

RMPA EAST SUSSEX BRANCH

News-Sheet No 11 - July 2010

Meeting at 8pm on the first Friday of the month, at RAFA Club, Wish Road, Eastbourne, (except January and February).

Chairmans Notes:

Sadly, I have to report that Branch member Wally Turner has passed away. He died very suddenly at home on the 27th of June. The funeral is on Friday the 9th of July at Eastbourne Crem, at 11.30, and in accordance with the wishes of his wife Gladys, the Branch will be attending with the Standard, to honour his memory. A good turnout please, with redcaps and medals, for this popular member.

Recent events; the Church Parade at East Dean on Sunday the 30th May, was, I believe, a huge success. The Dinner Dance on the Saturday following, was most enjoyable, as it always is, however, the turnout from members was disappointing, particularly when viewed alongside the effort put into the organisation. Sadly, I am forced to conclude, that at present there is no great demand for this event, so next year it will be rested. Your views on this would be appreciated.

At the July Branch meeting we were entertained by the Chairman of ECSA Mr Barry Lane, who spoke to us on the subject of Health and Safety. On the face of it not the most absorbing subject, but his delivery was first class and highly entertaining, so many thanks to him.

A new member introduced himself at this meeting, namely Mr David Slark, Chairman of the Shoreham BL. In his address he mentioned that he is on the organising committee for a big BL fund raising event at Ardingly Show Ground on September 4th, and that they would very much like to obtain the services of our Branch members to carry out stewarding duties. Some very famous bands and artists would be performing, and a large audience was anticipated paying around £30pp admission. Of course members helping out would enter free of charge, and in addition he thought the Branch would receive a cheque for its funds. Any members interested in helping out at this event, will you please contact Beryl. David you are a very welcome addition to our Branch, and the first new member for some time.

The next meeting of the Branch will take place in the form of a luncheon at the Wheatsheaf Restaurant, Little Common. This of course will be on the first Friday in August, the 6th at 12.30. Those of you who attended last year will remember that this establishment offers a very varied choice menu, at a very reasonable price.

The cost of the 3 course meal will be £7.95, and adding an element for the normally excellent service, we propose rounding this up to nine pounds (£9). If you would like to attend, with guests, please contact Beryl with details of names and numbers. Payment to Beryl on the day please as the Restaurant will only provide one total bill. Drinks are to be ordered and paid for separately.

Armed Forces day the 26th of June was celebrated by the Branch who joined in a well organised, (but poorly publicised) event in Egerton Park, Bexhill. We were invited and agreed to attend, essentially a parade and Drumhead Service to consecrate the new standard, of the recently formed Bexhill Veterans Association. In addition however there were lots of stalls (including one from our Branch) displaying the activities of a wide range of local organisations. We attempted to hold a raffle, but after an hour when not one ticket had been sold, we cut our costs and withdrew the prizes, to hold for a future event. There were several interesting arena displays, and on a day when the sun shone continuously, I think the handful of us who attended found it quite enjoyable. Several decent pictures appeared in the local Bexhill Observer, in which the red beret featured quite prominently. Thanks, to the "Bobs", Adams and Limbrey, Stewart Henderson, (who showed the other Standard Bearers how it should be done,) Derek Mead, and of course their partners, who so ably supported Beryl and I, in manning the Branch stall.

Have recently received a very complimentary email from the organisers, thanking us for our participation.

Branch President Bob Peedle, attended a similar Armed Forces day event in Seaford, representing the Soc. Of St George, during which he raffled a child's car provided by good friend and benefactor Keith Barker. He raised over a hundred pounds, which has been divided up between St George and our Branch. As a consequence, at the last meeting Treasurer Barry was handed a cheque in the sum of £55.

A very useful addition to our funds, bearing in mind we may have to subsidise the cost of a coach in October to take us to the Southwick Park Church Service. We have been asked and have accepted an invitation to sponsor the RHQ church service on the 17th of October, you may wish to make a note of this on your calendar. Beryl has made enquiries and determined that the cost of a 24 seater coach will be in the order of £240. Final costs and further information will be given later. Feel sure that when this is discussed in committee, our Treasurer can be persuaded to part with a reasonable subsidy to help defray the cost to individuals.

Quite unexpectedly we had at the last meeting, a visit from Len (the pen) Gillard, whom you may recall, joined a couple of weeks ago, the honoured ranks of the Chelsea Pensioners. He described his new life style as being unbelievably luxurious, and has taken to it like a duck to water. I feel sure I was not alone in feeling slightly envious, but how nice for him. I know that he has not been happy since the loss of his beloved Peggy, so how great it is to see him enjoying life again. He has promised to attend our meetings whenever he can, and it goes without saying we will always be very pleased to see him.

Standard Bearer; Stewart Henderson reports as follows;

The Branch Standard has been 'On Parade' at the following events during the past few weeks ;

The annual memorial service at Butts Brow, Willingdon for the crew of the USAF Bomber 'Ruth-Less' who were killed when it crashed there during WWII. (This event is now re-scheduled to avoid clashing with our Annual Service and Parade at East Dean)

The raising of the 'Armed Forces Flag' at the Redoubt Fort, Eastbourne to mark the start of events to recognise 'Armed Forces Day'.

Eastbourne Military Cadets 'Mini Tattoo' at the Redoubt Fort as part of the 'Armed Forces Day' events. (A very good event and a credit to all the Cadet Units taking part)

Armed Forces Day' Service, Parade and events at Bexhill on Sea.

Armed Forces Day' Drumhead Service and veterans Badge Presentation Ceremony at the Redoubt.

Armed Forces Day' Sunset Ceremony at the Redoubt.

Unveiling and Blessing of the Battle of Britain Garden on Eastbourne Seafront Promenade to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the Battle.

The next Scheduled event is at Eastbourne Bandstand on 28th July when the Band of the Guards Association will be in concert to mark the 75th anniversary of the opening of the venue. It will conclude with the traditional '1812' and Fireworks.

Welfare; Bob Adams gave an up to date account of his current contacts, at the July meeting. Sincere thanks to him for all the hard work he puts in on our behalf.

Accounts; Treasurer Barry Last, continues to keep a tight reign on Branch funds.

In conclusion best wishes to you all from Secretary Beryl and I.

RegWhiley

Chairman