

RESPONSE



A FOND FAREWELL

"Everything we are today is built on the self effacing public service of these men and women who went before. As we enter the most exciting and demanding period of our professional lives we salute them and their proud heritage."

Mike Handy, acting chief executive, East Midlands Ambulance Trust



A county ambulance — nicknamed Tinker Bell. Hucknall's Trevor Handley is currently restoring one together with the Nottinghamshire Ambulance Preservation Society



One of Nottingham City's four six-seater ambulances

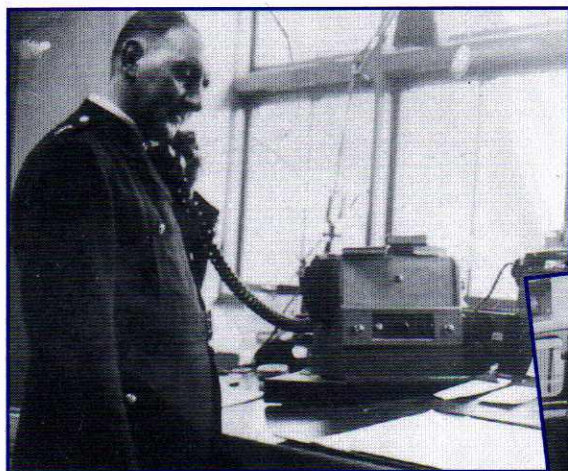
AT THE birth of the NHS in 1948, Nottinghamshire had two ambulance services — City and County.

The County had 21 stations throughout Nottinghamshire, with a fleet of 'clipper blue' ambulances. Its chief was Fred Jolley.

Basic pay for a 48 hour week was £4 14s, with an extra

1½ d an hour for those with a first aid qualification.

The cream ambulances of the City service didn't cross the city boundaries, and their original station was Cartergate Bus Depot — they parked alongside the buses. Stations were later opened at Carlton Road, Guildhall, Beechdale, and Wilford.



County got its first radio system in 1952, with the chairman of the County Council broadcasting the first message. City followed suit in 1953. The photo shows the Cartergate radio control room in the early 1950s.



The role of ambulance staff on the road was much less sophisticated then. Many were drivers, not attendants. Above, some County staff are presented with safe driving awards at Beeston Station. Left, staff are pictured in 1948 with an ambulance car at West Bridgford station.

First aid training was done at night class at the St Johns Ambulance Huntingdon Street school or at the Nottingham Albert Hall. Staff

received an extra 1/6d a week if they became first aid trainers.





City opened Beechdale station in March 1958 (pictured in 1959) followed by Wilford in 1960. By 1972, the pace of change was quickening. City introduced a cardiac ambulance with a defibrillator. But it only operated on weekdays.



The badge that was worn with pride



A new radio system including satellite tracking of ambulances was introduced in 1997. The state of the art technology has reduced response times and improved communication between crews on the road and control.

Nottingham's Lord Mayor Joyce Donn is pictured on a recent visit with control superintendent Jo O'Dowd.

The Trust is also a leader in clinical audit, having consulted with staff to redesign the Patient Report Forms. It's so successful that other services have now adopted the form.

The service gained Trust status in April 1992 and Hucknall station was opened.

Since the inception of the service the admin function was carried out by a minimal amount of staff. But Trust status increased the importance of support functions — finance, personnel, risk management, corporate and support services.

Geoff Southern, who worked in admin from the early 1960s to the early 1990s, must have been surprised to see the numbers of staff in these departments rise to over 25.

In 1995 a new £750,000 headquarters and training centre were opened on Beechdale Road.



In 1991 Jim Leggat (left) tested the new uniform for crews. He's pictured with Stapleford's Steve Lees to whom a massive thank you goes for researching the photos and information for this article. Steve is also a member of the Nottinghamshire Ambulance Vehicle Preservation Society.

And on terra firma daily use and F have been tested. above is currently and will take part i also helped design Marshall's ambula



An ambulance a equipment due ambulances are

In 1974 Nottinghamshire had its first merger when the two services amalgamated to form Nottinghamshire Ambulance Service.

Fred Jolley left the service and Frank Wilkinson, an ex City ambulance driver, became chief.

All control rooms were subsequently closed down and centralised at Beechdale Road (left).

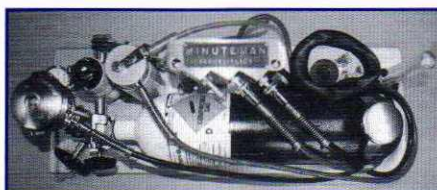


Mansfield and Sutton stations amalgamated in 1981 to form Kings Mill station. The station band is pictured above in 1983. The 1980s also saw the opening of purpose built stations at Arnold, Carlton and Stapleford, and Eastwood became a 24 hour station.



The vehicles used by the service have certainly developed with the times. The air ambulance was launched in 1996. It meant a huge reduction in emergency patient transport times as well as accessibility to difficult terrain.

The RAF crew pictured left helped at an incident also attended by the air ambulance. They were given one of the Service's newly launched Friend in Need awards by Malcolm Hinchley. These are presented to people who provide vital assistance in emergency situations.



The trusty and well-loved Stevenson Minuteman resuscitator was replaced in the late 1970s by the much more advanced pneuPAC. The role of the service was becoming increasingly complex and sophisticated with medical skills of staff greatly enhanced and patients treated to a much more advanced level. Chris Leivers became the first paramedic in 1985 and defibrillators became standard equipment on all A&E vehicles.

