



# BEACON

*PREVENTED, PROTECTED, RESPONDED*

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF CORNWALL FIRE & RESCUE RETIRED MEMBERS ASSOCIATION

April 2025  
Issue 102



## CFR-RMA 2025 AGM & Lunch

Station Profile Page 11

New RMA Merchandise Page 17

Welcome One and All to the second edition of The Beacon, your RMA magazine.

I am grateful to those who have contributed to this issue which I hope you will agree has a wide variety of content and features.

The quality of our Newsletter relies on interesting content. If you have any memories, anecdotes, events and news stories you would like to share, these will be most welcome.

Ideally, if these could you email information (with photos if possible) to the editor, Phil Martin

I firmly believe that by remaining associated with CFRS we must respect the current values of the Service in anything we publish in the magazine or on our website and Facebook pages, that doesn't mean we cannot share the fun we've had in a respectful way.

If technology is a barrier, don't worry! I am sure we can help.

**Philip Martin**



**Chair**

Jan Sturges

**Social Secretary**

Phil Berriman,

**Sports & Events**

Paul Walker

**Welfare Representative**

Pete Williams

**Hon Secretary**

Rosemary Smith

**Treasurers**

Mark and Nicky Boeck

**Newsletter Editor**

Phil Martin

## A Message from the Chief Fire Officer and Our President



I hope this message finds you all keeping safe and well as we approach what we hope will be a fine spring after what seems a long winter.

In this latest edition of our newsletter, I am both proud and delighted to see the sharing of exciting updates and initiatives that honour the legacy of our firefighting community, and I want to thank you all for your unwavering commitment to our service.

This edition contains some highlights including the introduction of the new welfare role. This position will help to provide dedicated support to our

retired members, ensuring that you are directed to the resources and support you may need in this important chapter of your lives.

In addition to the welfare role, it is pleasing to see the expansion of social and sports activities to broaden opportunities for members to get together.

This newsletter has plenty of engaging articles and features. You'll find Jan's enlightening story of his navy days, as well as information on key issues affecting us and a focus on our communities and the current Service's diverse skills.

The first in what we hope will be a series of station profiles features Perranporth, highlighting the distinctive characteristics and contributions of this incredible community focussed station.

It is wonderful to see us celebrate our members milestones too, with a warm shoutout to Pat Carne on a very important birthday. Pat, congratulations! We are thrilled to have been part of your celebrations.

This edition also includes important information on pensions and a fire safety message that emphasises our ongoing commitment to public safety,

alongside handy resources such as details about the Blue Light card all of these will help to ensure that you remain connected to the support systems available to you.

In honouring our Services history, the nostalgic 'Memory Lane', will no doubt evoke fond memories from your time in service and don't forget to check out the merchandise offerings which can reflect your contribution and connection to the Service.

Finally, some light relief with sections like 'Spot the Difference' and 'Where in the World', there's plenty to keep everyone engaged.

As always, thank you for your camaraderie, and for making our firefighting family special.

## Chair's Report – AGM 2025



I welcome all our new and existing members and hope you will agree that as an association we have had a great start to the year.

To begin with, our first lunch was supported by one of CFRS's new 4x4 Appliances and Officers Electric Car. A fitting entrance display and backdrop to another well supported lunch.

Next was Goonhavern Garden Centre which coincided with a birthday celebration of our friend and colleague Pat Carne.



*Happy 94th Birthday Pat!*

Our AGM this year found us at a new venue, the Seiners Arms in Perranporth. We were very well looked after in our sea view restaurant by Lisa, Dan and their team.

Having teas and coffees on arrival enabled us to settle in and cover all the items on our Agenda. Members supported all the motions tabled with a gentle steer as required and with the trusted

support of Rosemary Smith our secretary, we successfully finished just in time for a photo (see front cover) after which a very nice lunch was ready to be served, I thank you all.

So, with a fresh look to the future we have an updated constitution ([www.cfrs-rma.org](http://www.cfrs-rma.org)). Members supported a well-deserved Honorary Life Membership for Frank and Anne Renals, in recognition for their long and dedicated service to our Association.

Membership fees are maintained at £5 for 2026 and through a decision of the membership we have purchased a coffin drape in Cornwall colours with a Cornwall Fire & Rescue Service badge to honour and pay tribute to past members of the Service.

A further decision will see merchandise branded 'Cornwall - Fire – Rescue – Veteran' available shortly and we warmly welcome two new members of our committee, in the new and much needed roles of Welfare and Sports & Events Representatives. Pete Williams as Welfare and Paul Walker as Sports & Events. You will read more about their roles in this edition of the 'Beacon' and will feature as a regular item in all future editions.

Our thoughts go to the families of our members who sadly passed away in 2024/25 - Rodney Smith, Roy Renals, Freddie Phillips (past member), Marjorie Coxon and Dave Jewell. Our fond memories of you will be our lasting comfort.

Lastly, I want to thank you all for your support to me and your continued companionship between all of our members.

All the Best

**Jan Sturges**

### New Welfare Role



*Pete Williams*

So, members of our CFRS-RMA, I have been asked to write a few words about the Welfare representative role that was established at the AGM.

