



Bulletin 18th August 2026

CREATE
LASTING
IMPACT



Message from President Judith Diment MBE

August is Rotary's Membership and New Club Development Month. I was pleased to hear from Rotaractor Ashaolu Funmilola this year's President of the Rotaract Eclub for the Commonwealth which I helped charter in 2025. It is good to see the club go from strength to strength and I look forward to continuing to support them.

The three informal lunches to date in August have been most enjoyable with many visiting Rotarians from Jerusalem, Bangkok and the Hague and prospective members and a couple looking to transfer from a Rotary club in Newcastle. Many thanks to Clive for arranging these so efficiently.

We have received more than 20 membership enquiries in July and August and I am delighted that we will induct two new members, Enley Taylor and Nazrul Islam on September 14th. Our club membership is looking strong with 127 members to date. Let's make every effort to grow the club this year with like minded people looking to make a difference in this troubled world.

On Monday, we welcomed Rotarian Rik Van de Meer from Rotary Club of The Hague who is taking over as Chair of the R7 Group of European Rotary Clubs from Tim Waugh. Tim has been Chair for 10 years and has done an outstanding job and we extend our heartfelt thanks for his dedication and service to the club. It was wonderful to witness the international fellowship. We look forward to the R7 Rotary Clubs visit in October.

Thank you to all those members who will join me for the President's House Party in Margate, it will be a weekend of fellowship and fun and art!

Assistant Governor Nishma Acharya has had to stand down due to a change in circumstances and Andrew Worley will be the Assistant Governor for our club this year. Andrew will join us at our International Peace Day meeting on September 14th and we look forward to working with him.





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. The last one will take place on **Monday 24th August**, and will be hosted by the Chesterfield events team at the special cost of **£33.50** per person. We are expecting several visiting Rotarians. Do join us if you are free.

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.



DIARY DATES IN SEPTEMBER

Save these dates in your diary!

7th September RCL - Meeting Business meeting Speaker Edwin Velarde on Diabetes

14th September - International Peace Day Lunch, new format with one keynote speaker Professor Colin Mclinnes and introducing a new Peace Project in London

10-13th September - Rotary European Summit 2026 in Rotterdam

21st September - Meet our Members

25-27th September - President's House Party in Margate

28th September RCL - Meeting Speaker Martin Gosling on Fighting the Fire at Windsor Castle



DIARY DATES IN SEPTEMBER

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Lunch Meeting

Monday 7 September 2026

12.30pm – 2.00pm

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



Speaker

Edwin A. Velarde

Chair & President, Rotary Action Group for Diabetes
Founder, EPiC Journey Against Diabetes

Living with type 1 diabetes for more than three decades, Edwin combines nutrition and ultra-distance cycling to raise global awareness of diabetes.

A long-standing Rotarian and international speaker, he has led major humanitarian and awareness initiatives around the world.

Pre-booking only by Friday 12 noon before the event.

THE GLOBAL DIABETES EPIDEMIC

Suffering from type-1 diabetes for more than three decades, Rotarian Edwin A. Velarde developed a new nutrition programme and with a cycling lifestyle turned his condition around. Edwin now dedicates his newfound energy to raising awareness of “The Global Diabetes Epidemic”. During more recent Rotary International Conventions, Edwin had pedalled his bicycle under the flag of EPiC Journey Against Diabetes, to raise awareness about diabetes, its perils and “The Global Diabetes Epidemic”. In 2017, Edwin joined the Board of Directors of the Rotary Action Group for Diabetes (RAGD) and in 2018 he established the goals and focus of the organization.

Edwin’s Rotary roles include: **Chair & President, Rotary Action Group for Diabetes (2019-2023) (2026-2029) Chair of Development, Rotary Action Group for Diabetes (2026-2029) Founder, EPiC Journey Against Diabetes, President, Rotary Club of Westlake Village (2012-2013).**

Book on this link: <https://buytickets.at/rotarycluboflondon2/2328268>



DIARY DATES IN SEPTEMBER

14TH SEPTEMBER INTERNATIONAL PEACE DAY LUNCH

A new format with one keynote speaker
and the introduction of a new
Peace Project in London.

