



WEEKLY NEWSLETTER 1 October 2025

October is Polio Awareness Month, a time to celebrate the remarkable progress the world has made towards ending Polio. Thanks to global vaccination efforts and international collaboration, cases are at historic lows, with entire regions now free from Polio. As we approach World Polio Day on 24 October, we are reminded of how close we are to achieving a Polio-free world.

A true triumph of science, teamwork, and hope.

With my very best wishes,

Anahita Harris

President, Rotary Club of London

Here is the link to photos taken during our Monday meeting on 29 September 2025.

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/j1DAk2uqY8gXZ4yA8>

Next Lunch Meeting: Monday 6 October 2025

Arrival time 12.15pm

Meeting starts 12.40pm

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

Our speaker is Lee Gibbs



Civil Defence is about protecting civilians in emergencies.

This talk will outline its origin as Air Raid Precautions through to the Cold War "Protect and Survive" era. Perhaps more importantly we will look at ways in which we could prepare now for future emergencies.

No "Official Secrets" will be revealed but you are guaranteed food for thought and maybe some ideas for action.

Lee Gibbs is the Civil Engagement Officer for the Central London Station of the Joint Civil Aid Corps. The UK's National Voluntary Emergency Support Organisation

Please book in the usual way with Tom Swainland by 5pm Thursday 2

October (tomswainland @ icloud. com)

Price £31.50 (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.

SAVE THE DATE

Social Evening at Matthiesen Gallery, St James's, SW1Y 6BU

Wednesday 22nd October 2025

Thanks to the kind invitation of our new Rotarian, Laila Gaber, and Patrick Matthiesen, founder of the Matthiesen Gallery (established in 1978), we are pleased to announce a cultural and social evening on **22nd October 2025**.

Guests will have the chance to enjoy the gallery's excellent collection of **Italian paintings**, complemented by a musical performance from cellist Ben Tarlton. Laila and Patrick will also share insights into the world of art, which they are passionate about. **Drinks and canapés will be provided.** Further details, including pricing, will follow shortly. In the meantime,

please save the date in your diaries.

Click these links for some further information about the Gallery » [The Matthiesen Gallery](#) and Ben Tarlton [Ben Tarlton - Cello](#) | [Home](#)

For any enquiries please contact Stuart Castledine at s_castledine@btinternet.com



🎄 You are invited to join our **Annual Christmas Lunch** 🌟

📅 **Monday, 15th December 2025**

12:00 noon – 2:30 pm at Chesterfield Hotel

❤️ In support of the Salvation Army ❤️

Entertainment will include:

🎺 The Salvation Army Brass Band

🎵 Traditional Christmas carols

🎤 A special performance by guest singer Grace O'Malley

Plus, don't miss our exciting raffle, lively auction, and cash tombola – with a prize guaranteed for every ticket!

Price: £78.00 per person (all tickets)

This is a pre-paid event

All bookings must be made before 1st December

Book online here: [Click to Book Tickets](#)

Contact: gillianfbalcombe@gmail.com

Forthcoming Club Meetings and Events

October 6, 2025 - **Lunch Meeting** - Lee Gibbs - Deputy Assistant Chief Officer - The Joint Civil Aid Corps

October 13, 2025 - Evening Meeting - Pradeep Kapadia - Founder, Kapadia Education Foundation

October 20, 2025 - **Lunch Meeting** - HE Mr. Ivan Romero Martinez - Ambassador of Honduras to the UK

October 22, 2025 - Cultural social evening

October 24, 2025 - World Polio Day

October 25 & 26, 2025 - Eastbourne District Conference

October 27, 2025 - **Lunch Meeting** - The Rt Hon The Lord Soames of Fletching

SAVE THE DATE

November 17, 2025 - Stanley Leverton Day

November 24, 2025 - International Men's Day

December 15, 2025 - Christmas Lunch

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/>

MEMBER's NEWS

Obituary – Eileen Standish

At the request of our President and our Almoner, PP Vasi, I am sharing a few words in memory of Eileen Standish, the wife of Past President Ken Standish, who passed away a few days ago.

