

ESSEX COUNTY FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE

RETIRED MEMBERS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER MAY 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>

Our Annual General Meeting took place on 26th April...

...at the Essex Fire Museum, Grays Fire Station, Hogg Lane, Grays and was attended by just over 30 people in the conference room. We were again made very welcome by Dan Bailey and Graham Richardson.



It was nice to see some former colleagues and old friends at the gathering which had a friendly and relaxed atmosphere.

Our thanks go to, Janet Caldwell, Lin Parfitt and Kay Wood for running the raffle which raised enough money to cover the expenses of the AGM. Thanks also to John and 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.



The following article has been taken from the ECFRS newsletter

ESSEX FIRE MUSEUM NAMED

AMONG TOP ICONS IN ESSEX



Essex Fire Museum in Gray's has been officially recognised as one of the top 50 icons in Essex, following a public vote hosted by Visit Essex.

The Museum was voted 19th in the 'Top 50 Icons of Essex' list, which saw more than 1,600 people have their say on the attractions, destinations and places that make Essex so special.

The Museum, which offers a fascinating glimpse into the county's firefighting history, is home to vintage fire engines, historical uniforms, equipment and stories from across the decades. It also provides an engaging and educational day out for families, schools and history enthusiasts alike.

OTHER FORTHCOMING EVENTS:

May: Thursday 15th May - Tower of London – Ceremony of the Keys.
June: 2nd- 6th June - Warners 5-day break to the Isle of Wight: *(Now fully booked)*
July: Thursday 31st July - Visit to The Gardens of Easton Lodge, Dunmow (see flyer)
August: Galleywood winery tour with afternoon tea (to be confirmed)
August: River Trip on the Orwell Lady (to be confirmed)
September: Monday 29th - Lunch at the Ironmongers Hall, London (see flyer)
October: Thursday 23rd - Afternoon Tea at Cressing Temple Barns.
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 and 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 remains a work in progress.

Our visit will start at 11.00 am at the entrance to the gardens where there is free parking and a 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 pp.** 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.

SOME IMPORTANT BANKING INFORMATION

Lloyds bank have informed us that from January 2025 they 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*)

TO SAIL OR NOT TO SAIL, IT'S DOWN TO YOU, SO ...

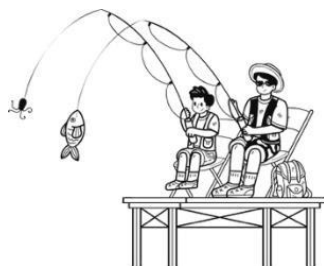
We are looking at the possibility of a river trip on the **Orwell Lady**. The trips comprise various options, including the hire of the complete boat, but at this stage, before getting involved with the arrangements, we need to know how many members will be interested. The sailing will be in late August so it will be possible to bring along children and grandchildren. During a three-hour excursion, experience the tranquillity and peace of the River Orwell, arriving close to the mouth of the river and witnessing the immense scale of the UK's largest container port at Felixstowe. Listen to fascinating tales of the history of the river and surrounding area, before returning to Orwell Quay.

IF YOU WOULD LIKE YOUR COMMITTEE TO GO AHEAD WITH ORGANISING THIS OUTING, PLEASE LET US KNOW AS SOON AS POSSIBLE

Declare your interest to: Dave Birks by phone 01702 528355
Or email dave-jean-birks@supanet.com and give your phone/email details.

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: tcd53collins@gmail.com
Tel: 07875 640521



~~~~~



## NEW MEMBERS

We would like to welcome Christopher Dainty, Christopher Mussett, Simon Phillips, Richard Read, as new members of the RMA.

**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](mailto:firefighterrpm@btinternet.com)

*Payment details will be given in a future newsletter*



## **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*

### **Fire Dog (Hydrocarbon Detector) Memorial**

We recently received a request from RMA Member David Hadjicostas enquiring if the RMA may wish to consider a donation toward the Fire Dog (*Hydrocarbon Detector*) Memorial, currently under commission by local sculptor Dave Taylor which is to be installed at The National Fire Service Red Plaque Memorial at Rettendon. The completed sculpture will sit within the existing splendid memorial provided by the Red Knights MC / FBU members, and will commemorate the lives and service of our service dogs attached to the FRS.

Having already achieved £800 towards the cost of the bespoke statue they now seek further donations. As a result, the RMA Committee has agreed to donate £100 towards this worthy cause.

If you have not already visited The National Fire Service Red Plaque Memorial at Rettendon, which honours fire service personnel who died on duty or those who died after their period of service and is well worth exploring being a poignant reminder of our past colleagues.

~~~~~