

ESSEX COUNTY FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE

RETIRED MEMBERS ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER MAY 2024

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

Secretary: Barry Cable, Email: barrycable@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>



NATIONAL RED PLAQUE FIRE SERVICE MEMORIAL



The grand opening of The National Red Plaque Fire Service Memorial took place on Saturday 4th May, the memorial being set in lovely grounds situated at Rettendon Common. As a bonus we were very fortunate to be blessed with beautiful warm sunshine. The National Memorial honours fire service personnel who died on duty or those who died after their period of service.

Jan Baker, Jan Caldwell and Ray Parfitt all members of the Retired Members Association Committee, myself included, took full advantage of a preliminary look around before the formalities commenced and were astounded at the professional way the memorial and grounds had been constructed and finished. The event was superbly supported by crews in fire appliances, serving and retired fire service personnel, the public and members of the Red Knights motorcycle club who were instrumental in fundraising and construction works to help create the memorial. The Fire Brigades Union, the ECFRS Essex Fire Museum and Landowners all played their part making extraordinary efforts to create and support the memorial all of which was highlighted in speeches by various dignitaries all praising their dedication, time and generosity.

The brick wall which contains plaques displaying names of fallen Fire Fighters is impressive and forms a backdrop for the statue of a firefighter which following a formal wreath laying was unveiled, thus providing a lasting and poignant reminder of a "fire fighters job". The Sutherland Pipes and drums brought a stirring musical and visual spectacle which added another dimension to the ceremony. Following completion of formalities, refreshments were provided in a marquee giving us all a chance to catch up with colleagues, friends and an opportunity to take a further look at the memorial and the museum which is contained within the adjacent new timber building.



John Rogers

FORTHCOMING EVENTS:

Last call for Fish and Chip lunch – 5th June at Leigh Sailing Club. See attached flyer.

Last call for Greyhound Racing at Romford Stadium – 14th June 2024. See attached flyer.

Garden Visit – Come and join us on a visit to Brian & Wendy Wickenden's lovely garden at St Osyth on the **17th July 2024** from 1.30pm. They are wonderful hosts and their refreshments are superb. See attached flyer.

Warners Hotel Getaway, Littlecote House, Berkshire - 26th August 2024. Bookings for this event are now closed.

OBITUARIES

JOYCE UNGER

It is with great sadness that we have to announce the passing of Joyce Unger who sadly passed away on the 7th May. Many of you will remember Joyce with affection and most notably of course her years as personal assistant to the Chief Fire Officer. Our condolences go to her husband Barry Unger and also to her family.

A service of celebration for Joyce will be held on Tuesday 11th June at 12.30pm at St. Andrews Church Alresford. St. Andrews Close, Alresford. CO7 8BL with refreshments available in the Church afterwards.

At Joyce's request dress code is Ladies bright coloured tops/dresses and Gentlemen colourful ties.

No flowers please - donations to St Helena Hospice via [www. Hunnaball.co.uk](http://www.Hunnaball.co.uk)

JOHN GAYNER

We are also sorry to bring you the sad news that John Gayner passed away on the 23rd May. Our condolences go to his family. Funeral details will be published as soon as they are known

IMPORTANT REMINDER

On 1st April the annual subscription to the RMA became due at the new rate of £3. A number of members did not update their Standing Order and therefore have an outstanding amount of £1. If you haven't increased your Standing Order to £3 per annum, you are respectfully reminded that you should do so as soon as possible. If you haven't paid your subscription yet, you might find it useful to set up a Standing Order as follows:

Account: ECFRS Retired Members Association,
sort code: 30-91-85, account number: 49411768
Reference: "Sub *[plus surname]*"

WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBER:

We are very pleased to be able to welcome John (Jack) Imrie into the RMA.



**GREYHOUND
RACING AT
ROMFORD
STADIUM
14th JUNE 2024**

The RMA is bringing together a group of members to attend a race meeting at the above venue which was a real fun evening last year with an excellent three-course meal in the Paddock restaurant which overlooks the start/finish line.

Details are:

Date: Friday evening 14th June 2024

Time: Gate open at 17:30 hrs and members to be there by 18:00 hrs

Travel: Own Transport. *(Parking is available on a first come-first-served basis.)*

***Please be aware of the ULEZ conditions –
details can be found online.***

Tickets are £37.50 per person which includes:

Admission and Race card.

