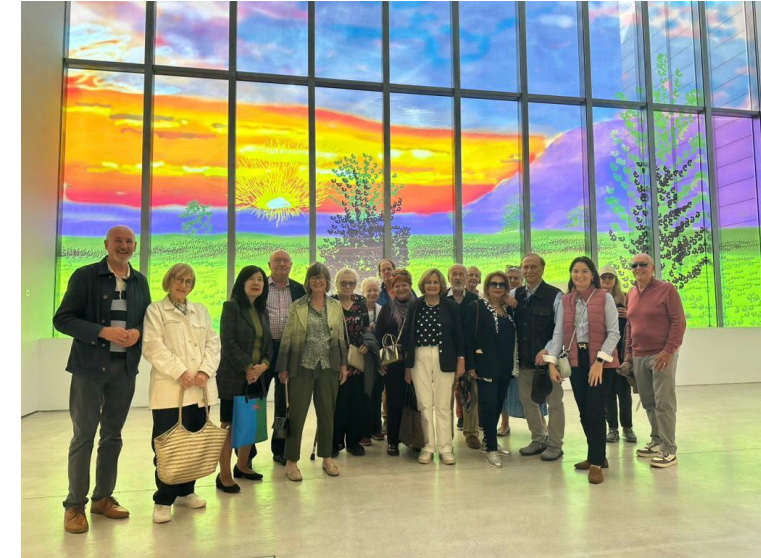


Message from President Judith Diment MBE

With a long history dating back to 1911, the Rotary Club of London has a lot of traditions including a President's House Party Weekend. I was pleased to organise the President's Weekend in Margate last weekend. Attended by 35 members and guests over the weekend we enjoyed socialising, having fun and learning about the creative arts in Margate. We took over the Fort Hotel for the weekend and on Friday enjoyed a drinks reception on the rooftop terrace admiring the view with the Mayor Leo Britchler and Mayoress Tamara Campbell. This was followed by an excellent dinner when the Mayor welcomed us to Margate and gave an excellent overview of the history and regeneration of the town.

On Saturday we were privileged to have a brilliant art tour led by my son Robert, starting at the Carl Freedman Gallery with a preview of Emii Alrai's new exhibition 'Lures'. Emii gave a very interesting insight into the exhibition. We then explored the print company Counter Editions a leading international print company which represents over 100 artists. A very special visit followed to Tracey Emin's painting studio. A rare privilege! Next stop was the TKE Studio and School where 10 young artists from around the world are studying for 18 months courtesy of Tracey. And twelve other artists have studios there subsidised by the Tracey Emin Foundation. We visited Dutch artist Joline Kwallenbos in her studio and visited two exhibitions Brogan Bertie's fabulous portraits including a portrait of Tracey, and an exhibition by Alex Morantes and Enrique Lopez Llamas, this duo-show marks the end of their six month stay at Tracey Emin's Foundation's Victoria House Residency and included art using three D printing.



Message from President Judith Diment MBE

The final art visit was to the Turner Contemporary Gallery on the sea front to view the David Hockney installation in the Sunley Gallery. This was David's last work before he sadly passed away earlier this year. We went back to the Gallery in the evening for a memorable dinner, the speaker was Clarrie Wallis Director of the Turner Gallery who gave a great talk on Turner and why he loved Margate and the beautiful sunsets for which it is renowned. Four Rotary Presidents joined us for the dinner: Helen Karakashian, President of Rotary Club Chipping Camden, Marie Nije, President of Margate Rotary, Ali Kokbudak, President Rotary Club Westminster International and Kapinga Kalombo, President Rotaract Club of London.

This week, we welcomed Martin Gostling to our club meeting who gave a wonderful firsthand account of the fire at Windsor Castle in 1992, see report below. We had Rotarians visiting from India, Tanzania and Canada all enjoying international fellowship and exchanging banners.

With best wishes

Judith Diment MBE
President Rotary Club of London



Save these dates in your diary!

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

22nd October - Long Bar RAC Pall Mall

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



MOBILE DENTAL CLINICS

**CREATE
LASTING
IMPACT**



The Rotary Club of Hampstead is in the process of starting one of its most ambitious projects to promote dental wellness to disadvantaged young people in London with mobile dental clinics. This specific initiative focuses on delivering critical oral health services, education, and screenings to disadvantaged youth and vulnerable community members who struggle to access traditional National Health Service (NHS) dental care.

Hampstead Rotary Club Secretary John Zucker will tell us more.

John qualified as a solicitor in 1975, he is Founder and Managing Partner of Roiter Zucker, solicitors, a leading law firm in life sciences 1979 - 2010, Consultant solicitor at Matthew Arnold & Baldwin, Watford, in its City office and Watford, 2010 - 2016, Consultant solicitor at Veale Wasbrough Vizards 2016 in its City office and Watford - present.

He joined the Rotary Club of Hampstead in 1982, has been club president three times.

He was club president when heated debates raged regarding the admission of women. John was a strong advocate for the admission of women and the club lost a number of members as a result.

He is now club secretary.

Booking link: <https://buytickets.at/rotarycluboflondon2/2386983>



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! ✨

**CREATE
LASTING
IMPACT**



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!



