

# OVERSEAS

Quarterly journal of the ROSL

Issue 2, June-August 2011



## **A Namibian future**

Review of the ROSL-Namibia project and the way forward, following a recent monitoring visit

## **Playing for peace**

How successful is sport as a tool for change? A closer look at this growing area of development

## **Agents of change**

The Commonwealth Day message from HM The Queen, and extracts from Sonia Gandhi's speech

## **Pedal power**

Why the London Cycle Hire Scheme is the perfect way to get around this summer, with a clubhouse route map



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## OVERSEAS

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The Royal Over-Seas League is a self-funded Commonwealth organisation that offers clubhouse facilities to members, organises Commonwealth art and music competitions and develops joint welfare projects with specific countries.

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**Front cover:** During the monitoring visit in February, ROSL bursary recipients at Katora Primary School view the film about the ROSL-Namibia project, edited by Corrie Parsonson

## From the Director-General



**PRIVATE VIEW:** The Director-General with (l-r) Young Artist of Thailand prizewinner Sottithat Winyarat, his mother Wandee Winyarat and Director of ROSL ARTS Roderick Lakin

**A**s we went to press with the last issue, Christchurch was hit by the massive earthquake that took so many lives and caused so much destruction. To our knowledge, no ROSL members were killed, but a lot of damage was done to their homes. Our New Zealand Director, Lyn Milne, and member, Angela Parks, have told us that things will never be the same again and that the city centre will have to be completely rebuilt. There is a more detailed report on the impact on page 5. Not long after, of course, Japan was devastated by an earthquake and consequent tsunami. To all those affected in both countries, we send our sincerest sympathies.

On a happier note, I am pleased to announce that our President, Lord Luce, has been appointed High Steward of Westminster Abbey. The High Steward is appointed by the Dean and Chapter on the nomination of the Dean.

The Annual Report of our centenary year is now available, on request, from the PR Department. It has again been very well edited, designed and produced by Samantha Whitaker (see page 18 for a summary). In his report, the Honorary Treasurer records a surplus of £126,313, but points to a decline in membership income of £89,000. We encourage members to persuade friends, colleagues and family to join, as membership facilities and activities continue to offer excellent value.

Jeff Turner has retired, after more than 20 years, as Chairman of our Western Australia Branch. He has given enthusiastic and innovative leadership, and I am pleased to report that he will continue to serve ROSL as branch Vice-Chairman. At the end of June, Paul Surtees is to retire from the presidency of our Hong Kong Branch. He re-formed the branch in 1999, after it had been closed for many years, and through his abundant energy it has become very active. The Chairmen of the Taunton and Exeter branches, Nigel Stuart-Thorn and Ewan MacLeod respectively, have also retired. They, too, gave loyal and enthusiastic support of ROSL aims. To Jeff, Paul, Nigel and Ewan we convey grateful thanks for the service they have provided ROSL and we wish them all the best for their retirements.

The work to complete the conversion of the top-floor flat at Overseas House, Edinburgh, to four double bedrooms with private bathrooms, has been completed to a high standard.

**Robert Newell**

## Editor's letter

**A**s I was researching the work of sports charity



PeacePlayers International, in Belfast, Cyprus and South Africa (page 12), a young Catholic police officer was killed by dissident Republicans in Omagh. It sent a tragic reminder to the world that securing a lasting peace in Northern Ireland is still a constant task. Yet the almost unanimous condemnation of the attack showed just how far the country has come in the last 20 years. In providing a safe environment in which young people from both sides of the conflict can play together, PeacePlayers has been very successful in supporting that peace. The charity represents just how much sport can achieve as an agent of change and development (page 8).

'Women as Agents of Change' was the subject of Commonwealth Day this year, and HM The Queen's message on this theme is printed on page 7, alongside extracts from Sonia Gandhi's fascinating and far-reaching speech on the same topic.

ROSL ARTS continues to offer a first-class programme of concerts and talks this summer, and will be returning to the Edinburgh Festival Fringe in July (page 29). It will also support young students of the Zimbabwe Academy of Music, which has survived nearly 60 years of political change and conflict, and is still bringing music to the lives of young Zimbabweans (page 14).

Among my choice of events from ROSL's exciting summer calendar are *Don Giovanni* at Glyndebourne and the falconry display at the London clubhouse (page 32), the tour of the Ismaili centre (page 34) and the Monday Platform at Wigmore Hall (page 28). I also hope to make it to Shakespeare's Globe for the first time this summer (page 25), and would recommend a trip to the Open Air Theatre in Regent's Park to anyone spending time in London. Sadly, their traditional production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* has been dropped this year though.

**Miranda Moore**



© CHRISTCHURCH CLUB

# Christchurch recovers

The cathedral, art gallery and a reciprocal club were among the quake's casualties. **Samantha Whitaker** finds out how residents are coping

Having already suffered two earthquakes in 2010 – on 4 September and 26 December – Christchurch was devastated by a 6.3 magnitude quake at 12.51pm on 22 February. “The events unfolded very fast and so dramatically, literally in front of us, that it is still very difficult to even think about,” says violinist Natalia Lomeiko, who was having lunch with her fellow musicians before a rehearsal in Christchurch Cathedral.

They were due to begin at 1pm, but violinist Yuri Zhislin’s soup was delayed and the group waited patiently for him to finish. That act of courtesy may have saved their lives. At 12.51pm the ground began to sway; the group grabbed their instruments and raced out into Cathedral Square. In front of them they saw the fallen tower of the cathedral in a sea of dust. “Maybe because of the shock, we didn’t hear much noise around but the atmosphere was really eerie and frightening.”

The shattered cathedral, with its broken spire, became one of the most striking images of the catastrophe. At the time, it was feared there could have been up to 22 people inside, but no bodies were found in the rubble. It is estimated that up to a third of the buildings in New Zealand’s second biggest cities have been, or will have to be, demolished.

