



Bulletin 1st September 2026

**CREATE
LASTING
IMPACT**



Message from President Judith Diment MBE

With a long hot summer behind us, we can look forward to an interesting programme of speakers and events in the forthcoming months. We will be back to our normal meetings in the Royal Suite on September 7th with speaker Edwin A Velarde, Chair of the Rotary Action Group for Diabetes, who is visiting the UK from the Rotary Club of Westlake Village. On September 14th we mark International Peace Day with a keynote address from Professor Colin McInnes and at the meeting we will launch a new peace project for London to help reduce knife crime.

Our thoughts are with the people of Nepal following the unprecedented tragedy of floods destroying villages and loss of life approaching 1000 people with a further 4000 still missing. Rotary International in Great Britain and Ireland has pledged its support to help victims with long term support. Rotary's [Donation Trust](#) has been set up for the Nepal Earthquake Appeal, which will provide support for sustainable community projects once the immediate emergency has been dealt with. The club is giving a donation to this fund. Rotary is also working with a range of box schemes to ensure there is immediate help to the country including: ShelterBox, Aquabox and Water Survival Box. We also mourn the passing of Dolly Parton, an extraordinary entertainer, philanthropist and genuinely remarkable human being. Dolly founded the Imagination Library inspired in part by her father who never had the opportunity to learn to read and write. The idea was to give children free age-appropriate books from birth until the age of five and help create a lifelong love of reading. In 2009 Rotary International agreed a partnership to help distribute the books globally. I was involved in the press launch of the partnership with Rotary in Great Britain and Ireland at the Savoy Hotel Ballroom in London. Dolly performed with her band, chatted with the press and insisted on meeting the Rotarians present to have an individual photo taken with her. So for me Dolly's passing also brings back a very special Rotary memory.

District 1130 is not holding a District Conference this year as District Governor Sree Vallipuram is hosting an International Peace Conference in March next year. But members are invited to District 1120 in Eastbourne in October and registration is now open.

Looking forward to seeing you next Monday

With best wishes

Judith Diment MBE

President Rotary Club of London





SIZZLING SEPTEMBER!

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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 McInnes 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



SIZZLING SEPTEMBER!

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Rotary
Club of London

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>



SIZZLING SEPTEMBER!

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Rotary
Club of London

**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 delighted that our **Meet the Members** sessions are proving so popular, with the September and October slots already fully booked.

There are still opportunities for members to give a **10-minute presentation** at one of our upcoming sessions:

- **2 November 2026**
- **25 January 2027**
- **26 April 2027**

If you would like to take part, please contact **Elisabeth** (elisabeth07816@gmail.com) to reserve your slot. Places are in demand, so early booking is recommended to avoid disappointment.

These sessions are all about **you**. They are a wonderful opportunity to introduce yourself to fellow members, both personally and professionally, and for others to discover more about who you are, what you do and what matters to you.

And who knows what might come from those ten minutes? A new friendship, a professional connection, a collaboration, a shared interest — or something completely unexpected.

President Judith's Weekend

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Rotaract

6



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

Rotary Club of London

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

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.



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
- 10.30am - 12.00 noon
- Guided Art Tour by Professor Robert Diament 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

Rotary Club of London

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

To confirm your booking please remit the total payment using this link:
<https://www.tickettailor.com/events/rotarycluboflondon/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 Prescott 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



RI Convention 2027, Barcelona

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Discover big ideas, new connections, and fresh inspiration
at **#Rotary27** 📍

Barcelona, Spain

26-30 June 2027

<https://on.rotary.org/3umeujx>

Registration opens 17th September. Register within the first 5 days
for the best rate. Register before 21st September and save \$200!

See you there!



Eastbourne Conference

An Opportunity to Connect with Fellow Rotarians – District 1120 Conference in Eastbourne

Saturday 17 – Sunday 18 October 2026

Rotary is at its best when we reach beyond our own Clubs and Districts, build new friendships and strengthen the connections that bring our wider Rotary family together.

Although this is **not a District 1130 event**, our friends in **Rotary District 1120 – South East** have warmly invited **District 1130 Rotarians and their guests** to join them for their **2026/27 District Conference**, taking place from **10.00 am on Saturday 17 October until 1.00 pm on Sunday 18 October**.

With the conference focused on **“Fun and Fellowship”**, this promises to be a fantastic opportunity to meet fellow Rotarians from other Clubs and Districts, exchange ideas, discover what others are doing through Rotary and, most importantly, enjoy time together as part of our wider Rotary community.

