

ESSEX COUNTY FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE

RETIRED MEMBERS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER FEBRUARY 2025



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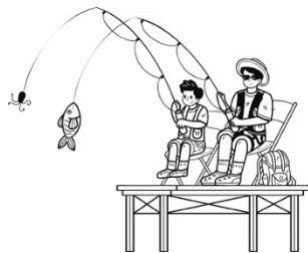
Treasurer: Gillian Day, Email: geday267@gmail.com Tel: 01277 656050 Mob: 07526 074875

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

HOBBIES AND PASTIMES



We all have the Fire Service as a common background but most of us also have hobbies, interests, pastimes or even passions in our daily live



Would you like to share any of these with possibly like-minded members? Fishing is popular and probably the most talked about, but even something as everyday as dog walking can be shared if there is a will. The list of hobbies and pastimes is enormous but if anyone would like to share them, I would be more than happy to try to connect members and co-ordinate efforts. This could, in time, generate sub-groups in the RMA, such as motorcycle section, photography section, fishing section. etc. Contact me if you would like to be part of or have some ideas for an interest group.

Ted Collins

Email: ted53collins@gmail.com

Tel: 07875 640521



Events we are planning for 2025

March: 27th Afternoon Tea, Cressing Temple Barns. (see flyer)

April 26th: Our AGM at The Essex Fire Museum, Grays Fire Station.

May 15th: Tower of London – Ceremony of the Keys (see flyer)

June 2nd – 6th: Warners 5 day break to the Isle of Wight (*Now fully booked*)

July: Galleywood winery tour with afternoon tea (to be confirmed)

August/September: Fish and chip lunch at Leigh on Sea (to be confirmed)

September 29th: Lunch at the Ironmongers Hall, London (see flyer)

TOWER OF LONDON – 15th MAY CEREMONY OF THE KEYS

We have arranged an evening visit to experience
'The Ceremony of the Keys' at the Tower of London
on the 15th May 2025 at 10pm.



This is an historical ceremony which has taken place every evening for over 700 years. The visit will take the following form:-

- 1) Convene at the Tower entrance at 7:15pm where we will be greeted by our tour guide.
- 2) Together with other guests, be escorted within the Tower to meet our Yeoman Warder, who volunteers to give a brief guided tour lasting about 30 minutes before taking us to 'The Keys', their clubroom, to enjoy the bar and company until approximately 9:30pm when we make our way to the main entrance .
- 3) The ceremony itself takes place at 10pm following which we are free to depart or return to their clubroom.

There is no charge for the visit, although it is courtesy to buy our Yeoman Warder 'a drink' and purchase raffle tickets which support their chosen charities. More detailed information covering all aspects of the visit will be sent out a few weeks before the event.

We will all need to make our own travel arrangements, probably by train/tube. (*Tower Hill tube station is a short walk from the Tower and is served by the District and Circle lines and has a step free access to street level*).

There are a few places left so if you are interested in joining us, please contact Diane and John Rogers by email: dj.rogers@btinternet.com

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## Lunch at Ironmongers Hall

Shaftesbury Place, Barbican, London, EC2Y 8AA

Private Luncheon in the Great Hall.

**Monday 29<sup>th</sup> September 2025**

Enjoy pre-lunch drinks in the Drawing Room  
before making your way to your table

Bar is open from 12.30 pm and lunch is served from 1 pm

Glass of Sparkling Wine, 3-course Meal, half bottle wine

**£ 70.00 per person**

Dress Code: Suits & Smart Casual - Travel: Own transport



To register your interest please  
contact Ron Murray  
07879 493087 or  
[firefighterrpm@btinternet.com](mailto:firefighterrpm@btinternet.com)  
*Payment details will be given in a  
future newsletter*

## ***THIS IS YOUR LAST OPPORTUNITY TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE COMMUNITY RISK ASSESSMENT PLAN***

**ECFRS has relaunched its CRMP consultation ...**

**and have sent the following message asking for your help:**

“We're asking residents, businesses and local partners to have their say on the future of fire and rescue services in Essex. We have launched the next step in our consultation on our draft Community Risk Management Plan (CRMP), which outlines key priorities for protecting lives, property, and the environment. The consultation, which runs from **8 January 2025 to 19 February 2025**, offers everyone in Essex the chance to shape a plan that will guide our Service's work over the coming years.

