

GEN SHEET – FEBRUARY 2014

STAND BY FOR ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2014!

The RAFA (RoI) Annual General Meeting 2014 will take place at **7.00pm on Friday, 21 March 2014** at the National Yacht Club, Dun Laoghaire. Please see enclosed additional information. We hope you can make it!



MEMBERSHIP

Membership and subscriptions are vital to the survival of the Branch. Please contact **Membership Secretary, Gilly Beare on 087 2767368** if you have any questions about your membership.

BRANCH OUTING TO NATIONAL MEMORIAL ARBORETUM IN ALREWAS AND MUSEUM AT RAF COSFORD – Wednesday, 23 April to Friday, 25 April 2014

The Branch is planning a trip to UK to visit the museum at RAF Cosford and the National Memorial Arboretum. It may be possible to visit RAF Valley as well, but that's still under negotiation. The PAB Tours price of Euro 220 (single supplement Euro 59) includes return travel by coach, two nights' dinner/bed/breakfast and full touring itinerary. Names must be submitted to Pete McWilliams by Sunday, 16 February at latest. For further details, ring Pete on 086.8205369.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

The National Conference will be held in Blackpool - **16-18 May 2014.**

The RAFA Garden Party at Leopardstown Park Hospital - **28th June 2014 t.b.c.**

The European Area Conference will be held in Benidorm - **10-12 October 2014**

For further details, please contact Hon Sec, Pam Roche, on 087 1817075



THANK YOU, FRANK!

On behalf of the RAFA (RoI), British Ambassador, Dominick Chilcott, presented Frank Brien with a plaque in recognition of Frank's 21 years of exemplary service as Branch Standard Bearer. As you know, Frank also runs the raffles at our monthly gatherings. Over the years, he has helped to raise a huge amount of funds for the Branch. Thank you, Frank!

PRESENTATION OF ARCTIC STARS AND BOMBER COMMAND CLASPS

On Tuesday, 28 January 2014, H.E. Dominick Chilcott was delighted to present Arctic Stars and Bomber Command clasps to a number of veterans, including RAFA members Kempton Cooper, John Courlander and Ted Jones. Hon Sec, Pam Roche, also received a Bomber Command clasp on behalf of her late father. Mrs Olive Rowe received an Arctic Star on behalf of her late husband. The event took place at the Ambassador's residence in Glencairn and was attended by AVM David Niven CBE (AONI) and the Defence Attaché, Col Sean English.

John Courlander with H M Ambassador and AVM Niven

Kempton Cooper



Ted Jones with H M Ambassador



Pam Roche with H M Ambassador

During his speech, the Ambassador said:

“This is a very special occasion for me and for my colleagues in the embassy. We are humbled to be in the presence of so many veterans of Britain’s armed forces; men and women who were ready to make the supreme sacrifice in the cause of freedom. And I feel very privileged to be conducting this ceremony which will recognise the service of five individuals, three for operations in the Arctic Circle and two in Bomber Command. We know that very many people from Britain and Ireland gave their lives in the Second World War in order that future generations should be able to enjoy the way of life that we are lucky enough to take for granted.”