

## **CIEH East Midland Region**

### **Trustees report 2009 – John H. Freear**

It was an honour to be elected Chairman of CIEH Council at the beginning of 2009, both from a personal perspective and as a representative of the EM Region. I am only the 5<sup>th</sup>. Chairman of Council from the EM Region since its inception – David Statham being the last one in 1985. I anticipated that the year would be challenging for CIEH due to the global financial crisis and that has proved to be the case.

The beginning of the year saw me chairing Service Reviews for each section of CIEH which identified aims, objects, work plans plus potential savings. These Reviews became an invaluable part of an Organisational Review which the Chief Executive commenced during the 3<sup>rd</sup>. quarter of 2009. It had become clear that the CIEH needed to become one organisation, be leaner and better able to deal with declining membership and finding increased income. These outcomes should become clearer during early next year. The outcome of the CIEH Governance Review should also be decided hopefully next year.

Although many EHPs are employed in the private sector the CIEH relies heavily on members employed in local authorities. The financial problems of local authorities will undoubtedly have a detrimental effect on membership where local authorities withdraw paying membership and reduce training budgets. The widening of membership is being discussed by Council in the near future.

The recent decision by the RMB to appoint an Executive Officer is a positive step forward for the Region. It has become increasingly clear to CIEH that neither Regions nor Branches can rely solely on volunteers any longer to carry out all the work and be effective and active. But Steve Bidwell will still need volunteer support.

The success of the 5 Pack + 1 low cost CPD is a good example of where it is imperative to have paid support. In this case LGEM carried out the administrative burden of seminar organisation and volunteers to provide the ideas. The Region needs to be extremely grateful to the County CEHO Groups for their continuing support and the secretaries of these Groups for their attendance at the Focus Group meetings.

Although my year as CIEH Chairman has been very challenging at times there were 2 particular occasions involving EM members which were very pleasurable. Firstly I presented 50 and 60 Year membership certificates to approximately 30 members at Chadwick Court. This included Graham Bottomley and David England both EM members who I have known personally for many years. Secondly Barrie Sheard, an EM retired member has spent a great deal of time and energy on the National Service Reminiscences Project which is a collection of photos and material from members across the country from their time doing National Service. It was a pleasure to receive this collection from Barrie on behalf of CIEH..

This is just a brief overview of 2009 but do not hesitate to contact me for further information.