

Chairman's Statement 2023

In 2023 the branch went through a very difficult period with regards to its future existence. This was brought on by the burden of having to finance the soaring energy and maintenance bills. It could not feasibly possible for the branch to carry on in its current state.

To deal with these issues it was decided that to sell the building to a charity organisation with the intension financing a new club that would serve members of all military and emergency services and also hold other events where the general public could book the venue to hold various functions e.g. birthday/wedding anniversaries etc. The new club, now called the Newark Services Club (NSC) opened for business mid-2023. As a result of the above decision The RAFA Branch no longer had a building and also lost a valuable income from coffee morning sales. However, the NSC agreed that the venue would be made available to the RAFA Branch to carry out their committee and member meetings.

In August 2023 both the Chairman and Secretary resigned from their positions for personal reasons, leaving the branch in what seemed to be an insurmountable position. However, with the remaining committee members and numerous discussions about whether to shut the branch or not, two members of the committee said they would be happy to volunteer to take on the vacant positions if it meant that the branch could carry on and work hard for the benefit of its members. The remaining committee accepted the volunteers to take on the vacant roles.

Going forward, we arranged a lunch for 12 and having been such a success we held a Christmas function for the members 30 plus attended. It was an excellent turnout and very much enjoyed by all. We have now planned further events which include a visit to Duxford Air Museum, and a day out trip to Mablethorpe. We have also pencilled in more lunchtime functions where the members can keep in touch and enjoy a meal together. The Wings appeal will carry on in the very capable hands of Elspeth White a committed and Trustee of the branch committee.

Hopefully we will be able continue to operate as a branch, firstly to maintain our identity and secondly to allow the members to keep in touch.