



ROYAL ARTILLERY ASSOCIATION LEWES BRANCH

Minutes of the Lewes Branch of the Royal Artillery Association Monthly Meeting – 28th February 2020 - St Marys' Supporters Club Meeting Opened at 20:00

Members Present: Michael Hobden, David Harding, Mark Harding, Colin Kemp, Darryl Twinch, Lee Harding, Steve Winter, Michael Taylor, David Collett, Paul Hughes, Sean Kelly, Jack Neil, Alan Meyers, Mick Norris, Robbie Parker, John Talmey, Ray Talmey and Peter Wyatt.

Apologies for Absence: Alan South, Mick Bird, Brian Cager, Peter Crowhurst, Rev. Judith Egar, Mark Eve, Des Foord, Peter Godding, Ray Metcalfe, Peter Marcantonio and Brian Walter.

Chairman's Report: Michael Hobden welcomed Members to the Meeting and thanked all for a great turnout. 18 Members attended.

Treasurer's Report: Colin Kemp advised that the cash available in the bank as at today of £834.30. Colin also advised that the Branch has paid the Annual Subscriptions required to RAA HQ.

Welfare Report: Lee Harding advised that there is nothing currently to report.

Secretaries Report:

1. Mark asked for any comments from the Members with regards to the Minutes for our AGM held on 31st January 2020. The incorrect Meeting start time reported and should read 20:00 and the committee of Five as follows:

Darryl Twinch

Steve Winter

Michael Taylor

Alan South

Paul Hughes

With no other comments reported, AGM of 31st January 2020 were voted on and passed as correct with no comments. Proposed by Darryl Twinch and seconded by Michael Taylor. Carried.

2. Mark provided copies of the Forecast of Events, the new RAA GAI's and the 2019 RAA HQ Accounts for Members to read.
3. 43 Bty Update. Mark has been liaising with the BSM of 43 Bty. Louise will be handing over to a new BSM in March 2020. The incoming BSM is WO2 (BSM) Stacy McGrath. Mark provide a current update from 43 Bty.
4. Annual Dinner. All Members should now be in possession of the Menu Proforma for our Annual Dinner. Mark discussed that he has spoken to the incoming BSM of 43 Bty and has invited 2 Bty Members to our Dinner. Stacy will confirm in due course of those attending.

Mark also discussed with Members regarding inviting an Honourary Guest. It was agreed that we should invite the current Mayor of Lewes and his guest. Michael Hobden agreed to send the invite.

5. Mark confirm that he has been liaising with Rev. Egar regarding holding a Service of Remembrance with regards to 2020 being 100 Years since the Formation of The Royal Artillery Association as well and 75 Years since VE Day. Mark confirmed that St Anne's Church has been booked for this Service on Saturday 29th August 2020 at 10:00.

A Meal after the Service was discussed Members agreed that we should provide a buffet at a venue TBC. Paul and Mark to look into Venue/Costs and revert back at our March Meeting.

Mark advised that he had already sent invites to join our Service to RAA HQ, Lewes RBL and the The Sussex Yeomanry Association. Colin will contact The Royal Sussex Association and Michael Hobden will contact Lewes Town Council and 43 Bty to provide invites.

6. Mark reminded Members of the Eastbourne & District Armed Forces & Veterans Breakfast Club.
7. Mark advised that St Marys' had approached him with regards to Memberships after our AGN in January and the response to date is nothing to report. Mark will continue to liaise with the club and report back to Members.
8. Mark reminded Members that the 95th Annual Sussex Yeomanry Reunion Dinner is to be held at St Francis Sports & Social Club in Haywards Heath on Saturday 14th November 2020 and provided full details.
9. Mark advise that RAA Lewes Branch Members have been invited to join the 75th VE Day Celebratory Dinner at St Francis Sports & Social Club in Haywards Heath on Friday 8th May 2020 and provided full details.

AOB:

1. Jack provided an update with regards to Lewes Council and/or the RBL on planning anything for the 75th VE Day. Jack advised the following: It is expected on VE Day we will have hold Parade similar to Armistice Day. The night before, 150 crosses will be laid round the memorial with individual names on them of the 150 people lost in Lewes during WW2. There will also be a floral VE placed on the Memorial. We hope to play Churchills speech before a short service at 11.00. There will be a Bugler to sound the Last Post and Reveille. Standards will be on Parade. Any service personnel who wish to attend should form up in St Nick's lane as normal. More details will be provided once confirmed.

Mark asked Jack if we can Lay a Wreath of Remembrance during this Parade and Jack confirmed this is fine.

2. Mark confirmed that he has been liaising with both the outgoing and incoming BSM's of 43 Bty with regards to the possibility of holding our 2020 Christmas Dinner at 43 Bty in Larkhill. Mark will continue to liaise with 43 Bty and provide any updates soonest.
3. Jack provided Members with an update from the Memorial Trust – Lewes.
4. Jack advised that RAFA laying their Standard in St Thomas Church on Sunday 16th February at 12:30 went very well.
5. Lee asked if there were any details available with regards to the Annual Chattri Memorial. Mark confirmed he would look into this and revert back to Members.

With no other business, our February 2020 Meeting of the Lewes Branch of the RAA closed at 20:40.

The next RAA Lewes Branch Meeting will be held on Friday 27th March 2020 at St Marys Supporters Club.

Timings: 19:30 for 20:00 start.

Dress: Casual.

Patron: Her Majesty The Queen
Chairman: Michael Hobden
Treasurer: Colin Kemp
Secretary: Mark Harding
39 Dunstall Avenue, Burgess Hill, West Sussex. RH15 8PJ
Tel: 01444 871 885 Mob: 07903 702 767
Email: theraalewes@gmail.com