For those who do not know me, a quick resume may help. My name

is Pete Williams and I started my fire service career as a retained member in 1977 at B16 Polruan (6.5) and on request of Divisional Officer George Purdy, by day I covered B5 Looe (8.2), as I was working in Looe and they were very short handed, especially during the summer.

In 1983 I became a wholetime firefighter based at B1 Bodmin (7.1), after attending a twelve-week course at the Devon Training School in Plympton.

Before applying for wholetime, being the young cheeky character I am, I approached Divisional Commander 'B Div' George Purdy and reminded him of my assistance when he had problems covering Looe for some years. I told him that I was very interested in joining wholetime and could he now assist me? Clearly, I ticked all the necessary boxes and in 2013, after a great career, I retired following the completion of 6 years retained and 30 years wholetime service.

I welcome the opportunity to take up this newly established welfare role for the RMA. My intention for the role is to offer support to members by pointing them in the right direction to find the right support when it is needed. I

assure you of my total discretion, respect and confidentiality.

I have started to introduce myself to members of the Firefighters Charity both locally and at head office. Whilst visiting Cumbria, I took a drive into Penrith to see Jubilee House, a well-equipped and staffed facility that is available to us all. We probably all know Harcombe House in South Devon, and the original Firefighters Charity facility in Littlehampton, where it all started many years ago.

Welfare is a wide area of assistance to our members, not just medically as this includes the County Council pensions team who manage all aspects the arrangements for pensioners and their surviving partners. I have also been making introductions in these areas, obtaining contact names and telephone numbers to direct our membership to the correct departments.

As part of the discrete nature of my role, any communication between members and myself will strictly be confidential, I only need to get involved as far as you, the member, would like me to. I will share contact names and telephone numbers relevant to your needs as and when required

for your guidance and expert assistance.

I look forward to working with you should the need arise.

**Pete Williams**

## New Sports & Events Role



*Paul Walker*

The new Sports & Events representative role established and agreed at the AGM has been introduced to support the development our Association and increase our membership.

Jan Sturges asked me to organise three additional social events over the next 6 months, whilst the first three are in the Truro and Perranporth area, the intention is to broaden our reach across

Cornwall. These will be in addition to our wonderful and well-established monthly lunches and aim to offer alternative social opportunities for those members who are unable to attend the Friday lunches organised so well by Phil Berriman.

The first event was on Friday 28<sup>th</sup> March involving an informal get together at the Old Ale House in Truro, followed by a curry in the Katmandu restaurant. With 14 of us gathering, this was a great opportunity to expand our social activities, and it was pleasing to get the support at this event despite relatively short notice.



*Cheers to a great evening!*

The next planned event will be from 3 to 7pm on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> May. This will be at the Black Flag Brewery in Perranporth ([www.blackflagbrewery.com](http://www.blackflagbrewery.com)) where members and guests can enjoy an early summer afternoon/evening in the Taproom for their wide selection of beer (brewed on the premises) and

pizza freshly baked in their own woodfired pizza oven. This is a very casual family friendly venue. Please let me know by Friday 25th April 2025 if you will be attending so that I can arrange reserved seating.

On Saturday 19th July you are invited to come along to the Carnival themed Musingo at the Seiners Arms in Perranporth. Musingo is a wonderful evening of music bingo with a difference! These events involve a music bingo quiz with singing and dancing in a warmly welcoming and friendly venue. Hosted by our newsletter editor Phil Martin, these monthly Musingo charity events are always a sell out and I will need to prebook a table/(s) so please let me know by Friday 6th June 2025 if you will be attending. Accommodation can be booked at the Seiners Arms (subject to availability) for anyone who wishes to stay the night ([www.seiners.co.uk](http://www.seiners.co.uk)).

In terms of sporting events CFRS has a very active golf section led by Phil Hoare and this years' programme includes the south west championships at Ashbury Manor near Okehampton. (Details follow)

National FireSport UK has a number of active and thriving sections with national events and competitions where all retired fire service friends and colleagues are welcomed. This includes the national golf section ([www.firesportukgolf.co.uk](http://www.firesportukgolf.co.uk)), who host an annual retired firefighter's competition. This year on Friday August 8th at Petersfield Golf Club in Hampshire. Full event details and entry forms on the Firesport UK golf section website ([www.firesportuk.com](http://www.firesportuk.com)).

## Paul Walker



The poster features a festive border with colorful streamers and confetti. At the top center, there are two stylized black silhouettes of men wearing hats and sunglasses. Below this, the text 'CARNIVAL MUSINGO' is written in large, bold, block letters, with 'CARNIVAL' in green and 'MUSINGO' in blue. Underneath, the event details are listed in a black box with white and red text: 'SATURDAY 19 JULY : 7:30 PM', 'AT THE SEINERS ARMS', and 'BOOK NOW: 01872 573118'. At the bottom, there is a red cursive slogan 'Supporting Causes Close to Our Hearts' and a small purple logo for the 'PERRANPORTH CARNIVAL & IMPROVEMENTS COMMITTEE'.

## A Tale from Our Very Own Jack Tar

Well, you can take the boy out of the Navy, but you can never take the Navy out of the boy! 'Born in Exeter, made in the Royal Navy', as they say, and who am I to argue?



