



LEWES BRANCH ROYAL ARTILLERY ASSOCIATION



LEWES BRANCH ROYAL ARTILLERY ASSOCIATION 28th October 2022 – St Marys' Supporters Club Meeting Opened at 20:00

The Commemoration of The Gunners: Read by Our Chairman, Michael Hobden.

Members Present: Michael Hobden (Chairman), David Harding (Vice Chairman), Mark Harding (Secretary), Lee Harding (Treasurer & Welfare Offr), Darryl Twinch (Standard Bearer & Committee), Steve Winter (Committee), Alan South (Committee), Paul Hughes (Committee), Jerry Docherty (Entertainment Manager), Ken Amys, Tex Rees-Avery, Peter Crowhurst, Mark Eve, Colin Kemp, Alan Mayers, Jack Neil, Brian Scott, Dave Scott, John Shill, Jim Talmey, John Talmey and Peter Wyatt,

Apologies for Absence: Peter Godding (President), Mick Bird, David Collins, Sean Kelly, Ray Metcalfe, Peter Marcantonio, Bob Parker, Doug Raynsford and Brian Walter.

Chairman's Report: Michael Welcomed all Members to the October Meeting and thanked all 22 Members for attending. Great turnout.

Treasurer's Report: Lee reported that cash available stands at £1,209.21.

Welfare Officer's Report: Lee advised that with the exception of Peter Godding (Lee will continue to try to contact him), all Members had been contacted this month with no issues arising. Brian Walter, Mick Bird and Ray Metcalfe all send their best wishes to all Members.

Secretary's Report:

1. Mark asked for any comments from the Members with regards to the Minutes from our Meeting held on 30th September 2022. With no comments, the Minutes were voted and passed as correct. Proposed by Colin and seconded by Dave. Carried.
2. Join St Marys' Supporters Club. Membership is £15.00 per person or £10.00 if over 65 years – per year.
3. Mark advised that he attended the RAA NEC Meeting on 5th October 2022. Mark provided a brief update regarding this and will provide a copy of the Minutes for this once received.

Mark profusely apologised for the use of foul language during this by very nearly mentioning the Royal En..... as did Colin for the use of Cpl. They have both since stood facing a corner to reflect and have now seen the error of their ways.....

4. Mark advised that he had receive details of the RAA Christmas Gifts email from RAA HQ. This was discussed and concluded that all felt that no Member would require this. However, if any Member feels that anyone would benefit from this, please advise Mark accordingly.
5. Remembrance Parade Sunday 13th November 2022. Maximum turnout would be much appreciated.
 - a. Marchers assemble 14:15 White Lion Car Park ready for 14:30 March to the Memorial.
 - b. Non-Marchers be at Memorial for 14:25.
 - c. Mark will liaise with 43 Bty Sentinels with Jack and Mark will liaise with the Marching Troops.

It was agreed that Mark would Lay our Wreath of Remembrance on behalf of Lewes Branch RAA. Colin will also Lay a Wreath of Remembrance on behalf of The Sussex Yeomanry Association.

Members and Guests are required to retire to St Marys' Supporters Club with 43 Bty after the Parade at approx. 16:00 onwards. Lee has kindly volunteered to arrange a small buffet.

6. Royal Artillery Ceremony of Remembrance at the Royal Artillery Memorial – Hyde Park Corner. Sunday 13th November 2022. Ask Mark for details.
7. Lewes Branch RAA Christmas Dinner Saturday 26th November 2022. Menus for The John Harvey Tavern to follow. Max available to attend is thirty-four. Invited two Members from 43 Bty. Menus sent. Thirty-two confirmed attending.

Mark confirmed that Col Matthew Carter – Royal Artillery Regimental Secretary is attending as our Honoured Guest.

Lee to arrange buttonholes for the Ladies. 11 in total.

RAFFLE PRIZES. Please all dig deep and bring along a raffle prize(s) to make our evening even better. Raffle to be by envelope at £5 per envelope.

8. St Barbara's Day Sunday 4th December 2022 at The Royal Garrison Church – Larkhill. See email from Mark.
9. December Meeting on Friday 16th December 2022. Jack is liaising with the RBL to give presentation first – TBC.
10. Website Gallery Area: please send photos to Mark/Lee who will add these on our website.
11. Check emails. As always, remind all Members to check your emails please periodically for all info regarding our Branch and the RAA in general.
12. Lewes Branch RAA 30th Birthday Celebrations. Still ongoing and Mark will update as and when.

AOB:

13. Roll of Honour Board. Mark showed all the splendid work Jerry has done in mounting the 25 Pdr on the platform. It was discussed and agreed, due to not having all details of all Members passed, that the plaques to be displayed would start from Des Foord to whom the 25 Pdr originally belonged. A separate plaque is also to be added mentioning the loss of Comrades preceding Des.

