



CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2009

I would like to thank the Winter Lights Committee and all those involved in putting the lights up and for such a good event the other Saturday.

As Chair and in regard to the Officers of the Chamber of Trade we need the support of members in whatever we do.

I appreciate this year, and especially in the last two months there have been rather a number of questionnaires and consultations sent out to members. It is important that all members complete these and return them.

This enables us to reply to the Lake District National Park Authority, Cumbria Tourism, SLDC and others to explain how these events and other happenings affect our members businesses. Also how it affects different members in different ways.

With the Bowness Bay Project I have not had any feedback and therefore have not been able to put in any comments to the Lake District National Park Authority on these proposals.

With regard to the Air Show and the Great North Swim the feedback I received together with a number of responses was very helpful and I have passed this onto the Lake District National Park Authority and Cumbria Tourism. This may help them with regard to future events as to the timing of these and where they are held.

With the latest consultation regarding the Air Show most members fully supported Rotary and the Air Show. There was general support to Rotary, for this coming year only to trial, having a caterer on the Pitch & Putt area only, providing it was a local business and there would be no retail use of this area. This is for the weekend of the Air Show in 2010 only. I therefore propose to write to Rotary, Windermere Town Council and SLDC accordingly.

The Officers and other members of the Chamber have been very active representing us on various committees and with other organisations throughout the year.

Steve Marston has been membership secretary, vice chair and our representative on BIDS group and I am grateful for the time and effort he has put in on this. BIDS was a matter that was raised in January and Steve along with others developed this idea.

Unfortunately now due to family commitments he has had to stand down from these posts but I hope it will not be long before he is able to rejoin us and be active member in the chamber again. May I thank him for all the help and assistance he has given me over the year? Jo Harris has stepped in on Bids and kept us up to date.

Adrian has continued to give his support to the Chamber as secretary and treasurer and also in keeping the website going and up to date with changes on a regular basis which he has put out to members by email. This website is now the envy of various groups and I understand that the local group of The Federation of Small Business may be developing something along a similar line and the Cumbria Chamber of Commerce has referred their members to it.

Eve Blatchley has again been membership secretary and our representative on the Diessen Group but will be standing down from both these offices this year. Eve has been a member of the Windermere and Bowness Chamber of Trade for as long as I can remember and she has not been a person to sit back and do nothing and has been active in many ways in organising the street lights in Ash Street, the Diessen Christmas Market, and has been a very active member of the Diessen twinning committee as well over the last ten years. During the last few months ill health has prevented Eve being as active but I hope that she has a speedy recover and that she continues to attend our meetings.

Bill Johnson has been our representative on the community safety partnership and has reported back on these at the various meetings.

About twelve months ago Simon Everett was our representative on the Still Water Partnership and has attended a number of their meetings during that time. His reports again have been given to these meetings.

Dave Howarth and Jo Harris have kept us informed on what has been happening with the Winter Lights Group throughout the year.

I would like to thank all those involved for the handwork and support that they have given the Chamber over the last twelve months. Without these and others then the Chamber could not be an effective presence within the area.

I have attended a number of the meeting on BIDS, the Windermere Waterfront Scheme, meetings with the Rotary and Lions, with the traders on Glebe Road, and more recently with the Federation of Small Businesses and with the Cumbria Chamber of Commerce.

Following the floods I have also had meetings with Tim Farron and Vince Cable and have spoken to some of those affected on The Glebe and in Bowness. After speaking with one of the local councillors, I understood that an official with SLDC was going to be appointed with the specific task of looking after these floods and would be contacting me, but to date I have heard nothing.

I think that it is important that the Chamber is involved in consultations, whether it would be regarding the Air Show, TICs or other things that affecting the area and is likely to affect local businesses.

During the year we have had a number of presentations first of all by Gary Mortimer regarding energy, Steve Ratcliffe regarding the Windermere Waterfront Project, Keiron McGlasson regarding the Bowness Bay Project, Alan Catts regarding the Air Show, Richard Sykes regarding car parking at Booths, Gail Escolme from Hayton and Winkley on employment law and latterly Adam Thomas on the future of Brockhole.

Before I finish I would like to thank PCSO Scott Livett and other officers that have attended these meeting and provided us with updates and reports on various matters. I look forward to working with other groups and associations in the future and I would encourage all members to become actively involved in the Chamber and help with any consultations in the future.

Barry Butler – Chair, Windermere & Bowness Chamber of Trade

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