



*Happy New Year to All Our Members
From Scotland & NI Area Director, Gair Brisbane,
Chairman, Tommy Foster,
Area Council and Staff, John, Mike, Carol, Jill, Victoria and Alison*

DIARY DATES

2010

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| Feb 5 | Northern Ireland Region Meeting, Officers' Mess, RAF Aldergrove |
| Feb 10 | Scotland & Northern Ireland Area Council Meeting, Edinburgh |
| Feb 17 | Scotland Southern Region Meeting, University Air Squadron, Glasgow |
| Feb 23 | House of Lords' Dinner |
| Feb 24 | Scottish Parliament Event, Holyrood. |
| Mar 13/14 | Northern Ireland Annual General Meeting & Reunion Weekend, |
| Coleraine | |
| Mar 20/21 | Scotland & Northern Ireland Area Conference, Perth |
| Mar 21 | Annual Service – St Clement Danes, London |
| May 21/23 | Annual National Conference, Blackpool |
| May 23 | Edinburgh Marathon, RAFA Fundraising Runners |
| Jun 4-6 | Gardening Scotland, Battle of Britain theme by Edinburgh City Council |
| Jun 4-6 | Perth Airshow |
| Sept 7 | City Salute – St Paul's Cathedral, London |

THE QUEEN'S NEW YEAR HONOURS LIST 2010

- I am very pleased to announce that Agnes Graham was awarded the MBE for services to SSAFA in Western Scotland in the Queen's New Year Honours List.
- You will, no doubt, also be pleased to hear that the following were awarded National Presidential Certificates to coincide with the Queen's New Year Honours List 2010:

<u>Name</u>	<u>RAFA Branch</u>	<u>Area</u>
Mrs Lois Guidot	St Germain & District	European Area
Mr Derek Harber	Shoreham	South East & Eastern
Mr Ray Kidd OBE	York	Northern

Mr Ronald Perry	Ringwood & District	South East & Eastern
Mrs Pamela Small	Shrewsbury & District	Wales, Midland & S
Western		
<u>Name</u>	<u>RAFA Branch</u>	<u>Area</u>
Mr Roy Tamplin	Ringwood & District	South East & Eastern
Sir Colin Turner CBE DFC	Sheringham & District	South East & Eastern
Mr John Williams	Towyn & Aberdovey	Wales, Midland & S
Western		
Mr Norman Yates MBE	Keyworth	South East & Eastern

3. The RAFALO team at RAF Linton on Ouse, headed by Flt Lt Andy McIntyre, have been awarded a team commendation by the Air Officer Commanding for their ongoing support to the Association.

AREA TROPHIES

4. To enable inscriptions to be updated will all branches that hold Area Trophies please arrange to have these returned to Area HQ no later than 19 February 2010. The relevant branches are as follows:

WINGS APPEAL TROPHIES 2008

<u>Trophy</u>	<u>Competition</u>	<u>Branch</u>
Amy Ward Cup Runner Up	Highest Gross Collections	Carrickfergus Causeway Coast
J Maclean Trophy Runner Up	Highest Gross per Capita	Co Fermanagh Carrickfergus
A Wooler Trophy	Highest % Increase Gross	Fraserburgh
FO W Ritchie Trophy	Highest Collection by ATC Sqn 137(Ayr & Prestwick) Sqn	

BRANCH & BRANCH CLUB TROPHIES 2008

<u>Trophy</u>	<u>Competition</u>	<u>Branch</u>
Jim Nicholl Cup Runner Up	Membership Trophy	Forres & Kinloss Inverurie/Lossiemouth
Senior Efficiency Trophy Over 100 Members		Ayr & Prestwick
James Ross Memorial Cup Junior Efficiency Trophy Under 100 Members Runner Up		Carrickfergus Stornoway
Branch Club Efficiency Trophy		Shetland Branch Club

WINGS APPEAL

5. The following are the current gross totals available for the Scotland and Northern Ireland Area and the global count. More detailed information will be available in due course.

AREA - £ 209,949
GLOBAL - £1,938,812

Congratulations to all concerned in the Wings Appeal Collections. In today's environment there is increasing difficulty in raising charity money.

