



ROYAL ARTILLERY ASSOCIATION LEWES BRANCH



MINUTES OF THE LEWES BRANCH ROYAL ARTILLERY ASSOCIATION May Meeting – 23rd July 2021 – St Marys' Supporters Club Meeting Opened at 20:00

The Commemoration of The Gunners: Read by Our Vice Chairman David Harding.

Members Present: David Harding, Mark Harding, Darryl Twinch, Lee Harding, Paul Hughes. Jerry Docherty, Ray Hughes, Peter Marcantonio, Bob Parker, Dave Scott, John Shill, John Talmey and Peter Head.

Apologies for Absence: Michael Hobden, Colin Kemp, Steve Winter, David Collett, David Collins, Peter Crowhurst, Rev Canon Egar, Mark Eve, Des Foord, Peter Godding, Sean Kelly, Ray Metcalfe, Alan Mayers, Jack Neil, Doug Raynsford, Fred Rossington, Michael Taylor, Steve White, Peter Wyatt, Brian Walter, Mick Bird and Mick Norris.

Chairman's Report: David Harding Welcomed all Members to the July 2021 Meeting. He also Welcomed new Member Peter Head and provided him with his Membership Card, Book and Lewes Branch RAA Lapel Pin. He also thanked Mark for organising and executing the BBQ on Saturday. Members who attended advised that they had a thoroughly wonderful day and should keep this on the cards for future events.

Treasurer's Report: Colin Kemp advised Mark that that with £82.65 paid in from Bar Drawers last month, the Summer BBQ costing £122.31 and raffle takings £121.00 (BBQ cost a total of £1.31), There is currently £626.73 available. £100.00 is allocated to a charity of choice for Sara Foord for the donation for Des Foord's memorabilia, therefore, available is £526.73.

Welfare Officers Report: Lee confirmed that all Members had been contacted during this last month and provided an update to all. John Shill advised that there is no current update regarding Des Foord.

Secretaries Report:

1. Mark asked for any comments from the Members with regards to the Minutes for our Meeting held on 18th June 2021. With no comments advised, the Minutes were voted on and passed as correct with no comments. Proposed by Bob Parker and seconded by Jerry Docherty. Carried.
2. Mark advised that the GAI's are currently being amended and would provide a copy to all once complete.
3. Mark advised Members to contact him if they require a copy of the Forecast of Events (also on our website) or a copy of the RAA 2020 Accounts.
4. 43 Bty Update: No further update, See May 2021 Minutes.
5. Mark has liaised with the CWGC and suggested 3 dates outside of normal Meeting dates and Sarah has referred to John Harris. Members agreed that we would like to postpone this to August. Mark will liaise with John and revert back with a choice of dates. TBA
6. 2021 Annual and/or Christmas Dinner. Mark advised that he had contacted The White Hart to ascertain their current plan for dinners but has yet the hear from them. It was discussed by Members that we look into possible other venues. Mark advised he would follow up with the White Hart and if nothing heard within 2 weeks, he would contact other venues. Members suggested the John Harvey Tavern and The Dorset.

7. The Royal Artillery Service of Remembrance held on Saturday 3rd July 2021 at The NMA. 6 Members attended and had a fabulous day. Photos available in our Members Gallery on our website.
8. The re-scheduling of Our Service of Remembrance, No further update as yet.
9. Mark reminded Members of the Gallery area on our website along with our Branch Scrapbook and to send photos/cuttings etc to Lee or Mark who will add them.
10. Mark reminded Members of the importance of checking and reading emails as this is the main source of media that all information is sent to regarding our Branch.
11. Mark reminded Members to submit their signed Permission Forms to enable us to use images, cuttings, videos etc of them on our website, social media, send to RAA HQ for publications etc.

AOB:

1. District Armed Forces Day in Eastbourne on 26th June 2021. 10 Members attended and with thanks.
2. After the huge success of our Lewes Branch RAA Summer BBQ. Members discussed Future Events.

It was agreed that we should hold a games evening on Saturday 28th August 2021 at St Marys' to include the Skittles run. Members are to have a think and revert back with other games to include during the evening.

Mark has booked the use of the Garden and Meeting Room between 15:00 – 19:00 at a cost of £10.00 per hour. Buffet style food will be organised by Mark at a cost of no greater than £10.00 per head.

We will be holding a raffle as usual and ask Members to please provide prizes for this. Like the BBQ, the more taken on the raffle, the less we have to pay for the hire and the food.

Spouse/Partners/Guest are also welcome.

TIMINGS: 15:00 – 19:00 (We are able to use the bar afterwards should Members wish to stay on).

DRESS: Smart Casual. Should the weather be hot, shorts are OK to be worn.

