

Newsletter March 2012

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Branch 2012 AGM was held 1 March and attended by 21 members, 1 guest and **RAFA Northern Area Director Darrell Slater-Smith** in attendance. Full reports were given to the meeting covering Branch activities during 2011 including Welfare, Wings Appeal, Membership and Branch Website. The Branch Accounts were presented to the meeting by Branch Treasurer and accepted by members present. The following Branch Officers positions were also voted on and appointed, namely, **Chairman David Stacey**, **Vice Chairman Eric Harrison**, **Secretary Ian Fraser** and **Treasurer Paul Jenkins**. Following the AGM, presentations were made by Darrell to two Branch members who had attained 50 years membership of RAFA.

Photo taken at the AGM of the Presentation shows **Darrell Slater-Smith**, **Norman Sterling**, with members **Harold Neilsen**, **John Wild** and **David Stacey**.



Once again the Ye Old Durham Social Club gave the RAFA Association and the visitors a warm welcome and made the AGM a most enjoyable afternoon.



## Wings Appeal 2012



Wings Appeal 2012 has got off to a flying start with the money raised already approaching £4000, following our Branch display and collection Tesco's Hartlepool, Billingham and Stockton. The great start to Wings Appeal 2012 is the result of our Wings Appeal Organiser Andrew Thorn hard work and the support of Branch members and 473 Sqn ATC. Well done to everyone.

To show our appreciation to the local companies for allowing the Branch to collect on their premises "Certificates of Appreciation" were presented to three firms.

Top photograph shows **Joanne Tweddle and Christine Cook from ASDA Hartlepool** being presented with their certificate by Branch President Norman Sterling and Chairman Dave Stacey.

Right photograph shows the presentation to the **Almighty Cod Seaton Carew**, with staff **Michelle Lane, Perry Lane and Lucy Beha**. We are particularly appreciative of the Almighty Cod for allowing us to collect throughout the year using the aircraft badges.

**The Almighty Cod also makes exceedingly enjoyable fish and chips to eat in or take away**



Left photograph shows **Selina Wilson Community Support Manager Tesco Hartlepool** being presented with the certificate by Chairman Dave Stacey.

All three local organisations along with others outside the town "really did us proud". We now look forward to this years "Wings Appeal" to improve on last years total of £10,600 – we have got of to a great start.

We invite all members to help with "Wings Appeal" and if anyone can spare a couple of hours to help at collections you will be most welcomed. Should any member be able to organise an individual Wings Appeal fundraising event please contact the Branch for support.

**Thanks and appreciation to all who helped during recent collections**



## Welfare News

Six Branch members spent a relaxing stay at Rothbury House during their “Tinsel and Turkey” week last December. Welfare Officer Dave Stacey visited Rothbury House during their stay to check that they were behaving themselves!!!! He is pleased to report no wild behaviour!!!!



The Branch had previously donated £500 to Rothbury House for Christmas and this had been used to buy everyone who stayed during Christmas Week a present – greatly appreciated by staff and recipients. Dave took the opportunity to have a photograph with our Branch Members in the main lounge and shows (left to right) Audrey Breckon, Mavis Ward, Margaret Robson, Margaret Davis, Margaret Shields and Olwen Wells. All agreed it was a thoroughly enjoyable week with superb atmosphere, food, entertainment, facilities and wonderful staff. **As usual we take the opportunity to remind members that Rothbury House exists for your use**

**please give the Welfare Officer a call to have a chat about a stay?**

## PRESENTATION TO THE YE OLDE DURHAMS SOCIAL CLUB.

To show appreciation to the Ye Olde Durhams Club for providing the Branch a meeting venue, the Branch Committee decided to present the Club a framed “Tornado Aircraft” picture inscribed with the words



**“In Friendship and Gratitude”**. The picture hangs in the club lounge our meeting venue. Left photograph shows Branch members with Ye Old Durham Club members with Peter Brown Ye Olde Durham Club Sports Secretary

holding the picture with Branch Member Joan Coverdale. The right photograph shows Ye Olde Durhams Club Chairman Steven Carter receiving the picture from Branch President Norman Sterling. Following the presentation the members enjoyed a buffet and drinks provided by the Club – a very good evening was had by all. Branch meetings are held the last Tuesday of every month (excluding December) in the Old Durhams Club starting at 7pm. We would invite all members to consider attending the meetings to see what the Branch is organising and also to give members the chance to have their say on how the Branch is run – **please make an effort and attend some of the meetings your presence would be appreciated.**

