire and I will never forget that day or the day of his funeral which does put things into perspective. To have received a letter or medal to show that I had served in the Brigade would have given me personal pride.

Regards, Mike West Retired London Fireman.

Dear Editor I would like to say thanks for all the replies you have sent me, following my article in the last edition of ROUNDTHEADS. I now have an extract of BRO 102/1969 dated 4th... Aug. 1969, I also have a copy of an article from one of the evening newspapers covering the County Hall ceremony.

Thank you very much for your assistance. If any more contacts come to light I will be happy to pursue them. Best regards Ted Harrington.

see page 11 for copy of newspaper article.

### WARRIORS IN FIRE BOOTS

#### Competition Result

The competition was to name the picture on the cover of arthur's`s book.

The answer was (Saved)

The winner was Mr Harry Parvior,  
Branch 6.

Well done Harry, enjoy the book.

### Euston Info Wanted.

Dear All - ref my appeal in the last issue for information regarding Euston FS: thanks to those of you who responded. However, I need more; WW2, pre GLC, anything really. So just to whet your appetite here is a tale I got from a real 'Roundthread' some years ago. " The pre-war Brigade was divided into 2 Divisions, one North & one South. Divisional Officer North, (the Third Officer) was Commander (later Sir) Alymer Firebrace, and he lived in quarters at Euston. A story repeated to me some years ago told how Firebrace conducted interviews. At that time there was a door leading from the old Watchroom, (now the station office), to the lobby at the bottom of the stairs that served Firebrace's flat; there was also a lift. Apparently he, Firebrace, after meeting the interviewee in the lobby, would ascend with the interviewee in the lift. Firebrace would then stop the lift halfway and conduct the interview in the lift. Interview completed, he would then restart the lift, and then get out on his floor, sending the interviewee back down on his own."

Regards  
Mick Pinchen

# THE ROUNDTHEADS

## John Newbery ex LFB

I joined the London Fire Brigade in 1938 on leaving West Ham Grammar School and worked in the Fire Prevention Division office at the Fire Brigade Headquarters in Lambeth. This was a time when the Nazi menace in Europe was becoming stronger by the day so we were very busy advising all and sundry of the actions they needed to take to protect themselves against enemy action, mainly against aerial onslaught. One abiding memory I have of this period is of my sending a letter to the USA Ambassador advising him to protect the embassy rafters by the use of asbestos paint! Early in 1939, I, with many others, joined the T. A. to prepare to defend the realm, in the light of the ever-increasing Nazi menace. In August of that year I went for training at a T. A. camp, and was standing on parade in uniform at the moment war was declared. I had no further contact with the London fire Brigade for the entire war, during which I served as a wireless operator and electrician, finishing up in the Burma campaign. I saw the war through to the very end, and was delighted to watch Japanese soldiers running in retreat across the rice fields at the Battle of the Sitting Bend, the last battle of the war. On my return to England, hardly had I entered upon my demob leave when I received instructions from the war-time London Fire-Force to report for work at Lambeth Headquarters. Then, as Leading Fireman, I ran a small office in the Accommodation Section for some months, sorting out the post-war situation, until I was called to the newly-arranged Teacher Training scheme for ex-service personnel, and remained thereafter as a teacher until I retired thirty years ago. I achieved BA (Hons) and MPhil university degrees. I have always been, and remain, proud of my time in the London Fire Brigade. My daughter retains my interest in the Fire Service. In 2009 she helped organize a meeting, chaired by the Mayor of Kendal, for agencies (including Cumbria Fire and Rescue Service) and Faith Groups, at Kendal Fire Station Community Room. In September she helped organize the first retreat led by a Buddhist Monk in a Fire Station community room in England, for the Buddhist Group of Kendal (Theravada). She received a letter from the Department of Communities and Local Government on behalf of the Fire Minister Bob Neill MP stating "The Minister was very pleased to hear of the success of the retreat...I hope this positive partnership continues". Tim Farron MP sent an email saying "Congratulations upon this initiative and upon the many firsts that seem to have been achieved". John was 90 in March.