THE LONG BAR AT THE ROYAL AUTOMOBILE CLUB, PALL MALL

Enjoy a relaxed Social meeting in the Long Bar at the Royal Automobile Club, Pall Mall.

Kindly hosted by Rotarian Tim MacAndrews, but please contact Stuart Castledine (s_castledine@btinternet.com) with any queries.

Please ensure that you comply with the RAC Club dress code, details of which can be seen by following this link: [Pall Mall Dress Code and Standards - Royal Automobile Club](#)

Thu 22 Oct 2026 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM

Long Bar RAC Pall Mall, SW1Y 5HS

Booking link: <https://buytickets.at/rotarycluboflondon2/2442367>

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.

The Windsor Fire



The fire at Windsor Castle © PA

Martin Gostling - The Windsor Castle Fire November 20 1992

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 on Monday gave us the inside story of the fire at Windsor Castle, how the Fire Brigade responded and his own involvement.

The fire broke out in the Queen Victoria's private chapel at 11.15am when a curtain caught fire from a faulty spotlight. The chapel was being used for storage as there was a restoration programme going on in parts of the castle. Three staff were in the chapel when the fire broke out and the local fire brigade were alerted. It soon became clear that this was a major incident and calls were made to all the fire brigades in the surrounding counties, a total of 20 fire engines and 225 fire fighters were called in from Soho to Swindon from seven counties. It was the most significant fire operation since the second world war.

The castle had to be evacuated and military from the nearby barracks were called in to help remove precious carpets, paintings and objects. The fire spread very quickly because of the large number of passageways. 115 rooms were affected by the fire including St George's Hall, the Holbein Room and various State Rooms which were gutted. The fire was brought under control by 8.00pm, the firemen were using 5,000 gallons of water a minute. The salvage team involved 750 people all forming human chains to move the large carpets paintings and other items. The Quadrangle was full of furniture, paintings and porcelain. Remarkably only two works of art were lost in the fire a rosewood sideboard and a painting by Sir William Beechey which was too large to remove in time. The logistics of the operation were mind blowing, just feeding and making tea for all these people was quite a challenge! The task of restoring the castle was immense and the Committee was chaired by Prince Philip. The official completion date for the restoration project was 20 November 1997, five years to the day after the outbreak of the fire and, touchingly, the 50th wedding anniversary of Queen Elizabeth II and Prince Philip. Three firemen were represented in a new stain glass window in the chapel.



**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

**CREATE
LASTING
IMPACT**



10

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!



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

**CREATE
LASTING
IMPACT**



Pakistan Report - Professor Mary Ann Lumsden

I visited Pakistan in August of this year for an international meeting on Science and Technology where I was contributing to the section on women's health. During the visit I met 2 Rotarians one of whom knows our President, Judith Diment well as she has worked with her on the End Polio Now programme. Her background is non-medical, but we have a lot of interests in common and I hope we can do things together in women's health. In addition to trying to improve adolescent health and wellbeing, her work also includes providing clean water and improving sanitation etc as well as vaccination against disease and cervical cancer. It would seem a good opportunity for a collaboration between RCL and Islamabad in supporting this work as her family currently covers much of the cost themselves. I will be putting her in touch with a Rotarian contact in India who has done much work with adolescents and would be happy to collaborate. This would seem a wonderful opportunity to contribute to understanding between 2 countries where there is conflict.

District 3272 (Punjab, Islamabad, and Khyber Paktunkhawa)

A second project to improve women and girl's health and nutrition is located in Swat, a region of Pakistan once under the control of the Taliban. This is led by the First Rotary Club of Swat: The Swat Valley Relief Initiative includes adolescent health and education as well as antenatal and postnatal care for pregnant women. It is run by Dr Ambreen Naveed Haq from Islamabad and a colleague Zebu Jilani, the granddaughter of the past leader of Swat who is a dietician and founding President of the Rotary Club of Swat

The project started with the education of the Lady Health Workers, in a small number of the villages which are about 5 hours drive from Islamabad. Since 2010 when the Taliban left Swat, Ambreen and Zebu have worked tirelessly to try and improve the education and health of girls beyond primary level. This requires first educating their mothers in order to avoid their daughters being forced into marriage before they are mature. They are making progress in small steps and their work includes some teaching about menstrual hygiene, which is going well and takes place in a small number of villages each comprising about 250 people. The Maternal mortality is one of the highest in the world, partly due to delays in transferring the women to the nearest hospital and shortage of doctors. Dr Ambreen is always available to advise through WhatsApp. Infant health is further improved with vaccination and mortality has dropped dramatically.

There would seem to be a lot of exciting possibilities here. For example, projects to make wifi available have been supported by Rotary including Past IP Jennifer Jones and do not require a lot of money as well improving nutrition of the infants and children and I would love to discuss them further going forwards.



Member's News

**CREATE
LASTING
IMPACT**



News from India from Saumen Ray, RCL Foundation Chair

President of the Rotary Club of Dum Dum, a 61 years old club, is seen felicitating Saumen Ray of RC London, as an honorary member for the second consecutive year in Kolkata.





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**

6th October - **Sajit Singh**

8th October - **Shonak Reshamwala**

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

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.