

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER 13 November 2025

Dear Fellow Rotarians and Friends,

As we approach **Stanley Leverton Day**, we are reminded of the remarkable legacy that continues to shape our Rotary family. Each year, the Rotary Club of London gathers to honour the memory of Stanley Leverton, whose vision in 1933 opened the door to the vibrant network of clubs we now enjoy across London and beyond. His foresight in proposing that new clubs be allowed within existing boundaries laid the foundation for the thriving District 1130 we are so proud to be part of today.

This year's meeting will take place on **Monday, 17th November**, as an evening event, and we are delighted to welcome **Heather Stuart**, Chair of the Rotary in Great Britain and Ireland Board, as our guest speaker. Heather will also introduce the exciting Club 100 Challenge – an ambitious initiative to form 100 new Rotary clubs across Great Britain and Ireland during the 2025/26 Rotary year. It's an inspiring reminder that Rotary's strength lies in growth, connection, and service 🤝.

Our last meeting was equally eventful and uplifting. We celebrated the induction of our newest member, Aditya Gupta, whose enthusiasm and energy are wonderful additions to our club 🍊. We were also honoured by the visit of Derin Iz Haznedar, President of the Antalya Falez Rotakids Club, a bright young leader whose passion truly represents The Future of Rotary.

A special thank you as well to our speaker, Sir Bob Neill KC (Hons) FRSA, for his fascinating and thought-provoking address – a highlight for all who

attended.

As we look forward to the coming weeks, let us continue to build on the spirit of fellowship and service that defines our great club. Together, we honour the past, celebrate the present, and shape the future of Rotary.

Yours in Rotary Service,
Anahita Harris
President, Rotary Club of London

Next Evening Meeting: Monday 17 November 2025

Arrival time 6.30pm
Meeting starts 7pm
at The Chesterfield Hotel, 35 Charles Street, Mayfair, London, W1J 5EB

Stanley Leverton Day

**Our speaker is Chairman of the Board
Rotary in Great Britain and Ireland
Heather Stuart**





Please book in the usual way with Tom Swainland by 6pm Thursday 13

November (tomswainland @ icloud. com)

Price £36 (to pay on the day)

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.

Here is the link to photos taken during our last Monday meeting

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/jArxAHK8ELfVoyiM6>

Forthcoming Club Meetings and Events

- November 17, 2025 - Stanley Leverton Day - **Evening Meeting** - Chairman of the Board Rotary in Great Britain and Ireland
- November 24, 2025 - **Lunch Meeting - International Men's Day** (book now - see below)
- December 1, 2025 - **Lunch Meeting** - Lord Mayor City of Westminster
- December 8, 2025 - **Lunch Meeting** - His Excellency Mr. Ivan Romero Martinez - Ambassador of Honduras to the UK
- December 15, 2025 - **Christmas Lunch** (book now - see below)