Following the Boxing Day earthquake, the Christchurch Club – a ROSL reciprocal – had to cancel accommodation bookings for several months. In February, they lost approximately 40% of the clubhouse. Some of the damaged parts were demolished by the Urban Search and Rescue team for safety reasons, which will make it more difficult and expensive to restore some of the finer architectural details.

The future of the club is very much in the air; they are currently seeking temporary premises while they consider their position. “It is important to maintain the spirit of the membership and continue the social activities that the club offers,” said its President, Ben Tothill, in a statement to members. “The club is in great heart, as is witnessed by the almost overwhelming messages of support.”

On the other side of Cathedral Square, the Christchurch Art Gallery also closed for

business and became the primary base for some 400 civil defence staff. According to Director Jenny Harper: “Emergency operations staff is occupying ground and first floor exhibition spaces, offices, meeting rooms, the auditorium, education spaces and staff rooms. Normally used for incoming and outgoing works of art, our loading dock now handles a constant flow of civil defence supplies, while the gallery café has been set up to feed hordes of fluoro-coated workers.”

Thankfully, damage to works of art was minimal, and a back-up generator maintained humidity and temperature levels. The gallery will be one of the first major public buildings to reopen in the city centre: “We want to give people a sense of optimism and renewal when that occurs. Already, we’re thinking of how best to do that; it’s clear, however, that community spirit is going to play a strong part.

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*“The gallery’s loading dock now handles a constant flow of civil defence supplies”*

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- *Within the first three months of 2011, natural disasters had ravaged many parts of the world, including Fiji, Tonga, Pakistan and Japan. In the New Year, Australia suffered devastating flooding, which affected nearly 35% of Victoria and 75% of Queensland. Rivers in several catchments in New South Wales remain in flood. This was compounded by the effects of cyclone Yasi, which hit Queensland in February.*

# The fairer sex?

Sonia Gandhi speaks on the theme of Women as Agents of Change.  
Extracts from the 14th Commonwealth Lecture in London on 17 March

In 1889, Kashibai Kanitkar, the first major woman writer in the Marathi language, described the stigma attached to women's literacy as follows: 'If a woman's name appears in a newspaper, if her essay is published, if she stammers out a few words at a women's gathering, she is certain to be slapped with a gigantic charge of having tarnished the family's honour!'

The late 19th and early 20th centuries saw the emergence of a number of outstanding social reformers. But it was Mahatma Gandhi who brought about the first real and nationwide wave of emancipation through his mass mobilization of women into the freedom movement. Our Constitution that came into force in 1950 gave women a new charter for emancipation and empowerment. Women were given the right to vote in the very first national elections in 1952.

A visitor to contemporary India will be impressed by the prominence of women in all aspects of life. India's President is a woman, as are the Speaker and the Leader of the Opposition in the Lower House. At the time of independence, women accounted for less than 10% of enrolment in higher education – they will soon be on a par with men.

Women in India are becoming agents of change through their own initiative, their energy and enterprise. Through individual and collective action, they are transforming their own situations and indeed transforming the broader social context itself.

Women's self-help groups are changing rural India. Groups of women pool their savings and secure loans for a variety of activities that help them increase their incomes. There are now about five million such groups, averaging 10-15 members each. Last year, they secured bank loans worth more than £2 billion.

By giving poor women access to credit, these groups are helping to blunt the harsh edges of poverty and destitution. But women are doing more than getting loans. They are actually taking on a variety of functions on behalf of government departments. They are, for instance, buying rice and maize from farmers



**TOWARDS EQUALITY:** Sonia Gandhi expresses her hopes for the future

*There is something revolutionary about this movement. It cuts across caste divides*

for sale through fair price shops. They are distributing old-age pensions and scholarships. They are managing primary health centres.

But there is something even more fundamentally revolutionary about this movement. It cuts across caste divides. It gives women a new voice, a new self-confidence, a new assertiveness. Where once they dared not open their mouths, even within the family, let alone voice their concerns before outsiders, they are now vociferous in discussing personal and family problems, as well as a whole range of community issues.

In 1993, India amended its constitution to provide 33% reservation or quota for women in rural and urban local bodies throughout the country. Today, 1.2 million elected women representatives, including women from the most deprived and disadvantaged communities, have taken their place alongside men in the councils of rural self government.

# Message of change

## HM The Queen's Commonwealth Day address

But I am less than happy to admit that at the national level we have not yet been successful. Women's representation in Parliament has hovered between 9 and 11%. Legislation for a 33% quota in Parliament and state assemblies has been passed by the Upper House. We shall persevere in our efforts to get it approved by the Lower House as well.

Collective action by women has taken different forms. Lijjat, producer of those poppadums so loved by diners in Indian restaurants in the UK, was founded by seven Gujarati housewives with a capital of about £7; it now has 42,000 owner-producers with a turnover approaching £70 million.

The largest collective of women in India's informal sector is SEWA – the Self-Employed Women's Association. Its achievements of providing a social security net for its members and adding value to household enterprise have been widely recognised. But one of its most recent endeavours is particularly noteworthy – a programme in war-torn Afghanistan to train women, especially war widows, to acquire skills, set up food processing enterprises and initiate ecological regeneration.

Such initiatives demonstrate the role women's enterprise can play in regions ravaged by violence and conflict. Within India as well, these groups have taken the lead in mediating, peace-building and reconciliation in areas of strife.

Mahatma Gandhi saw women as the future leaders of human evolution, bringing compassion and morality into public life. It could be argued that the progressive victories of the women's movement, their achievement of the right to vote and other rights, were the 20th century's seminal contribution to human advancement.

It has been a long journey. I fervently hope that the 21st century will take this to its logical conclusion. May this be, not the century of any particular country, but the century when women finally come into their own, the century when representative democracy is re-imagined to give women their due share, the century when the vocabulary of politics and culture is re-engineered fully to include that other half of mankind.



**COMMONWEALTH DAY OBSERVANCE:** HM The Queen and The Dean of Westminster Abbey, at the Abbey on 8 March

Last week, on the 8 March, we marked the hundredth anniversary of the first International Women's Day. The idea of having a women's day was first proposed against the backdrop of the rapid industrialisation of the early 20th century. From small beginnings, this idea has grown to become a widely recognised way of celebrating women around the world. While some people use this day to acknowledge the love, admiration and respect for women, others use it to remember the great social and political strides made, both by and for women, in the last hundred years. There is no right or wrong approach.

