



Message from President Judith Diment MBE

This month, with **World Polio Day** on October 24th clubs around the world have a focus on the global effort to end polio, with a stark reminder that despite having reduced polio cases by 99.9 percent worldwide, we are not there yet and we won't stop until we eradicate the disease for good.

The Rotary Magazine in Great Britain and Ireland is featuring many polio-focused stories including an interview with polio survivor Mary Berry, an update from Aziz Memon, Chair of Pakistan's National PolioPlus Committee and my article on this year's World Health Assembly in Geneva, where delegates debated some of the world's most difficult and divisive issues. Discussions touched on conflict, humanitarian crises, geopolitical tensions and the growing pressures facing global health systems. At times, the debates reflected a world that feels increasingly fragmented. And yet, amid all these differences, one thing stood out with remarkable clarity: every Member State remained united behind one common goal - the eradication of polio. On October 24th Christine Wong District Foundation Chair is organising a polio event walking over the roof of Alexander Palace. Do join her if you are able to.

This week I attended a two-day meeting at the Gates Foundation on the Global Polio Eradication Initiative Gender Mainstreaming Group Strategic Review. This was attended by 35 delegates from UNICEF and WHO from many countries including Pakistan, Afghanistan, Sudan, Nigeria, Chad, South Africa, Uganda. It is heartening to see progress being made with reduced number of children being missed but many challenges remain. I gave a presentation on the GPEI Gender Champions.

Photo: At Gates Foundation with Gulcheen Aqil, Unicef Pakistan



Message from President Judith Diment MBE

On Monday I attended, with Gillian Balcombe the excellent District Global Scholars event organised by John Bartlett. The District is hosting 38 scholars and we were pleased to meet the two scholars being hosted by our club: Jacqueline Tulkens from Belgium and Nakamura Etsuko from Japan, and we look forward to welcoming them to the club in November..

Thanks to our speaker John Zucker from Rotary Club of Hampstead who gave a comprehensive account of the proposed Mobile Dental Unit for Schools, see report below.

It is with great sadness I report the loss of two members: Past President Barry Moughton and Honorary member Dame Esther Rantzen. Clive Amos has written a tribute to Dame Esther, see below.

With my best wishes

Judith Diment MBE
President Rotary Club of London



Link to Monday's meeting photos taken by PP Hiko Tanaka: <https://photos.app.goo.gl/G9XQjen1Tc55cDie8>

Save these dates in your diary!

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

MEET OUR MEMBERS

MEET OUR MEMBERS - LUNCH MEETING ON 12TH OCTOBER

Stefan Braunecker is a London-based Associate Professor and consultant in cardiac anaesthesia with an international career spanning the UK, Germany and the United States. Alongside his work as an anaesthetist, he has a strong interest in medical education, aviation and space medicine. His international humanitarian work has included medical projects in Tanzania and Indonesia.

Annette Reiger is a German - British business owner, originally from Bavaria and now living and working in London. Before starting Solelybookkeeping Ltd in 2024, she spent many years working in the financial services industry as a Fund Administrator and Hedge Fund Accountant in Germany, Japan, Switzerland, the Channel Islands and the UK. She now supports small businesses and sole traders with bookkeeping, VAT and financial administration.

Volunteering and community involvement have always been important to her. In Germany, she spent over 20 years volunteering as secretary and youth leader of a local archery club, as well as being involved with other sports organisations. In London, she continues to contribute to her local community as treasurer of a small charity in Fulham and through regular volunteering with Thames21 and Jenny's Corner.

Annette has lived with Alopecia Universalis for around 10 years. Along the way, she developed a love of colourful scarves, which have since become something of a trademark, and she supports Alopecia UK, a charity helping people affected by hair loss.

Outside work, Annette loves travelling and has a long-standing fascination with Japanese culture. She has practised Jodo / Kendo / Kyudo and archery for many years and enjoys meeting people from different backgrounds, getting involved in community projects and contributing where she can – all of which are part of what she values about Rotary.

Booking link: <https://buytickets.at/rotarycluboflondon2/2386983> Please book before midday on Friday 9th October.



Introducing “Meet Our Members”

We are delighted that our **Meet the Members** sessions are proving so popular, with the 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.

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>

**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

MOBILE DENTAL CLINICS

**CREATE
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Rotaract

Past President and Secretary of Hampstead Rotary Club John Zucker gave a presentation on Monday regarding a new, high-impact community project led by the Rotary Club of Hampstead in partnership with the "Dental Wellness Trust".

The Project Overview

****The Goal:**** To purchase and operate a mobile dental clinic that will travel to schools in deprived areas of London to provide direct dental care and oral health training to children.

****The Motivation:**** Addressing a "Dickensian" health crisis. In London, 25.8% of five-year-olds suffer from tooth decay (higher than the national average). In the borough of Brent, this figure reaches as high as 46%.

****The Strategy:**** The mobile clinic bypasses common barriers to care, such as parents being unable to take time off work. By operating on school grounds with written parental consent, the project ensures children receive treatment they might otherwise miss.

Key Logistics & Funding

****Financial Target:**** The total cost to purchase, equip, and operate the mobile clinic for the potential donors, including charitable trusts, corporations, wealthy individuals, and livery companies. They are looking for introductions rather than just individual donations from Rotarians. The aim is to raise one million pounds for the project.

