

ROTARY

Rotary 
Club of Skegness

IN ACTION

Oct/Nov
2025

MAKING A DIFFERENCE, IN SKEGNESS AND WORLDWIDE

Supporting Coats4Kids *Making a Warm Difference*

This year marked our Rotary Club's first involvement in the Coats4Kids initiative, and although we approached it with a little caution, the impact we were able to make was truly heart-warming. Through the project, we supported two primary schools in Skegness, providing funding for 35 warm winter coats for children who needed them most.

No child should be cold, and no child should feel the stigma of not having a proper coat of their own. Coats4Kids offers a discreet, dignified way to help.

The local schools identified students that were most in need, and instead of distributing physical coats, their parents were issued with a voucher, allowing them to choose and order a coat online to match their child's taste and personality. The coat is then delivered directly to their home, with no indication that it has been provided through a charitable scheme. This simple approach preserves privacy and ensures that every child can feel confident and comfortable during the winter months.

The feedback from the schools has been incredibly positive and knowing the difference we have made has



inspired us to do even more. We would love to be able to double the number of coats we fund next year, reaching even more children across our community.

To achieve this, we are hoping to collaborate with local businesses

interested in sponsoring or contributing to the project. With each coat costing £25, even small contributions can have a big impact on a child's wellbeing. If you think you could help us, please do reach out to us.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Fellow Rotarians, I'm delighted to share how well everything is coming together in our club.

Everyone is working hard. Our meetings are well attended, we have had some really interesting and enjoyable speakers, and of course we have had some fantastic food.

We are working smoothly as a united group, each member contributing their strengths with enthusiasm, and a shared commitment in doing good in our community.

Let's keep this momentum going, supporting each other and making a positive impact together.

Thank you all for your dedication and spirit.

Yours in Rotary
Tamara Good,
President 2025/26



From Skegness to the Himalayas: A Rotary Mission of Kindness



As part of our mission to make a difference in Skegness and Worldwide, we decided to really push our boundaries and do something different this year.

In our international projects, more often we provide funds to organisations in lands far away for them to carry out good work. But this year WE were that organisation, we travelled to a far away land and boy did we do good work!

Our fellow Rotarian Alli Cowell first visited Nepal in 2019 when she went on a volunteering holiday and met some amazing people. She formed lasting friendships with people who were focused on making a difference in some of the poorest and most remote areas in Nepal. Those friendships have continued to grow, and last year we supported them with our first small project: funding the painting of classrooms at the Patle School, Okhaldhunga. This project was a great success and our club encouraged Alli to go for a bigger and bolder project this year.

In Skegness our club was supporting the Coats4Kids initiative, and we thought it would be great if we could do something similar in Nepal. So, we made contact with Balaram Bista (Baloo) and told him what we were thinking. We asked him to help us to find a place that would meet our expectations in helping children. We talked through a few ideas and were so pleased when Baloo found us the perfect project. A small school named **Shree Krishna Basic School**. It is located in the southeast of Kathmandu in the Godavari, Kitachaur region, and we decided to go beyond just providing coats as this little school was in such desperate need of so much more help.

Thanks to the generosity of our members and supporters including the Rotary Club of Spilsby and the Rotary Club of Alford & Mablethorpe, we were able to:

- Provide warm winter coats for every pupil
- Purchase a Swing and Slide and other outdoor play equipment
- Supply writing books, pens, stationery, and essential school materials
- Distribute toothbrushes, toothpaste, soap, and other sanitation items.

Alli travelled to Nepal to take part in the work directly herself. She helped with painting the swing and slide. The scorching temperatures of 29-degree Celsius turned the paint into glue as soon as the paintbrush was lifted out of the tin!

Alli received such a warm welcome by teachers and students alike. She was greeted with handmade garlands of Marigolds and blessed by a Tika [or two!]

On the day of the distribution of equipment and supplies, the children were so excited, they started the session by standing and singing their National Anthem – which just made her heart burst – the students then performed a traditional dance they had been practising for this particular occasion. Alli personally distributed the coats, equipment and supplies to the children, leaving a small stock of everything with the school for any new students who register at the school.

It was so interesting talking to the principal of the school and the chief guests who attended the distributing event. The challenges the school and the children face were highlighted by them during these conversations. These children are from the poorest surrounding villages. They have to overcome a great number of challenges to complete their education. We all know getting a good education is the key to a better life for them.

Despite these hardships, the school community radiates enthusiasm, gratitude, and pride. The school's motto is **"If you see someone without a smile, give them one of yours"** and sure enough the children did not stop smiling. It was infectious.



During Alli's visit, our club was honoured with recognition certificates. In return Alli presented the school with one of Skegness Rotary's Jolly Fishermen banners, a symbol of friendship and international fellowship. It was a bit tricky trying to explain why this fisherman was very important to Skegness but everyone was laughing at the end, so we think they understood.

