



## ROYAL ARTILLERY ASSOCIATION LEWES BRANCH



### MINUTES OF THE LEWES BRANCH ROYAL ARTILLERY ASSOCIATION May Meeting – 18<sup>th</sup> June 2021 – St Marys' Supporters Club Meeting Opened at 20:00

**The Commemoration of The Gunners:** Read by Our Secretary Mark Harding.

**Members Present:** Mark Harding, Darryl Twinch, Mick Bird, Peter Crowhurst, Jerry Docherty, Mark Eve, Ray Hughes, Sean Kelly, Peter Marcantonio, Bob Parker, Dave Scott, John Shill and John Talme.

**Apologies for Absence:** Michael Hobden, Budge Harding, Colin Kemp, Lee Harding, Steve Winter, Alan South, Paul Hughes, David Collett, David Collins, Des Foord, Peter Godding, Jack Neil, Alan Mayers, Mick Norris, Doug Raynsford, Fred Rossington, Jim Talme, Ray Talme, Michael Taylor, Brian Walter, Ray Metcalfe and Peter Wyatt.

**Chairman's Report:** Mark welcomed all Members to the June 2021 Meeting. The Branch Welcomed our New Member Mr Ray Hughes who was presented with his Membership Card, Book and Branch Lapel Pin. 13 Members attended.

**Treasurer's Report:** Colin Kemp advised Mark that that there is total available Branch Funds of £645.39 including £20.00 cash float as at today.

**Welfare Officers Report:** Mark advised that all Members had been contacted since the last Meeting. Mark advised that Peter Godding had had a short spell in hospital due to a fall but is on the mend and very well spirited.

John Shill provided an update with regards to Des Foord. Des is still currently in a Nursing Home at Claydon House, 8 Wallands Crescent, Lewes, East Sussex. BN7 2QT and after speaking to Sara, Des' daughter, Des seems to be unresponsive. Mark asked individual Members to send cards to Des to let him know we are all thinking of him in the hope of raising his spirits.

#### **Secretaries Report:**

1. Mark asked for any comments from the Members with regards to the Minutes for our Meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> May 2021. With no comments advised, the Minutes were voted on and passed as correct with no comments. Proposed by Peter Marcantonio 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.
6. John Shill kindly offered to provide a presentation of the Sussex Yeomanry. It was requested by Members this take part during our July Meeting on 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2021 (this date is now movable). It was discussed that we would require a viewer and screen for this. John Shill and Jerry Docherty advised that they were looking

into this and would revert back ASAP with a view to then confirm a date for this to take place. Back up use via Zoom if equipment is unavailable.

John also discussed his role in Lewes as a Volunteer for the CWGC and advised Members that they are also able to volunteer or assist him. John agreed to send Mark the details etc where Mark will then disseminate to all Members.

7. 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 to hear from them. Members discussed and agreed that we use the Summer BBQ on 17<sup>th</sup> July as our Annual Dinner and Mark try to obtain dates for a Christmas Dinner at The White Hart.
8. The Royal Artillery Service of Remembrance to be held on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2021 at The NMA. Mark advised that RAA HQ advised due to current restrictions, they may not be able to use the Chapel and will possibly hold the Service in the Gardens. Mark will advise attendees once received confirmation from RAA HQ.
9. District Armed Forces Day in Eastbourne on 26th June 2021. 43 Bty confirmed that they have no items for display available. All Members are invited to attend.

There are currently 10 Members attending. Mark advised he would be dressing in Regt Tie and Blazer and those wishing to partake in the Parade are advised to wear the same (Medals may be worn on the Parade). For those Members not taking part in the Parade, would you please wear your Lewes RAA Polo Shirt when assisting on our Stand.

Tesco have invited the Blue Van to have a table in the store the week 21<sup>st</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup> June for armed Forces Week to publicise and promote and have asked if we are able to assist with any particular days / times. No Members are available to volunteer to assist.

10. The re-scheduling of Our Service of Remembrance, No further update as yet.
11. 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.
12. 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.
13. Mark advised that The GUNNER magazine is about to have a relaunch and planned changes commencing in the July 2021 edition. Mark sent the picture of our Members from last Meeting and Presentation of Certificate of Appreciation from Members to Mark to RAA HQ for possible publication. The Group photo taken at last month's Meeting has been posted on the RAA HQ Facebook site. Mark will check the June 2021 edition of The GUNNER and advise if we made it in that.
14. 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.
15. The Royal School of Artillery celebration of its Centenary on Thursday 22 July 2021 has been cancelled.
16. Roll of Honour with the RA CWG in the Lewes Area. Lee advised Mark prior to the Meeting that this would not be cheap, approx. £200 - £300. Mark will discuss further with Lee for further options/ideas.

