

## CNWA AGM and Conference 2009

### Chairman's report

Good morning ladies and gentlemen and may I add my welcome to those of Judith to our members, our PCSO's and our distinguished guests. I shall keep this report brief but if you have questions please use the Question Form with the Welcome Pack and we'll take your questions during the Question and Answer session.

2009 has been a year of consolidation for the Association. We have a robust business plan setting out our aims and objectives and we now have a fully functioning Board including a professional treasurer and company secretary. And I must thank Burnetts and Saints for providing us with the excellent services of Caroline Redhead and William Moore on a pro bono basis. They have brought enthusiasm, commitment and professionalism to these important roles.

We have now established a Joint Management Group to oversee the development of Neighbourhood Watch in Cumbria. It includes representatives from the Constabulary, the Fire Service, the Association, the four Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships and the Association of Local Councils, all of whom are formally committed to strengthening and developing the movement in Cumbria. This is a great step forward and I must commend David Farmer for all his hard work during his time as Project manager for the vital role he played in bringing this about and for bringing much needed clarity to the relationship between the Association and the movement in Cumbria. I was also pleased that David has offered his continuing support to the Association as a member of the Board.

It is also relevant that the National Committee, on which I represent the North West Region, has become formally constituted and will shortly obtain charitable status. This means they can seek, hold and use funds to help support the movement across England and Wales. This is a positive step forward and well supported by the current Government. And I use the word current advisedly!

Turning to more parochial matters, during the year we have produced two newsletters and a card for members detailing important telephone numbers and web addresses. We are developing the Association's web site and have recruited a new volunteer web master, Charles Paxton, who has taken over from Andy Norris who had to step down due to ill health. We owe a great debt of gratitude to Andy for getting our site established and maintaining it since its inception and he has our very grateful thanks.

I am also delighted to tell you that Sue Crawford the editor of the Cumbria News and Star has agreed to join the Board to provide us with her expertise publicity and media relations expertise. Sue will provide a much needed source of expertise.

We have held Board meetings in Barrow, Carlisle and Workington in 2009 and prior to the Board meeting we met with coordinators to enable them to raise issues and discuss activity around in their areas. Many excellent ideas arose from those discussions many of which were reported in the latest newsletter. Our next Board meeting will be held in Kendal on Saturday the

7<sup>th</sup> of November and again we are inviting coordinators to come along at 11.00 to meet the Board for an informal discussion over a cup of tea and a biscuit. So those here from South Lakes please make a note of the date, which incidentally is scheduled at the end of 'Not in My Neighbourhood Week' which I am sure many of you will be involved with.

As I reported in the Newsletter, at the end of April the term of office of the development officers came to an end and we must thank them for all their hard work on behalf of the Association and the movement in Cumbria. However it seems to me a very positive step that the Neighbourhood Watch movement in Cumbria and Neighbourhood Policing in Cumbria, with similar aims, should be working closely together and supporting one another. It is extremely gratifying that we have so many PCO's with us this morning which is an excellent example of their commitment to supporting Neighbourhood Watch. I look forward to the Chief Constable's address on this subject.

That brings to an end my Chairman's report and as I said at the beginning if you have any questions please put them on the question form and I will attempt to answer them during the Question and Answer session.