

OVERSEAS

Journal of the Royal Over-Seas League

Issue 2, June-August 2008



Election fever

Can Ghana hold on to peace during the elections this year?

Under the knife

How 'medical tourists' seeking cheap surgery are boosting India's economy

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OVERSEAS

ISSUE 2 June–August 2008

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Front cover: New Patriotic Party rally, Accra, Ghana © myjoyonline.com

From the Director-general

This is the first issue of the magazine edited by Miranda Moore. She is no stranger to us as she was once assistant editor to Pat Treasure. She is also editor of *The Linguist*. Miranda succeeds Vicky Baker, who is in South America as a travel writer for *The Guardian*. We have a new assistant editor too: Samantha Whitaker, who has taken over from Michelle Slade. I convey best wishes to Vicky and Michelle, and thanks for their service to the League. To Miranda and Samantha, a warm welcome.

At the end of the music competition section finals, held in March, our new chairman of adjudicators, Gavin Henderson, paid tribute to his predecessor, Lady Barbirolli (Evelyn), who died in February. I was honoured to represent our vice-patron, Princess Alexandra, at the memorial service. I held Evelyn in high regard and affection. She was so kind to all those she knew and took a great interest in the young musicians she met. She had a great sense of humour, and was very amused when a national broadsheet referred to her as Lady Barbara Olli (see page 18).

Other causes of sadness were the recent deaths of Doris Goodship, Jean Barnard and May Turner. Doris worked in the membership office for more than 30 years until her retirement in the early 80s, and both Jean, a past chairman of the London Group, and May were long-serving members.

I was delighted to welcome Thailand Young Artist winner Yu Hsin Hua to Over-Seas House in April (see page 19). She attended the Central Council lunch at which the Commonwealth Secretary General Don McKinnon and his wife Clare de Lore were the guests of honour. It was Don's last day in office after two successful terms (see page 5). The day after, we held a private view of the paintings by the 12 Thai finalists.

The 2007 Annual Report is now available on request from the PR department. It contains the accounts and reports on the activities of the League during last year. It was designed again by Sarah Glossop.

Tickets for the Proms at the Albert Hall will soon be available. Please call 020 7408 0214 x206.

Congratulations to our president, Lord Luce. As we go to press, he has been appointed by The Queen to be a Knight of the Garter.

Robert Newell



Editor's letter

It's great to be back at *Overseas*. When I started working for the magazine in November 1999, as assistant editor, I had just returned from Ghana, where I spent a year working as a volunteer in a district hospital. It is fitting, therefore, that our focus this issue is on Ghana. During the year I lived in Kpandu in the Volta Region, the road to the capital was completely re-surfaced, cutting the journey time by half. The routes into Accra were being improved too and, as I left, work was ongoing to create a modern network of roads in the city. Eight years later, and relentless development seems to have changed Accra beyond recognition. After reading novelist Amma Darko's description of her home city (page 12), I'm sure there are whole areas I wouldn't recognise.

Back in 1999, the rural parts of the country already had problems with their tomato crops, and now the cocoa farmers are also struggling. Ghana still lacks the means to tin, package and sell many of its goods to consumers. But now there is a new resource: black gold. What effect the discovery of oil might have on the country is examined on page 14. Ghana is still the most peaceful nation in Africa, according to the Global Peace Index, and although I don't expect the oil wells and elections in December to change that, 2008 will certainly be a challenging year for the country.

I'm not the only one with a feeling of having come full circle since 2000. On page 5, Don McKinnon reports on his time as Commonwealth Secretary General as he retires from the position after eight years. His overview, both of events in Commonwealth countries and of the Commonwealth itself, is thoughtful and encouraging.

Miranda Moore

ART FIRST: Robert Newell with Young Artist of Thailand winner Yu Hsin Hua at the private view of the competition exhibition at Over-Seas House

COMMONWEALTH NEWS

From strength to strength: eight years with the Commonwealth

On his last day in office, **Don McKinnon** looks back at his time as Commonwealth Secretary General

What goes around, they say, comes around. The expression fits well with what I am feeling: that my eight-year tenure as Commonwealth Secretary General, 2000–2008, has been – in another well-worn phrase – a roller coaster ride.

I took office in April 2000 and, in June of that year, Zimbabwe's parliamentary elections – questionable in their conduct – saw Zanu PF narrowly defeat the Movement for Democratic Change (MDC). As I leave office today, 31 March 2008, it looks as if Zimbabwe's parliamentary elections – almost certainly questionable in their conduct – have seen the MDC narrowly defeat Zanu PF, with the result of the presidential elections not yet announced.

In May 2000, I visited Fiji in the wake of a military coup, travelling with UN Special Envoy Sergio de Mello. The Commonwealth was to suspend Fiji a month later, at the same time committing to giving all possible assistance to facilitate democratic elections. Fast forward to March 2008, in the wake of another military coup in Fiji, when my Commonwealth Special Envoy Sir Paul Reeves held talks with the interim prime minister and army commander with a view to assisting the next set of elections, scheduled for March 2009. And, for good measure, Sergio's biography was published: a gripping account of a brave and colourful life, tragically cut short by a terrorist bomb in Baghdad in 2003.

Dramas have come and gone and come round again, but the challenges remain the same. Entrenching democracy is a continuing journey, even in the oldest and richest democracies. So too is promoting

development – in the wealthier countries as well as the poorer ones – as much in the realms of human development in education and health as in the economic development that spurs growth. Democracy and development – inextricably linked – are the two highest goals of the Commonwealth, and have been my watchwords these last eight years.

I have often been quoted as saying that the Commonwealth is nothing if it is not relevant and credible, and if it doesn't better the lives of its member governments and, above all, of its peoples. You might like to look at the long essay in this month's issue of *The Round Table: The Commonwealth Journal of International Affairs*, in which I try to reflect on my period in office. In it, I argue that the Commonwealth of 2008 is stronger in four ways.

First, as an organisation of values. We have had the courage to suspend those who have flouted those values, and we have worked with them to get them back on a straight path. From observing elections to strengthening democratic institutions, championing human rights and inculcating a true culture of democracy, we have cherished and nourished the values of free speech and good government.

Second, as an organisation relevant to its time, meeting the challenges of the day. In former times, it rose to the challenges of post-colonial independence and dismantling apartheid; now, its concerns include small states, climate, AIDS, terror and urbanisation – the collective challenges of the new generation. We have work to be proud of in all of these areas.

Third, it is stronger in its focus on, and results for, those who need it most: women and young people, the poor and the marginalised, the small states not the large. We have always spoken for the underdog, and I am especially proud of our gender equality programmes, and the work of the Commonwealth Youth Programme in its four regional offices in Georgetown, Lusaka, Honiara and Chandigarh.

Fourth, it is stronger as an organisation that looks out on the world and works with others to meet its many challenges. New partnerships have been forged with other political and development organisations. Relations with our huge civil society constituency have been strengthened. And we are looking out further still: there is no greater testimony to the strength of this organisation than the fact that several countries have declared their wish to join us, with Rwanda now the frontrunner.

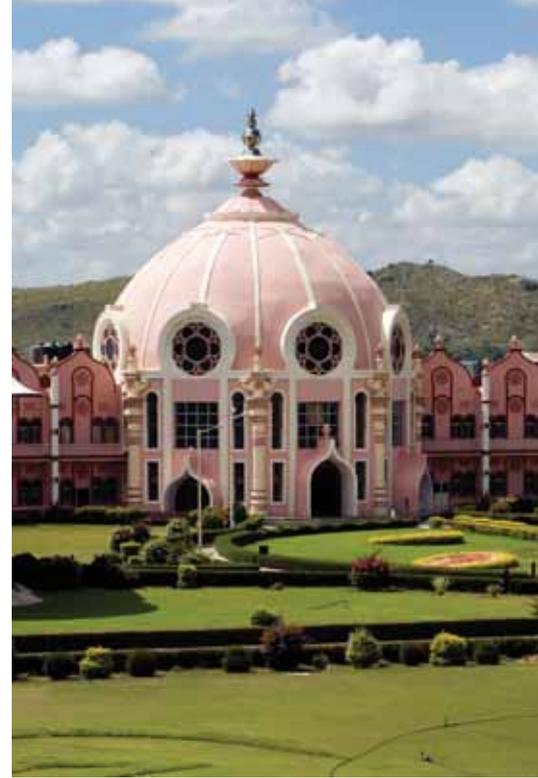
The Commonwealth is in my blood: it has been my life since 2000 and has given me many new friends. Many of these work in the 90 or so organisations around the world that bear the precious name Commonwealth. All work hard and devotedly for the values of this unique international organisation. In particular, I send thanks and very best wishes to all at the Royal Over-Seas League.



A FOND FAREWELL: The Central Council said goodbye to Don McKinnon and his wife Clare de Lore, at lunch on 31 March.
L-r: Lady Luce, Mr McKinnon, Clare de Lore, Mr Stanley Martin (ROSL Chairman), Michelle Anderson (art teacher from Ruamrudee Int. School, Bangkok), Yu Hsin Hua (winner of the inaugural ROSL Young Artist of Thailand competition) and Lord Luce (ROSL president)

Sun, sea and surgery

Billed as a 'different kind of holiday', India's booming medical tourism industry is injecting Western money into the growing economy, says **MG Srinath**



© TIM GANEY/ALAMY

India's catch-line to attract medical tourists from overseas is simple: there is no waiting list for surgery, and everyone understands and speaks fluent English. It is also a lot cheaper than private healthcare in most other countries in the world. A bone marrow transplant, for example, would cost five times as much in a private clinic in the UK.

It has been estimated that more than 150,000 medical tourists went to India to be treated in 2002, bringing in earnings of US\$300 million. Since then, that number has increased by 25% each year. Medical tourism is expected to make India around US\$2 billion by 2012, based on a survey by the lobby group Confederation of Indian Industry. A just-released

BEST OF HEALTH: Sathya Sai Baba Super Speciality Hospital in Puttaparthi (above); and a 'medical tourist' with Mediscapes India goes under the knife (below)



© D. ANURU KHANNA, MEDISCAPES INDIA

report by the Planning Commission says that the superior quality of medical service, coupled with the low cost of surgery, has made India one of the most attractive destinations for medical tourism in the world.

The study by the body that lays the social and economic roadmap for the government, shows that while heart bypass surgery costs US\$6,000 in India, it would cost nearly US\$8,000 in Thailand, US\$10,500 in Singapore, US\$24,000 in the US and US\$20,000 in Britain. Heart valve replacement surgery in India costs US\$8,000, compared to US\$90,000 at a private clinic in Britain. The list goes on.

John Davies, a sports enthusiast from the United States, was suffering from an arthritic hip and could not pursue his passion for skiing and golf. He came to India, and doctors in a private hospital performed a hip replacement surgery at one-third of the cost back home.

So far, accreditation has been granted for 11 hospitals by the National Accreditation Board for Hospitals and Healthcare Providers since the self-regulatory body came into effect in 2006. There are 43 other hospitals that are in various stages of evaluation.

The new 'Incredible India' promotion campaign is giving priority to medical tourism, marketing India as a different kind of tourist destination that combines health therapy with sightseeing at affordable costs. Most of the super speciality hospitals, which offer various kinds of surgery, have established travel and facilitation desks to enable their patients and their relatives to visit places of interest and architectural splendour across India as part of the 'package'. They also have facilities for pick-ups

and drop-offs at airports, and some of them have started acquiring helicopters to shift patients from one destination to another. The idea is that, following your treatment, you can recuperate on a leisurely sightseeing tour of the country.

According to the federal Tourism Minister Ambika Sonia, the government plans to grant visas on a priority for medical tourists. They have even introduced a new category 'M' visa for the purpose. However, one major obstacle remains: insurance companies are unwilling to cover medical treatment in India. Although it is likely that this barrier will begin to come down, some Indian hospitals are speeding up the process by establishing links with global insurance companies. They will then be able to organise their patients' insurance as well as their care packages.

Doctors and administrative heads of private hospitals across Indian cities say that patients from the US, UK, Oman, United Arab Emirates, Nigeria and Tanzania are flocking to India in increasing numbers each year. So are patients from other countries in the region, including Afghanistan, Pakistan, Nepal, Bangladesh, Bhutan and Myanmar. Anil Maini, president of Corporate Developments at Apollo Hospitals, a leading chain of super speciality private hospitals, says: "We are getting at least 8,000 foreign patients every year. Besides, nearly 10,000 patients from neighbouring countries visit our Delhi hospital and consult doctors at our out-patient departments." They predominantly come for heart surgery, spinal procedures, liver and kidney transplants, knee, hip and joint replacements, cancer treatment, obesity reduction operations and plastic surgery.

Mark Steiner came for a detailed checkup; his wife underwent lap band surgery in Mumbai. According to Dr Dheeraj Bojwani, an international patient consultant who has been helping foreign patients to find affordable healthcare facilities in India, many people come for obesity surgery. "The operations are mainly carried out at good hospitals in Mumbai and Delhi. The cost of obesity operations is at least four times less than in the USA and UK," he says.

"Medical tourism speaks of India's high-quality healthcare facility and unmatched efficiency of our doctors," said the health secretary Naresh Dayal. "It is certainly portraying the country's image positively across the globe." However, while the country boasts of its medical facilities, its domestic health services are dismal, with an abysmal doctor-patient ratio. This is the darker side of the country's medical sector.

India is short by 600,000 doctors, one million nurses and 200,000 dentists. Almost 60,000 Indian doctors are working in the United States, Britain and Australia, making up almost 5% of the medical workforce there. In India, there is one doctor for every 10,000 people. Against this, the US has 548, Australia 249, Canada 209 and Britain 166. There is only one nurse for every 500 people, and one hospital bed per 1,000 people, well below the prescribed norms of the World Health Organisation, or even the low-income countries' average of 1.5.