SAVE THE DATE

January 26, 2026 - Burns Supper

March 2, 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/>

Tower of London

The Ceremony of the Keys

Rotary Club of London
Privileged guided tour

to the
Tower of London
for the

Ceremony of the Keys followed by drinks at the Yeoman Warders Club

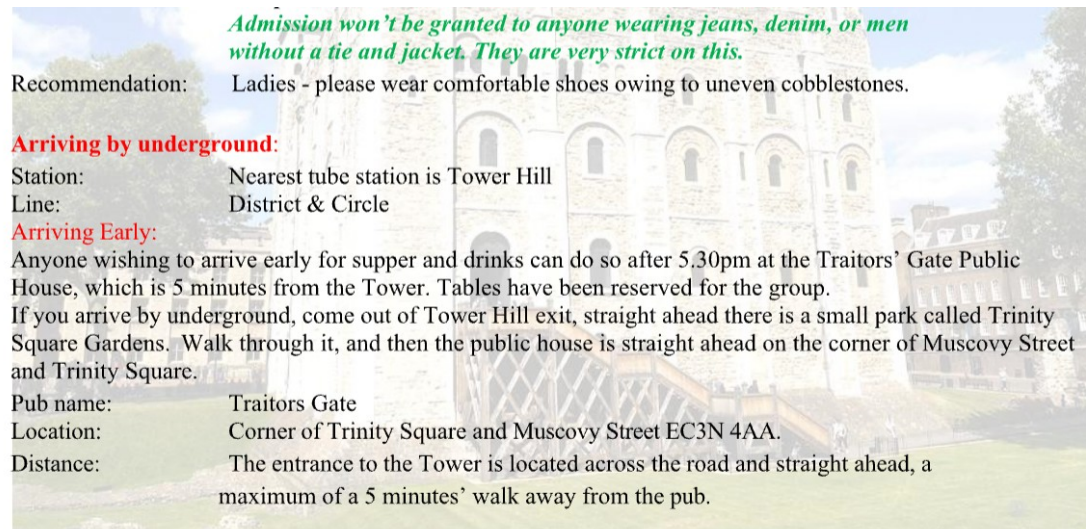
Dates: **Saturday 22nd November 2025**

Time: 5.30 pm for supper/drinks at the Traitors' Gate (optional)
and/or

7.15 pm at the Main Gates of the tower for a sharp start

Locations: The Traitors' Gate Public House for those wishing to partake of supper. Corner of Trinity Square and Muscovy Street EC3N 4AA
In front of Main Gate - known as the West Gate, on the corner of Petty Wales and Lower Thames Street, for the visit

Dress Code: **Men - Jacket & Tie and Ladies equivalent (No Jeans or denim).**
No sportswear/trainers.



Admission won't be granted to anyone wearing jeans, denim, or men without a tie and jacket. They are very strict on this.

Recommendation: Ladies - please wear comfortable shoes owing to uneven cobblestones.

Arriving by underground:

Station: Nearest tube station is Tower Hill
Line: District & Circle

Arriving Early:
 Anyone wishing to arrive early for supper and drinks can do so after 5.30pm at the Traitors' Gate Public House, which is 5 minutes from the Tower. Tables have been reserved for the group.
 If you arrive by underground, come out of Tower Hill exit, straight ahead there is a small park called Trinity Square Gardens. Walk through it, and then the public house is straight ahead on the corner of Muscovy Street and Trinity Square.

Pub name: Traitors Gate
Location: Corner of Trinity Square and Muscovy Street EC3N 4AA.
Distance: The entrance to the Tower is located across the road and straight ahead, a maximum of a 5 minutes' walk away from the pub.

Finish Time: 10.30pm to 11.00pm.

Price: £20 to cover the guided tour, Ceremony of the Keys, visit to the Yeomen Warders' Private Bar and a glass of wine. Cost of supper and drinks at the Traitors' gate not included and to be paid for individually.

Booking and more details from Stuart Castledine s_castledine@btinternet.com 077 689 77 875



INTERNATIONAL MENS DAY 2025 - HOSTED BY THE ROTARY CLUB OF LONDON

Mon 24 Nov 2025 12:15 PM - 2:30 PM

📍 Royal Suite, The Chesterfield Mayfair Hotel, W1J 5EB

**Sales close at 12 Noon on
21st November - [CLICK HERE](#)
TO BUY NOW!**

🕒 **Final Call – Limited Places Left! Celebrate International Men's Day with the Rotary Club of London**

For the **first time ever**, the Rotary Club of London is hosting a special **International Men's Day Lunch** – and it's happening **Monday, 24 November 2025 (11:30am–2:30pm)** at **The Chesterfield Hotel, Mayfair**.

This exclusive gathering will bring together leaders, changemakers, and community voices for an afternoon of **inspiration, connection, and purpose**.

Whether you're a long-time member or haven't joined us in a while, this is the perfect opportunity to experience the Rotary spirit at its best – **fresh perspectives, powerful stories, and meaningful conversation.**

🎤 **Featuring an exceptional lineup of speakers:**

- **Brigadier Tim Waugh, CBE** – Former Senior Officer, British Army & NATO
- **H.E. Paul Andrew Gomez** – High Commissioner of The Bahamas
- **Hon. Alderman Mushtaq Lasharie, CBE** – Chairman, Third World Solidarity
- **Dr George Chak Man Lee, PhD, MA (Cantab)** – University of Oxford

🌟 **Seats are strictly limited – pre-booking required!**

Don't miss out on this chance to celebrate, connect, and be part of a momentous first for our club.

👉 **Reserve your place now**



ROTARY CLUB OF LONDON

CHRISTMAS LUNCH

MONDAY 15 DECEMBER • 12PM-2.30PM
CHESTERFIELD HOTEL, W1J 5EB

In support of the Salvation Army

Entertainment will include Salvation Army Brass Band, traditional Christmas Carols, a special performance by guest singer Grace O'Malley plus charity auction and tombola.

