



LEWES BRANCH ROYAL ARTILLERY ASSOCIATION



MINUTES OF THE MONTHLY MEETING 29th November 2024 – St Marys' Supporters Club Meeting Opened at 20:00

The Commemoration of The Gunners: Read by Our Vice Chairman, Jerry Docherty.

Members Present: Tex Rees-Avery, John Bishop, Jerry Docherty, Budge Harding, Lee Harding, Mark Harding, Bob Parker, John Talmey, Darryl Twinch, Lawrence Gray, Alan Mayers, John Shill, Jim Talmey and Ray Talmey.

Apologies for Absence: Michael Hobden, Steve Winter, Gary Caulfield, David Collins, Peter Crowhurst, Rev, Judith Egar, Mark Eve, Peter Head, Sean Kelly, Colin Kemp, Phil Kemp, Ray Metcalfe, Gary Miles, Jack Neil, Andy Reddy, Brian Scott, Dave Scott, Michael Sinclair, Peter Talmey, Mick Taylor, Brian Walter, Jade Wildy, John Woollard and Peter Wyatt.

Chairman's Report: Jerry welcomed all to the November Meeting and advised that our Annual Christmas Dinner was a great success. Jerry also advised that a new Member, Michael Sinclair had joined our Branch but was unable to attend this Meeting. We look forward in welcoming Michael at a future Meeting.

Treasurer's Report: Lee advised that there is currently £535.30 available in our funds. However, £320.40 is due back from RAA HQ which is their kind donation of 50% towards our Branch gazebo. Lee also advised that we had made £130.00 from the Christmas Dinner raffle. Thanks to all those who donated raffle prizes.

Welfare Officer's Report: Lee provided all with a welfare update. Should any Member wish to discuss any welfare issues, please contact Lee directly. Lawrence advised that if any Member requires assistance on completing forms such as for SSAFA/RBL/PIP etc, that Paul Hughes' partner Jane, is happy to assist. Please contact Lee for details.

Secretary's Report:

1. Mark asked for any comments from the Members with regards to the Minutes from our Meeting held on 25th October 2024. With no comments, the Minutes were voted and passed as correct. Proposed by John Talmey and seconded by Darryl Twinch. Carried.
2. Lewes Remembrance Parade was a great success and Mark has emailed the BSM 43 Bty sending our thanks for their continued support.
3. Lewes Branch RAA Christmas Dinner 2024 was another great success and thanks to the organisers for setting this up and executing the event.
4. 43 Bty Lloyds Company visit. This has been booked for Thursday 6th February 2025 1100hrs. This will include a tour around Bty Lines, equipment etc and lunch has been kindly arranged in 47 Regt RA WO's & Sgt's Mess (Dress: trousers/chino's, shoes & shirt/polo shirt). This will be followed by a visit to the RA Museum then an evening meal out with SP from 43 Bty. 10 Members have confirmed. The evening meal will be booked at the Wheatsheaf and we have to pre-book. Mark will send the link to the menu for confirmation of choices to individuals. We shall now close this off, but should any Member wish to attend, please email Mark this week.

5. Lewes Branch RAA Annual Dinner 2025. This has been booked on Saturday 31st May 2025 at Lewes Golf Club. Please find attached the menu proformas for this event. Please advise of your attendance/non-attendance along with menu choices for you and any guest soonest.

It was discussed and agreed that we invite The High Sheriff of Sussex as our Honoured Guest. Members also asked to invite Steve & Gerri Scudder as paying Guests. Mark to contact with invites.

It is unlikely any SP for 43 Bty will be able to attend due to deployment at this time.

6. 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. <https://www.theraalewes.co.uk/>
7. Please remember to check your emails as this is the main medium of contact to all Members.
8. 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. Bob & Mark to liaise to re-arrange this display.
9. AFD on Saturday 28th June 2025. Mark advised that he would not be available for this event, and Members advised that they would provide a minimum of 4 volunteers for this and Mark to go ahead and apply to LTC for this.
10. Members discussed a Branch Event on Saturday 27th September 2025. It was agreed that we attend a Ghost Walk in East Dean guided by Lawrence Gray with a meal after at the Tigers Inn. Mark to liaise with Lawrence to organise.

AOB:

11. Our Lewes Branch RAA Gazebo has been ordered and paid for (50% kindly provided by RAA HQ). We now await delivery.
12. Branch polo shirts now available. See email sent to all by Mark for full details. When ordering online and requiring nonstandard additions such as Name/nickname etc., please be very specific in the instructions box as to where you would like this to be embroidered. E.g. On left arm, on right arm, on right breast etc. <https://www.windsor-embroidery.co.uk/>
13. Ray Talmey asked with regards to Lewes Branch RAA business cards to carry and hand out. Mark to look into this and advise accordingly.
14. John Shill gave a brief talk with regards to CWGC Volunteers.

With no other business, our Lewes Branch RAA November 2024 Monthly Meeting closed at 20:45.

The next Lewes Branch RAA Monthly Meeting will be held on Friday 27th December 2024.

Venue: St Marys' Supporters Club
Dress: Smart Casual (Branch Polo Shirts if held)
Timings: 1930 for 2000 start

Captain-General and Patron: His Majesty King Charles III

President: David Harding

Chairman: Michael Hobden

Secretary: Mark Harding

Treasurer: Lee Harding

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