

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER 4 December 2025

Come and learn more about one of the very rare zone on the planet where you can buy your cup of coffee with bitcoins!

when: Monday 8 December 2025

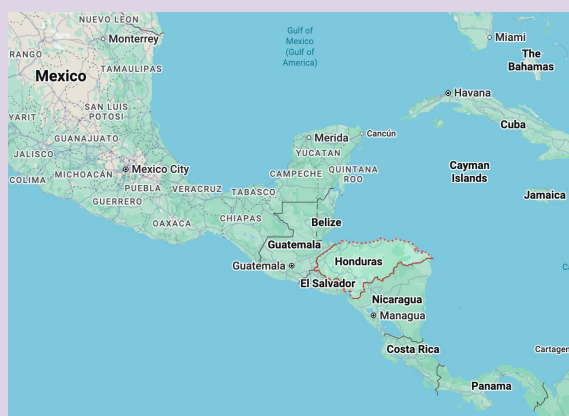
Arrival time 12.15pm

Meeting starts 12.45pm

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

Discover a country which created a zone that operates like a start-up – with its own rules, its own economic system, and the ability to use Bitcoin as everyday currency

That's exactly what is happening in Honduras.



Join us Monday to find out how – and what the Ambassador of

Honduras thinks of it.



This Monday we are honoured to welcome **His Excellency Iván Romero Martínez, Ambassador of Honduras to the Court of St James's and Dean of London's Diplomatic Corps**. With over **50 years of international service** at the UN, EU, OAS and in major capitals across the world, he is one of the most distinguished diplomats of our time.

Beyond his remarkable career, the Ambassador represents a country full of surprising stories and bold modern developments.

Honduras: A Country of Rich Heritage and Innovation

- Home to Copán, the Maya city with one of the oldest astronomical observatories in the Americas
- Guardian of the second-largest coral reef system on the planet
- Producer of award-winning specialty coffee
- Site of the rediscovered "White City," a major archaeological revelation
- Haven for the largest wild population of scarlet macaws

Good to know:

On the island of Roatán, Honduras has created **Próspera**, one of the world's most talked-about economic zones—famous for its regulatory autonomy, innovative governance, and optional use of cryptocurrencies such as Bitcoin. It has attracted global attention from economists, entrepreneurs, and policymakers alike.

We warmly encourage all members to join us for this exceptional meeting.

Please book in the usual way with Tom Swainland **by 6pm Thursday 4 December** (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.

**Thank you for all who attended our exceptional
Lunchtime meeting with the Lord Mayor of Westminster
last Monday**



Last Monday's lunchtime meeting was a perfect reminder of how our tradition of inviting distinguished speakers brings real vibrancy to the club. The **Lord Mayor of Westminster, Councillor Paul Dimoldenburg**, joined us for an engaging and often humorous presentation that quickly became a standout moment of the season.

He shared the unlikely twists that led to his becoming the "accidental Lord Mayor of Westminster," offering a candid and entertaining look inside Westminster's political life. His brief history of the City—from its District Council days in the 1880s to its current form—gave members a clearer sense of the institution he now represents, complete with its many chains, badges, and a Mace Bearer whose role, he joked, is to protect the regalia rather than the Lord Mayor of Westminster himself.

Club members present were able to ask him numerous questions, all of which he answered with obvious delight. His openness and humour left the

floor genuinely amazed by both the depth of his knowledge and the warmth of his delivery.

The Lord Mayor of Westminster also spoke about being the “walking Lord Mayor of Westminster,” crossing Regent’s Park, Hyde Park, and St James’s Park as part of his daily route to City Hall. Members were treated to an exclusive preview of *Fairer Westminster*, a new musical work commissioned from the Royal Academy of Music.

It was a thoroughly enjoyable and memorable meeting—another example of how our lunchtime speakers enrich the Rotary Club of London experience week after week.