[Jacquetta Gomes](#)



John & his Daughter  
Jacquetta Gomes  
1955



Jacquetta On Station

## Recalling A8 Brompton.



Last month a lady called Jane contacted me to enquire whether I knew anything about the former Brompton fire station. During our conversation, (the building is still standing), she told me that the Royal Brompton Hospital, which owns the building wants to convert it into a 'Sleep Study Centre', that is a place that will look at sleep related conditions. As part of the project it was thought that maybe a plaque or suchlike could be erected to commemorate the work of the former fire station and in particular those who died whilst serving there: On the night of April 16<sup>th</sup> 1941 - known as 'The Wednesday' - seven Brompton AFS firemen were killed; five at Chelsea Sq, and two at Cheyne Place. Another died of wounds in 1943. Aux Firewoman Yvonne Green was killed whilst off duty, but who was carrying out 'fire watching' duties within the local community. I have put together a few paragraphs of 'official' information i.e. facts and figures etc, but I lack intimate detail of the place. So, if there is anyone out there who can help, please e-mail me and I will collate any info forthcoming and forward it on to Jane. Many thanks

Mike Pinchen [albion.marine@ntlworld.com](mailto:albion.marine@ntlworld.com)

## British Fire Services Association



**Fire Service Veterans badge vehicle window sticker is now available from the BFSA at a cost £3.46 inclusive of P&P.**

**The sticker size is 95mm x 105mm.  
If you wish to order,**

**Please make cheques payable to [BFSA](#)  
Send to: [BFSA, 7 Clover House, Boston Road, Sleaford, Lincs. NG34 7HD](#)**

**Derrick Crouch,  
General Secretary**



# THE ROUNDTHEADS

L.F.B.R.M.A. Tour 2011

## Site of the Battle of Waterloo & Le Blockhaus d'Eperlecques

This year the tour took the group to two places of historic military significance, separated by centuries. The first being Waterloo, in the 19th Century. (1815) the second being WWII, in the 20th Century (1943).

**DAY 1:** 48 members and guests tunnelled into France on the 30th September, were transported to Waterloo, and established base camp in the IBIS Hotel.

**DAY 2:** The Battlefield covered an area of more than 9 sq km. There was much to be seen and learned, which I believe would have been extremely difficult without our esteemed guide Mark Smith. From four strategic locations, requiring a fair amount of trekking between them on our part, he was able to take us through the events of that day enabling us to gain an impression of the horror. The statistics are spine-chilling, 85,000 men and 35,000 horses slaughtered in one day.



We visited The Wellington Museum and also viewed two films at the Visitor centre. The first 'Waterloo, Story of a battle' provided a better understanding of the battle, as well as its effects on the history of Europe. The second 'Waterloo' was extracts from Bondarchuk's film plunging visitors into the heart of the great moments of the battle. Concluding the visit we ascended the 226 steps up 'The Lion's Mound', which is the Battle's commemorative Monument erected by the Dutch in 1826. From the top there is a panoramic view over the entire battlefield, where 200,000 soldiers from seven countries fought on the 18th June 1815



# THE ROUNDTHEADS

**DAY 3:** In sharp contrast to the previous day, the visit was to a World War II 'Bunker' in the Eperlecques Forest. The biggest bunker in the North of France, a symbol of the 'dark age' 1939-43, it has been open to the public since 1973 and was listed as an 'Ancient Memorial' in 1985. The site is a source of information about V1 and V2 rockets but the emphasis is on the latter since the intention had been to launch them on the UK from there. V1s were comparatively simple flying bombs launched from a ramp whereas the V2 was launched vertically in the manner familiar to us today. The significance of the V prefix relates to the fact that these weapons were launched in answer to the Allied bombings, Vergeltung translates to 'reprisals'.



