Bulletin 8 July 2026

Message from President Judith Diment MBE





Welcome to a New Rotary Year!

It is an honour to be inducted as **President of the Rotary Club of London** at our meeting on July 6th. I was pleased to present Immediate Past President Anahita with the Past President's Collar and badge and to induct the **Officers for 2026-27**: Vice President Elisabeth Reyes, 2nd Vice President Gillian Balcombe, Honorary Secretary Nina George, and Honorary Treasurer Luxshman Somanathan (in absentia as he is abroad).

I was delighted to welcome **District Governor Sree Vallipurnan** to our first meeting of the new Rotary year on his first official club visit. Sree will be leading Rotary in London, under the banner of Create Lasting Impact.

Speaking warmly about the Rotary Club of London, Sree praised the Club for continuing to meet in person and for preserving the fellowship that allows acquaintances to become friendships, partnerships and, ultimately, meaningful service projects. He noted that post Covid, many clubs had

become more reliant on online meetings but stressed that Rotary's strength lies in bringing people together.

Sree also spoke passionately about peace and encouraged members to support the **Presidential Peace Conference he is organising in London on 6th March, 2027** with keynote speakers Rotary International President Yinka Babalola, Trustee of The Rotary Foundation Gordon McInally and Rt Hon Malcolm Rifkind, Honorary Member of the Rotary Club of London. Please put this date in your diary!

Rotary International has set a goal of 1.25 million Rotarians and 125,000 Rotaractors by 2030, when Rotary will celebrate its 125th anniversary. To achieve this, we must change our mindsets to accept new people and new ideas and we must enhance the Rotary experience for our members and engage more members to create more impact. Let's grow Rotary in London this next year.

I was very pleased to welcome our first new member in this Rotary year, Gary Cheung who has transferred from the Rotary Club of Kowloon North. Gary is a barrister, in practice in the City of London.

It was a pleasure to welcome many Rotarians from other clubs including Ray Brown from the Rotary Club of Windsor St George. Dieter Shaw invited me to join Windsor St George in 2004 as the first woman member and Ray Brown a Past President has always been very supportive. I was pleased to give them Paul Harris Fellows using my personal credits to recognise their outstanding work for The Rotary Foundation and many other causes and for welcoming me to Rotary.

Four Rotarian friends attended from Kent PDG Himansu Basu, Marie Nije President and Past Presidents Janet Hughes and Stephen Askew all from our daughter club Rotary Club of Margate.

Thank you for all your good wishes for this Rotary year I look forward to working with you all to Create Lasting Impact.

Judith Diment MBE
President

Photos taken during our New President Day luncheon on Monday 6 July 2026:
h&#xfffd;ps://photos.app.goo.gl/ugZN48esQVFRfNG56





Welcome our first new member in this Rotary year, Gary Cheung who has transferred from the Rotary Club of Kowloon North.

Transforming the Thames Seagrass Project Update



Hundreds of ‘seagrass tubes’ planted to kick-off multi-million pound restoration of Thames. Conservationists transport thousands of seagrass plants to help protect iconic estuary from climate change.

Thousands of seagrass shoots have been planted in the Thames, as ZSL conservationists kick-off work to transform one of the world's most famous waterways. Over the course of one week, the team collected nearly 1,000 cylindrical ‘seagrass cores’ – tubes of mud extracted from the Thames, each one containing multiple individual dwarf eelgrass shoots – from a seagrass meadow in Essex, before carefully planting each one in mudflats in Kent – helping make the estuary more resilient to climate change.
One of the largest UK restoration efforts using this method, the work is the

first step in restoring a thriving seagrass meadow, with the ambition that the meadow will grow to the size of at least 1.5 football pitches over the next few years as the team continue to monitor it. The work launches the start of on-the-ground work for Transforming the Thames - an ambitious ZSL-led project bringing together 20 partners to turn the tide on the health of the Greater Thames Estuary and deliver wide reaching benefits to the British wildlife and the 8 million people that live along the Estuary.