In the Commonwealth, every year, 26 million girls are born; and this equates to one new baby girl arriving almost every second of every day. In the time it takes to hold the Commonwealth Observance Service at Westminster Abbey, nearly 4,000 girls will have been born in Commonwealth lands. And every one of these births marks the start of a new life, a journey which begins with the hopes of parents, families and communities, and which is continued through the aspirations of those girls themselves.

This year, the Commonwealth celebrates the important role that women already play in every walk of life and in every Commonwealth country – from the richest to the poorest areas,

across continents and oceans, from villages to places of international debate, in every culture and faith – recognising that women are 'agents of change' in so many ways: as mothers and sisters, teachers and doctors, artists and craftspeople, smallholders and entrepreneurs, and as leaders of our societies, unleashing the potential of those around them.

And also this year, the Commonwealth reflects on what more could be achieved if women were able to play an even larger role. For example, I am encouraged that last year the Commonwealth launched a global effort to train and support half a million more midwives worldwide.

In all this work the commendable goal is to create a greater opportunity for women, as children and adults, to pursue their hopes and dreams, to attain their goals, and to make best use of their talents and knowledge. This year, and on Commonwealth Day especially, as governments continue to search for new ways to tackle these important challenges, let us all give a thought to the practical ways in which we, as individuals or as groups, can provide support to girls and women – so that everyone can have a chance of a fuller and more rewarding life, wherever they happen to be born.

**Elizabeth R**

## FOCUS

# A sporting chance

As the Commonwealth adopts a comprehensive plan on sport for development, **Tess Kay** asks what we can expect this growing field to achieve

**T**he use of sport in international development has seen phenomenal growth in recent years. In its early phases, in the mid-20th century, international development work tended to focus on economic and infrastructure issues, such as improving sanitation, transport systems and agricultural practices. More recently, it has evolved to put a stronger emphasis on the development of human resources and productive social relationships.

The growth of sports-based initiatives reflects the perceived compatibility of sport with this new development agenda. Since 2000, this has been framed by the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), launched by the United Nations (UN) and agreed by all 192 member states. The eight strands of work are closely intertwined, and address poverty and world hunger; universal education; gender equality; child health; maternal health; combatting HIV/Aids; environmental sustainability; and global partnership.

These goals require action at multiple levels of social, political and economic systems, and in a variety of contexts, from local to transnational. This is, therefore, a complex policy landscape and sport in development is exposed to some of its challenges.

Potentially, sport can make a far-reaching contribution, especially in areas where young

people are a primary target. Sport is believed to engage young people, provide positive experiences and, through this, contribute both to personal development (e.g. increasing self-esteem) and collective benefits (e.g. building community cohesion). Speaking at a meeting of the Commonwealth Advisory Board on Sport (CABOS) in February, Commonwealth Secretary-General Kamalesh Sharma, said it "promotes social harmony, gender equality and nurtures the minds of young people. They learn about team spirit, rules and the rights of others. In the end, this creates a democracy."

## Grand scale

Plotting the scale and spread of this work is a complex task. Recent estimates for the number of organisations involved have varied from 150 to around 1,500. It is clear that the form sport and development initiatives takes varies widely, from transnational programmes to small-scale, grassroots activity. Inevitably, it is the projects led by international organisations that are most visible. The best-known include the UN's International Year of Education and Sport, in 2005; Right to Play, an organisation based in Toronto and operating in multiple countries; Unicef's S4D work; and the 2012 International Inspirations Olympic legacy programme, supported by UK Sport, Unicef and the British Council.

**DEVELOPMENT GOAL:** Children in rural South Africa play football with a makeshift goal and a ball lent to them by an international aid organisation



*Sport can make a far-reaching contribution, especially when young people are a target*




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## *Is sport an appropriate priority investment for countries facing poverty and hunger?*

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A number of in-country programmes have also gained significant exposure, in policy and academic circles, through their promotional activities and participation in research. These include Magic Bus in India, Go Sisters and the work of EduSport in Zambia, and the Mathare Youth Sports Association project in Kenya.

In this context, the Commonwealth's increasing involvement in sport for development has a valuable role to play. The establishment of CABOS in 2004 paralleled developments among other significant international players – most notably the UN – to bring a more systematic approach to the use of sport in support of development goals.

Since then, this work has progressed, and, in February, took a significant step forward with the adoption of a comprehensive plan on sport for development and peace, which had been developed by the Secretariat in discussion with CABOS. The plan put in place a process for member governments to identify clear priorities, measurable targets and appropriate resources for their sport and development work, and to monitor and evaluate how programmes perform.

It is important to remember, however, that sport in development work is not the preserve of the international agencies. Externally funded projects operate in partnership with local partners, and there is a whole swathe of community-initiated sport and development

work that often goes unrecorded.

Much of this is undertaken by community, education and health organisations that do not specialise in sport but find it effective in their work. These include local groups or institutions who are working in their communities on issues such as youth development and HIV prevention, and have chosen to use sport because it is an effective method of reaching their target group.

### **Wide reaching**

The existence of this less formal and often undocumented sports-based development work means that the increase and spread of sport in development contexts is even greater than many official estimates show. Sport and development work should not be seen, therefore, as primarily the product of externally-funded development investment, but as a complex jigsaw resulting from the interaction of internal and external interests and agencies.

This sometimes raises difficult issues. International development is politically complex and sensitive. Aid provided by richer countries can be regarded as a form of interference, control and cultural imperialism, perpetuating the political and economic dominance of donor states and the dependency of recipients. However, many of the most significant challenges arise at the operational level. There can be difficulties in operating projects that rely

on partnership working and continuity of funding, or on volunteer work at the point of delivery. Both pose challenges for sustainability. Additionally, while sport is valued for its potential positive contributions, it can also be regarded more negatively – at the micro-level for its institutionalised competitiveness, sexism and aggression, and at the structural level for its significance as an 'export' of the West.

