



Message from President Judith Diment MBE

This week sees the 81st United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in New York. It will be the last General Assembly for the Secretary General Antonio Guterres, who has been reflecting on the challenges people face around the world. He said "In these increasingly difficult times, we have to choose to be hopeful, not hopeless. We must work together, and act with determination, courage and solidarity. Now more than ever. We can never give up making this world better for everyone."

As the 81st session of the UN General Assembly gets underway at United Nations Headquarters in New York, the Secretary General is asking people around the world to share what gives them hope in these challenging times. Whether it's young people leading the way, acts of kindness, communities coming together, new technologies helping build a better future, progress towards gender equality, or the principles of peace and human rights enshrined in the UN Charter — what inspires you for the future?

Rotary International General Secretary John Hewko will be joining world leaders, activists, young people and other influential global voices attending the UNGA . Mike McGovern Chair International PolioPlus Committee will be a panellist at a session on polio eradication and global health.

Our first Meet the Members meeting got off to an excellent start with members Sarah Field and Silviu Pirvu giving accounts of their lives and careers, see report below. Thanks to Elisabeth Reyes for planning these, if you would like to participate in these meetings please let Elisabeth know.



Message from President Judith Diment MBE

I was delighted to induct His Excellency Dr Nazrul Islam into membership of the Rotary Club of London. Dr Islam is Acting High Commissioner of Bangladesh and we look forward to the knowledge, fellowship and energy Nazrul will bring to the club.

We had Rotarians visiting from Lebanon, Iran, India, USA, and Inverness all enjoying international fellowship and exchanging banners. I have received many warm messages of thanks summarised by Rotarian Amrish Garg

“It was an honour to exchange flags between Rotary Club of London and Rotary Club of Ghaziabad North (RID 3012, 100% PHF Club, Chartered 1985). The fellowship and camaraderie I experienced reflect the true spirit of Rotary and our motto 'Service Above

Self I carry back fond memories and warm greetings from our President Rtn. Sanjeev Jain (2026-27) and all members of RC Ghaziabad North.”

With my best wishes

Judith Diment MBE
President Rotary Club of London





SAVE THE DATES

Save these dates in your diary!

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

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

5th October - RCL Lunch Meeting - John Zucker will be our speaker on Mobile Dental Clinic for Schools

12th October - RCL Lunch Meeting - Meet our Members

19th October - RCL Evening Meeting - Lord Mayor of Westminster, Karen Scarborough will be our speaker

26th October - RCL Lunch Meeting - General Sir Evelyn Webb-Carter will be our speaker on Memorial Gates Trust History of Commonwealth Memorial Gates - We will be joined by R7 Rotary clubs

7th November - 6.30pm International Gala at Skyline Tower Suites by Blue Orchid Hotels



September Speaker

Martin Gostling - 28th September Lunchtime

Martin Gostling, a retired Computer Programmer and a resident of Cookham for over 40 years, joined the Royal Berkshire Fire & Rescue Service in 1988 as a Retained Firefighter based at Cookham Fire Station until it closed in 2009. He continued his service at Maidenhead Fire Station until he retired from the Service in 2016.

Martin's talk gives the inside story of the fire at Windsor Castle, how the Fire Brigade responded and his own involvement.

On 20 November 1992 a fire broke out in Windsor Castle. It destroyed 115 rooms, including nine State Rooms.

How the Fire Started

The fire started in Queen Victoria's Private Chapel, where a faulty spotlight ignited a curtain next to the altar. Within minutes the blaze was unstoppable and had spread to St George's Hall next door. The fire was first spotted around 11:30 in the morning and within three hours 225 firefighters from seven counties were battling the flames. At the peak of the operation they were using 36 pumps, discharging 1½ million gallons of water.