In a bid to overcome the lacunae in the domestic health services, the Planning Commission has suggested changing the law to allow private organisations to offer medical education. At present, doctors can be groomed and trained only in government hospitals.

A report by a group headed by Anwarul Hoda, a member of the elite think-tank, blames the

shortage of doctors, nurses and paramedics for the poor performance of the healthcare sector.

"Public healthcare has been on a serious decline during the last two or three decades because of non-availability of medical and paramedical staff, diagnostic services and medicines," says the report, submitted to Prime Minister Manmohan Singh recently.

While the super speciality hospitals are undoubtedly good for the Indian economy, poorer Indians are struggling with the rising costs of healthcare in local hospitals. And unless the government can do something to address the personnel shortage, the booming medical tourism industry may be diverting resources away from hospitals in other parts of the country.

MG Srinath is a freelance journalist based in New Delhi.

Some names have been changed to protect patient confidentiality.

A warm reception

It was a fitting day for the Commonwealth Day observance, says **Samantha Whitaker**

The focus of this year's Commonwealth Day observance, 'The Environment – Our Future', could not have been better represented by the weather on Monday 10 March. In fact, it was so fierce that the doors of Westminster Abbey were opened much earlier than planned to provide shelter to those attending. As honorary ushers, four members of League staff – myself included – were quickly put to work guiding distinguished guests to their seats. Her Majesty The Queen and Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, were led to their seats by a procession that included the League Chairman, Mr Stanley Martin, and his wife.

Dr John Hall, the Dean of Westminster, welcomed everyone to the Abbey and introduced the theme of the service: the need to adopt environmentally-friendly ways of living in order to have sustainable resources in the future. The Queen expanded on this message to highlight the responsibility of the Commonwealth – from governments and businesses to families and individuals – to match words with deeds.

The multi-faith service continued with six personal testimonies, each highlighting the impact of climate change, and rapid industrialisation and urbanisation. After each testimony, the congregation pledged to respect our world and the human family of which we are all a part. The service was interspersed with music and dance from many of the Commonwealth countries represented. Highlights included a traditional Maori performance, the African Children's Choir and an aria sung by soprano Madeleine Pierard, a prizewinner in the 2007 ROSL Annual Music Competition.

The service concluded with an ancient Sanskrit prayer for peace, which the congregation spoke together before heading out of the warm Abbey into the bleak chill outdoors.

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Keeping the peace

David Amanor looks at what is being done to promote a trouble-free election in Africa's 'most peaceful country'



At first sight there's no comparison. Ghana has a reputation for being an oasis of peace in a troubled sub-region, and can lay claim to being a maturing democracy where political rhetoric tends to steer clear of ethnic, regional or religious sentiments. But wasn't the same said of Kenya before December 2007? In the run-up to Ghana's elections, making such comparisons is a risky business, not least for politicians and political commentators. Invariably, it leads to derision from sections of parliament and the media, or accusations of forecasting trouble and, by virtue of this, fomenting trouble.

One presidential candidate, John Atta Mills, of the main opposition party, the National Democratic Congress (NDC), defended his reference to the Kenya crisis at a press conference in March with this rejoinder: "It is

not because I wish Armageddon on Ghana. It is because I don't want to play the ostrich and pretend all is well when I feel the tension on the ground when I go around campaigning." While few dare to suggest that widespread post-election violence would be replicated in Ghana in the wake of a flawed election, it would be naive to suggest that the stakes are not high.

Campaigning officially begins in September, although nationwide tours by party flag-bearers

"The main difference is we have a better voting system, ballot boxes will be transparent"

are under way and the billboards are already up. The largest and most conspicuous of these declare Nana Akufo-Addo of the incumbent New Patriotic Party (NPP), 'Our Next Leader'. Certainly, if size were a determinant, Nana, as he is popularly referred to, would be president. And while that might seem fickle, it highlights universal concerns over the desired 'level playing field'. The incumbents are frequently accused of using state money and machinery for election campaigning. In Ghana, as in Kenya, there's currently no legal requirement to disclose the source of campaign funds.

Ghanaians are rarely apathetic about local politics, passions are high, and there have been some incidences of violence involving party

members of opposing rallies. The Kenyan experience has added volume to the now regular calls by various organisations, institutions and individuals for a trouble-free election come 7 December. This group includes government, civil society, the media, police commanders, political parties, chieftaincies, religious leaders and the Electoral Commission (EC). It's an introspective exercise with each body appealing to another for fairness, professionalism and restraint.

"If things go wrong," one EC official said, "then you only have yourselves to blame." The argument is that all sections of society have to take responsibility for the conduct of elections, but on this occasion the message was aimed primarily at journalists.

Press freedom is one of the feathers in the NPP campaign hat. In the words of their flag bearer: "Never in the history of Ghana has freedom so flourished as under NPP government... the repeal of the Criminal Libel Law has made the Ghanaian media the freest in Africa." Certainly, newspapers and private radio stations have flourished; there are now more than 20 daily newspapers in Ghana, with a variety of news and comment. The downside is a regular diet of sensationalism, misinformation, political polarisation and unashamed bias.

Fred Eli Mensah is a trader in second-hand electronic goods at the 37 Lorry Park in Accra. He is willing to pay the comparatively high price of 50 pesewa (25p) for a daily paper, but on the issue of balanced reporting, his expectations are low. "It's a shame that the watchdogs of society are now the guard dogs of their





ELECTION FEVER: A man shows his support for the NPP presidential candidate (left) at the party rally in December (below)

paymasters, and you won't be surprised to see media people coming on television or radio to say they support this party or that party... The media reports whatever suits them, in line with their political affiliations, but we Ghanaians have learnt to read between the lines."

Dr Audrey Gazekpo of Ghana's Center for Democratic Development (CDD) agrees with Mensah's analysis. "It's not really a healthy situation; sometimes you just want the plain

Ghanaians are rarely apathetic, passions are high, there have been incidences of violence

facts. The Electoral Commission, for example, could be more transparent. But we have a very restrictive information-giving culture in Ghana. It's bureaucratic, we hog even the most pedestrian of facts. There's a certain sense that if you want official information, you must have an official reason – no assumption that 'it is my right as a Ghanaian to know what my government is doing,' and that's one reason why we need a Freedom of Information Act."

By definition alone, the media will play a significant role in delivering a fair or flawed process, but recent experience of African elections has put the electoral commissions centre stage. So is Ghana's EC capable of being a fair and vigilant referee?

Kwadwo Sarfo-Kantanka is its deputy chair and head of operations. On the question of independence from government, he quotes the country's 1992 constitution: "In the performance of its functions, the Electoral Commission shall not be subject to the direction or control of any person or authority." Virtually the same phrase appears in Kenya's constitution and, problematically, in both countries members of the commission are appointed by the president.

After declaring President Mwai Kibaki winner of Kenya's presidential election, the chairman of the Electoral Commission there, Samuel Kivuitu, admitted he didn't really know who had won. "The main difference in Ghana is that we now have a better voting system, our ballot boxes will be transparent plastic, ballots will be counted and recounted if necessary at the polling station itself," says Sarfo-Kantanka. "The results are recorded on a form which party agents are required to sign, the form is then taken to the constituency centre where the votes are collated. All the counting takes place under the watchful eye of party agents, observers and five polling station officials, so there's no opportunity for ballot stuffing."

If all Ghanaians felt the same, a peaceful election would be assured. However, nine months before the poll, the opposition NDC were crying foul on the issue of voter registration. At EC headquarters in Accra, Sarfo-Kantanka shows me a summary printout of the records in question and dismisses the allegations. He does, however, concede that voter registration is a grey area.

"We don't have a national identity card and, as you know, most Ghanaians don't have

passports. So it's hard to ascertain that a voter has reached the minimum age of 18, especially in rural areas where many births are not registered. On the other hand, identity fraud is more unlikely in rural areas as everybody knows everybody."

One thing is clear, as the former National Security Coordinator Kofi Quantson recommended at a roundtable discussion in February, the recent "election disasters" in Kenya have been "golden eye openers to Ghana", leading the main parties to renew their commitment to peace.

David Amanor is the BBC correspondent in Accra.

POLL POSITION

ELIGIBLE VOTERS
10 million

ELECTION
Presidential and parliamentary,
Sunday 7 December

SYSTEM
First past the post for parliament;
50%+1 for presidential or goes
to runoff

POLITICAL PARTIES
At least 14, including the
incumbent New Patriotic Party and
main opposition, the National
Democratic Congress

If your invitation to go yachting in the Mediterranean (with Roman Abramovich, who is shortly taking delivery of *Eclipse*, the largest private yacht ever built) appears to have gone missing in the post, The Yachts of Seabourn may just present a solution that will neither seriously diminish your experience nor your retirement fund. This trio of sleek mega-yachts allows you to indulge your inner Master of the Universe for a week or two with the cheerful and capable cooperation of a boatload of skilled accomplices, at fares that are absolutely appropriate for the value received.

Whether or not you are a legend in your own time, you'll be pampered like a pasha once you step aboard Seabourn Pride, Spirit or Legend. Because each features just 104 luxury suites, you are, by default, among the fortunate few on a Seabourn yacht. And since the crew number nearly as many as the guests, you will have the benefit of their practically undivided attention to your every whim and fancy. They begin by learning your name (if they haven't already) and by using it, along with a disarming smile, to greet you at every opportunity. It's a sad commentary that such sincere, heartfelt hospitality is such a rare commodity as to be worthy of comment, but it is a pure pleasure to experience it where it still thrives, unsullied by the pursuit of gratuities, which are neither required nor expected by Seabourn's professional staff.

Graciously relieved of your kit and guided to your accommodation, you may be surprised at what a spacious, airy sort of home-from-home it is. All Seabourn suites boast ocean views, from either a five-foot picture window or a balcony that opens to admit sea breezes and sunlight to the adjacent seating area. Thoughtful details include a bar and refrigerator stocked with your requested beverages, fresh fruit and flowers, personalized stationery on the desk and chilled champagne on ice. But before you can open that, a chime announces the arrival of your stewardess, with freshly poured flutes, a winning smile and a choice of designer soaps to grace your marble bathroom. She'll also show you the menu of relaxing or invigorating Pure Pampering bathing scents from Molton Brown, and the commodious walk-in closet with ample storage and a personal safe.

Perhaps the clearest indication that you are truly on a yacht is the friendly, sociable atmosphere that you and your shipmates will enjoy. Complimentary open bars make socializing carefree, and the intimate, human scale of the vessel means you'll actually get to know the other guests, who are generally a sophisticated, well-travelled group. You'll quickly feel right at home, since you're never very far from anywhere

else on the ship - or off it, for that matter, because when your nimble Seabourn yacht comes to a port, the captain can often sail right into the heart of the place, delivering the destination right to your doorstep - or vice versa, actually.

And those destinations are another facet of the yachting difference. Because while Seabourn's yachts, like larger ships, can reach the marquee ports that everyone wants to see, (or see again): Barcelona, Venice, Florence and Rome, these intimate craft can also carry you to the hidden gems that wait between the names in bold type on the map: Le Lavandou, Lipari and Koper - places whose names you've never heard, but whose beauty you will likely never forget. They can navigate the Guadalquivir past orange groves to Seville. They can thread the narrow Corinth Canal in Greece, slipping between towering walls so close you can nearly touch them. They can maneuver into a berth at the yacht harbour of Monte Carlo, between the mega-yachts of sheikhs and superstars. If the day and the conditions permit, the captain may even drop anchor in a secluded cove and deploy the ship's Marina, which unfolds from the ship's stern like something out of a Bond movie, inviting you to sport about in the sea with water skiing, kayaks, sailboards and other toys. This is traveling on a yacht, a small-group, privileged style that illuminates and enriches the lives of those who practice it.

Back on board, you'll also enjoy a range of amenities to satisfy your desires. The award-winning Spa at Seabourn offers a wide range of health and well-being rituals for men and women, as well as a full service salon and a well-equipped, ocean-view gym. The library is well-stocked with fiction, non-fiction and reference books, magazines and newspapers, along with DVDs of classic and contemporary films and a wide variety of music and books on compact discs for use in your suite's Bose Wave stereo system. A computer centre augments the ship-wide Wi-Fi internet access and international mobile phone service when the ship is underway.

