

ESSEX COUNTY FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE

RETIRED MEMBERS ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER FEBRUARY 2024



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RMA Website: <https://www.essex-fire.gov.uk/retired-members-association>

Welcome to our February Newsletter...

and we start with news of our first events for 2024

Traditional Afternoon Tea – 27th March 2024 12:30 until 3.30

The Tiptree Tea Room at the Barns, Crossing Temple is the favourite location of RMA members for our regular Afternoon Tea. If you haven't been before, come along and join your fellow members for a delightful afternoon. Full details on attached flyer.

Other dates for your diary:

Our Annual General Meeting will take place on Saturday the 20th April at 2pm at the Essex Fire Museum, Grays Fire Station, Hogg Lane, Grays, RM17 5QS. Donations for our raffle **would be greatly appreciated.**

Warners Hotel Getaway, Littlecote House, Berkshire A 4night/5day break at this beautiful Grade I listed Tudor Manor will take place on 26th August 2024. Full details on attached flyer.

Committee Members Wanted

Would you like to be part of the RMA Committee and help the association to organise and provide functions and events for the membership?

The Committee normally meets monthly, no special skills are required but an enthusiastic and positive attitude would be ideal.

If you would like to know more, please contact the RMA Secretary Barry Cable at barryccable@gmail.com



RMA ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION



Time is running out for you to revise your Standing Order for your RMA subscription which increases to £3 per annum on 1st April 2024

A NEW FEATURE FOR OUR NEWSLETTER



MESSAGE BOARD

“Message Board” is a new feature which, if proven popular, will be included in future newsletters.

You may have some news which you would like to share with other members, post a request for information or just want to write something which may be of interest, in which case this feature may be suitable.

Material submitted should fall within the following general guidelines:-

- Content should be non-political, respectful of race, gender, religion, language and decency.
- Posts should not be unreasonably critical or derogatory.
- Posts should observe Data Protection and Copyright Law.
- Any item submitted for inclusion in a Newsletter must be received ideally one week before the end of the previous month.
- Posts should be concise, suitable and ready for publication.
- If you expect a personal response from any member(s) you will need to include your name and contact details.
- Size and number of photographs should be kept to a minimum as there is limited space.

Material should be submitted by email to **barryccable@gmail.com** and include your contact details.

NEW MEMBERS

We are pleased to welcome **Mrs Kay Stallard** and **Adrian Clarke** as new members of the RMA.

OBITUARIES

It is with great sadness that we have to report the loss of Norman Paulding following a long illness.

We have just heard of the death of two non-members: Mick Hammond, ex-Blue Watch Colchester and Alan Rowley, ex-firefighter Colchester.

The following articles have been taken from the ECFRS Website

Smoke alarm warning after two thirds of fatal fires had no working alarms



Essex County Fire and Rescue Service is on a mission to make sure all Essex residents have working smoke alarms after shocking statistics show how vital they are.

In the last few years, 70% of people who died in house fires did not have working smoke alarms.

Despite fitting 10,329 smoke alarms last year, the fire service remains deeply concerned for the unknown households still lacking this life saving equipment.

Claire Monk, Live Safe Manager at Essex County Fire and Rescue Service said:

“This is about saving lives. The fact that 70% of the people who died in house fires in the last few years did not have working alarms is something we can’t ignore. We are determined to reach all those who don’t currently have working smoke alarms and offer to fit smoke alarms completely free of charge.”

The fire service is encouraging communities in Essex to get involved and spread awareness of the importance of smoke alarms. Everyone can help, simply by tagging friends and family on Facebook posts or checking in on vulnerable neighbours who live alone.

Claire adds:

“We’re committed to visiting any home in Essex and install smoke alarms completely free of charge. Smoke alarms are also very widely available to buy online and at supermarkets and DIY shops. We know it’s not the availability of smoke alarms that are stopping people having them, so we can only assume that people do not realise the value of having one at home.”

Statistics show that you’re at least four times more likely to die in a fire in the home if there are no working smoke alarms. In the event of a fire, smoke alarms can give you the vital early warning that could allow you to escape from the property and call the emergency services.

Mains operated smoke alarms are available to purchase but must be installed by a qualified person and should always have a battery powered back-up to ensure they are still able to operate even in a power cut.

Follow these top tips on smoke alarms:

- Install smoke alarms in your home, following the manufacturer’s instructions.
- Test smoke alarms every week to make sure they are working.
- The best places to fit them are at the bottom of the stairs, with further smoke alarms on each stair landing.
- The ideal position is on the ceiling, as near as possible to the centre of the room, hallway or landing.
- Take time to check on elderly relatives and neighbours as they are at greater risk from fire, and test their smoke alarms for them.



Lithium-ion battery fires

Over the weekend, Essex Fire crews helped extinguish a fire at a recycling centre in Pitsea.

It was started by a lithium-ion battery which was disposed incorrectly.

Never dispose of a lithium-ion battery in a skip or in your domestic household waste.

Please always check with your local authority for the best ways to dispose of them.

Don't miss this opportunity to meet up with your friends and
former colleagues

Come and join us at the RMA's ...

TRADITIONAL AFTERNOON TEA



There are few hours in life more agreeable than the time dedicated to the ceremony known as Afternoon Tea. -- Henry James

Never trust a man who, when left alone in a room with a tea cosy, doesn't try it on. -- Billy Connolly

Come, let us have some tea and continue to talk about happy things -- Chaim Potok

**Tiptree Tea Room at The Barns, Cressing Temple,
Witham Road, Cressing CM77 8PD**

Suitable for wheelchair users or visitors with limited mobility

12:30 until 3.30 p.m.

Wednesday 27th March 2024

Cost: £17.50 per head

If you would like to attend this event,
Please reserve your places by email to barryccable@gmail.com

There are two methods of payment:

by online banking as follows:

*Account: ECFRS RMA, sort code: 30-91-85, account number: 49411768,
reference: Tea [and your surname]*

or alternatively

*forward a cheque made payable to ECFRS RMA to
The RMA Treasurer, Gillian Day,
267 Perry Street, Billericay CM12 0QP*



***Warners Hotel Getaway at Littlecote House,
Berkshire
26th August 2024***

Following the success of previous visits to Warners Hotels we are offering a 4-night/5-day break at the above venue for 2024.

Built in the mid-1500s, this beautiful Grade I listed Tudor manor has a truly unique story. History is literally on your doorstep: the stunning location has played host to occupying Romans, a Tudor tryst and even a Civil War army. The grounds contain an ornate Roman mosaic floor and settlement remains. Henry VIII courted Jane Seymour here, and the D-Day landings were planned within the house. Outstanding service, delicious food in the spacious restaurant, live entertainment every night, and a host of activities from tennis to air-rifle shooting.

Why not visit the nearby historic market town of Newbury or Blenheim Palace with its extensive grounds, the Formal Gardens with their majestic water terraces, private Italian garden, rose garden and much more?

Included in the price

- **Breakfast every day**
- **3 Course Evening Dinner**
- **Evening Entertainment**
- **Activities and Leisure Facilities**

The cost (which includes a group discount) is £333 per person for standard room accommodation.

The group carries 3 singles at the same cost.

In the first instance, to declare your interest contact the Group Leader Dave Birks on 01702 528355 or dave-jean-birks@supanet.com where more information can be given, and a small deposit requested to secure your booking.

The financial arrangements will be handled by the RMA Treasurer.

A visit to the Warners Littlecote House website is recommended for full details.