



## LEWES BRANCH ROYAL ARTILLERY ASSOCIATION



### Minutes of The Monthly Meeting 28<sup>th</sup> April 2023 – St Marys' Supporters Club Meeting Opened at 21:35

**The Commemoration of The Gunners:** Read by Our Vice Chairman, Budge Harding.

**Members Present:** Budge Harding, Mark Harding, Lee Harding, Darryl Twinch, Jerry Docherty, Tim Maloney, Alan Mayers, Bob Parker and Dave Scott.

**Apologies for Absence:** Peter Godding, Michael Hobden, Paul Hughes, Alan South, Tex Rees-Avery, David Collins, Peter Crowhurst, Mark Eve, Ray Metcalfe, Doug Raynsford, John Shill, John Talmey and Michael Taylor.

The following Members attended the RBL Meeting but were unable to stay later for the Lewes Branch RAA Meeting: Mick Bird, Peter Barnard, Jack Neil, Jim Talmey and Peter Wyatt.

**Chairman's Report:** Budge welcomed all Members and thanked those who attended and organised the Branch Curry Night.

**Treasurer's Report:** Lee confirmed that there is £996.18 currently available. Due to go out: £136.80 for the annual plan for our website and £45.00 Alan Mayers for the wooden plinth.

**Welfare Officer's Report:** Lee advised that he had contacted most Members this month and that no issues have arisen. Doug Raynsford is still currently in hospital after suffering two strokes and Mark has asked his wife, Yvonne when any Members are able to visit. Lee also provided an update regarding our President, Peter Godding. He also advised that he has sent a card of congratulations to Capt Matthew Bush and his wife on the arrival of their daughter, Freya.

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

1. Mark asked for any comments from the Members with regards to the Minutes from our Meeting held on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023. With no comments, the Minutes were voted and passed as correct. Proposed by Lee Harding and seconded by Alan Mayers. Carried.
2. The Storrington Local History Group, supported by the Storrington and District Museum dedication of a new Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC) headstone for Driver David Butcher who died on 22<sup>nd</sup> October 1919. Thank you to those Members who attended and to Darryl as our Standard Bearer. The event was extremely well attended, and photos are on our website.
3. Gunner Sunday – Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> April 2023. 13 Members attended. Another great day where we also met up with fellow Artilleryman, John Henderson who some of us served with who now lives at RHC. Dave Scott kindly donated £30.00 from his 'drivers' whip round to the RACF (Bridge-Fund).
4. Curry Night – 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2023. Many thanks to Sue, Jerry and Jasmine for organising what was a great night. A letter of thanks has been sent to Jasmine. The evening raised £139.56.
5. 43 Bty update:
  - We are currently in the final planning phase for Ex ATHENA ATLAS, this is Bty deployment to Keevil airfield for the month of June.
  - In the last few months, the Bty have had several SP post in and out, also, quite a few promotions from LBdr all the way to WO2.

- We have general training being conducted from Ranges to online learning.
  - Capt Matt Bush had a baby girl called Freya just before easter leave, all are doing well.
6. Lewes Branch RAA 30<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebration (5<sup>th</sup> April) & 2023 Annual Dinner at the John Harvey Tavern on Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> May 2023. The BC, BSM and Ops WO from Lloyds Company are attending along with the RAA Secretary and His Wife. The Dinner is now full but if any Member wishes to be added to the reserve list, please contact Mark Harding.

**Date:** Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> May 2023

**Timings:** Arrive at 17:30 and be seated at 18:00

**Cost:** 2 Courses £23.00 Per Person 3 Courses £28.00 Per Person

**Dress:** Regimental Ties and Blazers/Suits (Medals may be worn). Partners & Guests Dress Equivalent.

Would any Member not attending the Dinner wish to donate a Raffle Prize, please could you bring it along to the April 2023 Meeting. Members attending the event, and wish to donate a Raffle Prize, please bring along on the night.

The raffle will again be done by envelopes at £5.00 per envelope. Darryl has agreed to sort 70 envelopes.

