

ROTARY

IN ACTION

Rotary 
Club of Skegness

April/May
2026

MAKING A DIFFERENCE, IN SKEGNESS AND WORLDWIDE

His Name was Always First on the List **Remembering Stuart Bell**

It is with great sadness that we remember the passing of one of our longest serving and most respected members, Stuart Bell.

Stuart joined the Rotary Club of Skegness in 1988 and devoted almost 38 years of service to Rotary and to our community. Throughout those years he became a constant and dependable presence within our club – someone whose commitment could always be relied upon and whose kindness touched so many people.

Professionally, Stuart's background in accountancy made him perfectly suited to the many roles he undertook within Rotary. He served as Treasurer on several occasions and was entrusted with guiding the club as President in 1995/96, later continuing his service as Club Secretary. His dedication to the smooth running of the club was immense, and it was clear to everyone that Rotary was something he genuinely cared about.

In recognition of his outstanding service and commitment to Rotary's ideals of "Service Above Self," Stuart was awarded a Paul Harris Fellowship in 2008 – an honour he was deeply proud to receive and one which was richly deserved.



Yet beyond the offices he held and the years he served, it is Stuart the man that so many of us will remember most fondly.

He was welcoming, thoughtful and quietly encouraging. Many members recall how he would be the first to offer support whenever help was needed, whether at fundraising events, club functions, Santa Fun Runs or community projects. If a volunteer sheet was passed around, Stuart's name was often the first written down.

Together with Pauline, he embraced the fellowship and friendship that Rotary brings. From Rotary International Conventions in Nice and Calgary, to visits to our twin club in Verviers and district conferences over many years, they built lasting friendships and shared countless

happy memories with fellow Rotarians.

Even during recent years, when his health was not always good, Stuart never lost interest in the club. He continued to attend meetings whenever he felt able and always wanted to know what was happening within Rotary and how projects were progressing. He looked forward to receiving the monthly newsletter and remained supportive of the work of the club right to the end.

He had a gentle way about him that made people feel comfortable, valued and listened to.

His son Adrian wrote recently that Stuart "loved being part of Rotary," and those words feel especially fitting. Rotary clearly meant a great deal to him, with his 25 year membership certificate still standing proud in his office at home, but equally, Stuart meant a great deal to Rotary.

He will be remembered as a devoted Rotarian, a loyal friend, and above all, a true gentleman.

Our thoughts, love and sincere condolences go to Pauline, Adrian, Warren and all of Stuart's family and loved ones at this very difficult time.

He will be greatly missed.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear fellow Rotarians and Friends,

It has been another busy and rewarding period for the Club, reflected in the wide range of activities featured in this newsletter. From our 92nd Charter Celebration and inspiring speakers, to hands-on community projects, international fundraising and a continued focus on fellowship, there is much to be proud of. What stands out most is not any single

event, but the way members continue to come together to support one another and make things happen.

Thank you to everyone who contributes their time, energy and enthusiasm – it is what keeps our Club active, relevant and enjoyable.

Tamara Good, President 2025/26

Serata Italiana *An Evening of Fellowship, Food and Fun*

Our International Committee recently hosted a vibrant Italian-themed evening at Lusso by Lanzetta, organised by Rotarian Alli Cowell, and it certainly proved to be a night to remember.

The Lanzetta family went above and beyond in their hospitality, generously opening the restaurant exclusively for our group and presenting a beautifully curated five-course Italian meal. Guests were treated to traditional focaccia with olive oil and balsamic vinegar, followed by antipasti, not one, but two delicious main courses, limoncello for all, before finishing with a dessert of classic tiramisu most of which was taken home as a doggy bag. There was certainly no shortage of food – and no one left hungry!

With good food came even better company, although we were seated across four different tables, the evening very much felt like one shared experience – with conversation, laughter and fellowship

flowing freely across the room, we were all gathered together as a single group.

Entertainment for the evening came in the form of “Italian Bingo,” organised by Alli, who demonstrated impressive skill in ensuring not everyone won at once this time – there was one clear line winner but it was getting concerning as she started to run out of questions and no one had called house. Luckily there were only two house winners that called at the same time! Thankfully, there were plenty of prizes to go around, so no one was left disappointed.

A special mention must go to everyone who donated so generously to the raffle and of course everyone who bought tickets on the night. We are also especially grateful to Skegness College for donating two beauty treatment vouchers from their students. This kind support reflects the growing and valued relationship we are building with the college, and it was greatly appreciated.

An outstanding total of £455.50 was



raised from the evening which will go towards the International Committee's charitable work.

Thanks must also go to Debbie McGee AKA Andrew Newton, who led the marketing and publicity for the event and supported on the night with both the bingo and raffle.

It was a pleasure to welcome both familiar and new faces, adding to the sense of fellowship that defines Rotary at its best.

As one member summed it up perfectly: *“Great night... we really enjoyed it. Good food, good company and dodgy bingo.”*



who spoke passionately about the growing need for support for both working and non-working families alike.