Transforming the Thames

The five-year project brings together conservationists, local communities, government bodies and landowners, all building on decades of experience to recover a rich, varied coastal landscape by 2030. In doing so, Transforming the Thames will help improve access to nature, protect local communities against the impacts of climate change and support the species that call the Thames home – from Critically Endangered European eels and sharks, to beloved seahorses and lapwings.

Quote from Thea Cox

Thea Cox, ZSL's Transforming the Thames Senior Restoration Manager said: "Seagrass meadows are critical to the health of the Thames, and we're thrilled to be kicking off our work transforming this iconic estuary by getting stuck in on the mudflats.

"We all rely on healthy ecosystems for our own wellbeing, but decades of degradation and fragmentation have left the Greater Thames Estuary with a poor bill of health – and increased storm events and marine heatwaves due to climate change threaten the health of the estuary further. We know that it can recover, and are excited to see the Thames flourish as we work to restore habitats along its shores, make its coastlines more resilient to climate-change driven storms, and connect people with everything it has to offer."

Why seagrass matters

Seagrass meadows play a vital role in the marine environment, providing essential nursery grounds for fish, food for birds, and habitat for various invertebrate species. Seagrass in the UK has declined up to 44% of seagrass since 1936 due to decreased water quality, disturbance and pollution – threatening wildlife and putting people at greater risk of flooding and coastal erosion.

Planting the seagrass

Areas of healthy seagrass meadows can still be found along the Thames, and the seagrass was collected during low-tide from existing meadows near Leigh-on-Sea, Essex, ready to be planted in Egypt Bay, Kent. The team of conservationists and volunteers used specially designed wooden mudshoes to navigate the challenging mudflats, helping prevent them from sinking into the mud as they worked. As the work could only take place

during low-tide, a hovercraft was also used to allow the team to collect or plant as many seagrass plants as possible before the sites were submerged in water.

Looking to the future

Thea added: “This year marks ZSL’s 200th anniversary, a year where we celebrate all we’ve achieved so far and look ahead to a future where people and wildlife thrive together. As we work to restore these coastal meadows, we’re not only marking the start of a new exciting chapter for the Greater Thames Estuary – we’re also making that future a reality.”

Restoring vital habitats

To rebuild a healthy, resilient ecosystem, the seagrass planting will be followed by further work by the Transforming the Thames partnership to restore six vital habitats across the Greater Thames Estuary - native oyster beds, seagrass meadows, saltmarshes, coastal grazing marsh, saline lagoons, and sand and shingle bird nesting habitat.
Working towards a 100-year vision of recovery across the estuary, the partnership are also working to tackle the biggest threats destroying existing habitats – such as pollution - and working with local communities and businesses alike to empower them to be a part of scaling up transformation across the region.

About ZSL

ZSL believes nature can recover, and that conservation is most effective when driven by science. We call for science to guide all global decisions on environment and biodiversity and build a healthier future for wildlife, people and the planet. Find out more and support ZSL’s world-leading, collaborative science and conservation work at **www.zsl.org**
www.zsl.org

Rotary Club of London support

ZSL’s seagrass restoration in the Thames, part of the Transforming the Thames has been supported by the Rotary Club of London and The Royal Thames Yacht Club who have both contributed £16,000 each.