The award-winning dining is top-shelf and available in an open-seating Restaurant, in the more casual indoor-outdoor Veranda Café or, on special evenings, in a lavish buffet dinner served under the stars on deck. There is also the elegant option of ordering from the restaurant menu, and having your dinner served, course by course, by a waiter in your suite. Like the rest of your yachting experience, it's a flexible, first-rate way to refresh, reinvigorate and reward yourself for being such a smart traveller that you managed a first-rate yachting vacation without actually having bought a yacht. ■



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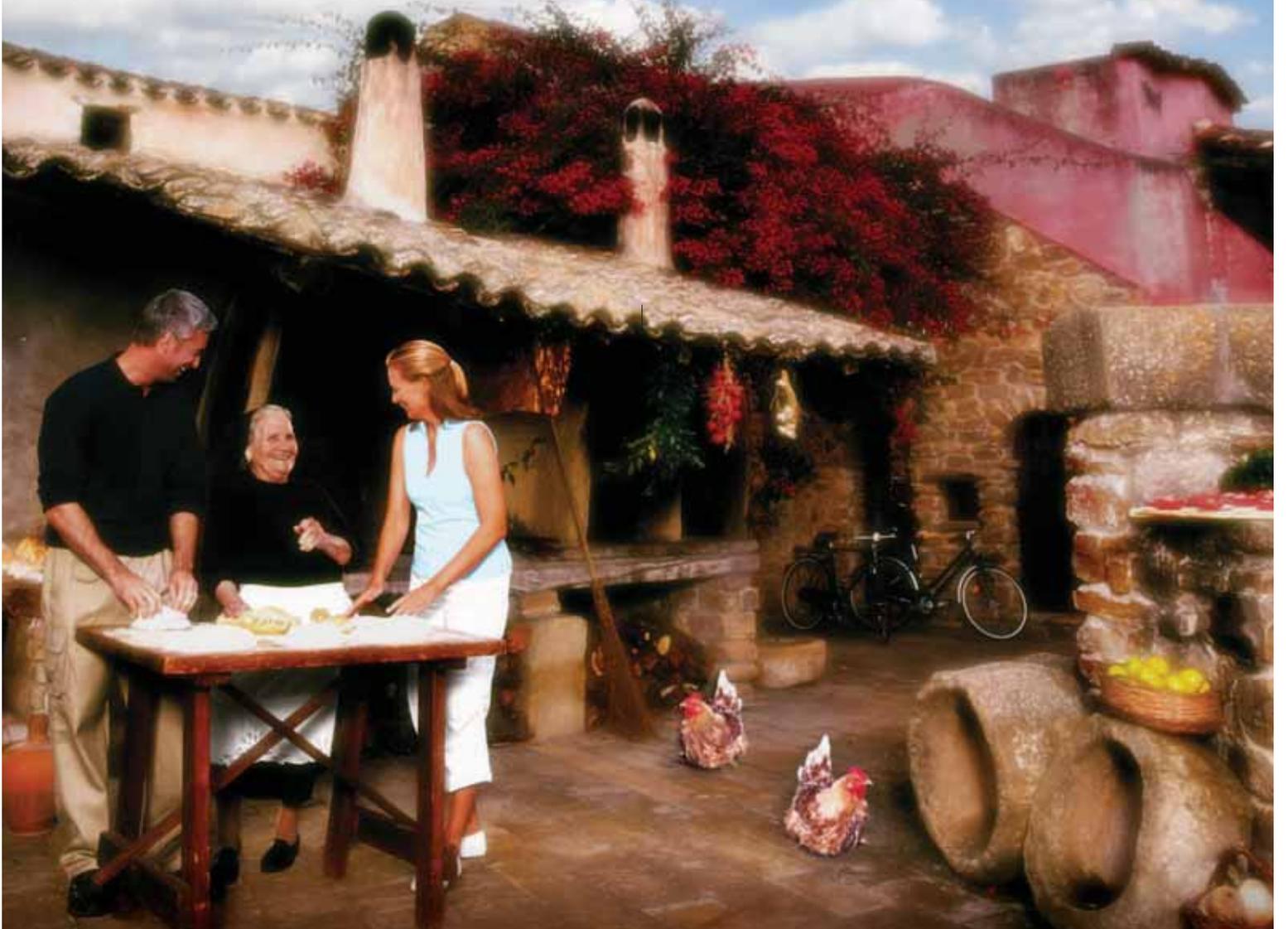
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FOCUS

Hope in the city

Amma Darko walks us through Accra's major new developments and asks how urbanisation has changed the capital in the last ten years



Accra is a city of paradox. Recent redevelopment works have turned it into a vibrant, modern city that, on some levels at least, can compete with other 21st-century capital cities. And yet, development has helped to encourage an influx of migrants from rural areas, who are forming a new urban underclass. For every shiny new structure that goes up, there are scores of people living in uncompleted buildings and hawking on the streets.

According to the Ghana Institute of Engineers, half of the Ghanaian population will be living in urban areas by the year 2010. Hoping to improve their economic situation, poor people are coming to the cities in increasing numbers, offering cheap labour to boost the increasingly prolific construction industry. Female migrants work mostly as porters, carrying shoppers' loads for a fee. Others, male and female, end up as hawkers, selling everything from fruits and bread to table lamps and dog chains.

With so many people flocking to the capital, fears of overcrowding, housing shortages and its attendant sanitation problems are increasing; and yet Accra is at the height of redevelopment.

The construction and reconstruction work of the last decade reached a climax in January, when Ghana hosted the 26th Africa Cup of Nations and earned itself four sports edifices. Two new stadiums were constructed in Tamale and Sekondi; the two

existing ones in Kumasi and Accra were refurbished beyond recognition. The Italian construction company Michelletti & Sons, who transformed the former Accra Sports into the splendid Ohene Djan Sports Stadium, undoubtedly hired many rural hands. They work for far below the government-approved minimum wage of £1.15 per day.

The impact of such widespread development has been huge; nowhere more so than in Osu, where the stadium is located. Ten years ago, the street from the Danquah Circle to the Osu-La road was flanked by

Half of the Ghanaian population will be living in urban areas by the year 2010

family compound houses, some dilapidated from lack of maintenance. Only a handful were walled, middle-class residential homes. Cantonments Road, as it is officially called, was popular for its night food market, selling *kelewele* (fried chunks of plantain) and *kenkey* (fermented maize meal balls) and fried fish. Since then, the family houses have gradually been converted into shops, offices, hotels and restaurants, and the road has come to be known as the Oxford Street. It is

popular with foreign tourists and Accra's well-to-do.

The city's recent history of development is etched on the Oxford Street for all to see. Situated at the Danquah Circle end, Ghana Heights, a new high-rise building next to the Koala Shopping Center where many foreigners shop, establishes a new ethos for the street. Constructed by Krane and the Italian-owned estate developers Trasacco, its impressive green glass facade speaks of new wealth and cutting-edge design. It is a far cry from the chop stalls that once characterised the area.

Things began to change when the fast-food joint Papaye added its gaudy red and yellow signs to Cantonment Road's no-frills chop bars in the late 90s, starting a trend that saw Frankie's ice-cream parlour, hotel and restaurant, Southern Fried Chicken, and the South African chain Steers open outlets. The ceramic blue tiles of the Royal Blue hotel, carved out of an old family compound house, followed. It is one of several five-star hotels that have been established in Accra in recent years.

The street has also responded to changes in the global communications industry. While communication centres sprung up at the beginning of the decade, these have since been replaced by shops selling mobile phones, which were once luxury items and are now affordable necessities for many. The phone service company TIGO moved into a bright blue and glass building opposite the



© TOM COCKREM/LOVELY PLANET IMAGES

LOST IN THE CROWD: Despite Accra's shiny new constructions, Makola Market is still one of the most recognisable symbols of the city. Many of the people streaming into the capital from rural areas have taken to hawking everything from bread to dog chains

yellow and glass construction of rival company MTN – the main sponsors of the Africa Nations Cup. Internet cafes have also sprung up.

Accra's ceremonial route from the airport to the African Liberation Circle, held up as a symbol of a modern city, has paradoxically come to represent poverty and underdevelopment too, thanks to the hawkers who gather there to sell their goods. The Kotoka International Airport is Ghana's only entry point by air. It is where every dignitary lands, to be driven through the

The impressive green glass facade speaks of new wealth and cutting-edge design

ceremonial route. New overpasses were constructed at Alajo and Nkrumah Circle last year, but the first welcoming sight from the airport traffic light is the street hawkers.

In much the same way, the shopping malls at the Tetteh Quarshie interchange and Makola Market are set against a backdrop of hawkers and makeshift shops. These represent the less salubrious side of the retail industry, which is also growing.

With an ever-increasing scarcity of job

opportunities in the formal sectors, trading has become the best option for many. Shops continue to open all over Accra, as vendors place wooden kiosks wherever space can be found by a roadside. Landlords lucky to have their houses in convenient locations are fast converting their rooms into shops.

The situation has been so over exploited that many shop spaces now stand empty. The craze has even brought in a new trend in architectural designs. Where once, walled bungalows were the norm, now there are three storeys: shop spaces with office accommodation above and residential apartments at the top.

Another reason for the many empty shop spaces is the high rent. Rural migrants despair of finding affordable decent accommodation and encroach on uncompleted structures. Some wait for workers to vacate business premises and turn them into their sleeping places at night.

Accra may be changing, but its core capricious character remains steadfast. What hasn't changed is the ceaseless flow of humans. The streets are still choked with vehicles. The hawkers who were evicted before the Africa Nations Cup are drifting back. Their absence brought a much desired sanity, but we did miss them a little too. The eccentricity of the city seems to infect its inhabitants, old and new.

Amma Darko is an author and tax inspector who lives in Accra. Her novels include *Faceless and Not Without Flowers*.

GHANA FACTS

CAPITAL
Accra

POPULATION
22,931,299 (July 2007 est.)

GDP PER CAPITA
US\$1,400 (2007 est.)

GAINED INDEPENDENCE
6 March 1957. Became a republic on 1 July 1960. Constitution was approved on 28 April 1992

PRESIDENT
John Agyekum Kufuor. Kufuor is constitutionally barred from running for a third term in the upcoming elections

LANGUAGE
English is the national language, but there are nine government-sponsored languages, including Akam, Ga, Ewe and Dagbani

RELIGION
Christian (68.8%), Muslim (15.9%) and traditional (8.5%)

UNIT OF CURRENCY
Cedis and pesewas

CLIMATE
Tropical

FOCUS

Curse of the black gold?

Oil has brought the prospect of new wealth, jobs and development to Ghana, but can it avoid the violence, social discord and growing poverty of its oil-rich neighbours, asks **Samuel Doe Ablordeppey**

Ghana has depended on its enormous deposits of gold for nearly a century. Although the country has not been able to duly utilise its commercial deposits of salt, known locally as 'white gold', declaring the industry a President's Special Initiative (PSI), it keeps discovering different forms of gold. Luckily, the government does not have to declare a PSI on its latest discovery: 'black gold'. The world has an overwhelming thirst for oil.

Since oil was found in commercial quantities at the end of 2007, six international exploration and drilling companies have applied for oil blocs in Ghanaian waters. Barely six months after Kosmos Energy, Anadarko Petroleum and Tullow Oil announced that they had found oil in the Western Region, Kosmos struck new volumes of high-quality crude oil in the area.

Conservative estimates indicate that the quantity of oil discovered so far is three billion

barrels, with prospects of further finds, as exploration activities are still under way. In 2010, Ghana will begin exporting in significant quantities: 60,000 barrels a day, rising to a projected 200,000. According to the Ghana National Petroleum Company, the industry will generate \$10 billion in foreign investment by 2012, and revenue of \$836 million a year.

It is hoped that the reliance on donor funding, which currently accounts for about 70% of the national budget, will be greatly reduced by taxation from petroleum extraction, which is pegged at 35%. Oil activities should also minimise the import bill, which hit more than \$2 billion in 2007, following an energy crisis caused when the Volta reservoir, used to generate hydroelectric power for the entire country, dried up.

This expected windfall will create a huge strategic challenge for the government. Although Ghana has successfully managed surges in foreign aid, and largely avoided the associated pitfalls, an unprecedented rate of growth would be difficult to manage.

To reap the maximum benefits, Ghana should learn lessons from Botswana and Norway. Diamond-rich Botswana has been one of the fastest-growing economies in the last 40 years, in stark contrast with oil-rich Angola, which has been blighted by civil war. At an Oil and Gas Forum convened by President John Agyekum Kufuor in February, Norway's Minister of Environment and International Development, Erik Solheim, underscored the importance of recognising that oil and accruing oil revenue

are national assets that belong to the people. He called for transparency in the management of the oil resource, environmental protection measures and the involvement of civil society.

Transparency should be comparatively easy to uphold, since Ghana is a signatory to the UN's Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI). However, the oil companies' environmental assessment has yet to be made public, and social participation is still inadequate.

You only have to look to neighbouring Nigeria to see that, far from guaranteeing wealth and development, oil can signal rising poverty, social discord and violence. According to Sachs and Warner, despite oil revenues of US\$350 billion, the standard of living in Nigeria declined over a 35-year period to 1995. In fact, the GNP per capita growth was significantly higher in developing countries that did not export oil.

In Ghana, there is already discontent in the three communities closest to the rigs, Cape Three Points, Princess Town and Egyambra. These communities are poor. Most people survive on less than a dollar a day from subsistence fishing or farming. They live without basic drainage, sanitation and running water. In Cape Three Points, there is only one well.

To see a doctor, locals must use the community's only car – chief Nana Akyekessie V's VW Passat, which frequently breaks down – and take a road so bad that the 29km journey to the highway takes 90 minutes. Although you can cover the distance between the three communities closest to the oil rigs in less than 30 minutes on foot, there is no access road

PICTURES COURTESY OF TULLOW OIL





OIL AND WATER: The Songa Saturn rig at Cape Three Points (left); and Mangyea villagers celebrate a new well that will provide fresh water, one of 12 hand-pumped wells sponsored by Tullow Oil in Western Ghana (below left)

linking them. To go to Princes Town from Cape Three Points, you have to do a loop of nearly 100km. There is clearly a lot that the oil companies could do to compensate villagers for their presence in the area.

However, according to Donkris Mevuta of Friends of the Nation, there was no consultation with locals before drilling began. As a result, the livelihoods of fishermen has been compromised. This led a group from Cape Three Points to blast dynamite at the exploration site to trap the fish that gather around the bright lights of the rig. It could have caused the rig to explode, killing the fisherman and prematurely ending Ghana's dream of becoming an oil-producing country.

"They were there because they are not aware of the implications," says Mevuta, whose organisation is calling for the oil companies to make known their Environmental Impact Assessment and Fisheries Impact Assessment. He is concerned that excavation may lead to the eruption of hot mud around the shoreline, and gas and oil spillages, and says the companies must reveal how they would manage such disasters and mitigate the impact on fishing.

"We are all caught up in the thrill of the oil find, and we do not think about the environmental and other social problems that are associated with the drillings," he explains. "The absence of education and any meeting with the fishermen leaves them ignorant of the implications of the oil exploration and the

increasing dangers that it poses to fishing, life and the country's coasts."