The reliance of many programmes on meeting external funding requirements raises further questions about the autonomy of indigenous organisations to develop their sports-based work as they see fit. Together these concerns can fuel debates about whether sport is an appropriate priority for investment in countries facing fundamental issues of poverty, ill-health and hunger.

There is, however, mounting evidence that sport does offer, for at least some people, a range of short-term benefits and possibly medium-term ones. Whether these translate into long-term benefits is less certain. One of the central challenges for many working in this field is therefore to understand how the positive impacts can be maximised and sustained.

*Director of the Brunel Centre for Sport Health and Wellbeing at Brunel University, London, Prof Tess Kay is author of Understanding Sport in International Development (2012).*

## FOCUS

# Ride the wave of success

Amid much hype about the legacy of the Olympics, **Jessica Moore** looks to London's new White Water Centre to find out what it will do for ordinary people

**T**eam GB fared pretty well in the 2008 Beijing Olympics. Flying home with the 300 participating athletes were an impressive 19 gold, 13 silver and 15 bronze medals. The winners were celebrated – among them Tim Brabants; doctor by day, gold medal-winning kayaker on the side.

Fast-forward to 2011, Brabants and his fellow paddlers have something new to cheer about. The British canoeists and kayakers are training for the 2012 Games at the freshly built, state-of-the-art Lee Valley White Water Centre in Hertfordshire. It's a welcome investment. "Our legacy could be in sporting excellence in this area," says Paul Coates, Senior Sports Development Manager at Lee Valley Park Authority, which will own, fund and manage a number of 2012 Olympic venues after the Games. "We've now got one of the best white water sporting facilities in the world, and hopefully great things will come of that. It will put canoeing, kayaking and rafting at the top of the tree in this country."

In the upcoming Olympics, the White Water Centre will host the canoe slalom. Two rapids have been built: a 300-metre competition course and a 160-metre training course, known as the 'legacy loop'. There is also a new 10,000 square metre lake, which will feed a system of pumps to provide the competition course with 15 cubic metres of water a second. That's enough water to fill an Olympic-sized pool in less than a minute. The white water will be created by these pumps and obstacles placed in the course. The Centre, complete with bar, terrace and meeting room, will open to the public on 22 April. It is the only new Olympic venue that will do so ahead of the Games.

Engaging with the public has been important to the development from the outset.

Lee Valley Park has organised about 200 events in the surrounding area since construction began in 2009. These include community days, festivals, school assemblies and tours. "Quite often, people don't know what's going on, even when it's on their doorstep. Central to this project has been informing people, so they are engaged and involved," says Coates.

He writes legacy sports development plans for Olympic venues. "I've done that for the White Water Centre and I'm in the process of doing it for the VeloPark," he explains. "These facilities are receiving Lottery funding, and so they need a comprehensive five-year plan for how they are going to be used and how the local communities are going to access them after the 2012 Games." Plans for the White Water Centre focus on increasing access. "There's stuff in there for the top athletes, but our aim is also to provide opportunities for people new to the sports."

## Free school deals

In the immediate future, Lee Valley Park will run an education programme. "We're letting one school group per London, Essex and Hertfordshire borough have access to rafting on the Olympic course free of charge." 2,200 young people from around 150 schools will be able to ride the Olympic rapids this summer. "That's quite a spectacular opportunity," says Coates. "It will give children of all backgrounds the chance to do something they would never otherwise be able to. It will also raise the profile of the facility across the region." He hopes it will support local sports clubs, too: "If a young person is interested, we'll give them information about paddle clubs across Essex, Hertfordshire and London. It's about encouraging sport and businesses on a wider level."

The government's Change4Life initiative



works to the same end. It encourages children and families to eat healthily and engage in physical activity – not with ambition of Olympic proportions, but in response to a rise in obesity that costs the NHS an estimated £4.2 billion a year. Unless action is taken, this figure is expected to double by 2050.

According to the latest survey, 25% of adults in the UK, and 10% of children aged 2-10, are obese. In this context, 2012's greatest legacy could be getting people – and particularly children – interested in sport. Coates agrees: "Anyone interested in sports development cares about health and wellbeing, so a key aim for us all is to get more kids active."

While Lee Valley Park's main initiatives will kick in after the Olympics, London 2012, one of the key organisations delivering the Games, focuses on the here and now. Their 'Get Set' network provides free learning resources for 3- to 19-year-olds in schools and colleges, based around 'the Olympic Values of friendship, excellence and respect and the Paralympic Values of determination, inspiration, courage and equality', according to a press release.

Curwen Primary School in Newham joined in April 2010. Students have since learnt about Paralympic sports in PE lessons, taken part in the Hackney Paralympic School Championships, and explored the history of the Paralympic



**RUN THE RAPIDS:** Experienced rafters try out the Lee Valley White Water Centre in Broxbourne (above and below)

**FLYING THE FLAG:** HRH The Princess Royal opens the new, state-of-the-art centre in December 2010 (below)

*2012's 'Get Set' network provides free learning resources in schools and colleges*

*There are solar panels to heat water, and the centre captures water from the roof*



Games and Paralympians. Akira, a student at Curwen, said: "I think the Paralympic Games are inspirational to young disabled people because it shows that no matter who you are you can achieve your sporting goal."

2012's 'Changing Places' programme, meanwhile, enlists the support of local people to improve public spaces. David Stubbs, Head of Sustainability at the London Organising Committee for 2012 (LOCOG), comments: "We can use the Games to get local people involved – the community groups, the environmental groups, all the different stakeholders of the local area – and they can see some benefits, not just at Games-time but beforehand and long into the future."

### Legacy loop

At the White Water Centre, the longer term plans include a coach education programme and collaborations with local universities. Introductory lessons in paddle sports will be available to the public on the lake, as will canoe polo. "We're designing a range of programmes that people of all levels can tap into," says Coates. "This is when the 'legacy loop' will come into its own: because it is smaller and less challenging than the competitions course, it can be used by amateurs."

