



WEEKLY NEWSLETTER 9 July 2025

Next Lunch Meeting: Monday 14 July 2025

Arrival time 12.15pm
Meeting starts 12.45pm

at The Chesterfield Hotel, 35 Charles Street, Mayfair, London, W1J 5EB

Our Speakers will be Anna OGGERO



We are delighted to welcome **Anna Oggero** as our next guest speaker. Originally from Italy and now based in London, Anna is a theatre producer, maker, performer, and Performing Arts educator whose inspiring work focuses on international collaboration and the stories of migration.

As Executive Producer at **PROJEKT EUROPA**, Anna champions migrant artists in the UK and uses the performing arts to build a more inclusive and multicultural national story. Her projects include acclaimed productions at the

Marlowe Theatre, National Theatre, and Royal & Derngate, as well as artist development and community programmes that empower migrant voices.

Join us to hear Anna share her remarkable journey and her mission to transform narratives through theatre.

Please book in the usual way with Tom Swainland today (tomswainland @ icloud. com)

Price £31.50 (to pay on the day)

Chesterfield Hotel, 35 Charles St, London W1J 5EB

IMPORTANT NOTICE : MEAL CHARGES : "Missed bookings" at our regular Monday meetings results in RCL receiving a £20 charge from the Chesterfield Hotel.

>> We ask all members for their cooperation. If you book your place and you are not attending, you will be asked to pay £20 to RCL.

A Warm Welcome to Harriette Florence Verwey and Adrian Faiers



It was a pleasure to welcome **Harriette Florence Verwey**, our new Rotary International President, and **Adrian Faiers**, our District Governor for 2025–2026, to our lunch meeting on Monday.

Adrian, an experienced IT Consultant and long-time Rotarian, spoke passionately about the year ahead and encouraged all Rotarians to be **proactive** in their clubs and communities. His commitment and leadership will be invaluable to our District, and we are excited to see the inspiring work that both Harriette and Adrian will lead during their term. We wish them every success.

We look forward to an exciting and proactive year ahead!

Here is the link to the photos of our RCL Lunch Meeting on Monday 7 June taken by PP Hiko.

Here are some wonderful photos and a video from the **District Handover Lunch** on **6 July**, marking the handover between **Himanshu Jain** and **Adrian Faiers**.

Photos of District handover <https://photos.app.goo.gl/xS5RS0KAQzoYCCwe8>

 **Thursday 18th September 2025** 
BOOK YOUR SOCIAL EVENING NOW
6.30pm - 8.30pm

Join fellow Rotarians for a couple of hours social activity with the opportunity to throw darts at Flight Club Victoria.

The location is less than five minutes walk from Victoria underground, mainline and bus stations.

See their website for full detail of the club flightclubdarts.com/location-victoria. £15 per person to cover the cost of playing darts from 6.30pm - 8.30pm.

Drinks and food to be purchased individually on the night.

Book here via the Club's Ticket Tailor site [Buy tickets – Darts at Flight Club Victoria – Flight Club Victoria](#)

Forthcoming Club Meetings and Events

Monday 14 July: Lunch Meeting - Anna Oggero - Projekt Europa

Monday 21 July: Evening Meeting - Global Scholars

Monday 28 July: Lunch Meeting - Helen Fry - Women in Intelligence

Only informal meetings in August

Back on Monday 1st of September 2025



SAVE THESE DATES IN YOUR DIARY

September 18, 2025 - Darts Social Evening

September 22, 2025 - International Peace Day

September 27, 2025 - IPP Dinner

October 25 & 26, 2025 - Eastbourne District Conference

November 17, 2025 - Stanley Leverton Day

November 24, 2025 - International Men's Day

December 15, 2025 - Christmas Lunch

January 26, 2026 - Burns Supper

March 9, 2026 - International Women's Day

May 15 - 17, 2026 - Leonardo Da Vinci Awards, Florence

May 27, 2026 - Charity Golf Day

June 29, 2026 - Glass Boot Day

July 6, 2026 - Handover - New President

More events here : <https://rotary-london.org/events/>

August Informal Lunches – Join Us!

We are pleased to announce that during August, our club will be holding informal lunches for our members, guests, and any overseas visitors. These will take place on **Monday 4th, 11th, and 18th August**, and will be hosted by the Chesterfield events team at the special cost of **£31.50** per person.

