



## Royal Air Forces Association Republic of Ireland Branch

Registered Charity: CHY17401

Web: [www.rafaroi.org](http://www.rafaroi.org)

Email: [info@rafaroi.org](mailto:info@rafaroi.org)

Tel No: 087.1817075

### GEN SHEET – FEBRUARY 2015



#### **STAND BY FOR THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2015!!**

The Annual General Meeting for 2015 will take place on **Friday, 27 March 2015 at 7.00 p.m. at the National Yacht Club, Dun Laoghaire**. All members are invited to attend. If you wish to nominate someone for election onto the Committee, please complete and return the enclosed nomination form to Mrs Pam Roche, 45 Cardy Rock Crescent, Balbriggan, Co Dublin to arrive no later than 20 March 2015.

#### **BRANCH CHRISTMAS SOCIAL 2014**

The Branch held its Christmas social gathering in the National Yacht Club in Dun Laoghaire on 30 November. There was a fantastic attendance – a full house - and everyone had a great time. Santa flew in and distributed presents and many lucky ladies got to sit on Santa's lap. We are most grateful to the management and staff of the National Yacht Club for the fantastic venue and superb service.

#### **THANK YOU TO JURY'S HOTEL, CHRISTCHURCH**

Jury's Hotel at Christchurch, Dublin, put on a superb Christmas lunch for the Branch on 20 December and more than 50 of our members and friends attended. We were delighted and honoured to have Brig.Gen. Paul Fry, G.O.C. Irish Air Corps, and Mrs. Gill Fry as our guests. The hotel very kindly donated a raffle prize of a night for two plus breakfast in the hotel. We are most grateful to the management and staff of Jury's Hotel for their kindness. Many thanks to Hon. Sec. Pam for organising everything for us!

#### **MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING**

On 19 January 2015, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the UK and the Republic of Ireland was signed to ensure greater defence collaboration in the future. The visit marked a historic moment for both countries, with Defence Secretary, Michael Fallon, being the first UK Defence Minister ever to make an official visit to Ireland. The MoU will provide the UK and Ireland with a means for developing and furthering their already excellent defence and security relations and will help to enhance cooperation in exercises, training as well as peacekeeping and crisis management operations.

#### **A NOTE FROM THE BRANCH CHAIRMAN**

Thank you all for your continuing generosity and support in these difficult economic times. Your support is vital for the survival of our Branch and I would therefore ask you to please renew your membership if you have not already done so. A trip to an RAF base in the UK is being discussed and we shall inform you when the details have been finalised. Seventeen members travelled to the 2014 European Area Conference in Benidorm. The Chairman of the European Area singled out the Republic of Ireland Branch for a special mention. At the Conference, the Branch was awarded a certificate for its contribution to the Wings Appeal and we also won an award for recruiting the most new members. Sadly, despite recruiting new members, our overall membership is falling. If you know of anyone who might like to join us, please encourage them. The success of our Branch is down to you, the members, supporters and the hard-working Committee. Thank you again. I hope that 2015 will be a successful year and bring you all good luck, good health and all the best that life can bring.

In the current climate, it would be easy to become despondent. We are all challenged by the state of the country's economy! However, since the foundation of the Branch, our aims to support veterans of the RAF and their families have not changed. We shall approach any obstacles with the same dedication as shown by earlier committees. Excellent Vice-President, Geoffrey Medcalf, kindly loaned us a copy of a programme for the RAFA Ball held on 6 May 1955 (note: the ball started at 9.00 p.m. and went on until 3.00 a.m !!). The programme shows that Wing Commander Jack Simpson DFC was Welfare Officer at the time. We are delighted that Jack and Geoffrey are still



active and highly-esteemed members of the Branch. The photo shows them, together with another highly-esteemed member, Don Mooney, at the 2014 Battle of Britain service. Geoffrey also loaned us a copy of a Branch Gen Sheet written in March 1982 when the Branch shared premises at Crosthwaite Terrace. Geoffrey was then not only a Vice-Chairman of the Branch, but also the Chairman of the "Club Bar Committee". The

Gen Sheet relates that the Christmas party had been somewhat disrupted by some wag mischievously switching Santa's two sacks of presents – resulting in ladies receiving aftershave and men receiving blue eyeshadow! If you have any reminiscences or photos from earlier RAFA times, please tell us about them.

#### **DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

More detailed information will become available nearer to the time of each event.

|               |             |  |
|---------------|-------------|--|
| 27 March      | (7.00 p.m.) | <b>BRANCH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2015</b><br>National Yacht Club, Dun Laoghaire                            |
| 15-17 May     |             | <b>RAFA Annual Conference 2015</b><br>Devonshire Park Centre, Eastbourne                                   |
| 27 June 2015  | (2.00 p.m.) | <b>RAFA GARDEN PARTY 2015</b><br>Leopardstown Park Hospital, Dublin 18                                     |
| 18-19 July    |             | <b>BRAY AIR DISPLAY 2015</b><br>Sea front, Bray, Co Wicklow  |
| 8 August      |             | <b>NEWCASTLE FESTIVAL OF FLIGHT</b><br>Newcastle, Co Down, Northern Ireland                                |
| 5-6 September |             | <b>AIRWAVES - NORTHERN IRELAND INT. AIRSHOW</b><br>Portrush, Coleraine, Northern Ireland                   |
| 15 September  |             | <b>75<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE BATTLE OF BRITAIN</b><br>Air displays and events throughout the U.K. |
| 20 September  | (3.00 p.m.) | <b>BATTLE OF BRITAIN SERVICE 2015</b><br>St Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin. Please be seated by 2.45 p.m.     |
| 22 September  |             | <b>RAFA ANNUAL DINNER 2015</b><br>National Yacht Club, Dun Laoghaire.                                      |
| 25 October    |             | <b>GRAND RAFFLE 2015</b><br>National Yacht Club, Dun Laoghaire<br>(During normal end of month gathering)   |
| 30 October    |             | <b>RAFA EUROPEAN AREA CONFERENCE 2015</b><br>Jersey  |