

ESSEX COUNTY FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE

RETIRED MEMBERS ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER JUNE 2022



Secretary: Barry Cable, "Briarlea" Southend Road, Billericay CM11 2PR

Email: barrycable@gmail.com Telephone: 01277 624152 or mobile: 07850 984593

RMA Website: https://www.essex-fire.gov.uk/Media/Retired_Members_Association/

BACK TO BUSINESS AND A RETURN TO EVENTS - Chairman's report on recent AGM

The reason for holding the AGM in Hatfield Peverel this year was to provide a closer venue for those members who live north of the county. The turn-out was very disappointing with only twenty members present, six of whom were members of the committee. The minutes of the AGM are attached to this Newsletter.

The Raffle was organised by Janet Baker with a good selection of prizes, some donated by those attending. Janet was assisted by member Jayne Foxhall and they raised £50 for the Association funds, an excellent effort on their part and those attending

Alan Stone produced a plaque with a skillfully made cross section of a fire helmet in oak, this was auctioned and raised a further £15 which he kindly donated to the funds.

Graham Farrell, our Treasurer and Membership Secretary who has recently suffered a serious illness, attended the meeting. A round of applause was given to Graham in appreciation of the effort he had made to attend.

The Committee have been unable to organise events for the past three years due to the Covid pandemic, but now they are just starting to arrange events for members during the coming year. The first of these events is due to take place on July 13th which is a lunch at The Lion Inn in Boreham. You should all have received details in the last Newsletter, but they are repeated in this issue for those who missed the first announcement. If the Association is to continue, it is essential that functions are supported by the membership, I therefore hope to see many of you at the coming events.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

JULY

LUNCHEON AT THE LION INN

BOOK NOW – LIMITED PLACES

When: Wednesday 13th July 2022 at 12.30-12.45

Where: The Lion Inn, Main Road, Boreham. CM3 3JA

Cost: £38.20 per person (*including service charge*)

Travel: Own transport

Booking Details: See flyer attached

DECEMBER

CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON

When: Wednesday 14th December 2022

Full details will be published in a future Newsletter

Register your interest in this event to: dj.rogers@btinternet.com

OPPORTUNITY

VAEF are looking for a minibus driver can you help?

Have you got a Category D driving licence and confident enough to drive a minibus if so, we need you? We are looking for a regular driver and we could do with a list of back up drivers who we can call upon when our drivers are unavailable. Could that be you?

ACE Activities for those with Learning difficulties and VAEF Community Clubs for Older residents use a minibus to pick up and drop of individuals to their activities. You will very much be an active member of the clubs and will get to know those we support and see the difference you make. It is a very rewarding role it's definitely not just driving!

If interested call or email Maggie on 07443 264422/ mgilchrist@vaef.org.uk



It should be noted that the RMA is not in any way connected with this company and therefore any arrangements resulting from this notification are strictly between the member and VAEF. The RMA accepts no responsibility whatsoever on the outcome of such liaison.

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

The RMA is pleased to welcome the following new members:

Andrew Bishop
Brenda Goodrick
Terry Jewel
Steve Thorogood

Glad to have you on board and hope to see you at some of the forthcoming events.

OBITUARY

It is with regret that we have to announce the passing of the following RMA members since the last Newsletter: Bob Austin, Ron Bridges, and Albert Copping,

NEW MEMBERS WANTED

Do you know anyone who would like to become a member of the RMA for only £2 per year? They will receive a birthday card each year and be kept up to date with the Newsletters, plus details of all events etc.

**Please email the RMA Secretary on
barryccable@gmail.com**

**Let's ensure that all retired ECFRS personnel are able to keep in touch
with their former colleagues**

QUICK REMINDER...

Don't forget to book your place(s) at the forthcoming luncheon at The Lion Inn at Boreham on Wednesday 13th July at 12.30/12:45. The Chairman is looking forward to welcoming members back to the first RMA event since Covid. The booking details are attached to the end of the AGM Minutes which follow.

...SEE YOU THERE!