The course uses fewer pumps, and therefore less energy than the competition course, minimising running costs and carbon footprint. "The legacy of the centre should be all sorts of things – environmental, educational, creating opportunities. It has to be sustainable, too. The legacy loop, as an example, has solar panels to heat the water, and the centre captures water from the roof to run the toilets," he adds.

Coates sees the Games as "a once in a lifetime opportunity" to get people enthused and interested in sport. It is also a chance to harness talent. "At the White Water Centre, we're working with the British Canoe Union on everything from community programmes to talent programmes, identifying emerging young stars for the future," he says.

According to David Florence, a member of the British Canoe Slalom Team, "The centre is a real spectacle. It's a great opportunity to be training and ultimately competing on home soil." Coates agrees: "I think the centre is going to make a real difference in terms of participation rates. Our approach is positive and inclusive, and these venues will leave a lasting legacy."

*Jessica Moore is a freelance journalist and editor, and a former Acting Editor of Overseas.*

## FOCUS

# Playing for peace

**Miranda Moore** finds out how the sports charity PeacePlayers International is changing the attitudes of young people in conflict zones

**A**oife Doherty was born at the dawn of the new millennium, two years after a peace agreement brought an official end to the Troubles in Northern Ireland. When she was two, however, sectarian violence erupted in the Short Strand area of East Belfast where she lives. A peace wall separates the Catholic neighbourhood from the surrounding unionist area – one of 88 such barriers in Northern Ireland, where 90% of public housing and 95% of education is still segregated along sectarian lines. For children such as Aoife, there is little opportunity to mix with children from the 'other' side.

It was in this context that PeacePlayers International (PPI) began working in Belfast, in 2002, with the slogan 'Children who play together can learn to live together'. Set up in South Africa a year earlier, by brothers Sean and Brendan Tuohy, the sports charity soon expanded to Cyprus and the Middle East. With the aim of 'uniting, educating and inspiring young people in divided communities through basketball', it brings children from both sides of the conflict together to play basketball, participate in team-building activities and talk about the issues facing their communities.

In Cyprus, PPI-CY's weekly sessions are necessarily segregated, with children crossing to the other side on a monthly basis in order to play together. In Belfast, where the two communities live on top of one another, all activities are mixed. "Teams are integrated by gender and religion," says PPI-NI's Managing Director, Gareth Harper. "We're not playing school against school, but mixed teams. To be successful they have to play

**TEAM WORK:** Greek and Turkish Cypriot teenagers play together



well with their teammates and it's about building on that contact. Children are then more willing to talk to people from the other community, because they have had the opportunity to mix with 'other' children on their team." PPI-NI was selected as one of 26 recipients of the Royal Wedding Charitable Gift Fund.

### New rules

Aoife got involved when her school was twinned with the Protestant Avoniel Primary. She is among 850 children, aged 8-11, who took part in the Primary School Twinning Programme last year. The next step is joining the Cross-Community League, which offers evening coaching sessions, regular matches and community relations workshops.

Coaching is combined with peace-building activities, which range from simple physical exercises, such as two players keeping a ball off the ground without using their hands, to sit-down discussions. In one exercise, a new game is taught but some children are secretly told that they don't have to follow the rules. "When the

others see that players are breaking the rules and I'm not blowing the whistle they start freaking out," says Adam Hirsch, an International Fellow with PPI-CY. They then talk about how the situation made them feel. "We're using basketball – a simple sport – to get kids to talk about fairness and justice in a country with generations of mistrust, fear and division."

There are four teams in southern Cyprus and four in the Turkish-controlled north. The country has been divided for 37 years, and although the border between the two sides was opened in 2003, asking parents to allow their children to cross is no small matter. "Most parents have lived in an island the size of greater London their entire lives and have never crossed. Their reaction to their kids going across is 'absolutely not'," says Hirsch. Now PPI-CY is asking young people to spend a week-long summer camp on the 'other' side – something that would have been unthinkable just a few years ago.

The charity specifically targets "high-risk, disadvantaged children". The situation is similar in Belfast. "We don't go for the easy touch," says Harper. "We deliberately take on areas at the interface of the conflict." Take Ardoyne, for example. For 11 weeks in 2001, pupils at Holy Cross Primary had to be escorted to school by armed police, as loyalists picketed the route. "I think the Holy Cross/Wheatfield twinning was one of the first steps the two communities took," says PPI-NI's Leadership Development Coordinator, Darryl Petticrew.

### Future leaders

Designed to ensure sustainability by training future coaches and leaders, the Leadership Development Programme offers 16- to 25-year-olds the chance to gain Open College Network qualifications. In Kwa-Zulu Natal, South Africa, where opportunities for underprivileged young people are limited, it offers a brighter future.

PPI-SA's focus is less on conflict resolution than on life skills and the prevention of HIV, which infects 50% of young people in South Africa by the age of 24. The under-14 programme operates as an after-school club, with three sessions a week during term-time, but according to Managing Director S'bongiseni Vilakazi, it has greater success in changing attitudes in areas such as gender equality, drug

abuse and sex education. "We don't claim to be the experts; the children are the experts. That is one of the cornerstones of what we do," he says. "So we won't say 'use a condom', we will discuss the consequences of doing things. Giving the child the chance to explore their beliefs in this way is most likely to lead to behavioural change, which is our ultimate goal." It helps that PPI-SA mentors are closer in age to the children and that discussions happen on the basketball court, away from a classroom setting.

Another difference is that teams are divided by gender. Elsewhere, one of the benefits of basketball is that it enables girls and boys to play together, but in Africa keeping the sexes apart facilitates sensitive discussions, says Vilakazi. Nevertheless, participation at school level is strictly 50/50, and it is indicative of PPI-SA's commitment to gender equality that 40% of its coaches are women, even though girls are often expected to stay at home to cook and clean.

