



LEWES & SUSSEX BRANCH

ROYAL ARTILLERY ASSOCIATION



MINUTES OF THE MONTHLY MEETING 29th May 2026 – St Marys' Supporters Club Meeting Opened at 20:00

The Commemoration of The Gunners: Read by Our Chairman, Bob Parker.

Members Present: Budge Harding, Bob Parker, Jerry Docherty, Mark Harding, Lee Harding, Paul Hughes, John Talmey, Darryl Twinch, Mark Eve, Lawrence Gray, Peter Head, Colin Kemp, Brian Scott, Jim Talmey, Ray Talmey, Steve Winter and Chris Kemp.

Apologies for Absence: John Bishop, Michael Hobden, Phil Kemp, Gary Miles, Dave Scott, John Shill, Alan South, and Peter Talmey.

Chairman's Report: Bob welcomed all Members to the Meeting and thanked all for a great turnout. He thanked those who attended the RA Assembly in Blackpool and advised it was another great weekend. Bob also Welcomed our new Associate Member Chris Kemp and presented him with his Membership Card, Rule Book and Lapel Badge.

Treasurer's Report: Lee advised that there is currently £931.37 available in our funds.

Welfare Officer's Report: Paul advised that he had carried out a phone around and there are no major issues. It was also advised that Andy Reddy sadly passed away in the early hours of 20th May 2026. Andy had his family around him. Further details will be provided once received.

Secretary's Report:

1. Mark asked for any comments from the Members with regards to the Minutes from our Monthly Meeting held on 17th April 2026. With no comments, the Minutes were voted and passed as correct. Proposed by Jim Talmey and seconded by Ray Talmey. Carried.
2. Armed Forces Day 2026. Due to not being receiving any confirmation from Tesco regarding a pitch on Saturday 6th June 2026, it was agreed that we postpone this event and look to do this later in the year due to the short notice.
3. RA Assembly Blackpool. 15-18 May 2026. 43 Bty Lloyds Company received the Kerr Cup. Sgt Phil Reed accepted this on behalf of the Bty from the new Master Gunner at St James' Park, Lieutenant General Michael Richard Elviss, CB, MBE. Also attending was the new BQ of Lloyds Company, SSgt Williams. Members had a photo taken with past and present SP from Lloyds Company which will be available to view in the Gallery area of our website.
4. Further to Mark's email sent regarding Lewes TC consultation to change the timings for Remembrance Parade to 11am, it has been confirmed that timings will remain as is.
5. The Annual Chattri Memorial will take place at 1430 on Sunday 14th June 2026. Darryl has confirmed he will be Parading Our Standard and John will be Laying Our Wreath of Remembrance. Members wishing to attend this event are welcome.

6. We will be holding our Annual BBQ on Saturday 1st August 2026 from 1300 onwards. Volunteers are required for assisting with this event. Lee & Lynda have volunteered to provide pasta bowls. Lawrence and Chris have volunteered to assist with cooking and Ray with the setup of this event. Budge has volunteered to provide a gazebo. Mark H will provide coleslaw. Please advise soonest if you are available with the set up and strip out etc, or any other duties.
7. 43 Bty Update: They had a really successful visit to Estonia and it's now complete. They are now starting the recovery of the Bty back to the UK over the next few weeks. They will be getting some down time in between and hope to meet up soon. Mark H has spoken with the New BSM and will liaise with him upon his return regarding a 43 Bty visit and Sentinels for Remembrance Parade.
8. Jerry has kindly mounted the KGA first minted Cap Badge onto a shield. It was discussed and agreed that we keep it as is.
9. Please remember to check your emails as this is the main medium of contact to all Members.
10. Branch Website. Send photos to Lee who will add these on the Gallery Area of our website. Please also contact Lee or Mark for access to the Members Area of our website. <https://www.theraalewes.co.uk/>
11. Lewes Branch RAA business cards are now available to carry and hand out. They will be available for collection at every Meeting.

AOB:

12. Branch Dinners. Mark emailed all Members to see if they would attend Dinners outside of Lewes. Ray to look into Newhaven. It was discussed and decided that our 2026 Xmas Dinner will go ahead at Lewes Golf Club, and we will continue to look into other venues in the meantime. Mark Eve will look into the venue and costs of The View Hotel in Eastbourne. Due to parking restrictions, it was agreed not to follow up on The Cumberland Hotel. Mid Sussex Golf Club was suggested, but due to the remoteness of this venue, it was decided not to pursue.
13. Ray suggested holding an event in support of the Great Tommy Sleep Out. Ray will look into this and revert back to Members.
14. Ray was presented with "The Button" due to his tie being in his dinner at the RA Assembly Gala Dinner (at least twice). Well done Ray.

With no other business, our Lewes Branch RAA May 2026 Meeting closed at 21:05.

The next Branch Meeting will be on 26th June 2026.

Venue: St Marys' Supporters Club.
Dress: Smart Casual.
Timings: 1915 for 1930 Start for Committee Meeting.
1930 for 2000 start for General Meeting.

Captain-General and Patron: His Majesty King Charles III

President: David Harding

Chairman: Robin Parker

Secretary: Mark Harding

Treasurer: Lee Harding

Tel: 07903 702 767

Email: theraalewes@gmail.com