The fire at Windsor Castle © PA

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

Early Bird Price before Friday 12pm

Rotary
Club of London



SAVE THE DATE

Annual International Gala

📅 Saturday 7 November 2026

🕒 from 6:30 pm

📍 London • by the Thames

*A prestigious black-tie evening of dining,
musical entertainment and fundraising.*

BOOK HERE

HIGHLIGHTS

- 👔 Black-tie gala dinner
- 🍽️ 3-course meal + petit fours
- 🍷 Complimentary drink on arrival
- 🎵 Amazing musical entertainment



Tables of 10 available at a discounted rate
Book a table for you and 9 guests

PROUDLY SUPPORTING TWO CHARITIES



✨ Join us for the Rotary Club of London
Annual International Gala! ✨

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Rotarians, invite your **partners, friends, esteemed colleagues and fellow Rotarians** to join us for a memorable black-tie evening of fine dining, musical entertainment, friendship and fellowship.

Together, we will enjoy a very special evening while raising funds for **The King's Trust** and **End Polio Now**. 💙💛

📅 **Saturday 7 November 2026**

🕒 **From 6:30 pm**

📍 **Skyline Tower Suites by Blue Orchid Hotels**

[100 Minories, London EC3N 1JY](#)

💷 **£99 per person**

👥 **Tables of 10 are available at a discounted rate of £960**

BOOK HERE:

<https://buytickets.at/rotarycluboflondon1/2414389>

For further information, please contact **Duchess Williams-Alonga** at **bhalondonuk@aol.com**.

Come together, celebrate and help us make a meaningful difference!



MEET OUR MEMBERS

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Meet Our Members: Sarah Field and Silviu Pirvu

These sessions give members the opportunity to introduce themselves, share their professional experience and personal interests, and help us build stronger connections across the Club.

Our first two speakers each gave a lively ten-minute presentation:

Sarah Field is an experienced entrepreneur and management consultant who helps organisations build the operational capacity required for rapid growth. Her international career, charitable work supporting land and waterscape restoration in East Africa, and love of watersports, live music, riding and walking reflect her wide-ranging interests.

Sarah spoke about her journey from a rural Devon childhood and an international education at Atlantic College to a career in management consulting and entrepreneurship. She co-founded Little Kickers, which has now introduced football to more than one million children worldwide.

Sarah's current passion is **water stewardship**, particularly Sand Dam projects in Africa. Inspired by an expedition with her teenage son, she became closely involved with Rotary projects that have supported the construction of **82+ sand dams**, with more than **200 Rotary clubs** involved.

She now combines practical fieldwork with charity governance, fundraising and trusteeship. Sarah also remains involved with the United World College movement and encouraged members to speak with her about **Sand Dam expeditions, Atlantic College and opportunities for young people**.

She emphasised her enjoyment of practical, purposeful work, community and maintaining a balance between family, career and charitable commitments.



MEET OUR MEMBERS

Silviu Pirvu - From Moon Dreams to Space

Silviu Pirvu is a London-based urban planner, DeepTech entrepreneur and Space Urbanist. As CTO and Chairman of Optimal Cities, he combines AI, satellite technology and urban planning to create resilient, human-centred “cities that heal”. His pioneering vision also extends to human habitation on the Moon, Mars and even Venus.

Silviu opened with three numbers: 5, 100, and 100 trillion.

Each number represented a stage of his life and vision. Five referred to his childhood, when he began imagining extraordinary futures. One hundred represented the £100 he arrived in the UK with and the humble beginnings of his adult life. One hundred trillion described his long-term vision for how many people the solar system could potentially sustain.

Silvio shared his journey from childhood dreams of going to the Moon to becoming an entrepreneur involved in space-related technology. He spoke about following his interests in **music, coding and architecture**, taking opportunities as they arose, and learning from experimentation and persistence.

His central message was that **small progress can lead to significant achievements**. He outlined a long-term vision of humanity expanding into the solar system, using resources from places such as the Moon and asteroids, and suggested this could eventually support **100 trillion people**. He encouraged the audience to **follow their interests, persevere through difficult beginnings, and combine people, technology and imagination to create meaningful change**.

Key Takeaways

1. Follow deep intuition/serendipity: early meaningful interests guided career and business choices.
2. Small progress compounds: initial, painful effort often leads to inevitable later progress (applied across projects).
3. The solar system offers vast resources: with technology and people, it can sustain **100 trillion** people in comfortable conditions.



