



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 Squadron RE.
Promoting and encouraging such events as may bring pleasure to all members of this association.
Relieving where practicable any hardship or distress suffered by a member, or dependent(s) of a member of this association.
Promoting and maintaining contact with the members of 131 Independent Squadron RE; and all other Airborne/Commando associations.

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

Date: Friday 1st April 2022, 20:00hrs at the Minerva.

Members Present: D. Barker, M. Beardshaw, B. Bilton, G. Coe, N. Cooper, T. Cunningham, C. Duggan, D. French, C. Gadd, C. Ham, D. Hines, S. Hoyle, D. Ideson, A. Irwin, P. Jefferson, S. Knowles M. Lawrence, R. Meachen, D. Meekin, K. Millington, B. Oldfield, S. Oliver, F. Pougher, P. Robson, K. Russel, C. Shillito, N. Sisson, R. Swatman, J. Thompson, C. Walker, A. Weldon, D. Woollas, N. Yates

Apologies: F. Gray, P. Robinson, J. Duffy, G. Beaumont, B. Houghton, R. Gill, A. Foster, P. Sims, A. Alcock, G. Ratten, D. Ombler, J. Harrison, A. Kitching, A. Costello, Mart.Tindle, R. Franklin, B. Steele, D. Harvey, A. Stimpson, M. Maddison, J. Brooks, T. Walker, L. Smith, K. Blacker.

Guests: Pauline Meekin.

Welcome and 'Roll Call'

The Chairman, **Chris Shillito** welcomed all present then opened the meeting by observing the return of one of the association's prodigal son's **Steve (Nobby) Oliver**, his first meeting in eight years, but never the less good to see. He then invited **Tony Irwin** to recite "They shall grow not old...." from **Binyons** poem "To the Fallen"

Minutes from the last meeting were proposed as a true record?

Proposed by – **Terry Cunningham**
Seconded by – **Bob Meachen**

Treasure's Report:

Glenn sends apologies for his absence stating our funds remain healthy and the Arnhem trip is still on track, but reminds the meeting that this is the last chance to be included. He reminds the meeting that if you require your minutes in the printed format as from the AGM in May, you will need to pay him £25.

Correspondence

Dave Hinds (Web master) put the following on the message board, dated 7/3/2022.

Gents, I have updated the website as agreed at the March meeting to include the meeting minutes, these can be accessed by clicking the button at the bottom left of the 299 web page. 'Happy reading'

N/B: Although the association holds the minutes of every meeting since its conception in May 2002, it can be proved that a certain amount of tampering with some of our historic scripts had occurred, rendering most, if not all invalid, and probably not a true record of events as they happened, therefore, unfortunately we can only show minutes with any confidence from the year 2013 onward, after a cross checking procedure was introduced, thus maintaining the integrity within the associations records.

131'S - 75TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION – MARCH UPDATE

Dear serving and former Members of 131.

Many thanks to all of you who have already registered to join us for our 75th anniversary celebration in Kingsbury, taking place:

for former members on Saturday 23rd April – St George's Day. The event will be open from 13:00 onwards for serving Squadron personnel from Friday 22nd to Sunday 24th April.

We have a great event lined up for you, with stands, competitions, insights into the Sqn of today, and above all the opportunity to renew old friendships and make new ones. Everyone attending will receive a commemorative pack as a part of the ticket price, including a 75th anniversary booklet, T – shirt, tumbler, coaster and pin badge.

If you have not yet registered. Please complete and submit the return **by clicking here** as soon as possible, it should take 10 – 15 minutes. As well as covering attendance, accommodation and food, it will allow you to order the limited-edition merchandise we have produced to mark 131's momentous 75th birthday. Please remember to press **submit** at the end.

If you have already registered. We are re-sending you the on-line- form – **please click here** – to allow you to pre-order any items that we have developed in response to the information you've provided.

These are shown in the additional section 5, Section 5, at the end.

There is no need to re-complete the whole form: please just type in your name, skip straight to Section 5 and press SUBMIT when complete.

By indicating any items, you would like to pre-order and pay for/collect at the event, we are making sure the items you want will be available, keeping costs down and preventing waste.

We very much look forward to seeing you all.

United We Conquer!

131 Commando Squadron Royal Engineers.

Chairman's Comments:

Gentlemen, please make sure you are booked in on the coach for Kingsbury on the 23rd April, because there will never be another occasion like this in our life time. 'This is the one and only'

We are all traveling down on the coach in 299 rugby shirts to show a bit of uniformity, if you don't have a shirt let me know, we may be able to sort something out. **Pete Wolstenholme** I still have your shirt, and **Willy Harrison** I will bring yours to Kingsbury for you for when we meet up there. If you are leaving your car at the barracks make sure I have your registration number, Text: 07877277288 for security reasons. Try to car share if possible to save parking space at the barracks.

'Do not forget your sleeping bag'

The next 299 Association meeting will be on the 6th May which will be the AGM, the most important meeting of the year, if you want to change anything e.g. the committee or members of the committee this is your chance, the current committee will stand down as usual and volunteers for the vacancies will be asked for, new rules or alterations to existent rules, whatever needs attention can be sorted at this meeting. If you want to add points to the meeting please let me or Gaz Coe know beforehand, as it is usually a busy night.

We will hopefully be having our usual AGM photograph in association rugby shirts this year if our awesome photographer **Tony Foster** can sort it for us. None of us know how long we have left on this earth, therefore these photos are important as it could be our last, and we can look back and remember our friends and comrades.

