



## LEWES BRANCH ROYAL ARTILLERY ASSOCIATION



### MINUTES OF THE MONTHLY MEETING 24<sup>th</sup> November 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, Budge Harding, Mark Harding, Lee Harding, Darryl Twinch, Paul Hughes, Jerry Docherty, Tex Rees-Avery, John Bishop, Mark Eve, Colin Kemp, Gary Miles, Andy Reddy, Jim Talmey, John Talmey, Pete Talmey, Ray Talmey and Steve White.

**Apologies for Absence:** Peter Godding, Brian Scott, Jack Neil, Bob Parker, Peter Head, Alan South, Steve Winter, Peter Crowhurst, Lawrence Gray, John Shill, Michael Taylor, Brian Walter and Peter Wyatt.

**Chairman's Report:** Michael Hobden thanked all Members for attending the Meeting and also thanked Mark and all for organising a successful Annual Christmas Dinner. Michael is the new proud holder of The Button and has added an additional RA Button which belonged to his grandfather and is from The Second World War.

Michael Welcomed new Member Andy Reddy and provided him with his Membership Card, Rule Book and Branch Lapel Pin. Welcome Andy.

**Treasurer's Report:** Lee advised that there is £1,009.67 available as at today.

**Welfare Officer's Report:** Lee advised that no issues have arisen this month. Darryl advised that Alan Mayers is out of hospital after contracting an infection and seems to be doing OK.

#### **Secretary's Report:**

1. Mark asked for any comments from the Members with regards to the Minutes from our Meeting held on 27<sup>th</sup> October 2023. With no comments, the Minutes were voted and passed as correct. Proposed by Darryl Twinch and seconded by Paul Hughes. Carried.
2. Lewes Armistice Day held on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> November 2023. Thanks to Darryl Twinch for Parading Our Standard and Peter Barnard who laid a Poppy Wreath and other Members who attended. Thanks should also be given to Aimee-Lee for Parading the RBL Standard.
3. Lewes Remembrance Parade held on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> November 2023. Thanks to Darryl Twinch for Parading Our Standard and Mark Harding who Laid Our Wreath of Remembrance and all Members who attended.

Special thanks to the 7 SP from Lloyds Company who also attended this Parade including providing 4 Sentinels for the Memorial and Laying their Wreath of Remembrance.

Most Members along with 43 Battery SP retired St Marys' Supporters Club after the Parade where Carly had kindly laid on a buffet. Many thanks to Carly for providing this for all.

4. Lewes Branch RAA Annual Christmas Dinner was held at the John Harvey Tavern on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> November 2023. Thanks to all for attending and donating raffle prizes. Lewes Branch RAA raised £300.00.

5. Branch Website. Send photos to Mark/Lee who will add these on the Gallery Area of our website. Please contact Lee/Mark for access to the Members Area of our website.
6. Please remember to check your emails as this is the main medium of contact to all Members.
7. 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. Mark has asked the Club for more wall space and awaits their responses.

**AOB:**

8. RA Sword and plinth: Jerry has now completed this and done a fantastic job. Thanks to Jerry. This was used as a table piece at our Christmas Dinner and Members were also able to see this during this Meeting.
9. Mark showed Members the RA Candle Sconce made from an Artillery Cartridge that he had sourced which will be used to light when Toasting Absent Friends. This is a piece of Trench Art and originates from Flanders Fields.
10. Tools with a Mission (TWAM) Project: See Jerry for full details.
11. Branch Lapel Pins. Additional Branch Lapel Pins are now available. The first pin is free and Members can purchase additional pins at a cost of £6.00 each.
12. Mark advised that Our 2024 Lewes Branch RAA Annual Dinner has been booked for Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> May 2024 at Lewes Golf Club. Menu Proforma's sent.
13. RAA Christmas Cards are now available. An email providing details of these has been sent.
14. Darryl advised that our Standard Case has seen better days and should now be replaced. Darryl was advised to seek costs and refer to Members where a decision will be confirmed.

**With no other business, our Lewes Branch RAA November 2023 Meeting closed at 21:05.**

**The next Lewes Branch RAA Meeting will be our Monthly Meeting to be held on Friday 29<sup>th</sup> December 2023.**

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

**Captain-General:** His Majesty King Charles III

**President:** Peter Godding

**Chairman:** Michael Hobden

**Secretary:** Mark Harding

**Treasurer:** Lee Harding

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