The scale of this construction is quite staggering, with the cost measured in thousands of tons of concrete and countless lives of slave labourers. Work started in March 1943. The plan was to produce liquid oxygen on the site in addition to assembly and launching. Aerial photography by the RAF revealed that the development (even before the purpose was identified) was a significant threat. The construction was bombed between August 1943 & August 1944. Soon after the start of the bombing, it was clear to the Germans that the site would not be viable for launching V2s. The 'Tallboy' bombs deployed by the Allies proved very effective, one caused a crater of 30m diameter resulting in such damage that the decision was taken to disestablish the compressors and abandon the site altogether in 1944. Yet another splendid trip organised to the highest standards by Barry Sargent and enhanced by the input from our guide Mark Smith. No surprise then, next year's trip to the Normandy Landings is almost fully subscribed already.

Frank DAVID



# THE ROUNDTHEADS

## Warriors Prize draw, winners reply.

Many thanks for the Book. This now means that I can stop reading old Manuals of Firemanship and Playboy at night? (**From memory**). The picture 'Saved' hung in the Dining Room, now called 'Connections!' (Formally the Four Shires Mess) at the Fire Service College. It originally came from Blackpool Council where it had hung in the Town Hall. It was removed from its position when the first women civil servant Chief Executive went there and completely refurbished the dining room; destroying the original character of the Four Shires Mess, the wood panelling, wall lights & historic pictures etc including the 'fallen fire fighters roll of honour and bell. Pressure was put on the next temporary civil servant CE to have the picture replaced to a position at the other side of the dining room where after a repair to the leaking dining room roof, it now stands today. There was a funny storey attached to this picture that many members may not know. When I was an instructor at the College, we had a group of visitors from the French Fire Service. One of the officers when touring the dining room was heard to quote "What was the connection to the Fire Service College with a picture of a French Calvary officer rescuing a woman from a blazing Bordello?"



That's what happens with the UK being part of the EU! (Now, now Harry no politics)

Best wishes **Harry Paviour** RT BA MD TL ET

## Asbestos – Hidden Killer

Last year I sadly lost one of my clients to a painful and distressing form of cancer known as mesothelioma. It was caused by exposure to asbestos. My client a member of the LFBMA, had spent most of his working life as a firefighter. My client had come into contact with asbestos during the course of his work. Unbeknown to him items which were meant to protect him eg gauntlets and protective hoods in fact contained deadly asbestos fibres. In addition, after fires had been extinguished at properties he would carry out an inspection which might involve dislodging eg asbestos insulation board, asbestos tiles, asbestos lagged pipes etc - asbestos having been used extensively within the construction industry in the past. People often say that the dangers of asbestos were not known back then. However, employers and the Government have known about the dangers for many years. Asbestos is a naturally occurring mineral and has been used for more than 2000 years. It is said that it was used to make the wicks for the eternal flames of the Vestal Virgins.

As early as 1898, HM Chief Inspector of factories had made observations as to the "evil effects of asbestos dust". In 1931 the first Asbestos Regulations came into force. The dangers became more widely known publicly following research in 1965 which was reported on in The Times. This research related to deaths from mesothelioma not just in factory workers but in the families of those workers and those who lived close to the factory. Many people who come into contact with asbestos will not develop any conditions. However some will. These conditions include, pleural plaques which largely do not cause any symptoms; pleural thickening (thickening and hardening of the protective membrane surrounding the lung), asbestosis which can cause increasing breathlessness and disability, lung cancer and mesothelioma which have very grave consequences.

A person who suffers an asbestos related condition as a result of work will be entitled to compensation both through the Government and through their employer. Entitlements include Industrial Injuries Disablement Benefit. (a non means tested benefit) and possibly a one off payment under the Pneumoconiosis Etc (Workers Compensation) Act 1979. Other benefits include Attendance Allowance if over 65, Constant Attendance Allowance and Exceptionally Severe Disablement Allowance. Whether or not a person can qualify for benefits and the amount they receive will vary depending on individual circumstances and certain benefits may affect others. In addition to State Benefits, an individual who has an asbestos related condition caused as a result of the work that they have done, may be able to pursue a civil claim against their employer. If successful their compensation can be substantial, to reflect the pain and suffering of the individual together with financial losses such as loss of earnings. For those with limited life expectancy as a result of their condition the Courts have a special system to speed up the Court Process. Where the employee has since passed away the deceased's family can make a claim or continue with the claim. My client was fortunate to know that his claim was successful during his life time. Although the reality is that no amount of compensation would ever truly compensate. If you would like to discuss any of the issues raised in this article you are welcome to telephone me -

