

ESSEX COUNTY FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE

RETIRED MEMBERS ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER MAY 2024

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



OUR GRATEFUL THANKS TO JOHN “SMUDGER” SMITH

John has expertly led the RMA as Chairman for many years and we thank him most sincerely for his steadfastness and commitment. Unfortunately John now has to step down from this position, but luckily will stay on the Committee.

Our Annual General Meeting took place on 20th April...

...at the Essex Fire Museum, Grays Fire Station, Hogg Lane, Grays and was attended by about 26 people in the conference room. We were again made very welcome by Dan Bailey and Graham Richardson.

One of the main items on the agenda was the election of the Committee. John “Smudger” Smith stood down as Chairman and RMA Secretary Barry Cable presented him with a gift from the Committee and thanked him for his long service. The remainder of the Committee were re-elected en bloc.



Thanks to Janet Baker, Janet Caldwell, and Lin Parfitt for running the raffle which raised enough money to cover the expenses of the AGM. Thanks also to John & Diane Rogers for arranging the venue for the meeting and for the light refreshments. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting accompany this Newsletter as a separate document.



Welcome to our new Chairman, Committee member John Rogers. The Committee wishes him every success in maintaining the momentum and moving the RMA forward.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS:

Fish and Chip lunch – 5th June at Leigh Sailing Club. See attached flyer.

Greyhound Racing at Romford Stadium – 14th June 2024. See attached flyer.

Garden Visit – By popular demand visit Brian & Wendy's lovely garden at St Osyth on the **17th July 2024** from 1.30pm. They are wonderful hosts and their refreshments are superb. More details will follow.

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**. There are still places available including some single rooms, so don't delay, contact Dave Birks for more details – see attached flyer.

NEW MEMBER

ANTHONY (TONY) DIXON

We are pleased to welcome Tony Dixon as a new member of the RMA.

OBITUARY

RONALD LEMON

It is with great sadness that we have to report the loss of Ronald Lemon after suffering from a very long illness.

Ron served at Harlow as a Fireman from the mid 60's, Loughton as a Leading Fireman, finishing his career at Ongar as a Sub-Officer.

His funeral will be held at Harlow Crematorium on May 17th at 15:00 hrs with drinks following at the Cock Inn Pub. All are welcome. No flowers, but a donation to Parkinson's UK or the FireFighters Charity.

IMPORTANT REMINDER

On 1st April the annual subscription to the RMA became due at the new rate of £3. A number of members did not update their Standing Order and therefore have an outstanding amount of £1. If you haven't increased your Standing Order to £3 per annum, you are respectfully reminded that you should do so as soon as possible. If you haven't paid your subscription yet, you might find it useful to set up a Standing Order as follows:

Account: ECFRS Retired Members Association,
sort code: 30-91-85, account number: 49411768
Reference: "Sub *[plus surname]*"



GREYHOUND RACING AT ROMFORD STADIUM 14th JUNE 2024

The RMA is bringing together a group of members to attend a race meeting at the above venue which was a real fun evening last year with a great three course meal in the Paddock restaurant which overlooks the start/finish line.

Details are:

Date: Friday evening 14th June 2024

Time: Gate open at 17:30 hrs and members to be there by 18:00 hrs

Travel: Own Transport. *(Parking is available on a first come-first-served basis.)*

***Please be aware of the ULEZ conditions –
details can be found online.***

Tickets are £37.50 per person which includes:

Admission and Race card.

3-course meal in the Paddock Restaurant

Drinks Table Service

Tote Messenger Betting Service

Please inform us of any allergies, dietary requirements, accessibility needs, or wheelchair users

Reserve your places by email to
Tony Pizzala at tonypizzala1950@gmail.com

There are two methods of payment:

by online banking as follows:

Account: ECFRS Retired Members Association,

sort code: 30-91-85, account number: 49411768,

Please use reference: "Rom Dogs [surname]" so that we know how to attribute the payment.

or alternatively:

forward a cheque made payable to ECFRS Retired Members Association to
Gillian Day

267 Perry Sreet, Billericay, CM12 0QP

*Important: Please note that once final figures are given to the venue,
refunds cannot be made for non-attendance*



MESSAGE BOARD

Lloyd Dylan Morgan – A celebration of his life

A Celebration of Lloyd's life was held at his church in Whitstable Kent on the 27th April. About thirty-five ex-Essex Fire and Rescue Service personnel attended to share the occasion with his friends, close family, Parliamentary work colleagues, the congregation and Pastor. A number of presentations highlighted his family life, career, passion for life and of course some of his most notable exploits! The event concluded with a superb buffet and opportunity for all of us to catch up with friends and colleagues.

John Rogers

OLD LEIGH REGATTA 7th & 8th SEPTEMBER 2024

The origin dates back to 1880 when the local fishermen took one summer weekend to race their boats and party, but from September 2019 no regattas have taken place due to Covid.

Plans are now in full swing for a revived OLD LEIGH REGATTA.

This will recall past events such as:- The Greasy Bow Sprit, Welly Hoying, The Sedan Chair Race, Tug of War, Football on the Mud, Scout Pentathlon and much more. There are many other things such as games for the kids, artisan's stools, food outlets and not to forget, the Old town has four pubs.

Most of this is organised by two local Sea Scout Groups and they gain from the profits.

The Old town high street is closed for the whole day. Travel by train.





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.

Littlecote House offers 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 further afield Blenheim Palace with its extensive grounds, the Formal Gardens with their majestic water terraces, private Italian garden, rose garden and much more?

There are still places available for RMA members, their families and friends (sorry, no children)

Included in the price

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

The cost (with a group discount) is £362 per person for signature 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 of the venue.

RMA FISH & CHIPS LUNCH

Leigh on Sea Sailing Club SS9 2EP



It is proposed to return to Leigh Sailing Club for a sit-down lunch on

Wednesday 5th June 2024

The bar will be open from 1 p.m. and lunch will be served at 1.30 p.m.

Parking is free –
High water is at midday –
Disabled access is good.

The lunch will consist of fried fish or chicken nuggets with chips,
followed by a sweet and tea or coffee

Cost: £15.00 per head

Following our lunch, we have been lucky to engage **Chris Burls** who is a leader of the Endeavour Trust and he will give us a presentation on the restoration of the former Leigh cockle boat which was also a Dunkirk Little Ship.

Reserve your place by

E-mailing baryccable@gmail.com and paying by online banking as follows:
Account: Essex County Fire and Rescue Service Retired Members Association.
Sort Code: 30-91-85. Account Number: 49411768. Reference: Fish *[plus your surname]*

Or alternatively:

A cheque made payable to Essex Fire and Rescue Service Retired Members Association
Forwarded to RMA Treasurer Gillian Day, 267 Perry Street, Billericay, CM12 0QP

