

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER 5 November 2025

From my heart, with thanks

On a personal note, I would like to take a moment to thank all my fellow Rotarians and friends for their compassion, lovely flowers, and heartfelt messages of support following the passing of my beloved, beautiful mother. Your thoughtfulness has meant a great deal to me and my family during this very difficult time. I could not have wished to be surrounded by finer friends than you during the saddest chapter of my life. Your kindness has been a true source of comfort, and I am forever grateful.

Anahita Harris

President

Rotary Club of London

Next Lunch Meeting: Monday 10 November 2025

Arrival time 12.15pm

Meeting starts 12.45pm

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

SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING

Our speaker is Sir Bob Neill KC (Hons) FRSA





SIR ROBERT NEILL KC (HON) FRSA

Member of Parliament 2006–2024. During this time, he served variously as Minister for Local Government and Planning, Vice Chair of the Conservative Party, and Chair of the Justice Select Committee. He was also a member of the National Security Strategy Scrutiny Committee.

From 2012 to 2015, he was a member of the UK Delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, serving on the Legal Affairs and Human Rights Committee and the Committee on the Election of Judges to the European Court of Human Rights. He was the Parliamentary Assembly's representative on GRECO (the Council of Europe's overarching anti-corruption body).

He has an honours degree in Law from LSE and qualified as a Barrister in England and Wales and in the Republic of Ireland. He has been appointed a Master of the Bench of the Middle Temple and King's Counsel (Honoris Causa) for his services to the justice system. He was knighted for political and public services in 2020. He is also a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts.

He is a Non-Executive Director of a leading firm of accountants in the City of London, a member of the Council of Justice—the well-known legal charity—and a member of the Conservative European Forum.

He regularly writes and broadcasts on legal and political topics.

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

November (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.

Here is the link to photos taken during our last Monday meeting
<https://photos.app.goo.gl/EMsLTi5s6et365up6>

Forthcoming Club Meetings and Events

- November 10, 2025 - **Lunch Meeting** - SGM and Sir Bob Neill KC (Hons) FRSA will be our speaker
- November 12, 2025 - **Fellowship Lunch at Ristorante Taormina** (for bookings and enquiries please get in touch events.rotarycluboflondon@gmail.com)
- 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 Gateway of the East

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



For the First Time Ever – The Rotary Club of London Celebrates International Men's Day!

We're delighted to announce that, for the very first time, the **Rotary Club of London** will be celebrating **International Men's Day** with a special **lunch meeting on Monday, 24 November 2025 (11.30pm - 2.30pm)** at The Chesterfield Hotel, 35 Charles Street, Mayfair, London, W1J 5EB .

Join us as we come together to recognise and celebrate the incredible contributions of men and boys in our communities, promote positive conversations about wellbeing and masculinity, and support initiatives that make a real difference.

🌟 **Reserve your place now: Pre-paid event:** [Book your ticket here](#)

🎤 **Inspiring Speakers**

We are proud to spotlight four extraordinary leaders whose lives embody dedication, service, and the pursuit of excellence across diplomacy, community engagement, and international security.

We were honoured to welcome four distinguished speakers:



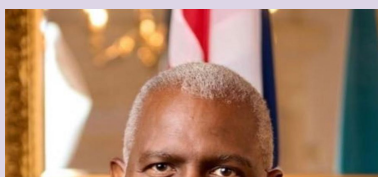
Brigadier Tim Waugh, CBE

Rotarian & Former Senior Officer, British Army and NATO

We are proud to count among our members **Brigadier Tim Waugh, CBE**, whose 30-year military career exemplifies courage, leadership, and international cooperation.

Having served in the Far East, Middle East, Northern Ireland, and Europe, Brigadier Waugh commanded The Signal Brigade in Germany and concluded his service as Director of Staff at **Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe (SHAPE)**. His distinguished service earned him both the **MBE** and **CBE**.

Following his retirement, he served as **Chief Executive of NATO's Communications and Information Agency (NC3A)** and later established his own consultancy advising major defence organisations. His enduring commitment to service and mentorship continues to inspire our Rotary community.



His Excellency Paul Andrew Gomez

High Commissioner of the Commonwealth of The Bahamas to the Court of St. James's and Northern



Ireland

His Excellency Paul Andrew Gomez brings a distinguished career in diplomacy, public service, and professional excellence. A Chartered Accountant by training, he has served as Ambassador to the People's Republic of China and now represents The Bahamas in the United Kingdom.

In recent months, High Commissioner Gomez has been honoured internationally for his diplomatic achievements—receiving the **Caribbean Diplomatic Champion Award** from the Caribbean Global Awards Committee, recognition from **The Charles Gordon Trust** for *Excellence in Diplomacy and Public Service*, and The Bahamas' own **Sir Lynden Pindling Foreign Service Medal for Leadership**.

