

ROTARY IN ACTION

Rotary 
Club of Skegness

Feb/March
2026

MAKING A DIFFERENCE, IN SKEGNESS AND WORLDWIDE

Early Fry-Up for a Fine Cause

At our meeting for the annual 'Comvoc Big Breakfast' on 3rd March, we managed to combine sizzling sausages with serious goodwill!

Rotarians, their guests and other members of the community gathered bright and early at the North Shore Hotel for a charitable feast, all in aid of Cancer Research.

Every rasher of bacon, egg, slice of toast and cup of tea was donated free of charge by Kirks Butchers and Bedford's Fruit and Veg - even the hotel prepared the food and served the hungry crowd



without any cost to the club.

Plates were filled, conversations flowed, and the charity collection steadily climbed. By the end of the meal an impressive £800 had been raised, not bad for an event where the main challenge seemed to be deciding between HP or tomato sauce!

The figure to be presented to the local Cancer Research Representative will be made up to at least £1,000 thanks to the generosity of our club, The Rotary Club of Skegness.

We did miss out on this event in 2025; however, it was definitely back with a 'banger' and big thanks must go to organiser, Andrew Quickfall and the Comvoc Committee as well as all those who attended.

Once again, we find, if you combine community spirit, a fry-up and a room full of Rotarians and their guests, the result is more than just a good meal – it's a recipe that makes a difference!



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear fellow Rotarians and Friends,

Our Purple 4 Polio Crocus blooms are here! We are so excited to see that the Crocus's we planted back in October are starting to bloom, if you are out and about and you see them, please take a photo and tag us on Facebook. Not only is it a lovely reminder of the work we did to support End Polio Now, but it is also a beautiful sign that Spring is officially here.

After the incredible amount of fundraising, we have done throughout the year so far, it has been fantastic to welcome so many speakers to our club



over the last couple of months, from organisations that we have been able to support so we can hear firsthand the difference they are making.

All committees are working so hard and working so well together and it has been great to see more of our friends from both Spilsby Rotary and Alford and Mablethorpe Rotary.

Thank you all for your dedication and spirit.

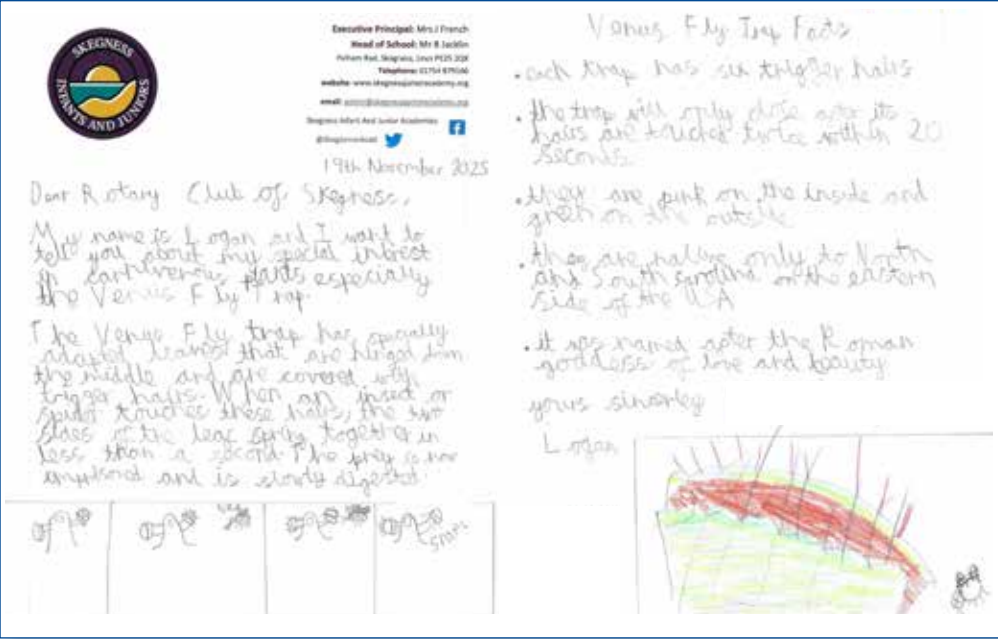
Tamara Good,
President 2025/26

Skegness Junior Academy - Green Fingers

We received the most fantastic letter from a student at Skegness Junior Academy to tell us all about his special interest for Venus Fly Traps. He shared a number of facts with us, and wow Logan really knows his stuff, his Mum has given us permission to share what he sent us.