📷 Pictures from the meeting are [here](https://photos.app.goo.gl/zuezY2HWP44RoxcW9)
<https://photos.app.goo.gl/zuezY2HWP44RoxcW9>

Forthcoming Club Meetings and Events

- December 8, 2025 - **Lunch Meeting** - His Excellency Mr. Ivan Romero Martinez - Ambassador of Honduras to the UK
- December 15, 2025 - **Christmas Lunch** (SOLD OUT)

End of Year Break

We are back in January 2026

- January 5, 2026 - **Lunch Meeting**
- January 12, 2026 - **Lunch Meeting**
- January 19, 2026 - **Lunch Meeting**
- January 26, 2026 - **Evening Meeting** - Burns Supper

SAVE THE DATE

March 2, 2026 - International Women's Day

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

May 20, 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

National Emergency Briefing on Climate and Nature

Silviu Pirvu and I attended the **National Emergency Briefing on Climate and Nature** on **27 November 2025**, held at **Central Hall Westminster**. The invited audience included politicians, business leaders, cultural and faith representatives, sports leaders, and members of the media.

The briefing addressed the urgent climate and nature crisis, with leading experts outlining the latest threats and the practical actions required for the UK.

The meeting was chaired by **Professor Mike Berners-Lee**, who stressed the extreme urgency of the situation and the need for immediate and decisive action. The event opened with a powerful appeal from **Chris Packham CBE**, calling for rapid, collective efforts to protect the planet.

Eight experts presented their assessments, focusing on key dimensions of the crisis, including:

- Climate impacts on health and food supply
- National security risks
- The energy transition
- Nature and biodiversity loss
- Economic consequences of inaction

The National Emergency Briefing is a significant initiative aimed at ensuring UK policymakers fully understand the severity of the climate and nature emergency. It marks the beginning of an important national campaign to drive awareness, accountability, and meaningful change.

— **Judith Diment MBE**





President Anahita, along with Olivia Ow, Lin Wong, Annie Quaradeghini, and Ian and Gillian Balcombe, were among the many Rotarians and Rotaractors who attended a Christmas social event organised by Rotary District 1130. It was a wonderful occasion to enjoy fellowship, celebrate the season, and share goodwill with all who were present.



President Anahita, Tom Swainland, Francesca Silvi, Mattia Santi, Paul Wilson, Major Evan Hickman, President-elect Judith Diment, PP Clive Amos, IVP Gillian Balcombe, PP Ian Balcombe, Kazumi Tanaka, and PP Kiyohiko Tanaka attended a special Thanksgiving lunch at the Salvation Army Headquarters in London on Thursday, 27th November, following a kind invitation from our member, Major Evan Hickman. It was a happy and meaningful event, and we felt grateful and

privileged to be part of such a special occasion.



The President of the Interact Club of Florence, Giovanni Cellai, along with his mother, Martina Gensini, visited London and were kindly received by Ian and Gillian Balcombe at their home, where we exchanged club banners. We look forward to seeing them again at the Leonardo da Vinci Awards in Florence this coming May.



Ian Balcombe attended the Westminster International Rotary Club's first event of its Westminster Speaker Series at Westminster Business School, exploring how prominent



Ian and Gillian Balcombe visited the RC Mayfair and are pictured with members following a presentation on the charity Sibling Support

London-based business networks shape how companies connect, collaborate, and grow.
Pictured below Ian actively took part in the Q&A.

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**

On behalf of everyone at the Rotary Club of London, we send our heartfelt wishes to Past President Harry Simmonds, dear Margaret Pollock, and dear Sharmila Wijeyakumar for a smooth and speedy recovery. You are all in our thoughts, and we look forward to seeing you back with us very soon.

Vasi Daniel - RCL Almoner



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.



🔔 Changes to your Newsletter

From January 2026, the newsletter will be sent monthly.

🔔 Help Volunteers Needed

The communication team needs more volunteers. Please contact me directly if you know someone that can be interested.
elisabeth07816@gmail.com.

Elisabeth Reyes

RCL PI and Communication Chair

Newsletter Editor



[View in browser](#)

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