ATTENDANCE: A maximum of 40 places are available. Please see attached confirmation of attendance to date. Please email/text/call Mark Harding to confirm your place if not already done so.

3. Darryl: Dieppe Raid Memorial Parade in Newhaven confirmed as 8th August 2021. Darryl advised that he would be Parading Our Standard. Mark invited Members to join the Parade whether marching or attending on the side lines. Mark will Lay Our Wreath of Remembrance.

TIMINGS: Form up at Denton Island in Newhaven for 14:20 to then March to the Memorial to be Formed Up by 15:00. Then back to Denton for dismissal.

DRESS: Regt Tie, Blazers. Beret and Medals may be worn.

4. Des Foord 25 Pounder. As discussed, Mark has spoken to the Deputy Manager of the Firearms and Explosives Unit of Surrey & Sussex Operations Command. It seems that this piece is currently illegal and should be destroyed as it has a clear and open barrel, it is classed as a pistol as it can physically fire a live round. However, they have referred me to a guy in Chichester who may be able to change this. We have three options which are as follows:

1. Allow the piece to be destroyed.
2. Pay to totally FFE the piece to enable us to use this as a table piece only.

3. Pay to plug the bore and add a vent out of the side or upwards.

All depends on costs. However, I have since heard back from them and they have advised that option 3 above will cost £50.00 (unless they come across anything problematic). I have agreed this and am delivering the piece to them to complete the work on Wednesday 28th July 2021.

This will ensure that we keep the piece for the use it was designed for.

5. Nothing further to update regarding having to become Members of St Marys' Supporters Club. Mark will advise as and when.
6. John Shill SY Presentation. It was agreed that this should be 'parked' until late Autumn/early Winter. Paul Hughes advised that he would look into possibly borrowing a Projector and get back to us. Dave Scott also advised that the Club were thinking of possibly purchasing a projector but not confirmed as yet.
7. Roll of Honour with the RA CWG in the Lewes Area. As previously, Lee advised that the cost of this may be very high and was looking into other alternatives. Peter Head also advised that he may have a source and will look into this and revert back to us.
8. Dave Scott provided John Shill with an update with regards to the possible auctioning of the Chess Set obtained from Des Foord's Military Memorabilia.
9. Darryl advised that we held no RAA Wreaths in stock. It was agreed that we purchase a further 2 RAA Wreaths for stock. We are now in possession of these.

With no other business, our July 2021 Meeting of the Lewes Branch RAA closed at 21:30

The next Lewes Branch RAA Meeting will be held on Friday 20th August 2021 at St Marys' Supporters Club.

Dress: Smart Casual
Timings: 19:30 for 20:00 start

Due to current restrictions, we are again only able to have a maximum of 20 Members attend the August Meeting. **TBC**

Please see the list below for those Members who have already confirmed their attendance as at today.

Patron: Her Majesty The Queen
Chairman: Michael Hobden
Treasurer: Colin Kemp
Secretary: Mark Harding
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CURRENT ATTENDANCE OF EVENTS

Monthly Meeting 20th August 2021
&
Games Night 28th August 2021

Name	Meeting 20 August 2021	No's	Games Night 28 August 2021	No's
Michael Hobden		0		0
David Harding (Budge)	Yes	1	Yes	2
Mark Harding	Yes	1	Yes	1
Colin Kemp		0		0
Darryl Twinch	Yes	1	Yes	1
Lee Harding	Yes	1	Yes	2
Steve Winter		0		0
Alan South		0		0
Paul Hughes	Yes	1	Yes	1
Mick Bird		0		0
Brian Cager		0		0
David Collett		0		0
David Collins		0		0
Peter Crowhurst		0		0
Jerry Docherty	Yes	1	Yes	2
Rev Canon Judith Egar	Yes	1		0
Mark Eve		0		0
Des Foord		0		0
Peter Godding		0		0
Peter Head	Yes	1	Yes	1
Ray Hughes		0		0
Sean Kelly		0		0
Raymond Metcalfe		0		0
Jack Neil		0		0
Peter Marcantonio	Yes	1	Yes	1
Alan Mayers		0		0
Mick Norris		0		0
Simon Odey		0		0
Robbie Parker	Yes	1	Yes	2
Doug Raynsford		0		0
Fred Rossington		0		0
Dave Scott	Yes	1	Poss	1
John Shill	Poss	1	No	0
Paul Spooner		0		0
Jim Talmey		0		0
John Talmey	Yes	1	Yes	2
Ray Talmey		0		0
Michael Taylor		0		0
Brian Walter		0		0
Steve White (Knocker)		0		0
Peter Wyatt		0		0
	TOTALS	13	TOTALS	16