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.

Celebrating a New Member

♥ A Warm Welcome to His Excellency Dr M. Nazrul Islam

We were delighted to welcome His Excellency Dr M. Nazrul Islam to the Club this week. He is Acting High Commissioner of the People's Republic of Bangladesh to the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

Dr M. Nazrul Islam is a career diplomat of Bangladesh. He joined the Bangladesh Foreign Service in 2003 and has since served at the Headquarters and at Bangladesh Missions abroad. In addition to working at Headquarters, he served in the Bangladesh Missions in Berlin, Amman, Beijing, and Singapore in diplomatic roles. He has been serving as the Deputy High Commissioner of the Bangladesh High Commission in London since November 2025 and assumed responsibility as Acting High Commissioner on 25 March 2026.

Dr M. Nazrul Islam has a Master of Science degree from the University of Dhaka; a Master of Arts degree in International Relations from Freie Universität Berlin, Germany; a Postgraduate diploma in public administration from l'Ecole Nationale d'Administration in Strasbourg, France, and a PhD in the domain of International Politics from Fudan University in Shanghai. In addition to English, he is fluent in French and has moderate proficiency in Mandarin and German. He is married and blessed with two children.

🌍 Who Could You Introduce to Rotary?

Every new member brings **a new voice, fresh ideas and another pair of hands ready to serve**. Rotary's future begins with something very personal: **one Rotarian inviting one person**.

Think about the friends, colleagues and contacts in your circle who share our values. Invite them to a meeting and let them experience Rotary for themselves. **Recruitment is not about filling seats—it is about widening our circle of service**. The person you invite today could bring the idea, connection or energy that transforms a project tomorrow. Let us share what makes us proud to be Rotarians and encourage others to **join forces with us for the benefit of our communities and our world**. 🍌



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



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 opened 17th September. Hope to 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!



Member's News

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Past President Ian Balcombe and 2ND Vice President left the meeting on Monday, 14th September to go straight to Rotterdam for the Governor-Elect Learning Sessions for Ian and Partners sessions for Gillian. They met up with other District Governors Elect and Partners on Monday Evening in Rotterdam.

Attended a reception in Rotterdam City Hall (pictured) with Mark Underwood DGE 1120, Rotary International President Yinka Babalola and Angelie Bharwaney District Governor Nominee D1130

President Yinka was a surprise visitor to a Learning Session the next morning together with RI Director Harriette.

DGE Ian and DGN Angelie together with spouses Gillian and Suresh met up for Lunch after the morning learning session on Thursday.





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.





Film Preview Screening

PREVIEW **FREE** SCREENING OF NEW FILM

Sense and Sensibility

Rotary GB&I Screening Invite

We are delighted to invite you to a Special Preview Screening on Wednesday 23rd September with KOVA International and Universal Pictures for the new film adaptation of Jane Austen's *Sense and Sensibility* ahead of its nationwide release on September 25th.

From Focus Features and Working Title comes an irresistible new take on Jane Austen's iconic 1811 novel, *Sense and Sensibility*: a charming, witty, and deeply relatable story of love and sisterhood, starring Daisy Edgar-Jones and Esmé Creed-Miles.

[Watch the trailer](#)

Wednesday 23rd September

Arrivals: 1.00pm (Enjoy a welcome drink upon arrival) Film start: 1.20pm. Film finish: Approx 3.32pm. Departures: By 4.00pm.