Unless fishermen are duly compensated, educated and re-trained, this could be a problem that comes to haunt the government. In theory, ordinary Ghanaians could benefit from a raft of employment opportunities in areas as diverse as rig operations, metal works, business services, ICT, catering, transport, insurance, health and safety, human resources, real estate and security. But Ghana lacks the necessary technical skills.

'We are all caught up in the thrill of the oil find and do not think about the social problems'

The former Energy Minister, MP Mike Oquaye, warns that unless an emergency plan is put in place to provide the requisite training, "it would take the country a very long time to benefit from the crucial ancillary jobs". So far, the government has been training and developing expertise in the petroleum industry in trickles. It must now move to a higher gear.

In Egyambra, chief Nana Fabin Amantwe IV is not hoping for the high-end jobs, but he is confident that his community has the carpenters, steel benders and construction

workers the oil industry needs. "All we are looking for is that their skills will be put to use for the benefit of the community," he says. As long as they are paid a fair price for their services, he believes this is Egyambra's best chance of sharing in the oil profits.

While Kosmos has indicated its willingness to provide training as part of its social responsibility to communities in the operational area of the oil wells, the government has not started any work in this direction. And government guidance is crucial. Where it *has* stepped in – to educate the communities on land issues – it has had a big impact.

Sadly, government intervention came a little late. The chiefs had already sold off much of the communities' land to speculators and oil companies, without knowing its true value. More than 1,000 acres reportedly changed hands before the Lands Commission got involved. However, since it began to educate decision-makers within the oil find zone about the problems associated with selling large chunks of land to individuals and corporate bodies, land sales have halted.

If it is managed correctly, Ghana's new 'gold' could provide amazing rewards for its citizens. But there needs to be more effort, both from government and the oil companies, to secure development, environmental protection and social participation. Otherwise the thrill of the oil find could turn sour.

Samuel Doe Ablordeppey is a journalist with the *Daily Graphic* in Accra.

Grog's notebook

News from the London clubhouse

▼ **IRAQI RELATIONS:** The Vicar of Baghdad and president of the Foundation for Relief and Reconciliation in the Middle East, League member Canon Andrew White, on a visit to Over-Seas House, London in March, with his Iraqi Assistant, Gehad Hanna (left), and the director-general



▲ **WEST SUSSEX FAREWELL:** At the AGM and lunch of the West Sussex Branch, Brenda Callow (left) was presented with a gift on her retirement as hon. branch secretary. She is pictured with the director-general Robert Newell and branch chairman Marilyn Archbold



▲ **DISCUSSION GROUP:** The chairman of United World Colleges (UWC) and the League's Discussion Group, Tim Toyne Sewell, with UWC graduate Anisa Berdellima, before the Discussion Group meeting in February, at which they spoke on International Education and UWC



▲ **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:** The 800th meeting of the League's Executive Committee was held in January. Pictured here are: (l-r, back) Christie Cherian, Caroline Cazenove, Simon Ward, Judith Steiner, Robert Newell and (l-r, front) Marilyn Archbold, Stanley Martin and Anthony Figgis

▼ **CENTRAL COUNCIL LUNCH:** The Lord Mayor of Westminster, Cllr Carolyn Keen, was guest of honour and speaker at the lunch before the January meeting of the Central Council. She is pictured with (l-r) the Mayoress of Wandsworth, Elizabeth Woods; the Lord Mayor's brother and escort Andrew Keen; League Chairman Stanley Martin, and the Mayor of Wandsworth, Cllr Stuart Thom



Stylish tastes

Alexandra Debarge raises her glass to the Younger Members Inter-Club Group

January

The sell-out curry-tasting at the Oriental Club kicked off the Inter-Club calendar in style. The magnificent clubhouse, with origins in the East India Company, was the perfect setting for this culinary event. A champagne reception in the oak-panelled library was followed by a range of curries in the main dining room. Members and their guests enjoyed stimulating their palates with the various Indian dishes.

March

An educational and informal wine tasting was held at the Savile Club. These fine Italian wines are listed at some of the newest, smartest and most elite restaurants in Mayfair and the West End. Tom Harrow, of A Moveable Feast, pitched the evening to help members become more familiar with wine lists in general, and the Savile Club provided the most stylish of backdrops.



TINGLING TASTE BUDS: The younger members sampled some fine Italian wines at an informal wine-tasting evening hosted by the Savile Club (above), and tucked into an array of Indian curries at the Oriental Club (below)

Pictures: James Scott

Forthcoming events

Monday 9 June

Inter-Club quiz, Savage Club

Wednesday 16 July

Summer drinks party, Travellers Club

Saturday 2 August

Sports Day, Hurlingham Club

For more information on events, visit www.inter-club.co.uk. To join ROSL's young member network, email richard.white@axicom.com.



Lady Barbirolli OBE

Roderick Lakin pays tribute to the celebrated oboist and chairman of adjudicators of the ROSL Annual Music Competition

Born in Wallingford in 1911, Evelyn Rothwell began playing the oboe remarkably late, at the age of 17, but made such prodigious progress that she won a scholarship to the Royal College of Music to study with Leon Goossens. She was soon in demand, playing for London shows such as *The Land of Smiles*, starring the legendary tenor Richard Tauber, and the Covent Garden touring company at the Royal Opera House, where she first met her future husband, John Barbirolli. While still in her early 20s, she played with the Scottish Orchestra (now the RSNO), the Queen's Hall Orchestra under Sir Henry Wood, and the Glyndebourne orchestra in their opening season. Evelyn and fellow oboist Natalie James became the first women to play in the London Symphony Orchestra.

While in Glasgow with the Scottish Orchestra, her friendship with John Barbirolli, the conductor, blossomed into romance and they married in 1939. This marked the end of her orchestral career, as she joined her husband in New York where he was conductor of the New York

Philharmonic Orchestra. In 1943, in the bleakest days of World War II, John Barbirolli, homesick for England, accepted an invitation to return to Britain to take the helm of the ailing Hallé Orchestra in Manchester. In just a few years, with Evelyn's unstinting support, he achieved an extraordinary revival of their fortunes.

Organising her husband's domestic and professional life was Evelyn's priority, but her career as a chamber musician, recitalist and concerto soloist continued to develop. She gave the first performance of the reconstructed Mozart *Oboe Concerto* in Salzburg in 1947; premiered the Martinu *Oboe Concerto*; was a noted interpreter of the concertos of Strauss and Vaughan Williams; and had several concertos and chamber works written for her.

Evelyn spoke about her relationship with Sir John in an interview to mark his 70th birthday: "When your husband is a public figure, he needs someone who can be – well, like an old slipper: easy and comfortable... You must have one person in your life you can rely on completely;

one person with whom you can be yourself. For John, I hope, I am that person."

After her husband's death in July 1970, she took the professional name Evelyn Barbirolli for the first time and resumed her performing career. She became a professor of oboe at the Royal Academy of Music; got actively involved with a number of major musical organisations, including the Royal Philharmonic Society and Musicians Benevolent Fund, and was increasingly in demand internationally as an adjudicator. In 1982, she was appointed OBE. She had joined the panel of judges of the ROSL Annual Music Competition in 1975, succeeding Dame Eva Turner as chairman in 1982. She became a vice president of the League in 1986.

As an oboe student in the 60s and 70s, I was familiar with the name Evelyn Rothwell as the editor or dedicatee of many pieces I was learning to play. It was therefore a great privilege to meet her for the first time in November 1983, when I was interviewed for the director of music position at the Royal Over-Seas League. From the



FONDLY REMEMBERED: Lady Barbirolli (left) during an interview with David Mellor at Over-Seas House in January 2003, in which she talked about her memoir, *Life with Glorious John*; with ROSL Annual Music Competition gold-medallist, pianist Ashley Wass, and prize giver Gavin Henderson in 1995 (right); and with artist Michael Shaw and portrait *Evelyn in her Garden*, commissioned by the League in 1995 (opposite). The portrait now hangs in the foyer of Princess Alexandra Hall

Thai Young Artist visits UK

Roderick Lakin organised a hectic week in London for the ROSL competition winner, from the exhibition at Over-Seas House to the capital's best galleries

Visitors to Over-Seas House, London in April will have been struck by the vibrant paintings in the central lounge and Gibbs staircase. Works by the 12 finalists of the recently inaugurated ROSL Young Artist of Thailand competition were shipped to London by the ROSL Thailand Branch for the exhibition. Artists from schools and colleges from all over Thailand, mostly aged 16–18, were represented.

As part of her prize, the winner, Yu Hsin Hua (Sheana), and her art teacher Michele Anderson came to London for a week as guests of ROSL ARTS to attend the private view that marked the opening of the exhibition. This was Sheana's first visit to London, and she made the most of the programme arranged by ROSL ARTS to take in many of London's major tourist sights, galleries and

exhibitions. Highlights included a visit to the blockbuster Duchamp, Man Ray and Picabia exhibition at Tate Modern and a performance of Tchaikovsky's *The Sleeping Beauty* at the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden.

A final-year student of the Ruamrudee International School in Bangkok, Sheana plans to develop her creative talents after leaving school on a design degree course. She was pleased to be able to make an application in person to the renowned Central St Martins art school in London, who offered her a place for the coming academic year. If she decides to take it up, we hope Sheana will consider Over-Seas House as a welcoming home-from-home during her studies.

The Young Artist of Thailand exhibition will be shown at Over-Seas House, Edinburgh until 30 June.

moment I took up the post, 'Lady B', as she was universally known, became a valued counsellor, mentor and friend.

As an adjudicator, her judgements were clear and insightful. She abhorred lifeless 'correct' playing, and championed musicians who combined musicality with soloistic flair. As chairman, she ensured scrupulous fairness and discouraged unnecessarily prolonged discussions in the jury room. Her adjudication speeches were a master class in directness and concision, drawing on a repertoire of apposite quotations from great composers, conductors and performers. She enjoyed talking to competitors, and gave constructive criticism and advice with tact and candour.

She was an excellent cook, a generous host and a great raconteur. Her zest for life remained undiminished throughout her life. She had a passion for gardening, travel, good food and, above all, good wine. The director-general Robert Newell would receive calls periodically asking him to send her a case from the League's cellars – always from a good vintage, a *cru classé* and "ready to drink".

Lady Barbirolli OBE died on 25 January aged 97. Her wit, vitality and benevolent spirit will remain an inspiration to those who knew her.

The Final Concert of the 2008 ROSL Annual Music Competition, which took place on Monday 19 May, was dedicated to Lady Barbirolli's memory. The main award for wind, donated by the Worshipful Company of Dyers, will be presented annually in her name.



A TRUE TASTE OF BRITAIN: Yu Hsin Hua (2nd from left) and Michelle Anderson take tea with ROSL ARTS' Roderick Lakin and Eoghan O'Neill

Home from home

Margaret Adrian-Vallance looks at the life of actress and socialite Lady Diana Cooper, who lived in Rutland House before it was bought by the League in 1934

At the age of 68, Lady Diana Cooper was still travelling with a 40-year-old passport photo by Cecil Beaton, representing her as Tiepolo's idea of Cleopatra. "The frontiers still let me through with that picture... when they won't, I will stay at home," she said. Born in 1892, Diana Olivia Winifred Maud Manners was considered the most beautiful woman of her day. Her parents were Henry Manners, the eighth Duke of Rutland, and his wife Violet, whose lover – the writer Henry Cust – was probably her real father.

For much of her exuberant life, 'home' was the Rutland's town house, which is now part of Over-Seas House. From here, Diana was presented at court and did the season. Her mother hoped she would marry the Prince of Wales, but Diana had other ideas and joined a fast literary set called the Corrupt Coterie. When war came, Diana's mother insisted on Rutland House becoming a hospital for officers. Red Cross ambulances came in through the gatehouse in Arlington Street. The library (the present cocktail bar) and ballroom (pretty much where the Hall of India is now) became wards, and the Duchess's bedroom (now the Bennet-Clark Room), an operating theatre.

The Over-Seas Club at this time was operating from rooms in Aldwych, with support from the newspaper magnate Lord Northcliffe. Indeed, in some of the 1917 editions of *Overseas*, Lord Northcliffe is listed as founder, the King as patron and Evelyn Wrench as organiser. Be that as it may, the club raised huge funds for the war effort. For her part, Diana went to Guy's Hospital to train as a nurse.

In 1919, Diana married Duff Cooper, an attaché in the Foreign Office. To fund his burgeoning career in politics, she took the

leading role in two films: *The Glorious Adventure* and *The Virgin Queen*. In 1923, the theatre director Max Reinhardt cast her as the Madonna in *The Miracle* and she travelled with the play throughout America. By 1934, when Diana's mother decided to sell Rutland House to the League, Duff was a successful politician. Diana tolerated his many mistresses and was a brilliant society hostess. Although he became Viscount Norwich in 1952, she complained that it rhymed with 'porridge' and preferred to be known as Lady Diana Cooper.

Diana's autobiographical trilogy, *The Rainbow Comes and Goes* (1958), *The Light of Common Day* (1959) and *Trumpets from the Steep* (1960), shows a talent for recording the eccentric. She died in 1986, 32 years after her husband, aged 93. Although she was understandably appalled by the changes that the League made to her family home, many of its 18th-century features remain. And it is still a centre of hospitality, entertainment and literary appreciation.

The League's fascinating past will be covered in the history of ROSL being written by Adele Smith for the centenary in 2010. Look out for further details in 2009.



LADY OF LETTERS: Lady Diana at her desk in 1920

Firm foundations

James Wilkie on the Earl of Mar, patron of Rutland House's architect

As a young man, John Erskine, the sixth Earl of Mar, took the Grand Tour of Europe and made the acquaintance of Scots architect James Gibbs. If it were not for this chance meeting, Rutland House, as we know it, might never have been built. Mar became Gibbs's patron, and helped the young Aberdonian to establish himself, first in Scotland and then in London.

