

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

This year I am unable to attend the AGM, Esther and I are currently on holiday in Florida. I hope you are all enjoying the day and not missing me at all, I am sure Scott is doing a sterling job as chair.

Over the past couple of years we have been thinking and discussing where the Associations future lies. The committee have had a number of meetings where ideas have been discussed and we have agreed we need to get a teenage group up and running as well as reintroducing teenage weekends. A sub group of the committee headed by Kieran Wardrop are setting up information days for teenagers and will arrange a teenage weekend sometime in 2012.

It was also agreed the current website needs to be kept up to date by each Branch. To start this off we updated all information on the site. Vikki Carpenter offered to check the website regularly and send out monthly reminders to each branch asking them to update their information removing old items, adding new stories and photos etc. We are looking at revamping the website but until this takes place it is important to keep the current site up to date.

These actions are important but will not secure the Associations future the only way this can be secured is for members to participate in the running of and the activities of the Association. I said it last year and say here again, the Charity will continue as a support group, offering support to new families through our knowledge and experience as parents who have come through harrowing times. But the Association like any organisation needs new members to continue to function and to evolve into the support group needed by families in this ever-changing world we live in.

The service for grown up congenital patients has been relocated to the Golden Jubilee Hospital in Clydebank. The Bravehearts committee have carried on with their discussions with the clinicians, GGHB and the NSD to ensure the improvements required in the service are highlighted and acted upon. Our thanks and support to Gill and her committee for carrying on with this work.

I am also glad to report Bravehearts are planning to have a weekend break later this year.

On the subject of weekend breaks we as normal had the family weekend which as usual was at the Atholl Centre in Pitlochry in May. There was a good attendance at this year's weekend with everyone who came along having a ball. Thanks go to Kieran Wardrop who has organised the weekend for the past four years, Kieran has handed this task over to Vikki Carpenter to allow him to take on the running of the teenage weekend on behalf of the Association, as previously mentioned.

We wish both Kieran and Vikki success in organising both events in the future.

As you all know the Association has a caravan at Faskally Caravan Park outside Pitlochry and there is a board in the room showing availability of the caravan for the remainder of the year, if anyone is interested in making a booking please speak to Sandra Parkins who will be able to confirm the arrangements. Our thanks go to the Parkins family for running the caravan on our behalf. Sandra and the family have for the past 20 years ensured the caravan is in tip top condition for people to enjoy their holiday. We owe an awful lot to the Parkins family over the years.

Christmas cards;

Thanks to Jeanette Forsythe and Elaine Wardrop for giving their time in early January to choose and order the cards for the coming Christmas, almost a year away. Our thanks to both for their time and effort every year.

Thanks to Brian & Sandra Parkins. For taking delivery, sorting and storing the cards ready for collection from the branches.

We cannot thank Sandra enough for taking this on year after year, it is a lot of hard work and when the delivery is wrong Sandra has the hassle of sorting it out with the card company; many thanks Sandra and Brian.

With Jim Kelman stepping down as Trustee at last year's AGM we have a new addition, I welcome Alan McSherry to the team. Joining Liz DiAgostino, who has remained as Trustee, Scot Wardrop and me completing the team.

Finally I would like to thank my fellow trustee's for all the hard work they have put in to ensure the smooth running of the charity. I would like to thank all the branch committee's and their representative's who come along to the Scottish committee meetings without this the charity could not work. Special thanks to Willie Gunn for his work as treasurer and for the financial reports. Thanks to Scott our Vice Chair and thanks to Jim Kelman for organising today's venue and last but not least to each and every-one of you for coming to today's AGM.

John Fegan
Chairman
June 2011