🕒 12PM – 2PM



KEYNOTE SPEAKER

PROFESSOR COLIN McINNES

Research Lead at the Welsh Peace Institute and
Emeritus Professor in International Politics at
Aberystwyth University.

With a distinguished career in academia and public service,
Professor McInnes has held senior roles including Pro Vice-Chancellor,
UNESCO Chair in HIV/AIDS and Health Security, Chair of the UK
National Commission for UNESCO, and UK representative on UNESCO
bodies. His work focuses on global health security, international
cooperation and governance.



2026 THEME

INVEST IN PEACE

FOR EVERYONE, EVERYWHERE, EVERY DAY

Peace is more than the
absence of war. It is the
foundation for safety,
dignity, opportunity,
justice and cooperation
in our daily lives.



OUR MEETING VENUE
The Chesterfield Mayfair
35 Charles Street
Mayfair, London W1J 5EB



PRE-BOOKING ONLY
Book by Friday 12pm
prior to the meeting date



BOOK EARLY
Places are limited.
Book early to avoid
disappointment.



BOOK EARLY TO AVOID DISAPPOINTMENT
AS THIS EVENT IS VERY POPULAR AND PLACE CARD LIMITED.



Professor Colin McInnes is Emeritus Professor of International Politics at Aberystwyth University and Research Lead at the Academi Heddwch Cymru (Wales's national peace institute). He was previously Pro Vice-Chancellor for Research, at Aberystwyth University, where he also held the UNESCO Chair in HIV/AIDS and Health Security. He was elected a Fellow of the Academy of Social Sciences, Fellow of the Learned Society of Wales, a Fellow of the Royal Society for the Arts and was the inaugural recipient of the Wales Social Research Awards 'Special Achievement Award'.

He was a Special Adviser to the House of Commons Defence Committee, Chair of the British International Studies Association, Chair of the UK National Commission for UNESCO and represented the UK at UNESCO's Executive Board and at UNESCO's Social and Human Sciences Commission. His research focuses on positive peace, and on the politics of global health. He is widely published and has worked with a range of public sector and charitable bodies, including most recently leading work at the World Health Organisation to develop a framework to improve civil-military relations in health emergencies. In 2025 he was appointed a member of the Welsh Government's Expert Group on Social Cohesion.

Booking Link: <https://buytickets.at/rotarycluboflondon2/2328268>

MEET OUR MEMBERS

Introducing “Meet Our Members”

We are launching a new opportunity for Rotary Club of London members to introduce themselves, share their personal and professional experiences, and bring their knowledge, ideas and expertise to the Club.

During selected Club meetings, members will be given **10 minutes to share or present** something about themselves. This could include their career, personal journey, community involvement, area of expertise, passions, achievements or an experience that could inspire and bring value to fellow Rotarians.

These special sessions will be called **MEET OUR MEMBERS** and are scheduled for:

- **Monday 21 September 2026**
- **Monday 12 October 2026**
- **Monday 2 November 2026**
- **Monday 25 January 2027**
- **Monday 26 April 2027**

Every member has a story to tell, knowledge to share and something valuable to contribute. These sessions will help us learn more about one another, discover the diverse backgrounds and talents within our Club, and strengthen our connections as Rotarians.

Please come forward and add your name to the list of participating members.

President Judith's Weekend

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President Judith's Traditional House Party Margate, Kent September 25th-27th 2026



President Judith Diment MBE is delighted to invite Members to the President's House Party which will take place in Margate from Friday 25th-27th September 2026

The entire Fort Hotel, Margate has been booked for the exclusive occupancy of Rotary London members and their guests. The hotel is conveniently situated in the Old Town.

