

SERVICE AND FELLOWSHIP
Inaugural Address by President Terry Cann for the year 2009-10

I am pleased and honoured to be nominated President of The Rotary Club of Great Missenden for 2009/2010 and to have been selected from the many hopefuls clamouring for the job (in a field of one even I had to be a winner). But seriously, I do hope that my performance over the coming year proves acceptable to the Club and that it may help to support and maintain its established character and culture.

I have been a Member for such a short time, joining near the end of Mike Rainford's Presidency which was succeeded by John Coates and John Skrimshire. I am delighted to have them as my models and will attempt to follow their style and example if I can.

In turn I would like to pay tribute to our retiring President, John Skrimshire, who has fulfilled the role with great skill and humour at a time when he was recovering from severe injury and remedial surgery. He has made light of these difficulties and has continued to lead from the front. He has my admiration and gratitude as do the Members of our Club Committee who have supported him during this time.

For the coming year it is clear that we have to balance our social and service aspirations with our available manpower. At our Club Assembly this was recognised in the proposals by the various Committee Chairmen for the forthcoming year. Essentially we need to plan activities which we can cover comfortably within our present resources. Even so we shall have a very active and involving programme to enjoy.

However, I would like to add to this, as a priority, the recruitment of new members and the establishment of a succession plan to meet our management needs over the next five years.

If successful this will give the individuals an understanding of the various roles and responsibilities involved and the practical experience of meeting these requirements. Each will be supported and supportive within such a team development enterprise – I hope.

Personally I would feel happier to have successors as Vice and Junior Vice Presidents in the offing and to work with them in responding to the needs and opportunities of the Club. However, I am so fortunate that virtually all our existing Committee Chairmen have agreed to continue in my year of Office. Their knowledge and expertise will compensate and balance my beginner's shortcomings. I am grateful to them all.

Recently we had a presence at the Hyde Heath Village Fete and I was looking for a display headline which typified our activities. I came up with the title 'Service and Fellowship'. In truth I probably remembered this from some Rotary publication. However it does exemplify our purpose.

I could add 'interest' also because I have been enlightened and heartened by many of our speakers at meetings over the past three years.

This all makes Rotary Membership very worthwhile to me (forgive the fervour of a new convert) and I hope that we can continue and extend the contribution it makes to worthwhile causes and valuable enterprises in the coming year.

Terry Cann