



LEWES BRANCH ROYAL ARTILLERY ASSOCIATION



Minutes of The Monthly Meeting 30th June 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, Jerry Docherty, Paul Hughes, Tex Rees-Avery, Peter Crowhurst, Peter Head, Colin Kemp, Ray Metcalfe, Bob Parker, Brian Scott, Dave Scott, Jim Talmey and John Talmey.

Apologies for Absence: Peter Godding, Alan South, Peter Barnard, John Bishop, David Collins, Mark Eve, Alan Mayers, Gary Miles, John Shill, Michael Taylor, Brian Walter and Peter Wyatt.

Chairman's Report: Michael thanks Members for attending the June Meeting. 17 Members attended. Michael asked Members to share a thought for the loss of Our Member Doug Raynsford.

Treasurer's Report: Lee advised that there is £922.82 available in the bank.

Welfare Officer's Report: Lee advised that He had contacted Members throughout the month. Lee was unable to get through to Peter Godding Brian Walter but left a message on their answer phones.

Mark advised that Bill Quintmere is the current stand-in Secretary for Worthing Branch RAA and a Sussex Yeoman. Bill has been in Worthing Hospital for a Stoma Operation and is now home. When the stoma is settled, he has to go back to hospital for a five-day intensive radio therapy course (likely to be 12 July) to shrink the tumour, enough for it to be removed. He is being well looked after by his family and is enjoying being chauffeured around in his son in law's BMW. If you are in a position to give Bill a call, I think that it would be appreciated. 01903 714 872 or 07936 128 558.

Secretary's Report:

1. Mark asked for any comments from the Members with regards to the Minutes from our Meeting held on 19th May 2023. With no comments, the Minutes were voted and passed as correct. Proposed by Paul Hughes and seconded by Colin Kemp. Carried.
2. 43 Bty Update.
 - We have continued to operate Watchkeeper from Keevil Airfield (we are in our final week of operations now).
 - This weekend, we start the collapse of Keevil; then return/rehab the kit for the re-deployment to Oman (this will be another sub-unit's deployment, not ours).
 - We have our Bty Birthday dinner night in the WOs' & Sgts' Mess on Thursday 20th July 23. Our invitation for two members of the Lewes Branch to attend is still there; please let us know who will be in attendance, once decided. Mark Harding and Jerry Docherty volunteer to attend this.
 - Capt Matt(alan) Bush is due to depart the Bty at the end of July. Sad times for us all. The new guy has some big boots to fill!
 - Post-Keevil, we will look to enter a phase of personal development and adventurous training for the Bty. This will be a welcomed break for us all after a non-stop 18 months of deployments.
 - After this brief respite, we will be instructing/supporting PNCO, JNCO, and SNCO ALDP (Army Leadership Development Program (in old terms, CLM (Command, Leadership & Management))). We will also be commencing our low-level training and deploying on exercises to practise our basic military skills.

3. Our Annual Dinner that was held on Saturday 27th May 2023 was a great success and Members attending enjoyed the evening.
4. Members thanked those who attended the Annual Chattri Memorial Service on Sunday 11th June 2023. Many thanks also to Lee Harding for laying our wreath of remembrance and Darryl Twinch as our Standard Bearer. Members who attended advised that this years Memorial Service seemed very disorganised especially where seats had been allocated for wreath layers but had been used by other attendees.
5. The Last Parade of James Douglas Raynsford – Doug. Downs Crematorium, Bear Road, Brighton Monday 3rd July 2023 at 12:00. Blazers, Regt Tie, Beret, Large Medals. Wake: The Ladies Mile Inn, Patcham.

Doug is dressed in his Regt Blazer and Tie. There is also an RA Coffin Drape and his Beret placed on his Coffin.

Confirmed attendance = 8 to date. Mark H, Budge, Jerry, John T, Tex, Ray M & Wife, Peter Crowhurst and Colin Kemp.

- Funeral procession will arrive approx. 11:50 so need to be in place prior.
- RAA Members Parade with Standard Bearer outside Chapel (Michelle to confirm where).
- Dip Standard (and Heads) once Family are out of cars.
- Standard Bearer to follow behind Doug into the Chapel and once he is placed on the Catafalque, retire to the back of the Chapel and place the Standard in the Base Plate.
- Once at The Ladies Mile, hold 1 minutes Silence and Raise a Toast to Doug & Absent Friends, and Mark to read a poem.