NORTHERN IRELAND REGIONAL GENERAL MEETING & REUNION WEEKEND

6. Venue: The Lodge Hotel, Coleraine
Accommodation: The Lodge Hotel, Coleraine
Date: 13/14 March 2010
Further information available from the Northern Ireland Regional Office tel no.
028 9032 5718.

SCOTLAND & NORTHERN IRELAND AREA CONFERENCE 2009

7. Venue: Queens Hotel, Perth
Accommodation: Queens Hotel, Leonard Street, Perth and Lovat Hotel, Glasgow Road, Perth.
Date: 20/21 March 2009
An invitation is extended to all members to attend. If you are unable to come for the whole weekend, why not come for the day. The Conference is on the Saturday afternoon from 1.30pm to 4.30pm with the dinner dance in the evening (when the Area Draw is made) and the Sunday service is at 11.15am on the Sunday morning at St Leonards-in-the-Fields & Trinity Church, Marshall Place, Perth. Accommodation forms have been sent to Branch Secretaries – please return these to Area Headquarters by 1 February 2010. For further information contact Area Headquarters on tel no. 0131 225 5221.

ANNUAL CONFERENCE – BLACKPOOL – 21-23 MAY 2010-01-08

8. An Accommodation Booking Form is enclosed with this Newsletter.

BRANCH & BRANCH CLUB ACCOUNTS

9. In accordance with Branch Regulation (BR) 32, Branch and Branch Club accounts as at 31st December 2009, including a report from the Auditor or Independent Examiner, are to be received at Area offices by 31st March 2010.

10. Your attention is also drawn to Byelaw 24(1) b, which states that a Branch shall be entitled to be represented at a conference of the Association, providing that its audited Accounts for the preceding year have been submitted to Area Headquarters, not less than 10 days before the first day of Conference.

ANNUAL REPORT 2010

11. It is still not too late for Branches to send in a short paragraph on their year's activities/events/personalities/whatever for the Scotland & Northern Ireland Area Annual Report. The Deadline is 28th January.

BRANCH NEWSLETTER COMPETITION

12. It's that time of year again when branches are asked to submit their entries for the annual RAF Association Newsletter Competition – to be presented at Annual Conference.

13. Entries should be in by the end of February and sent to Alex Bifulco, Press Officer, CHQ.

BRANCH CLOSURES

14. Sadly I must advise that the following Branch closures became effective in December 2009:

1 Dec 09 Birmingham Central Branch – No 0207
31 Dec 09 East Cornwall Branch – No 1268
31 Dec 09 Tenby & District Branch – No 0526

15. All three have suffered from the inability to form Committees, all three have had Area Council/Area help but to no avail, and all three have dealt with inevitable closure with care and dignity.

BATTLE OF BRITAIN 70TH ANNIVERSARY – MAJOR EVENT

16. To commemorate the 70th Anniversary of the Battle of Britain, the Association will be organising a major event on 7th September 2010. This will be the “City of London Salute” and will consist of a Service in St Paul’s Cathedral, followed by a parade through the City of London and receptions in various City of London Livery Halls. Further details and application form for tickets will be published in the January edition of Air Mail but Branches are asked to make a note of this date and publicise this event to their members.

REQUEST

17. Mr David McGill of 1740(Clydebank) Squadron ATC is looking to contact members within West Dunbartonshire who would be willing to join the Civilian Welfare Committee of the ATC Sqn. They are also interested in participating in RAFA Fundraising. Mr McGill’s contact details are: mail@1740squadron.org.uk or mobile: 07534 710099.

TIDEWAY SAILABILITY

18. Antony Eaves (ex Royal Navy) offers the use of their sailing resource for limless or disabled ex-servicemen through Tideway Sailability. The charity, which is based in London, offers sailing in specially designed non-capsizing 'Access' boats with 'buddy crews' to provide guidance for blind/partially sighted sailors. Mr Eaves is keen to organise specific ex-serviceman's sailing days and his contact telephone number is 07941 360 609 or you can visit www.tidewaysailability.org

Yours sincerely



N G BRISBANE MA RAF
Area Director

Enclosures:

a) Accommodation Booking Form