



Ad Unum Omnes

From the South-East Regional Secretary



THE PARACHUTE REGIMENTAL ASSOCIATION

Patron: HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS THE PRINCE OF WALES, KG, KT, PC, GCB, AK, QSO, ADC

www.parasmart.info

se.regionalsec@prahq.com

<https://theparachuteregimentalassociation.com>

Around the Branches

South East

March / April / May 2022

- 1) Canterbury (East Kent)
- 2) Dover Paras
- 3) Eastbourne
- 4) Eltham & Chislehurst
- 5) Hastings
- 6) Maidstone
- 7) Medway – Gravesend ... Closed December 2021

May I first say a very big **[thank you]** to our Ladies who help run some of our branches, I really do appreciate all that you do for your Branch / Association.

Canterbury Branch.

Are going through a change of venue, their last meeting was held Sunday 27th February, the new time is: - 11.00. ... next meeting, check with **Tracey**.

Golden Lion, Mayton Ln, Broad Oak, Canterbury CT2 0QJ

<https://www.goldenlioncanterbury.co.uk>

Contact ...

John Cook (Chairman)

Mobile : – 07895-492601

Margaret Hofman (Secretary)

Tel : – 01227-456728

Tracey Thundow (Information)

Mobile : – 07737-476867

Their next meeting is Sunday 20 March ... @ 11.00 ... in the Golden Lion

**Spitfire & Hurricane Memorial Museum,
May Meeting**

The Spitfire Museum have agreed the following:



From the South-East Regional Secretary



Ad Unum Omnes

- 1) We can rally there at 10.00 hrs on 25 May 2022. Normal closure time is 16.00, but if anyone working wants to arrive up to approximately 17:00 they will accommodate us.
- 2) There will be 2 x Instructors to man the Simulator. Cost for the day is £100.00 and so any number can be fitted from 10 mins to 30 mins per time, within this costing.
- 3) An instructor will give a brief Introduction to the Museum as some aspects need explaining in addition to the notices on items displayed.
- 4) I need to give them definite numbers for total attending (with or without Simulator) so I suggest a time limit for notification of attendance @ 31 March 2022
- 5) this timing will also apply to the Merlin Cafe, who I need to advise numbers, so they can manage the situation accurately. They have stated that they can separate a section of the cafe if required by us.

We are situated on the historic RAF airfield at Manston in Kent. There's ample free parking for both cars and coaches. [Admission is free.](#)

Dover Paras.

We have also changed our venue ... Friday 18th March ... 19.00 hrs ... very well attended
Dress- Casual wear, anything with wings on ... all are welcome.

THE CRICKETERS

The Cricketers is a friendly village pub catering for all ages, situated in the village of River, located opposite the Crabble cricket and rugby pitches, and home of Dover Athletic football club. The Cricketers has been an important focal point for the community for over 100 years. With one of the largest gardens in the area, our family facilities include a children's play area and swings, with bouncy castle ... **YES, a bouncy castle** <https://www.cricketersdover.co.uk/> ...
Cricketers, Crabble Avenue, River, Dover, Kent, CT17 0JB

We have decided to go ahead with organising a Falklands Memorial Service Sunday 3rd April 10.30 - 11.30 at the War Memorial Biggin Street,

Ever thought about visiting [Ypres](#), 6th May 2022

Dates -

06/05/22 - Depart about 0720 hrs - Dover to Calais Ferry - we would look at meeting everyone somewhere in Dover about 06:30 hrs. Travel direct to Ypres area taking in a couple of the sights en



Ad Unum Omnes

From the South-East Regional Secretary



route and on arrival the town and then the main sites. in the evening we are going to ask if your group can take part in the 20:00 hrs last post ceremony and lay a wreath at the [Menin Gate](#)

Accommodation - John is exploring a location called the Peace Camp located in Messines which should be a lot cheaper than getting hotel rooms

Day 2 - Messines to Arras taking in Plug Street, Loos, Vimy Ridge, Lorrette de Notre Dame
Return to Messines accommodation

Day 3 - Arras to Somme taking in Sheffield Park and other main sites

Return to Calais and ferry John will be looking at accommodation, Menin Gate and lunch stops etc while I will look at travel. I am looking at a 15-seater mini-bus which I am happy to drive, supported by John. Ross, are you up for being a nominated driver?

The travel including ferry is probably the most expensive part of the trip and I will get back as soon as I have a price for the ferry, bus and estimate.

I will get this sorted and advise at soonest.

Please contact the Branch Secretary Kevin Eaton ... 07563-544320

Eastbourne

Contact

Phil Skidmore mcfc56@gmail.com

Forecast of events till end of June,
6th April branch meeting Eastbourne

24th April branch lunch Eastbourne Masonic lodge

1st May pizza in the park Friston forest.

4th May Branch AGM Eastbourne

28th June Armed Forces Day Seaford

First Wednesday of each month branch meeting Eastbourne [RAFA](#).