### Champions for peace

So how much can a game of basketball really achieve? According to an evaluation report by the Institute for Conflict Research, PPI-NI's work changes the attitudes of a significant proportion of participants. At one community centre, where many users had not met young people from the other community, perceptions were reportedly 'blown apart' by some of the discussions. The number of children who said they enjoyed meeting people from different religious backgrounds jumped by 36% following participation. "Surveys pre and post intervention show that perspectives do change," says Harper.

One of PPI's strengths is its curricula, developed specifically for each location and age group with the support of internationally respected organisations. The hope is that these can now be applied to other, more popular sports, and PPI-NI is already working with rugby and football organisations with that aim.

"Our goal cannot be to create peace but we can aim to reach as many children as possible, to challenge stereotypes and to give them an opportunity to form their own opinions about the conflict," says Hirsch. "As they say in Cyprus: 'siga-siga' ('slowly, slowly')." PeacePlayers has worked with more than 52,000 young people worldwide, including 10,000 in Belfast, out of an under-25 population of around 93,000.

It is clear that young participants are responding to PPI's message of respect, trust, equality and peace, but its aims are farther reaching. The idea is that they will spread their inclusive attitudes to their friends, families and communities. Harper refers to participants as "little champions for peace". One told him: "I love this programme and I'm working on my Dad." PeacePlayers couldn't hope for more.

*We're using basketball  
– a simple sport – to  
get kids to talk about  
fairness and justice*



# Harmony in Zimbabwe

**Petroc Trelawny** looks at 60 years of the Zimbabwe Academy of Music and points the way forward



**A**n ornate silver trowel sits in a glass case to the left of the main doors. It is the trowel that was used in 1953 by Sir John Barbirolli, when he laid the foundation stone of what was then the Rhodesian Academy of Music. On the walls hang wooden boards, inscribed with the names of long-forgotten winners of competitions for piano, voice and woodwind. They reflect half a century of social change here, African names gradually taking greater prominence in lists once exclusively comprising British and Boer surnames. The sounds of distant piano, faint guitar, and the tap-tap-tap of a percussion class fill the air.

The roots of the Zimbabwe Academy of Music go back to the 1930s, when it was squeezed into a set of rooms above a hairdresser's in the centre of Bulawayo. The post-war years were a time of prosperity in Southern Rhodesia. Vast tranches of rich farming land were made available to new settlers, and the European population soared. Bulawayo became a bustling centre for trade. New suburbs were laid out. Haddon and Sly tripled the size of its department store business. And the prosperity of the times prompted the academy to find a new home.

John Barbirolli happened to be around to lay the foundation stone, as he was appearing with his beloved Hallé Orchestra at the Rhodes

Centenary Exhibition – perhaps the greatest example of colonial post-war confidence. A vast site was dedicated to this epic show of empire, where huge pavilions promoted Portuguese Mozambique, the Belgian Congo and French Madagascar. At night, the main attraction was the Theatre Royal, an aircraft hanger converted into a 3,000-seat auditorium.

## Musical legacy

The three-month festival started with a variety show, headlined by George Formby. Next came the Hallé, playing six different programmes. John Gielgud played Richard II in his production of Shakespeare's play. Britten's *Coronation Opera* had its first four performances at Covent Garden; the next seven took place in Bulawayo, a city not previously known as a hotspot of contemporary music. The Rhodes Centenary Exhibition welcomed its millionth visitor on its final day. Within a few weeks, the pavilions and stands had been taken down. Foliage quickly covered the site, but its legacy included a fast-growing, highly successful music school.

The distinguished pianist Graham Johnson was just three when the Hallé came to town. A decade later, he was playing a movement of a Mozart concerto with the Bulawayo Municipal Orchestra. The following season he played the whole piece. It was a chance meeting with Graham at a music festival in Devon, three

years ago, that prompted my interest in the Zimbabwe Academy of Music. Could it really be that people were studying violin, singing in choirs and taking flute lessons in Zimbabwe, a country synonymous with violence, corruption and rampant inflation? Soon I was to meet the man who had kept the place going.

Michael Bullivant's home is testament to his passion for music; his CD and LP collection runs through room after room, masterworks alongside the more *recherché* English repertoire that he loves. He came to Africa to teach Latin and ended up as Deputy Head of Milton School, Bulawayo's leading government school. A big man in every sense, his ebullience and indefatigable nature have been essential to the academy's survival. As one person put it to me: "At a time when the violence was at its height and people had to drive to Botswana in order to buy food, Michael ensured that the music lessons continued and managed to fill the hall with recitals of Alkan sonatas."

Teaching music, to Grade 8, is just one of the academy's roles. Bullivant also sees the campus as a cultural centre that benefits the whole city. The Sibson Hall is used by local schools and amateur choirs for music events; a dance academy operates from a studio upstairs. Visiting musicians from South Africa and Europe perform recitals; there are regular opera nights and film screenings. Every two years, the



Bulawayo Music Festival draws visitors from across Zimbabwe and beyond. Tasmin Little, Piers Lane and Dame Felicity Lott are among the artists who have taken part. The pianist Leslie Howard appeared at the last five festivals.

### International support

After observing the work of the academy during several visits to Zimbabwe, the pianist and composer Richard Sisson and I decided to set up a charity to support its work. BZAM (the British Friends of the Zimbabwe Academy of Music) will raise funds to ensure its short-term survival and, in the longer term, help it reach out to a broader cross-section of the Bulawayan community. We will help pay the salaries of three new teachers, and run a bursary scheme for talented youngsters unable to afford lessons. Our most ambitious project is a scheme in the Western Suburbs, the city's poorest zone.

We plan to send talented UK music graduates, for six weeks at a time, to set up 'scratch' choirs in primary schools. Children inspired by the scheme will then be invited to join a new Academy Choir, meeting on a weekly basis. We are determined that no one will be excluded from taking part; costs will include hiring buses to transport choir members across the city.

When Sir John laid the foundation stone,

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## *Could it be that people were studying violin in a country synonymous with violence?*

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Rhodesia saw itself as a confident, successful nation, about to enter into the Central African Federation. It sought the ultimate prize of dominion status, but at the same time was unwilling even to pay lip-service to the ambitions of its African population. Then came the political failure represented by Ian Smith, the optimism of independence, and the cold reality of life under Robert Mugabe.