*Young Leading Airman Sturges taken whilst serving on HMS Bulwark Circa 1980/81*

So why am I writing this short story? I made the mistake of telling it to a Royal Marine!!! Actually, a fine Ex-Royal Marine who you all know pretty well, our very own Frank Renals. That will teach me to tell a tale to a 'Royal' as they are affectionately known in the RN. Since then, Frank has requested that I share the following story with you all. So here it goes:

During my service in the Royal Navy 1976-86, I served on HMS

Ark Royal, HMS Bulwark and MV Keren, all final commissions.



*HMS Bulwark Circa 1980/81*

If you didn't know, all RN personnel must pass a ships Firefighting course including Damage Repair Unit (DRU) training every time they are posted to a sea going ship at either HMS Excellent, Portsmouth or HMS Raleigh, Cornwall. You must remember that all ships firefighting courses then used heavy Diesel as fuel for their training fires and not gas as they do now. So, three ships and three ships firefighting courses completed. A ship which is on fire at sea is not a good place to be! Fortunately, as all RN personnel are trained in fighting fires on ships and have regular training exercises onboard, at least weekly or more, they are skilled and prepared.

The trade in which I served, was the Aircraft Handlers Branch, which qualified me in aircraft and

domestic firefighting and as a member of the Royal Navy Fire & Rescue Service.

I was serving on HMS Bulwark in 1980 in Philadelphia when, in the early hours she had a boiler room fire. The alarm went out and the ships emergency party began the firefighting. Several calls were broadcast on the Ships Tannoy, for backup emergency crews to close up, and the civilian fire department were also called. 20 pumps, plus two articulated lorries full of foam attended, as we had exhausted the ships supply. If we had been at sea, we would likely have lost the ship. As it was the morning after St Patrick's day and my mess, including myself, were off duty and recovering from an evening of celebrations with our American shipmates (Green Beer...., it's an Irish American thing). Just before 7am, a Chief Petty Officer (CPO) ran through our mess turning the lights on shouting for us to get out of our pits (3 tier bunk beds), Shouting "Don't you know the ship is on fire". Typical Jack reminded him that we were a watch keepers mess and promptly turned the lights off again. The CPO disappeared leaving a trail of obscenities. A few seconds later the ships tannoy broadcast. "ABANDON SHIP, ABANDON SHIP, ABANDON SHIP!!!".

You can imagine the reaction after that! Lights on, pits emptying, dressed and ready to disembark. At that point, I realised that my duty started at 7am and I was duty fire and emergency party from then on, so I about turned and mustered on the flight deck.

My first role was to assist in directing and ranging all aircraft for flying off the ship, even aircraft with no undercarriage had temporary wheels fitted. The USS Lexington on the opposite dockyard jetty to us, got her cold boilers fired and ready to sail. The US Support ship on the same jetty as us sailed. The problem was we had a full armory onboard so plans afoot to remove them to a safe haven were being made. I ended up boundary cooling the island which is the superstructure at the side of the flight deck on an Aircraft Carrier, as the funnel was exhausting the fire and melting the paintwork and heating up adjoining compartments. 5 hours later, fire extinguished, our ship was left with only 3 boilers instead of 4.

Many years later I attended the ships firefighting course at the Fire Service College at Moreton in Marsh (this course was designed by our very own DO Phil Blanchet) and ended up in Portsmouth again

doing the ships firefighting and DRU.

Great days, times and company. I must say that MV St Henry at Moreton especially the engine room fire exercise attacking via the engine room vertical emergency shaft was a beast but a great example of how difficult these fires are to fight.

## Station Profile -Perranporth



*Perranporth fire station with their Wrl, LAP and Welfare Unit*

Perranporth fire station currently has 14 firefighters all dedicated to serving their community as firefighters but also living and working locally as well.

The firefighter's day jobs range from being carpenters, builders, school teachers, tree surgeons and postal workers.

We also have wholetime Firefighters from both Cornwall Fire and Rescue Service and London Fire Brigade whose shift patterns enable them to be available to serve their local community when they are off duty from their wholetime roles.



*Directing Helicopter underslung pick up of Royal Marine Inflatable Raiding Craft Circa 1980/81*

I hope you have enjoyed my tale and hope that it encourages you to add your stories to future editions of the 'BEACON'

**Jan Sturges**



*Farewell to the old, welcome to the new!*

For the last 20 years or so Perranporth's major appliance has served the community very well, however in February, our new appliance, a MAN 4x4 fire engine, has replaced our trusty Mercedes and already has started showing its capabilities.

This new fire engine was recently mobilised to a large gorse fire near Wadebridge, where the 4x4 capabilities and the ability to operate the pump whilst the vehicle is in motion (pump and roll) were put to the test.

The new appliance proved invaluable in helping to extinguish a rapidly spreading wind-blown wildfire.



*Perranporth crews utilising the 'pump and roll' feature at a recent gorse fire*

Perranporth also has a smaller fire engine; this is a Toyota Hilux Light 4-wheel drive pump (L4P) with full 4x4 capabilities.

