

DG's Christmas Newsletter

We are now well into the sixth month of our Rotary Year and my how the time has flown. I have visited most of the club at least once and without exception the welcome has been warm. Thank you.

We have had a really busy first half of the year, although the highlight for me was the conference at Eastbourne. Our speakers all did us proud and the fun and fellowship generated was outstanding. Please put the Bournemouth dates in your diary now.



*The **GSE team from the Philippines** were outstanding ambassadors and our team, now preparing to go on their exchange in February will be equally good. My thanks to the clubs for finding us such excellent candidates to select from.*

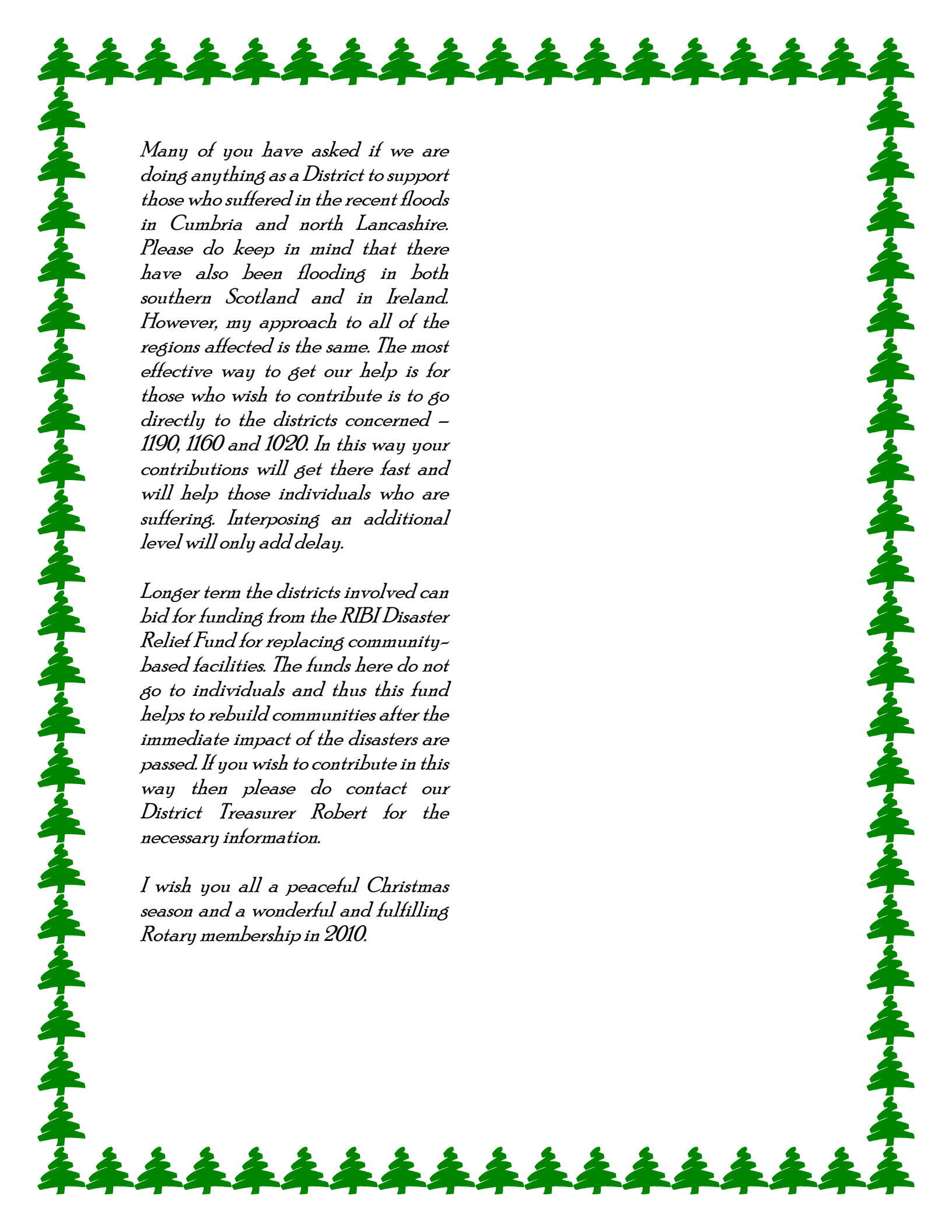
There has been much activity around the membership marketing campaign. Whilst the numbers of initial responses did not reach the expected levels, there have been a significant number of sound new contacts for our membership team and for the AGs

and clubs to work with. Our task now is to convert these contacts into prospective members and eventually into full members. In the meantime work is continuing in the development of at least four new clubs. Let us all work hard to retain the members we have and then build our clubs by attracting new members.
The Future of Rotary is in Your Hands

*I am pleased to record that a significant number of the 80 plus Rotarians, partners and friends who travelled to India to help with a sub-NID in November came from 1070. They are now all safely back and are available to come to speak to you about their experiences. Why not link this to your preparations for our **Thanks for Life** campaign.*

I do hope that your plans for this great opportunity to tell the Polio story (and raise some funds), to celebrate your own successes and to seek new members are all well advanced. This activity, along with the opportunity to collect at selected Tesco and Sainsburys stores, is a great opportunity to get out into the community. Please don't forget that Polio is available to grace any events you have.





Many of you have asked if we are doing anything as a District to support those who suffered in the recent floods in Cumbria and north Lancashire. Please do keep in mind that there have also been flooding in both southern Scotland and in Ireland. However, my approach to all of the regions affected is the same. The most effective way to get our help is for those who wish to contribute is to go directly to the districts concerned – 1190, 1160 and 1020. In this way your contributions will get there fast and will help those individuals who are suffering. Interposing an additional level will only add delay.

Longer term the districts involved can bid for funding from the RIBI Disaster Relief Fund for replacing community-based facilities. The funds here do not go to individuals and thus this fund helps to rebuild communities after the immediate impact of the disasters are passed. If you wish to contribute in this way then please do contact our District Treasurer Robert for the necessary information.

I wish you all a peaceful Christmas season and a wonderful and fulfilling Rotary membership in 2010.