



in association with...

# Business matters Positive year for the Chamber

By Jennifer Black

**WITH membership on the increase, events becoming increasingly popular and thousands of pounds raised for charity it has been quite a year for the Renfrewshire Chamber of Commerce.**

At the Annual General Meeting on Thursday November 25th members were pleased to see the results of a successful 12 months.

Membership has increased leaving the Chamber just 80 businesses shy of reaching its 500 goal - set for the end of March next year.

The Premier Partners programme has also been a huge success, with 15 businesses signing up which signals confidence in the Chamber and Renfrewshire as a place to do business.

A range of Renfrewshire charities have benefited from Chamber fundraising with over £10,000 being donated to charity this year.

Accord Hospice was chosen as Charity of the Year 2010 and many other charities, organisations and good causes in the area were also supported including Provost Community Awards, St Vincents Hospice and Crisis Bereavement Care.

The Chamber's chosen charities for 2011 are war veterans charity Eskine and Loud'n'Proud, an organisation working with young musicians and performers.

Three of its young people wowed the 500-strong audience at this year's ROCCO awards held in Renfrew's Normandy Hotel in November.

The AGM was followed by the monthly lunch with guest speaker Sir Tom Farnner, who opted to keep on speaking rather than eat, much to the delight of the members. Bob Davidson, Chief Executive of

TRIP: Members visited the Scottish Parliament in October



Renfrewshire Chamber of Commerce, said:

"2010 has been a positive year for the Chamber - finances are strong, membership is up, events are better attended and the profile is high.

"But we can't get complacent and we plan to further build on that in 2011 and beyond.

"I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Board, my team and of course the members for supporting their local Chamber.

"Renfrewshire has got so much to offer and we want to play our part in helping the area grow and prosper"



EVENT: The Chamber was visited by the Belgium embassy

## President re-elected

The Chamber is delighted to announce that President Tom Johnston will continue in his role after a unanimous vote by the board.

Tom, who lives in Bridge of Weir and is Head of Retail for Scotland with Colliers International, had strong support from his fellow board members and Chamber team at the recent AGM.

Speaking about the decision Tom said: "With membership approaching 500 companies, Renfrewshire and the Chamber has a lot to shout about.

"We are passionate about business in Renfrewshire and committed to helping businesses of all sizes and sectors grow and prosper.

"If there was ever a time to engage with your local Chamber, now is it."

In the role of President, Tom represents the Chamber on many occasions throughout the year - actively engaging with the members and encouraging networking and business between them.

He also attends all the main events organised by the Chamber and is on the Paisley Vision Board which is working hard to attract new retail outlets to the centre of Paisley.

Tom can be contacted via Renfrewshire Chamber at [www.renfrewshirechamber.com](http://www.renfrewshirechamber.com) and for more information on Colliers International please visit [www.colliers.com/uk](http://www.colliers.com/uk)



PRESIDENT: Tom Johnston

### Dates for your diary

Christmas Networking Lunch - Thursday December 16, The Glynhill Hotel in Renfrew, 12noon-2pm

Manufacturing and Engineering Forum at Linn - Wednesday January 19, 2011, Linn Products in Eaglesham, 3pm-5pm

fatBuzz at Phoenix II "blogging" - Tuesday January 25, 2011 8am-10am

Burns Networking Lunch - Thursday January 27, 2011, Mar Hall in Bishopston, 12noon-2pm

STV tour - Thursday February 3, 2011 - details to be confirmed

Manufacturing and Engineering Forum at The AFRC - Tuesday February 15, 2011, 12noon-2:30pm

Renfrewshire Chamber are on the following social media sites. Visit [www.renfrewshirechamber.com](http://www.renfrewshirechamber.com) for more information.

Twitter facebook

LinkedIn YouTube