In six decades of seismic political change, the academy has continued to open the minds of generations of Bulawayans to the discipline and dedication music demands, and the pleasure and satisfaction it offers. Student numbers are rising, new stocks of instruments are arriving, new teachers are bringing fresh energy to the campus. The Zimbabwe Academy of Music has survived the toughest of years, but it is now well placed to flourish and grow, as its staff and students dream of better times ahead, outside the campus gates.



**AT THE ACADEMY:** The Peterhouse Orchestra prepares for the 2010 Bulawayo Music Festival in a tent in the school grounds, with teacher/trombonist Trevor Lax (top); and a piano lesson in progress (above)

*ROSL will be supporting recitals by young artists at the Bulawayo Music Festival. For information about BZAM or details of how you can support the academy, contact Petroc Trelawny at [BZAM@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:BZAM@hotmail.co.uk).*

*Petroc Trelawny broadcasts for BBC Radio Three and is writing a book about the 1953 Rhodes Centenary Exhibition.*

# Million dollar harvest

**Catherine Quinn** finds out how a swiftlet migration led to a booming birds' nest industry in Malaysia

**A**s the barn doors open, a surge of tiny birds fly out while, inside, their carefully constructed homes await a managed demolition. This is Sarawak in Borneo, Malaysia, home to the vast majority of the world's black swiftlet farms. These free-range smallholdings harvest their nests – that famed delicacy found in bird's nest soup.

But keeping this thriving industry in one place is no easy task, particularly since the current influx of swiftlets emigrated from Indonesia, moving most of the supply to Malaysia's eastern annex. "The swiftlets came to Malaysia in the 1990s because of forest fire," explains harvester Badan Lee\*, who turned his family home into a make-shift swiftlet farm 10 years ago. "People who lived here realised we could make money from using our houses as swiftlet farms, and living elsewhere."

However, capitalising on this mass migration has its drawbacks – not least that this method of farming is so unusual that the government has yet to effectively licence it. For this reason, most nest-harvesters operate unofficially, and some 98% of nests harvested in Malaysia are from 'unofficial' farms.

## Uncertain future

Part of the problem is that this method of farming has no precedent in any other part of the world. Swiftlets must be lured into empty houses or purpose-built barns by loud speakers playing a cacophony of bird song and chirrups. And once safely housed they cannot be easily moved or transported. Instead, harvesters have to use whatever limited powers they have, to make the birds as comfortable as possible and



*Swiftlets must be lured into empty houses by loud speakers playing bird song and chirrups*

hope they return year on year. Their stock of swiftlets is the definition of an intangible asset – collateral that cannot be appraised in any meaningful way until the nests are harvested.

Only then do they take on a very real value. The Chinese pay dizzying sums for them. A bowl of bird's nest soup can sell for anything between US\$30 and US\$800. 'Red blood' nests, produced by the salivary glands of black swiftlets, can fetch up to US\$10,000 a kilo – considerably more than white nests. Luckily for Sarawak, it is this species that has made Malaysia its new home.

The reason for this high price is a slew of health benefits associated with consuming the nests. They are high in minerals such as magnesium, calcium and iron, sialic acid and

**DELICACY:** When cleaned up and ready for export, the nests take on real value (left); and the tools of the trade (above)

glucosamine – a well-known joint supplement. In China, however, they are used to treat everything from ageing to cancer.

Last year, the Malaysian Federation of Bird's Nest Merchants Association judged the trade to be worth 1 billion ringgit (US\$3.3m), with projected figures of 5 billion ringgit (US\$1.65bn) by 2015. Malaysia currently supplies some 7% of production worldwide, with Indonesia still claiming the lion's share at 60%. With the government unclear on the legality of swiftlet farms, however, many traders believe the country could be making more money. Under the current system, nest-harvesters in some states need to be licensed, while others are allowed to trade unlicensed. In terms of tax revenue this seems a disastrous step.

Collecting the nests is also dangerous and critics argue that proper licensing would reduce accidents and injuries. Since the birds roost in high places, harvesters prop up long bamboo ladders in order to reach them. "It is not an easy job," shrugs Lee as he and his workers move in to claim their prize. "Every time I go up the ladder I fear. But we are lucky to be able to farm here." For Malaysian harvesters, it makes sense to continue to capitalise, while they can, on a product that could someday fly away.

\* Name has been changed.

*Catherine Quinn writes on employment, food and travel topics for various publications, including The Times and The Guardian.*

# ISHRANI JAIKARAN'S TORONTO



**CITY LIGHTS:** Toronto skyline viewed from Lake Ontario

## Why do you think Toronto was chosen as the fourth most liveable city in the world by The Economist?

The wonderful diversity. There are so many different nationalities and they have made the areas in which they settled very vibrant and colourful. There are Greek, Italian and Chinese areas, to name but a few. So there is a plethora of wonderful and interesting restaurants. Everyone lives peacefully side by side, learning about each other's traditions and cultures, and in the summertime there are many festivals. It is also a fairly safe city, with lots of green spaces and a good transport system.

## Where do you most like walking?

My favourite stroll is along Philosopher's Walk, entering through the historic Queen Alexandra Gateway. Philosopher's Walk runs south from Bloor Street between the Royal Conservatory

of Music and the Royal Ontario Museum – a meandering pathway that cuts through the grounds of the University of Toronto. It is calming and peaceful even though it is only steps away from Bloor Street's traffic. Sometimes you can hear music from the Royal Conservatory wafting through the air.

## What is your ideal day out?

I like to visit the museums: the McMichael, the Art Gallery of Ontario or the Textile Museum.

## Where is the best place to eat out?

Grano's – an Italian restaurant with a European feel which has, in my opinion, the best tiramisu in Toronto. It started as a bakery.

## What do you love – and hate – most about Toronto?

I love the fact that it is so near to the water.