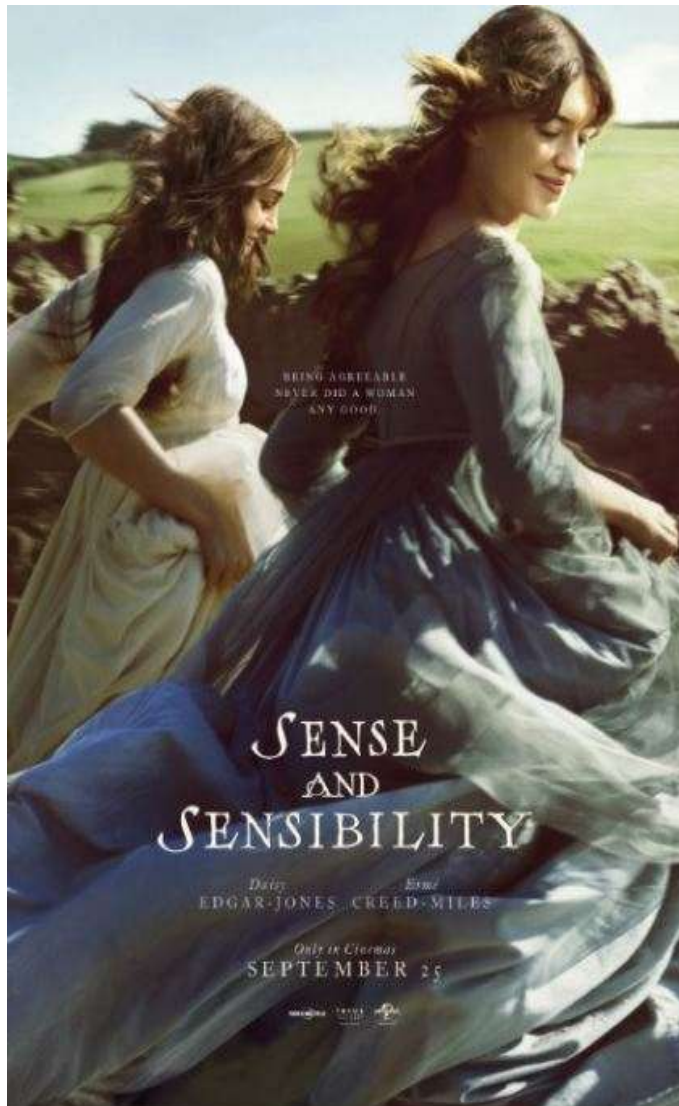
Soho Hotel, Screen Room 2. 4 Richmond Mews, London, W1D 3DH

Dress code - Casual

Film run time 2hrs 12mins (including credits)

No ticket is needed, a member of the team will meet you at the door and tick you off the Guest List.

Please RSVP to angeliebharwaney@gmail.com by Monday 20th September to confirm your attendance.



Birthdays



Celebrating our Birthdays

We are delighted to celebrate the following members with birthdays in September:

1st October - **Duchess Williams-Alonga**

5th October - **Nahed Elhusseiny**

5th October - **Rami Wakim**

11th October - **Rajiv Sabharwal**

28th October - **David Kendall**

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

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Dear Fellow Rotarians,

I was informed by the nephews of the late Hon. Member Dr. Mary Buchanan, that the Memorial Service of our beloved Mary will be held on Thursday 29 October 2026. Kindly see details below.

Many of you knew Mary on a personal level. She was a warm and kind person who was a staunch member of the Rotary Club of London and always happy to lend a helping hand.

I very much hope many of you will try and attend and give our friend and colleague Mary a good send off and say our goodbyes.

RSVP by 30th September.

Yours in Rotary,

PPVasi Hollinghurst-Daniel
Almoner
Rotary Club of London

With great sadness we share the passing of Dr Mary Buchanan who left us peacefully on 18 June 2026.

Nick and Piers Bisson warmly invite you to celebrate the life of their beloved Aunt, who touched the lives of so many, at a Memorial Service at 12:00pm on Thursday 29 October 2026 at St Bride's Church, Fleet Street, London, EC4M 7DD and afterwards at the Stationers' Hall, Ava Maria Lane, London, EC4M 7DD for light refreshments from approx. 1.30pm.

RSVP (including any special dietary requirements) by 30 September please via rhianbisson@gmail.com or Horatia House, Monmouth Rd, Raglan, Wales, NP15 2ET

Donations are invited in lieu of flowers to support

Kent Cancer Trust [<https://www.kentcancertrust.org.uk/donate>]



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.