



## ROYAL ARTILLERY ASSOCIATION LEWES BRANCH

---

### Minutes of the Lewes Branch of the Royal Artillery Association February Meeting – 26<sup>th</sup> March 2021 – Via Zoom Meeting Opened at 20:00

**The Commemoration of The Gunners:** Read by Michael Hobden.

**Members Present:** Michael Hobden, Budge Harding, Mark Harding, Darryl Twinch, Lee Harding, Paul Hughes, David Collett, David Collins, Peter Crowhurst, Jerry Docherty, Mark Eve, Sean Kelly, Peter Marcantonio, Robbie Parker, Fred Rossington, Dave Scott, John Shill, John Talmey and Peter Wyatt.

**Apologies for Absence:** Colin Kemp, Steve Winter, Mick Bird, Des Foord, Peter Godding, Ray Metcalfe, Mick Norris, Doug Raynsford, Jim Talmey, Ray Talmey, Michael Taylor and Brian Walter.

**Chairman's Report:** Michael Hobden Welcomed all Members to the Meeting. 20 Members attended. Michael Welcomed New Member Dave Scott to our Branch.

Michael Presented Darryl Twinch with The Standard Bearers Badge for his continuous commitment as our Standard Bearer and to our Branch.

**Treasurer's Report:** Colin Kemp advised Mark and confirmed that there is £701.40 available in the bank and £20.00 petty cash. Total available £721.40 as at today. There is £18.50 due to be paid out for a stock RAA Wreath. Therefore, the total available £702.90 as at today.

**Welfare Officers Report:** Lee Harding advised that all Members have been contacted this month.

Lee read condolences for the recent sad losses of Peter Kemp and Jim Clayton.

Members were asked if anyone would volunteer, time permitting etc, if they would be able to assist Members regarding transportation to and from various appointments. A list of Members volunteering for this is held by Lee and Mark.

#### **Secretaries Report:**

1. Mark asked for any comments from the Members with regards to the Minutes for our Meeting held on 26<sup>th</sup> February 2021. With no comments advised, the Minutes were voted on and passed as correct with no comments. Proposed by John Talmey and seconded by Mark Eve. Carried.
2. Mark advised that if any Member would like to see a copy of current GAI's, RAA 2020 Accounts or Forecast of Events, please email Mark who will provide them.
3. **43 Bty Update:** 43 Bty are doing well, we are continuing to plan for our upcoming deployment to Cyprus in April, where a number of the Bty will conduct live flying of the Watchkeeper system at RAF Akrotiri, we continue to run virtual training packages and low-level training.

The Bty Will Remain in Cyprus until September, on return we will conduct live flying in a UK location.

The Bty Along with the Regt are currently conducting a 100,000km Charity event to raise money for the NHS and RACF, our soldiers are contributing by walking, running, Cycling or rowing the Distance, we have already achieved a quarter of the distance, which is good going, regular posts and updates are on social media.

Ex Members are more than welcome to join the event, if anyone wishes to contribute please join the 47 Regiment Strava page

4. Mark thanked Members for joining the CWGC Presentation from John Harris. 17 Members attended. Members agreed that they would like further Presentations from the CWGC. Mark will liaise with them and advise accordingly.

Mark also thanked John Harris for his time and Presentation. John advised that there are certain CWG in Lewes and local area. Darryl proposed that we locate these and possibly lay a wreath each year. John was asked if he could provide any information with regards to Commonwealth Graves in our local area.

5. Mark confirmed that he had yet to hear back from The White Hart regarding bookings for re-opening and when we may be able to hold our Annual Dinner.
6. Mark reminded Members of our Branch Scrapbook where we would like to build up with photos, cuttings etc.
7. Mark asked Member to please keep up to date with their emails as this is the main medium that we will use for updating Members. We also post various things on our Website and Facebook page. It is imperative during lockdown that Members check their emails as this is how we will notify Members of everything.
8. The Royal Artillery Service of Remembrance to be held on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2021 at The National Memorial Arboretum (Alrewas, Staffordshire (Nr Tamworth)). Guests arrive at 11:00 hrs.

Currently 5 Members confirmed attendance to travel Saturday AM and stay overnight and return Sunday. Mark, Budge, Lee, Bob and John Talmey. If anyone wishes to attend, would you please advise Mark who will collate all and inform RAA HQ as required.

9. Mark emailed Members regarding The District Armed Forces Day in Eastbourne on 26th June 2021. If this event goes ahead, would Members like to attend this event? Mark confirms that he will attend with our Standard for a bit of recruiting. The event is Free to enter. There will be donation boxes dotted around to help in assisting the costs already paid in arranging this event.

There are currently 4 Members confirmed as going. Peter Crowhurst offered to provide a 4ft Table, 2 chairs & Fire Extinguisher. David Collett has 6ft table.

Any Member who has a gazebo or large free standing umbrella available to provide for this event, please advise Mark soonest.

Would Members wishing to volunteer to help assist in running our stall, please provide your names to Mark?

Mark emailed 43 Bty possible for supply of paraphernalia/items to display and the BSM has responded advising she will speak to the BK and get back to me. Mark also emailed RAA HQ for leaflets, car stickers and 2 RACF collection boxes.

10. John Shill has offered to provide a presentation regarding the Sussex Yeomanry. Members agreed that they would like to go ahead with this. Mark will liaise with John to set this up and revert back to Members.
11. Mark advised that he had received confirmation from the Chattri Memorial Group that this year's Chattri Memorial Service, due to be held on 13<sup>th</sup> June 2021, has been cancelled.

**AOB:**

1. Mark confirmed that he attended the NEC Meeting this week as the Regional Representative – South Region for the RAA. The main point that came from this Meeting is regarding the imminent cuts to the Armed Forces. It was confirmed that the Royal Regiment will not be cut in numbers but roles may change. TBC.

2. Following on from Fred Rossington's question regarding Award Nominations, Mark confirmed that there were no awards presented at the NEC Meeting with regards to Lewes Branch Members. Michael Hobden advised that he would follow this up with RAA HQ.
3. Mark advised that there is a photo Gallery on our website. Should Members wish for anything to be added, please email them to Lee or Mark where this will be done. Lee confirmed that he has sent emails to all Members advising details regarding our website and how to request access to the Members Area.
4. Mark proposed that we may want to arrange a Summer BBQ at St Marys. Members agreed that they would like to go ahead with this. Paul Hughes agreed that he would lead this with possible assistance from other Committee Members and arrange with St Marys. Paul to liaise with Mark for contact details for St Marys.

**With no other business, our March 2021 Meeting of the Lewes Branch of the RAA closed at 22:10.**

**The next RAA Lewes Branch Meeting will be held on Friday 30<sup>th</sup> April 2021 via Zoom.**

**Timings: 20:00 start.**

**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](mailto:theraalewes@gmail.com)**