



LEWES BRANCH ROYAL ARTILLERY ASSOCIATION



MINUTES OF THE LEWES BRANCH ROYAL ARTILLERY ASSOCIATION 29th October 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, Steve Winter, Mick Bird, Brian Cager, Jerry Docherty, Mark Eve, Jack Neil, Bob Parker, Dave Scott, John Shill, John Talmey, Michael Taylor, and Peter Wyatt.

Apologies for Absence: Michael Hobden, Colin Kemp, Alan South, Paul Hughes, David Collett, David Collins, Peter Crowhurst, Des Foord, Peter Godding, Sean Kelly, Peter Marcantonio, Alan Mayers, Doug Raynsford and Brian Walter.

Chairman's Report: Our Vice Chairman David Harding welcomed Members to the October Meeting.

Treasurer's Report: Colin Kemp has advised that as at today, available funds are £700.98.

Welfare Officers Report: Lee advised that all Members had been contacted throughout the month and no issues had arisen. Peter Godding passes on his best wishes to all Members. Members also Minute congratulations to David Collins on finally receiving his long-awaited BEM.

Secretaries Report:

1. Mark asked for any comments from the Members with regards to the Minutes for our Meeting held on 17th September 2021. With no comments advised, the Minutes were voted on and passed as correct with no comments. Proposed by Bob Parker and seconded by Mark Eve. Carried.
2. Mark advised that the amended GAI's are available and have been sent to all Members that have email.
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. Des Foord 25 Pounder. Mark advised this is now completed and turned into a blank firer only and gave a demonstration to Members. Mark also advised that the cost for this was £50.00 and Members unanimously agreed that Mark recoup this from the October 2021 Meeting Subs.
5. Nothing further to update regarding having to become Members of St Marys' Supporters Club. Mark will advise as and when.
6. 43 Bty Update: Discussing with Sgt Robson (Robbo) regarding a visit to 43 next year. Spoken to BSM and await her thoughts etc. Mark will continue to liaise with the BSM at 43 Bty and advise accordingly.
7. CWGC 3 dates outside of normal Meeting dates; Nothing heard back as yet.
8. Service of Remembrance. St Annes' Church Sunday 31st October 2021 at 15:00. Lay Our Wreath of Remembrance at the CWG of LBdr C Ford in Lewes Cemetery (Last Post & Reveille). Mayor/Mayoress of Lewes attending.

We would like as many Members as possible to attend. Please also feel free to bring along families and Guests. Would you please confirm your attendance to Mark soonest?

Timings: Arrive 14:30 for the Service at 15:00.

Dress: Regt Ties, Blazers/Suits (Medals may be worn). Partners/Guest dress equivalent.

Members suggested reconvening to one of the Public Houses opposite St Annes' after the Service.

9. Remembrance Parade Sunday 14th November. 43 Bty providing 4 Sentinels in No 2 Dress. It was agreed that Mark Harding will Lay Our Wreath of Remembrance on behalf of Our Branch.

Armistice Day Thursday 11th November.

All details and orders for the above have been emailed to all Members.

10. Annual Dinner 2021. Mark has re-booked this venue for Our Annual Dinner on Saturday 28th May 2022. The event is limited to a maximum of 34 Members/Guests. More details to follow regarding menus etc.
11. RAA HQ AGM. Mark attended and provided our vote for the re-election of Brig MN Pountain MBE as nominated RACF Trustee.
12. Following on from attending the RAA NEC meeting last week, I have been asked to see what the appetite is for Members attending the RA Gold Cup meeting at Sandown Park next February. If there is enough interest shown then help with travel costs will be considered.

There is little information available at the moment but further details can be found here: <https://www.thejockeyclub.co.uk/sandown/events-tickets/royal-artillery-gold-cup-day/>

The Regiment has plans to make this event a huge Regimental Family Reunion and RAA support is strongly encouraged.

Mark asked Members to get back to him no later than 31st October with their views on attending.

13. The £100.00 donation from Our Branch and the auction of the Chess Set from Des Foord sold for £60.00 – total £160.00 has been donated to Veterans Woodcraft at the request of Sara Ford. Please visit www.veretanswoodcraft.co.uk for more details
14. 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.
15. 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.
16. 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:

17. Roll of Honour with the RA CWG in the Lewes Area. Colin asked that a suggestion be put to Members to change this into a 'There But Not There' Honour Piece with engraved silver plaques attached for Members of Our Branch that are no longer with us. All Members agreed that this would be more pertinent to us. Suggestions were to possibly have Rank, Name and date of death on these. Mark will discuss further with Colin to look at what we can provide.
18. Jack Combined Services Dinner 2021 will be held at The Green Man in Ringmer on Saturday 11th December 2021. Details to Jack ASAP as there are still places available.

19. Darryl discussed the wear and tear on Our Standard and the possibility of purchasing a new one. If we would like to apply for some funds towards from RAA HQ for this, a business case has to be submitted covering:

- Description of Current Standard (photo attached)
- Estimated remaining life of current Standard
- Cost of new Standard
- Total funds in Branch account
- What proportion of cost would Branch cover?
- We would then (probably) look to see whether Branch has made any donations to RAA charities

A very rough 'guesstimate' for a new Standard would be approx. £240 - £300.

This was discussed at length and agreed that Members view our Standard at our Service of Remembrance to then make a decision.

20. Jack sadly advised that our good friend and colleague John Geering sadly passed away. He was an ex REME soldier and a sign writer. For many years he supported the Bonfire Society in Lewes sourcing and making military uniforms. He was a staunch supporter of the military and Remembrance, proudly wearing his medal every year on parade.

Jack will try to find our funeral details and any requirements and advise accordingly.

21. Lewes Breakfast Club. Await further details from Jack, Dave Scott and Alan are still working on this and it is moving forward quickly. Jack will provide further details as and when.
22. It was agreed that our December Meeting be held at St Mary's on Friday 17th December 2021, and we would provide nibbles etc.

With no other business, our October 2021 Meeting of the Lewes Branch RAA closed at 20:40.

The next Lewes Branch RAA Event will be held on Sunday 31st October 2021 for our Lewes Branch RAA Service of Remembrance at St Anne's Church.

Timings: Arrive 14:30 for Service at 15:00

Dress: Regt Ties, Blazers/Suits (Medals may be worn). Partners/Guest dress equivalent.

The next Lewes Branch RAA Meeting will be held on Friday 26th November 2021 at St Marys' Supporters Club.

Dress: Smart Casual

Timings: 19:30 for 20:00 start

Patron: Her Majesty The Queen

Chairman: Michael Hobden

Treasurer: Colin Kemp

Secretary: Mark Harding

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