

Chairman's Report

For a number of reasons we have decided to slightly alter the format of our AGM this year in that we are including here our Annual Report Statements along with a Summarised Financial Statement. By doing this it will allow those of you who are not able to attend the AGM to be given a better insight of what the Branch has been doing throughout the year, hopefully shorten the formal proceedings and serve as publicity material during the coming year.. For those who can attend it should permit more time to meet other members and socialise

The Branch has had a very busy year as you will have gathered from our Newsletters thanks to our Secretary/ Editor Brian Fox

The Branch was represented at the Area Conference in Perth, the East Fortune Air Show, Battle of Britain Sunday at St Giles Cathedral and, for the first time, the Branch was involved in wreath laying ceremonies on Remembrance Sunday in Edinburgh, East, West and Midlothian and in a number of towns in the Borders.

The Branch also held a very successful Dance and Social evening in aid of "Wings" – the first for a long time. The idea, and most of the work too, was done by Gerry Halloran a Branch Member and former Scottish Area Director

We have also been involved in "bag packing" at supermarkets and collections for the "Wings" Appeal with invaluable help from cadets from Squadrons in our area and we are indebted to them for supporting our cause.

On the subject of "Wings", David Prior has tried to do both the job of Treasurer and Wings Appeal Organiser but has found he cannot commit sufficient time to continue to organise our "Wings" activities. Is there anyone of you reading this able to take up the task? Remember that it is the income from "Wings" that funds the welfare activities in RAFA. Also, Network Rail, who operate the Waverley Station and allow us our September collection, has said we can have "extra" dates if we want them. In order to take advantage of this offer we need "volunteers" to come forward – would you be willing and able to help?

As you will see from Bob's Welfare Report both him and his team of helpers have been extremely active during the year. Remember that Welfare is the major activity within our Association.

We have also run a campaign to bring our MPs, MSPs and Councillors up to date with what your Association is doing in our area of operation and this has enabled RAFA generally to raise its profile within the Scottish Parliament.

Finally, some good news and dates for your diary and to which I hope some of you will be able to attend:

- I am delighted to inform you that our activities in 2009 have not gone unnoticed in that we are being presented with the Senior Branch Efficiency Shield and the Recruiting Cup during the Scottish Area Conference at the Queen's Hotel in Perth on 20th March 2010, and
- The Branch will be laying up its old Standard and having its new one dedicated on Sunday 28th February at the Church of the Good Shepherd in Murrayfield Avenue, Edinburgh at 10:30