The Rotary Review

People, Purpose & Community Since the 1930s



Message from our President

Welcome to Berkhamsted Rotary.
For almost a century, Berkhamsted Rotary has brought together people from a wide range of ages, professions and backgrounds who share a desire to make a positive difference in our community. We meet weekly at Berkhamsted Town Hall to enjoy friendship, hear inspiring speakers and plan activities that support local causes.

From Berkorun, the Town Fireworks and Santa's Sleigh, to supporting schools, young people, local charities and humanitarian projects, our members contribute their time, skills and enthusiasm to help others.
Above all, Rotary is about people. It's about friendship, community and taking action where it matters most. Together, we achieve far more than we could alone, helping improve lives and supporting those in our community who need it most.

I hope you enjoy reading about our club and the work we do. As Berkhamsted continues to grow and evolve, we want our Rotary club to reflect the people, ideas and aspirations of our community. If anything in these pages sparks your interest, we'd love to start a conversation

Anne

Anne McCall – President

Putting the Fun into Fundraising

Bringing Berkhamsted together through events that raise spirits, raise funds, build community and create lasting impact.

Every year, we organise a number of much-loved community events that not only bring people together, but also raise money to fund local charities and causes. Here are just some of the highlights from the past year that we're proud to have shared with the Berkhamsted community.



Berkorun - Half Marathon & Fun Run

Running for Local Causes

Berkorun is one of our biggest annual community events, bringing together runners, volunteers and supporters from across Berkhamsted. As well as promoting health, wellbeing and community spirit, the event raises much needed funds for local charities and good causes.



2026: 2,176 Half ~Participants | 180+ volunteers | £32,750 raised.



Lighting Up Berkhamsted

One of the town's most popular annual events, Berkhamsted Fireworks Night brings the community together for a memorable evening while raising money for local charities and good causes.

2025: Over 4,000 attendees | £17,000 raised for the community.

Santa's Sleigh

Spreading Festive Cheer Across the Town

Bringing festive cheer to Berkhamsted each Christmas, Santa's Sleigh visits communities across the town, creating magical moments for families while raising vital money to support local community causes.





2025: 30 journeys | 20 charities involved | £15,000 raised.

The Hospic of st francis · the pepper foundation · DENS Helping Rebuild Lives 20 Years · First Responder · The Swan Youth Project · Gaddesden Place Riding for the Disabled · PLAYSKILL supporting children with physical disabilities · hyh Herts Young Homeless · Charlie's Gift

Youth Events ..Inspiring the Next Generation

Working with local schools, Berkhamsted Rotary helps young people develop creativity, confidence and teamwork through a range of competitions, challenges and community initiatives.



Technology Tournament

Working with local schools, the Rotary Youth Technology Tournament challenges students to solve practical engineering problems, in real time, developing creativity, teamwork and problem-solving skills.

2026: 92 Entries | 23 Schools



Youth Speaks

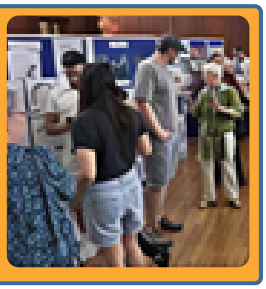
Youth Speaks helps young people build confidence, communication and leadership skills through public speaking and debate, inspiring them to share their ideas and make their voices heard.

2026: 23 Entries | 3 Schools

Dacorum Young Artist

Celebrating creativity and artistic talent, the competition gives young people the opportunity to showcase their work and gain recognition through their schools.

2026: 687 Entries | 22 Schools



Young Photographer

Inspiring young people to capture the world from their own perspective, the competition celebrates creativity, talent and storytelling through photography.

2026: 23 Entries | 3 Schools



Young Chef

The Rotary Young Chef Competition encourages young people to develop their cooking skills, creativity and confidence, providing a platform to showcase their culinary talent.

2026: 8 Entries | 2 Schools in the Final





Shoe Box Appeal

In partnership with local schools, pupils fill and donate shoeboxes for disadvantaged children and families, bringing practical support and a little happiness to those who need it most.

2026: 82 Boxes | 5 Schools

Making a Difference at Home and Around the World

Rotary's work extends far beyond our headline events. Throughout the year, we support a wide range of local and international initiatives that make a real difference to people's lives.
Internationally, we support **ShelterBox**, providing emergency shelter and essential supplies to families affected by disaster and conflict across the world. We also contribute to **Tools for Self Reliance,** helping people in developing countries gain skills and livelihoods through the provision of refurbished tools and equipment.





Closer to home, we run a **Musical Instrument Library,** alongside Dacorum Music School collecting unwanted instruments, making them available to children 8-16yrs who might otherwise miss the opportunity to learn and enjoy music. We also support a variety of community projects including the **Festival of Lights**, **Community Awards, Rotary Children's Fun Day, Seniors Out, Veterans Out, Schools Humanitarian Projects, and the Disaster Relief Forum.**
Together, these initiatives reflect Rotary's commitment to service above self, helping people locally, nationally and internationally.