Each lunch will include a two-course meal followed by coffee or tea and chocolates – a perfect opportunity to relax and enjoy good company in an informal setting.

Please note: Advance booking is required. If you would like to join us, please contact **Clive Amos** by email at clive.amos@hotmail.co.uk by **8:00pm on the preceding Thursday** to reserve your place.

We hope many of you will take this opportunity to enjoy these informal gatherings with friends old and new.

MEMBERS' NEWS



The new Master Class in supporting charity

Our IPP Doug Wills and former RCL President Tim MacAndrews came together this week wearing different hats: badges and robes, that is. Doug was last week elected Master of the Worshipful Company of Stationers and Newspaper Makers, which is the City livery company for the media and publishing industry.

Tim, who for six months has been Master of the Gold and Silver Wyre Drawers livery company, invited Doug to join him this week on the top table of his Court dinner which was held at Doug's Stationers' Hall.



Both Livery Companies – and their master - are known for their good works and charitable giving. As Doug said, it was “a Master Class in how to combine charity work and drinking champagne. What’s there not to like”?

We congratulate Doug on his appointment, and Tim for recently raising thousands of pounds for Noah’s Ark Hospice for Children when he organised and took part in a walking marathon.

Ever Dined in Jail? (And No, Not the Monopoly One!)

An Unforgettable Night at The Clink!

The Rotary Club of London enjoyed an unforgettable evening dining at The Clink Restaurant Brixton, thanks to the wonderful initiative and impeccable organisation of Past Vice President Gillian Balcombe, whose dedication and enthusiasm made this unique adventure possible.

Dining in a working prison came with a few surprises – one guest had to dash home to swap sandals for shoes (no sandals allowed!), and another was turned away at the gate for forgetting their ID. After a full airport-style security check, with phones and bags safely stashed, the guests were escorted into the old 1819 Governor’s House – now transformed into a warm, stylish restaurant right in the prison courtyard.

It was quite the thrill to be served by people with criminal records – now training to build new lives through the Clink Charity’s rehabilitation programme. The service was impeccable and the food? Delicious! Every dish was carefully prepared and beautifully presented, and many guests enjoyed chatting with the trainee chefs and servers, offering words of encouragement for their fresh start.





Celebrating the 52nd Independence Anniversary of The Commonwealth of Bahamas

The Rotary Club of London was honoured to attend the **52nd Independence Anniversary** celebration of the Commonwealth of The Bahamas on Saturday 5th of July, hosted by the High Commission at the Peninsula London. The evening, held under the theme *"60 Years of James Bond and The Bahamas,"* was a fantastic tribute to the vibrant culture and heritage of The Bahamas.

Our club was well represented with among others, President Anahita Harris, Duchess Williams-Alonga, 2nd Vice President Chikako Osawa-Horowitz, Past Presidents Vasi Daniel and Doug Wills, our new Community Chair Emily Dlamini, and Public Image Chair Elisabeth Reyes.

Guests enjoyed a stunning fashion show, delicious food, and lively music from a brilliant live band that kept everyone dancing late into the night.

It was a wonderful evening of friendship, culture, and celebration – congratulations to The Bahamas on their 52nd year of independence!

[Here are the photos and videos](#) that were taken during the event.





Our own Dârini shows she has got the moves!

We are delighted to share that our very own RCL member **Dârini Vedarattiname** who has recently joined the Rotary Westminster International, has been elected President for 2025–2026. We are incredibly proud of her achievements and wish her every success in this new role! Members of RCL were invited to join in the celebrations at a packed meeting on 9 July. The Handover meeting was also attended by the District Governor and Rotary International Director.



WELL-BEING UPDATE

If you or another member are feeling unwell, recovering, or have any other updates to share such as Anniversary or Birthday, please get in touch with **our Almoner, Past President Vasi**. You can reach Vasi via phone or WhatsApp at 07940 312930, or by email at vasidaniel41@gmail.com.



🔔 Your Feedback Matters!

We hope you enjoyed this week's bulletin. We'd love to hear from you! Whether it's your news, ideas, or updates, your contributions help us make this bulletin truly reflect our vibrant community. Share your stories, insights, or feedback directly with us at elisabeth07816@gmail.com.

Elisabeth Reyes
RCL PI and Communication Chair

Newsletter Editor



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