3-course meal in the Paddock Restaurant

Table Service for drinks

Tote Messenger Betting Service

Please inform us of any allergies, dietary requirements, accessibility needs, or wheelchair users

Reserve your places by email to
Tony Pizzala at tonypizzala1950@gmail.com

There are two methods of payment:

by online banking as follows:

Account: ECFRS Retired Members Association,

sort code: 30-91-85, account number: 49411768,

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

or alternatively:

forward a cheque made payable to ECFRS Retired Members Association to
Gillian Day

267 Perry Sreet, Billericay, CM12 0QP

*Important: Please note that once final figures are given to the venue,
refunds cannot be made for non-attendance*



MESSAGE BOARD

OLD LEIGH REGATTA 7th & 8th SEPTEMBER 2024

The origin dates back to 1880 when the local fishermen took one summer weekend to race their boats and party, but from September 2019 no regattas have taken place due to Covid.

Plans are now in full swing for a revived OLD LEIGH REGATTA.

This will recall past events such as:- The Greasy Bow Sprit, Welly Hoying, The Sedan Chair Race, Tug of War, Football on the Mud, Scout Pentathlon and much more. There are many other things such as games for the kids, artisan's stools, food outlets and not to forget, the Old town has four pubs. Most of this is organised by two local Sea Scout Groups and they gain from the profits. The Old town high street is closed for the whole day, so ravel by train is recommended.



24/7 LIMITED

We have been contacted by **24/7 Limited** enquiring if any retired fire service personnel would like to work for them either as a driver or passenger assistant on their school transport vehicles. The advertisement below gives more details and anyone interested should contact the Company directly. Any future contract between the Company and member shall remain strictly between themselves. **24/7 Ltd** is aware that the RMA accepts no responsibility or liability whatsoever.

Garden Visit with Refreshments



Why not join 24x7 Group and do something amazing for your local community?

We are seeking community driven, empathic, and tolerant individuals to help us create safe, efficient and enjoyable journeys to school, for those who really need it.

Our company has specialised in dedicated Home-To-School transport for children with additional needs since 2003. We are expanding and looking for people to join our local hubs all over England to become drivers or passenger assistants and help us ensure that education is accessible for all. The roles are part-time Mon-Fri, and during school term times (although your pay will be made over the entire 12 months of the year). Full training is given, all we ask is that you can pass enhanced DBS checks and a Group 2 medical fitness to drive test.



Please see our website www.24x7group.co.uk for more details or call 01279 66 1661 opt 3 and speak with one of our team.

17th July 2024 from 1.30pm



Visit the wonderful garden of Brian & Wendy Wickenden and catch up with RMA members and friends. Wander around their stunning garden and enjoy a cup of tea and a slice of one of Wendy's homemade cakes!

- *Date:- 17th July 2024*
- *Time:- 1.30pm onwards*
- *Address:- 164 Point Clear Road, St Osyth, CO16 8JB*

To cover the cost of refreshments including a donation to charity a charge of £5 per person is payable.

*To assist with catering arrangements, it is important that Brian and Wendy know how many visitors to expect. Therefore, if you would like to visit their garden, **please reserve your place by email to johnhrogers1946@gmail.com***

and send your payment by one of the options below.

There are two methods of payment:

by online banking as follows:

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

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

or alternatively:

*forward a cheque made payable to ECFRS Retired Members Association to
Gillian Day
267 Perry Sreet, Billericay, CM12 0QP*

RMA FISH & CHIPS LUNCH

Leigh on Sea Sailing Club SS9 2EP



It is proposed to return to Leigh Sailing Club for a sit-down lunch on

Wednesday 5th June 2024

The bar will be open from 1 p.m. and lunch will be served at 1.30 p.m.

Parking is free –
High water is at midday –
Disabled access is good.

The lunch will consist of fried fish or chicken nuggets with chips, followed by a sweet and tea or coffee

Cost: £15.00 per head

Following our lunch, we have been lucky to engage **Chris Burls** who is a leader of the Endeavour Trust and he will give us a presentation on the restoration of the former Leigh cockle boat which was also a Dunkirk Little Ship.

Reserve your place by

E-mailing barrycable@gmail.com and paying by online banking as follows:
Account: Essex County Fire and Rescue Service Retired Members Association.
Sort Code: 30-91-85. Account Number: 49411768. Reference: Fish *[plus your surname]*

Or alternatively:

A cheque made payable to Essex Fire and Rescue Service Retired Members Association
Forwarded to RMA Treasurer Gillian Day, 267 Perry Street, Billericay, CM12 0QP

