



LEWES BRANCH ROYAL ARTILLERY ASSOCIATION



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30th September 2022 – St Marys' Supporters Club
Meeting Opened at 20:00

The Commemoration of The Gunners: Read by Our Chairman, Michael Hobden.

Michael Raised a Toast to our Patron, Queen Elizabeth II and Toasted Our new King, King Charles III (Not King Charles II).

Members Present: Michael Hobden, David Harding, Mark Harding, Lee Harding, Darryl Twinch, Steve Winter, Paul Hughes, Jerry Docherty, Ken Amys, Tex Rees-Avery, Mick Bird, Peter Crowhurst, Peter Head, Alan Mayers, Jack Neil, Bob Parker, Brian Scott, Jim Talmey and John Talmey.

Apologies for Absence: Peter Godding, Alan South David Collins, Rev. Egar, Mark Eve, Sean Kelly, Colin Kemp, Ray Metcalfe, Doug Raynsford, Dave Scott, John Shill, Michael Taylor, Brian Walter, Steve White and Peter Wyatt.

Chairman's Report: Michael Welcomed Member to the Meeting and thanked all for a great turnout. 19 Members attended. Michael thanked all involved in organising the Dedication of Our Standard and Branch BBQ.

Treasurer's Report: Lee reported that cash available stands at £1,130.02.

Welfare Officer's Report: Lee advised that all Members had been contacted this month and no issues have arisen. Lee advised that Our President, Pete Godding Celebrated his 92nd Birthday on 25th September – Members send their belated best wishes to Peter.

Secretary's Report:

1. Mark asked for any comments from the Members with regards to the Minutes from our Meeting held on 26th August 2022. With no comments, the Minutes were voted and passed as correct. Proposed by Bob Parker and seconded by Steve Winter. Carried.
2. Join St Marys' Supporters Club. Membership is £15.00 per person or £10.00 if over 65 years – per year.
3. Mark is due to attend the RAA NEC Meeting at Larkhill on 5th October 2022. Mark will update Members at the next Meeting.
4. 43 Bty. Mark provided Members with a 43 Bty update.
5. Remembrance Parade Sunday 13th November 2022. 43 Bty are providing 4 Sentinels along with Capt Bush who will be Laying a Wreath on behalf of 43 Bty and additional Bty Members will be joining the March.

Jack advised that the format for Armistice and Remembrance Parades should be in the usual format. However, as it is the 100th Anniversary of the unveiling of Lewes Memorial, any changes will be notified prior to the events.

It was agreed that Members would retire to St Marys' Supporters Club after the Parade and that we should advertise this in the local Lewes News and on social media such as the AFVBC etc. It was also agreed that we do this in future years and also put on a buffet.

Mark advised that he would Lay Our Wreath of Remembrance on Behalf of Our Branch. Mark asked for a volunteer to lay the Wreath of Remembrance on behalf of The Sussex Yeomanry Association in case Colin Kemp is unable to attend. 1st Volunteer is Budge Harding and 2nd is John Talmey.

6. Royal Artillery Ceremony of Remembrance at the Royal Artillery Memorial – Hyde Park Corner. Sunday 13th November 2022. Ask Mark for details.
7. Lewes Branch RAA Christmas Dinner Saturday 26th November 2022. Menus for The John Harvey Tavern to follow. Max available to attend is 35. Invited two Members from 43 Bty. Menus sent. 31 booked so far.

It was agreed that Members do not wish for the dinner to be subsidized but Members agreed that wine on the table be subsidized again. This will be based on a ratio of ½ bottle per person attending. Mark asked Members to play nicely and work on the ‘buy a friend a pint’ scenario for Members not drinking wine please. It was suggested that the non-wine drinkers wear a red hat so as wine drinkers know who they are.

RAFFLE PRIZES. Please all dig deep and bring along a raffle prize to make our evening even better. Raffle to be by envelope at £5 per envelope.