This appliance holds a small tank of water and is capable of extinguishing small fires in hard-to-reach places such as bin or pallet fires on the beach or in the dunes. The Toyota Hilux utilises its exceptional 4-wheel drive capabilities to access off-road terrain that other appliances simply can't get to.

When required, the Toyota is also used to tow the new Welfare trailer to larger, more protracted incidents anywhere in the county, providing much needed and welcome welfare for firefighters.

Day or night this unit is ready to be deployed to the incident ground and has a toilet facility, washing and drying facilities and is stocked with snacks and drinks to keep the firefighters going when they need it the most.

Perranporth Community Fire Station is also lucky enough to be home to one of the counties Tri-Service Safety Officers (TSSO).

As you will read elsewhere in this magazine, Cornwall was the first county to run the Tri-Service programme. Working shift

patterns, the Tri-Service Safety Officers are available as competent firefighters to cover operational response duties, including driving the fire engine to incidents under blue lights as an emergency response driver. In addition, they are also able to provide immediate medical cover and basic life support with South West Ambulance Service Trust as a First Responder and assisting Devon and Cornwall Police with community safety support and attendance at police incidents.

Perranporth firefighters are ready to respond and serve their community all year round.

As with much of Cornwall in the holiday season, the population regularly increases by over four times. Firefighters also face the inevitable additional seasonal pressures when responding to incidents during these busy times through additional members of the public, larger volumes of traffic, BBQs on the beach and out of control campfires in the dunes.

As well as operational support duties, Perranporth's firefighters are always happy to get involved in community engagement projects such as fire safety demonstrations at local schools and the annual carnival. The station has also run a Santas

grotto and car washes for the Firefighters Charity as well as fund raising events for the 'Movember' charity.



*A proud Perranporth crew with their new appliance*

As with other stations across Cornwall, Perranporth host a clothes bank to raise funds for the Firefighters charity, what a way to help recycle old clothes and support our wonderful charity.

A vertical fundraising poster for Fire Fighters Charity. At the top is the Fire Fighters Charity logo, which includes a stylized fire and a firefighter. Below the logo, the text reads: 'Perranporth Fire Station clothing bank has raised £3,948 for Fire Fighters Charity from your clothing donations totalling: 20 Tonnes since this clothing bank was placed here in 2014. (Updated 2024)'. Below this, a smaller line of text says: 'Your clothing donation helps us support the health and wellbeing of UK fire and rescue service personnel in their time of need.' At the bottom, there is a QR code and the text: 'Thank you for your donation' and 'More ways to support To learn more about Fire Fighters Charity and other ways you can support us scan the QR code or visit: www.firefighterscharity.org.uk'.

**Steve Chidgey, Firefighter 2:3 Perranporth**

## Are You Ready Chief?

My recent attendance at RMA lunches has reminded me of when I was first invited as Chief to the group's Christmas Lunch at the Penventon. My wife Pat and I were honoured to be seated on the 'top table.' Whilst coffee was being served, the President turned to me and said, 'you ready?' 'For what?' I replied. 'Your address.' he said. Perhaps naively I hadn't realised I was expected to make a speech. However, without any further discussion the President stood up and said 'The Chief.'

I quickly regained some composure and thanked the Committee for the kind invitation then quipped that I was actually there to count numbers since this Group was my *pension deficit*. That got a groan, but I recovered by telling a joke. Not hilarious but it fitted the occasion. Here goes:

Three retired Cornwall firefighters with ageing memories were sat on a settee watching the rugby on the TV one Saturday afternoon. At half time, one stood up and walked towards the stairs and said, 'was I going up the stairs or coming down the stairs?' The other two shook their heads in disbelief. A few minutes later

another stood up and walked towards the kitchen, stopped and said, 'was I going to make a cup of tea or have we just had a cup of tea?' The third one shook his head again then said, 'the trouble with you two, is you are as thick as ...' and rapped his knuckles on the wooden coffee table. Puzzled he continued, 'was that someone knocking on the back door or the front door?'

It got a good laugh. Fast forward a year and I was better prepared. When the President asked if I was ready. A number of guests including my wife had popped out to the loo, so I suggested we wait until they had returned to their seats. However, less than a minute later the President stood up and announced, 'The Chief.' I was slightly surprised, but again I thanked the Committee for the kind invitation and did a brief news item on what was happening in The Brigade. On a roll, again I then ended with a joke.



Pat had returned to the room but waited at the back whilst I was still addressing the guests. At the end of the joke which got a bit of a laugh, my wife shouted, 'that is the same joke you told last here year!' The irony was not lost, and Pat got the best laugh on the back of any joke I have ever told.

Memories eh!

## **Mick Howell**

### **CFRS Coffin Drape**

As referenced in the Chairmans update, the RMA have purchased a coffin drape in Cornwall colours with a Cornwall Fire & Rescue Service badge to honour and pay tribute to past members of the Service. CFRS stores will hold the drape for use when requested by the families of fallen comrades. Where possible, the Service have agreed to deliver the drape to the funeral directors, where this falls within a scheduled delivery to that area. However, ultimately responsibility for the collection and safe return of the drape will need to be considered as part of any funeral arrangements.



*Illustration of the CFRS Coffin Drape design*

We hope this will be seen as a fitting tribute to those who have served in the Service.