**Helen Bradley**

**Birchall Blackburn Solicitors 0161 238 5637.**

**Other useful websites:**

[www.nationalasbestos.co.uk](http://www.nationalasbestos.co.uk) Tel: 0800 043 6635

**Information on Benefits -**

the Department for Work and Pensions  
[www.dwp.gov.uk](http://www.dwp.gov.uk) Tel: 0800 882 200



# THE ROUNDTHEADS

## Closure of the London Fire Brigade Museum

Members will be aware of the proposed closure of the LFB Museum at Southwark TC, which has been an issue over the last three years or so, although a campaign and lobbying by the Friends of the LFB Museum and others prevented its closure in 2008. However, with the financial constraints now facing the brigade the LFEPA has decided on closure in principle in conjunction with the eventual vacation of the Training Centre site to alternative purpose-built training accommodation elsewhere in London, contracted to Babcock Training. This of course includes Winchester House, the present home of the museum. Although evocative of an earlier era of fire brigade history it is nevertheless physically unsuitable as a museum, having limited display and storage capacity and no disabled access. The Friends of the LFB Museum was formed during 2008 to campaign against the museum's proposed closure at that time. It comprises a mix of members, including retired uniformed and administrative LFB personnel and others from various backgrounds who have an interest in the history of London's Fire Service and/or different aspects of London's history. Realising that the fundamental issue now was to preserve the collection intact rather than Winchester House itself the FLFBM lobbied this time to try and ensure the collection was not broken up and some of it possibly sold off. Closure of the museum was included in the Budget report to the LFEPA which met on Thursday 24 November 2011 and, although closure was agreed for April 2012, it was encouraging that members from all political parties considered that the collection was an important part of the history and heritage of London and its fire service and should be preserved intact with a view to its permanent display at a future date at another suitable venue. In the meantime it should be stored in accordance with proper museum storage requirements (rather than normal commercial storage). The final decision lies with Boris Johnson, the Mayor of London, who is known to support the continued existence of the museum, and there are a number of possibilities for the future accommodation of the museum. Over recent years the museum has seen the number of visitors increase, especially parties of school children, these visits contributing to their history syllabus and giving them an understanding of fire safety education. Museum staff and volunteers also undertake research for people seeking information on relatives who were in the fire service, especially during WWII.



These activities have increased the income of the museum and it is felt they can be developed in a future permanent museum. There are a number of options for the future of the collection being considered, one of which would involve the creation of a charitable trust. This would lead to a better long-term future for and management of the LFB Museum, which would relieve the brigade of the financial commitment to the museum and the FLFBM would like to participate in the formation of such a trust. It also wishes to be involved in the closure and storage phase and assist the brigade in developing a plan for the eventual redisplay, aiming for a walk-in rather than a by-appointment museum so that it can be available to a wider public. Accordingly, the Friends sought and have now received formal recognition by the brigade so that it can participate in future developments including the continuation of the provision of volunteers to act as guides and generally support the professional staff. Since the decision to close the museum was taken, members of the Friends met with the Communications Section at HQ, among whose references is the museum, which was constructive and it was agreed the Friends be involved with the storage arrangements which will, in fact, take up to 18 months to complete. A further meeting took place with Cllr. Brian Coleman and Mr. David Cartwright of the LFEPA, in which they indicated they would be prepared to give the collection to a trust, including the Friends, if this could be formed and alternative display accommodation found. Several options are now being explored and discussions are in progress to re-establish the museum in London.