8. Our new Patron has yet to be advised. The current situation is as that no decision has yet been taken. The Master Gunner has written expressing our wish that The King should assume His Mother’s RA appointments and patronages, but we wait and see. Branches should however remove any reference to The Late Queen as our Patron from any electronic correspondence or newly printed material. Anything already printed can stay for the time being.
9. Members voted unanimously that our December Meeting should take place on Friday 16th December 2022.
10. Website Gallery Area: please send photos to Mark/Lee who will add these on our website.
11. Check emails. As always, remind all Members to please periodically check your emails for all info regarding our Branch and the RAA in general.
12. Lewes Branch RAA 30th Birthday Celebrations. Still ongoing and Mark will update as and when.

AOB:

13. Lewes TC invited Members of the RBL to attend a small Thanksgiving Service at St Anne’s Church for our late Queen, Queen Elisabeth II on Sunday 18th September. Darryl, Jack and Alan Mayers all attended and advised the event went very well.
14. Roll of Honour Board. Jerry showed Members the plinth that he had been working on and Members agreed that the front edge should be the edge with the bark showing. Jerry will look to now mount the 25pdr onto this and update all at the next Meeting.
15. Lee and Jerry suggested to Members that we place a donation to Rev. Egar’s church annually. It was agreed that Mark will discuss with Jerry and revert back to Members at the next Meeting.
16. Lewes Armed Forces Veterans Breakfast Club is held at St Marys’ Supporters Club on the 4th Sunday of each month. Please book Reservations directly by phone on 07547 905 913 or by email to edafvbc.lewes@yahoo.com. Please ensure that you book on time as places have to be booked in advance as Lewes AFVBC have to order the food from Morrison’s on the preceding Thursday, 3-days prior to the breakfast. Quite simply - book early or go hungry.
17. Wall space in the Meeting Room. It was discussed and agreed that the Shields be placed along the top of the wall to enable more space. As discussed, if anyone wishes to hang anything on the wall, please bring it along to the Meetings where members will vote.

18. Mark Eve suggested possible events for future day trip. The RE Museum in Gillingham, Kent, The RAF Manston Museum in Ramsgate and War & Peace in Paddocks Wood. Discuss at our next Meeting.
19. Jack discussed the situation regarding RBL funds advised Members that someone from the RBL wishes to come down and discuss. Jack asked if RAA Members can also attend. It was agreed that this will take place during our Meeting on Friday 16th December 2022. Jack will keep all updated.
20. Jack also advised that the Combined Services Annual Dinner will take place at The Green Man on Saturday 10th December 2022 and would like as many Members as possible to attend please. Further details will follow in due course.
21. Bob suggested that any Ladies attending our Dinners be provided with a gift. This was discussed at length and all Members agreed. However, it was decided that due to the time constraints to our Christmas Dinner, it would be best to provide all Ladies at this dinner with a 'Buttonhole' flower and we will look into Bob's suggestion for future dinners.

Lee kindly agreed to arrange the 'Buttonhole' flowers for Ladies for the Christmas Dinner. Thank you Lee (bus – thrown under).
22. Lee proposed that we purchase Shirly and Sheila a bunch of flowers each for their commitment to Lewes AFVBC (Lewes Breakfast Club). This was voted by and Carried by all Members and that a maximum cost of £50.00 apply.
23. It was suggested that we hold a Race Meeting on Saturday 25th February 2023. Mark will liaise with St Marys' to check availability and book this. Tex kindly offered to provide a new race disc for this event.

With no other business, our September 2022 Meeting of Lewes Branch RAA closed at 21:25.

The next Lewes Branch RAA Meeting will be held on Friday 28th October 2022 at St Marys' Supporters Club.

Venue: St Marys' Supporters Club
Dress: Smart Casual
Timings: 19:30 for 20:00 start

President: Peter Godding
Chairman: Michael Hobden
Secretary: Mark Harding
Treasurer: Lee Harding
Tel: 07903 702 767 (Mark)
Email: theraalewes@gmail.com

LEWES BRANCH RAA FORECAST

2022

28 th October	Monthly Meeting	St Marys' Supporters Club
11 th November	Armistice Day	TBC
13 th November	Remembrance Parade	Lewes War Memorial – St Marys' afterwards
25 th November	Monthly Meeting	St Marys' Supporters Club
26 th November	Lewes Branch RAA Christmas Dinner	The John Harvey Tavern
16 th December	Monthly Meeting and RBL Meeting	St Marys' Supporters Club

2023

27 th January	Lewes Branch RAA Annual General Meeting	St Marys' Supporters Club
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