**AOB:**

1. Summer BBQ at St Marys has been agreed and booked with St Marys' on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> July 2021 between 12:30 – 18:00. Mark advised that we are restricted to a maximum of 30 attendees. It was discussed and agreed that Branch Funds would be used for the cost of the hire which is £10 per hour and includes the BBQ and coals. Mark discussed the possibility of also subsidising the food which was agreed to be 1 x Hot

Dog and Burger including salad and sauces per person along with mixed pasta. Mark & Paul will price this together and advise costs per person and possible subsidisation.

A small works party is required to volunteer to assist with the setup of this on the day, names to Mark soonest please. This will be from 12:00.

See below attendance sheet for those Members confirmed as attending. **Please advise Mark of your attendance soonest.**

2. Darryl: Dieppe Raid Memorial Parade in Newhaven confirmed as 8<sup>th</sup> 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. Darryl will follow up as to whether we are able to Lay Our Wreath of Remembrance at this Memorial.

Mark will also try to contact Newhaven Council to get them to add us to their contact for these types of events rather than having to receive these via the RBL etc.

3. John Shill advised that Sara, Des Foord's daughter is currently clearing out Des' house and has come across various pieces of military memorabilia which would have been thrown out which John brought to the Meeting. It was suggested that should we wish to obtain any of these items either as a Branch or individuals, a donation be provided to Des/Sara's charity of choice. Members looked through all the items and the Branch agreed to take on various items and it was unanimously voted and carried that our Branch provide a donation of £100.00. Mark will catalogue all items and send to Members in due course.
4. Mark discussed the Membership of St Marys' (again) as they had been in contact with him again. There were various options and Mark discussed with them again with St Marys' after the Meeting. Once Mark receives their firm feedback regarding this, he will advise Members accordingly.

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

**The next Lewes Branch RAA gathering will be on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> July 2021 at 12:30 for the BBQ.**

**Dress:** BBQ Gear

**The next Lewes Branch RAA Meeting will be held on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> July 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 30 Members (and Partners) attend the Summer BBQ and 20 Members attend the July Meeting.

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

**Would Members wishing to attend our Summer BBQ or July Meeting please email or call Mark to confirm (please do not use acceptance on social media events to confirm your attendance).**

**Patron:** Her Majesty The Queen

**Chairman:** Michael Hobden

**Treasurer:** Colin Kemp

**Secretary:** Mark Harding

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## CURRENT ATTENDANCE OF EVENTS

**Monthly Meeting 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2021  
&  
Summer BBQ 17<sup>th</sup> July 2021**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Meeting 23 July 2021</b>	<b>No's</b>
Michael Hobden		0
David Harding (Budge)	Yes	1
Mark Harding	Yes	1
Colin Kemp		0
Darryl Twinch	Yes	1
Lee Harding	Yes	1
Steve Winter		0
Alan South		0
Paul Hughes		0
Mick Bird		0
Brian Cager		0
David Collett		0
David Collins		0
Peter Crowhurst	Yes	1
Jerry Docherty	Yes	1
Rev Canon Judith Egar		0
Mark Eve		0
Des Foord		0
Peter Godding		0
Ray Hughes	Yes	1
Sean Kelly		0
Raymond Metcalfe		0
Jack Neil		0
Peter Marcantonio	Yes	1
Alan Mayers		0
Mick Norris		0
Simon Odey		0
Robbie Parker	Yes	1
Doug Raynsford		0
Fred Rossington	Yes	1
Dave Scott		0
John Shill	Yes	1
Paul Spooner		0
Jim Talmey		0
John Talmey	Yes	1
Ray Talmey		0
Michael Taylor		0
Brian Walter		0
Steve White (Knocker)		0
Peter Wyatt		0
	<b>Total</b>	<b>12</b>

<b>Summer BBQ 17 July 2021</b>	<b>No's</b>	
	0	
Yes	1	
Yes	1	
	0	
Yes	2	
Yes	1	
	0	
	0	
Yes	1	
	0	
	0	
	0	
	0	
	0	
Yes	2	
	0	
	0	
	0	
	0	
	0	
Yes	2	
	0	
	0	
	0	
Yes	2	
	0	
	0	
	0	
	0	
Yes	2	
	0	
	0	
	0	
	0	
	<b>Total</b>	<b>16</b>