

DIARY DATES – SPEAKERS

MARCH

- 2nd** **Rebecca Hale, Volunteer Manager**
Leicester Cathedral: *Leicester Cathedral: In Close Up*
(Vote of Thanks: John Aldridge)
- 9th** **Allison Tripney, Head of Community**
Leicester City Football Club: *Leicester City in the Community*
(Vote of Thanks: Barry Davies)
- 16th** **Dr Jack Matthews, Charnwood Forest**
Geoheritage Officer: *Charnwood Forest Geopark and the Origins of Animal Life* (Vote of Thanks: Simon Gravett)
- 23rd** **Dr Nik Kotecha OBE DL, Business**
Leader and Chair of the Randal
Charitable Foundation (Vote of Thanks: Martin Traynor)
- 30th** **Dr Josh Smalley, Science**
Communication Champion, School of
Chemistry, University of Leicester:
The Science Kitchen (Vote of Thanks: David Howard)

APRIL

- 6th** Bank Holiday - No Meeting
- 13th** To Be Advised
- 20th** **Lord Mayor of Leicester, Councillor**
Teresa Aldred
(Vote of Thanks: Mark Simpson)
- 27th** **Revd. Dr Tom Wilson, Director, The St**
Philip's Centre Leicester: *Leicester: an Intercultural City?* (Vote of Thanks: Barry Davies)

FORTHCOMING ROTARY EVENTS

Friday 6 March – Sunday 8 March Fellowship visits to our twin Club the Rotary Club of Guimaraes in Northern Portugal. Contact Richard Power*

Sunday 8 March, Tweekly Challenge week. Contact Clive Smith*

Saturday 14 March District Youth Speaks Final at Uppingham Community College. All Rotarians welcome as spectators. Contact Moira Bartlett*

Thursday 26 March District 1070 Council Meeting At 7.30 pm via Zoom. All Rotarians welcome.
*Rotarians requiring contact details go to: rv.rotarygbi.org

ROTARY CLUB OF LEICESTER

Meetings at the Grand Hotel commencing at 12.25
Apologies: Telephone 0116 2233950 or email
johannedraycott@pickeverard.co.uk

Immediate Past President:	Ed Cufflin
President Elect:	David Mathers
Junior Vice-President:	Vacant
Honorary Treasurer:	David Brunton
Honorary Asst. Secretary:	Moira Bartlett
Impact Group Chair:	Diana Esho

Elected Council Members: Mark Simpson, Clive Smith, Vicky Ball, Gargi Rampurkar

LEAD COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

Club Service:	Gordon Arthur
Membership:	Parmdeep Vadesha
Service Projects:	Moira Bartlett
Rotary Foundation/Benevolent:	David Howard
Communications:	Diana Esho



PRESIDENT – MARTIN TRAYNOR

BULLETIN – MARCH 2026

ROTARY TECHNOLOGY TOURNAMENT 2026



On 4th February 2026, once again we held our Rotary Technology Tournament (TT) for teams of pupils from Leicester & surrounding schools. This year is our 12th such event and it continues to be very popular amongst school students and their teachers alike, especially from our hosts at Leicester Grammar School.

Over recent years we have encouraged and supported other Rotary Clubs around Leicestershire to run their own Technology Tournaments and visit our events to see what it is all about, and this is now bearing fruit:

- Uppingham RC have held TTs in the last 2 years and are preparing their third to be held at Oakham School in March.
- Oadby RC held their first TT last year and are planning their next for this June at Crown Hills School.

- Lutterworth RC are holding their first TT in early March this year.
- Lincoln RC have shown interest but have postponed their initial attempt probably until 2027.

As usual, organising of our TT started in October and worked up to a frenzy for the day of the event in early February. This year's task was rather more challenging than usual, and we made a special effort to be able to support the teams whenever they seemed to be 'going up a blind alley' or getting stuck. Thanks must go to the judge/mentors for ensuring their charges didn't lose heart!

This year we welcomed 124 pupils in teams of four from 11 Leicestershire schools. It is an inspiring experience to be in a room filled with so many young people focusing their minds and skills on the task with such enthusiasm.

Despite the challenges faced most teams got a model onto the test rig and some successfully completed the task. But the work and learning through the day were the real prize. Trophies went to Gartree High School in the Foundation age group, to Leicester Grammar School in Intermediate and Oadby Beauchamp Community College in the Advanced group.

We are grateful to our hosts, Leicester Grammar School, who have provided the venue and so much more by way of assistance. Also our sponsors, Hodges & Drake and Pick Everard, who provided financial support and released

young professional designers/engineers to assist with the contestant mentoring and judging.

Finally, the Club is grateful to Vicky Ball (Impact Group) and John Niblett (ex Oadby Launde club) without whom none of this would have happened. And also to everyone who volunteered to help on the day and in various preparation tasks – You know who you are!

Nick Thomson

EASTER EGG DRIVE

Our donated Easter eggs are distributed to local charities, schools, care homes and community groups, ensuring that children, elderly residents, and vulnerable people don't miss out. Last year we did our biggest ever distribution and we want to make this year even bigger! Easter is 5th of April. We will collect egg donations W/C 23rd March. If you prefer to donate cash please use the charity account;
Rotary Club of Leicester
Sort Code 30 94 97
Account No. 02422147

Your donation is about:

- ❖ Showing children that their community cares
- ❖ Bringing joy to older people who may be lonely or isolated
- ❖ Supporting families going through difficult times
- ❖ Putting a smile on the face of a vulnerable adult who may be homeless or escaping abuse
- ❖ Spreading kindness and hope across Leicester & Leicestershire

JEWRY WALL MUSEUM VISIT 13TH FEBRUARY 2026

An intrepid group of 25 Rotarians and their guests braved the winter elements to visit the Jewry Wall Museum. Our tour guide Rob took us outside to look at the bath house remains and wall, which is the tallest surviving section of Roman masonry in Britain. Unfortunately, the freezing drizzly rain got heavier and heavier but this was not going to deter us and we saw out his tour (well most of us).

We were then able to go around the Roman exhibits in the newly refurbished museum, which is very light and bright and excellently laid out. Some Rotarians finished off our trip with lunch in the museum café.

Rtn Tony Jarvis