John was Secretary of State for Scotland to the last of the Stuart sovereigns, Queen Anne, before falling out with her successor George I and leading the 1715 Jacobite rebellion. He

was also a talented architect and gardener, and his improvements to Alloa Tower, the family home, were commented on by Daniel Defoe. His gardens were said to be the finest in Scotland. They were largely laid out by Andre LeNotre, landscape gardener to Louis XIV, who is famed for the gardens of Versailles.

After working on the Mar properties in Scotland, Gibbs became an arbiter of fashion in London. He designed the churches of St Mary-le-Strand, St Martin-in-the-Fields, Oxford's Radcliffe Camera – and Rutland House.

Mar and Gibbs remained close friends. Mar wrote to Gibbs from exile in France, asking him to retain possession of his drawings, and Gibbs bequeathed three houses, £1,000 and all his plate to the Erskine children.

Now a post-industrial dormitory town on the River Forth near Edinburgh, Alloa held a significant position in Scottish politics during Stuart and Tudor times. Alloa Tower is owned by the National Trust of Scotland and was recently restored. It is still one of Scotland's most important tower houses.

EDINBURGH

The view from Scotland

James Wilkie

Scottish development officer

Commonwealth Week 2008 saw a successful series of events. Linda Fabiani MSP, the Scottish Minister for Europe, External Affairs and Culture spoke at our Commonwealth Day lunch, which was also attended by the Indian Consul General in Scotland, Ramesh Chander. Borders poet Howard Purdie led an excellent afternoon of Scottish traditional music and verse with the Linties singing group. And the week culminated with a special musical evening at the Scottish Parliament, featuring the splendid saxophone quartet Zephyrus.

April's arts lunch followed, with widely travelled ROSL member Ian Robert addressing the annual event held in association with the Scots Australian Council and Glasgow Branch. He spoke on 'The

Singing Line: Australia's Telegraph'. The ROSL Chairman Mr Stanley Martin attended the Edinburgh AGM and reception, and we now look forward to the Scottish Members' dinner on Friday 13 June. The guest speaker will be Sir David Carter FRSE, who was Chief Medical Officer for Scotland 1996-2000.

The Glasgow Branch concluded their season with a talk by Marjorie MacRae entitled 'An Island Odyssey'. One of the Edinburgh Branch coffee mornings merits special mention, as heavy demand for a talk on Edinburgh's impending tram system meant that the event had to be moved into the larger Princes Suite. For details about the Scottish members' annual London visit (1-4 August) see page 32.



SAX IN THE CITY: Music from Zephyrus (above) and traditional singing from the Linties (top) helped make Commonwealth Week a glowing success

ROSL WORLD

The latest from the global branches



CELEBRATIONS AND EVENTS: The Thailand Branch marked Commonwealth Day with a performance by musicians from Harrow, Patana and Shrewsbury International Schools (left); Jane Teasdale, a Member of the Victorian Branch Council with branch president Jason Ronald OAM (centre); Pauline Archer, Sylvia Howes, Bruce Howes and Graham Archer at the annual lunch of the West Cornwall branch (right)

Bath

At the spring lunch in March, lawyer and writer Geraldine Lindley spoke about her life in rural Cyprus and read some of her poems, which have been collected in the book *To Dance with a Goat*. Coffee mornings at Pratt's Hotel on the second Wednesday of the month are as popular as ever.

Sally Roberts, 01823 661148, rosl@aldith.org

Bournemouth

In January, the branch held its annual Arts and Crafts exhibition, with paintings, tapestries and handicrafts by members. In March, Michael Howell CMG OBE gave a talk on his experience as Charge D'Affaires at the British Embassy in Kabul during the time of the Russian withdrawal and the resurgence of the Taliban.

Marjorie Harvey, 01202 674857

Cheltenham

Monthly meetings have been well attended, with talks on Singapore, icebergs and polar bears, Cuba, and Krakow to Warsaw followed by afternoon tea. A group of 20 enjoyed Commonwealth Day lunch at the home of Beverley Stone.

Kathleen Northage, 01242 515540

Exeter

The January meeting featured a talk by Pat

Salter on 'Cruising with Schoolchildren'. In February, Shirley Firth spoke of her visit a few years ago to a mission hospital in Ferozepor, where she had served in the 1960s, in a talk entitled 'Return to Punjab'. An interesting talk on 'The Loss and Recovery of the Kursk' was postponed from February to March.

Brian Hawkes, 01395 442017

Hong Kong

In January, the Hong Kong Branch took 50 members of the Hong Kong Federation of the Blind on a visit to the Police College in Aberdeen. The tour included a hands-on display of police equipment and weapons, and a concert by the police band, who then circled among the guests and helped them to play the instruments. This was one of the many tours

the branch has organised for Hong Kong's blind community.

Paul Surtees, president@rosl.org.hk

New Zealand

The New Zealand Branch's new website (www.roslnz.org.nz) is proving a great advantage for those joining ROSL. Members can use it to book accommodation and get details of major events in the UK and New Zealand. Commonwealth Day celebrations included a talk by Dr Reddie, High Commissioner for Canada, at the Southland Branch, and NZ Patron HE Anand Satyanand reading HM The Queen's message in the Christchurch Cathedral.

Lyn Milne, royalo-s@xtra.co.nz

Ontario

At the annual lunch in November, the guest of honour and speaker was HE Anthony Joyce Cary, the British High Commissioner to Canada, and his wife Clare, who is the daughter of the late Lord Elworthy, Marshal of the RAF and chairman of the League, 1971-1976.

Ishrani Jaikaran, +1 416 760 0309

Taunton

The February lunch featured an entertaining and informative talk by actor Stephen Sylvester on his time as a 'Bevin Boy'. In March,

VISITING HONG KONG?

Members visiting Hong Kong are sure of a warm welcome to the activities of the Hong Kong Branch.

For details, see www.rosl.org.hk

Brigadier Philip Sanders spoke of his time as a 'Cold War Warrior'. The weekly Wednesday coffee mornings remain popular.

Sally Roberts, 01823 661148, rosl@aldith.org

Thailand

On both sides of Bangkok's Chao Phraya River, 35 ambassadors joined 350 guests for Commonwealth Day celebrations. After champagne and dinner, guests were entertained by the combined orchestras of Harrow, Patana and Shrewsbury International Schools, conducted by Leo Phillips. The Siam Chamber Orchestra, formed and directed by honorary musical director Richard Harvey under the auspices of ROSL Thailand, made their inaugural performance, with works by Mozart. Both concerts were a great success, with large audiences in Bangkok and Pattaya. Professor Nian Liu from the Shanghai Conservatory of Music was guest artist on the viola.

John Pawson, +66 (0) 2 649 2690,
john.pawson@roslthailand.com

Victoria

The branch held a successful Gala Concert and Reception at Melbourne's Naval & Military Club in March. The special guests were Merlyn Quaiffe, formerly with the University of Melbourne Faculty of Music, and soprano Anna Louise Cole, the winner of the ROSL Presidents Award 2007, part of our new ROSL Performing Arts Scholarships. Many members attended the Australia Day Dinner, organised by the Australia Day Council Victoria. As chairman of the Council of British and Commonwealth Societies, Jason Ronald responded to the Toast to Australia, delivered by Sir David Smith. The Council also celebrated Commonwealth Day at the Melbourne Town Hall with the Rt Hon Lord Mayor of Melbourne, Cllr John So.

Coral Strahan, +61 3 9654 8338

West Cornwall

The year began with a presentation on Morocco. In February, there was a talk about Shelterbox, a local charity that has gained an outstanding international reputation for its rapid provision of aid in the aftermath of natural disasters. Graham Archer was the guest of honour at the annual lunch in March. The AGM was held in April, followed by Cornish cream tea.

Ian Wood, 01736 333460

West Sussex

There was a well-attended informal lunch in

February, followed by the annual general meeting and lunch in March, with guest of honour Robert Newell. Brenda Callow retired as the branch's hon. secretary and is succeeded by Pamela Voice. David Jamieson was instated as hon. treasurer.

Marilyn Archbold, 01444 458853

Western Australia

At the social evening in February, guest speaker Robert Clews gave a fascinating talk on the history and origins of Valentine's

Day. As a member of the Joint Commonwealth Societies Council, the branch assisted with the annual multi-faith Commonwealth Day service at St George's Cathedral in Perth. His Excellency the Governor of Western Australia, Dr Kenneth Michael, read the Commonwealth Day Message from Her Majesty The Queen. Celebrations continued the following day with the annual Youth Rally at Government House.

Jeff Turner, +61 9381 2600

RECIPROCAL CLUBS

The United Arts Club, Dublin



In view of the League's connection with the arts, reciprocal arrangements have been established with the United Arts Club. Situated in Dublin's Georgian area in the city centre, this friendly bar and lounge is within a short walk of the National Gallery, National Museum and Grafton Street shops. Founded in 1907, the club offered full membership to both men and women from the start, with the aim of 'combining the usual advantages of a social club... with features of special interest to workers in Art, in Music and in Literature'.

It holds art exhibitions, concerts, recitals, discussions, lectures and life drawing classes. The Arts Club bar and lounge have served Dublin's artistic community for almost a century, and the bar is considered to be the hub of the club; according to the website, it 'regularly sees lively exchanges of ideas as well as outbursts of song and poetry'. There are six bedrooms, a function room that is an original Georgian drawing room, and a basement meeting room.

The United Arts Club, 3 Upper Fitzwilliam Street, Dublin 2, Ireland

Tel: +353 166 11 411

Fax: +353 166 17 292

Email: office@dublinarts.com

Web: www.dublinarts.com

The Royal Over-Seas League has more than 80 reciprocal clubs across the world. Contact the PR department for a complete list, guidelines for usage and a card of introduction, giving at least 10 days notice.

Books

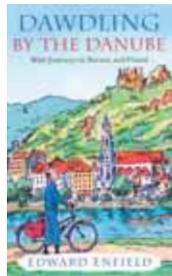
Reviews of the latest works from League members

‘Dawdling by the Danube: With Journeys in Bavaria and Poland’

Edward Enfield

Summersdale, 2008

ISBN: 978-1-84024-637-7, £7.99



Following a route penned on a paper napkin by a fellow traveller on a previous trip, Edward Enfield embarks on a cycling expedition in Bavaria, and then along the banks of the Danube through Poland and Austria. This is his fourth cycling travelogue which, for a man whose chief characteristic, he says, is that ‘he is very old,’ is no mean feat. Enfield takes pleasure in his own company as he cycles through beautiful surroundings, and enjoys observing human – and particularly foreign – idiosyncrasies. The result is a book that is as entertaining as it is informative. He offers hints and suggestions to those inspired to follow in his wheel tracks, without becoming mired in detail, and weaves in anecdotes and memories that fit seamlessly into the journey’s narrative. *Dawdling by the Danube* is an inspiration and testimony to Enfield’s claim that, ‘there is no place from which to see a country that is nearly as good as the saddle of a bicycle’.

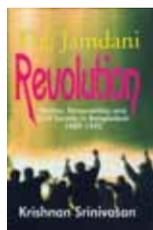
Samantha Whitaker

‘The Jamdani Revolution: Politics, Personalities and Civil Society in Bangladesh 1989–1992’

Krishnan Srinivasan

Har-anand, 2008

ISBN: 978-81-2411-379-0



Krishnan Srinivasan is an immensely experienced diplomat who was head of the Indian Foreign Service in 1994. He has published the unexpurgated personal diary of his time, from 1989 to 1992, as Indian High Commissioner in Bangladesh, when their military President was deposed in a relatively bloodless revolution, and political parties tried but failed to introduce lasting democratic institutions.

India has a special position as the superpower of the sub-continent. Bangladesh was created out of India at the time of Partition, and retains strong cultural and spiritual links with West

Bengal. But, despite their close ties, the two countries have deep-seated, and so far unresolved, problems that complicate their relations. Srinivasan had to deal sensitively with these issues, while politicians and press claimed that India was using his privileged access to ministers and bureaucrats to interfere with developments in Bangladesh. In this book, he makes it clear that an unstable government in India was reluctant to focus on matters of common interest. His three years were bedevilled by several important bilateral issues connected with common borders and sharing access to water from 54 rivers.

As British High Commissioner, I had different priorities. Within the common features of political changes and natural disasters, our large mission was focusing on the economy (Bangladesh was our second largest aid recipient), humanitarian, technical and military assistance, and immigration/consular services. I was grateful then as now for Srinivasan’s helpful interpretations of the complicated politics and needs of this beautiful but disaster-prone country, and its talented and creative people.

Colin Imray, immediate past chairman of the League

‘Pamela: In Her Own Right’

Pamela Myer Warrender

Hardie Grant Books, 2007

ISBN: 1-7406-6499-X, £29.99



Pamela Myer Warrender’s autobiography is an interesting and pleasant read, but is most likely to appeal to those who know Melbourne, her family – the Myers of the Myer Emporium fame – or the family of her husband, Simon Warrender, son of Lord Bruntisfield (from the book, we learn that we must thank Simon for low-cost air travel within Australia).

Pamela describes her very privileged early life in Australian and European high society in remarkable detail, as she has been a dedicated diarist from the age of 15. Her journey to Europe, in 1947, by BOAC sea plane via Singapore, Burma and Basra is fascinating. In her latter life, she had to find work and, in 1983, took a job in London with the South Australia Government Office. She stayed at the Royal Over-Seas League while seeking permanent accommodation. The book contains many photographs, the most lovely of which are of the author herself. Pamela remains a member of the Victoria Branch of the League.