The LFEPA decision on closure is due to be ratified in the spring of this year subject to any variation by the Mayor and the Friends will continue to press for the preservation of the museum collection. Anyone wishing to join the Friends can find details on the website [www.ffbm.co.uk](http://www.ffbm.co.uk).

# THE ROUNDTHEADS

## LFB RMA DIARY OF EVENTS FOR 2012

Members wishing to attend an event should notify the Secretary in writing; Including Name, Full Address, Telephone No & E Mail, Stating which Event & No Places. And enclose a Cheque payable to the LFB RMA. Either a deposit; or full payment. For further information regarding any event contact the General Secretary, some dates and prices need to be confirmed and may be subject to change, numbers for some events are limited, therefore an early response is suggested.

**Please send your requests to**

**Mr Barry Sargent MBE, 14 The Driveway Canvey Island Essex SS8 0AD**

**Tel :- 01268 692675 : E mail:- [bazzambe@supanet.com](mailto:bazzambe@supanet.com)**

### **Wednesday 9th May**

AGM & Reunion:- Carisbrooke Room, Victory Services Club, Seymour Street W2

Reunion Tickets available from your Branch Secretary @ £10.

Cash bar and hot food available at the Reunion.

### **Friday 25th May**

Guided Tour of Big Ben:- Only 16 places available. As there are 334 stairs in the clock tower and with little respite this visit is not for anyone with heart or mobility conditions.

Cost £25.00 for lunch in the Civil Service Club Great Scotland Yard. **Sorry SOLD OUT**

### **Saturday 23rd June**

Ceremony of the Keys Tower of London:- Only 40 places available

Reception in the Yeoman Warders Club: Cash bar with buffet and Keys Ceremony. Cost £20.00.

### **September 3rd to 7th**

Battlefield Tour To Normandy Landings. **Sorry SOLD OUT**

### **Saturday 20th October**

Annual Dinner & Dance Carisbrooke Room Victory Services Club Seymour Street W2.

Pre dinner drinks reception, 4 Course meal and live entertainment Cost £75.

### **Wednesday November 7th.**

Jack The Ripper Tour:- Only 20 places available

Guided tour of the Ripper haunts followed by a curry in a local Indian Restaurant in Brick Lane /Commercial Street.

Not included within the price. Cost £15

**Other events take place during the year at no cost, if you would like more information, or would like to attend please contact the relevant organisation on the relevant telephone number or e mail address.**

### **May 13th @ 1200 hours**

FFMCT Annual Thanksgiving Service:- Firefighters Monument National Memorial Arboretum Alrewas Staffordshire. An open invitation to members and their families, if attending please contact Colin Bailey on [bailey.wilco@ntlworld.com](mailto:bailey.wilco@ntlworld.com) 01632 287772 and be in attendance 20 min before the start.

### **June (Date to be Confirmed)**

Service of Remembrance held at the LFB Fireman's Corner Highgate Cemetery @ 10:30

This is a small Service were families & friends of LFB Firefighters who have been killed whilst on duty are remembered.

For tickets contact the LFB Comms Team on 020 8555 1200 ex 30768

### **Sunday 9th September @ 1130 hours**

FFMCT National Memorial Service St Bartholomew's Church @ the National Memorial by St.Paul's Cathedral. For tickets and further information contact the Fire Fighters Memorial Charitable Trust Secretary Paul Settle on 01233 732348

### **Friday 9th November @10 am**

Remembrance Service City Hall.

Service of Remembrance for LCC/GLC members, tickets available from the General Secretary.