We would be delighted to see members of **District 1130** supporting our Rotary neighbours by attending and helping to strengthen the friendships and connections between our Districts.

Registration is open, and members and guests are very welcome.

👉 **Find out more and register:**

[Info CLICK](#)

[Register CLICK](#)

Come along, meet new Rotary friends and enjoy a weekend of fellowship beyond our own District!



Azovstal

New Opera Highlights Presentation
written by the Ukrainian composer
Alla Sirenko and librettist Olha Shvets
A Story of Survival, Love, Memories and Resilience

18th September 2026 at 8.30PM
The Cockpit Theatre

Gateforth Street, Marylebone, London NW8 8EH
Tickets: www.thecockpit.org.uk or Tel: 02072582925

River Beach Clean-Up

On Sunday 30 August, Rotarians came together for a wonderful morning of environmental action and fellowship along the River Thames, taking part in a river clean-up with Thames21. The event was organised by Charlotte Bezdikian, President of the London Rotary Passport Club and a valued member of the District 1130 Environment team, together with members of her club.

Rotarians from across the District joined the clean-up in support, including Stuart Castledine, Maëva Drymon, President of the Rotary Club of Canary Wharf, and Dârinî Vedarattinane, Immediate Past President of Westminster International Rotary Club.

Together, we spent the morning helping to care for our precious River Thames and its surrounding environment, while enjoying the friendship, conversation and fellowship that make Rotary service so rewarding. It was a memorable occasion that showed how environmental action can bring Rotary clubs and their members together, combining practical service with friendship and a shared commitment to making a difference.

**District Environment Chair Immediate Past RCL President
Anahita Harris**





Members' News

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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>





Raise for Rotary

News from Rotary International

Raise for Rotary, is The Rotary Foundation's peer-to-peer fundraising tool.

Since August 2020, Rotary members and our supporters have created more than 4,000 fundraising events to celebrate birthdays, athletic challenges, and other occasions. These fundraisers have generated over US\$3.5 million for the PolioPlus Fund, World Fund, Disaster Response Fund, and areas of focus. Now, Raise for Rotary is celebrating its sixth anniversary with some exciting updates:

- It's migrating to a new platform and has an updated logo.
- Users can now download a donation report from their fundraising pages to more easily track who donated and when.
- If users are fundraising for PolioPlus through physical activity, they can now track their activities on the exercise app Strava to share their progress with more people.

The features and benefits that have made Raise for Rotary successful aren't changing:

It's simple to use and share. Setting up a fundraising page is fast. Users can support specific Rotary causes and easily share their pages with others — especially on social media.

Donors can get recognition credit. Anyone who gives using the email address they use for Rotary functions such as My Rotary will receive all applicable Rotary giving credit and recognition.

An organizer's club is credited with donations from nonmembers. This recognizes the work of organizers and encourages them to seek support beyond their Rotary networks.

For more information about Raise for Rotary, review the [frequently asked questions](#) or write to raise@rotary.org.





Members' News

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Rotary Club Calcutta President Anand Sharma and Honorary Secretary Shampa greeting Saumen Ray, PP of Rotary Club of Calcutta 2017-18, at one of their fellowship meetings at Rotary Sadan Kolkata and discussing the forthcoming Positive Peace Seminar to take place 12-13 November 2026 at Rajhmundry. IPP Dr Debnath Chattopadhyay wishes to participate in the Rajhmundry seminar. They are interested to know how the two Clubs can work together.

Saumen Ray, RCL Foundation Chair



Members' News

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Rotaract

What a fantastic organisation Rotary is and how it has expanded throughout the world!

We enjoyed a brilliant informal evening with the Rotary Club of Cannes President, fellow Rotarians, partners and guests with a four course meal including sangria and wine plus coffee only 35 euros. Watched a fantastic game of Pelote Basque!

It is wonderful that Rotarians are able to receive such warm welcomes when visiting other Rotary clubs in Britain and all around the world.

And great that we at the Rotary Club of London are the same - welcoming and including visiting Rotarians to our meetings and events .

Jacky and I are always invited and warmly welcomed to meetings and included in various events held by Rotary clubs in France and Barbados.

Tom Swainland



Birthdays



Celebrating our Birthdays

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

Monika Bader - 1st September

Mo Ayyaz - 4th September

Stuart Castledine - 4th September

Anjal Kariya - 25th September

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.