"The finest sunsets in Europe"
J.M.W. Turner

Itinerary

FRIDAY 25TH

3.00pm - 4.00pm

- Tea and cake on arrival at the Fort Hotel
- Dinner at the Fort Hotel with special guest Mayor of Margate, Councillor Leo Britchner

SATURDAY 26TH

- Breakfast at the Fort Hotel
- Guided Art Tour by Professor Robert Diment including Carl Freedman Gallery exhibition by Emmi Alrai
- Visit to Counter Editions print studio
- Visit to Tracey Emin Art School exhibition
- Visit to Turner Gallery to view the specially commissioned installation by David Hockney
- Free time in Margate Old Town and beach area

4.30pm - 5.30pm

Champagne and cake at the President's home

7.00pm

Reception at the Turner Gallery

7.30pm - 10.30pm

Dinner at the Turner Contemporary Gallery guest speaker Clarrie Wallis, Director, Turner Contemporary Gallery

SUNDAY 27TH

Breakfast at the Fort Hotel

Free to enjoy attractions of Thanet

President Judith's Traditional House Party • Margate, Kent



September 25th-27th 2026

President Judith Diment MBE is delighted to announce the President's House party will take place in Margate from 25th-27th September.

I have taken over the whole of the Fort Hotel. With its fabulous sea views, Margate's Fort Road Hotel is ideally located a stone's throw from the beach, the old town and the Turner Contemporary. A boarding house from 1820, the hotel was sensitively refurbished in 2022. Combining the ease of home with contemporary luxury. The fourteen guest rooms are individually designed and feature carefully selected artworks, vintage and bespoke furniture and beautifully tiled ensuite walk-in showers or baths. Continental breakfast is included. Parking is available adjacent to the hotel and payment made to the hotel reception on arrival.

The weekend will commence on Friday afternoon with tea and cake for those who arrive early, and dinner Friday evening at the hotel.

On Saturday morning there will be a guided walking Art Tour of Margate. Enjoy lunch in one of the many restaurants and cafes along the sea front or traditional fish and chips at Peter's Fish Factory, followed by champagne and cake at my home.

On Saturday there is a black tie reception and dinner at the Turner Gallery with guest speaker Clarrie Wallis, Director of the Turner Gallery.

Sunday is free to enjoy the many attractions of Thanet including the Shell Grotto in Margate, Charles Dickens Museum in Broadstairs and the Yacht Club in Ramsgate. For the more active there is mini golf and two golf courses.

The price per person includes accommodation, breakfast, tea and cake on arrival, dinner both evenings and reception on Saturday, the Art Tour, champagne and cake on Saturday. Lunch on Saturday is self-funding. Cash bars available throughout your stay and at dinners on Friday and Saturday.

Rooms will be allocated on a first come basis and full payment required by 15th August.

Travelling to Margate

There is a regular high-speed train from St Pancras to Margate.

Please advise any dietary or mobility requirements.

President Judith's Traditional House Party • Margate • September 25th 27th

BOOKING FORM

Name of Attendees	Email	Phone
1		
2		
3		
4		

I/we wish to attend the Margate weekend and would like to book:

King room Single person weekend stay	£809.00	1 ☐
Sea view room Couple weekend stay	£959.00	1 ☐
Superior Sea View room Couple weekend stay	£1,099.00	1 ☐
Suite Couple weekend stay	£1,159.00	1 ☐
Saturday dinner only	£89.00	1 ☐
Total		

To confirm your booking please remit the total payment using this link:
<https://www.tickettailor.com/events/rotarycluboflondon1/2246936>
Full payment required by 15th August.