£78 PER PERSON MEMBERS & GUESTS

Must be booked by 1st December.

BOOK ONLINE AT:

<https://www.tickettailor.com/events/rotarycluboflondon1/1863423>

Contact gillianfbalcombe@gmail.com



BOOK HERE :

[https://buytickets.at/rotarycluboflondon1/1863423/
share/52fa8f66e672bb491203cf4b8b976bcb](https://buytickets.at/rotarycluboflondon1/1863423/share/52fa8f66e672bb491203cf4b8b976bcb)

♥ MEMBER'S NEWS ♥

📷 A BUSY WEEK IN THE CITY OF LONDON 🌟





It has been a remarkable and ceremonial week in the City of London, marking the historic election and installation of the new Lady Mayor. The formal **Silent Ceremony**—a centuries-old tradition held at **Guildhall**—saw the incoming Lady Mayor take office in dignified silence, as custom dictates, followed by the lively **Lady Mayor's Show** the following day.

Our **RCL Past Presidents** were well represented throughout the festivities, with **Tim MacAndrews** – Master of the Gold and Silver Wyre Drawers, **Doug Wills** – Master of the Stationers and Newspaper Makers and **Ian Balcombe** – Assistant to the Court of the Pattenmakers, along with **Clive Amos**, all involved across the celebrations.

The newly installed Lady Mayor kindly signed several First Day Covers for Ian Balcombe, marking a special memento of the occasion.

The group enjoyed meeting up in good fellowship over the two days (see photos). Their participation across the events reflected the strong ties our members continue to share with the City's historic Livery Companies and its many traditions.

Spotlight on Member Achievement

We're thrilled to share an outstanding article by one of our own – **Mary Ann Lumsden**, a dedicated member of our RDL community. In her piece, *"Preventing the Preventable: How clubs are helping eliminate cervical cancer"*, Mary Ann draws on her experience with the Rotary Foundation Cadre of Technical Advisers and the Rotary Action Group for Reproductive, Maternal and Child Health to highlight how Rotary clubs are making transformative progress in women's health. [Service in Action](#)

From launching HPV vaccination programmes to collaborating at the grassroots level in clinics around the world, her article is a powerful testament to what we can achieve together. [Service in Action](#)

We encourage you to take a few minutes to read Mary Ann's article here:
[Preventing the Preventable: How clubs are helping eliminate cervical cancer](#)



🎵 London Song Festival 2025

This November and December, the **London Song Festival** presents a captivating series of classical music concerts celebrating **“Women in Song”** – shining a spotlight on women as composers, poets, visionaries, and pioneers who changed the world.

🌟 Upcoming Concerts

All performances take place at **Hinde Street Methodist Church**, 19 Hinde Street, London W1U 2QJ – starting at **7:00 PM**.

- **Fri 14 Nov** – *The Life and Loves of Sara Teasdale*
- **Fri 21 Nov** – *Songs by Latin American Women Composers*
- **Fri 28 Nov** – *Women Writers of the Screen and Stage*
- **Fri 5 Dec** – *The Life and Loves of Christina Rossetti*
- **Sat 6 Dec** – *Marie-Blanche Vasnier, Muse of Claude Debussy*
- **Fri 12 Dec** – *Cross-Channel Currents*

🎫 Tickets

£20 standard | £15 concessions | £5 students

Members of the **Rotary Club of London** are warmly invited to attend any of these inspiring concerts.

Learn more and book tickets at: www.londonsongfestival.org

WINTER WARM CLOTHES APPEAL

The Rotary Club of London is collecting warm clothes and coats throughout the autumn and winter months to support those experiencing homelessness in partnership with **The Passage charity.**

<https://passage.org.uk/>

The Passage are currently short on the following items (preferably men's clothing):

- ✓ Coats and Jackets
- ✓ Hoodies and Jumpers
- ✓ Trousers, Jeans, Tracksuit Bottoms, Cargo Pants
- ✓ Socks and Underwear (new)
- ✓ Shoes and Trainers
- ✓ Belts

Please ensure all donated items are clean and in **wearable condition.**



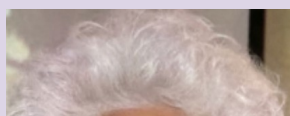
Please liaise with **Emely Dlamini, Community Chair**, regarding collections:

✉ emelydlamini@gmail.com

☎ **07958 404 991**

The Passage 
Everyone deserves a place to call home

Rotary  **Club of London**



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! 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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