### **Tri-Service Safety Officers**

The Tri-Service Safety Officer (TSSO) role is a unique innovative collaborative one between the Police, Fire and Health. It compliments not replaces anyone's day job. It is a commissioned service. The role started in 2014 with a pilot in Hayle (West Cornwall) and has now developed into 15 full time positions in Cornwall. In addition to this a 2-year pilot in Holsworthy (DEVON) commenced in April last year.

Working in partnership the role focuses on prevention, early intervention and reducing vulnerability. When tasked through either service they look to problem solve from a multi-agency perspective. A basic example - while attending a police neighbourhood dispute, they may

fit a smoke alarm, make a health referral, and signpost a family to a third sector organisation. They also explore suitable pathways to Cornwall Councils services / support. This is to ensure the highest levels of safeguarding are in place for vulnerable members of our communities which the TSSO's lead on.

Problem solving is further enhanced by having access to data across all the services with Information Sharing Agreements in Place.



*Cornwall TSSO's Josh and Ella*

The TSSO's are also retained fire fighters and in addition offer an emergency response for the ambulance service as community responders.

The TSSOs are highly skilled motivated professionals there is a bespoke training package developed for them in Cornwall. The team continues to develop, there have been two extensive and thorough independent

evaluations evidencing the significant value of the role. The TSSO's are held to the highest standards of all three services.

It should be noted that this emergency response work takes up less than 10% of their time. The role focuses on improving individuals and communities focussing on early intervention and prevention and reducing vulnerability. We recognise the emergency services often deal with the same clientele often based in more deprived areas. Working smarter together to address these issues is an obvious and smart solution, it reduces frontline demand and improves the quality of lives for individuals and makes communities safer. The TSSO role evidence excellence in providing a unique innovative way to work in a more sustainable and efficient way to support existing services and reduce vulnerability in our communities.

As the role has become more understood it has received widespread support. The team are currently in conversation with the Home Office and other areas as we look to expand the role more both regionally and nationally.



*The 2021 TSSO Cohort pass out photo*

Last year an adjournment debate was held in Parliament to promote the role.

[https://www.parliament.co.uk/debate/2024-02-05/commons/commons-chamber/tri-service-safety-officers-devon-and-cornwall](https://www.parliament.uk/debate/2024-02-05/commons/commons-chamber/tri-service-safety-officers-devon-and-cornwall)

The Tri Service management then visited parliament and spoke to the Police and Fire Minister direct (and numerous other MP's) The Minister supported the role and offered his support. We are now working with the new administration and are again receiving positive noises.

### **Miles Topham, Inspector, Devon & Cornwall Police**

#### **Merchandise**

Members approved us developing CRF-RMA Merchandise at our AGM, subject to me speaking to our Treasurer Mark Boeck and getting his agreement as to how

we process the payments for orders.

Available will include T-Shirts, Polo Shirts, Sweatshirts, Caps, Beanie Hats, Mugs and lots more. Samples of some items are shown hereto illustrate what is available to members at a vastly reduced rate to the normal retail price.



*Example CFRS RMA Mug*

As agreed at the AGM, an amount will be added to each item which will be donated to the Firefighters Charity at the end of each year. Postage and Packaging will be an additional cost of approximately £4.50 for up to 2kg in parcel weight. Therefore, if you want your item immediately and sent directly to you or the item weighs 2kg or close to, then it would be

£4.50. However, if you are happy to wait until we have enough orders to make up the 2kg and collect from me at a future lunch I am attending, then the P&P cost may be reduced.

The plan is that by the end of April we will be able to provide you with a list of prices and merchandise available and how to place your orders. We will also place this information on our Facebook and Website, as well as future additions of the 'Beacon'.



*Two more CFRS RMA mugs in branded T shirts*

Items on the suppliers website can give you an idea of what is available from our supplier (our logo will of course replace the current logos shown on each item). To have a look, follow the link below:

[www.theratslocker.co.uk](http://www.theratslocker.co.uk)

We have been assured that all items are from ethical and sustainable sources.

For those who are thinking, why we are using the term 'VETERAN'. It is because it applies to all who served in our service rather than just the RMA and we believe that it reflects exactly what we are and have given to our communities of Cornwall. The Definition in the Oxford Dictionary is: A person who has long experience in a particular field.

Cambridge Dictionary Definition is: A person who has a lot of experience of a particular activity. An example given is 'A 20-year veteran of the New York Police Department'.

Keep an eye out for more news on 'C-F-R - VETERAN' Merchandise.

**Jan**

# MEMORY LANE

Beryl Blanchett has kindly shared several photos from late husband Phil Blanchett's collection for our use. Here are just three that are a fantastic representation of Phil's career. Others will be used in future editions and on our Facebook page.



*Phil Blanchett and CFO John Robinson*



*Phil introducing the new crash rescue equipment to crews at St Just*



*Phil with CFO John Robinson and an HMI Inspector*

In issue 101 there were a range of photos taken during the early days of the former Camborne fire station and workshops. Peter Tonkin has kindly put names to the faces.