### **December Date to be Confirmed**

LFB Carol Service held in St Paul's Cathedral. For tickets contact the LFB Communications Section on 020 8555 1200 ex 30768 or e mail [lfbcarolservicetickets@london-fire.gov.uk](mailto:lfbcarolservicetickets@london-fire.gov.uk)



## LEINSTER TOWERS 1969 FIREMEN'S HISTORIC BRAVERY "RALLY"



Seventy-One London Firemen with their families attended a special ceremony, the first of its kind in the history of the London Fire Brigade in the Council Chamber of London's County Hall on Monday, March 2. Mr. Leslie Freeman, O.B.E, Chairman of the Greater London Council, presided. All the firemen had their names recorded in an historic "Special Order" issued by the Brigade's Chief Officer last August to commemorate their rescuing more than 50 Persons, without injury or loss of life when Leinster Towers Hotel in Bayswater was severely damaged by fire. The order described the rescue operation as "without parallel in the Brigade's history for the magnitude of the task presented and the excellence of the fire fighting work performed" At the ceremony Mr Leslie Freeman presented Six of the firemen with Certificates of Commendation awarded to them by the Brigade's Chief Officer for their part in the rescue. They are Station Officer Alexander Pilbro, Leading Fireman Gerald Fuller, and Fireman Peter Mars, all serving at Paddington Fire Station, Leading Fireman Richard Ellicott from Euston, and Firemen John Hughes and Paul Stephens from Manchester Square Fire Station.

### RESCUES

Station Officer Pilbro was commended for his Outstanding Officership organising the fire fighting and multiple rescue in the early stages of the fire, Leading Fireman Fuller and Fireman Mars for together rescuing 15 people, Leading Fireman Ellicott for the difficult rescue of a man trapped at a third floor window, and Firemen Hughes and Stephens for rescuing a man who was in great danger at a fifth floor window.

Leading Fireman Fuller and Firemen Mars, Hughes and Stephens were also awarded Commendations for Gallantry by Her Majesty the Queen. Above content taken from national paper

### Chickens !

For the past five years or so we've kept chickens in the garden. I was also trying to fashion a vegetable patch out of the good old London clay! I mixed tons of sand and topsoil with the clay and eventually managed to fashion a plot about fifteen feet by six where I used to grow cabbage, broccoli, carrots, lovely parsnips and some years good tomatoes amongst other things. The chickens used to help out by eating all the slugs and snails. Unfortunately they were partial to the veg as well and even though I tried my hardest to keep them out they were obviously well trained and always found a way in eventually...a bit like "Chicken run" in reverse. I finally gave up with the vegetable patch after a Fox broke into the chicken run and killed all my chickens! I realised spending so much effort planting crops for the chickens to eat that then got eaten by the Fox was a pretty fruitless exercise. I bought more chickens and reinforced their run with the vegetable patch boundary wire. The first flock were made up of three Bantams and my Dad got hold of half-a dozen fertilised eggs from a local stables, three of the six hatched and two of those survived, a great black Hen we used to call Chickenzilla because it was so huge and scary and a red hen which was just as big but more docile. An incident when the last chick hatched reminds me of a very special promise in the Bible

**Ps 61. Let me live forever in your sanctuary, safe beneath the shelter of your wings!**

I'd been keeping a careful check on the Hen that was incubating the last egg as we were placing the chicks with another hen in a specially made run. I'd lifted the lid of the nest-box after I heard a peeping sound thinking the chick had been hatched, lifted the Hen to check underneath and found to my surprise the nest empty! I put the Hen down and closed the lid of the box only to hear the chick again. Lifting the lid and checking again I still found nothing and had just decided I must have been out on the Sun too long and was hearing things when the chick dropped out from the hens folded wing. Gods no chicken! In fact where he's described in the Bible as having the characteristics of a bird it's usually an Eagle. I could imagine myself tucked-up securely "hidden in the shadow of His wing" and out of sight of any enemy. On top of this I could imagine if I'd tried to lift an Eagle off its nest to look underneath to see its chick I might not come out of it too well...big beak, strong ripping talons! My experience over the past thirty-odd years of faith has been of a God like that, you don't mess with Him but you can wholly trust Him to see you through anything life chucks. He's faithful, sincere and loves us as individuals with a deep and fervent love if we put our faith in Him. I hope you find comfort in this thought as Easter approaches, and perhaps the Easter egg's you give and receive might remind you of Psalm 61, which is worth a read. Jeff Poter





# THE ROUNDTHEADS

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