Robert Newell

DISCOVERING BRITAIN

Digging up secrets

The summer months are perfect for getting out in the garden. **Cecilia Thom** discovers a rare treasure

Nestled next to the Roman Catholic Cathedral in a medieval chalk quarry and hidden from view at street level is what is arguably Norwich's best-kept secret – the Plantation Garden. Set over three acres in a conservation area, it is a rare example of an urban Victorian garden of this size.

Cultivation began in 1856 when local businessman Henry Trevor bought the house and land. For the next 40 years, he created and tended what is now a grade II English Heritage garden. Restored in sections during the 1940s, the Plantation Garden finally fell into disuse after World War II, until it was rediscovered – completely overgrown – in 1980. Realising its importance, garden historian Bryony Reading set about establishing the Plantation Garden Preservation Trust with the aim of bringing it back to its former glory.

So what makes it so special? On entry, the first thing you notice is the gothic fountain – the most prominent feature on what appears to be a relatively small piece of land. But the seemingly small garden challenges your spatial awareness

and this noticeable feature proves not to be the main attraction.

Follow the nearby 'woodland' path a short way and, depending which way you turn, you find yourself among the Italianate terraces to the south, or crossing a bridge that you won't notice until you're almost upon it. And there are even more details that set this garden apart from its grander contemporaries. Close inspection of the terrace walls, for example, reveals 'hidden' faces, composed of bricks from local brickworks, as well as jars and tiles.

These days, the Plantation Garden is something of a work in progress, maintained and restored by some 25–30 regular workers, 15–20 volunteers and the Trust's 500 members, whose work is guided by original plans and photographs. If you want to be a part of horticultural history, it's easy to get involved: visit on Tuesdays and volunteer to do odd jobs around the garden or participate in one of the planting days. If lazing rather than cultivating gardens is more your thing, time your visit to



© PHIL FREEMAN/ESO

coincide with the summer fete – the perfect time to enjoy this real-life secret garden.

Tel: 01603 811424; web: www.plantationgarden.co.uk. Open daily, 9am–6pm (dusk if earlier); £2. This year's summer fete takes place on 15 June. Membership of the Plantation Garden Preservation Trust costs £7.50 a year; tel: 01603 616025.

Also worth a visit...

Houghton Hall, Norfolk: The birthplace of Sir Robert Walpole and home to extensive gardens and parkland, where white deer roam and peacocks strut. Delight in the herbaceous borders of the five-acre walled garden, ornamental gardens and more than 150 varieties of roses.

Tel: 01485 528569; web: www.houghtonhall.com

Open: Wed, Thur, Sun, bank holiday Mondays until 28 September, 11am–5.30pm

Kerrachar Gardens, West Highlands: Set against the mountains on the shores of Loch a Chairn Bhain in Scotland's north-west Highlands, you can only reach Kerrachar by boat. Everything from poppies and irises to shrubs and tree peonies vie for attention – and with plants from the gardens on sale, you can take a piece of Kerrachar home with you.

Tel: 01571 833288; web: www.kerrachar.co.uk

Open: Tues, Thur, Sun, from 15 May until mid-September

Town Place, West Sussex: With splendid gardens spread over three acres, this is the perfect place to while away a summer's day – choose between the dell, long and short borders, apple walk, the herb garden, two rose gardens, a cutting garden, potager or the hornbeam walk.

Tel: 01825 790221; web: www.townplacegarden.org.uk

Open: 12, 19, 22 and 29 June; 6 and 13 July, 2–6pm

Veddw House, Monmouthshire: Split into the North Gardens, South Gardens and Charles' Wood, Veddw House has been described as home to 'one of Britain's more original gardens'. A result of the ornamental vegetable plot, perhaps? Or the reflecting pool? Wander through the four acres of woodland and ornamental gardens to discover what's behind this accolade.

Tel: 01291 650836; web: www.veddw.co.uk

Open: 1 June–31 August, 2–5pm

Please check websites for open days in late 2008 and 2009.

IN THE UK

EDWARD ENFIELD'S LONDON



You live in Sussex but when you come to London, where do you like to wander?

In the cloisters of Westminster Abbey. I was at school at Westminster and used to pass through these cloisters every day on my way to school prayers in the Abbey. There are two important graves I like to visit: the Restoration actress Anne Bracegirdle and John Broughton, an 18th-century boxer. They were both famous in their time, but now few people know they are there, so I make a point of paying my respects.

What is your earliest memory of London?

I was born in Hampstead, near the Heath, so I have many early memories of the Roundstone Pond, Kenwood House, and Punch and Judy shows somewhere near the Tube station. My earliest recollection of any picture is of the famous George Stubbs painting of the horse Whistlejacket at Kenwood. Later, I was in Westminster Abbey for the wedding of Princess Elizabeth and Prince Philip, as a Westminster boy, showing people to their seats.

Do you have a favourite restaurant, café or pub?

There is an excellent cafeteria at the British Library at St Pancras. You do not have to have a reader's pass to eat there. They have lovely puddings, with a big bowl of custard: you can help yourself to as much as you like. Eating there is one of the pleasures of using the library.

Where do you sit to write your column for *The Oldie*?

I go upstairs to my study, which is like a miniature library, with books, pictures and some small busts, including a little bronze of Homer and a little bust of Byron.



© MARTIN VAN DER GRINTEN

BOYHOOD TREATS: Punch and Judy (above); and the 1896 steel bookstacks at the London Library (below)

Which libraries or museums do you use for research?

I go often to the London Library in St James's Square. My mother was a member and when I was a boy they used to let me take books out in her name, so I have long been familiar with those strange metal gratings that you walk on at different levels. When I am planning a cycling trip I try to find accounts by earlier travellers to the places I am going to visit. If I am writing a book, I pinch any interesting bits from their books!

You clearly enjoy cycling. How do you feel about cycling in London?

I hate cycling in big cities. I make wide detours to avoid them, but once cycled from Piraeus to Athens airport. The smog was nearly the death of me. I have a Raleigh Pioneer Elite, but it is very old, like me. I once rode it from Kings Cross to Victoria on a Sunday, which wasn't too bad.

League member Edward Enfield is a television and radio presenter, and a regular columnist for *The Oldie* magazine. He has written four books about his cycling expeditions. Interview by Samantha Whitaker.

LONDON

What's on...



© DAVID HOCKNEY, PHOTO COURTESY OF THE ARTS COUNCIL COLLECTION, SOUTHBANK CENTRE, LONDON

Love

National Gallery

Thursday 24 July–Sunday 5 October

This exhibition shows how artists from the 15th century to the present day, including Raphael, Cranach, Vermeer, Holman Hunt and Chagall, have attempted to depict different aspects of love. Highlights include David Hockney's *We Two Boys Cling Together* (pictured above).

Admission free. Contact: 020 7747 2885 or www.nationalgallery.org.uk

From All Walks of Life

Royal Academy of Arts

Until Sunday 7 December

Subtitled 'Genre Paintings from the Royal Academy Collection', this exhibition features the 'fancy pictures' that were popular in the 18th century, scenes of rustic life from the 19th century, and works celebrating the vibrancy of 20th-century city life.

Admission free. Contact: 020 7300 8000 or www.royalacademy.org.uk

Shakespeare at the Open Air Theatre

Regent's Park

Monday 2 June–Saturday 2 August

This summer, Britain's only permanent professional outdoor theatre features three of Shakespeare's greatest plays: *Romeo and Juliet*, *Twelfth Night* and *A Midsummer Night's Dream*.

Tickets: £10-35. Contact: 0844 826 4242 or www.openairtheatre.org



© PAUL RAITHERY

Best of British

It's not hard to find good old British entertainment in multicultural London, says Judith Steiner

Scanning the list of West End plays, I note that of the 44 productions, 23 are British. A year ago, Hollywood had all but taken over Shaftesbury Avenue, but today things look much more promising, despite some dubious additions. The mind boggles at the description of an adaptation of John Buchan's nail-biting novel *The 39 Steps* as 'Best New Comedy', attributed to Alfred Hitchcock as well as Buchan.

Felicity Kendal is in a production of Noël Coward's 1924 play *The Vortex*, and the *Monty Python* spin-off *Spamalot* keeps going strong. However, if you are after the best of new British talent, you should look to the playhouses off-West End and fringe theatre. A great deal of our best young actors, directors and playwrights are making a name for themselves at the Donmar Warehouse, Almeida, Orange Tree in Richmond and several theatres in Greenwich. A copy of *Time Out* is a good investment, as it lists absolutely everything that's on each week.

We've produced a good handful of celebrity chefs in the last decade. Marco Pierre White, Jamie Oliver and Gordon Ramsay have transformed the world view of British cuisine, but unfortunately the world has beat a path to their doors, and their restaurants are priced accordingly; £100 a head is standard. For more affordable dining, get hold of a copy of Harden's *London Restaurants 2008* or *Good Cheap Eats in London*. You can also search online at www.hardens.com. Of course, the best value



HISTORY TOUR: Take a walk around the Tower of London (above) or view Maria Sibylla Merian's *Common or Spectacled Caiman* and *South American False Coral Snake* at the 'Amazing Rare Things' exhibition (below)

in Mayfair is the superb dining-room at Over-Seas House.

In the list of Britain's National Treasures, I would put David Attenborough OM in the top spot. His enthusiasm for the natural world has opened our eyes to the wonders that surround us. The Queen's Gallery at Buckingham Palace is currently presenting an exhibition entitled 'Amazing Rare Things', giving Sir David the opportunity to explore the art of natural history. Much of the collection has rarely seen the light of day since the exotic plants and animals were bought by monarchs in the 16th and 17th centuries. Their condition is superb, and the colours on many are as good as new.

On the audio guide, Sir David's dulcet tones describe the highlights of the exhibition, and you can't help becoming as enthusiastic as he. One fascinating aspect is that most of the naturalists paid scant attention to scale, so you have paintings of snails the size of frogs, and frogs the size of dogs. The accompanying book by Attenborough deserves to be on everyone's bookshelf. 'Amazing Rare Things' runs until 28 September.

'Brilliant Women: Eighteenth Century Bluestockings' celebrates the Bluestocking Circle of city women who started meeting in 1750s London. It is on at The National Portrait

Gallery until 15 June, and you don't have to wear blue tights to get in. Tate Britain's staple is major works of British Art from the 16th century to the present, and their current 'Art Now' exhibition showcases new paintings by Glaswegian artist Alan Michael (ends 20 July). The V&A is holding an exhibition on the Regency designer Thomas Hope until 22 June.

How long has it been since you visited the most important sites of British history in London? Sit in on a trial at the Old Bailey, but don't yearn for a return of public hangings. Queue to sit in the public gallery at the House of Commons. Prowl around the Tower of London, but don't plan to cross Tower Bridge, which is closed for repainting and repairs.

Mind you, London is a truly multicultural city, and from the exotica of 'Amazing Rare Things' to the original White Tower of the Tower of London, built by William the Conqueror, the influence of other cultures continues to present itself in stunning and spectacular ways. London is the most welcoming and cosmopolitan of cities, and the waves of immigration, from Handel to Kevin Spacey, have made it what it is today: the best city in the world.

Judith Steiner is a League Council member and a regular contributor to *Theatre World internet magazine*.



ROYAL COLLECTION © 2008, HER MAJESTY QUEEN ELIZABETH II

Arts in the city

A look at what's on in Edinburgh

Edinburgh's Festival Theatre will host the Nederlands Dans Theater 2 on Tuesday 10 and Wednesday 11 June, while Scottish Opera brings Verdi's *Falstaff* (18–28 June) and *A Night at the Chinese Opera*, by Judith Weir (24–27 June), to the same venue. The singer/songwriter kd lang will appear on 30 July, before the Edinburgh Festival takes over the theatre in August (see below).

Evita runs at the Edinburgh Playhouse from 9 to 21 June, the soul singer and

guitarist George Benson appears there on 29 June and, for children, there is *CBeebies at the Theatre* on 1 and 2 August.

In the visual arts, the exhibition 'From Sickert to Gertler' can be seen at the Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art until 22 June and, at the Queen's Gallery, Holyroodhouse, 'The Art of Italy: The Renaissance' runs until 26 October. Paintings by Titian, Bronzino and Bellini are among the works gathered from royal palaces and residences across Britain.



© TATE LONDON, 2008

VISUAL TREAT: Mark Gertler's *Supper (Natalie Denny)* at the Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art

Edinburgh International Festival

The Edinburgh Festival this year will look to Europe. Founded in 1947, in the aftermath of a devastating war, it was "an optimistic expression of what Europe could be," according to the Festival director Jonathan Mills. "In the early 21st century, Europe is a very different place. Recently the European Union has expanded to encompass 27 countries from Estonia to Cyprus, with a combined population of some 500 million people. Political borders have been redrawn in every direction one cares to look. These borders are not just political or geographic but, more significantly, represent a profound shift of cultural, social and even religious identity and opportunity. These are exciting times in which to live in Europe; times which demand a commitment to our sense of community."



© THE STATE BALLET OF GEORGIA

Highlights include:

- World premiere of Matthew Bourne's *Dorian Gray* by New Adventures dance company.
- Valery Gergiev leads the London Symphony Orchestra in all seven of Prokofiev's symphonies and his violin concertos, with Leonidas Kavakos, and conducts the Mariinsky Opera Company in a rare staged production of Szymanowski's *Król Roger*.
- Premiere of Scottish Opera's new production of Smetana's *The Two Widows*.
- World premiere of National Theatre of Scotland's *365: One Night to Learn a Lifetime* directed by Vicky Featherstone, written by David Harrower, with songs by Paul Buchanan.
- State Ballet of Georgia, led by prima ballerina Nina Ananiashvili, presents *Giselle* (pictured) and a mixed bill.
- Celebration of Olivier Messiaen's centenary, including organ recitals by Naji Hakim.
- Festival lectures by Neal Ascherson, Christopher Hitchens, Dr John Lennox and Professor Graham Ward.
- Bank of Scotland Fireworks display to live music performed by the Scottish Chamber Orchestra with the Edinburgh Castle as the backdrop.