ESSEX COUNTY FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE

RETIRED MEMBERS ASSOCIATION



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

held at 14.00 hrs on Saturday 28th May 2022
at the Village Hall, Maldon Road, Hatfield Peverel, CM3 2HP

Members Present:

John Smith in the Chair

Janet Baker, Keith Baxter, Dave Birks, Peter Barclay, Tony Eade,
Graham Farrell, Jane Foxhall, Alan Mabbutt, Chris Merritt, Ron Murray, Maurice Newbolt,
Tony Pizzala, John Rogers, Alan Stone, George Stone, Roger Southgate,
Barry Unger, Mick Vanner,

Guests:

Diane Rogers, Joyce Unger, Jean Vanner.

The Chairman declared the meeting open and thanked everyone for attending.

1) Apologies for absence

The Chairman reported apologies for absence from: Carol Bester, Barry Cable, Janice Cable, Janet Caldwell, Linda Boar, Chris Bourne, Brian Edmonds, John Emberson, John Green, David Hadjicostas, Chris Hunt, Mick Jeffrey, Ray Parfitt, Martin Pullen.

2) Minutes of the meeting held on 27th April 2019.

The minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Saturday 27th April 2019 were accepted as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

3) Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

4) Report from the Chairman

The Chairman thanked those attending the meeting. The Association had been unable to hold an AGM for three years due to the Covid Pandemic. During that period many members and former members of the Brigade had sadly died. Very few retirees from the brigade had joined the Association during that time and if things continued that way it would not bode well for the future.

The chairman expressed his thanks to the secretary, Barry Cable, for ensuring floral tributes

or donations were made to designated charities on behalf of the Association at the passing of members. He further pointed out that it was important members advised the Committee of deaths of members to ensure tributes could be arranged where appropriate. Gratitude was expressed to Linda Boar who made sure that members continued to receive birthday cards.

In the past year Janet Baker, Janet Caldwell, John Rogers and Dave Birks have been welcomed to the Committee.

Sadly during 2021 we lost one of our foremost function organizers, Jayne Ricketts. Jane, along with Mick Vanner, was jointly responsible for organising the very successful theatre trips and lunches, enjoyed by many members. Janet Caldwell and Janet Baker have agreed to investigate the possibility of arranging a theatre trip later in the year. John Rogers and his wife have organised a lunch due to take place on the 13th July this year at The Lion Inn, Boreham, and members are urged to attend, as the future of the organisation depends on members' support.

In the first months of the New Year a new Chief Fire Officer, Rick Hylton, was appointed and he was asked if he would accept the position of President of the Association. We are pleased to say he accepted and requested a meeting with your Chairman and Secretary at SHQ on the 3rd of May. The Secretary was unable to attend due to a medical appointment, and his place was taken by Committee member Ray Parfitt. Our main concern was in relation to access to retiring members' details to enable a personal invitation to be issued to the individuals. The Chief explained this could not be done due to laws regarding the disclosure of personal information. He explained that each of the retiring personnel was given a letter personally from him, thanking them for their service and to keep in touch with the Service and he would urge them to join the RMA. A few days later a letter was received outlining what had taken place at the meeting, with the Chief expressing the view that he would like to attend a gathering at which the members were present, a very welcomed gesture.

He added that they were considering changing the frequency of newsletters from monthly to quarterly.

The Chairman thanked all committee members for their continued and past support.

5) Report from the Secretary

Not much had happened during the last 3 years due to the Covid Pandemic.

During that time, donations had continued to be made to charities chosen by next of kin in memory of deceased RMA members.

Members who had fallen behind with subscriptions were contacted individually with a suggestion that they could, in future, pay by Standing Order through their bank. Quite a few subscriptions became outstanding during Covid, and thanks were given to all those who had settled their debts.

6) Report from the Membership Secretary

The register shows that currently there are 285 members.

Members deceased since the last meeting: John Ashcroft, Bob Baker, Roy Bowerman, Ron Bridges, Alan Butcher, John Cook, Albert Copping, Bill Coyston, Peter Dartnell, Peter Goodman, Ray Gregory, David Honey, Bob Hoskins, Linda Hough, Jim Hudson, John Jordan, Bill Merrin, Keith Narbrough, Bob Peters, Jayne Ricketts, John Scott, Craig Stovell, Terry Wild, Eddie Winslow, George Wright.

