

ESSEX COUNTY FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE

RETIRED MEMBERS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER JULY 2025



Chairman: John Rogers, Email: johnhrogers1946@gmail.com Tel: 01268 776360 Mob: 07944 437960

Secretary: Barry Cable, Email: barryccable@gmail.com Tel: 01277 624152 Mob: 07850 984593

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

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



Warners Break to the Isle of Wight...

This was the fourth RMA event at a Warners Leisure Hotel, and it didn't disappoint.

The four days away at Norton Grange, Isle of Wight was a resounding success from the luxury

coach with amiable driver to the accommodation, service and lovely food. The weather could have been better but didn't hinder the enjoyment.

Also included were two full day trips to various island attractions including Alum Bay and Osborne House the treasured home of Queen Victoria. As always, the one thing that made it special was the long-standing friendships between ex Fire Service personnel.



Once again, a deserving thank you goes to Dave and Jean Birks for all the effort required to organise such an event, it really is appreciated.

Ray Parfitt

OTHER FORTHCOMING EVENTS:

July: Thursday 31st July - Visit to The Gardens of Easton Lodge, Dunmow (see flyer)

August: Thursday 21st August – Visit to Galleywood winery with afternoon tea (see flyer)

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

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

December: Thursday 11th - Christmas Lunch at the Lion Inn (details to follow later)

A Visit to the Gardens of Easton Lodge

Thursday 31st July 2025



The RMA have arranged a visit to the beautiful and historic Gardens of Easton Lodge on Thursday 31st July. This was the home of Daisy, Countess of Warwick, a renowned socialite, she became a close friend of King Edward VII who visited regularly. The gardens, originally designed by Harold Peto, had fallen into disrepair but have been lovingly restored by the Trustees volunteers over the past few years and remain work in progress.

Our visit will start at 11 a.m. at the entrance to the gardens where there is free parking. The guided tour of the gardens will commence at 11.30 where we will learn the history of the gardens and hear about the fascinating life of Daisy, the Countess of Warwick. Following the tour, tea/coffee and cake will be served in the outside cafe. **The cost of the visit, including refreshments will be £12 per person.** Well behaved dogs are welcome, and you are free to bring a picnic if you wish.



The Gardens of Easton Lodge are located at Park Road, Great Dunmow, CM6 2BB. You can also use Park Road, Little Easton in your SATNAV. The Gardens are signposted by Brown Heritage signs. You will find the Gardens on Park Road about half a mile further on from the Little Easton church. Turn right into the Car Park. This will be a fascinating visit, of interest to gardeners, historians and lovers of beautiful places alike.

Book early to reserve your place by contacting Janet Caldwell at janetcaldwell123@btinternet.com

Payment can be made by online or telephone banking

Account: ECFRS Retired Members' Association,
sort code: 30-91-85, account number: 49411768,

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

Galleywood Winery - Tour, Talk, Tipple and Tea...

Galleywood Estate vineyard started its creation in 2009. The vineyard now covers 20 acres of land and has several varieties of vines planted. It is now part of the developing wine industry in Great Britain.

The "tour" does not include a great deal of walking; it is simply a talk by the owner Ian Phillips at the edge of the vines just outside the entrance. The visitors then move into the main hall where they will each be given a sample of four wines. The visit continues in the upstairs restaurant where an excellent afternoon tea will be served.

We need to advise the Vineyard of numbers as soon as possible so please, if you are interested in joining the group, let Janet Caldwell know without delay. The details are:

Where: Galleywood Vineyard and Winery, The Chase, Brook Lane, Chelmsford CM2 8FY

When: **11 a.m. Thursday 21st August 2025**

Travel: Own Transport – *[plenty of parking for cars and nearest rail station is Chelmsford]*

Cost: £56 per person

Book early to reserve your place by contacting Janet Caldwell at janetcaldwell123@btinternet.com

Payment can be made by online or telephone banking

Account: ECFRS Retired Members' Association,
sort code: 30-91-85, account number: 49411768,

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

The following details were taken from the June ECFRS Newsletter



Wildfire season 2025: How you can help us prevent fires

We're asking the public to remain vigilant about fire safety throughout summer.

To help protect Essex's countryside and green spaces, residents and visitors are being asked to take simple precautions:

- Avoid lighting campfires or using disposable barbecues, especially in parks, forests, and open spaces.
- Dispose of all litter responsibly. If bins are full or unavailable, take rubbish home with you.
- Smokers should ensure cigarettes are fully stubbed out before being discarded.

If you see a wildfire:

- Move to a safe location immediately.
- Call 999 and ask for the fire service.
- If possible, use the what3words app to help emergency services pinpoint your exact location.

Download the what3words app today to be better prepared and stay fire aware. The What3Words app can be downloaded for free from the Apple App Store or Google Play Store.

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## OBITUARY

### LESLIE TAYLOR

Sadly, we must report that we have lost another of our former colleagues. We have received the following information: "I am sorry to inform you of the death of RMA member Leslie Taylor. Born in Southend he lived most of his adult life there, retiring from the fire service in 1989. Les died peacefully at home aged 91 on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> June."

## SOME IMPORTANT BANKING INFORMATION

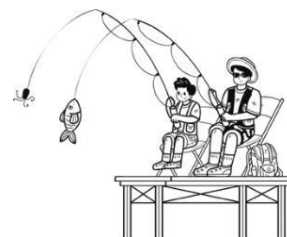
Lloyds Bank has informed us that from January 2025 it will be charging organisations such as RMA for banking services (in line with other High Street banks). The most significant charge will be a 50p charge for processing every cheque. To minimise this additional cost to the RMA it would be appreciated if any future payments are made by using bank transfer or telephone banking instead of cheques.

*Gillian Day (Treasurer)*

## 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 64052



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

IRONMONGERS HALL

Shaftesbury Place, Barbican, London, EC2Y 8AA

Private Luncheon in the Great Hall.

Monday 29th September 2025

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

