

*Former COs*

*1985 John Sutton*

*1986 Robert Austin*

*1987 Peter Spence*

*1988 Roger Miles*

*1989 Bert Stafford*

*1990 John Thompson*

*1991 Trevor Harker*

*1992 David Hall*

*1993 Peter Rowney*

*1994 Charles Lockwood*

*1995 Paul Richardson*

*1996 Richard Green*

*1997 Lloyd Marlow*

*1998 John Hughes*

*1999 Steve Crane*

*2000 Jim Harker*

*2001 Paul Hopkins*

*2002 Brian Ward*

*2003 Richard Paragreen*

*2004 Graham Brown*

*2005 David Featherstone*

*2006 Charlie McCormick*

*2007 John Doran*

*Founded in 1977, following the Great Fireman's Strike  
by M. J. Harker 1921-1984  
Chief of the Geddington Volunteer Fire Brigade*



*2008 Commanding Officer – Jerry Lee*

The next meeting of the Brigade will be held at 8pm on  
**Friday 27th June 2008**  
at The Fire Station, Old Stone Pit, Grafton Road, Geddington

**AGENDA**

1. Apologies
2. Minutes of the Parade of 9<sup>th</sup> May 2008
3. Matters Arising
4. Correspondence
5. Officers' Reports
6. Any Other Business

**Dates of next meetings: 19<sup>th</sup> September,  
7<sup>th</sup> November**

**Notable Events: 7<sup>th</sup> September, Beer Festival & Trundle  
11<sup>th</sup> October, Senior Citizens Meal  
15<sup>th</sup> November, Ladies Night  
26<sup>th</sup> December, Squirt**

**2008 SUBS ARE NOW DUE, £20.00.**

**The Minutes of the Parade of Friday, 9th May 2008, held in the Fire Station, Old Stone Pit, Geddington, England, at 8.00pm. Present were:**

<b>CO</b>	Jerry Lee
<b>Adjutant</b>	Nigel Streatfield
<b>Paymaster General</b>	Nigel Tysoe
<b>IPCO</b>	John Doran
<b>POCO</b>	Nigel Askew
<b>President of the Mess Committee</b>	Richard Paragreen
<b>Station Officer</b>	Nick Seddon
<b>Captain of Drill</b>	Adrian Downhill
<b>Quartermaster</b>	Gyles Dickens

*Supported by -*

<b>Chase Section</b>	<b>Firemen:</b> Foulds (SL), Drake-Lee, Edwards, Groome, McGreal, Rowley, Sparrow.
<b>Eleanor Section</b>	<b>Firemen:</b> Dibble (SL), Issitt, Miles, Plumb, Richardson P, Richardson N.
<b>Ise Section</b>	<b>Firemen:</b> Berry (SL), Brown A, Brown G, Featherstone, Pask.
<b>Magdalene Section</b>	<b>Firemen:</b> Brown S, Hammond, Locock, McCormick.
<b>Tresham Section</b>	<b>Firemen:</b> Bullock.

**Apologies** were received from: the Chief Engineer, Community Officer, Brigade Majors Austin & Hughes, Section Leaders Colwill & Rowden, Chaplain General, Firemen Askew. S, Harker. J, Harvey, Howells, Lester, Sharman, Treanor, Ward, Watson, Wilkinson.

**1. C.O.'s Opening Thoughts**

The CO thanked everyone for being gentle with him at the previous meeting (a number of Firemen sat forward in their chairs determined to not let this happen again).

Fireman McGreal was welcomed to his first meeting, as was Councillor Christopher Lamb, Mayor of Kettering. The atmosphere in the room immediately turned slightly frosty with mutterings about the precept and where was Brigade Major Hopkins when you needed him.

The Mayor was asked what was involved in being Mayor and the qualities required to attain this high office. Apparently you have to open things, mostly bottles; be driven around in a car all day and generally turn up when you are told. The following Wednesday was in fact his last day as Mayor so he was making the most of it. He saw the essential qualities as good looks, a full head of hair, an ability to wear a rosette well, willingness to kiss strangers and having a well known name. The CO saw his opportunity and with the speed of a David Copperfield illusion transformed himself into the ideal candidate. Some Fireman complained that COs' wives were not invited to meetings.

