



Message from President Judith Diment MBE

September is Rotary's Basic Education and Literacy Month with International Literacy Day on September 8th. The future of education is changing with AI, digital learning, personalisation, skills and careers. But all of these ambitions depend on something more fundamental Literacy. More than 775 million people over the age of 15 are illiterate. That's 17 percent of the world's adult population. This is why one of Rotary's Area of Focus has a goal to strengthen the capacity of communities to support basic education and literacy, reduce gender disparity in education, and increase adult literacy. Rotary supports education for all children and literacy for children and adults. We are pleased to support The Rotary Foundation which supports education through scholarships, donations, and service projects around the world.

Rotary members make amazing things happen, some of our members volunteer in schools and elsewhere Rotarians are:

Opening schools: In Afghanistan, Rotary members opened a girls' school to break the cycle of poverty and social imbalance.

Teaching adults to read: Rotary members in the United States partnered with ProLiteracy Detroit to recruit and train tutors after a study showed that more than half of the local adult population was functionally illiterate.

New teaching methods: The SOUNS program in South Africa, Puerto Rico and the United States teaches educators how to improve literacy by teaching children to recognize letters by sounds instead of names.

Making schools healthy: Rotarians are providing clean, fresh water to every public school in Lebanon so students can be healthier and get a better education.





Message from President Judith Diment MBE

Enhancing educational systems: In Kenya, Rotary clubs are working with the Global Partnership for Education and local and national governments to advance lifelong learning opportunities for poor and marginalized children.

It was wonderful to see so many members and guests at our meeting today all refreshed from a long summer holiday. And an important, thought provoking talk on diabetes from Rotarian Edwin Velarde from California, see report below.

I look forward to seeing you next week for the International Peace Day lunch with Professor Colin McInness, booking form below.

With best wishes,

Judith Diment MBE

President Rotary Club of London





SIZZLING SEPTEMBER!

**CREATE
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Save these dates in your diary!

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

**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

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Introducing “Meet Our Members”

Meet Our Members: Sarah Field and Silviu Pirvu

Join us on the evening of Monday 21 September at The Chesterfield Mayfair for the first session of our new Meet Our Members series.

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 will each give 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.

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.

Come along and discover more about the fascinating people who make up the Rotary Club of London!

MONDAY 21 SEPTEMBER 6.30pm

Book now: <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

7

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

Rotary
Club of London



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
- 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
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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/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 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!

The Global Diabetes Epidemic

THE GLOBAL DIABETES EPIDEMIC

At our meeting this week, we were delighted to welcome **Rotarian Edwin A. Velarde**, Chair and President of the **Rotary Action Group for Diabetes** and founder of **EPiC Journey Against Diabetes**, who spoke passionately about what he describes as “**The Global Diabetes Epidemic.**”

Edwin’s message was made particularly powerful by his own experience. Diagnosed with diabetes at the age of 29 and with a strong family history of the condition, he spent many years managing his health through medication and insulin. His life began to change after a friend gave him a bicycle and challenged him to start cycling.

What began with just a few difficult miles gradually became 20, 50 and eventually 100-mile rides. Alongside cycling, Edwin began researching diabetes, nutrition and the role of lifestyle in managing the condition. Through changes to his nutrition and increased physical activity, he was able to significantly improve his diabetes management and dramatically reduce his insulin requirements.

That personal transformation inspired **EPiC Journey Against Diabetes**, through which Edwin has undertaken extraordinary long-distance cycling challenges to raise awareness. His journeys have included rides from **Chicago to Atlanta, Chicago to the Rotary International Convention in Toronto**, and, in 2019, from **London to the Rotary International Convention in Hamburg**, meeting Rotarians and communities along the way.

Edwin reminded us that diabetes is not simply an individual health issue but a rapidly growing global challenge, affecting hundreds of millions of people worldwide. A particularly concerning aspect is that many people are living with diabetes or insulin resistance without knowing it, while others who have been diagnosed may struggle to manage the condition effectively.



The Global Diabetes Epidemic

THE GLOBAL DIABETES EPIDEMIC

Globally, more than 589 million people (20-79) suffer from diabetes while nearly half don't even know. That is 1 in 9 people suffering from diabetes. The total number of adults with diabetes is predicted to rise to 853 million by 2050 – 1 in 8. Edwin's message to Rotarians was clear: **awareness, prevention, education and effective management can make a real difference.**

He encouraged us to:

- better understand the risk factors associated with diabetes and insulin resistance;
- take an active role in understanding and managing our own health;
- raise awareness among our families, friends and communities; and
- consider Rotary projects promoting prevention, healthy lifestyles, screening, education and diabetes management.

Through the **Rotary Action Group for Diabetes**, Edwin is working to mobilise Rotarians around five areas of focus: **awareness, prevention, treatment, management and complications.**

His presentation was ultimately a message of possibility. Using the story of a peregrine falcon that would not fly until the branch beneath it was removed, Edwin reminded us that sometimes we need to move beyond what is familiar and comfortable to discover what we are capable of achieving.

As he told us, if greater awareness and action can help to change even **one life**, then the effort is worthwhile.

We thank Edwin for sharing such a personal, energetic and thought-provoking presentation, and for demonstrating how one Rotarian's own health journey can become a powerful force for service and positive change around the world.





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



Members' News

LOSING POUNDS FOR POLIO

The challenge is on! Past RCL 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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A Rotary Connection Across Continents

During August, I was delighted to be introduced by Nanako, President of the Rotary Club of Tokyo Marunouchi, to fellow Rotarian Liza Chantelle Aono. Liza is British but lives and works in Tokyo, where she is a member of the Rotary Club of Tokyo Marunouchi and has recently taken on the role of Sergeant-at-Arms.

As her visit did not coincide with an informal fellowship lunch she was able to attend, I arranged to meet Liza during her stay so that we could still extend a warm Rotary welcome. She was absolutely delightful, and we enjoyed exchanging Rotary banners and talking about our respective clubs. I very much hope this will be the beginning of a lasting friendship and a closer connection between our clubs in London and Tokyo.

Anahita Harris,
Immediate Past President, Rotary Club of London



Birthdays



Celebrating our Birthdays

We are delighted to celebrate the following members with birthdays in 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.