## MEMORY LANE

A Camborne resident and local historian recently posted photographs of the former Camborne Fire Station, stores and workshop during and shortly after its construction in 1961.



Can anyone put any names to the faces?



These are;  
 Image 2, Dale Pearce, Ernie Frances and Donald Williams (partially hidden).  
 Image 3, Chris Bray  
 Image 4 is Pete Smith. Peter tells me that he would have been in the fourth image, but he ducked out of the way just in time!



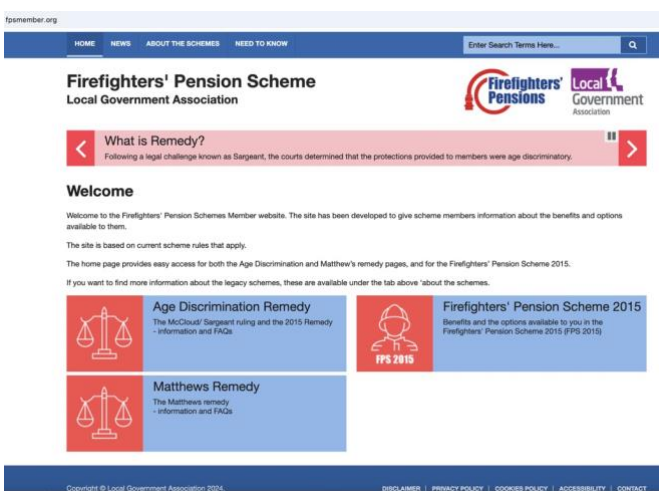
## RMA Lunch Dates

Dates & Venues	
<b>4<sup>th</sup> April</b>	The Pityme Inn, Rock. This will be a plated roast and a desert and will cost £15 for the two courses.
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> May</b>	The Old Quay House, Lelant. This is the normal pub menu
<b>6<sup>th</sup> June</b>	Lanhydrock Golf Club. A carvery cost is £19 with optional deserts if required at £7
<b>4<sup>th</sup> July</b>	Whealdream Restaurant, Helston

As always, Phil Berriman will contact you for numbers nearer each event.  
**Reminder** – Please reply directly to Phil as he coordinates the details with the venue.

## Pensions Update

In the last newsletter, members were directed to the very helpful member self-service website for the Firefighters pension scheme. For anyone who would like to explore further here is the link; [www.fpsmember.org](http://www.fpsmember.org)



## Firefighters Charity

The RMA has received a certificate in recognition of the donation made at the Christmas Lunch. Thanks to all those who donated.



## Blue Light Card



The Blue Light Card is a discount scheme in the UK for emergency service workers, NHS staff, social care workers, and armed forces personnel. It provides exclusive discounts on a wide range of products and services, including shopping, travel, entertainment, and dining.

The Blue Light Card is available to retired fire service personnel, you will need to provide

## How It Works

- The card costs £4.99 for two years.
- Members can access online and in-store discounts at thousands of brands.
- Discounts apply to various categories, including supermarkets, tech, holidays, and restaurants.

## Where Can You Use It?

Retailers and brands offering discounts include Apple, Adidas, Boohoo, Sky, Samsung, Nando's, Alton Towers, Hotels, and many more. Some deals are online-only, while others can be used in stores by showing the physical card.

## How to Apply

- Register online at [bluelightcard.co.uk](http://bluelightcard.co.uk).
- Provide proof of fire service employment through one of the following accepted forms of ID:
  - Fire Service pension document
  - P60 document showing Fire Service pension
  - Fire Service Certificate of Service
  - National Association of Retired Firefighters ID card
- Pay the one-off £4.99 fee for a two-year membership.

# AGM 2025 – Draft Minutes

## CORNWALL FIRE AND RESCUE – RETIRED MEMBERS ASSOCIATION

### MINUTES OF AGM

Held on FRIDAY, 7<sup>TH</sup> MARCH, 2025, at 11.00 a.m.

At the Seiners Arms, Perranporth

#### 1. APOLOGIES

Mr M Boeck (*Hon Treas*) & Mrs N Boeck, Mr & Mrs C Bate, Mrs D Best, Mr P Cooper, Mr R Dawe, Mrs M Gibbons, Mrs F Goodchild, Mr & Mrs N Lakin, Mr & Mrs D Martin. Mr P Merrikin, Mrs A Parrot, Mr B Preston, Mr G Richards, Mr & Mrs P Sandham, Mr B Simmonds, Miss J Sincock and Mr & Mrs P Tonkin **(23)**

#### 2. ATTENDANCE

Mr J Sturges (*Chair*), Mrs R Smith (*Secretary*), Mr & Mrs P Berriman, Mr L Best, Mr P Carne, Mr & Mrs L Chapman, Mr & Mrs C Coombes, Mr & Mrs S Emery, Mr R Gibbons, Mr & Mrs A Guest, Mr & Mrs L Hosking, Mr M Howell, Mr & Mrs A Kiernan, Mr P Martin, Mr & Mrs A Renals, Mr & Mrs F Renals, Mr & Mrs M Semmons, Mr S Taylor, Mr P Walker and Mr P Williams **(30)**

*Part Attendance:* Mr & Mrs B Crowle, Mr D Phillips, Mr J Phillips, Mr P Robinson and Mrs K Walker **(6)**

The Chairman opened the meeting by welcoming everyone. He explained that there were copies of the minutes etc., available, if members hadn't accessed the on-line literature.

