

Foyers Community Fire Station

When I joined the local Auxiliary back in 1998 we only trained once a month ,

The man in Charge of our Crew was Sub Officer Colin Evans who was a big factor in getting the Local volunteer crewing of the ground .

Colin retired in 2000 .

We had a room at the end of the old BA factory , there was about 10 of us scattered about between Foyers , Inverfarigaig and Gorthleck .

We didn't have an appliance then , Just a few Birch Beaters, an Alcan water pump , a few lengths of hose , a stirrup pump with a hearth kit and a small wooden ladder .

Our Fire kit consisted of Wellies , Yellow Leggings , a Donkey Jacket and a Cork helmet

As we didn't have pagers we were called by telephone for any emergency calls .

Most of our calls in these days were mainly chimney fires with the occasional RTC .We were always backed up by either Ft Augustus or Inverness wholetime depending on what end of the Strath we were .

As time went on we trained twice a month and then when we were made up to retained we were training once a week , this was in 2003 .

All this involved the Foyers crew to be BA (breathing apparatus) competent so there was a lot more courses and training to do .

By that time most of the Foyers based crew had either retired or left the area .

The Fire service were looking for a site for a Station and after consultation with the Forestry Commision decided on the site near the Vennel in Gorthleck as all our crew were now residing in this area .

Whilst this was going through planning and construction We were given our 1st Appliance , An LDV (A van converted by Inverness workshops) reg SY04 CAV , this was sited at my house in Aberchalder along with a pager unit until the Station was complete in 2005 .

Once the Station was complete we moved in and were issued with a lot more kit which involved more training .

We used to Travel to Ft Augustus and Inverness to train with them on ladder drills and to familiarise ourselves with their appliances .

Crews are often called far and wide especially during wildfire season sometimes ending up in Skye or Wester Ross to help with Fires.

Another busy time of the year is Tourist season with quite a few RTC's on the single track roads.

Our Crew come from all walks of life from Gamekeepers ,Farmers , Crofters, lorry drivers , School teachers,and Plumbers.

Crews often carry out Home fire safety visits and attend open days / fetes in the area to highlight the safety of having a working Smoke detector .