His journey is a testament to integrity, leadership, and a lifelong commitment to global cooperation.



Hon. Alderman Mushtaq Lasharie, CBE Chairman, Third World Solidarity

A beacon of peace and community cohesion, Hon. Alderman Mushtaq Lasharie, CBE, has dedicated his life to promoting justice, tolerance, and humanitarian work. As the founder and Chairman of **Third World Solidarity**, he has championed causes supporting education, literacy, and welfare for disadvantaged communities both in the UK and abroad.

A former Deputy Mayor of the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea, he was honoured as **Honorary Alderman** in 2011 and appointed **Commander of the Order of the British Empire (CBE)** by Her Majesty The Queen in 2016 for his outstanding public service. His legacy continues to inspire generations of changemakers devoted to building a more inclusive and compassionate world.

🌟 **Stay tuned for the announcement of our fourth speaker**, whose contribution promises to further enrich this celebration.

Together, these remarkable men remind us that **leadership is not about power—it's about purpose, service, and integrity**.



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

♥ **MEMBER'S NEWS** ♥



From the O2 to the UN!

On World Polio Day I joined 20 Rotarians from London and Kent for a sponsored walk over the roof of the O2 arena. We were led by District Governors Adrian Faiers and Brian Dunne. It was an exhilarating climb with breathtaking views and an unforgettable adventure.

It is 52 metres above ground level and on the viewing platform at the top we enjoyed 360-degree panoramic views of iconic London landmarks, including Canary Wharf, The Shard, and the Olympic Park. We were blessed with a clear blue sky and sunshine!

It was quite steep going up and we wore a harness but going down the other side was much more difficult! But all worth while as we raised \$28,000 for the polio programme.

The next day I flew to Zurich to support Rotarians in Switzerland who organised a wonderful concert in Lucerne which raised ChF 48,000 for the polio programme.

I then went to New York for the Prix Galien Foundation USA Awards. The first evening was at the UN for the Prix Galien Foundation President's Dinner for the inaugural Ecohealth Awards, for innovation to improve the human condition. The winner was Infinite Cooling, a climate technology company redefining how industries approach cooling efficiency and water use. I am proud to have been a judge for this award which demonstrates the wide range of innovation seeking to solve the impact of climate change on health.

Congratulations to all the companies nominated including Rotarian Angela Tenbroek's

company The Hubery which provides a transformative pathway for advancing food security, environmental stewardship and human wellbeing.

It was a wonderful evening, the ten nominees demonstrated inspiring innovation to alleviate the impact of climate change on health

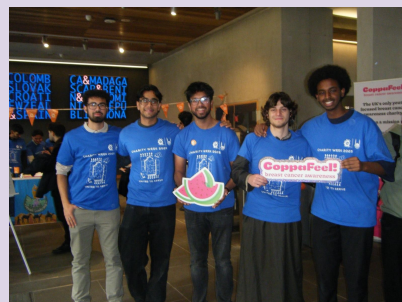
The second day I attended a conference on health and the Galien Foundation USA Awards for the life sciences held at the American Museum of Natural History.

Michael J. Fox, founder of the foundation that bears his name, was honoured with a lifetime achievement award for his courageous and persistent efforts to find answers and therapeutic solutions for Parkinson's disease. His Foundation has invested over \$2 billion for research into Parkinson's diseases.

Judith Diment MBE



Ian and Gillian Balcombe attended the Rotary North West Area organised by RC Pinner.



More activities from our brilliant UCL Rotaractors.

In recognition of Breast Cancer Awareness Month, the Rotaract Club of UCL partnered with CoppaFeel! – a UK-based charity dedicated to raising awareness about the importance of early detection and regular self-checks for breast cancer. Throughout the campaign, students across UCL were provided with informational leaflets and resources on how to recognise the signs and symptoms of breast cancer, encouraging proactive self-examination and open conversations about breast health.

COMMONWEALTH CCL COUNTRIES LEAGUE
CELEBRATING 100 YEARS 1925 2025
UK REGISTERED CHARITY NO 1159625

8TH NOVEMBER 2025

COMMONWEALTH FAIR 2025
12PM-6PM

100 YEARS
CELEBRATING

A CENTURY OF CHANGE • EMPOWERING GENERATIONS • EDUCATING GIRLS • UNITING NATIONS • PROTECTING OUR PLANET

KENSINGTON TOWN HALL
HORNTON STREET, LONDON W8 7NX

PROCEEDS IN AID OF THE COMMONWEALTH GIRLS EDUCATION FUND



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



[View in browser](#)

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