

CHAIR AND SECRETARY'S REPORT NOTTSWATCH, 2013.

THERE IS AN OLD SAYING "WHAT GOES AROUND – COMES AROUND"

At our AGM in 2012 I addressed the meeting on the theme, WHAT A DIFFERENCE A YEAR MAKES!

Today, as then, everything was altering. We have established excellent partnership working with the Police at senior levels and similarly with our County Council.

We had submitted a bid for funding to expand the Watch across the County and it had been granted and we were able to enter an Action Plan with all members of the NottsWatch committee taking part.

2013 saw that Action Plan continuing with our own **NottsWatch Website** being launched, **Multi Scheme Administrators** being trained on the NEIGHBOURHOOD ALERT SYSTEM, we started **instructing PCSO's** in the setting up of new Watch schemes.

I have to admit that two schemes failed. **The ABC computer beginners course and the Personal Safety and Crime Prevention courses were poorly subscribed and have ended.**

Throughout the last 2 years I have been working with Dr David RHODES, encouraged by our partners to establish a combined City and County Watch. Members will recall at our **joint Conference in November, 2013**, a joint CONSTITUTION was put before members and it was accepted unanimously – with just TWO ABSTENTIONS.

At our November meeting, because of family problems, I also had to take over the job of Secretary and therefore I ask your indulgence when reading some of the Forms and typing – including the monthly **NewsLetter**.

WHERE ARE WE NOW?

It is with sadness that our NottsWatch committee, a committee that with the help of Mansfield Watch Association, I launched in 1996, has agreed to dissolve.

It is necessary as there is a need to achieve **Charitable status** that will allow our movement to get bigger and better by applying for funding to enable the **core elements of the Watch** i.e. making our communities a better and safer place to live AND BEING AN ORGANISATION WHERE COMMUNITIES HAVE A VOICE .

WHAT IS NEXT?

The Watch reforms into two separate groups with an Executive that will join the City and County together. Membership representing District council areas across the county will continue to be the backbone of the committee. Partnership with the Police and both County and City Councils will continue and even the name will remain the same.

FINALLY,

It has been a very hard year. I have enjoyed meeting groups across the County, helping with PCSO training, talking individually with members of your committee and providing the monthly NEWS LETTER.

I will miss the close liaison with Mary PENFORD, our treasurer, whose Watch meetings I attend.

John LENNARD, Police volunteer, our MSA trainer amongst many other post he holds who always phones and begins “I’ll not keep you for long”, to name but two.

Paul WINTER, OUR Police liaison, for his support and provision of our meeting places and Yvette Armstrong and her team from the County Council for providing the guidance that was often required.

They have all contributed to making NottsWatch what it has become. However, most of all I must thank the Watch volunteers who have given so much of their time. You should all be proud of their contribution to the Neighbourhood Watch – I know I am.