

## The Future

The creation of the Essex Fire Museum has required energy, dedication, true commitment and vision. These same principles will now be applied to its future development.

The loyal group of supporters – who have had to beg, steal and borrow, call in favours and work tirelessly to create this lasting monument to the Service – will now be embraced by more formal business management arrangements that will support the museum's use as an active educational and community centre.

Formal operating procedures will need to be introduced and, if it is as successful as it is hoped, the museum may indeed need to move its location to cater for growth.

With increasing responsibilities for community safety activities, Essex has moved headlong into reaching out to the neighbourhoods it serves. The museum is expected to play a key role in the Service's educational work with schools in the area, where it is anticipated it will be used not simply as a repository of artifacts but as a living, breathing historical experience.

As the Essex Fire Museum evolves, it is anticipated that through the use of innovative technology, the centre can

become an inter-active learning environment and a first-class amenity for the area.

A constitution for the Essex Fire Museum will be created to include administrative and financial procedures. Educational content, access arrangements, an acquisition and disposals policy will all be agreed.

As a Fire Service, Essex is keen to learn from the experience and expertise of other professionals working in the heritage field and in this regard the museum plans to develop its involvement and links with various historical networks.

It is also planned to establish a Friends of Essex Fire Museum group and to develop an informative and user-friendly website.



Roger Pickett, Assistant Curator  
Essex Fire Museum  
Grays Fire Station  
Hogg Lane  
Grays  
Essex  
RM17 5QS

Telephone: 01375 379167

Barrie Davis, Education Manager  
Senior Divisional Officer Paul Bowers  
Safer Communities Directorate  
Essex County Fire and Rescue Service  
Rayleigh Close,  
Hutton CM13 1AL

Telephone: 01277 222531

Visit our website: [essex-fire.gov.uk](http://essex-fire.gov.uk)

W e l c o m e t o



# Essex Fire museum

Opened on June 14, 2007 by Fire Minister Angela Smith and Chairman of Essex Fire Authority Lionel Lee.



**Essex Fire  
museum**



**Retiring Chairman  
of Essex Fire Authority  
Councillor Lionel Lee**



**Chief Fire Officer  
David Johnson**

## Introduction

The first positive step towards preserving the heritage of Essex County Fire and Rescue Service was taken by retired Chief Fire Officer Roger Paramor in 1985 when he gave permission to White Watch at Grays Fire Station to preserve one of the Service's 1962 Dennis F28 pump escapes, which was due for disposal.

The first step was taken with tremendous foresight and was vigorously supported by County Councillor John Story, the then Chairman of the Essex Fire and Public Protection Committee. Subsequent Essex fire chiefs furthered the cause, supported by the commitment and dedication of many serving firefighters.

Current Chief Fire Officer David Johnson has maintained this commitment to protecting the Service's heritage, supported by members of the Fire Authority and together they have made vision a reality in the creation of the Essex Fire Museum, opened on June 14, 2007 by government Fire Minister Angela Smith.

The museum would not have been created without the continued approval and support of the Essex Fire Authority and its Chairman Lionel Lee.

## Lifelong Ambition

There is one man who should be specifically mentioned for his part in creating this historical centre on the station where, until recently, he served as a firefighter for 30 years – Roger Pickett.



The museum represents a lifelong ambition for Roger, who has a hands-on fascination with his subject which dates back almost to the day his father took him, as a two-year-old toddler, to see the official opening of the new Grays Fire Station in Hogg Lane in November 1954. Roger, pictured above, lived 100 yards away and because of nearby houses owned by the fire service, his friends were the sons and daughters of serving officers so they took more than a passing interest in station life.

The interest remained throughout his childhood and Roger even went on to marry the daughter of Grays Station Officer Ron Turrell. The disapproving officer was quick to suggest that joining the fire brigade would make a man of his then wayward son-in-law!

Since 1983, Roger has gathered together hundreds of artifacts, photographs, memorabilia and items relating to the County's Fire Brigade, with a particular interest in the Service within the Thurrock area. The collection also includes five appliances – the first a 1954 Dennis F8 fire engine acquired by Roger in 1993.

Many volunteers have played an active and positive part in the formation of the Essex Fire Museum, like Roger, demonstrating an understanding and commitment to the protection of the Essex fire heritage and to create an infrastructure that would protect and develop this collection for future generations.

A portfolio and official inventory of items within the collection is currently being prepared and will be made available via a dedicated museum website that will sit within the main [essex-fire.gov.uk](http://essex-fire.gov.uk) website. Many of the items on display are in private ownership and have been kindly loaned to the museum to be enjoyed by the community.

## Opening Arrangements

Currently located in the former auxiliary fire service garages at Grays Fire Station – built in the fifties – accommodation on the site is understandably limited. This, combined with the fact that Grays is an operational station, will necessitate the need for the museum to open in a limited capacity initially. Interested parties, school groups and individuals will be encouraged to attend by prior booking in the early days.

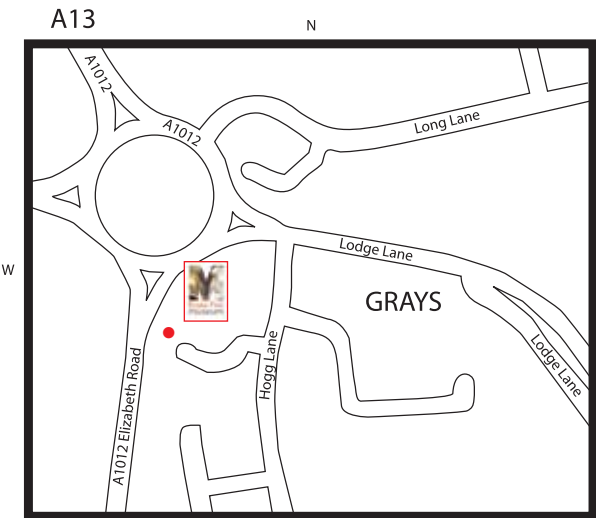
**Essex Fire Museum  
Grays Fire, Station Hogg Lane,  
Grays, Essex. RM17 5QS**

## Funding

Initial funding for the creation of the museum has been provided by Essex Fire Authority.

Future funding is likely to rely heavily on external grant aid, sponsorship and voluntary donations, together with continued support from the Essex Fire Authority and other public bodies.

As with all of its community activities, the museum management team will be actively seeking partners to assist in the growth and development of the project.



Thurrock Lakeside