****Collaboration:**** The project is designed as a "bottom-up" initiative, intended to unite all Rotary clubs in District 1130. The committee aims to build a task force of interested members from various clubs to help manage outreach and fundraising. RCL Club member DGE Ian Balcombe is on the committee.

****Sustainability:**** John emphasized that they are seeking a blend of cash and in-kind support (such as professional time from volunteer dentists) to ensure the clinic remains viable.



Next Steps

****Task Force:**** John said they are actively recruiting members from other clubs to join the project task force.

****Outreach:**** Meetings are being arranged with Assistant Governors across the district to generate pan-London support.

****Goal:**** To prove the project's success in London, with the hope that it becomes a flagship model for Rotary that drives community engagement, increases public awareness of the organisation, and attracts new, younger members.

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
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Tombola Evenings

This year Gillian and Ian will be hosting Tombola evenings at their home 21 The Marlowes. For anyone who is unfamiliar a Tombola is like a raffle except there is a prize for every ticket.

The tombola is for the Christmas lunch on December 7th. Last year at the Christmas lunch the Tombola raised over £800.

Please contact Gillian on 07947071129 or gillianfbalcombe@gmail.com if you would like to attend. These evenings will be held from 6.30 to 8.30 on 11,12 and 24 November. Each guest is asked to bring 3 gifts each worth a minimum of £10 or £25 in cash. The money given is used to buy extra gifts to combine with the items donated. Drinks and snacks will be available.

Dictionary4Life

Our newest member Enley Taylor manages the Dictionary4Life project. The Dictionary4Life (D4L) project supplies high-quality, illustrated dictionaries to Rotary Clubs, which are then donated to local primary school children to improve literacy. To date, well over one million books have been donated, primarily targeting Year 6 pupils as they prepare for secondary school. The project utilises a bespoke edition of the Usborne Illustrated Dictionary (a fresh editorial update was completed in 2025). The book features a Rotary information panel with space for the child's name, a classmate autograph page, and a dedicated area for a Rotary Club promotional sticker. The Rotary Club of London's logo will feature prominently across all D4L branding, including the website, the dictionaries themselves, and promotional resources (such as banners used at district conferences and international conventions). The project provides community impact, directly aligning Rotary with an initiative that leverages public goodwill and strengthens community ties via local primary schools.

Project Background Founded over 20 years ago by District 1130 PDG Colin Bryant, the project was long associated with the Battersea, Brixton & Clapham (BB&C) Rotary Club where Colin was a member. Following Colin's passing in 2025, BB&C member Enley Taylor took over management, successfully updating the project with a revamped website and an online ordering system. The website is: www.dictionary4life.com and email is: office@dictionary4life.com

Dame Esther Rantzen

TRIBUTE TO OUR HONORARY MEMBER DAME ESTHER RANTZEN FROM PAST PRESIDENT CLIVE AMOS

I would like to say a few words about our Honorary member, Dame Esther Rantzen, who passed away 30th September, 2026.

Dame Esther was born in Berkhamsted in 1940. She attended three different schools, one of which was in New York, U S A. In 1959 she went to Oxford University.

After university she joined the BBC working in various clerical jobs, before becoming a researcher. She worked as a researcher on the TV programme Braden's Week and when the producer decided to show the researchers on camera that was her first television appearance. Bernard Braden returned to his native Canada and the following year and the BBC decided to revive the programme as That's Life, with Esther as the presenter, a role she fulfilled for 21 years.

I first came across Esther in a Rotary capacity when she came along to the planting of the Rotary roses in Regent's Park (pictured with President Judith Diment). She was a speaker at a Rotary District conference that I organised and was a speaker at the club when I was president. I recall that it had just been announced that she was to become a Dame and I said that I knew what the investiture ceremony was for a Knight but what was it for a Dame, and she said that she had no idea.

During the Covid lockdown I organised the weekly club Zoom meetings. On one occasion Esther was the speaker and we had an attendance of 90, which showed her popularity.

Esther founded Child Line in 1986 as a way that children who were being abused could reach out for help. In 2013 she founded Silverline for lonely elderly people.

I would like to conclude with her own words:

"Dear Everybody, I am so sorry I cannot send you each individual thanks for the fun, the support and the help you have been to me. I have been immensely lucky in the friendship and the professional advice I have had from you which has enabled me to live such a long and happy life. Sadly, all good things come to an end, as they say. So I particularly wanted to say goodbye and thank you so very, very much. Perhaps I will see you eventually, on the other side. I do hope so. With very good wishes, as ever, Esther."



IN MEMORY OF

Barry Moughton Memorial service

A Memorial Service to celebrate Past RCL President 1984/85 Barry Moughton's life will be held at St Michael's and All Angels Church, Mickleham, Surrey RH5 6DU, on Monday 2nd November 2026 at 11.30am, followed by a reception at The Running Horses (opposite the Church). All are welcome.

Donations in Barry's memory are invited to Transform Housing & Support - Reg Charity No 264133, which now manages the former activities of Churches of Dorking Housing Aid Ltd, (CODHAL) to which Barry dedicated many years of service.

Address for correspondence: Mrs Elizabeth Moughton, 20 Prebendal Court, Station Road, Shipton under Wychwood, OX7 6BB or Julia Palejowska, julia.palejowska@btinternet.com.





Celebrating our Birthdays

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

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



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.