



# LEWES BRANCH ROYAL ARTILLERY ASSOCIATION



## Minutes of The Monthly Meeting 16<sup>th</sup> December 2022 – St Marys' Supporters Club Meeting Opened at 20:00

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

**Members Present:** David Harding, Mark Harding, Lee Harding, Paul Hughes, Alan South, Jerry Docherty, Tex ReesAvery, Mark Eve, Jack Neil and Dave Scott.

**Apologies for Absence:** Peter Godding, Michael Hobden, Darryl Twinch, Steve Winter, David Collins, Peter Crowhurst, Rev. Egar, Peter Head, Tim Maloney, Alan Mayers, Ray Metcalfe, Peter Page, Bob Parker, Brian Scott, John Shill, Brian Walter, Steve White, Peter Wyatt, and Michael Taylor.

**Chairman's Report:** Budge Welcomed all Members to the Meeting and thanked all for attending. He also thanked all Members who attended our Christmas Dinner and said it was a great success. Although not present, Budge also Welcomed our New Member, Peter Page.

**Treasurer's Report:** Lee reported that cash available stands at £932.48.

Lee also advised that a service charge of 10% had been added to the Christmas Dinner bill that was not noticed. Mark contacted JHT and they apologised and advised that this should not have been charged and confirmed that they will provide us with a 10% discount at our next dinner to cover for this.

It was also spotted that when paying for the meal using the Branch debit card, JHT transposed the amount of £652.99 when this should have been £562.99, a difference of £90.00 too much. Mark has contacted JHT advising of this and awaits their replies.

**Welfare Officer's Report:** Lee advised that all Members had been contacted throughout this month and no issues arose. Lee advised that he had not been able to contact Peter Godding but would continue trying.

### Secretary's Report:

1. Mark asked for any comments from the Members with regards to the Minutes from our Meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup> November 2022. With no comments, the Minutes were voted and passed as correct. Proposed by Tex and seconded by Paul. Carried.
2. In preparation for our AGM in January 2023, Mark contacted all current Officers & Committee Members of Lewes Branch RAA with regards to standing again for 2023. The following confirmations have been received to date.

Role	Member	Confirmed Yes/No
President	Peter Godding	Yes
Chairman	Michael Hobden	Yes
Vice Chairman	David Harding	Yes
Secretary	Mark Harding	Yes
Treasurer	Mark Harding	Yes
Welfare Officer	Mark Harding	Yes
Entertainments Manager	Jerry Docherty	Yes
Standard Bearer	Darryl Twinch	Yes

Chaplain	v. Canon Judith Egar	Yes
Committee Members	ryl Twinch	Yes
	ve Winter	TBC
	n South	Yes
	il Hughes	Yes

If any other Member would like to volunteer for any role, please advise prior to our AGM.

- Lewes Branch RAA Christmas Dinner was a great success and Members enjoyed the evening. Special thanks go to WO2 John Godwin-Smart and all at 43 Battery (Lloyds Company) for their prestigious presentations to Lewes Branch of a 43 Bty Flag and Embroidered Lloyds Company framed crest.

Due to the timings of this year's dinner, various options were discussed with regards to the lateness of finishing, where the bar shut promptly when all were still in the dining room. It was agreed that we should bring dinners forward to arriving at 17:30 ready to be seated at 18:00. This will allow more time for the proceedings.

It was also agreed that dependent on the number of raffle prizes being donated, these should be 'double up' or 'grouped together' as the raffle takes up a great deal of time.

- We have been notified by RAA HQ of the death of a serviceman and fellow RA Comrade, 24418095 LBdr Peter Falon who served from 1976 – 1989, Dortmund, NI, Aldershot and Colchester.
  - Date/time: 29 Dec 2022 at 1400 hrs
  - Where: Eastbourne Crematorium, Hide Hallow, BN23 8AE

Tex has agreed to Carry our Standard at the Service and to date Mark and Peter Crowhurst are also attending. Should any other Members wish to attend, please let Mark know soonest so as he can advise the POC.

- 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.
- Please remember to check your emails as this is the main medium of contact to all Members.
- Lewes Branch RAA 30<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebration (5<sup>th</sup> April) & 2023 Annual Dinner. Mark confirmed that he has booked The John Harvey Tavern for Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> May 2023 for this. Spaces are restricted to a maximum of 35. Would Members please provide suggestions of Honoured Guest(s) for this event. It was also agreed that we invite two Serving Members of 43 Bty. Timings and Dress TBA.

It was suggested that we try to seek an alternative venue for future Dinners to enable more to attend. Suggestions were the Elephant & Castle and The Dorset. Mark will look into these and possible other venues and revert back to Members with suggestions.

