

ESSEX COUNTY FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE RETIRED MEMBERS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER JANUARY to MARCH 2021



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MESSAGES FROM THE CHAIR AND SECRETARY

The last year has proved to be a very difficult time for all, but with the vaccination program underway and lockdown restrictions starting to be eased at least there seems to be light, hopefully, at the end of the tunnel.

I anticipate it could still be some time before the RMA are able to hold a committee meeting but once the committee can meet, the priority will be to arrange an Annual General Meeting. It is hoped to hold the meeting at the village hall in Hatfield Peverel as this venue is about as central as we can get for the membership.

The membership is reminded that the annual subscription will be due at the end of April and will remain at the current rate so long as the organisation remains solvent. Floral tributes or donations in memory of those members that we have sadly lost have continued to be sent during the pandemic.

Keep well and stay safe to you all. John (Smudger) Smith, Chair

Well, as our Chair has said, what a year! But, unlike the media questioning the politicians, we are not going to go over how the whole situation should or should not have been handled, we, the RMA Committee, are moving on and preparing for when we can move freely and gather together again. Plans are being formulated for a return to our very much-missed RMA outings and social gatherings. We will be there ready to roll out the details as soon as the lockdown is eased.

And talking of the RMA Committee, we are looking for additional personnel to help with the running of the association. Our meetings are held every six weeks over a cup of tea or coffee, and last just under two hours. Contact our Chair, John Smith on tel: 01245 283184 or me Barry Cable on barrycable@gmail.com or tel: 07850 984593 if you are interested in joining us, or if you would like further information.

Finally, if you have any ideas for RMA trips or there is anything else you would like to see the Association doing, plus any fire ground memories you would like to share via the Newsletter, please let the Chair, myself, or any Committee member know.

Meanwhile, stay safe and enjoy the sunshine.
Barry Cable, Secretary

Medallist of the Order of the British Empire (BEM)

Following the Queen's prestigious New Year's honours list, Maldon Watch Manager Martin Cable is now a Medallist of the Order of the British Empire (BEM).

Congratulations to Martin who received the award for the brilliant work he's done in his community.



Online Awards Ceremony

Due to Covid-19 restrictions Essex Fire Service recently held its first online awards ceremony. Firefighters who had completed 20 years' service were awarded The Fire Brigade's Long Service and Good Conduct Medal and special awards were given to the following personnel who had completed 40 or more years' service. Congratulations to all.

Derek Whitbread, Watch Manager, Epping Fire Station, 45 years
Martin Cable, Watch Manager, Maldon Fire Station, 45 years
Roger Pickett, Assistant Curator, Essex Fire Museum, 44 years
Neil Byford, Watch Manager, Newport Fire Station, 40 years
Paul Nash, Station Manager, Protection, North Area, 40 years
Ray Thomas, Workshop Manager, Fleet Services, 40 years
Richard Lever, Fleet Services, 40 years
Steve Foster, Technical Services, 40 years

NEW MEMBERS

The RMA are pleased to welcome Sean Norris and Michael Cracknell who has joined the Association since the publication of the last newsletter.

OBITUARY

It is with regret to inform you of the deaths of RMA members John (Jock) Ashcroft and Alan (Butch) Butcher and our thoughts are with their respective family and friends.

The association has also been informed of the deaths of non RMA members Steve (Sid) James, Ken (Sandy) Sadler, William (Bill) Brittle and Dave Speller and our thoughts are also with their respective family and friends.

Since the publication of our last newsletter, ECFRS regretfully announced the death of two serving members, Aston Everett and Paul Burder. Our thoughts are with their respective family, friends and colleagues.