The Mayor commented that the new arrival was very attractive and offered to carry out the kissing part of his duties. (the cheque was apparently in the post)

The IPCO had declared his intention to leave the meeting early so Section Leader Foulds took an opportunity to remind the Brigade of the November parade when the IPCO had met Donna the sheep (photos were produced as proof) The gestation period is now complete and there has been a "fall of lambs". A claim has been made against GVFB insurance for maintenance and so we have to resort to DNA testing to confirm the facts of the case. SL Foulds produced a test tube for the IPCO

to fill and put in the post to “The Jiz Doctor, Boughton Wankley”. The meeting agreed that it provided the IPCO with plenty of room for manoeuvre.

## **2. Minutes of the Parade of 29<sup>th</sup> February 2008**

2.1 The Minutes of the parade of 29<sup>th</sup> February 2008 were agreed without amendment.

2.2 Matters arising.

2.2.1 Another reminder that any message to the Brigade has to go through the Adjutant.

## **3. Correspondence**

The IPCO chose this moment to leave – some say he came and went.

3.1 An e-mail had been received from Sam Downhill, thanking the Brigade for publicising a disco at the Village Hall. Sam is one of a group raising money for breast cancer charities by participating in the Edinburgh Moon Walk.

3.2 A thank you from Sharon Goddard, Parish clerk, on behalf of the Parish Council for the clearing of the Centennial Garden way back in December.

3.3 A letter from Nic Walsh who is proposing to hold a Pudding club on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> September; asking for GVFB support for the event. At this stage the request is very much for practical help with putting up tables and running the bar. The meeting was asked for a volunteer to co-ordinate the Brigade’s efforts and Fireman Locock bravely stepped forward. The PoCO offered to run the bar.

3.4 A letter from Richard Croft, Chairman of Harby Parish Council covering a number of issues had been received. Their cycle ride from Trafalgar Square to Harby last Autumn has raised £11,500 towards a new church roof. They have formed the Harby Mountain Rescue Team and their first act is to accept our invitation to take part in the Trundle.

*“We enthusiastically accept your invitation to the Geddington Beer Festival on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> September, a sizeable delegation from Harby will be in attendance and we look forward to seeing our GVFB friends again. We’ve booked into the White Lion again to avoid anyone driving. We would like to enter 2 teams for the Trundle and test the much debated hypothesis that old age and treachery will always triumph over youth and physical fitness. The Youth and Physical Fitness team would like to know the barrel size and course details if possible? The Old Age and Treachery team would like to know what beers will be featuring?”*

We were also invited to a dedication service for a new stained glass window in All Saints Church, Harby. Brigade Major Richardson had agreed to lead our representation.

3.5 A letter from Geddington Tennis Club asking for a donation towards the resurfacing of the courts and general refurbishment. The club has raised over £18,000 itself and is now trying to push for the final £3500 needed to start the work. The Officers had discussed their request and recognising the significant effort already made and the broadening of availability to the community through coaching for children, the CO proposed £500.00 be given. Brigade Major Miles seconded the proposal and it was carried unanimously.

3.6 Another event publicised through the Brigade was a disco at the Village Hall raising money for Cancer Research organised and financially supported by Jane Tysoe. The Officers proposed a donation of £100.00 towards the running costs. This is in recognition of a great personal effort made - £2100.00 was raised. Brigade Major Richardson proposed and Fireman Brown. S seconded and it was carried unanimously.

3.7 Michelle Lester ran the London Marathon in a Scooby Doo costume to raise money for SCOPE. The Officers suggested a donation of £50.00. Fireman Brown. A proposed and Fireman Locock seconded and it was carried unanimously.

## **4. Officers Reports**

### **4.1 Commanding Officer**

4.1.1 Considering the last 2 donations made by the Brigade the CO wanted to ask on behalf of the Officers how others felt about this type of giving. Our constitution is focused on giving to the benefit of the Community. Our thought is that supporting members of our community that make significant personal efforts to charitable ends is a good thing. Comments from the meeting included noting that times have changed and Geddington is a relatively well off area, we should therefore be supporting wider issues that affect us like cancer charities. The general feeling from the meeting agreed with this and asked for some figures about our recent donations to Village Charities, villagers supporting national charities and the FSNBF.

4.1.2 In the absence of the CO2 the significant effort made at Newton Field Centre was noted – in 2 hours 14 Firemen transformed the area. Thanks had been received from PCC Secretary Karen Hullet and Tony Cook. Thank you from the Brigade to Ali for the excellent refreshments.