7. The RA Assembly is being held over the weekend of Friday 12th May 2023. 7 Attending to date.
8. RA Service of Remembrance – NMA – Sat 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2023. All detail previously sent to all by email. Mark asked Members if they would like to make this a Branch event. Please contact Mark who will collate and report back at the next Meeting.
9. Lewes Branch Summer BBQ: Confirmed and booked at St Marys' Supporters Club on Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> August 2023. Would any Member wishing to volunteer to assist on the day, please advise Mark. Steve Winter, Lee Harding and Tex have kindly volunteered to assist.
10. 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.
11. Please remember to check your emails as this is the main medium of contact to all Members.

#### **AOB:**

12. Sword plinth. No further updates at this stage. Budge has kindly organized the brass plaque for this.
13. 25 Pounder Plaque. Budge has kindly organized the brass plaque. It was agreed that an angled wooden block be added to the plinth to hold the plaque.
14. Branch Plaque/Shield and Branch Tie and emailed and passed to Members (see attached design). The cost of this would work out to be £18.33 per tie. Depending upon the number of Members wishing to purchase this will depend on whether we go ahead with this as there is a minimum order of 36. Please would you advise Mark if you would purchase one to establish this? 13 takers so far but to make this work, we would require more Members to take this up. The overall cost is £660.00 for a minimum order of 36 ties.
15. Southwick Revival Presents "Spirit of D-Day' Revival 10<sup>th</sup>/11<sup>th</sup> June 2023. It was agreed that should members wish to attend, then please do so by your own means.
16. 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.
17. Lewes Armed Forces Veterans Breakfast Club. Held at St Marys' Supporters Club on the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of each month. Please book Reservations directly by phone on 07547 905 913 or by email to [edafvbc.lewes@yahoo.com](mailto:edafvbc.lewes@yahoo.com). Please ensure that you book on time as places must be booked in advance

as Lewes AFVBC have to order the food from Morrison's on the Wednesday prior to breakfast. Quite simply - book early or go hungry.

18. Armed Forces Day 2023 Eastbourne on Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> June 2023. It was agreed that we will not be attending AFD 2023.
19. A Branch Ypres Trip was discussed, and it was agreed that we will continue this discussion during our May Meeting.

**With no other business, our Lewes Branch RAA April 2023 Meeting closed at 22:00.**

**The next Lewes Branch RAA Meeting will be our Monthly Meeting to be held on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> May 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 Annual Dinner to be held on Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> May 2023.**

**Venue:** John Harvey Tavern  
**Dress:** Regimental Ties and Blazers/Suits (Medals may be worn). Partners & Guests Dress Equivalent.  
**Timings:** Arrive at 17:30 and be seated at 18:00

**President:** Peter Godding  
**Chairman:** Michael Hobden  
**Secretary:** Mark Harding  
**Treasurer:** Lee Harding  
**Tel:** 07903 702 767  
**Email:** [theraalewes@gmail.com](mailto:theraalewes@gmail.com)

## EVENTS ATTENDANCE 2023

Name	Annual Dinner	BBQ	Branch Tie
Date:	27 <sup>th</sup> May	26 <sup>th</sup> Aug	
Peter Godding	0	0	
Michael Hobden	1	2	1
David Harding	2	1	1
Mark Harding	2	1	1
Lee Harding	2	2	1
Darryl Twinch	1	1	1
Steve Winter	2	1	
Alan South	2		
Paul Hughes	2	2	0
Jerry Docherty	2	2	1
Ken Amys	0	1	1
Tex Rees-Avery	2	2 +	1
Peter Barnard	0		
Mick Bird	0		1
John Bishop	2		
Brian Cager	0		
Gary Caulfield	0		
David Collett	0		
David Collins	0		
Peter Crowhurst	0	0	
Rev Canon Judith Egar	1		
Mark Eve	1		1
Peter Head	0	0	
Ray Hughes	0		
Sean Kelly	0		
Colin Kemp	2		
Tim Maloney	0		
Raymond Metcalfe	0		
Peter Marcantonio	0		
Alan Mayers	1		
Jack Neil	0		
Simon Odey	0		
Peter Page	0		
Robbie Parker	2	2	1
Doug Raynsford	0		
Fred Rossington	0		
Brian Scott	0		
Dave Scott	0		
John Shill	0	0	0
Paul Spooner	0		
Jim Talmey	0		
John Talmey	1	1	1
Ray Talmey	2		
Michael Taylor	0	0	
Brian Walter	0		
Steve White	0		
Peter Wyatt	0	0	1
Guests RAA HQ	2		
Lloyds Company	3		
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>18+</b>	<b>13</b>