#### 3. MINUTES OF THE LAST AGM (01/03/2024)

They were deemed to be a true record. (*copy attached*). *Prop- Phil Berriman, Sec- Colin Coombes, unanimous*

#### 4. MATTERS ARISING

Andy Renals stated that he had heard nothing more from Jo Buswell, regarding a talk on his charity work in Ukraine.

Frank Renals reported that following our departure from NARF, he had received a letter of thanks from the Head Office, who said we could join again, if necessary, at any time, and extended the invitation to all members to join up individually if they wished.

#### 5. TREASURER'S REPORT (*copies circulated to the meeting - and copy attached*)

The Chair delivered the report on behalf of the Treasurer, who was on holiday. The balance in the account, as of 31/01/2025, stands at £1,490.20 with £50.00 cash in hand. The Treasurer, reported that following last year's AGM, as requested, he had tried to affiliate the RMA with the National Pensioners Convention (NPC), but after several attempts had been unable to do so. It was decided to leave it, as we were unsure of the benefits of joining them.

There are 2 cards on the RMA account, the Chair and the Treasurer. The on-line banking for paying subscriptions had been fairly successful.

The Treasurer's report was accepted. *Prop- Colin Coombes, Sec- Frank Renals, unanimous*

#### 6. CHAIR'S REPORT (*copy attached*)

The Chair, thanked all the committee for their help and guidance through the last six months and to Frank for taking him under his wing as a Vice-Chair, helping him learn the ropes. The job has proved challenging at times, but each new experience has been a learning opportunity.

He was pleased to report that the membership figures are rising, but with that the numbers wanting to join the Friday lunches has increased, and the challenge is to find the necessary venues who can accommodate us. Phil Berriman is working well on the search for new venues.

The new membership includes members from Admin Support and Workshops and Uniformed retirees.

He was pleased to announce that the new Newsletter "Beacon", has been launched and received well. Also, he has worked on updating the Constitution, as well as tabling new ideas, as per the agenda.

## 7. ON-LINE AND NEWSLETTER EDITORS' REPORTS

**Andy Renals, Online and Facebook Editor**, informed the meeting that the Website is changing, which will give more information regarding the Archives, etc. Andy, along with Jan Sturges and Phil Martin are liaising to set this up.

AR, wished for a big thank you to be minuted to Dave Crewes, for setting us up on Facebook, many years ago. This has proved to be a successful move.

Rosemary Smith asked who were the Administrators on the CFRS-RMA Facebook page? Andy Renals to advise.

**Phil Martin, Newsletter Editor**, was pleased with the first issue of the "Beacon", and it had been well received.

He asked the members to send him any memories or photos, or anecdotes to include in further issues. The dead-line for the next "Beacon", is 24<sup>th</sup> March, 2025.

Phil, also mentioned that he was the Representative of the Cornwall Council Firefighters Pension Group, and was the link for all enquiries.

## 8. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The Chair advised the meeting that he had asked the Officers if they are happy to continue with their existing roles. That being the case, they were voted in en-bloc as follows:-

**Chair – Jan Sturges**

**Treasurer – Mark Boeck**

**Secretary – Rosemary Smith** (*until such times a successor is found*)

**On-line/Facebook Administrator – Andy Renals**

**Newsletter Editor – Phil Martin**

**Social Secretary – Phil Berriman**

*Prop- Colin Coombes, Sec - L Hosking, unanimous*

At the moment the Chair said that the role of a Vice-Chair, would be left on hold for the time being.

To avoid confusion with the numbers, Phil Berriman asked that members reply to him **ONLY**, when saying whether **they are/or are not attending** the Friday lunches.

4<sup>th</sup> April – Pityme Inn, near Rock

2<sup>nd</sup> May – Old Quay House, Hayle

6<sup>th</sup> June – Lanhydrock Golf Course, Bodmin

*(it is hoped that a member of the Fire Fighters Charity will be attending to give us a talk)*

At this stage the Chair proposed 2 new positions on the Committee for the following -

**Welfare Representative – Pete Williams**

*Prop- Steve Emery, Sec- P Berriman, unanimous*

## **Sports and Events Representative – Paul Walker**

*Prop- Pete Williams, Sec- L Best, unanimous*

Pete Williams stated he was happy to take on the role, and assured the members, that any matters brought to his attention would remain strictly confidential and he would point the member in the right direction to deal with the problem

Paul Walker, said there were 3 events planned during the next 6 months.  
Friday, March 28<sup>th</sup> - Beer and Curry Night, Kathmandu Curry House, Truro  
Saturday, 10<sup>th</sup> May – Black Flag Brewery Visit – Perranporth  
Saturday, 19<sup>th</sup> July – MUSINGO QUIZ at the Steiners Arms, Perranporth

Further details to be announced on Facebook Page and by email.

### **9. APPOINTMENT OF 2 COMMITTEE MEMBERS TO AUDIT ACCOUNTS**

In line with the constitution, 2 members of the Committee are required to independently check the Annual Statement of Accounts from the Treasurer.