## ATC PRESENTATION NIGHT

Branch Committee Members attended the Annual 473 Sqn ATC Presentation Evening on 15 December held at the Old Boys Rugby Club. During the evening Certificates of Appreciation were presented to all the Cadets who had helped us during Wings Appeal 2011. The presentation were made by Vice Chairman Eric Harrison (ex 473 Sqn Cadet) (Middle), assisted by Chairman Dave Stacey (Left) and Secretary Ian Fraser (Right). The photograph shows **Cadet Maiden** holding the Branch Trophy and Certificate presented for the highest individual collection achieved by a member of 473 Sqn - **£682**. We are delighted to announce that 473 Sqn have again been awarded the RAFA Northern Area **“Birkenhead Trophy”** as achieving the second highest collection by an ATC Sqn in the RAFA Northern Area with a magnificent **£4529** collected on our behalf. **Congratulations to all concerned including Wings Appeal Organiser Andrew Thorn for “managing” everything.**



## ANNUAL PRIDE OF HARTLEPOOL AWARDS

The Branch is delighted to know that Branch Welfare Officer Dave Stacey was nominated by the family of an ex RAF gentleman who Dave had supported during the last couple of years of his life. Dave was shortlisted for the award of Community Champion and together with Branch Secretary Ian Fraser and wives was invited to attend the presentation ceremony 22 March held at the new and impressive College of Further Education. The judges decided on the night that another gentleman who organises young children football activities was awarded the Community Champion for 2012. Dave has said the gentleman was a very deserving winner and personally congratulated him after the presentation. The Branch is pleased that the Association's welfare work has been recognised in the town. Our congratulations to Dave for his nomination and appreciation for all his hard work supporting the "RAF Family" in the town.

## BRANCH ACTIVITIES and FORTH COMING EVENTS

**Wings Appeal Collection** will be made at Tesco Stockton Fri 20 & Sat 21 April. **If you are available and willing to help – please call the Branch Tel No.**

**RAFA Durham Region AGM** to be held on Saturday 31 March 2012 at RAFA Club Bishop Auckland.

**The Northern Area Conference and Annual General Meeting** will take place on 13th – 15<sup>th</sup> April at Redworth Hall Nr Darlington Co Durham if you would like to attend please ring 07907 874654 for details.

**Branch Meeting followed by Durham Light Infantry Association Social Night** at 7pm Tuesday 24 April at Ye Olde Durhams. Club Contact Branch for DLI Social tickets cost £3.

**Trumpets on the Terrace Rothbury House** Sunday 27 May at 2pm. Organised by RAFA Newcastle Branch. Afternoon includes a Brass Band playing on the terrace, raffles, cake stalls and much more. Entry £2. All proceeds to Rothbury House. A great afternoon to be enjoyed by all your family and an opportunity to look round Rothbury House and gardens – definitely worth a visit. Contact Branch Tel No for details.

**Wednesday 5 September 2012 Visit to RAF Linton on Ouse.** Conducted tour of Station ending with a visit to the Station Memorial Room showing details of RAF Linton on Ouse history in particular its role in WW2. We are limited to only 20 places so if interested please contact the Branch Tel No to put your name on list – further details to follow.

The Branch is delighted to announce that the **Hartlepool Male Voice Choir** has selected RAFA Hartlepool as one of the local charities to benefit from the proceeds of their annual Christmas Carol Concert to be held in December – details to follow. We are also hoping to arrange a concert to be given by the Choir in the Ye Olde Durhams Club sometime in the summer – details next Newsletter.

## Branch Obituaries

We are sad to advise that Branch Member **John V Pout** recently "passed away". John served in the RAF as an Aircraft Airframes Fitter 1959-1968. Condolences have been given to his partner and the Branch attended his funeral with the Standard paying our final respects with the "Last Post and Reveille".

**"We will remember him**

**Be part of something special**