Please email this booking form to judith@thediments.co.uk

Presidential Peace Conference

**REGISTRATION
OPEN**

ROTARY PRESIDENTIAL PEACE CONFERENCE - LONDON SATURDAY 6 MARCH 2027

The 2027 Rotary Presidential Peace Conference headlining RI President Olayinka Babalola is on 6 March 2027 in London, England. The Conference will emphasise President Olayinka's call to "Create Lasting Impact". Stressing personal transformation as foundational to broader impact, he said that "To make this vision a reality, we must acknowledge and unleash the change within ourselves". Rotary's Seven Areas of Focus intertwine with the UN Global Goals to form a Global Impact Framework. The Conference will underscore the Shared Pathways to Sustainable Peace highlighting both sustainable development and Rotary's Peace Mission.

DATE & TIME: Conference – Saturday 6th March 2027: 9am (registration), 10am start – 3.30pm end. Optional Gala Dinner - Saturday 6th March 2027: 7pm start – 11pm Carriages. **VENUE:** Leonardo Royal Hotel – London Tower Bridge, 45 Prescot Street, London E1 8GP, UK. **REGISTRATION FEES:** Early Bird Rate: Conference: £75. Conference & Dinner: £150. (ends 30th Nov 2026). 1st Dec 2026 – Conference Fee: £100; Conference & Dinner: £200. The Gala Dinner is optional and only open to Conference Delegates.

<https://rotarypeaceconference.london> Email: rippc.london@gmail.com

River Beach Clean-Up

Dear Members,

I'd love to invite you all to join us for a morning by the Thames, helping to care for and protect our river environment. We'll be taking part in the Isle of Dogs River Beach Clean Up on Sunday 30 August, from 10am–12pm, and it would be lovely to see some of you there.

The event is free, with all equipment provided, and light refreshments including tea, coffee and snacks will also be available. Registration is required.

You can register here:

<https://url.uk.m.mimecastprotect.com/s/0fRcC1rq2cXgvyhLfp5hV1IR9>

Anahita Harris, District Environment Chair



Members' News

LOSING POUNDS FOR POLIO

The challenge is on! Past President Ian Balcombe, who's District Governor-Elect of Rotary in London, has taken on a challenge with immediate Past District Governor Adrian Faiers (pictured left) to lose weight with a sponsored slim to raise funds for Rotary's End Polio Now Campaign.

The weigh in was at the District Council on 23rd July and the weigh out is at the District Council on 17th November.

WEIGH IN results: Adrian: 20st 1.8lb, Ian: 14st 12.6lb. They anticipate losing between 2 and 4 stone between them!.

Here's a link to their fundraising page set up by Rotary GB&I:
<https://rotaryfoundationgbi.beaconforms.com/form/d24b3f6d>



Members' News

Trip to Malaysia

From Past President Doug Wills and Elisabeth Reyes who are spending August in Kusla Lunpur.

Your Vice President Elisabeth and I were fortunate to be invited to a wonderful lunch meeting of the Rotary Club of Gambak here in Kuala Lumpur. It was a marvelous experience. It embodied everything positive about Rotary International: warmth, welcoming and community fellowship. We were made to feel part of the Club by President Leslie Salehuddin who invited us to attend after an impromptu email from me following an introduction via RCL's Rie Hamaguchi. President Leslie and his Club officers and members could not have been more helpful or impressive. They conducted their meeting with a similar structure to RCL, with Pres Leslie - a former District Governor - doing it with a mix of formality, friendly jibes and wit. He juggled the agenda between three courses with discussion and digestion disrupting one another: just like at our lunches. The speaker was a former Olympic swimmer who now runs a small project to prevent young children from accidental drowning. She too was impressive. So much to learn from our Rotary lunch in KL. Particularly that 20 out of 26 members of the Gambak Club attended the simple 3-course lunch and the cost was about £10 a head - without a subsidy. Chesterfield take note!

Note from Editor: bottom left photo shows - with Doug and Elisabeth - Rotarian Waran Shanmugam, who visited the Rotary Club of London's informal lunch at the start of August. They met up after I linked them together.



Members' News

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Rotaract

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RI President Yinka Babalola Visits India

President Babalola was in India, where I am now, inspiring members with his message: "Create Lasting Impact."

