



ESSEX COUNTY FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE

RETIRED MEMBERS ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER DECEMBER 2022

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RMA Website: [https://www.essex-fire.gov.uk/Media/Retired\\_Members\\_Association/](https://www.essex-fire.gov.uk/Media/Retired_Members_Association/)



## CHRISTMAS MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN ...

Since April 2019 the Covid-19 pandemic deprived us of the ability to meet up for theatre outings and lunch meetings, both events being favorites with the membership. With the arrangement of outings severely curtailed newsletters were reduced as a result, however members continued to receive birthday cards indicating the Association was still functioning. My thanks are due to Committee member Linda Boar for completing this important task.

During the pandemic we lost our prime organiser, Jane Ricketts, her sudden death, unrelated to Covid, was a shock to us all. For a while the future of the organisation looked bleak. Barry Cable, our Secretary, with his persuasive manner, managed to recruit four new members to the Committee, all of whom expressed a willingness to organise future events. The first of these, in August, was a lunchtime meeting in a private function room at the Lion Inn, Boreham. A very good lunch in pleasant surroundings was enjoyed by about thirty members. The following month, September, forty members had a fish and chip lunch at the Leigh Sailing club. This venue is very popular, being used on several occasions in the past. The room used, on the first floor, has a small bar and provides interesting views across the Thames estuary. Thanks are due to Alan Stone and family, and Dave Birks for organising this event. In October the members gathered at The Barn, Cressing Temple for Afternoon Tea, again a well-attended event. A very attentive staff ensured members were well looked after. The weather was good providing members with the opportunity to stroll around the immaculate walled garden. A new style of event for the RMA was the four-night adventure stay at Heythrop Park in Chipping Norton which provided members with a chance to relax in the outstanding surroundings of the Cotswolds. The final event for the year will be the Christmas Lunch at the Crown Inn, Sandon.

My sincere thanks go to the members who have supported events in the past year, it is your support that will encourage the organisers of events to continue with the arduous task of finding venues for your enjoyment and entertainment.

My thanks and sincere appreciation are due to the following members: Jan and Barry Cable, Diane and John Rogers, Jean and Dave Birks for all the hard work in ensuring the events above were very successful and well received by the members. To end, I hope to see many of you at our outings in 2023 and wish you all a very Happy Christmas and healthy, happy and prosperous New Year.



## LOVELY MEMORIES FROM HEYTHROP PARK...

### *The RMA's new style trip - a four-night adventure*

*"What a wonderful four days",  
"Buckets full of laughter"  
"Beautiful accommodation",  
"We had a fabulous time",  
"Wonderful building."*



These are some of the comments received after the RMA group returned home from four days at Heythrop Park. This was the RMA dipping its toe into the water of short breaks for members at a holiday venue and judging by these statements it was a resounding success. Sincere thanks go to Alan Stone for putting forward the idea and to Dave & Jean Birks who did an outstanding job of organising the whole event. The RMA party thoroughly enjoyed the



experience and it is hoped that another trip to a Warner Leisure Hotels venue can be planned during 2023.

**WATCH  
THIS  
SPACE...**



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## OUR LAST EVENT IN 2022 IS...

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### **DECEMBER CHRISTMAS LUNCH**

Where: The Crown, The Green, Sandon, Chelmsford CM2 7SH

When: 14<sup>th</sup> December 2022 - 12 noon for 1 pm

Cost: £25.95 per person

Travel: Own transport

**SORRY, NOW FULL!**

Contact John Rogers to go on the waiting list [dj.rogers@btinternet.com](mailto:dj.rogers@btinternet.com)

## **WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS**

The RMA is pleased to welcome the following new members:

**Ted Collins**  
**Christine Peters**

## **EXTRACTS FROM THE NOVEMBER EDITION OF ECFRS NEWS**

**Essex Fire Representatives at Cenotaph in London.** Basildon and Maldon Firefighter Lyndsey Gymer, along with four of our fire cadets, had the honour of representing our Service at the Remembrance Day Parade at the Cenotaph in London on Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> November. Lyndsey paraded with the Civil Services contingent along with representatives from other Fire and Rescue Services, Police and Ambulance Services, and many more authorities.

Lyndsey said: "We were on duty as guard of honour around the Cenotaph, right next to the Army Band. It was an emotional experience, and as the band played right in front of us, I remembered my own grandfather who served with the Royal Navy and all the other men and women who sacrificed, and still sacrifice, their today for our tomorrow. It was one of the most proud, humbling and memorable experiences of my life so far."

**Will You Be Using An Electric Blanket This Winter?** Electric blankets can be a great cost effective way to keep warm and cosy this winter, however it's important to use them with care to reduce the risk of fire. *SAFETY TIPS ...*

- Always buy new when choosing an electric blanket – never buy secondhand blankets, as they may not be safe and you can't be sure that they meet current safety requirements.
- Always read and follow the manufacturer's instructions before use.
- Examine your blanket regularly for signs of wear or damage.
- Never use an electric underblanket as an overblanket (or vice versa).
- Do not use the blanket while it's still folded or creased.
- Do not use a hot water bottle at the same time as using your electric blanket.
- Do not touch the blanket if you have wet hands or feet, and never use the blanket if it is wet or damp.
- Electric blankets should be checked by a qualified technician every three years for signs of wear or damage.