



299 ASSOCIATION

Affiliated to the AEA, but as always open to ALL 299 men past & present.

The aims and ideals of this association are decreed as being:

Promoting and maintaining contact with past and present members of 299 Para Squadron RE.

Promoting and maintaining contact with the members of 131 Independent Commando Squadron RE; and all other Airborne/Commando associations.

Relieving where practicable any hardship or distress suffered by a member, or dependent(s) of a member of this association.

Promoting and encouraging such events that may bring pleasure to all members of this association.

W. Dick, (Seadog), 2/8/2002

Date: Friday 2nd August 2024 at the Ship Inn Dunswell.

Members present:

Mick Beardshaw, Brian Bilton, Neil Cooper, Terry Cunningham, Derick French, Craig Gadd, Syd Hoyle, Tony Irwin, Tony Kitchen, Keith Moreley, Bob Meachen, Bud Oldfield, Glenn Ratten, Pete Robson, Chris Shillito, Paul Sims, Nigel Sisson, Lee Smith, Arthur Stimpson, Martin Tindle, Tony Weldon, Charlie Wilkinson, Dave Woollas.

Apologies:

Tony Alcock, Kev Blacker, Gaz Coe, Andy Green, Carl Ham, John Harrison, Dave Harvey, Carl Henrickson, Walter Holdbrook, Dean Ideson, Paul Robinson, Rhys Swatman, John Thompson.

Guests:

Dave & Pauline Meekin, Linda Kitching, May Woollas.

Chairman: The Chairman Chris Shillito, welcomed members present at the Ship Inn Dunswell and thanked Jonno for hosting us.

Minutes proposed: A true record of the last meeting.

Proposer : Nigel Sisson

Secunder: Pete Robson

Treasurer: Glenn Ratten, informed the meeting that the funds are healthy, but had a lot to pay out this month with Arnhem and the AGM coming up.

Correspondence: Craig went on to update members with the ongoing talks with the merger of Airborne Engineers Association and the Royal Engineers Association (Airborne Branch) Phil Taylor and Baz Basset are trying to resolve all issues on our behalf to make this as seamless as possible with no hardship to anyone. Once we have a working document explaining all the details, I will pass this over to the members.

AGM and Dinner, to date there's only 77 members booked for dinner. Please remind members and friends that the closing date is fast approaching and would appreciate if members would book sooner rather than later so we can plan.

Craig is aware that Haley is no longer working at the Village hotel and hasn't been for some time. Ling is overseeing this so ask to speak to her or anyone in the events team.

CHAIRMANS COMMENTS:

Chris, went on to say a massive well done to Kev Blacker for completing the Montane Lake Land 100 miler with a great time of 37-09-53 brilliant mate. Commiserations to Kev Gay who had to drop out with due to an injury both keeping the 299 Association profile very high. Very well done to both.

Cromwell Maintenance:

Wednesday 10th July Seven 299 men attended the Cromwell Lock Monument to do work getting ready for the 50th Anniversary next year. The old slate chippings were removed along with the old membrane and replaced with new membrane the roses replanted and new slates chippings were put in. They also weeded the paving slabs, power washed the monument centre piece and the pavers around the monument. Well done to Dave Woollas, Martin Tindle, Craig Gadd, Tony Weldon, Tony Irwin and Chris Shillito. Our first maintenance team in 2025 will be Richard Gill and Percy McGlynn.

Welfare:

That old veteran paratrooper John (Willy) Harrison has recently finished a course of chemotherapy and will see his oncologist soon, to plan his next move on his road to recovery, he has been through the mill lately but still keeps cheerful. He came to meat pie and a pint Thursday club at the Minerva last week and we had a great laugh talking about old times. He is still recovering from the chemotherapy but still fighting. We wish him all the very best.

Gary Coe, has had what's called squamous cell carcinoma in his ear and on his back which was removed and after a scan showed he is cancer free. This is very aggressive cancer so he will be in a follow up programme for a few years to make sure it doesn't return he also has an enlarged prostate, so to save waiting on a two year waiting list in the UK, he has decided to have this done in Spain, where he now lives, he is Just waiting for an appointment. We are glad he is cancer free and wish him good luck with his prostate.

Dave Harvey, is on a course of chemotherapy and had a treatment on Thursday of last week hence why he did not attend the meeting. We hope you are recovering well mate.

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It was nice to see Dave and Pauline Meeking at the Ship Inn. A big thank you to Dave and Pauline, for paying for the buffet for the lads at the meeting.

It was also nice to see Tony and Linda Kitching at the meeting and Charlie Wilkinson who is 92 years young, also with his daughter Lynne and partner Steve.

Thanks to Dave Woollas for taking on the job of procuring 29 brass plates for the price of £60 when we have been paying £40 plus for one. We now get them for just over £2 each once they are engraved should be £10 each saving over £30 each well done Dave. His friend did these and never charged any labour and Dave would like to present him with a 299 Association shield for his office which we voted to present one to him.

Any other business:

Itinerary for Arnhem will be attached in a separate document.

Bus stop winner: Simbo

Next meeting 6th September 2024 20:00hrs at the Minerva.

Dates for your diary

Arnhem Pilgrimage, Thursday 19th September 2024 - Monday 23rd September 2024. Hotel, Coach, and Ferry are now booked. Price £420. Save up with Glenn.

The Cromwell Lock Memorial, Saturday 28th September 2024.

AGM and Gala Dinner 12 October 2024

CONTACTS:

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WELFARE:

Hull 4 Heroes Supporting those that Served <https://hull4heroes.org.uk> 01482 534483.

Help for Heroes <https://www.helpforheroes.org.uk>

Veterans Welfare Service <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/veterans-welfare-service>

SSAFA <https://www.ssafa.org.uk>

Royal British Legion <https://www.britishlegion.org.uk>