His message:

1. Membership - Rotary making lasting impact on you
2. Lasting impact in water and sanitation, diseases prevention projects, etc
3. Rotary makes us a better business people and professionals.

Saumen Ray, RCL Foundation Chair





IN MEMORY OF

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Past Club President Ralph Land

I attended the funeral of our beloved Past President Ralph Land on 17th August at 2pm .

Sadly, I was the only Past President and member from our club who attended the funeral.

I was happy to see a familiar face Past President Lui Hui present.

I have taken a few photos with Ralph's sons and one with his granddaughter Isabella and invited Lui Hui to join in as well.

I am herewith forwarding my Almoner's report with photo of Ralph, his brief obituary and photos with his sons and granddaughter.

Ralph was a well respected and loved member of the Rotary Club of London.

He was our Rotary colleague and a very good friend of mine. I have very happy memories of Ralph. I kept regular contact with him and later with his son Bryan.

Past President Vasi Hollinghurst-Daniel,

Hon. Member, Almoner Rotary Club of London

A Celebration of the Life of
Ralph Richard Land



24th October 1928 – 23rd July 2026

Obituary

Ralph Richard Land, CBE, died on the 23rd July 2026, aged 97, soon after his twin Frank. The twins were born in Berlin in 1928 into a Jewish family. Their father Louis had underestimated the Nazi threat, however Kristallnacht brought the gravity of the situation home. With his business expropriated, the family escaped to England in April 1939. While Louis was interned on the Isle of Man, the twins were temporarily housed by the Gentle family in rural Hertfordshire. Meanwhile, their mother, Socha, remained in London earning an income by making felt handbags and dolls dresses. The twins went on to attend Willesden County Grammar School and from 1947 studied at the London School of Economics. After a spell as LSE research assistants, they joined the leading catering company J Lyons & Co, forming part of the pioneering team that built and commercialised the Lyons Electronic Office (LEO), Britain's first computer, in the 1950s.

Ralph went on to develop markets for computers and photocopiers, first in the UK, then overseas. From 1964 he secured business from government and state enterprise in the Soviet Bloc, first for English Electric Les Marconi, then ICL and finally Rank Xerox. Ralph went on to lead various trade councils, was adviser to firms and government, and was commentator on post-Soviet Russia and Eastern Europe. He remained active in public life well into his eighties, with roles, among others, as deputy chairman of the Westminster Foundation for Democracy and President of the London Rotary Club. Ralph held strong social democratic values, and supported various initiatives fostering peace, health, education and the arts. Away from work and public life, Ralph enjoyed classical music and opera, had gourmet tastes, was a keen photographer, travelled extensively around the globe and was an enthusiastic armchair sportsman!

Ralph married Jacqueline Bourdin in April 1954 who had come from France in the late 1940s. Bryan, their first son was born in 1959 and Anthony followed a year later. Jacqueline passed away in 2009 after 55 years of marriage. Ralph continued to live in the family home up until his death and during this time found companionship with Joanne Poole. Dementia took over his life as he reached his 90s, but with the support and dedication of his care team, maintained dignity, humour and charm. Ralph is survived by his two sons, daughter-in-law and granddaughter.



L-R Isabela Land, granddaughter, son Anthony Land, PP Vasi H-Daniel, son Bryan Land. PP Lui Hui also attended the funeral.

At the Funeral of late PP Ralph Land with his sons Anthony and Bryan Land at Golders Green Crematorium on 17th August 2026.

Birthdays



Celebrating our Birthdays

We are delighted to celebrate the following members with birthdays in July and the start of August:

Roger Gewolb

25th August

If your name is not included, please reply to this email so we can celebrate you too.

Thank you.

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



Eve Conway Newsletter Editor

Public Image Chair 2026-2027
Rotary Club of London



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 reflect our vibrant community. Share your stories insights or feedback with us at eveconway@hotmail.co.uk.