Graham Farrell, the Membership Secretary/Treasurer, had been seriously unwell and the Chairman spoke briefly of this situation. Graham was warmly applauded by all present.

7) Report from the Treasurer

The Treasurer presented the income and expenditure for the year ending 31st December 2021 - there were no matters arising.

8) Subscription rates for 2022/2023

It was agreed that subscriptions should be kept at £2 per year, although expenses have increased considerably. Most members receive their Newsletters via email but approximately twenty are still posted by second class post at 68p. There was also the cost of printing and sending out birthday cards. With these ever-increasing prices, it was necessary that the level of the subscription be kept under review.

9) Election of Officers

Committee Members:

Chair: John Smith, Secretaries: Barry Cable, Janice Cable, Membership Secretary and Treasurer: Graham Farrell. Other Committee Members: Keith Baxter, Janet Baker, Dave Birks, Linda Boar, Janet Caldwell, Ray Parfitt, Tony Pizzala, John Rogers,

The Chairman said that he was prepared to stand for another year. The Treasurer/Membership Secretary said that he was prepared to stand for another year providing his health allowed. The Secretary has indicated that he was prepared to stand for another year.

As no new members came forward, the Committee was re-elected en bloc.

The Chairman gave his thanks to all the Committee.

10) Events

A lunch has been arranged at The Lion Inn, Boreham on Wednesday 13th July. Only 8 places have been taken so far, but it is hoped that more members will show interest over the coming days.

Janet Baker and Janet Caldwell have agreed to investigate the possibility of arranging a theatre trip later in the year.

Dave Birks said that he was looking to arrange an autumn fish & chip lunch at Leigh Sailing Club. Alan Stone reported that there was a rationing of fish and prices have increased for fish and cooking oil. Currently, businesses were primarily selling to their regular customers so a lunch at the moment was out of the question.

Alan Stone suggested a break at a Warners Hotel possibly in November, with members using their own cars rather than arranging a coach. The cost would be approximately £304 for a Friday to Monday or a Monday to Friday. Members could make their own bookings. Details will be included in a future newsletter.

Mick Vanner said that insurance was an important factor to bear in mind with group bookings as there had been difficulty getting monies refunded from previous events arranged.

Other ideas for events were greyhound racing, which is available only in the evening and would cost approximately £30 per head.

Tony Pizzala suggested a trip to Duxford Air Museum or Five Lakes as a venue.

The next meeting of the Committee will be held on Thursday 9th June 2022, at Billericay Fire Station at 14:00 hrs.

11) Any Other Business

That concluded the business of the 2022 Annual General Meeting.

**LUNCHEON AT THE LION INN,
MAIN ROAD, BOREHAM, CM3 3JA
WEDNESDAY 13TH JULY 2022**



Meet at 12.30 – 12.45 for 1 o'clock sit down in their private function room

Three course lunch including coffee/tea

Orders will be taken at the table on the day
(see example menu below – may vary slightly)

Cost: £38.20 per person (including service charge)

Numbers are limited – book early to avoid disappointment

There is plenty of car parking

If you would like to attend this event, please forward a cheque made payable to ECFRS RMA to

John Rogers, 1 Ruffles Close, Rayleigh, Essex, SS6 8EW

BREAD BOARD

STARTERS

Homemade soup of the day
Chicken Liver Pate: Port jelly, apricot & sultana chutney & toasted brioche
Prawn & crayfish cocktail: Marie Rose sauce
Tart of the Day: Roasted white onion, beef tomato, spinach & Somerset brie

MAINS

10oz Sirloin steak: Bearnaise sauce (rare, med or well done)
Pan fried fillet of seabass & seared salmon escalope: creamy leeks
Slow roasted pork belly: Cider mustard jus
Filo parcel (V) Roasted butternut squash, spinach, red onion & goat's cheese,
Ratatouille
(Main course served with chunky chips, creamy mash & fresh mixed vegetables)

DESSERTS

Choice of mini pud.
Mini lemon posset: with mini baked meringue
Mini chocolate & orange pot: Chocolate shavings
Duet of cheese
Vanilla ice cream

Cafetière coffee or tea