District 1130 - ROTARY IN LONDON - New ROLES



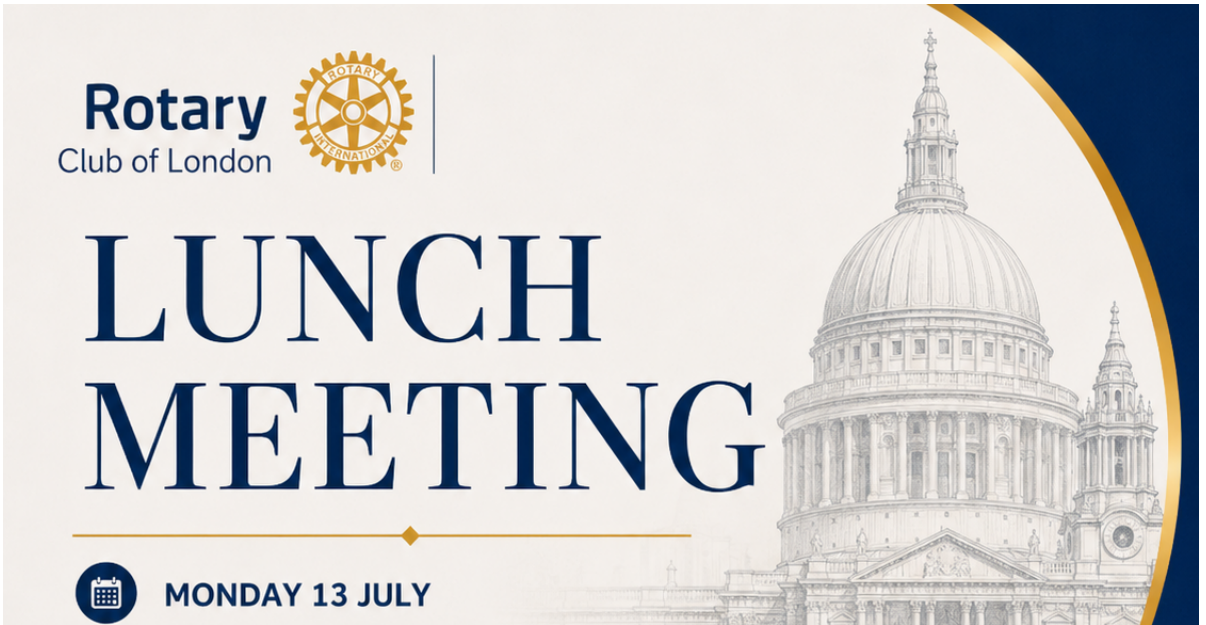


Members of the Rotary Club of London were recognised for taking on roles in District 1130 at the District Handover last Sunday. Ian Balcombe becomes District Governor-Elect, Doug Wills is an Assistant Governor, Elisabeth Reyes is Assistant District Secretary, Anahita Harris becomes Environment Lead, Nina George becomes Participant Engagement Enhancement Lead, Eve Conway becomes Rotary International Council on Legislation Representative.

What role can faith, ethics and service play in public life today?

You are invited to join us for our next **Rotary Club of London Lunch Meeting** on **Monday 13 July**, from **12:30 to 14:00**, at the Chesterfield Hotel, 35 Charles Street, Mayfair, London, W1J 5EB.

BOOK NOW
Advance booking is essential before Friday 10 July at 12pm:
https://www.tickettailor.com/events/rotaryclubоflondon2/2246766





We are delighted to welcome **The Very Reverend Andrew Tremlett**, **Dean of St Paul's Cathedral**, as our guest speaker.
Andrew has been Dean of St Paul's since September 2022, leading the Cathedral's spiritual and operational life and representing St Paul's across the City and beyond. He previously served as **Dean of Durham**, where he helped establish the Durham Cathedral Schools Foundation, and has held senior roles in London as **Rector of St Margaret's Church**, **Archdeacon of Westminster**, and **Sub-Dean of Westminster Abbey**.
This promises to be a fascinating lunchtime meeting with a speaker whose work spans faith, public life, education, ethics and service.
Members are warmly encouraged to attend and to bring friends and guests.