We are proud to continue supporting organisations like The Storehouse that make such a meaningful difference within our local community.

Supporting Our Community Through The Storehouse

On Friday 10th April, members of the Rotary Club of Skegness generously gave their time throughout the day to support a fundraising collection at Morrisons in aid of the Community Larder at The Storehouse.

Thanks to the kindness of shoppers and the efforts of our volunteers, a total of £154.06 was raised during the eight-hour collection. This amount will now be boosted by the Palmer Committee, bringing the total contribution to £1,000. Even better, the funds will be spent at Morrisons, where an additional 10% support will further increase the value of the donation.

Special thanks go to Rotarians Andrew Quickfall, Martin Rawlinson, Pat Lowe, Grenville Staples, Andy Downing and Bob Field for helping cover the collection throughout the day, along with Carole Cameron, who had the not-so-small task of counting the donations afterwards!

The Storehouse continues to provide vital support to individuals and families across our community, and demand for its services remains high as many households continue to feel the effects of the ongoing cost of living pressures. Members recently heard from Storehouse Manager Jonny Welbourn,

District Assembly - Loughborough

Six members made an early start the morning after our 92nd Charter Celebrations to attend the Rotary District Assembly in Loughborough.

Both cars appeared to enjoy an extended tour of the car parks on arrival – possibly longer than the journey itself – before Car Park 4 finally proved to be the winning choice!

District Governor Elect Dawn Denton outlined her vision for the coming year with great enthusiasm and encouragement, setting a positive tone for the months ahead.

In the International breakout session, Rotarian Alli Cowell presented an update on our Nepal Service Project, which was well received and generated helpful discussion, including advice on potential grant opportunities to support future development.

A worthwhile (if slightly sleepy) start to the day after a very full Charter evening!



Beach Clean Sees Intimate Turnout, but Maximum Efficiency!

In what can generously be described as a ‘boutique environmental experience’, seven club members and two friends of Rotary turned up for a litter pick on the morning of Sunday 26 April. Although there were more high-vis vests than volunteers, those that turned up proved to be an elite task force of rubbish demolition!

Gathering at South Parade car park, we soon split up and headed determinedly for our ‘wrapper retrieval’ duties, although it must be said the seagulls looked completely unconcerned.

An hour and a half later and we returned to our meeting point, at least 15 bags of rubbish heavier and leaving Skegness a

little less crunchy underfoot. Big thanks to those that helped out and also to ELDC for providing rubbish bags and some useful equipment.

Watch this space for future litter pick adventures and in the meantime, Skegness can rest a little cleaner than before we arrived!

SPEAKERS CORNER

We have been very fortunate this year to welcome a wide range of excellent speakers to our meetings, each bringing their own experiences, insights and stories of the work they do and the difference they are making. While it is not possible to feature them all in our newsletter, we are sincerely grateful to every speaker who has taken the time to join us and share their knowledge with the Club.

These visits do not happen by chance, but through the continued efforts of our members who reach out and connect with individuals and organisations to help bring such a varied and engaging programme to our meetings.

We thank all of our speakers, and those who help arrange them, for contributing so positively to our Rotary year.

Mary’s Meals

We were recently pleased to welcome Jane Wright from Mary’s Meals, whose presentation was very well received by members.

Mary’s Meals is an international charity that provides daily school meals to children in some of the world’s poorest communities. The simple act of providing food in a place of education encourages school attendance and helps children to concentrate and learn. The scale of the work is significant,

with Mary’s Meals now reaching over 3 million children every school day across 16 countries worldwide, including parts of Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean.

What particularly struck members is the remarkable efficiency of the charity’s model – it costs just around £20 to provide a child with a daily school meal for an entire year. This means relatively small donations can have a long-lasting and life-changing impact.

The presentation gave a clear insight into how a simple idea, delivered consistently and at scale, can make a meaningful difference to communities across the world.

The club was delighted to be able to make a donation of £250 to Mary’s Meals knowing the difference that this will make to the children.

Football Against Dementia

We were pleased to welcome Glenn Hoy back to the Club to speak in more detail about the charity, Football Against Dementia. Glenn had previously spoken to members earlier in the year about his work in public relations, during which he mentioned this project, the club was keen to hear more and his return visit gave us a far fuller insight into this inspiring initiative. Football Against Dementia, established in

2016, uses the power of football to engage and support people living with dementia, as well as their families and carers. The organisation provides both practical support and guidance to those affected, recognising the importance of helping not only the individual, but also those who support them day to day.

Members heard how the initiative has grown over the years, including innovative fundraising efforts such as a beer collaboration, with proceeds helping to support their ongoing work.

We also learned about one of their earliest and most memorable events – a charity match between NHS All Stars and Norwich City Legends – for which the football kits were kindly donated by the NHS. The event raised an impressive £10,000, setting an early benchmark for what the organisation could achieve.

The presentation was warmly received and clearly demonstrated how football can be used as a powerful and familiar way to bring people together, spark conversation and support those living with dementia in a meaningful way.