#### **AOB:**

- The Combined Services Annual Christmas Dinner. Our Vice Chairman, Budge, thanked Jack for organising this great event who also raised £200 for The ABF – The Soldiers' Charity.
- Jack provided a debrief from Remembrance Parade.
- Mark and Members praised and thanked Dave Scott for raising over £21,000 for the Poppy Appeal.
- Alan South advised that he has a suitable piece of wood for the plinth to mount our RA Sword that Mark has as a table piece.
- Mark & Jerry advised that they are looking into local suitable 'cheap' transport for future events.

13. Branch Plaque/Shield and Tie. Mark suggested designing our own Branch Plaque and Tie. Some rough designs were provided, and it was agreed that Members bring their ideas to the next Meeting.
14. Wall space in the Meeting Room. It was discussed and agreed that the Shields be placed along the top of the wall to enable more space. If anyone wishes to hang anything on the wall, please bring it along to the Meetings where Members will vote.
15. 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 the breakfast. Quite simply - book early or go hungry.
16. Mark Eve advised that Lewes Remembrance Parade 2021 had been posted on YouTube. The link for this is: <https://youtu.be/q0wLgRiDvbM>
17. The RA Assembly is being held over the weekend of Friday 12th May 2023.

It is a great opportunity for us as Lewes Branch to attend to not only meet up with our 'Kin', old members of The Royal Regiment, but also to meet up with our Affiliated Bty, 43 Bty, serving Members of the Regt and Veterans of other RAA Branches from throughout the UK and EU.

Dependent upon numbers attending, we may look at the hire of transport for all.

Mark suggested that Members attending, should book Friday to Sunday as apart from the Church Service on Sunday morning, nothing else goes on until a buffet tea on Sunday evening.

**With no other business, our December 2022 Meeting of Lewes Branch RAA closed at 21:05.**

**The next Lewes Branch RAA Meeting will be our Annual General Meeting (AGM) to be held on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> January 2023 at St Marys' Supporters Club.**

**Venue:** St Marys' Supporters Club  
**Dress:** Blazers & Regimental Ties  
**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](mailto:theraalewes@gmail.com)

## LEWES BRANCH RAA 2023 FORECAST OF EVENTS

2023

Items marked in yellow not yet agreed.

27 <sup>th</sup> January	Lewes Branch RAA Annual General Meeting	St Marys' Supporters Club
16 <sup>th</sup> February	RA Gold Cup	Sandown Park
24 <sup>th</sup> February	Monthly Meeting	St Marys' Supporters Club
25 <sup>th</sup> February	RAA Race Night	St Marys' Supporters Club <b>BOOKED</b>
16 <sup>th</sup> March	RAA NEC Meeting	Larkhill
31 <sup>st</sup> March	Monthly Meeting	St Marys' Supporters Club
16 <sup>th</sup> April	Gunner Sunday	Royal Hospital Chelsea (RHC)
28 <sup>th</sup> April	Monthly Meeting	St Marys' Supporters Club
29 <sup>th</sup> April	Curry Night	????
12 <sup>th</sup> – 14 <sup>th</sup> May	RA Assembly	Blackpool
13 <sup>th</sup> May	RAA NEC Meeting	Blackpool
26 <sup>th</sup> May	Monthly Meeting	St Marys' Supporters Club
27 <sup>th</sup> May	Lewes Branch RAA 30 <sup>th</sup> Birthday & Annual Dinner	John Harvey Tavern <b>BOOKED</b>
30 <sup>th</sup> June	Monthly Meeting	St Marys' Supporters Club
1 <sup>st</sup> July	RA Service of Remembrance	National Memorial Arboretum (NMA)
28 <sup>th</sup> July	Monthly Meeting	St Marys' Supporters Club
25 <sup>th</sup> August	Monthly Meeting	St Marys' Supporters Club
26 <sup>th</sup> August	Lewes Branch RAA BBQ	St Marys' Supporters Club <b>BOOKED</b>
29 <sup>th</sup> September	Monthly Meeting	St Marys' Supporters Club
4 <sup>th</sup> October	RAA NEC Meeting	Larkhill
27 <sup>th</sup> October	Monthly Meeting	St Marys' Supporters Club
28 <sup>th</sup> October	Function Day/Night	<b>SUGGESTIONS PLEASE</b>
9 <sup>th</sup> November	Field of Remembrance	Westminster Abbey
11 <sup>th</sup> November	Armistice Day	Lewes
12 <sup>th</sup> November	Remembrance Parade	Lewes
12 <sup>th</sup> November	RA Ceremony of Remembrance	Hyde Park Corner
24 <sup>th</sup> November	Monthly Meeting	St Marys' Supporters Club
25 <sup>th</sup> November	Lewes Branch RAA Christmas Dinner	John Harvey Tavern
3 <sup>rd</sup> December	St Barbara's Day	Larkhill
29 <sup>th</sup> December	Monthly Meeting	St Marys' Supporters Club