Eltham & Chislehurst

[WELCOME TO THE OAKS](#) ... The Oaks, Starbuck Close, [SE9 2TD](#)

Our beautiful venue located in town of Eltham, is nestled in acres of green open fields dotted with oak trees. All being surrounded by the oldest golf course in the world, the Royal Blackheath Golf Course and five minutes from The Eltham Palace, all within the Royal Borough of Greenwich.

Branch Secretary ...

Contact Mrs Frances Halifax



Ad Unum Omnes

From the South-East Regional Secretary



Tel 01322 524832

Email brianandfran@virginmedia.com

Regular Meetings

22nd April

22nd July

21st Oct

Gatherings ... different venues, please contact Andy Falconer 07706-182559

3rd June

2nd Sept

2nd Dec

Collections ... Tesco's /// Sainsbury's

14/15th May

24/25th Sept

17/18th Dec

Other functions

Ceremony of Keys Tower of London date TBC

Remembrance Sunday 13th Nov 2022. Chislehurst War Memorial, back to the Oaks after.

Hastings

Contact ... Julian Thomas

Tel ... 01424 882347

Email hastingspra@gmail.com

Meetings ... 2nd Wed Month Hastings

Maidstone

The Branch meets: WO's & Sgts' Mess, 36 Engineer Regiment, Invicta Park Barracks, Maidstone, Kent ME14 2NA ... 1st Fri Month ... 19.00hrs

Contact details

President David Curtin

Email dcurtin1955@gmail.com

Secretary Michael Tindle

Email catindle@hotmail.co.uk

Phone 01622-720427

➤ 1st April ... Ladies Night, 7 pm at the Bull, Penenden Heath, Maidstone.

Table in the restaurant for the ladies and a table for branch members in another room (branch members, drinks / bar snacks only, no meal). **Replaces usual meeting in the barracks.**



From the South-East Regional Secretary



Ad Unum Omnes

- Date T B D, during April, Visit to [R E Museum at Brompton](#). Cost £10.00. Probably 15th or 22nd April
- 25th June, Saturday. Armed Forces Day on The Lines, Brompton. Drumhead Service, parade and veteran's marquee, plus stalls, fast food and drinks outlets etc.
- 29th July, Friday. Branch Summer Social at 6pm in 36 Engineer Regt. Sgts. Mess and garden. Replaces normal monthly meeting. Partners and guests will be invited.
- 11th December, Sunday. Branch Christmas Lunch in the [Maidstone Masonic Centre](#). Families and guests will be invited.

In addition to the above, it is my intention to arrange at least one further visit to a suitable museum Battle of Britain Museum Hawkinge or IWM Duxford (Para Regt Museum) and a garden BBQ, either in my garden or in Colin's ... He has offered. Plus, another lunch or evening Gurkha Curry in Maidstone.

I think this will keep us busy for this year and involve members in deciding upon, planning for and arranging these events.....sorry I cannot be more specific about the dates, as yet, unarranged ones.

South East Regional Secretary's event ...

Imperial War Museum ... Free Admission.

When ... 18th May 2022 ...

So, make your own-way, Waterloo Main Line Station is 10 minutes-walk away, [getting there](#)

From 1 April 2022, the museum will be open daily.

Lambeth Road, London, SE1 6HZ <https://www.iwm.org.uk/visits/iwm-london>

When in-side just do your own thing, go where you want to go, lets meet-up in one the cafes, Our Café serves a range of handmade British food freshly prepared every day including stone-baked pizzas, healthy salads, snacks, sandwiches and classic puddings.

What's on

➤ **The Holocaust Galleries**

Personal stories are at the heart of IWM London's new Holocaust Galleries.

Individual stories from some of the six million Jewish people murdered in the Holocaust are told through over 2,000 photos, books, artworks, letters and personal objects ranging from jewellery and clothing to toys and musical instruments.

Dedicated to conserving, displaying and interpreting stories of the most devastating conflict in human history, IWM London is the first museum in the world to house Second World War Galleries and The Holocaust Galleries under the same roof. These new galleries will change the way we understand the past for generations to come.

➤ **Peace and Security: 1945 – 2014**
AN ATOMIC AGE



From the South-East Regional Secretary



Ad Unum Omnes

Standing at the very heart of the museum, and confronting you as you enter this section is the atomic bomb. The death and devastation that this weapon unleashed on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Japan in 1945 has cast a shadow over the world ever since, changing the way that war is fought, altering the balance of political power, and threatening the existence of all humanity. This troubled world is explored in the rest of the displays

➤ [Read more ...What's-on ...](#)

Why not visit another Branch and support each other, or for an example, Canterbury (East Kent) Branch are inviting the local Royal Marine (RM) Association to join them for events etc.

Please Print-off for those members not On-Line

If you haven't been to a branch meeting for some-time, why not show your face again, many branches have changed from the last time you attended, new management / venue for example.

Hope you have enjoyed reading this my first "Newsletter" ... to help me ... share what your branch is doing with other branches ... to contact me (Dave Smart) please use my email address se.regionalsec@prahq.com ...

Dave