6. The Annual Dieppe Raid Commemorations Sunday 13th August 2023. See email sent to all regarding this.
7. Lewes Branch Summer BBQ: Confirmed and booked at St Marys' Supporters Club on Saturday 26th August 2023. Steve, Lee, Lynda and Tex have kindly volunteered to assist. To date 23 confirmed attendance (+ possible additions with Tex – please advise total additional numbers Tex).
8. The Thorney Island Summer Fete is in the planning for September 2023 by 12 & 16 Regt RA. Only 2 Members confirmed to date.
9. 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?

10. Mark raised the subject of Branch Ties and a Branch Plaque. Due to costs and Members requirements, it was agreed that this be put on hold.

Additional Branch Polo Shirts with details embroidered on the left arm was also discussed. Please see the order list at the end of these minutes for confirmed orders.

11. 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.
12. Please remember to check your emails as this is the main medium of contact to all Members.

AOB:

13. Sword plinth. Jerry advised that this is a working progress and will advise accordingly.

14. 25 Pounder Memorial. Name plate details were discussed, and it was agreed that these be in the following format.

Number
Rank & Name
Year of Death

15. 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.
16. Lewes Armed Forces Veterans Breakfast Club. Held at St Marys' Supporters Club on the 4th Sunday of each month. Please book Reservations directly by phone on 07547 905 913 or by email to 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.
17. Darryl advised that a local Lewes resident is being presented her medals. Dave Scott also elaborated on this. Please see below:

Lewes resident, Iris Burrow (Aged 101 ... and a half!), served as a WRN in WWII. Until now she's never received her medals, but her family (friends of mine) have now received copies of her War Medal and Defence Medal, plus her Veterans Lapel Badge. Her son (Ex-Navy) has arranged for a Falklands Veteran to present the medals at a gathering at The House of Friendship on Friday 21st July 2023, 14:30hrs. In addition to family & friends, her daughter is sending invites to the local MP, The Mayor, Dignitaries such as The Lord Lieutenant of East Sussex and also writing to HM Queen Camilla. I thought it would also be nice if representation from the Royal British Legion and possibly the Sea Cadets could also be in attendance.

Would any Member wishing to attend, please let Mark Harding know soonest to allow him to advise the organisers know?

18. Tex mentioned the possibility of raising funds by organizing a car boot sale in Peacehaven. Tex was requested to provide full details and we will discuss again at the next Meeting.
19. Paul Hughes advised that if any Member wished to add a certain plaque to our presentation wall, he is quite happy to try to source them and advise costs etc. Please contact Paul with any requests.
20. Dave Scott advised that he will be participating in a 100-mile walk carrying 3 stone. Members discussed sponsorship of £100 and Dave was asked to provide more details and we will discuss at our next Meeting.
21. Mark Harding advised that 2023 marks the 10th year he has been in post as Lewes Branch RAA Secretary and presented the Branch with a wood carving of the RA Cap Badge. Michael Hobden and Members thanked Mark for his commitment and efforts to date.

With no other business, our Lewes Branch RAA June 2023 Meeting closed at 21:10.

The next Lewes Branch RAA Meeting will be our Monthly Meeting to be held on Friday 28th July 2023.

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

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

BRANCH POLO SHIRT REQUESTS

RA CAP BADGE

Name	Polo Shirt £20.00	No of Polo Shirts Required	Details to be embroidered on left arm
David Harding	XXL	1	BUDGIE
Lee Harding	XL	1	TREASURER
Darryl Twinch	L	1	
Jerry Docherty	2XL	1	JERRY
Tex Rees-Avery	2XL	1	TEX - RN
Peter Barnard	3XL	2	PETER BARNARD BOMBADIER
Peter Head	L	1	
Colin Kemp	L	1	
Gary Miles	M	1	"SMILER"
Robbie Parker	XL	1	BOB
Jim Talmey	XL	1	47 REGT RA
John Talmey	2XL	1	JOHNNO

ROYAL HORSE ARTILLERY CYPHER

Paul Hughes	XL	2	
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