

Bill Hitchen

District Governor 2006-07

Rotary Club of Ellesmere



Bill was born in the West Riding of Yorkshire and represented his school and county at Athletics, Cross-Country and Football, and played cricket, hockey and rugby for his House and School.

He was awarded the Stapley Faculty Prize on graduation from London University. He worked for BOC International and GKN, during which time he qualified as an Accountant. He then became a lecturer and took a Master's degree at Birmingham University. He was later promoted to Head of Wolverhampton Business School, before joining TSB Bank as Head of Residential Training. Three years later, Bill became Head of Operations for TSB Group and, following the merger with Lloyds, Head of Community Affairs.

It was whilst working for TSB Bank, at the national headquarters in Telford, that he became a Founder Member of Telford Centre and its first Vocational Services Chairman.

Leaving the Bank in 1987, Bill ran an Executive Car Leasing franchise and was a partner in an Executive Recruitment Consultancy, before joining Walford College of Agriculture as Director of Corporate Services.

He was elected President in 1996-97 and helped the Club achieve its first Presidential Citation. He also established the first Telford "Tree of Light" with the support of the Rotary Clubs of Ironbridge, Newport, Wellington and The Wrekin. Since joining the Ellesmere Club, Bill has served as its President in 2004-05, developed another "Tree of Light" and was Bulletin Editor for two years.

Bill's involvement with District began during his first term as President when he was approached to be the District's first Assistant District Treasurer. He also assumed the role of District Trainer for four years. The untimely and unfortunate illness of Nigel Pocock, led District Governor Dennis Parry and District Governor Elect Peter Gay to ask Bill to take over Nigel's role as Assistant Governor. After serving three years in the role, he became Chairman of Membership Services before being elected as District Governor Nominee 2006-07.

Married to Elizabeth they lived at Cardeston in Shropshire for 23 years before moving to Ellesmere in 1999. They have three children.