



LEWES BRANCH ROYAL ARTILLERY ASSOCIATION



Minutes of The Monthly Meeting 28th July 2023 – St Marys' Supporters Club Meeting Opened at 20:00

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

Members Present: Michael Hobden, David Harding, Mark Harding, Lee Harding, Darryl Twinch, Steve Winter, Jerry Docherty, Mark Eve, Alan Mayers, Gary Miles, Jack Neil, Bob Parker, Brian Scott, Dave Scott, John Shill, Tex Rees-Avery and Peter Wyatt.

Apologies for Absence: Peter Godding, Alan South, Peter Barnard, John Bishop, David Colins, Peter Crowhurst, Peter Head, Colin Kemp, Ray Metcalfe, Jim Talmey, John Talmey, Michael Taylor, Brian Walter and Steve White.

Chairman's Report: Michael welcomed all Members to the Meeting along with New Members Lawrence Gray and James Nightingale. A very warm Welcome to Lewes Branch RAA to Lawrence & James.

Treasurer's Report: Lee advised that there is £1,023.88 available in the bank.

Welfare Officer's Report: Lee had contacted all Members during this month and there are no issues reported. Lee again left a message on Peter Godding's answer phone as unable to get hold of him. Lee advised Michael Taylor is well and that he misses all and sends his regards. Peter Barnard and family attended the Royal Artillery Service of Remembrance at the NMA on Saturday 22nd July and thoroughly enjoyed the day. Photos have been posted on our FB page and will also be added to our Gallery on our website.

Secretary's Report:

1. Mark asked for any comments from the Members with regards to the Minutes from our Meeting held on 30th June 2023. With no comments, the Minutes were voted and passed as correct. Proposed by Darryl Twinch and seconded by Michael Hobden. Carried.
2. The Last Parade for James Douglas Raynsford was well attended by Members on Monday 3rd July 2023 at 12:00. Thanks to all who attended to pay their respects and Tex for Standard Bearing.
3. The Last Parade of Peter (Pete) David Gates. Monday 31st July 2023 at North Chapel, Woodvale Crematorium. Lewes Road, Brighton, East Sussex. BN2 3QB at 12:00.
Wake: Ladies Mile Function Room. 2 Mackie Avenue, Brighton, East Sussex. BN1 8RA.

We confirm that we have organised an RA Coffin Drape. Tex carrying our Standard and a Bugler will be in attendance.

4. The Annual Dieppe Raid Commemorations Sunday 13th August 2023. See email sent to all regarding this. Would any Member who wishes to lay our Wreath of Remembrance please let Mark H know soonest. Darryl Twinch is attending with our Standard.
5. Lewes Branch Summer BBQ: Confirmed and booked at St Marys' Supporters Club on Saturday 26th August 2023 starts 13:00. Steve, Lee, Lynda and Tex have kindly volunteered to assist. To date 30 have confirmed attendance.

Please let Mark H know prior to Friday 11th August if you would like to attend as this is the cut off date to enable the food to be ordered. See attached attendance list to date.

6. The Thorney Island Summer Fete is in the planning for 2nd September 2023 by 12 & 16 Regt RA. 7 Members confirmed to date. Jerry to arrange minibus. See attached attendance list to date.
7. 28th October 2023: Suggestions for Function Day/Evening? One popular suggestion is that we arrange a dinner at the Thai Elephant 2 in Peacehaven. They provide a Buffet menu; all you can eat for £25.80 per adult.

Would Members please advise Mark Harding soonest to gauge numbers and viability?

8. Additional Branch Polo Shirts been ordered (late). Those Members not yet paid, please refer to the email sent on 24th July for details.
9. Website Gallery Area: Please contact Lee/Mark for access to the Members Area of our website. Send photos to Mark/Lee who will add these on our website.
10. Please remember to check your emails as this is the main medium of contact to all Members.

AOB:

11. Sword plinth. Jerry advised that this is a work in progress and will advise accordingly.
12. Wall space in the Meeting Room. If anyone wishes to hang anything on the wall, please bring it along to the Meetings where Members will vote.
13. Darryl advised that a local Lewes resident, Iris Burrows, was being presented her medals. Dave Scott also elaborated on this. Darryl said that it was a really enjoyable event.
14. Dave Scott advised that he participated in a 100-mile walk carrying 13kg. Members agreed sponsorship of £100 which has been paid.
15. Battlefield Tour: Possibly Brookwood Cemetery in Woking. Mark to look into for 2024.
16. The Royal Regiment of Artillery Special Edition Watch. See email sent.
17. Normandy 80: event, probably 5th-7th of June 2024. The details of such event are still to be considered but would probably involve a pilgrimage to the Gunner Memorial at Ver-sur-Mer along with some Battlefield Tour activity stretched over a 3-day period.
Like I say this is at the very early thoughts and planning stage and the RAA Secretary is simultaneously looking at other activities that are starting to pop up during the period that maybe we could piggyback off.
18. Bob suggested the wearing of Red Cravats. Bob to look into the sourcing and costs of these.
19. Jerry advised all Members that during the recent visit 43 Bty (Lloyds Company) RA for their Bty Birthday, he had been presented with the Button, for his mobile phone going off during the dinner.
20. Darryl advised that after a stocktake, there seems to be 1 x RAA 100 Souvenir Coaster missing. The culprit is known and is asked to please return it.
21. John Shill advised the Last Parade of Sussex Yeoman Chris Berry. Please refer to John email sent to SY Members for the full details.
22. Mark Eve advised that John Henderson is settled in very well at RHC and is getting about in London.