With reference to the vote at the last meeting we have a few raffle prizes left from Remembrance Sunday and we are holding a raffle for a charity called S.E.N. (Special Educational Needs) at the AGM in support for **Steph** the manager at the Minerva. Although we have some prizes, never the less, if you have any more at home for donation, this would be much appreciated.

If you are interested in going to Arnhem this year, NOW is the very last chance to put your name down along with your £100 deposit. If interested contact the Treasurer **Glenn Ratten**.

AIRBORNE ENGINEERS ASSOCIATION 32ND ANNIVERSARY REUNION AND AGM

Gents if interested it's time to get booked, it takes place over the weekend 21st – 23rd October 2022 and is to be held at **THE HOLIDAY INN, (BIRMINGHAM AIRPORT), COVENTRY ROAD, ELDON, SOLIHULL B26 3QW**.

Can book direct with the Birmingham Branch: Steve Brown Tel: 01212 516881. Craig Gadd is this association's point of contact.

Messaging and photos: the 299 Association Facebook site is open to all members, also 299 website is a good place for messaging, the more people use them the better, let your voice be heard.

Matters arising:

Bench Dedication for Les Ransom



Photo by Mike Maddison

Back row L/R: Irwin, Gadd, Coe, Ideson, Hines, Shillito, Steele, and Meekin. Sat on Bench: Weldon & Walker

James Ransom & Family have sited a bench at 25 Ferry Lane, Woodmansey, Near Beverley in memory of his late father **Les**.

It's on the road side next to Barmston Drain and the family invited a selective few 299 people to celebrate the occasion on the 2nd April 2022, **Les** would have been 100yrs on the 5th April if he had made it.

Les Ransom was a well-known character and an Arnhem Veteran, also an associate member of this association who befriended us all, bringing much pleasure by his presence, a modest man with the heart of a lion. This bench is next to his house where he would often rest with his little Jack Russell 'Minnie' He will never be forgotten by all those who chose to get to know him. **RIP Les**.

Items from members:

Carl Ham reported on the activities of that supper athlete and ex 299 Commando **Kev Blacker** who is attempting the **Northern Traverse**: a 300km self-supporting ultra-race following **Alfred Wainwright's** coast to coast route from St. Bees to Robin Hood's Bay, start date: 2nd to 6th April, He will cross three National Parks: The Lake District, The Yorkshire Dales and The North York Moors, he hopes to complete in 103 hours.

Each participant will be provided with a GPS tracker from 'Open Tracking' this will provide an event timings and ensure that we can monitor the location of each participant. A live tracking website will be running throughout the event to keep friends and family up to date with each participants' progress. This is a self-supported event. Participants will need to provide us with a drop bag which we will move between four checkpoints on the race route. We can only wish **Kev** well, whilst admiring his need to take up the challenge provoked by this event.

Tony Irwin (Archivist) and Standard Bearer for 299 Association has been invited, along with all other standard bearers throughout the Hull area, to a get together with the Lord Mayor of Hull, to be held at the Guild Hall on 14th April 2022, a welcome pat on the back **Tony**, and a large thank you from us all at this association.

Dave Meekin brings sad news of the Hull People's Museum down Whitefriaygate in Hull is to close down with the loss of jobs for our volunteers who have put their heart and soul into this venture over the many years.

Anybody who has donated items to the museum can claim them back, Talk to **Dave**.

Web site address: www.299association.co.uk

Simbos striptease bus Stop: one lucky winner this month Dave Woollas in nylons, not a pretty sight.

Next Meeting: Friday kick off 20:00 hrs. At the Minerva on the 6th May (AGM).

WITH NOTHING MORE TO DISCUSS THE CHAIRMAN CLOSED THE MEETING THANKING ALL FOR THEIR ATTENDANCE

Dates for your diary:

131 75TH Anniversary Reunion – 23rd April 2022

To take place at the Lonergan Lines, Kingsbury on Saturday 23rd April with the gates opening at 13:00 hrs, parking and accommodation will be available for those in need

ARNHEM PILGRIMAGE 2022

15TH – 19TH September 2022, all details to follow for the people going on this trip.

32nd AGM Birmingham 2022

32nd AGM will be held in Birmingham Holiday Inn, Birmingham Airport 21st -23rd October 2022, anyone wanting to attend can book direct with the Birmingham Branch.

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY 13th NOV. 2022, muster 9:30hrs down Pease Street, Anlaby Road, Hull.
Dress for parade & service at the Cenotaph.

1 Troop 299 Squadron are parading in Hull this year and will be sharing the buffet at the Minerva with the association.

CONTACTS:

Chairman: Chris Shillito, chrisshillito299@outlook.com Tel: 01482 806690, Mb: 07877277288.

Vice Chairman: Craig Gadd, craig.gadd@hotmail.com Mb: 47771880733

Secretary: Gaz Coe, coeblimey240@gmail.com Tel: 01757 268188.

Treasurer: Glenn Ratten, glennratten@icloud.com Mb: 07795248328.

Web Master: Dave Hines, davehines2@davehines2.karoo.co.uk Tel: 01482 860981, Mb: 07821698522.

Archivist: Tony Irwin, bigtirwin@hotmail.com Tel; 01482 793847, Mb: 07928956592.

WELFARE:

The veterans Hub & Forum, coordinator Callum Day for all your problems

Address: Goodwin Community Hub, Anlaby Road, Hull. HU3 2LL, (opposite the `Tigers Lair`).

Tel: 01482 485958, email: veteranshub@goodwintrust.org