

GEN SHEET – AUGUST 2015

WINGS APPEAL GRAND DRAW 2015

This year's draw will be held at our social gathering on Sunday, 25 October 2015. This raffle raises funds essential to the Wings Appeal and we would be very grateful if you could sell as many tickets as possible. Please return all stubs and cheques to the Hon. Sec.:

Mrs Pam Roche,
45 Cardy Rock Crescent, Balbriggan,
Co Dublin, by Friday, 16 October 2015.

ANNUAL DINNER 2015

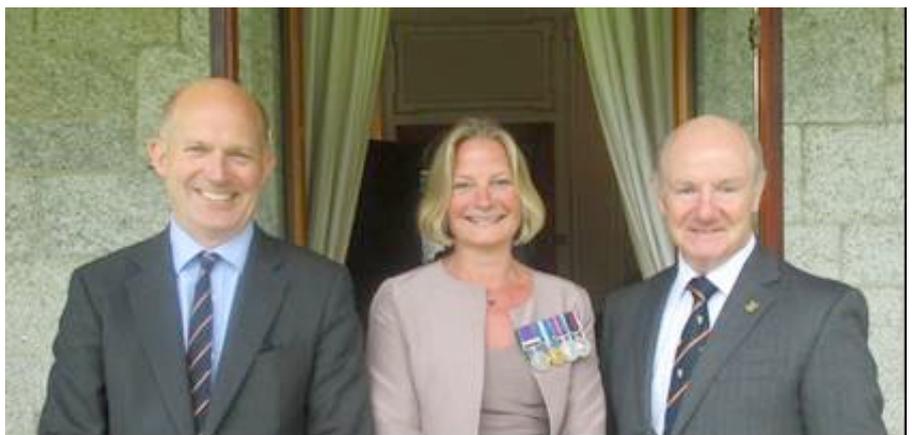
This very popular annual fundraising event will take place on Tuesday, 22nd September at the National Yacht Club in Dun Laoghaire. Last year's speakers were H.M. Ambassador, Dominick Chilcott and G.O.C. Irish Air Corps, Brig. Gen. Paul Fry. To reserve places, please complete the enclosed form and return it to:

Mr Alan Harrisson, 33 Walnut Lawn,
Courtlands, Dublin 9. Very many thanks

MARKING THE 75th ANNIVERSARY OF THE BATTLE OF BRITAIN

On Thursday, 23 July, H.M. Ambassador, Dominick Chilcott, hosted a luncheon to commemorate the 75th Anniversary of the Battle of Britain. Air Marshal Peter Walker (ret'd), Lt.Gov. of Guernsey and President of the RAFA's European Area, attended with his wife Lynda. The G.O.C. of the Irish Air Corps, Brig.Gen. Paul Fry and RAFA's Overseas Director, Sarah Waugh, were also present. As distinguished as these guests are, they would all agree that the real celebrities were the 14 WW2 RAF veterans who were present. In their speeches, the Ambassador and the Air Marshal emphasised how important the Battle was in preventing Britain from being invaded and the important contribution made by Irish aircrews and Irish ground crews throughout the War. After the luncheon we retired for tea and scones to the National Yacht Club in Dun Laoghaire where we were joined by more members of the RAFA and other veterans' associations. The Air Marshal also spoke of the little-known connection between the Guernsey Militia and the 16th Irish Division in WW1.

The Branch presented the Air Marshal with a painting of a 201 (Guernsey's Own) Sqdn aircraft, the Royal British Legion presented him with their Irish poppy and shamrock badge and the ONE presented him with their Fuchsia badge. **Photo: HM Ambassador, Dominick Chilcott, Sarah Waugh (Overseas Director) and Air Marshal Peter Walker.**



PRESENTATION TO GEOFFREY MEDCALF MBE

At the Battle of Britain event at the National Yacht Club, Air Marshal Peter Walker presented Geoffrey Medcalf MBE with a plaque for his 62 years' dedicated service to the Branch. Geoffrey is an RAF WW2 veteran. Thanks and well done, Geoffrey!

WINGS APPEAL GARDEN PARTY - JUNE 2015

Our Annual Wings Appeal Garden Party took place on Saturday, 27th June at Leopardstown Park Hospital. We were blessed with fine weather on the day which added greatly to the pleasure and enjoyment of the event, it even allowed many people to sit outside. We ran a raffle, a playing cards tombola and a name-the-bear competition all of which contributed to our raising significant funds for the Wings Appeal. Thanks to all who helped, attended and contributed to our Wings Appeal.

RAFA REPUBLIC OF IRELAND AT BRAY AIR DISPLAY

The Bray Air Display was held on Sunday, 19th July and we were privileged to be allowed a presence at the show again this year. The RAF was well represented; a Hunter got the displays off to a noisy and spectacular start. Later on, Gerry Humphreys, an ex-RAF Harrier pilot, gave a fantastic display in his "Flying Friesian". We had our RAFA Wings Appeal merchandise displayed for sale and we also had a new promotional banner produced especially for the show. Our metal aircraft badges proved to be very popular and raised the most revenue towards our Wings Appeal. This was our second year at the display and was even more successful than last year; we raised 30% more revenue for our Wings Appeal and, given that attendance was up on last year, we raised the profile of our Association to the general public. We are most grateful to Bray Town Council for allowing us to have a presence at the show.

BATTLE OF BRITAIN ANNIVERSARY COMMEMORATION IN CO MAYO

The Branch wants to reach out to members and supporters who live a long way from the Dublin area and who cannot attend our social gatherings in Dun Laoghaire. To mark the 75th anniversary of the Battle of Britain, we are holding a commemoration event at the Mayo Peace Park in Castlebar, Co Mayo. Exact details are still to be confirmed, but the visit is planned for the weekend of 3rd/4th October. The plan is to have a short parade at the Peace Park on Saturday afternoon, 3rd October which will be followed by a social gathering at a local hotel in the evening. We are hoping that there will be a good turnout of members in the Mayo area and surrounding counties. Members of the Royal British Legion, the Royal Naval Association, the Organisation of National Ex-servicemen and Women (ONE), IUNVA, members of the public and any other veterans' organisation are all very welcome to attend. Please spread the word, we would like to see as large an attendance as possible there. We shall need to compile a list of those interested so that we can book a hotel and food, so please ring Hon. Sec. Pam Roche on **086 3531771**, or email us on **info@rafaroi.org** if you would like to be kept informed about this trip. For information about the Peace Park, please see:

www.mayo-ireland.ie/en/towns-villages/castlebar/visitors-guide/mayo-peace-park.html

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

20 Sept 2015: Battle of Britain Service, St Patrick's Cathedral (3.00 pm)

22 Sept 2015: RAFA Annual Dinner (7.00pm for 7.30pm), National Yacht Club, Dun Laoghaire

3/4 Oct 2015: 75th Anniversary of the Battle of Britain Commemorative Visit, Castlebar

25 Oct 2015: RAFA Grand Raffle Draw, National Yacht Club, Dun Laoghaire