“This consultation follows a similar process that took place last year, when Essex residents were asked to comment on proposed priorities. The results from that initial consultation have shaped this draft CRMP and priorities.

“Based on the emerging risks in Essex, the draft CRMP outlines five strategic priorities:

- Preventing fires and other emergencies: Taking proactive steps to reduce risks.
- Reducing the impact of fire in the built environment: Enhancing safety in homes, businesses, and public spaces.
- Responding effectively to emergencies: Ensuring rapid and professional emergency responses.
- Inclusive and high-performing culture: Fostering equality, diversity, and excellence within the Service.
- A resilient and sustainable future: Preparing for long-term challenges like climate change.

“These goals align with national standards and have been developed through extensive engagement with staff, partners and the public. We hope you will help us in shaping our five-year strategic plan by taking part in our consultation. We're asking you to help finalise our Community Risk Management Plan by sharing your thoughts on our draft document. Complete our survey and help protect Essex together.”

The survey link is here: <https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/TellECFRS/>

### ***know someone who is about to retire?***

If you know of someone who is about to retire from the Essex County Fire and Rescue Service, please let them know that it is very easy to join the ECFRS Retired Members' Association. The application form is on the RMA website <https://www.essex-fire.gov.uk/retired-members-association-membership-application> and it can be completed and submitted online – simple! At just £3 per annum, it is not only very good value for money, but an excellent way of keeping in touch with old friends and colleagues.



We have a number of RMA lapel badges available for sale at a cost of £2 each plus £1.55 p&p. Anyone interested should contact the Chairman, John Rogers at [johnhrogers1946@gmail.com](mailto:johnhrogers1946@gmail.com)

## OBITUARY

### BRYAN CRAYDEN

We have to bring you the very sad news that RMA member Bryan Crayden has passed away. Bryan, who was ADO at Basildon in the 1980s, passed away aged 86 after a short illness.

The funeral is on 4th February at Pitsea Crematorium at 11.30 and afterwards at The Gun Pub, London Road, Bowers Gifford, Pitsea SS13 2DU. If attending please email Bryan's daughter, Wendy at [wendycrayden@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:wendycrayden@yahoo.co.uk) for catering proposes.

Condolences have been sent to his family.

Rest in peace, Bryan.



## MEMBERS' MESSAGE BOARD

*If you have a story to tell, or information for members, please let the Secretary know what you would like to say.*

### SOME IMPORTANT BANKING INFORMATION

Lloyds bank have informed us that from January 2025 they will be charging organisations such as ours for banking services. (In line with other High Street banks) The most significant charge will be a 50p charge for processing every cheque. In order to minimise this additional cost to the RMA, it would be appreciated if any future payments are made by using bank transfer instead of cheques where possible. Gillian Day (*RMA Treasurer*)

### CHANGE OF ADDRESS/DETAILS

It is important that the RMA maintains an accurate record of members and their contact details. If you change address or email, please inform the RMA Secretary as soon as possible to avoid missing out on receipt of Newsletters, information messages or birthday cards. RMA Secretary, Barry Cable: Email [barryccable@gmail.com](mailto:barryccable@gmail.com) Post "Briarlea" Southend Road, Billericay CM11 2PR Phone 07850 984593

You can now do this on line with our new "contact us" page on the website. This is the link: <https://www.essex-fire.gov.uk/retired-members-association-contact-us>

*Come, let us have some tea and  
continue to talk about happy things*

## TRADITIONAL AFTERNOON TEA



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

*Suitable for wheelchair users or visitors with limited  
mobility*

We are returning to the tea rooms at The Barns by popular demand. The plans for the RMA 2025 events calendar are progressing and promising to be very exciting; this is the first event of 2025. Come join your fellow members for a relaxing afternoon at the tea rooms situated by the 13<sup>th</sup> century Knights Templar Barns.

**12:30 until 3.30 p.m. Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> March 2025**

**Cost: £20.00 per head**

If you would like to attend this event, Please reserve your places by email to  
[barryccable@gmail.com](mailto:barryccable@gmail.com)

Please pay by online banking as follows:  
Account: ECFRS RMA, sort code: 30-91-85, account number: 49411768,  
reference: Afternoon Tea *[and your surname]*

*If you are not able to pay by this method,  
contact the RMA Treasurer, Gillian Day,  
267 Perry Street, Billericay CM12 0Q  
Email: [Geday267@gmail.com](mailto:Geday267@gmail.com)*