Advance booking is essential before Friday 10 July at 12pm:
https://www.tickettailor.com/events/rotaryclubоflondon2/2246766
https://www.tickettailor.com/events/rotaryclubоflondon2/2246766

EXCITING JULY - BOOK NOW









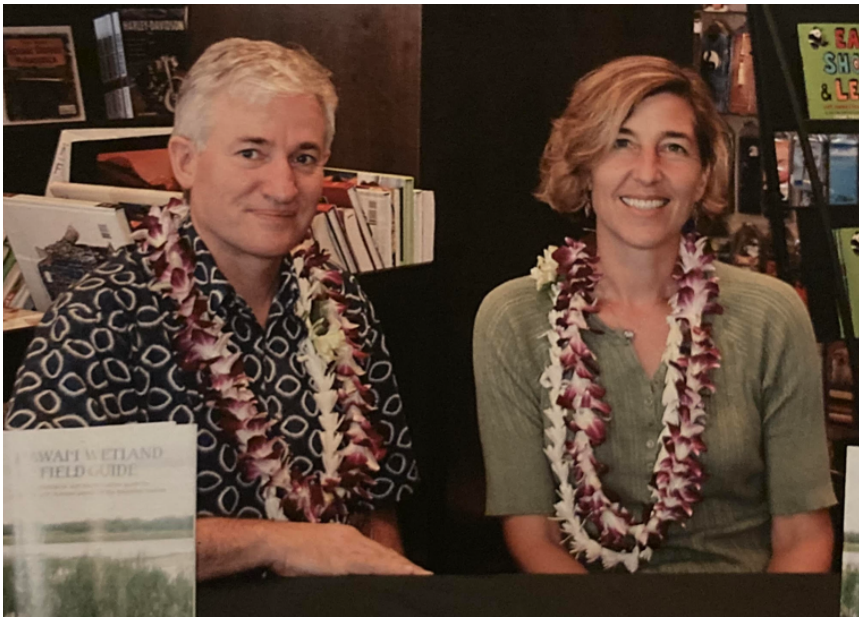
Monday 20 July - Evening Meeting

6:30 - 9:00 PM

Rotarian Jasmine Harrison will be our speaker

Booking link:
https://www.tickettailor.com/events/rotaryclubоflondon2/2246766

Solo sailor Jasmine Harrison completes the Mini Globe Race of 26,000nm in a 5.8m long boat. Jasmine Harrison, world record holder, solo sailor, solo rower and swimmer sailed into Falmouth Harbour, Antigua, on 11th March 2026, 381 days after her departure from there in 2025, completing the first global circumnavigation by a British woman in the smallest boat known to have made that voyage. Jasmine's boat, named Numbatou, is a colourful homemade plywood yacht, only 5.8m (19 feet) long. Rotarian and Rotary Young Citizen Award Winner 2023 Jasmine was a novice sailor when she first set out from Lagos, Portugal in December 2024 for her qualifying solo Atlantic Ocean crossing to enter the Mini Globe Race. Since setting off from Portugal she has sailed across four oceans, 26,000 nautical miles, stopping in fifteen countries.



Monday 27 July - Lunch Meeting

12:30 - 14:00 PM

Dr Chris Puttock and Terrell Erikson will be our speakers

Booking link:
https://www.tickettailor.com/events/rotaryclubоflondon2/2246766

Dr Chris Puttock

As a research scientist Chris has more than five decades of experience in environmental conservation, preservation, and restoration. He has a doctorate in systematic botany, describing new species of flowering plants and algae, creating habitat restoration databases, and a prize-winning book on wetlands. He spent 15 years working in mangrove restoration.
Chris was one of the Environmental Sustainability Action Group ESRAG's 25 501(c)(4) Founding Directors in 2015. He was ESRAG's first Executive Director from 2015-2019. He was Chair-elect for 2018-2019 and Director of the Administration & Governance Division, Chair for two years, 2019-2021, then finishing his six-year term on the Board as Immediate Past Chair and the Director of Projects Division. Since then Chris has been ESRAG Senior Strategic Advisor. Under his tenure as Chair, ESRAG grew from fewer than 250 members to more than 1450, with 12 Regional Chapters.
From 2021-2023 Chris was Chair-elect and now Chair 2023-2026 of the Advisory Board of the 26 Rotary Action Groups. Chris has been working with the RAGs to recognize the synergies between them.
Chris is now in his third year as Chair of the Rotary Action Group for Endangered Species (RAGES). He has a passion to prevent the demise of ecological services by human exploitation, reaching past the tipping point where nature is not permanently damaged.

