

ESSEX COUNTY FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE

RETIRED MEMBERS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER APRIL 2025



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

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - Saturday 26th April 2025 2pm at The Essex Fire Museum, Grays Fire Station, Hogg Lane, Grays, RM17 5QS.

The RMA will be holding its **Annual General Meeting** at The Essex Fire Museum and would love to see as many members as possible get together for this event. So, why not come along, meet up with old friends and colleagues and enjoy light refreshments following the official part of the meeting.

If you would like to donate a prize for the Raffle, it would be welcomed.

Members are respectfully reminded that the Association's annual subscription of £3 for the year 2025/26 becomes due on 1st April 2025. If you haven't set up a standing order with your bank, RMA Treasurer Gillian Day, will be at the meeting to accept your cash if this is your preferred method of payment.

Please Note: To assist with the catering arrangements, it is important to advise the Secretary, Barry Cable, if you will be attending the AGM so that appropriate provision can be made. Contact Barry at janbarrycable@gmail.com or telephone 07850 984593.



Our first event of 2025 was our Afternoon Tea at Cressing Temple Barns on the 27th March 2025



The Barns tearoom is beside the oldest timber framed barns in Europe and the beautiful walled garden. This was our third visit to the 'Barns' and it didn't disappoint. Once again, we were treated to an excellent afternoon tea served by pleasant, efficient and attentive staff. The weather was superb and afterwards many of the party rounded off the afternoon with a gentle meander around the gardens. *Our thanks to Jan and Barry Cable for organising the event.*



OTHER FORTHCOMING EVENTS:

April: Saturday 26th – RMA AGM at The Essex Fire Museum, Grays Fire Station.

May: Thursday 15th - Tower of London – Ceremony of the Keys (*see below - **this event is full, but there is a reserve list.***)

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

July: Thursday 31st - A visit to The Gardens of Easton Lodge, Dunmow (*see below*)

August: 1st – 4th – Battlefield Tour 2025 - an LFB RMA event (*see below*)

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

September: Monday 29th - Lunch at the Ironmongers Hall (*see below*)

October: Thursday 23rd - Afternoon Tea at Cressing Temple Barns. (*full details later*)

A Date for Your Diaries: Thursday 31st July 2025...

A Visit to The Gardens of Easton Lodge

Dunmow

The RMA has arranged a visit to the beautiful and historic Gardens of Easton Lodge, at Dunmow, the former home of Daisy, Countess of Warwick and favourite of King Edward VII.

The cost will be £12.00 per head which includes a guided tour and coffee/tea and cake.

For further information please contact janetcaldwell123@btinternet.com.

Further information and booking details will be published nearer the time.



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.

RMA member Adrian Emberson has advised the RMA that he has had a shirt embroidered with the ECFRS logo and "RETIRED". He says he has had excellent service from Master Services – website www.master-services.co.uk – and is so pleased with the item, he thought that other members may be interested and would like to know about the company which provided the service. This is a photo of Adrian's embroidered logo, scaled down to fit the page. If any member would like more information, Adrian can be contacted on 07710 813837. *This is a personal recommendation from an RMA member and the RMA is not responsible for any outcome from a liaison with the company, and the details are offered without prejudice.*



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. 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 (treasurer)*

ACTION PLEASE... REQUEST FOR INFORMATION! – BOXTED BRIDGE

Essex County Council want to replace Boxted bridge with a 40% wider structure because they claim their desk studies say that "fire engines cannot safely manoeuvre at the junction." Save our Bridge campaign would be interested to hear from any firefighters who have used this route over the bridge in north Essex and whether they had any difficulties.

Many thanks!

Reply please to: Lucinda de Jasay lucinda@douglas-menzies.com tel:- 07932 626284

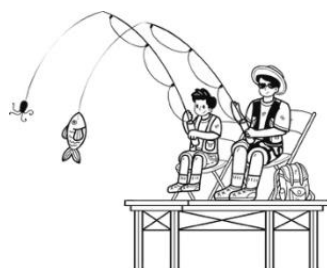
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**HOBBIES AND PASTIMES**

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 life.



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](mailto:ted53collins@gmail.com)

Tel: 07875 640521



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NEW MEMBER

We would like to welcome Michael Wager as a new member of the RMA.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS – TELL US ONLINE

It is important that the RMA maintains an accurate record of members and their contact details. If you change address or email, it is vital that you inform the RMA as soon as possible to avoid missing out on receipt of Newsletters, information messages and birthday cards. You can advise the RMA of changes at <https://www.essex-fire.gov.uk/retired-members-association-contact-us> You can also use this web page to advise us of any other matter.

TOWER OF LONDON – CEREMONY OF THE KEYS



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

Meet at the Tower entrance at 7:00pm where we will be greeted by our tour guide, then escorted within the Tower to meet our Yeoman Warder, who will give us a brief guided tour lasting about 30 minutes before taking us to 'The Keys', their clubroom, to enjoy the bar and company. 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.

We will need to make our own travel arrangements, probably by train/tube. (Tower Hill tube station is a short walk away from the Tower)

We now have enough for this event, however, if you are interested, please contact Diane and John Rogers by email: dj.rogers@btinternet.com and we will add you to our reserve list.



GLASS OF SPARKLING WINE, 3-COURSE MEAL, HALF BOTTLE WINE AT

IRONMONGERS HALL

Shaftesbury Place, Barbican, London, EC2Y 8AA

Monday 29th September 2025

Private Luncheon in the Great Hall

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

Bar is open from 12.30 and lunch is served from 13.00hrs

£ 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

Payment details will be given in a future newsletter



London Fire Brigade Retired Members Association

BATTLEFIELD TOUR 2025: IN SEARCH OF THE MISSING



Exploring the Battlefields of Ypres and Albert - Friday 1st to Monday 4th August 2025

Price to include Coach, 3-nights bed & breakfast and evening meal on Sunday, Lunch on Saturday plus entry fees to museums. Other meals and drinks will be self-financing

Free Parking will be available in:

Canvey Island, Thameside Fire Station and Eureka Leisure Park, Ashford.

Cost which needs to be confirmed will be between £450 and £500 pp

For more information and to reserve places contact the LFB RMA Secretary Barry Sargent: on 07594 600549 or email: barryjohnmbe@uwclub.net