

GEN SHEET – AUGUST 2014

BATTLE OF BRITAIN SERVICE 2014

Each year, on the Sunday following the anniversary of the Battle of Britain, a commemoration service is held at St Patrick's Cathedral in Dublin. With mixed emotions of sadness and pride, we remember the brave men and women of the RAF and allied air forces who served at that time. This year's service will take place at **3.00 pm on Sunday, 21 September**. We hope that as many people as possible will attend. The service will be followed by tea and biscuits at Jurys Hotel.

BRANCH ANNUAL DINNER – YOUR TABLE IS READY!



The annual dinner is fast approaching. It will take place at the fabulous National Yacht Club, Dun Laoghaire on **Tuesday, 23 September (7.00pm for 7.30pm)**. This is one of our major fundraisers and is a very popular event. The dinner is a great opportunity for us all to meet up and enjoy a social evening. Last

year's guests of honour were H.E. Dominick Chilcott, British Ambassador to Ireland and Brig.Gen. Paul Fry of the Irish Air Corps. The ticket price of €40 includes a three course meal and coffee. To avoid disappointment, please return your reservation as quickly as possible to Mr Alan Harrison, 33 Walnut Lawn, Courtlands, Dublin 9 and make cheques payable to the Royal Air Forces Association.

BRANCH GRAND RAFFLE 2014

The Annual Grand Draw raises funds essential to the Wings Welfare Fund. This year's draw will be held on Sunday, 26 October. Very many thanks to everyone who has already responded. If you still have ticket stubs, cheques and/or unsold tickets, **please return them to Mrs P Roche, 45 Cardy Rock Crescent, Balbriggan, Co Dublin as soon as possible**. Please make cheques payable to the Royal Air Forces Association (RAFA).

GARDEN PARTY 2014



We held our annual garden party at Leopardstown Park Hospital on Saturday, 28 June 2014. We are very grateful to everyone who supported the event in whatever capacity – with special thanks to LPH for all their support and generosity in allowing us to hold the event in the Hospital grounds. Special thanks too to everyone who provided the delicious spread of food and to Andrew Rous for working so hard at the BBQ. It was a mild day and a good time was had by all. The event raised a magnificent €2,000 towards the Wings Appeal.

Photo shows H M Ambassador, Dominick Chilcott with RAF veteran Mr David Millard who is resident at LPH.

BRAY AIR SHOW 2014

Our Branch was delighted to have a stand at the Bray Air Display on Sunday, 20 July 2014. This display was first held in 2005 and is Ireland's largest free air show. This year, approximately 85,000 people attended and, for the first time, the RAFA was invited to have a stand at the event. We are most grateful to Bray Town Council for giving us a great opportunity to raise awareness of the RAFA and our welfare work here. Visitors to our stand were very supportive, to the extent that we raised €600 on the day through sales of badges and other merchandise.

RAFA MEMBERS MEET HM QUEEN ELIZABETH

On 25 June 2014, HM Queen Elizabeth and HRH the Duke of Edinburgh attended a reception in Coleraine Town Hall as part of the Royal visit to Northern Ireland. Representatives of the Republic of Ireland Branch of RAFA formed part of The Royal British Legion group invited to the reception. Each member of the RAFA party was presented to Her Majesty, shook hands with her and spoke briefly to her. It was an enormous honour and privilege to meet our Patron and the occasion will live long in all our memories. Thanks to Tony Kelly of PAB Travel, Chairman of the Metropolitan Branch of the Royal British Legion, for organising this most memorable and enjoyable trip.

AUTUMN CONFERENCE, BENIDORM

The 2014 European Autumn Conference will take place 10-12 October in Benidorm. For further details, please contact Hon. Secretary Pam Roche on 087 1817075.

WW1 COMMEMORATION SERVICES

So far, 2014 has been an exceptional year for commemoration services in the Republic of Ireland. In addition to the annual services at Islandbridge and Kilmainham, many communities held services to remember their own Irish men and women who served during the two world wars and in more recent conflicts. Many of our veterans were interviewed and their experiences recorded. RAFA members have already attended as many events as possible. If you are aware of any commemorations planned in your area, please contact our Secretary, Pam Roche and let us know. If you feel you can attend any commemorations in your area, please do so and also make it known that you are representing the RAFA.

CROSS OF SACRIFICE AT GLASNEVIN

On Thursday, 31 July 2014 at Glasnevin Cemetery in Dublin, a cross of sacrifice was unveiled to commemorate those who died in the first world war. It was a historic event for both UK and Ireland. The RAFA was honoured and privileged to be invited to attend. Our Branch standard was proudly borne along with the other standards. President Higgins spoke sincerely and movingly, especially when he said *"We cannot give back their lives to the dead, nor whole bodies to those who were wounded, or repair the grief, undo the disrespect that was sometimes shown to those who fought or their families. But we honour them all now, even if at a distance"*.



The fact that members of the RAFA sat happily and proudly with our friends from the Organisation of National Ex-Servicemen and Women (O.N.E) was a physical manifestation of President Higgins' words. It was fitting after such a long time that veterans from the armed forces of the two nations joined together to pay respects. This augurs well for the future of both nations. Photos show members at the cross of remembrance and our Vice President, Alan Harrisson, with Theresa Villiers, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, and Jeffrey Donaldson MP.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Date	Time	Event
16 August	2.30pm	The Royal British Legion, Wicklow Branch Garden party, Kilruddery, Co Wicklow – Entry Euro 10
18 Sept	5.00 pm	Billy Timmins TD and his committee in Wicklow are unveiling a monument to Wicklow WW1 at Woodenbridge. (Hotel is focal point not golf course)
21 Sept	3.15 pm	RAFA (Rol) 'Battle of Britain' Service, St Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin. Please be seated by 2.45 pm
23 Sept	7.30 pm	RAFA Annual Dinner, National Yacht Club, Dun Laoghaire, Dublin. Arrival 7.00 pm for dinner at 7.30 pm – Tickets Euro 40
10-12 Oct	-	RAFA European Conference, Benidorm
1 Nov	-	Royal British Legion Northern Ireland Festival of Remembrance, Waterfront Hall, Belfast. Tickets go on sale on Friday 22nd August 2014 at 9am, directly from the Waterfront Hall Box Office www.waterfront.co.uk Tickets are priced at £18, £20 and £22.

WINGS APPEAL ITEMS

As you know, our main aim is to raise funds for RAF veterans through the Wings Appeal. We have several fundraising items for sale (see list below). Please ring Lorraine McWilliams (086.8135613) or email lorrainemcwilliams@eircom.net to place an order or request further details. We have very limited supplies of some items, so it has to be *"first come, first served"*.

- **Lapel badges**

Euro 2 for one badge, Euro 10 for six badges. Selection includes: Air Sea Rescue, Chinook, E3 Sentinel, Harrier, Hercules, Hurricane, Lancaster, Lightning, Red Arrow, Spitfire, Tornado, Typhoon, Vulcan – as well as pilot teddy bear, RAF Regt teddy bear and RAF wings.



- **Other items**

5" small soft bear in RAFA tee-shirt, Wings fridge magnet, Pilot rubber duck – Euro 4 each.



- **Clothing, cufflinks etc**

RAFA ties, cufflinks, ladies' scarves and RAF memorabilia can be obtained directly from <http://www.rafashop.com> but, if you prefer not to use the internet, please ring Lorraine on 086.8135613 for information.