This year's Edinburgh International Festival runs from 8 to 31 August.

ROSL ARTS

Roderick Lakin previews the summer arts programme

Music events

Proms at St Jude's

St Jude-on-the-Hill

Saturday 14 June, 7.45pm

Opening concert: Tamsin Waley-Cohen, violin; Gemma Rosefield, cello; Robert Max, conductor; London Chamber Orchestra

ROSL prizewinners Tamsin Waley-Cohen and Gemma Rosefield are the soloists in Brahms' glorious *Double Concerto in A Minor Op. 102* in the opening concert of the popular Proms at St Jude's, in Hampstead Garden Suburb (Tube or bus to Golders Green station). The London Chamber Orchestra is conducted by another ROSL prizewinner, Robert Max, in a programme that also includes works by Mozart and Schubert. The concert is given in aid of Toynbee Hall and the North London Hospice

Tickets: £20, £15, £8. Available from Proms at St Jude's box office only: 020 8458 1582.



PRIZE PERFORMERS: Violinists Katie Stillman (above) and Tamsin Waley-Cohen (below)

Music at Over-Seas House

Princess Alexandra Hall

Wednesday 18 June, 7pm

Katie Stillman, violin; Miaomiao Yu, piano
Beethoven, Sonata in C Minor for Piano and Violin, Op. 30, No. 2; Stravinsky, Duo Concertant; Chopin, Andante Spianato and Grand Polonaise; Prokofiev, Sonata for Violin and Piano No. 2 in D Major, Op. 94b

The Canadian violin and piano duo of Katie Stillman and Miaomiao Yu were individual prizewinners in the 2006 and 2007 ROSL Annual Music Competitions, and first performed together 15 years ago at the Royal Conservatory of Music, Young Artists Performance Academy, Toronto. Although they gave many concerts in their teenage years around Ontario, their concert at Over-Seas House will be their first as a duo in the UK.

Tickets: £10; ROSL members and concessions £9; Friends of ROSL ARTS £7. Wine, served during the interval, is included.

Book events

'Fighting Ships 1750-1950' Sam Willis

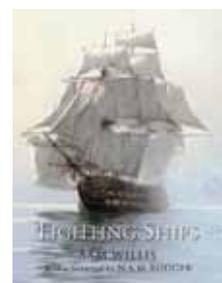
Princess Alexandra Hall

Wednesday 4 June, 7pm

Sam Willis is an expert in naval history as well as a consultant on

maritime painting for Christie's and for the BBC TV series *Coast*. He will talk about his two recently published books, *Fighting Ships 1750-1850* and *Fighting Ships 1850-1950*, which celebrate 200 years of naval history. From sail ships and wooden tubs to iron-clad steam battleships, the two volumes encompass the Seven Years' War, the Napoleonic wars, the sinking of the *Lusitania*, the scuttling of the German fleet at Scapa Flow, the evacuation of Dunkirk and Pearl Harbor.

Tickets: £5; ROSL members and concessions £4.50; Friends of ROSL ARTS £4. Wine, served afterwards, is included.



Tickets for all ROSL ARTS events are available from the ROSL ARTS London office (unless otherwise stated).

Tel: 020 7408 0214 x324;

Fax: 020 7499 6738;

Email: culture@rosl.org.uk;

Web: www.roslarts.org.uk

Caine Prize for African Writing

Princess Alexandra Hall

Friday 4 July, 7pm

Readings by the six shortlisted writers for the 2008 Caine Prize for African Writing. Named after Sir Michael Caine, former chairman of Booker plc and of the Booker management committee for nearly 25 years, the prize has been awarded annually since 2000 for a short story, published in English, by an African writer. Writers are eligible if they were born in Africa and their work reflects that cultural background, but the text need not have been published in Africa. This event will be chaired by Nick Elam, administrator of the Caine Prize, and offers a unique platform for some of the best new literary voices coming out of the continent.

Tickets: £5; ROSL members and concessions £4.50; Friends of ROSL ARTS £4. Wine, served afterwards, is included.

Visual arts

Allyson Reynolds and Francois Simard

Over-Seas House, London

Tuesday 17 June–Friday 29 August

Australian Allyson Reynolds and Quebecois François Simard were ROSL Annual Visual Arts Scholars in 2006, spending a month at Hospitalfield House – Scotland's oldest art school – near Arbroath. Allyson produced large composite works consisting of small, paper fragments covered in ink and water. While the aleatory processes of spilling



SUMMER SUN: Enjoy champagne and live music in the garden as a Friend of ROSL ARTS

liquids on paper are central to the work, the resulting fragments also represent visual recollections of her Hospitalfield residency. François took his inspiration from the Angus landscapes surrounding Arbroath for his distinctive trapezoid canvases.

Friends' Garden Parties

Over-Seas House, London

Wednesday 23 July and Wednesday 3 September, 6.30–8.30pm

Exclusive to Friends of ROSL ARTS, the annual garden parties are the highlight of the summer calendar. A champagne reception with live music in the garden at Over-Seas House is followed by an hour-long concert by ROSL prizewinners in Princess Alexandra

Hall. Commonwealth wines and sweet pastries are served afterwards. Friends will receive an invitation in June, with the choice to attend in July or September.

Joining the Friends of ROSL ARTS costs just £30 for members of the Royal Over-Seas League (£35 for non-members). As well as an invitation to the garden party, benefits include discounted tickets to all ROSL ARTS events, invitations to private views of exhibitions and regular mailings. All funds raised from the Friends in 2008 will be dedicated to the appeal to raise £70,000 for a new Steinway grand piano for Princess Alexandra Hall.

Tickets: exclusive to Friends of ROSL ARTS. To join the Friends of ROSL ARTS, please contact Anna Maciuk on 020 7408 0214 x324 or email culture@rosl.org.uk.

Piano appeal reaches halfway mark

Thanks to four significant individual donations and subscription income from the Friends of ROSL ARTS, more than £36,000 has been raised towards the £70,000 fundraising target for the new full-size Steinway concert grand piano, for the Princess Alexandra Hall. The new piano represents a considerable investment, which demonstrates the value that the League places on its well-established music programme, particularly the ROSL Annual Music Competition. An instrument will be selected over the next two months and it is hoped that the new piano will be in place for the winter season.

Members are encouraged to give generously to this appeal with a donation, preferably by Gift Aid, to the ROSL Golden Jubilee Trust (registered charity number 306095), which enables us to enhance the donation by reclaiming basic-rate tax. For Gift Aid forms and further information, contact Roderick Lakin, director of arts, Over-Seas House, Park Place, St James's Street, London SW1A 1LR.

Tel: 020 7408 0214 x325; Email: rlakin@rosl.org.uk.



Food and drink



© DEPKES.COM

Garden dining

Enjoy a fantastic al fresco lunch menu and refreshing Pimms in ROSL's private garden overlooking Green Park this summer. The garden is also available for a variety of occasions, including cocktail parties where you can indulge in canapés and champagne.



Afternoon tea

Comprising freshly prepared finger sandwiches, warm scones with clotted cream, and a variety of homemade pastries and cakes, afternoon tea at Over-Seas House has been a great success. It will continue to be available in the Drawing Room between 2.30pm and 5.30pm, costing £12.50 per person.

Wimbledon

23 June–6 July
Don't forget, we are serving traditional strawberries and cream in the restaurant throughout Wimbledon.

To make a restaurant reservation, call 020 7408 0214 x220.

Henley Royal Regatta

2–6 July

Our regatta experience All-Day Affair at the Henley Seafood Restaurant (£124.50) includes a three-course lunch and a glass of champagne or Pimms, as well as entrance to the Henley Royal Regatta. Look out at one of the most beautiful stretches of the River Thames from your exclusive table, within the regatta enclosure, for the duration of the day. Table-service drinks (Pimms, house wine, bottled beers, fruit juice and mineral water), from midday to 5pm, are also included.

For further information or to book, please call Bianca on 020 7491 3644.

MEMBERS' ADVERTISING

GARDEN ROUTE SOUTH AFRICA. Charming waterside self-catering cottage on Leisure Isle, Knysna. Modern fully equipped. Two double bedrooms, bathroom and lounge. Private garden and private access to lagoon and beach. Regret no smokers.
Tel: 01344 844605

TRUJILLO, SPAIN. Beautifully restored 16th-century home (sleeps 8), to rent in Trujillo, Spain. Ideal for family holidays. Are you interested in history, architecture, wildlife, shooting, riding, arts and photography? Full details on this and town house property.
Web: trujilloespana.com

CENTRAL FRANCE (CHER). Three charming gites equipped to high standards, sleeping 2–12. In quiet locations (one in town, two adjoining in countryside with pool and jacuzzi) for a relaxing break. Longer lets available.

ROSL member discounts.
Tel: +33 (0)2 48 56 36 32
Email: info@franceprofondegites.net
Web: www.franceprofondegites.net

VENICE CENTRAL. Tranquil, sunny apartment. Wonderful canalside location. Two bedrooms, two bathrooms.
Tel: 020 7701 7540
Web: venicecanalsideapartment.co.uk

GLYNDEBOURNE. Comfortable bed and breakfast in delightful village ten minutes from Glyndebourne. Beautiful views, excellent breakfast, reasonable rates. Contact David and Charlotte Mitchell for a brochure.
Tel: 01273 400978

SCOTTISH HIGHLANDS. FODDERTY LODGE: ideal destination for quiet self-catering holiday. Between Dingwall and Strathpeffer, three

cottages (sleeping 6, 4 and 2) ideally placed for exploring Northern Highlands. Flexible, well-equipped accommodation geared for holidays spanning one, two or three generations. Much for motorist, golfer, bird watcher and walker to enjoy. Prices £215–525.

Tel: 01997 421393
Web: www.foddertylodge.com

CHISWICK FLAT. Conveniently located flat to rent in Chiswick W4. Owner away most of the time.
Email: msnomad2001@yahoo.co.uk

WESTMINSTER FLAT. Penthouse london flat for sale in prime location westminster SW1 with sunny roof terrace overlooking leafy square gardens. Reception/dining, 1 double bedroom, shower room and kitchen/breakfast room. Lift, part air-con. Freehold.
Tel: 020 7821 8114

Members can advertise at a cost of £1 per word plus VAT, min 30 words. Copy for next issue by 7 July. Contact Alex Debarge on 020 7016 6906 or email adebarge@rosl.org.uk. No advertisements are endorsed or recommended by the Royal Over-Seas League.

EDINBURGH

What's on...
June–August



GRAND FINALE: Fireworks at the Edinburgh Festival

June

Bridge Club lunch

Friday 6 June, 12.30 for 1pm
Over-Seas House, Edinburgh
One-course lunch plus sherry and guest day. Tickets: £9.

Scottish members' dinner

Friday 13 June, 7pm for 7.30pm
Over-Seas House, Edinburgh
Three-course dinner with reception drink, wine and coffee. Speaker: Sir David Carter FRSE. Tickets: £24.

Coffee morning

Saturday 14 June, 10.30am
Over-Seas House, Edinburgh
Please note that coffee mornings are now on the second Saturday of the month.

Arts lunch

Wednesday 25 June,
12noon for 12.30pm
Over-Seas House, Edinburgh
Two-course lunch, plus coffee and glass of wine. Speaker: Patrick Elliot, senior curator, Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art. Tickets: £14.

July

Music with a view

Wednesday 2 July, 6.30pm
Over-Seas House, Edinburgh
Gala opera evening with students of the Royal Scottish Academy of Music. Tickets: £30, inc. cocktails and supper. Priority booking for Friends of ROSL ARTS until 31 May.

August

London visit

Friday 1–Monday 4 August,
Over-Seas House, London

Edinburgh International Festival Fringe

Monday 11–Friday 22 August,
9.30am, 2.30pm, 4pm, 10.30pm
Over-Seas House, Edinburgh
Performances from ROSL prize and scholarship winners. Leaflet available in July.

Edinburgh Festival fireworks

Sunday 31 August
Over-Seas House, Edinburgh
Five-course dinner with wine, malt whisky and a cocktail. Roof access to view fireworks. Tickets: £85

Application form for members' events (see pg. 33)

Name.....
Membership number.....

Name of guest(s) and trip they are attending
.....
.....

UK address to which tickets should be sent
.....
.....

Telephone number
.....

Please also provide regular correspondence address
.....
.....

I enclose a cheque for a total of £.....

(Payable to ROSL, crossed and in sterling)
Credit card bookings by telephone only:
020 7016 6906

Please complete this form and send with cheque only to:

Alex Debarge, Public Relations Department (Members Events Programme), Royal Over-Seas League, Over-Seas House, Park Place, St James's Street, London SW1A 1LR. Tel: 020 7016 6906
Email: adebarge@rosl.org.uk. PLEASE SEND A SEPARATE CHEQUE FOR EACH EVENT.

			No. of tickets
Silks to spices – historic Spitalfields	Tues 24 June	£13 £.....
Discussion group dinner	Mon 30 June	£30 £.....
Guided tour of Ham House and Garden	Wed 16 July	£16 £.....
Tea on the terrace at the House of Commons	Fri 18 July	£27 £.....
The Royal Mews and the household			
Cavalry Museum	Wed 23 July	£15 £.....
Fuller's brewery	Wed 6 August	£9 £.....
			Total £.....

