



**B**ORDERS **A**SPERGER & **A**UTISM **G**ROUP **S**UPPORT

*Recognised Scottish Charity No; SC 032508*

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### **Chairman's report 2013**

Special mention is given to everyone who has continued to support and donate to us throughout the past twelve months – the support, guidance, advice and encouragement has been a very valuable necessity to us all.

▶ Our biggest goal for 2012 was made when we purchased the upgraded **CARER-VAN** in October – the result of very successful fundraising from a wide range of our members and supporters, **Andy Monk, Carol Campbell, Earlston High School, Dyspraxia Borders, Coop** stores across the Borders who have continued to permit us to place our cans in their shops – and to the many hundreds of people who pop their change into those cans and our collecting buckets in the store collections which Duncan very kindly organises.

▶ Thank you to **Duncan and Hazel** for their continued input and important role on our committee, without their help and practical support our achievements would not be met!

▶ Also thank you to **Rob Nicholson & the Bridge, Alan Ainslie & Berwick Computer Services, Kevin Wyse & In-house Design and Neil Dickson** for his valued guidance and auditing expertise.

▶ Carol was unable to commit fully to being fully active as the treasurer so it had been agreed that Rodelle would assume the role until further notice. Carol would remain as advisor of the finances to ensure continuity and for extra supervision whilst Rodelle learnt the ropes.

▶ **Training** = very successful training seminars had taken place, **Rudy Simone and Dean Beadle** had both delivered excellent talks and the feedback from all delegates was, once again, highly commendable.

▶ **Scottish Government** – had awarded us a massive £14,500 to set up the **Employment Project**...our promise to have booklets and leaflets printed and distributed borders wide was well under way. We had also held our first of three Employment Roadshow – which had been attended by almost 50 delegates' representative of a wide range of businesses and service providers from the Borders and Scotland. The speakers had all given excellent presentations and had been highly praised in the feedback.

▶ **The Year Ahead** – Seminars and Roadshow – concentration is on raising awareness of Autism and the many aspects of an individual's life which autism plays a significant part in causing anxiety! **Dr Wendy Lawson** will discuss the **Sensory issues**, **Dean Beadle and Lynne Moxon** will guide delegates through the **Sexuality & Puberty** issues, and the **Employment Roadshow** will continue to highlight the positivities which the employer and workforce can benefit from when accepting an autistic person into their fold!

▶ Thank you to the new owners of the **George & Abbotsford Hotel** who continue to allow us to hold our monthly meetings in their front lounge, to the **Autism Interest Group** and **Borders Autism Strategy Group** who continue to invite us to participate in their regular meetings to share what is happening in the Borders and what needs to be happening to benefit the many people who live with autism in our communities.

▶ **Thank you** to our **members** who continue to be a very important reason for BAAGS to continue in existence, and to the people who continue to phone, email and come to our meetings to ask for advice, encouragement and guidance – you are why BAAGS exists.

▶ Thank you to BAAGS committee for agreeing to continue for another year.