During her stay in Nepal, Alli was also invited to meet former pupils and representatives of Patle School, who came to share their first-hand experience on what it was like living



in such an isolated village, how important education was to them and to say thank you for the painting of classrooms we had funded last year. We were presented with a thoughtful letter in a most beautiful hand carved frame to show their appreciation for the support we had given.



So, what's next?

The school desperately needs a splash of colour! The classrooms are cold and lack character. They have no soul, no life, no personality. We hope to raise enough funds to paint every classroom, transforming sterile spaces into vibrant inspiring places to learn. Undoubtedly, it would make the classrooms as bright and beautiful as the children who learn there.

Our club is immensely proud of everyone involved and once again offers sincere thanks to Baloo who went above and beyond to co-ordinate everything. He even managed to keep Alli in check! We really do hope we can finish the work we have started in the not-so-distant future.

A polio-free world is possible, but we can only achieve it by taking action together...

...and that is exactly what we have just done

Rotary Club of Skegness took part in Purple 4 Polio this year to support the End Polio Now Campaign. Our mission was to 'Plant Skegness Purple' and having planted nearly 6,000 crocus corms we are pretty proud of what we achieved.

This would not have been possible without each and every member of



our club who supported the cause, and a huge thank you must go to organisations and venues that allowed us to plant at their premises; **Skegness Academy, Gunby Hall, Skegness Tower Gardens, Skegness Hospital and Church Farm Museum**

We had great fun being on site meeting lots of lovely new people, and learning new planting techniques, including making sure we planted the corms deep enough so the squirrels don't find them!

We were delighted that three schools took part in our project too, having planting sessions at their premises. **Eresby Special School, Skegness Junior Academy and Skegness Beacon Academy**

Finally, a great big thank you to The Skegness Pier who allowed us to promote our project on their big screen – lighting the sky purple.

Wow, what a lovely message to receive from someone who read our mini newsletter about this project.

It's truly inspiring to read about the incredible work the Rotary Club of Skegness has done for the Purple4Polio project.

Planting crocus corms and raising enough funds to vaccinate 6,000 children is a phenomenal achievement. It's heartwarming to see such dedication and collaboration with local organisations, schools, and the wider community. The purple blooms will be a beautiful reminder of the impact you've made.

Please pass on my congratulations to everyone involved. Your passion and commitment shine through, and I'm sure the smiles you've created will last well beyond the spring.

Honouring Remembrance in Skegness and Beyond

On Sunday 9th November 2025, I had the privilege of representing our Rotary Club at the Skegness Remembrance Service, where I laid a wreath on behalf of our members. The ceremony drew an impressive attendance from across the community, with veterans, families, local organisations, and visitors all gathering to pay their respects.

The atmosphere was both reflective and uplifting – proof of how deeply this occasion resonates with people of all ages. As the silence was observed, the importance of coming together to remember those who served and sacrificed was felt by all.

This year, our commemoration stretched far beyond Skegness. Alli, one of our Rotarians, who was in Nepal on Remembrance Day, joined a small but meaningful ceremony there. A Gurkha cross was laid alongside our UK cross, symbolising the strong bond and shared sacrifice between our nations. It was a touching reminder that

remembrance is truly global, Uniting for Good, across continents in honour of those who served.



Events like these remind us why remembrance matters. It is a tradition we must continue to uphold, ensuring that the courage and dedication of past generations are never forgotten.

A Warm Welcome at the New Skegness TEC College

Members of our Rotary Club recently enjoyed a fascinating visit to the new Skegness TEC College, where we were warmly welcomed by staff and students before being taken on a guided tour of the new, impressive, purpose-built facilities.

As a vocational college, Skegness TEC places a strong focus on hands-on, practical learning – and it truly shows.

We were able to see the learning areas across a wide range of disciplines, including hair and beauty, mechanics, construction, and social care, all within environments designed to mirror real workplaces.

A highlight of our visit was a presentation from three of the business studies students, who shared details of an exciting project they are wanting to launch. Through work and research they have done, they have discovered that loneliness in older people is a

significant issue. Not only is it a horrible thought that people are lonely, but loneliness can have a detrimental effect on health and well-being. The students have been looking at things they can do to help in our local community, to reach out to older people and to offer short sessions of different activities, with plenty of tea and chit-chat time factored in, to show them they are not alone. The activities will range from Bingo and crafting sessions, to pamper sessions and exercise classes.

If you know someone who you think would benefit from this programme, we would love to hear from you and connect you with the students.

The students enthusiasm, creativity, and professionalism were inspiring, and it was encouraging to see such strong ambition from the next generation of local talent. We left with a deep appreciation for the work being done



at Skegness TEC and the opportunities it is creating for young people in our area. Our thanks to everyone at the college for hosting us and giving us such an insightful look behind the scenes.

Supporting the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal

On Tuesday, November 5th, members of the Skegness Rotary Club proudly supported the Royal British Legion's annual Poppy Appeal by manning the poppy sales stand at Tesco Skegness.

Throughout the day, Rotary volunteers greeted shoppers, offering poppies and collecting donations in support of the Armed Forces community. The response from the public was incredibly generous, with people giving either cash donations in the collection tub or card payments through the digital system.

