

## **Chair's Report to the 5<sup>th</sup> AGM of the Cheshire Neighbourhood Watch Association (CNWA)**

CNWA in Cheshire covers a population of just over 1 million people in 476,501 households (2021 Census), and has 1,345 Neighbourhood Watch Coordinators (as at 14 November 2022) working to keep their communities safe. Our objectives include supporting local coordinators and members of Neighbourhood Watch, with the aim to grow and develop existing schemes and to expand the organisation across the county. We are proud to partner with the neighbourhood policing teams and PCSOs of Cheshire Police, local councils, and other community groups and organisations to prevent crime, the fear of crime and increase awareness of all forms of crime.

We are halfway through our 5 Year Plan. Its delivery was severely impacted by Covid restrictions. That said, we have utilised our new Facebook page to interact with residents of Cheshire. And more recently attended face to face events with parish councils and community groups. There is clearly room for improvement here and we will work on this in the year(s) ahead.

2022 is a special year for Cheshire, as it marks our 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Neighbourhood Watch (or Home Watch as it was called then) was born in Mollington, just outside of Chester 40 years ago. We held a celebration event in June, at Vale Royal Abbey to mark this milestone. We were delighted to have Insp Grahame Andrews (who was a Sgt at the time) and the son of the late Harold Cooper (the first Coordinator) attend. For them it was quite emotional.

We were also joined by long serving coordinators, supporters of Neighbourhood Watch and those residents of Cheshire who were nominated for an award for their services to the community. The competition was strong, but the winners of those awards were:

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| Neighbourhood Watch Coordinator of the Year:          | Dave Nixon, Sandbach       |
| Neighbourly Neighbour of the Year:                    | Sarah Harrison, Warrington |
| Individual for Services to the Public:                | Helen Bennett, Warrington  |
| Neighbourhood Watch Coordinator Lifetime Achievement: | Jeff Broadley, Wilmslow    |

We also had Assistant Chief Constable for Cheshire, Bill Dutton and our Police and Crime Commissioner John Dwyer in attendance. They are big supporters of Neighbourhood Watch and can see the value in our partnership. We were delighted to have John Hayward-Cripps, CEO of Neighbourhood Watch National attend and present a session. It was a lovely afternoon (even though I say it myself).

We have had much change in committee members. Bob Marshall and Dave Brown have left the team to take up full time jobs. Joan Gibbison has retired after many years on the committee, being a Multi Schemed Administrator and more recently the Treasurer for our funds.

New CNWA Committee members include Keith Stokes who has taken over the reins as Treasurer, and John Powell who has been appointed to a new role as Funding Manager. Both Keith and John have a background in business and finance and are well equipped to undertake their respective roles. Having lost two Multi Schemed Administrators in as many years, we were delighted to recruit Mike Jones into that position. Mike is recently retired from Cheshire Constabulary having undertaken beat and admin roles. He is currently undergoing security vetting for this important role.

Our experienced and longstanding CNWA Committee colleagues include Heather Thompson who is our Communications Lead; an MSA; and has developed our 5 Year Plan; whilst also supporting National colleagues with a variety of projects. Graham Bushill has been with us a few years now and brings his experience of working with diverse community groups. Helen Kynnersley has been developing and delivering a new Girl Guiding Badge entitled 'Neighbourhood Watch Challenge Badge' to coincide with the 40th Anniversary. Finally, our Police SPOC Clare Harrison who continues to keep us organised.

Julia Griffiths

Chair