One of the teachers from the school also contacted us to ask if we would consider funding an indoor plant project they were wanting to do. The intention was to fund a plant for each of the classrooms, the children would learn about the plant and learn how to look after it. Well after receiving this letter from Logan, how could we say no.

We look forward to seeing how those plants are growing in due course!



Stitching Together Community: Knitting Classes at the College

At the invitation of Anat Moody, a tutor at Skegness College, Rtn Pat Lowe spent an enjoyable morning at the College's new premises. The session began with a creative activity recycling Christmas cards to make new cards and gift labels, before moving on to learning how to knit.

Both the learners and tutors were wonderful to work with, and it is hoped that this activity may develop into

producing knitted squares for Jacob's Well, a charity supported by the Club's International Committee. These squares are sewn together to create blankets, which are then shipped to communities around the world where they are most needed.

Pat hopes to return in the near future to continue strengthening the Club's links with Skegness College. We also hope to support the College with future



sessions aimed at helping vulnerable older people in the local community.

Ben Curtis-Stanley, Business Support and Operations Manager, joined the group during the craft session, as did Jay Dimpleby, who stayed on for the knitting class and, like Anat, was soon delighted to see her knitting begin to grow.

A Fantastic Night at the Annual Rotary Business Quiz

The Community and Vocational Committee recently hosted their annual Business Quiz at The Vine Hotel, bringing together local businesses, organisations, and supporters for an enjoyable and competitive evening.

Fifteen teams took part in the popular event, testing their knowledge across a variety of rounds in a lively and friendly atmosphere. After a closely contested quiz, the winning team, 'The Chasers', claimed the magnificent trophy, with 'The 4 Stooges', finishing in an impressive second place. Thanks to the generosity and enthusiasm of everyone involved, the evening

raised a fantastic £775. These funds will be returned directly to the local community, supporting several worthy causes including Skegness Day Centre, Coastwatch, Bro Pro, The Eve Project, Skegness College, Skegness Silver Band, Hope for Tomorrow, Bob's Brainwaves, St Barnabas Hospice, and EDAN.

A huge thank you goes to our Pat Lowe who organised the whole event, and to our excellent Quiz Master, Andy Downing, who kept the evening running smoothly and entertained participants throughout. Thanks also go to all the Rotary members and volunteers

who helped organise the event and ensure its success. The raffle was another highlight of the evening, made possible by the generous donation of a wonderful selection of prizes. We are very grateful to everyone who contributed. Overall, it was a fantastic evening of fun, friendly rivalry, and community spirit – all in support of some truly important local causes.



SPEAKERS CORNER National Coastwatch UK

We were delighted to welcome Ian Whalley from the National Coastwatch Institution (NCI), to our club, who gave an informative presentation about the important work carried out by the charity in helping to keep the UK's coastline safe.

During his talk, Ian explained the role of the NCI's volunteer watchkeepers, who maintain a visual watch from coastal stations to help safeguard those at sea and along the shore.

Volunteers monitor maritime activity, assist in coordinating responses

to incidents, and work closely with organisations such as HM Coastguard to help prevent accidents.

Members were particularly interested to hear about the work undertaken at the local Coastwatch station serving the Skegness area, where volunteers generously give their time to provide an additional layer of safety for fishermen, sailors, and the many visitors who enjoy the coastline.

At the conclusion of the presentation, the Rotary Club of Skegness was pleased to present a donation of



£500 to support the work of the local Coastwatch station. The contribution will assist with the ongoing costs of maintaining the equipment and facilities used by the volunteers.

Homeless World Cup

Guest speaker Paula Stennett attended one of our recent meetings to talk about the work of the Homeless World Cup charity, with which she is closely involved.

During her presentation, Paula explained how the charity uses football as a way of supporting people experiencing homelessness across the world. She described how the annual Homeless World Cup tournament brings together teams made up of individuals who have experienced homelessness or social exclusion, giving them the opportunity to rebuild confidence, develop teamwork and life

skills, and move towards more stable futures.

Paula highlighted the positive impact the programme has had on many participants, noting that involvement often leads to improvements in health, employment prospects, and social connections. Her talk provided members with a valuable insight into how sport can be used as a powerful tool for social change.

In recognition of the important work being carried out by the charity, we were pleased to make a £50 donation in support of their activities.



