

ESSEX COUNTY FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE

RETIRED MEMBERS ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER MARCH 2024



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

Welcome to our March Newsletter.....

Forthcoming events – more events to come over the coming months...

Everything stops for tea!

Traditional Afternoon Tea – 27th March 2024 12:30 until 3.30

The Tiptree Tea Room at the Barns, Crossing Temple is the favourite location of RMA members for our regular Afternoon Tea. If you haven't been before, come along and join your fellow members for a delightful afternoon. Full details on attached flyer.

Other dates for your diary:

Our Annual General Meeting will take place on Saturday the 20th April at 2pm at the Essex Fire Museum, Grays Fire Station, Hogg Lane, Grays, RM17 5QS. The Agenda is attached herewith. Please let the Secretary know if you are not able to attend; email barryccable@gmail.com. **Donations for the AGM raffle will be greatly appreciated**

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. Full details on attached flyer.

RMA ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION



Time is running out for you to revise your Standing Order for your RMA subscription which increases to £3 per annum on 1st April 2024

Committee Members Wanted

Would you like to be part of the RMA Committee and help the association organise and provide functions and events for the membership?

The Committee normally meets monthly, no special skills are required but an enthusiastic and positive attitude would be ideal.

If you would like to know more, please contact the RMA Secretary Barry Cable at barrycable@gmail.com



The following articles have been taken from the ECFRS Website

Cooking Safety

Cooking is one of the major causes of fires at home. In fact, in 2022 one in three accidental house fires were because of cooking and cooking appliances.

Stop thinking, 'It won't happen', and start thinking, 'I won't let it happen'.

Follow our cooking safety advice to stay safe in your kitchen at home.

General Cooking Safety

- Avoid leaving children alone in the kitchen when cooking. Keep matches and saucepan handles well out of reach to keep them safe.
- Take care if you need to leave the kitchen while cooking. Take pans off the heat or turn them down.
- Make sure saucepan handles don't stick out – so they don't get knocked off the stove.
- Take care if you're wearing loose clothing – this can easily catch fire.
- Keep tea towels and cloths away from the cooker and hob.
- Double check the cooker is off when you've finished cooking



Have you used the online home fire safety check?

You can carry out a check for yourself, or any family members. Friends, neighbours, registered carers, support workers and partner agencies can all use this tool. Start your online home fire safety check by going onto the ECFRS website.



MESSAGE BOARD

Retired Essex Firefighters' Campaign for National Memorial

A group of retired firefighters from Essex County Fire and Rescue Service are fundraising to create a national memorial to fallen firefighters

The campaign is being led by Ronnie Patterson and Mark Moughton, both retired Essex firefighters and members of the England 4 Essex Chapter of the Red Knights International Firefighters Motorcycle Club. The motorcycle club is aiming to raise as much as they can in 80 days to create a memorial garden where families, friends and colleagues can pay their respects and remember firefighters who have paid the ultimate sacrifice while on duty.

The memorial is set to be unveiled on Saturday 4 May - International Firefighters Memorial Day.

Based at The Living Memorial in Rettendon, the memorial will be home to a statue of a firefighter and a garden decorated with red flowers and plants. The garden will be surrounded by a brick wall with each brick set to have a plaque dedicated to a firefighter. Next to the statue will be a retired fire engine - a Dennis Rapier - donated by Essex County Fire and Rescue Service. There is also a building to showcase firefighter memorabilia. The building has been kindly provided and assembled by the owners of the site at The Living Memorial and has already been painted red by the Red Knights Motorcycle Club. All memorabilia will be on loan from the Essex Fire Museum.

Last year, the Red Knights International Firefighters Motorcycle Club England 4 Essex raised nearly £3,000 for a bereavement suite at Colchester General Hospital for families whose babies are stillborn. This fundraising was the driving force behind fundraising for a national firefighter memorial.

Ronnie Patterson, President of the Red Knights International Firefighters Motorcycle Club England 4 Essex chapter said: "We are hoping to memorialise and remember firefighters that are no longer here. Those that have died doing their job in the call of duty, but also those that have died through illness and through suicide. I'm quite passionate about this. My father, who was a firefighter in Scotland had cancer before he retired, and eventually what he was diagnosed with turned into another cancer which eventually killed him.

"I myself was told a year after retiring that I had cancer as well. I'm one of the lucky ones. I've survived. This is another reason why we're doing what we're doing we've worked with many members through the decades that are no longer here, through suicide, through illness, through dying in the call of duty."

Mark Moughton, Quartermaster of the Red Knights International Firefighters Motorcycle Club England 4 Essex chapter said: "What we'd like from the public now is support through our Go Fund Me. We'd also like members of the public who perhaps had family in the fire service and would like a plaque on our wall to get in touch.

"We'd like to thank everyone for their generosity in getting us to where we are now. Particular thanks to Fran and Peter at The Living memorial for letting our memorial have a home here in Rettendon and for their generous donation of a building to house our firefighter memorabilia. Thank you to the Fire Brigade Union for their generous donation that got the ball rolling. Thanks to Poplar Nursery in Colchester who are supplying all of the plants we require and to my friend Stuart Smith for donating bricks for our memorial wall. Finally, we'd like to thank Essex County Fire and Rescue Service for donating fire engine and firefighter memorabilia from the Essex Fire Museum.

You can find out more about the memorial and how to support it at: https://www.gofundme.com/f/37frz05vm0?utm_campaign=p_cp+share-sheet&utm_medium=copy_link_all&utm_source=customer

The RMA Newsletter is passing on this information at the request of the ECFRS to give you the option of becoming involved if you wish.

Don't miss this opportunity to meet up with your friends and
former colleagues

Come and join us at the RMA's ...

TRADITIONAL AFTERNOON TEA



There are few hours in life more agreeable than the time dedicated to the ceremony known as Afternoon Tea. -- Henry James

Never trust a man who, when left alone in a room with a tea cosy, doesn't try it on. -- Billy Connolly

Come, let us have some tea and continue to talk about happy things -- Chaim Potok

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

Suitable for wheelchair users or visitors with limited mobility

12:30 until 3.30 p.m.

Wednesday 27th March 2024

Cost: £17.50 per head

If you would like to attend this event,
Please reserve your places by email to barryccable@gmail.com

There are two methods of payment:

by online banking as follows:

*Account: ECFRS RMA, sort code: 30-91-85, account number: 49411768,
reference: Tea [and your surname]*

or alternatively

*forward a cheque made payable to ECFRS RMA to
The RMA Treasurer, Gillian Day,
267 Perry Street, Billericay CM12 0QP*



***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. 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 Blenheim Palace with its extensive grounds, the Formal Gardens with their majestic water terraces, private Italian garden, rose garden and much more?

Places available for RMA members, their families and friends (sorry, no children)

Included in the price

- **Breakfast every day**
- **3 Course Evening Dinner**
- **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.*

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RETIRED MEMBERS' ASSOCIATION



NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

**The 2024 AGM of the ECFRS Retired Members' Association
will be held on Saturday 20th April 2024 at
The Essex Fire Museum,
Fire Station, Hog Lane, Grays RM17 5QS
at 14.00 hrs**

AGENDA

1. Apologies for Absence
2. Minutes of the AGM held on 15th April 2023
3. Matters Arising
4. Report from the Chairman
5. Report from the Secretary
6. Report from the Membership Secretary
7. Report from the Treasurer
8. Subscription rates for 2024/2025
9. Election of Officers
10. Events
11. Any Other Business

Barry Cable
Secretary

**Your committee invites you to join them for
tea, coffee and biscuits, after the meeting**