Terrell Ann Erickson

Terrell has been back in Hawai'i since March 2022, after a productive 30-year career in conservation with the federal government and a recent one-and-a-half-year stint with private consulting in Hawai'i.
She is now retired from making money and volunteering instead. She is Vice President of the Friends of Oahu National Wildlife Refuges, conducting bird tours in season and restoring native forests and wetlands. She joined Rotary in 2023 and is a proud member of the Rotary Club of Metropolitan Honolulu, Hawaii (District 5000). She also is a leading member of the Rotary Action Group for Endangered Species, member of the Rotary Action Group for Water and Sanitation and Community Action for Freshwater. She volunteers her expertise on wetlands and stream restoration projects as advisor as needed.
Terrell worked in state government and the state legislature before

beginning her 30-year federal career with the U.S.Navy (Guam), the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Hawaii), and then the 11,000 people-strong USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). NRCS is a field-based organization promoting conservation planning on private lands (75% of the United States land-base). She enjoyed 9 years in Hawaii as State Biologist in Hawaii, and 14 years in Washington D.C. as National Biologist, Senior Executive Service Director of Science, and lastly Regional Conservationist for the Northeast Region of the U.S. (14 states). In D.C., she was for 5 years a Board member of the Washington Academy of Sciences (WAS) and President of WAS for two years.
A native of Missoula, Montana, Erickson holds bachelor's and master's Degrees from University of Washington and Evergreen State College in Political Science and Environmental Science (limnology emphasis) and graduated with a Senior Executive Service Certificate from the leadership school at American University in Washington, D.C. Terrell and her husband, Christopher Puttock live in Kailua, Hawaii with their four cats.








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. These will take place on **Monday 3rd, 10th, 17th and 24th August**, and will be hosted by the Chesterfield events team at the special cost of **£33.50** per person.

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.

Celebrating the 53rd Anniversary of the Independence of The Bahamas

The Bahamas High Commission held their 53rd Independence Anniversary on 4th July at the Peninsular, London. His Excellency High Commissioner to the UK Paul Gomez, Minister for Culture, Arts and Heritage the Hon Leslia Miller-Brice and Courtney Fox, Cultural Ambassador of the Bahamas cut the Independence cake at the end of the evening in the presence of diplomats from around the Commonwealth including the Dean of the Diplomatic Corps, His Excellency Ivan Romero-Martinez, President of Bahama Host Association Duchess Williams Alonga, fellow Bahamians and friends of the Bahamas.

The evening was a wonderful celebration of Bahamian culture, friendship and international goodwill, with performances from the Bahamian diaspora UK, the Bahamas National Youth Choir, performances from the Bahamian Diaspora UK, singers Wilfred Adderley, Melvin Claridge, Franz Hepburn, Roberta Philip, along with a most entertaining ballet duet, featuring Bahamian dancer Taela Graff, and a fashion show featuring Bahamian designer BAHARI fashion.

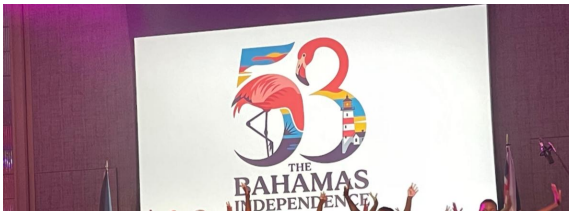
High Commissioner Paul Gomez thanked Duchess for her tireless work supporting the Bahamian diaspora in London and paid **tribute to the outstanding work of the Rotary Club of London**. H.E. Paul Gomez invited IPP Anahita Harris to the stage to say a few words on Rotary's Impact worldwide. Duchess thanked His Excellency, Paul Gomez, for his warm hospitality, his generous support of Rotary, and his continued friendship with the Rotary Club of London.