23. Jerry mentioned the Tools with a Mission (TWAM) project where Members are able to donate unwanted tools where they will be refurbished and sent to the developing world for livelihood creation. Any Members wishing to donate, would you please bring them along to Meeting where Jerry will collect them. Alternatively, please contact Jerry directly.
24. Advertising and recruiting were discussed at length. Many options were discussed and this will be an ongoing process. John Shill mentioned advertising in the Sussex Express and has been asked to look at costs etc and advise accordingly. Mark and Jerry mentioned the possibility of attending local fetes etc with a Branch Stand. Jerry advises he would look into this. Would Members please bring sensible ideas to the next Meeting.
25. Bob mentioned the Blue Light Discount Card and advise that lots of companies are joining this and has more than the current Defence Discount Card.

With no other business, our Lewes Branch RAA July 2023 Meeting closed at 21:12.

The next Lewes Branch RAA Meeting will be our Monthly Meeting to be held on Friday 18th August 2023.

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

The next Lewes Branch RAA Event will be our Lewes Branch RAA Summer BBQ to be held on Saturday 26th August 2023.

Venue: St Marys' Supporters Club
Dress: Loud Shirts
Timings: 13:00 onwards (Volunteers please arrive 12:30 latest to help set-up).

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



LEWES BRANCH RAA
SUMMER BBQ
Saturday 26th August 2023



Name	No's	Comments
Michael Hobden	2	Sabine
David Harding	2	Janice
Mark Harding	1	
Lee Harding	2	Lynda
Darryl Twinch	1	
Steve Winter	1	
Alan South	1	?
Paul Hughes	2	Jane
Jerry Docherty	2	Sue
Ken Amys	1	
Tex Rees-Avery	3	Carly + 1
Peter Barnard	0	
Mick Bird	0	
John Bishop	5	Incl 4 Guests
Brian Cager	0	
David Collett	0	
David Collins	0	
Rev Canon Judith Egar	0	
Mark Eve	0	
Lawrence Gray	1	
Ray Hughes	0	
Sean Kelly	0	
Colin Kemp	0	
Tim Maloney	0	
Raymond Metcalfe	0	
Peter Marcantonio	0	
Alan Mayers	0	
Gary Miles	0	
Jack Neil	0	
James Nightingale	0	
Simon Odey	0	
Peter Page	0	
Robbie Parker	2	Carol
Fred Rossington	0	
Brian Scott	1	
Dave Scott	2	Shirley
Jim Talmey	0	
John Talmey	1	
Ray Talmey	0	
Brian Walter	0	
Steve White	0	
Lloyds Company	0	
Guests Other	0	
TOTALS	30	

Venue: St Marys' Supporters Club Garden & Committee Room.
Timings: 13:00 onwards.
Dress: Summer Party Wear.
Games: Skittles, Cards, Snooker, Boules and lots of fun, food and drinks.

THORNEY ISLAND STATION SUMMER FAYRE (TISSF) SAT 02 SEP 22

Ser	Name	Yes/No	No's	Comments
1	Peter Godding	No	0	
2	Michael Hobden	No	0	
3	David Harding			
4	Mark Harding	Yes	1	
5	Lee Harding	Yes	2	
6	Darryl Twinch	No	0	
7	Steve Winter			
8	Alan South	Yes	1	
9	Paul Hughes	No	0	
10	Jerry Docherty	Yes	3	
11	Ken Amys	No	0	
12	Tex Rees-Avery			
13	Peter Barnard	No	0	
14	Mick Bird			
15	John Bishop			
16	Brian Cager	No	0	
17	David Collett	No	0	
18	David Collins	No	0	
19	Peter Crowhurst			
20	Rev Canon Judith Egar			
21	Mark Eve	No	0	
22	Peter Head			
23	Ray Hughes	No	0	
24	Sean Kelly	No	0	
25	Colin Kemp	No	0	
26	Tim Maloney	No	0	
27	Raymond Metcalfe	No	0	
28	Peter Marcantonio	No	0	
29	Alan Mayers	No	0	
30	Gary Miles (Smiler)			
31	Jack Neil	No	0	
32	Simon Odey	No	0	
33	Peter Page			
34	Robbie Parker			
35	Fred Rossington	No	0	
36	Brian Scott			
37	Dave Scott	No	0	
38	John Shill	No	0	
39	Paul Spooner	No	0	
40	Jim Talmey	No	0	
41	John Talmey			
42	Ray Talmey			
43	Michael Taylor	No	0	
44	Brian Walter	No	0	
45	Steve White (Knocker)	No	0	
46	Peter Wyatt	No	0	
47	IoW Branch	No	0	
48	Worthing Branch	No	0	
	TOTAL		7	