

## **President Peter Westby's message ... [2011-12]**

I cannot pretend to be other than considerably daunted by the responsibility of becoming President of Great Missenden Rotary after such a short time back in the club. My former participation was generally limited to weekly meetings and helping out at events: I was rarely able to attend any committee meetings in that time.

Looking through some papers that I retained at the time I resigned from the club I was somewhat surprised to see that it was nearly 16 years ago!

Much has changed in that time and we have lost some much loved and dedicated Rotarians in that time.

However: dwelling on the past can be uplifting over memories of the successes and also somewhat melancholy over lost friends.

Enough of the past: what about the present and the future? We have a very dedicated membership who participate to the limits of their abilities and who have an unshakeable respect for Rotary organisation and its objectives. To my mind, the selection of Rotary as a partner by the Bill Gates foundation speaks volumes for the trust and dedication that our international organisation represents. We should capitalise on this.

Thank you to all the members who have agreed to continue chairing their committees for another year.

We all know that we have challenges to face which we must, somehow, strive to overcome. The greatest is membership. We have the disadvantage of (and I include myself) as being representatives of the "Senior Citizenry". As we all know our membership is, to put it bluntly, aging (and so am I!) Time and tide wait for no man and we must accept that Great Missenden and its surrounding areas are, overwhelmingly, a commuter dormitory. A visit to the station from about 6am on any week day shows many of our target potential recruits setting off to London. These people could be our targets for recruitment. Speaking for myself I think we should find a way of targeting these folk.: how about leaflets?

We have invited some members of the Ex Roundtablers (41club) but they declined. However they have offered to help out with fund raising events by attending and/or by providing man power.

At the Club Assembly on 6<sup>th</sup> June we heard of our Committee Chairmen's plans for the coming year which should prove both challenging and enjoyable. I look forward to your company as they progress.

*Peter Westby*