Rotary members expressed their gratitude to the local community for their continued kindness and support. Every donation, large or small, helps the Royal British Legion continue its vital work providing care and assistance to veterans and their families.

The Skegness Rotary Club was delighted to play a small part in this important national appeal.



Speakers Corner Chris Suich “Bob’s Brainwaves” Making a Difference

At the meeting of the Rotary Club of Skegness on Tuesday, 11th November, members were delighted to welcome back Rotarian Chris Suich as their guest speaker. Chris shared the moving story behind the charity Bob’s Brainwaves, which she founded after husband Bob, one of our longstanding members and a respected and well known figure in the local community was diagnosed with early-onset dementia.

In her heartfelt talk, Chris spoke about Bob’s journey and the challenges they face together, which inspired her to take action to support others going through similar experiences. Through Bob’s Brainwaves, Chris works tirelessly to enhance the lives of both people living with dementia and the carers who support them.

Chris also updated members on the progress being made in rolling out the Bob’s Brainwaves Packs across Lincolnshire. These packs are designed to provide practical tools, information, and emotional support for families affected by dementia. Their expansion

marks a significant milestone in raising awareness and improving day-to-day wellbeing for many in the community.

Rotarians expressed their appreciation to Chris for sharing her story and for her inspiring dedication to turning personal experience into positive change. Her visit was both moving and uplifting – a reminder of the power of compassion and community action in making a real difference.



Skegness Rotarians Lend a Hand at Spilsby Fireworks Night

Members of the Rotary Club of Skegness joined forces with the Rotary Club of Spilsby on 5th November to help ensure the success and safety of the Spilsby club’s annual Fireworks Evening at the town playing fields.

The Skegness team provided support by helping to marshal the event and maintain safe access routes, assisting with crowd management throughout the evening. In addition, several members worked closely with Spilsby’s firework lighting team, contributing to the careful preparation and coordination that made the spectacular display possible.

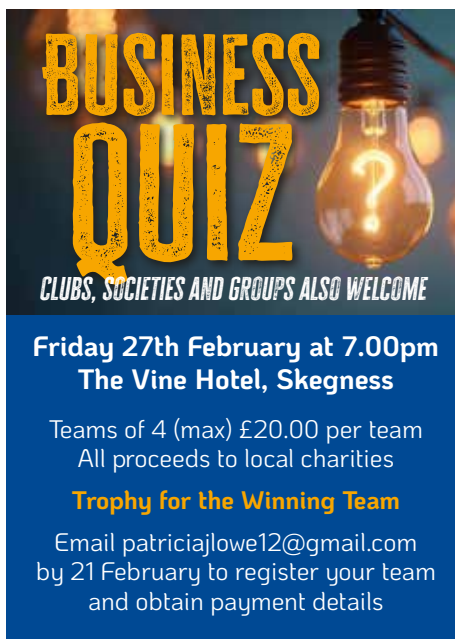
The collaboration between the two Rotary clubs highlights the strong spirit of fellowship and community service that Rotary represents. Both clubs expressed their appreciation for the shared effort, which helped deliver a safe, enjoyable, and memorable 5th November for families across the area.





Dates for your Diary

16 December - North Shore Hotel
Family Christmas Party
 20-24 December **Tesco Collection**
VOLUNTEERS NEEDED
 6 January - Winthorpe Community
 Centre **Starvation Dinner** (International)
 27 January - North Shore Hotel
Burns Night SOCIAL (Foundation)
 27 February - The Vine Hotel
Business Quiz (Com Voc)
 15 May - North Shore Hotel
92nd Charter
 28 June - TBC
End of Year Garden Party



BUSINESS QUIZ
 CLUBS, SOCIETIES AND GROUPS ALSO WELCOME

Friday 27th February at 7.00pm
The Vine Hotel, Skegness

Teams of 4 (max) £20.00 per team
 All proceeds to local charities

Trophy for the Winning Team

Email patriciajlowe12@gmail.com
 by 21 February to register your team
 and obtain payment details

A sincere **THANK YOU** to **Stone Printers Limited**, for faithfully printing our newsletter and helping our Rotary efforts shine on the page. Your support means a lot to our club – and to everyone who enjoys receiving a crisp, beautifully printed edition each month.

It is not just our Newsletter that you help us with. Year in and year out you are always there for us helping us with flyers to promote our events, runner numbers for our flagship Santa Fun Run and so much more and so we just wanted to say thank you, we really appreciate everything you do for us.

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Save the Date Burns Night Supper

27th January 2026, 6.30pm
at the North Shore Hotel

World championship piper,
 dancing display, delicious
 menu and amazing value
 for only £35.

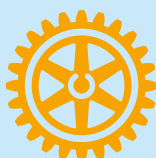
*Full details and
 opportunity to
 secure tickets
 coming soon.*

Rotary
 Club of Skegness



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 few words to [Alli on alli.cowell@gmail.com](mailto:alli.cowell@gmail.com)*



Rotary and Peace the world over