



# Rotary District 1110

## RICHARD'S RAMBLINGS

No 9

District Newsletter

June 09



Well, my last newsletter has come around already and is a reminder how quickly the years go by. It has inevitably been a very busy year and I hope that what we set out to achieve will continue to manifest itself over the coming years.

### **Polio Eradication** – Our number one priority.

What a great response from clubs. To the end of May 81% of clubs in the District had contributed over \$126,000. Well done. Internationally, 45% of the \$200m challenge has already been achieved. Yes we will – Polio will be eradicated.

### **Public Image** – our second priority.

The first of the Public Image Evenings was held on 11<sup>th</sup> June at Sherfield School, Basingstoke.

We were pleased to have the newly installed Mayor of Basingstoke & Deane attending, also the incoming RIBI Communications Chair, Tony Bacon who said he was very impressed with the presentation. Several members of the clubs were there to network and help get our message across. There was a good “buzz” during the evening and people were reluctant to leave, which I think we can take as a good sign! Attendees were given information packs to take away and also invited to visit the clubs. The initial feedback has been positive and I understand from Basingstoke that they have seven potential new members! My thanks to everyone involved for their hard work in making this a success.

The next presentation involves clubs in the Southampton area and this will be held in September after the summer holidays.

Now we are off the ground, we are also proposing to approach larger organisations in the District to see if we can do in-house presentations to their employees. If any club has contacts with organisations where they think this might be possible please give me a call.

### **Membership** – Our third priority.

Over the year I have written to 151 new members and been notified of 44 losses. No doubt there are others that I haven't been advised of. We will not know the true picture until the numbers for each club are declared for the coming year. Hopefully they will show a net increase. Congratulations to Winchester for the highest number of new members and to Verwood for the largest percentage increase.

### **New Clubs**

So far this year there are;

Two new interact clubs in Cowes and Hamble.

One new Rotaract club in Southampton University.

One new Rotary club in Medstead & Four Marks.

This is the first new club in the District for six years

Also another new breakfast club in conception in Southampton.

My thanks to all those involved in forming these new clubs.

### **RI Peace Symposium and Convention.**

I have just returned from Birmingham and a truly superb Peace Symposium and Convention. It was by any standards, world class. Major world speakers included the UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon, Archbishop Desmond Tutu, Jean Rischard former Vice President of the world bank, Jan Egeland who until recently was the UN Secretary General's special advisor for conflict prevention & resolution, Prof Paul Rogers, Jane Goodall and Mia Farrow a UN Ambassador.

All of these speakers gave the same message, Rotary is a major world player. It can do and go where Governments, the UN and the World Bank can't. It was Bill Gates, one of the world's greatest entrepreneurs who told us “to think big”

By looking at the wider picture, maximising our resources and working together, everything is possible, because of what each and everyone of us contributes within our Rotary network. It's Priceless!!!

The power of Rotary shouldn't be underestimated. That was the message LOUD AND CLEAR!

### **Grateful Thanks.**

It has been a great honour to serve as your District Governor. I would like to thank you all for giving me that opportunity and for your help and support during the year. It has changed my perspective of Rotary and really brought home to me what an amazing organisation we are all part of. Also I have learned just how much is achieved by clubs in the District, and what a remarkable team we make. A big thank you to all club Presidents and members for all your hard work.

A special thanks to all the District office holders who have given up their time and worked so hard to help take the District forward. They have all worked so positively and well together. I am very grateful for all their help and support. It has been a pleasure to work with everyone.

Also a very special thanks to those whose term of District office comes to an end this year:

Caroline Millman, who has done a splendid job leading the membership team over the last three years and now takes up the role of DGN.

Paul Hunter, who has been a great support to three District Governors and the clubs in Group 2.

Mike Phillips who headed the Leadership and Development team this year.

### **Thank you all.**

It just leaves me to wish Nigel and all his team every success in the coming year. I am sure they will have the support of everyone in the District.

*Richard Maunder.*  
*District Governor.*