APPLICATIONS FOR BALLOTTED TICKETS ONLY

MAXIMUM TWO TICKETS PER MEMBER. DO NOT SEND PAYMENT YET, YOU WILL BE CONTACTED IF SUCCESSFUL

	No. of tickets	Apply before
Glyndebourne 'L'incoronazione di Poppea'	17 June	9 June
Hampton Court Palace Flower Show	11–12 July	23 June
Glyndebourne 'Carmen'	15 August	25 July
Glyndebourne 'Hänsel and Gretel'	29 August	12 August

Members' events

June-August

June

Glyndebourne: 'L'incoronazione di Poppea'

Tuesday 17 June, 4.55pm, £12, B
The 2008 festival opens with a new production of Monteverdi's 'L'incoronazione di Poppea', conducted by Emmanuelle Haim and directed by Robert Carsen. Monteverdi's last work is set in a world of sensuality where passionate, forbidden love is victorious over goodness and virtue. Tickets are for the Red Upper Circle, standing.

Silks to spices: historic Spitalfields

Tuesday 24 June, 11am, £13, G
Discover one of London's most fascinating and vibrant areas, which includes some of the best preserved early Georgian domestic architecture in London. Walk down the atmospheric streets that have featured in so many TV adaptations of classic novels, such as *Nicholas Nickleby*, and learn

about the many immigrant communities who have added to the rich tapestry of the area.

Discussion Group dinner

Monday 30 June, 7.30pm, £30, G
For details see page 34.

July

Hampton Court Palace Flower Show

Friday 11 July and Saturday 12 July, £29, B
Hosted by one of the world's most famous palaces, this glorious flower show will be full of inspiring display gardens, floral art, fruit and vegetables, and floristry.

Guided tour of Ham House and Garden

Wednesday 16 July, 11am, £16, G
Visit Britain's most beautiful 17th-century mansion on the banks of the River Thames. Discover the magnificent interiors, the priceless rare treasures that have never left the house, and the fascinating outbuildings, including



SUMMER BREEZE: Glyndebourne gardens during the Festival (above) and the House of Commons (top)

a 17th-century orangery, ice-house and dairy.

Tea on the terrace at the House of Commons

Friday 18 July, tbc, £27, G
Enjoy tea overlooking the Thames, hosted by League President Lord Luce. A tour of the Houses of Parliament is included. Maximum two tickets per member.

The Royal Mews and the Household Cavalry Museum

Wednesday 23 July, 11am, £15, R
Watch the troopers working with their horses in the world's finest working stables on this guided tour by one of the cavalrymen. League members will also get the opportunity to see the coaches and carriages used for events such as Trooping the Colour and royal weddings.

August

Fuller's Griffin Brewery

Wednesday 6 August, 2pm, £9, R
Situated on the banks of the



Thames in Chiswick, the Fuller's Griffin brewery has been brewing beers and running pubs since the 16th century. Learn about the entire manufacturing process, taste all of the current draught products and enjoy a pint of your favourite.

Glyndebourne: 'Carmen'

Friday 15 August, 4.50pm, £17, B
Bizet's extraordinary, passionate opera is set in Spain and full of love, jealousy, mutiny and murder. Sung in French and conducted by Stéphane Denève. Tickets are for the Blue Upper Circle, standing.

Glyndebourne: 'Hänsel and Gretel'

Friday 29 August, 6.05pm, £17, B
Humperdinck's romantic and playful production of this dark fairy-tale will be staged at Glyndebourne for the first time by director Laurent Pelly and conductor Kazushi Ono. Sung in German with English subtitles. Tickets are for the Blue Upper Circle, standing.

Application form opposite

These codes identify ticket availability:

- M** Members only
- G** Tickets available for members and their guests
- R** Restricted number of tickets available
- B** Tickets to be allocated by ballot. Payment for balloted tickets is not needed until tickets are allocated. Maximum two tickets per member. Only successful applicants will be notified.

Please also note: We do not acknowledge receipt of applications, but tickets are always sent out in advance. Refunds can only be given if cancellations are made at least 15 working days in advance. We do not provide refunds for tickets costing less than £5. Tickets for all events are limited and members should apply early to avoid disappointment. Tickets may be restricted to two per member for popular events. Members will be sent tickets seven days prior to each particular event.

Discussion Group and London Group

DISCUSSION GROUP

Meetings will be held at Over-Seas House London on the following Monday evenings from 7 to 8.30pm. There is no charge. All League members and guests are welcome. For more information please contact Maj Gen Tim Toyne Sewell, timtoynsewell@googlemail.com.

Discussion Group dinner

30 June With General Sir Mike Jackson GCB CBE DSO, former CGS. There will be a cash bar from 7 to 7.30pm, followed by a two-course dinner (£30, including wine and coffee). To apply please use the application form on page 32.

Whips and Conservative politics

13 October With Andrew Robathan MP.

Bishop Nazir Ali

3 November With the Bishop of Rochester. Title to be confirmed.

LONDON GROUP

Kindly note that you are not automatically a member of the London Group. Please apply for an application form from the Public Relations department, London Group, Over-Seas House, London. The London Group meets at 6.30pm on the first and third Thursdays of each month. For more information please contact Beryl Keen, 020 8449 5686.

The Bethlem Royal Hospital archives

5 June An illustrated talk by Michael Phillips on the creativity of some of the most famous patients.



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© ANDREW LAWSON

SUMMER SENSATIONS: (clockwise from left) The art of taking good photos in the garden (7 August); Dame Judith Mayhew Jonas (chairman of the Royal Opera House) with Maj Gen Tim Toyne Sewell (Discussion Group chairman) at a recent Discussion Group talk; Reykjavik in Iceland (1-4 September); the gardens at Highgrove House (11 June)

A Perspective on the Cinque Ports

19 June An illustrated talk by Robert Crane.

Going to bed with a good Trollope

3 July An illustrated talk on the life and work of Anthony Trollope by David Glass of the Trollope Society.

Bells in your ears

17 July An unusual entertainment with hand bells by Sandra Winter.

Photographing plants and gardens

7 August An illustrated talk by Louise Taylor.

People who need people

21 August An illustrated talk by Lt.

Col. Fairclough of the Salvation Army on the work of the Family Tracing Service.

A unique occasion: 1948-2008

4 December London Group 60th anniversary celebration in the House of Lords in lieu of the Christmas lunch.

OUTSIDE VISITS

For more information contact Doreen Regan, 020 7584 5879. To apply for events, write to Doreen Regan, London Group, c/o Porters' Desk, Over-Seas House.

Visit to Highgrove House

11 June, 9am An invitation from HRH The Prince of Wales to visit the garden at Highgrove House. Unsuitable for those with walking

difficulties. Joint visit with the PR department. Limited tickets by ballot. Tickets: LG members ONLY £35. Members who have visited the garden in recent years are ineligible to apply.

An Ambassador's residence

25 June, 3.45pm Guided tour of the residence of the Ambassador of Portugal, Antonio Santana Carlos. Tickets: LG members £10; guests £12.

Visit Iceland

1-4 September Fly to and from Reykjavik by Icelandair, stay in a 4-star hotel and enjoy guided tours throughout. Cost: £660 per person sharing a double room; £770 per person for a single room. All League members and guests are welcome.

Too old to fight

For over 180 years the Gurkhas have helped to fight our wars and keep our peace. Gurkhas have won 13 Victoria Crosses and have served in most of the major conflicts of the 20th century.

If there was a minute's silence for every Gurkha casualty from World War Two alone, we would have to keep quiet for two whole weeks. But silence will not help the living, the wounded and disabled, those without military pensions following World War Two service or redundancy, or those left destitute by ill health or natural disasters.

There is no doubt that we in this country owe the Gurkhas a debt of honour, and the Gurkha Welfare Trust is seeking to repay that debt. The work of the Trust is now vital to the health, well-being and quality of life for thousands of Gurkha old soldiers and their dependants.

Please will you help us? Anything you can send now will be gratefully received and carefully used in relieving hardship and distress among Gurkha ex-servicemen and their dependants in Nepal.



Too proud to ask

This is Rifleman Lalbahadur Thapa (L) aged 93 and his younger brother Rifleman Dilbahadur Thapa. Both served with 6th Gurkha Rifles throughout World War Two.

The brothers keep each other company on the five day walk they make every three months from their home village to the nearest Gurkha Welfare Trust Area Welfare Centre to collect their 'welfare pension'. This money is their only source of income and all that stands between them and destitution.

I would like to help these proud, gallant people who served Britain so well and gave so much for my freedom. Here is my gift:

- £20 supports a soldier/widow for one month
 £60 supports a soldier/widow for three months
 £240 supports a soldier/widow for a whole year
 £..... my preferred amount



VISA/Mastercard/CAF card/Switch Valid from Expires

Switch Issue No.
 Credit card security number (last 3 digits on back of card)
 I enclose a cheque (tick if applicable)

The Gurkha Welfare Trust

PO Box 2170 • 22 Queen Street • Salisbury SP2 2EX
 Tel: 01722 323 955 • www.gwt.org.uk • Registered Charity No: 1103669.
 Company limited by guarantee no: 5098581. Registered in England at the above address.

I may wish to sponsor a Welfare Pensioner each month. Please send details.

Name.....
 Address.....
Postcode.....
 Signature.....

Data Protection Act. We may occasionally wish to contact you about our work. If you would prefer that we do not, please tick here.

ROC



Discover the Magic of Tuscany in Style

Private accommodation, personalised tours and events in Northern Tuscany

Northern Tuscany and its coastline simply captivates the imagination of any traveller. With its unique culture and heritage, its natural beauty and its sumptuous culinary experiences, it offers a superb backdrop to any occasion.

Whether you are looking to explore the natural beauty of the Apuan Alps, the various nature reserve parks, the lakes, take a boat trip or explore the medieval villages, you won't be disappointed. Stop off in the various towns and delight your palate with the local foods & wines or immerse yourself culturally with a visit to one of the many galleries, museums, music or arts and crafts events that take place throughout the year. Relax on the golden stretches of sandy beaches and soak up the local ambiance...

...whatever the season, whatever your interests there is only one way to enjoy Tuscany - in Style!

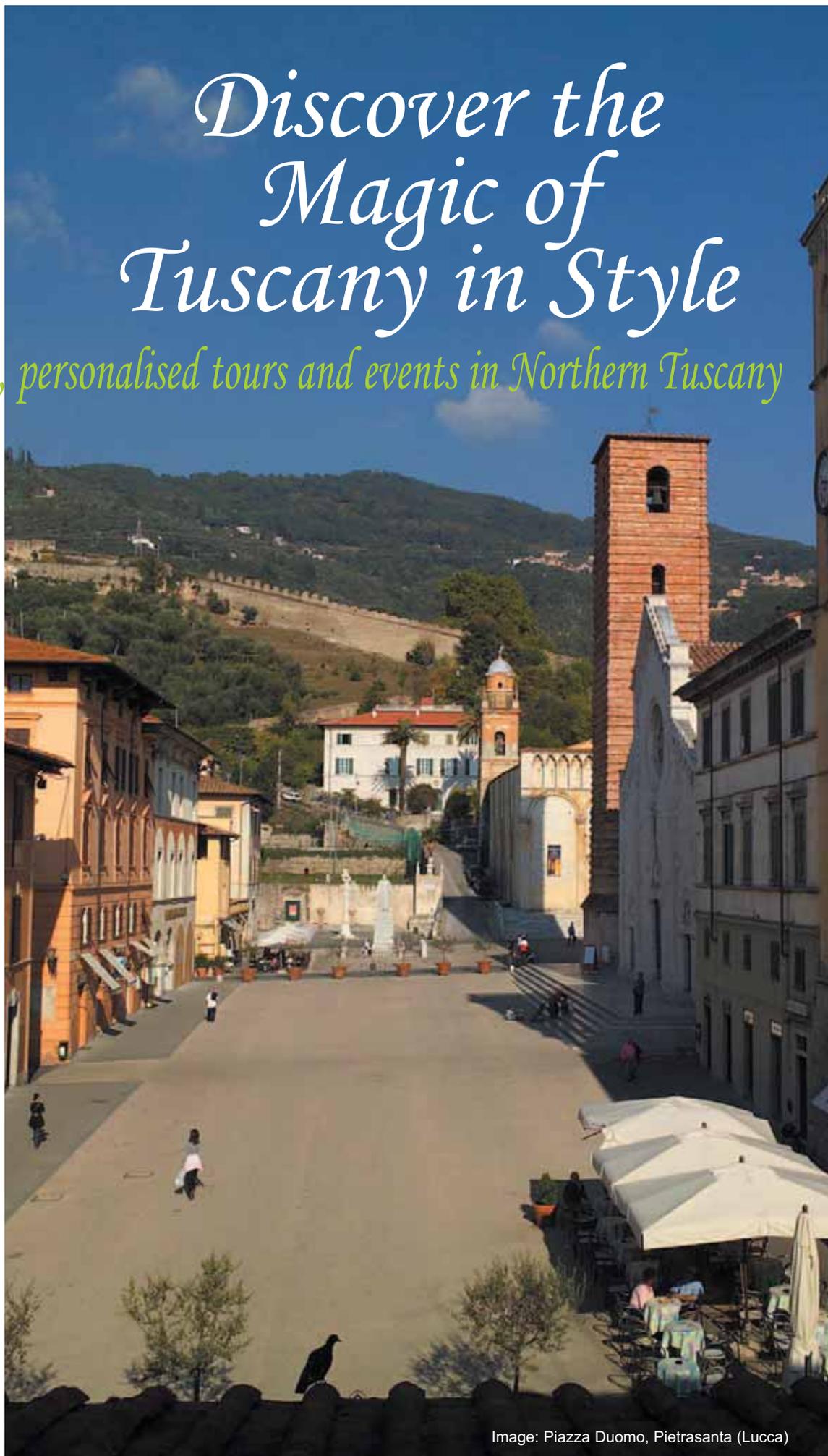


Image: Piazza Duomo, Pietrasanta (Lucca)

Call us for more information on
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