Is PR Dying - or Evolving?

Our recent speaker, Glenn Hoy, explored the question of whether public relations is dying or simply evolving. He explained the difference between marketing and public relations: marketing sends messages to encourage people to buy, while public relations send messages that encourage people to believe in you.

For organisations like Rotary, the real challenge is making sure people know who we are, understand what we do, and ultimately know, like and trust us.

Rotary has a powerful story, combining a strong national voice with meaningful local action. However, many people outside the organisation are still unaware of the scale and impact of Rotary's work in communities. Glenn encouraged us to be a little bolder in our communications, we know what the benefit is to us, we need to speak up so others can have those benefits too.

Skegness Silver Band

Norman Prime came to see us recently and highlighted that Skegness Rotary has proudly supported the Skegness Silver Band for 18 years—a partnership that has been both rewarding and inspiring. The band has performed at our fundraising events and continues to be a crowd favourite during our Tesco collections, bringing energy and music that delights audiences of all ages.

We hope that the £500 donation we were able to make will help the band to continue with their aims and objectives for the coming year.

Looking ahead, the band has a busy schedule of performances coming up, in just a few weeks they will be performing 'Now That's What I Call Brass' at the Pavillion in Tower Gardens – keep an eye on their Facebook page for all the details. Their talent and dedication continue to make every event memorable, and we are proud to support them.

SPEAKERS CORNER Bro Pro UK

We were honoured to welcome David Bruce from The Charity Bro Pro back to speak to our club.

For the past 15 years the organisation has been supporting men's mental health across the county, working closely alongside the Eve Project which focuses on supporting women. What began as a small initiative has steadily grown, with Bro Pro now operating across 17 locations, including their retro gaming venue on Roman Bank, while the Eve Project has expanded to four locations with another expected to open soon. During the evening, we

were privileged to hear from a young man who attended with David and who bravely shared his personal story of how he came to connect with Bro Pro. His account was both heartbreaking and deeply inspiring. To witness the strength, courage and compassion of the man standing before us, and to see how far he had come, was truly moving. Even more powerful was hearing how he is now giving back, helping others who may be facing the same struggles he once did. David shared their plans for an ambitious challenge ahead. In April 2027 the team will attempt to

climb Mount Kilimanjaro to raise funds and awareness for men's mental health. It promises to be the achievement of a lifetime, and we wish them every success. We are so pleased we have been able to support Bro Pro UK again this year with a £250 donation, and we wish them all the best in the incredible work they do.

They left us with a message that resonated strongly with everyone in the room: **"Check on your strong friends."**

**BRO
PRO
UK**

Marc Jones Inspires at Rotary Meeting

We were delighted to welcome friends, family, and fellow Rotarians from Spilsby and Alford and Mablethorpe to what proved to be an incredibly well attended meeting.

Our guest speaker, Marc Jones, Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) for Lincolnshire, gave a compelling overview of his role, bringing it to life with fascinating facts and statistics.

The PCC role is often misunderstood. Marc explained that while he is not responsible for operational policing, his job is to represent the concerns and priorities of the public, presenting them to the Chief Constable, who then determines how best to address them operationally. Key areas of focus include police standards and conduct, reducing reoffending, and supporting community rehabilitation through probation and unpaid work programs—something Marc noted is far more complex than it appears, due to strict regulations and practical considerations.

Lincolnshire's policing budget has grown from £112 million in 2016 to £200 million today, reflecting both inflation and an expansion in services. Mental health is a significant concern, and the county now has a dedicated NHS mental health worker in the control room to ensure vulnerable individuals receive support rather than detention.

Victim services are funded through proceeds of crime, raising £300k–£400k per year, while modern technology such as 24/7 drone coverage linked to Gold Command enhances public safety.

Marc's final message resonated strongly with everyone present: **"Never be shy about having ideas and testing them out."** His insights not only shed light on the challenges and responsibilities of the PCC role but also reminded us of the importance of community engagement and innovation in keeping Lincolnshire safe.



Dates for your Diary

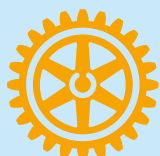
20 March - Lusso by Lanzetta
Italian Evening 7.00pm

26 April **Beach Clean**

15 May - North Shore Hotel **92nd Charter**

27 June - **Skegness Show TBC**

28 June - **End of Year Garden Party TBC**



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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