The Rotary Club of London was well represented, I was joined by Immediate Past President Anahita Harris, Past President Dr Vasi Hollinghurst-Daniel, Past Rotary International Director Eve Conway-Ghazi, Past President Doug Wills, Vice President Elisabeth Reyes, Community Chair Emely Dlamini, Immediate Past Second Vice President Chikako Osawa, Margaret Garner, David Abrahams, Katherine Mallett, together with other Rotarians and friends.

Duchess Williams-Alonga

International Chair

Rotary Club of London











Duchess Williams-Alonga pictured with her son Henri Alonga.

Dear Fellow Rotarians,

This is a gentle reminder of the funeral arrangements for **Past President Giovanni Marenghi**, whose passing we remember with great sadness and gratitude for his service, friendship and contribution to the Rotary Club of London.

Requiem Mass:

- St Ann's Catholic Church, Kingston Hill, KT2 7LX
- 11.00am on Friday 24 July

There is a decent-sized car park at the rear of the church.

Burial:

- Cobham Cemetery, Tilt Road, KT11 3EZ
- 1.00pm

Please note that parking at the cemetery is extremely limited.

Following the burial, everyone is warmly invited to join the family at **The Running Mare, KT11 3EZ** for food and refreshments.

For catering purposes, please RSVP to genevieve.daly@gmail.com **genevi**
In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the **Alzheimer's Society** in Giovanni's memory via his memorial page.

In Memoriam – Dr Mary Buchanan

It was with great sadness that we learned of the passing of our beloved Honorary Member, Dr Mary Buchanan, on 18 June.
Mary was a much-loved member of the Rotary Club of London whose

kindness, friendship and gentle presence touched the lives of many. She embodied the spirit of Rotary through her care for others, her loyalty to the Club and the warmth she showed to all who knew her.
She will be remembered with great affection and greatly missed by her many friends in the Rotary Club of London.
Our thoughts and prayers remain with Mary's family and loved ones at this difficult time.
Funeral and memorial service details (which is expected to be in September) will be shared with members as soon as they become available.

In Memoriam Harry Simmonds

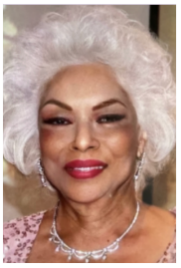
I was very privileged to be able to say a few words in honour of Past President Harry Simmonds. If I'd had more time I would have explained that Harry and his wife Evette didn't have an easy family life and Harry chose to deal with their problems with humour at all times and they also formed a children's charity in full support.
I was presented with a certificate showing I have been a Rotary member for 40 years and throughout that time I have worked closely with Action for Children the largest children's charity in the UK. The Charity states that their disabled children climb a mountain every day and this helped to encourage me to become a mountaineer and to raise considerable funds for the children the charity cares for. Harry always supported me very strongly in all my endeavours as he understood this situation so well and he was the first to put his hand in his pocket to help. This also inspired me to create the Rotary Charity Cup.
Thank you and bless you Harry.
With my continuing love
Neville Shulman CBE

Celebrating our Birthdays

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

Wally Wallis - 12 July
Rhidian Jones - 13 July
Thomas Swainland - 13 July
Anahita Harris - 14 July
Dr Mamdouh Barakat - 16 July

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

---



Elisabeth Reyes
Newsletter Co-editor
Vice-President 2026-2027
Rotary Club of London



Eve Conway
Newsletter Co-editor
Public Image Chair 2026-2027
Rotary Club of London

View in browser

Copyright © 2026 Rotary Club of London, All rights reserved.
You are receiving this email because you opted in via our website.

Our mailing address is:
Rotary Club of London
85 Great Portland Street, First Floor,
London, W1W 7LT

Add us to your address book

.