Brian Scott also provided a Brass Flaming Grenade Officers Cap Badge from WW1. It was agreed that this be displayed also on this. Thank you, Brian.
14. Donation to Rev. Egar's church. Jerry to provide further update at the next Meeting.
15. 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.
16. 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. As discussed, if anyone wishes to hang anything on the wall, please bring it along to the Meetings where members will vote.
17. Possible events for future day trip. It was agreed that we roll over to Our 2023 AGM.
18. The Combined Services Annual Christmas Dinner will take place at The Green Man on Saturday 10th December 2022 and would like as many Members as possible to attend please. Proformas have been emailed to all.

19. 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 the breakfast. Quite simply - book early or go hungry.
20. Race Night booked on Saturday 25th February 2023. Tex kindly offered to provide a new race disc for this event. Tex to discuss with Jerry.
21. The Staff at St Marys' invited all Members to a Games Evening being held there on Saturday 3rd December 2022 at 19:00 onwards. All Members welcome and hot-dogs will be available.
22. Jerry read a request that he had received from Bob Parker suggesting that all Members wear Name Tags as he is getting on a bit and may start to forget names. This was discussed for approx. 0.000000001 seconds as a tumbleweed blew across the Meeting room. Not Carried.
23. Lee advised that he is looking onto a plinth for the RA Sword that Mark has as a table piece. Lee to update accordingly.
24. Mark Eve advised Members that John Henderson (Ex 200 Bty Members may remember him as our Pay Sgt) has been on a 'taster' day at The Royal Hospital Chelsea with the intent of joining The Chelsea Pensioners. All Members asked Mark to pass on their best regards to John and it was suggested that we get John to one of our Meetings or Events in the near future.

With no other business, our October 2022 Meeting of Lewes Branch RAA closed at 21:15.

The next Lewes Branch RAA Event will be Remembrance Parade on Sunday 13th November 2022. Once details are received from Lewes TC, Mark will pass on to all.

Venue: Lewes Memorial
Dress: Regimental Tie, Blazer and Beret. Medals to be worn if applicable.
Timings: Marchers assemble 14:15 White Lion Car Park ready for 14:30 March to the Memorial.
Non-Marchers be at Memorial for 14:25

The next Lewes Branch RAA Meeting will be held on Friday 25th November 2022 at St Marys' Supporters Club.

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 (Mark)
Email: theraalewes@gmail.com

LEWES BRANCH RAA 2022 – 2023 FORECAST OF EVENTS

2022

11 th November	Armistice Day	Lewes War Memorial
13 th November	Remembrance Parade	Lewes War Memorial – St Marys' afterwards
25 th November	Monthly Meeting	St Marys' Supporters Club
26 th November	Lewes Branch RAA Christmas Dinner	The John Harvey Tavern
3 rd December	St Marys' Games Night – All welcome	St Marys' Supporters Club
16 th December	Monthly Meeting and RBL Meeting	St Marys' Supporters Club

2023

Items marked in yellow not yet agreed.

27 th January	Lewes Branch RAA Annual General Meeting	St Marys' Supporters Club
16 th February	RA Gold Cup	Sandown Park
24 th February	Monthly Meeting	St Marys' Supporters Club
25 th February	RAA Race Night	St Marys' Supporters Club
16 th March	RAA NEC Meeting	Larkhill
31 st March	Monthly Meeting	St Marys' Supporters Club
16 th April	Gunner Sunday	Royal Hospital Chelsea (RHC)
28 th April	Monthly Meeting	St Marys' Supporters Club
29 th April	Curry Night	????
12 – 14 May	RA Assembly	Blackpool
13 th May	RAA NEC Meeting	Blackpool
27 th May	Lewes Branch RAA Annual Dinner	John Harvey Tavern
30 th June	Monthly Meeting	St Marys' Supporters Club
1 st July	RA Service of Remembrance	National Memorial Arboretum (NMA)
28 th July	Monthly Meeting	St Marys' Supporters Club
25 th August	Monthly Meeting	St Marys' Supporters Club
26 th August	Lewes Branch RAA BBQ	St Marys' Supporters Club
29 th September	Monthly Meeting	St Marys' Supporters Club
4 th October	RAA NEC Meeting	Larkhill
27 th October	Monthly Meeting	St Marys' Supporters Club
28 th October	Function Day/Night	????
9 th November	Field of Remembrance	Westminster Abbey
11 th November	Armistice Day	Lewes
12 th November	Remembrance Parade	Lewes
12 th November	RA Ceremony of Remembrance	Hyde Park Corner
24 th November	Monthly Meeting	St Marys' Supporters Club
25 th November	Lewes Branch RAA Christmas Dinner	John Harvey Tavern
3 rd December	St Barbara's Day	Larkhill
8-15-29 December	Monthly Meeting	St Marys' Supporters Club