4.1.3 The CO thanked those Firemen who joined the “Turn On The Tap” walk and Fireman Sparrow for giving permission for it to cross Boughton Estates land. £412.00 was raised to provide pumps for wells local to villages in Africa and thereby save the average 4 miles walk every day to get water.

4.1.4 The visit of the St Martins in the Fields cyclists had been a very enjoyable occasion. Ten Firemen had met them in Grafton Underwood, Eleanor had led them back to the village (see the website for pictures) and the Mayor had officially welcomed them in a ceremony on The Cross. In conjunction with the church we then gave them a meal and ended the evening with bar diving in The Star.

The budget requested at the previous meeting for the food of £150 had only been partially used. A 3 course meal was provided for £3 a head.

### **4.2 The Captain of Drill**

4.2.1 Nothing

4.2.2 He’s looking forward to the Trundle and Beer Festival in September..

### **4.3 The Station Officer**

4.3.1 An very good effort the previous Friday by 12 Firemen to cut the grass, have a general tidy up and finish painting the extension.

4.3.2 The responsibility for grass cutting in May is with Eleanor Section lead by Iain Dibble. June is Chase – SL Foulds.

4.3.3 Jobs still to be done – form a ramp to the extension doors, paint the floor, install electrics (anyone know an electrician?)

### **4.4 The President of the Mess Committee**

4.4.1 Nothing to report.

### **4.5 The Chief Engineer**

4.5.1 The CE had reported to the Adjutant that Eleanor is in top condition and performed faultlessly during the visit of the St Martins in the Fields Cyclists.

## **4.6 Paymaster General**

4.6.1 Subs - £300.00 received since last report. 33 paid, 47 remain unpaid.

4.6.2 £150.00 paid to KBC for rates. The GVFB had previously been exempt – we now pay 10%, Some abuse was directed at the Mayor at this point- he was however oblivious having drunk deeply from the barrel of Nobbys and fallen asleep.

## **4.7 IPCO**

4.7.1 The IPCO had left an envelope:

*“CO – when the meeting turns to rats\*?t or you run out of things to say the contents of the IPCO’s report (enclosed) will buy you valuable time. P.s Don’t tell anymore s\*?t jokes”*

Contained in the envelope:

*“Nothing to report – IPCO”*

## **4.8 POCO**

4.8.1 Nothing to report

## **4.9 Section Leaders**

4.9.1 Chase, Section Leader Foulds – proposed changing the name of his Section to Lucifer and received a fairly hostile reaction. A subject he may return to, or maybe it’s time to let go of the goat fixation!

4.9.2 All other sections nothing to report.

## **5. Any Other Business**

5.1 Fireman Rowley demonstrated the new GVFB website – [www.gvfb.org](http://www.gvfb.org) which he and Jack Harker have been working on. It provides the possibility for facilities not previously used by the Brigade – a shop for ordering GVFB goods from the QM, a “members only” section for action reports and messages, on line voting, discussion forums, etc. The CO thanked the Firemen for their efforts and noted that it up to the Brigade now to take on the facilities provided and make use of them.

5.2 Fireman Drake-Lee, the Cricket Captain and Manager circulated the fixture list for the coming season. The main comments focused on the £5 per game each subscription. Considering the 3 course meal provided to the cyclists for £3 it was hoped that the White Hart could provide at least 4 courses for the money. Another question concerned Fireman Groome. Apparently he had resigned as Manager in order to concentrate on his batting. It was thought he had jumped before he was pushed. Showing he meant business, the multi-tasking Captain/Manager had requested a £200 budget for some new equipment. This was supported by the Officers and put to the meeting. The CoD proposed, PMC seconded and unanimous approval followed.

5.3 A slick, rehearsed until it was like clockwork presentation of the 2008 Great Adventure was given. I can’t possibly do justice to it here. If you weren’t there then I suggest you ask those who were lucky enough to be. Details on [www.gvfb.org](http://www.gvfb.org)

5.4 The CO proposed a new member – Trevor Dolan. Trevor has in fact been a member before and claims his membership lapsed due to an error by Brigade Major Hughes. I’m sure we can follow this up and obtain more information. The proposal was seconded by Section Leader Dibble and agreed

unanimously.

5.5 Fireman H has arranged for a shoot on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> July. It will be an inter-section competition as 2 years ago. More details to follow.

5.6 The meeting closed at 21.50

Nigel Streatfield  
Adjutant