

# HERITAGE TO THE FORE!



Saturday, October 7<sup>th</sup> 2017, saw a group of FBS members assemble at the gates to A2 Aston fire station before entering the 'fascinating' museum rooms of West Midlands Fire Service's Heritage Group.

Housed on the ground floor of what were formally 'firemen's flats', and later 'A Division' HQ, we were able to briefly, in two and a half hours, explore a huge volume of fire service record, images, story and award coupled with personal artefacts. There is just never enough time available to get to grips with everything here!

It is pleasing to be able to report that all being well the Heritage Group will be accommodated in the refurbished Aston fire station.

A piece on this educational morning will be found in a future issue of Fire Cover.

Our second location of the day was the Smethwick Heritage Trust in Victoria Park, Smethwick, where we had been invited to listen to the former, and last CFO of Mitchells and Butlers Fire Brigade at Cape Hill Brewery, Smethwick, Mr. Vernon Fisher.

A fascinating lecture supported by unique records and images again demonstrated why three hours at these events is never enough!

The invite had come about when Chris Wannell, from Royal Wootton Bassett, bought Leyland, DHA 555, 'back home' to Smethwick and former M&B Brewery fire station in early September 2017. We had seen this lovely Leyland at Kemble at our Gloucestershire AGM.

There will be more on the story of 'DHA 555' and the Brewery in a future issue of Fire Cover.

As an amusing aside, we fully expected the day to be 'battenburg' free. However, one of the volunteers with the Smethwick Heritage Trust, Pat, provided some lovely cake which was, yes, you have guessed, battenburg!

We thank both organisations for accommodating us at short notice and we look forward to further visits and interaction with both organisations.

