

GEN SHEET, JUNE 2014



IT'S SUMMER, IT'S RAFA GARDEN PARTY TIME!!!
Please come and join in the fun at the RAFA Garden Party and BBQ at Leopardstown Park Hospital, Dublin on Saturday, 28 June 2014, starting at 2.00pm. Entrance is Euro 10 including food, BBQ and one drink. This party is growing in popularity and is our major fundraiser for the year, so your support would be very much appreciated.

GRAND RAFFLE 2014

Please find enclosed tickets for the Annual Grand Raffle. This year's draw will be held at our social gathering on Sunday, 26 October. This raffle raises funds essential to the Branch and we would be grateful if you could sell as many tickets as possible. Please return all stubs and cheques to the Hon Secretary: Mrs Pam Roche, 45 Cardy Rock Crescent, Balbriggan, Co Dublin, by Tuesday, 14 October 2014. Very many thanks indeed.



Rob laying a wreath on behalf of RAFA (RoI) at a commemoration in Roermond in the Netherlands.

THANK YOU ROB!

Rob Vaneker, a Dutch Army and UN veteran is one of our most active and supportive members. Rob represents our Branch at commemoration services across Europe. On many occasions, he is the sole representative of RAFA at these ceremonies. He meets his expenses out of his own pocket and even pays for the wreaths laid. Thank you Rob!

The commemorations that Rob has attended include the following in Holland: Lancaster Bomber Crew R5701 monument Brunssum and the following services in Belgium: Vroenhoven Bridge (attack By RAF & BAF); Fairy Battles crash, Kersbeek; Wellington crash, Kleine Brogel Airfield; Crew of CF 119 BAF crash, Koksijde Airfield; Remembrance perished aircrews BAF, Oostduinkerke; Great War, Koksijde; Zouaves Remembrance WW2.

ANNUAL CONFERENCE, BLACKPOOL

The Republic of Ireland was well represented at this year's Conference. Six members of the team travelled from Dublin and were warmly welcomed in Blackpool by our RAFALO, Flt Lt Spike Milligan, and his comrades Emma, Lee and Dan.

John Connolly, Vice Chairman, did a splendid job as our delegate. During the Conference, our Chairman, Pete McWilliams was elected to the European Area Council. Branch was congratulated on the rise in membership numbers during 2013 and our Membership Secretary, Gilly Beare, was awarded a cup in her absence. Thanks to your generosity, we were awarded a certificate for your Euro 5000 contribution to the Wings Appeal.



Vice Chairman, John Connolly, receiving membership cup from Sir Christopher Colville on behalf of our Membership Secretary, Gilly Beare. Well done Gilly!



Dear Team Dublin,

As your Area RAFALO I am privileged to be given the opportunity to contribute to your Gen Sheet. Having just returned from Blackpool it was so good meeting up with my extended family and all the RAFALOs were given such a warm Celtic welcome from the Dublin Crew. John, Peter, Jim, Lorraine, Frank and June were in great spirits as we danced, laughed and chatted, ensuring we used our time in Blackpool to catch up. It was great to see your Standard being proudly displayed and Frank did a fantastic job (even as good as an Ex MT Driver) representing the best Branch in Europe. You are always in my thoughts and Gill and the Kids send their love to you all. Please keep safe and I will give you an update later in the year, all the best. Spike

Flt Lt Spike Milligan, Officer Commanding Ground Engineering Flight, RAF Akrotiri

MEMBERS' OUTING TO RAF VALLEY, ALREWAS AND RAF COSFORD

RAF Valley RAF Valley put together a brilliant programme that included a splendid lunch in the Officers' Mess, followed by a visit to the Hawk aircraft hangars and to the Air Sea Rescue Squadron. Special thanks to PAB Travel and Stephen our guide for such an enjoyable trip.

The National Arboretum Alrewas The Arboretum is a beautiful memorial to service personnel and civilians covering 150 acres. The latest addition is an impressive circular walled memorial to service personnel who have lost their lives in conflicts since World War 2. Our President, Jim Kelly, laid a wreath at the RAFA memorial. We were very proud to stand to attention and pay our respects to our comrades.

RAF Cosford has a superb museum with an impressive range of aircraft on display including aircraft from pre-1939, World War 2, the Cold War and more recent times. Many of our party were delighted to see aircraft from their particular era. An outstanding memory must be Ted Jones' delight at seeing a Catalina (the type of aircraft he flew during WW2) and Joe Towell's delight at seeing a Dakota (the type of aircraft he flew in Burma during WW2).

D-DAY COMMEMORATION SERVICE – MONKSTOWN – 7 JUNE 2014

The Dun Laoghaire Branch of the Royal British Legion held a D-day commemoration service at Monkstown Parish Church on Saturday, 7 June. This is the first time ever that D-day has been commemorated in the Republic of Ireland. The service was very well attended with all veteran branches of the Armed Services represented. It was especially pleasing that the Irish Air Corps, the Irish Defence Forces and the ONE were there in great numbers. Our branch was heavily involved and helped with the organisation and management of the event. The Sunday Independent of 8 June 2014 included a picture and article on page 20. The picture shows two of our cherished members, Wing Commander Jack Simpson and Albert Sutton, both in their 90s

RAFA AT BRAY AIR DISPLAY 2014 – SUNDAY, 20 JULY 2014

We are most grateful to Bray Town Council for allowing the RAFA Republic of Ireland Branch permission to have a presence at this year's Air Display. This is a fantastic opportunity for our Branch to meet the wider public and tell them about our Association and the work we do. We must make the most of opportunities like this. If you would like to help on the stand, please contact Hon Secretary, Pam Roche, on 087 1817075 to register your interest.

This is Ireland's largest free air show. It starts at 15:30 hours and last year the display attracted 85,000 spectators. The display will include aerobatics aircraft, an Airbus A321, the Iolar, Chipmunks, Vampires, Mig15, Sabre and Hawker Hunter and an Augusta Westland Aw 139 twin-engine helicopter.

RAFA EUROPEAN AREA CONFERENCE, BENIDORM – 10/12 OCT 2014

The 2014 Conference will be held in the Melia Hotel, Benidorm over the weekend of 10-12 October 2014. The North Costa Blanca Branch is hosting the Conference. The price for two nights' accommodation, cocktail reception and gala dinner is Euro 200 per person sharing a double room or Euro 255 for single occupancy. Package costs are to be paid in advance in euro by bank transfer. Fares not included. Those travelling will be responsible for making their own flight arrangements, but will be collected from Alicante Airport. If you are interested in attending the conference, please ring Pam Roche on 087 1817075 for more information.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Date	Time	Event
28 June	2.00 pm	RAFA Annual Garden Party, Leopardstown Park Hospital, Dublin – Entry Euro 10
12 July	3.00 pm	The Royal British Legion wreath-laying ceremony, Islandbridge, Dublin Please be seated by 2.45 pm
13 July	10.30 am	National Day of Commemoration, Kilmainham Hospital, Dublin Please be seated by 10.15 am
31 July	t.b.c.	WW1 Commemoration - Unveiling of Cross of Sacrifice, Glasnevin, Dublin
16 August	2.30pm	The Royal British Legion, Wicklow Branch Garden party, Kilruddery, Co Wicklow – Entry Euro 10
21 Sept	3.15 pm	RAFA (RoI) '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