There was now a two tier service of non-emergency transport and A&E. The vehicles became specialised along with the staff.

Another important development at this time was the introduction of station and vehicle cleaners, which freed operational staff from performing these tasks.

, Ford Mavericks are in
st Response vehicles
The Mercedes A class
on loan to the service
n trials. Notts staff have
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ce, currently on trial.



nd its equipment in the early 1990s. The need for more
to improved levels of treatment means that already
airly full before patients are even picked up!



Staff from Beeston station pre-1948, over 50 years ago. The station closed in 1987.

Staff recently held their annual reunion — but it seems unlikely any of the above attended.

However, staff from as far back as the 1970s turned up, including one now working for Kent Ambulance Service and one from Gloucester.

AND FINALLY...

David's Heroes

SIX men who saved a workmate from paralysis have received a Notts Ambulance Friend in Need award.

David Taylor was working at Griffin Freight in Retford when he was struck by a half tonne drum of steel rope.

He was left half-seated and with severe head, back and leg injuries and with great pain in his lower back. His workmates realised the seriousness of his situation, and held him up to support his back, rather than lying him

'Without their commitment to David, the outcome could have been so different'

down. This saved him from possible paralysis of his lower limbs — unknown to the men, David had displaced a spinal vertebra and was in danger of severing his spinal cord.

They also blocked his view of the injuries, gave him constant reassurance and helped the Worksop crew, Paul Kelley and Mark Caudwell.

Paul said: "They didn't panic at all and followed our instructions to the letter. Without their commitment to David, the outcome could have been so different."

"It's important that people with back injuries aren't unnecessarily moved, as it may cause more severe and life threatening damage."

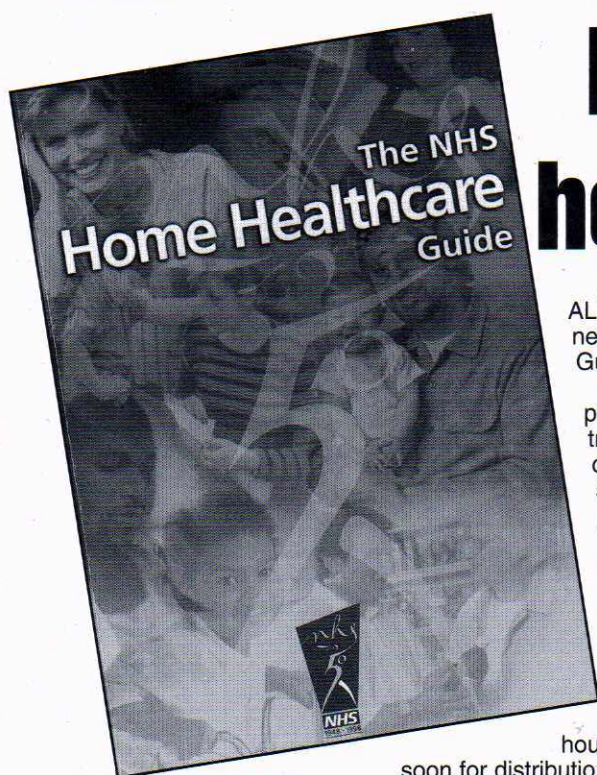
Tim Griffin, managing director of Griffin Freight Services said: "I'm really proud of my staff — they reacted marvellously in a frightening situation."

The men were Richard Burton, Chris Middleton, John Dobson, Ron Wilson, Michael Griffin and Tim Griffin.



GOOD FRIENDS: David Taylor is pictured with work colleagues who have been presented with a Friend in Need award by paramedics from Notts Ambulance Service. (photo ref 60156/27)

Cutting from Retford Times



Plan for a healthy life

ALL staff should by now have received a new booklet, 'The NHS Home Healthcare Guide'.

It contains information on first aid and a plan for healthy living, as well as home treatments for various illnesses and a contact list for assistance. There are sections on aches and pains, respiratory problems, allergies, digestive and bowel complaints, tiredness and anaemia, skin and hair problems. Ear and eye complaints, common infant and child illnesses, women's health and men's health are also covered.

It also contains advice on what should be kept in a home first aid and medicine kit. It's a must for every household. More copies should be available soon for distribution at PR events.

New drivers

NOTTS ambulance is currently recruiting drivers for a fleet of ambulance cars.

The fleet will provide car transport for non-emergency walking case patients.

This service, provided by volunteer drivers and supplemented by taxis has always had clear benefits, but there have been concerns over level of care in taxis.

The new fleet is aimed at reducing the need for taxis in the Nottingham area, and will be rolled out to other areas if successful.

Loyal servers

LONG service awards and good conduct medals have been presented to seven staff.

They have each been with the service for 20 years. The staff were Peter Buckley, Terry Whooton, Mark Edwards, Steven Lees, Mick Drewitt, Jean Cragg and Paul Clark.

Lord Lieutenant Andrew Buchanan presented the awards at the evening held at his Hodstock Priory home. Many thanks go to Andrew and his wife for their kind hospitality and a most enjoyable evening.

Miaow do they do it?

KIND hearted Kings Mill station staff have now raised over £250 for the Warsop Cat Protection League Shelter.

Station officer Kevin Charles said: "We raise the money with regular discos, and we hope to go on donating."

"We came up with the idea when crews realised how many cats end up in shelters when their elderly owners go into hospital."