



ROYAL ARTILLERY ASSOCIATION LEWES BRANCH

Minutes of the Lewes Branch of the Royal Artillery Association 27th September 2019 at St Mary's Supporters Club Meeting Opened at 20:00

Commemoration of The Gunners: Read by our Vice Chairman, David Harding.

Members Present: Mark Eve, David Harding, Mark Harding, Alan Mayers, Jack Neil, Mick Norris, Michael Taylor, Darryl Twinch and Peter Wyatt.

Apologies for Absence: Mick Bird, Brian Cager, David Collett, Peter Crowhurst, Des Foord, Peter Godding, Lee Harding, Michael Hobden, Paul Hughes, Sean Kelly, Colin Kemp, Ray Metcalfe, Doug Raynsford, John Shill, Alan South and Steve Winter.

Chairman's Report: Our Vice Chairman David Harding welcomed all Members to the Meeting and hoped they all had a great summer break.

Treasurer's Report: Mark advised that the Cash available in the bank as at today is £609.70.

Secretaries Report:

1. Mark asked for any comments from the Members with regards to the Minutes for our Meeting held on 26th July 2019. With no comments advised, the April 2019 Minutes were voted on and passed as correct with no comments. Proposed by Michael Taylor and seconded by Alan Mayers. Carried.
2. Mark advised that due to commitments with the imminent deployment to Cyprus and leave, 43 Bty were unable to attend our Meeting. Mark provided a current update for 43 Bty which was provided by Sgt Dave Houghton.
3. Mark provided copies of the Forecast of Events the Royal Artillery Service of Remembrance along with the accounts for all Members to read.
4. Annual Dinner. The Annual Dinner is being held on Saturday 30th November 2019 at the White Hart. Arrive 18:30 to be seated at 19:00. The cost for the Christmas Dinner is £25.00 per person. Please note that Members and Guests are responsible for the cost of their own refreshments.

Would all Members please advise Mark if they are attending or not and if so, if they are bringing a guest soonest to allow for a final number count to see if we can then invite other guests as we have a maximum of 41 place settings available.

Suggestions from Members to invite Members of other Associations included Tim Maloney, Dave Scott, Gary Caulfield, Steve Townsend and Clare Crouch. Jack provided Mark with contact details to follow up.

It was also proposed by Darryl that the Vicar who attended a separate function earlier in the month be invited too. This was agreed and Darryl/Jack to provide Mark with contact details. Jack also proposed, as this vicar's father is an ex Artilleryman, we should approach her to invite her to join our Branch in the role as our Padre. This was discussed and agreed. Once Darryl/Jack provide contact details, Mark will contact her accordingly.

5. Mark reminded Members with regards to the Eastbourne & District Armed Forces & Veterans Breakfast Club and left leaflets for Member to take. This is held at the Toby Carvery, Willingdon Drove, Eastbourne. BN23 8AS every 1st Sunday at 0930 onwards.

6. Mark confirmed that he has booked Megan who is the Public Engagement Coordinator (South East) for the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, to provide a presentation to our Branch during our February 2020 Meeting.

Alan advised that he has access to a 4-foot screen so Mark will liaise with Megan to see if this is OK.

7. Mark confirmed he has contacted Waterloo Uncovered asking if they are available to come along to one of our Meetings to provide us with a presentation. Mark has yet to hear back from them but will advise once they do.
8. Mark has confirmed that Paul had spoken to Martyn Quigley to build an affiliation with the ACF. Mark confirmed he has emailed Martyn but has yet to receive a reply.
9. Mark emailed Committee Members in August and he also discussed at the Meeting that he had sponsored an Anti-Bullying Campaign run by the Safety Guide Foundation which has provided an Anti-Bullying Guide for children to schools in the BN7 area.

Mark advise that on the final page of this Guide (see attached) it states that this Guide has been sponsored by the RAA Lewes Branch. Mark asked Members if our Branch would like to contribute to the cost of this Guide. It was discussed and agreed that Members attending the October 2019 Meeting would pay an amount of £2.50 each towards this sponsorship.

Mark also advised that he also has support from 43 Bty via Sgt Dave Houghton.

10. It was also discussed regarding our 2020 Annual Dinner being held at 43 Bty. Mark suggested that as the Bty are currently deployed to Cyprus, we may not have the time in the organisation of this. Mark put to the Members the possibility of organising this for our 2023 Annual Dinner, as this will be our 30th Anniversary of our Branch being set up. It was agreed that Mark start to liaise with 43 Bty regarding this.
11. Mark and Members thanks Darryl for Parading our Standard at the Annual Dieppe Raid Memorial in Newhaven on 11th August. Darryl advise that the day went very well but numbers were a bot down prom previous years. Darryl also suggested that our Branch Lay and Wreath of Remembrance at next years Memorial with was agreed.

AOB:

1. Darryl advised that he had attended a Meeting at Lewes TC during the week and advised that the format seems to be the same as last year. Once full details are available, Mark will send to all Members.

Darryl and Jack asked if it would be possible for 4 Sentinels to be provided in No 2 Dress by 43 Bty again this year. Mark advised he will liaise with 43 Bty to discuss but due to their current deployment to Cyprus this may not be possible. Mark will advise accordingly.

2. Jack advised that the Combined Services Dinner will be held at the Green Man in Ringmer on Friday 13th December. Jack will send Mark the full details in due course to disseminate to all Members.

With no other business, the September 2019 Meeting of the Lewes Branch of the RAA closed at 21:00.

The next RAA Lewes Branch Meeting will be held on Friday 25th October 2019 at St Marys' Supporters Club.

Timings: 19:30 meet for 20:00 start. Dress: Smart Casual.

Patron: Her Majesty The Queen

Chairman: Michael Hobden

Treasurer: Colin Kemp

Secretary: Mark Harding

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