

Kent Firefighting Museum 21st July 2023

A contingent limited in number, but nonetheless inquisitive, was given a tour of the Museum and an explanation of the origins of organised firefighting on Friday, by Peter and Dusty, both retired from the service.

Amongst other aspects, we (more particularly I) learned why firefighters operate in 'watches' rather than shifts, and that organised efforts existed in Roman times, although – as for many other aspects of our society's development – with significant gap until the 17th century.

Its evolution through wartime, advances in equipment and organisation, and latterly priorities, took us through various progressions leading to the current version, which is apparently engaged 50% of the time on traffic incidents, reflected in the current title of Kent Fire and Rescue Service.

Explanations and use of various equipment - some effective, some less so – from different periods, much of which was particularly weighty or cumbersome, were given, with a brief mention of comparisons with other countries. After 1945, the organisation in Kent was considered a model to follow, and adopted by many other areas. Health and Safety was referred to with regard to ongoing practices, but you don't want to get me started on that.

We finished with playtime on a static tender outside the buildings, so generally left bearing smiles.