Following the talk, the Club was pleased to make a donation of £100 in support of the charity’s ongoing work, and we thank Glenn for sharing both his time and his passion with us.

Step Back in Time *Celebrating Our History*

Members recently enjoyed a fascinating “Step Back in Time” presentation led by Club Archivist Rob Wilkinson, offering a rich and engaging journey through the history of the Rotary Club of Skegness.

The room was transformed into a mini exhibition, with a remarkable display of archive material including the original Charter document, past President’s chains, historic photographs, club magazines, banners and a wide range of memorabilia. Together, these items brought nearly 92 years of Rotary history vividly to life. Rob

guided members through the decades with enthusiasm and insight, highlighting key milestones, memorable moments and the people who have shaped the Club since its formation. Alongside the historical detail, he shared a number of lighter anecdotes and stories which added humour and warmth to the presentation, keeping everyone fully engaged throughout.

The Infographic “Rotary Through the Years,” helped to visually capture the Club’s journey – illustrating how Rotary in Skegness has evolved from its early

beginnings through to the present day, while continuing to serve both local and international communities.

Seeing the Club’s history laid out in this way served as a powerful reminder that every era of Rotary is built on the commitment of its members – including those who have given many years of dedicated service, such as Stuart Bell, whose contribution formed part of that continuing story of service, fellowship and community spirit.

Our 92nd Charter Celebration



The Rotary Club of Skegness celebrated its 92nd Charter Night on Friday 15th May at the North Shore Hotel, in an evening that brought together members, guests and friends for a wonderful occasion of fellowship and celebration.

The room looked superb, with tables decorated with elegant potted mini roses and personalised event programmes for each attendee. A special display showcased our original Charter document and framed Past President's chains, complemented by a striking arrangement of purple iris – chosen as a nod to Rotary's End Polio Now campaign.

We were delighted to welcome the Mayor of Skegness, Daniel Kirk attending his first official engagement since taking office earlier in the week, along with Dave Edwards, BBC Look North reporter and

presenter, who joined us as Guest Speaker. Dave shared a series of engaging and entertaining stories from his broadcasting career, which were thoroughly enjoyed by all present.

The North Shore Hotel provided an excellent meal, contributing greatly to the success of the evening. The atmosphere throughout was warm and full of fellowship, and it was a pleasure to welcome visiting Rotarians from the Clubs of Alford & Mablethorpe, Louth and Spilsby.

In her address, President Tamara warmly welcomed guests and reflected on the spirit of the Club, noting: ***"As President, it has been a privilege and a pleasure to serve this remarkable Club over the past year. What makes this Club special is its people – a wonderfully diverse group of individuals, who through teamwork, mutual respect and a shared sense of purpose, achieve something truly remarkable."***

President Elect John Stone proposed the Toast to Rotary International, offering a particularly powerful reflection when he said: ***"The remarkable thing about Rotary is that it gives people hope. Rotarians know the world has problems and it would be all too easy to be cynical and say 'we can't make a difference' but cynicism never built a school, vaccinated a child, or helped a struggling family – action does."***

A memorable moment of the evening came with the unexpected presentation of a Paul Harris Fellowship to Ross Good, the highest honour a Rotary Club can bestow. His reaction of genuine surprise and emotion added to a very special moment in the evening.

The 92nd Charter Celebration was a fitting reflection of the Club's history and continued commitment to service, fellowship and community.

EVENTS COMING UP

Step Right Up Rotary's in Town!

Rotary to take part in the first Community Skegness Show on Saturday 27th June.

We are excited to be taking part in the very first Community Skegness Show, which promises to be a fantastic day of entertainment, activities and stalls for all ages.

We recently welcomed Sarah and Evie, two of the event organisers, to one of our meetings to share their plans for the day. It is clear that this new event has real potential to bring the community together and create something vibrant and inclusive

for Skegness. For Rotary, this is a great opportunity to step out into the heart of the community and show who we really are. Alongside highlighting the fundraising we undertake and the causes we support, we are keen to demonstrate the fellowship, fun and teamwork that sits behind everything we do.

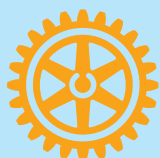
It is also a chance to gently challenge misconceptions and help people see Rotary as approachable, active and relevant today.

To add a bit of fun on the day, we will be running a "human fruit machine" where

donations will be welcomed in support of our charitable work.

We would love all members to get involved – whether by helping to man the stall or by bringing forward ideas to make it as engaging and welcoming as possible. This is a real opportunity to connect with our community in a fresh and positive way, and every contribution will help make it a success.

We hope you will join us for our "final spin" as we round off the Rotary year.



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If you have anything that you would like to add to the next edition of the Newsletter, please forward a picture and a few words to Alli on Alli.cowell@gmail.com

www.skegnessrotary.org.uk

Dates for your Diary

21 May - Rotary Club of Spilsby,
43rd Charter Dinner

8 June - Rotary Club of Woodhall Spa,
38th Charter Dinner

9 June - **Club Assembly**
North Shore Hotel

27 June - **Skegness Show**