**Phil Berriman and Phil Martin** agreed to do this

*Prop- Andy Renals Sec –Frank Renals, unanimous*

### **10.MOTION TO AMEND THE CONSTITUTION**

Copies of the amended Constitution were emailed or posted to all members. After a few minor adjustments, and no negative replies, the Chair asked for a vote.

*Prop- Frank Renals, Sec- Colin Coombes, unanimous*

### **11.MEMBERSHIP FEES**

The Chair suggested that the fees remain the same, at £5, per annum, per person, both full and associate membership

*Prop Jan Sturges, Sec – Frank Renal, unanimous*

The Chair reminded members, that each year the fees should be paid in January, and if they are not paid in full by the AGM, members would be deleted from the mailing list.

### **12.LIFE MEMBERSHIP**

The Chair proposed that in recognition of all their work for the RMA over many years that both Frank and Anne Renals should receive Honorary Life Membership of the Association. The Chair will arrange for this year's membership be refunded to them.

*Proposed Jan Sturges, Sec- Rosemary Smith, unanimous*

### **13.MERCHANDISE**

The Chair advised the meeting that he had been in contact with a friend of his, who dealt with printed t-shirts, hats, mugs, etc. He showed a few of the samples. These could be printed with RMA/ Fire Service badges, wording etc. The company is "Rats Locker" based in Brighton. Members were told to look on website for further information, and Jan told them that the items would be favourably priced due to the Fire Brigade connection. All orders, payments and more details will follow.

Nikki Renals asked if JS could find out if the clothing etc., was ethically sourced.

*Prop- Pete Williams, Sec- Colin Coombes, unanimous*

#### **14. PURCHASE OF A COFFIN DRAPE**

Phil Martin has been looking into this and showed a draft picture of how it might look. The CFO/ACFO have been consulted and are, in principle, in agreement with the idea. This drape could be used for any Serving Fire Brigade personnel and Retired Members. He had priced one for £275. After brief discussion, it was proposed that the RMA meet the total cost. Subject to confirmation from the CFO/ACFO, JS to confirm that the Coffin Drape would be kept in the stores at CFRS HQ and made available as required.

*Prop- Brian Crowle, Sec – Pete Williams, unanimous*

#### **15. CHRISTMAS LUNCH, THURSDAY, 4<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2025**

The Penventon Hotel, Redruth proved a great success last year, and Phil has booked it again.

#### **16. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 12.28.

## Spot the Difference!

There are ten differences between the two photos, can you spot them all? Answer on Page 28.



## Where in the World?

Can you work out the following countries?

Example: RAIN AIDS (8) Answer – SARDINIA

Answers on Page 28:

1. AID A COMB (8)
2. ARAN SILK (3, 5)
3. A TIN RANGE (9)
4. AURA TAILS (9)
5. THE ROOK MAN (5, 5)
6. DIVER NEEDS A CLASP (4, 5, 7)
7. HANDTAIL (8)
8. ROAM ONCE (8)
9. ARMY GEN (7)
10. WANT A SOB (8)

Thank you to Rosemary Smith for this quiz 😊

### RMA SOCIAL MEDIA

**facebook:** Cornwall Fire and Rescue Retired Members Association  
**Website:** [www.cfrs-rma.org](http://www.cfrs-rma.org)



# Cornwall Fire & Rescue Retired Members Association APPLICATION FORM

## CONTACT DETAILS

<b>First Name</b>			
<b>Last Name</b>			
<b>Address</b>			
			<b>Post Code</b>
<b>Home Tel No.</b>			
<b>Mobile No.</b>			
<b>Email</b>			

## ACTIVITIES & OPPORTUNITIES

I am interested in the following types of activities:	
Lunches	
Walking	
Golf	
Topical Presentations	
Visits e.g. Service HQ, Fire Stations, Non-FRS places of interest	
Committee Membership	
Other (please give details)	

## PAYMENT OF ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION

CFR-RMA Annual Subscription	£
<i>Ways to pay your subscription</i>	
<b>Payment by Bank Transfer</b>	
<b>Account name:</b>	Cornwall Fire & Rescue Service RMA
<b>Sort Code</b>	30-98-76
<b>Account No</b>	00505943
Payees will need to use their surnames as the reference and then notify the Treasurer by email or Text.	
<b>Payment by Cheque</b>	
<b>Payee</b>	CFRS-RMA
Send to the Treasurer (Please note, a receipt will not be sent)	CFRS-RMA Hon. Treasurer Mr Mark Boeck

## Spot the Difference!



## Where in the World?

1. CAMBODIA
2. SRI LANKA
3. ARGENTINA
4. AUSTRALIA
5. NORTH KOREA
6. CAPE VERDE ISLANDS
7. THAILAND
8. CAMEROON
9. GERMANY
10. BOTSWANA



The Cornwall Fire and Rescue Service magazine has been made available for all retired members to read.

This link;

[www.cornwall.gov.uk/media/ntiba55e/beyond-cover-issue-40-autumn-2024-web.pdf](http://www.cornwall.gov.uk/media/ntiba55e/beyond-cover-issue-40-autumn-2024-web.pdf)