Eileen was one of the kindest and most welcoming people one could hope to meet. When Ken joined the Club in 1988, women were not yet admitted as members, so Eileen joined the Wednesday Club, where she remained an enthusiastic and active participant ever since.

When Ken became President of RCL in 1991, Eileen as always was by his side, offering her wholehearted support. Practical, organised, and devoted, she ensured that Ken's presidential year was not only busy and productive but also remembered by all as a happy and successful one. Throughout their long life together, she managed Ken's administration and correspondence, not only for Rotary but also for the family and for Ken's business.

Together, Eileen and Ken raised four children and built a large, close-knit family, who now surround Ken with love and support. Their devotion to one another was a constant and inspiring example of love. Even in recent years, when both endured serious illnesses, their mutual care and determination helped them through, allowing them to return, when health permitted, to the Club lunches where they were always warmly welcomed.

As we send our deepest condolences to PP Ken, we give thanks for Eileen's friendship, her unfailing kindness, and, above all, the enduring love she and Ken so generously shared with us all. She will be deeply missed and never forgotten. May she rest in peace.

Mary Buchanan

FUSION – Breaking Barriers – Building Bridges



Judith Diment with DG
Adrian and Safak Oznoy
from Turkey



Judith Diment with
President Elect Yinka
Babolola



I just spent an inspiring four days at the Rotary FUSION conference in Brussels. The conference replaced the separate Zone Institutes and brought together 1700 Rotarians from 100 countries across Europe, Middle East and Africa, and beyond. There were 90 Rotarians from GB&I including DG Adrian Faiers and Shirley.

The theme FUSION symbolized the unification and convergence of several key elements aimed at creating significant impact on the international stage. This name reflects a groundbreaking message of newfound openness from Rotary International towards civil society and the younger generation, inviting unprecedented collaboration like never before.

By bringing together Europe, Middle East and Africa, the summit strengthened intercontinental ties, fostered mutual understanding, and promoted collaboration on shared challenges such as polio eradication, sustainable development, peace, partnerships and economic prosperity.

President Francesca Arezzo and President Elect Yinka Babalola gave keynote addresses, and the sessions covered the Rotary Foundation, Economic and Community Development, and Peace. The Polio eradication session included inspiring talks from Professor Pierre Van Damme on how to prevent outbreaks; Professor Heidi Larson on vaccine hesitancy, misinformation and outlined her important Global Listening Project. Dr Jamal Ahmed Director for Polio at WHO gave an update on the programme.

I moderated a session and panel discussion on Global Health, the Future. Speakers included Emer Cooke, CEO of European Medicines Agency, Erica Geretsen, European Commission and Dr Jamal Ahmed.

The entertainment included a wonderful concert with a classical ensemble called Caravan, and gala dinner in the magnificent Automotor Museum.

This event was a pilot but it was a resounding success and everyone agree we should do it again this way!

Judith Diment





After an unforgettable year as President of the Rotary Club of London, We had a wonderful Immediate Past President celebration with over 50 Rotarians, friends, and family joining us. My presidential journey began with a memorable weekend in Richmond, the place I chose to call home after moving to the UK, so it felt fitting to conclude with my IPP event at one of my favourite Chinese restaurants in Chinatown, during the Mid-Autumn Festival.

Looking back on the past 12 months, I'm filled with pride and gratitude. From organizing a fashion show that celebrated individual's beauty with Down syndrome, launching Tech For Good, to forming our Rotaract Club of UCL and hosting our first big outdoor community event at Embarkment Park each initiative was a step toward meaningful impact.

Words can't fully capture what we've achieved together. The friendships I've made, and the memories we've created will stay with me forever.

A heartfelt thank you to President Anahita Harris and Past President Tim McAndrew for the very thoughtful gift and presentation, and to my family Andy Clark, Summer and Sam for hosting the traditional Mid-Autumn riddles, which brought great fun to the evening. We ended the night with karaoke, singing together in the festive spirit—a perfect close to a joyful and memorable event.

The photos for IPP Event can view [here](#)

From IPP Candy Liu



Fundraising Birthday Lunch in Support of “The World’s Greatest Meal to Help End Polio”

On **1st October 2025**, **Duchess Williams-Alonga** took the initiative to organise a special **fundraising birthday lunch** in support of *The World’s Greatest Meal to Help End Polio*, a global campaign raising funds for the **Rotary Foundation Polio Fund**.

The event brought together several Rotarians and other members of International organisations, who gave their full support to this important cause. Among those in attendance was **Margaret James-Cooper**, Past President of the **Rotary Club of Barkingside and Redbridge**, who has been deeply involved in the *End Polio Now* campaign for many years.

Margaret delivered an inspiring talk, encouraging everyone present to contribute generously to the fight against polio. As a valued and committed Rotarian, she has been recognised for her tireless dedication and long-standing efforts towards promoting the eradication of this disease worldwide.

The birthday lunch was a warm and meaningful celebration, demonstrating how individual initiative and Rotary spirit can come together to make a lasting impact. With continued efforts and generous support, Rotary moves closer to achieving its ultimate goal: a polio-free world.

Winter Warm Clothes Appeal

The Rotary Club of London is collecting warm clothing throughout the autumn and winter months for people experiencing homelessness, in partnership with **The Passage**.

Most needed are men’s items.

- Coats & jackets

- Hoodies & jumpers
- Trousers/jeans/tracksuit bottoms/cargo pants
- Socks & new underwear
- Shoes & trainers
- Belts

Please donate items that are clean and in good, wearable condition.

How to donate

Please contact **Emely Dlamini**, Community Chair, to arrange collection:

✉ emelydlamini@gmail.com

☎ 07958 404 991

Thank you for helping keep Londoners warm this winter.

Fundraising Gala Concert

In support of the Ukrainian Children's Hospital



The Ukrainian Cultural Association in the UK presents

Fundraising Gala Concert

For the Ukrainian Children's Hospital in Lviv
Thursday 27th November 2025 at 7.30PM



Holy Trinity Church
Sloane Square, London SW1X 9BZ
(near Sloane Square tube)

Tickets: £28, children under 13 - Free
Cash at the door or via the Eventbrite link:
<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/fundraising-gala-concert-in-aid-of-the-ukrainian-childrens-hospital-tickets-1708823811019?aff=oddtcreator>
Refreshments and charity souvenirs will be available with cash donations
www.ucauk.com

You are invited to an unforgettable evening of music and generosity at our **Fundraising Gala Concert**, with all proceeds going to the Ukrainian Children's Hospital. Join us as we come together to make a difference through the power of music.

Date & Time

Thursday, 27 November 2025

7:30 PM – 9:30 PM

Venue

Holy Trinity Church, Sloane Square
146 Sloane Street
London, SW1X 9BZ

Your presence and support will help bring hope and healing to children in need.

[book your ticket here](#)

Rotary Winter Sports – Join In!

Applications are now open for the Winter Sports!

While there's a touch of competition, the main aim is **fellowship** – meeting Rotarians from across the District, building friendships, and having fun. With a wide range of sports and games for all ages and abilities, there's truly something for everyone. We hope your Club will support this great social programme. For any queries, please contact me.

Mike Hodge

District Sports Chair



HERE TO REGISTER



CELEBRATING OUR BIRTHDAYS



Upcoming birthdays

1 October - Duchess Williams - Alonga

11 October - Rajiv Sabharwal

12 October - Christina Mohseni

If your name isn't included, please reply to this email so we can celebrate you too.
Thank you

We sincerely wish our dear Almoner and Past President, Vasi Daniel, a gentle and swift recovery during her time away from our club meetings. Our thoughts are with her during this time.



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



[View in browser](#)

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