Lake Ontario has many faces – frozen in winter and vibrant in summer. The boardwalk is always filled with people walking, cycling, skateboarding, picnicking, playing volleyball and generally feeling happy to be outdoors. Snow, ice, cutting winds and minus 35 degree temperatures is when I hate Toronto.

*Ishrani Jaikaran is President of the ROSL Ontario Chapter.*

*Interview by Samantha Whitaker.*



## How to live a longer more active Life.

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# News and views

The latest from the London clubhouse



## ▲ Speaker at lunch

Professor Norman Davies, Fellow of St Antony's College Oxford, UNESCO Professor of the Jagiellonian University in Krakow and Professor Emeritus of London University, spoke at the Central Council lunch in March. He is pictured (right) with ROSL Chairman Sir Anthony Figgis and Young Artist of Thailand prizewinner Sottithat Winyarat and his mother, Wandee Winyarat

## ◀ Guest of honour

Councillor Judith Warner, Lord Mayor of Westminster, was guest of honour and speaker at the Central Council lunch in January. She is pictured here (2nd from right) with (l-r) Lady Figgis, ROSL Chairman Sir Anthony Figgis and ROSL Deputy Chairman Mrs Marilyn Archbold

## Annual Report 2010 summary

The centenary celebrations and events feature heavily in the 2010 Annual Report. Worldwide, members gave thanks for what the ROSL has achieved and, importantly, discussed the future of the club.

Representatives from each ROSL Branch met at Over-Seas House, London for a week-long conference in June and reported back to their respective branch members, with screenings of the Centenary DVD.

The Honorary Treasurer reports a satisfactory surplus of £126,313, coming in just

ahead of budget. A drop in membership revenue was balanced by an increase in bedroom occupancy. The Director-General notes: "Even though considerable sums were spent on the centenary, other costs were very well controlled."

The new ROSL Chairman, Sir Anthony Figgis, travelled extensively in 2010 – to Australia, New Zealand and Canada – as well as around the UK. Almost all of the ROSL branches had the opportunity to host the Chairman and his wife, Lady Figgis, and they

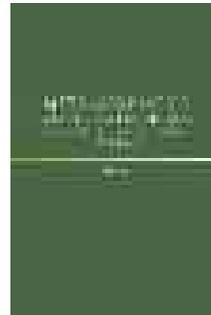
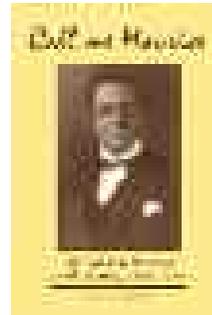
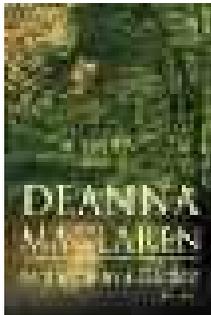
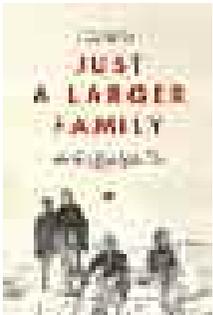
report the details of these visits, as well as other meetings, events and trips.

There are also reports on the wide-ranging events and activities of ROSL ARTS, members' events, the younger members, London Group, Discussion Group and the ROSL-Namibia project, as well as a report on *Overseas*.

The Annual Report was edited, designed and produced by Samantha Whitaker, Deputy Editor of *Overseas* magazine. It is available from the PR Department, or by calling 020 7408 0214 ext 205/206.

# Books

Reviews of recent works by ROSL members



**Just a Larger Family: Letters of Marie Williamson from the Canadian Home Front, 1940-1944**

Mary F Williamson and Tom Sharp (Editors)  
*Wilfrid Laurier University Press, 2011*  
*ISBN: 978-1554582662, £33.50*

When, in 1940, Marie and John Williamson welcomed two English brothers to join them for the duration of the war, no one knew how long it would last. Marie wrote more than 150 letters to their mother, Margaret Sharpe, hoping to ease any anxiety. The letters reflect the concerns of a family, but also give a portrait of Canada's largest city in wartime.

**Strangers in a Garden**

Deanna Maclaren  
*Matador, 2011*  
*ISBN: 978-1848765566, £9*  
 Subtitled 'A love story', this light, entertaining and well-plotted novel

follows the relationship of Laura and Adrian, who fall in love in 1963. Infidelity, betrayal, affairs and scandal force them apart, as Laura flees to France. But when they meet again, can they put all that behind them?

**A Mountain to Climb on Timor**

Michael Earle  
*Matador, 2008*  
*ISBN: 978-1906221829, £8.99*  
 This personal memoir, from 1967 to 1981, of a testing adventure in Indonesia is full of emotional torment and physical challenges; and a race against time, to make a geological map before the monsoon rains arrive.

**Call Me Maurice: The life and times of Lord Fermoy, 1885-1955**

Mary Burke Roche  
*ELSP, 2009*  
*ISBN: 978-1906641061, £15 inc.*

*UK P&P from ELSP. Contact: rogerjones@ex-librisbooks.co.uk*  
 Written by his daughter, this intimate biography of Maurice Burke Roche, the grandfather of Diana, Princess of Wales, is a literary slide show that takes us from his childhood in Ohio USA to his election as a British MP.

**Metamorphosis: Lessons from the formative years of the Celtic Tiger 1979-1993**

Con Power  
*Oak Tree Press, 2009*  
*ISBN: 978-1904887270, £40*  
 The story of how Ireland transformed itself from the bleak situation of the 1980s to the successful years of the Celtic Tiger. As Economic Policy Director with the Confederation of Irish Industry, Power gives an insider's perspective into how Ireland, within the European Union, dealt with the previous recession. In the

context of global economic turbulence, there are lessons to be learnt in Ireland and beyond.

**Your Must: Your purpose in life**

Rochelle Carr Burns  
*Get Published, 2010*  
*ISBN: 978-1452529684, £7.83*  
 Your 'must' is that deep need, felt by most of us during our lives, pulling you towards doing something special. Using examples from everyday people and history makers, Burns passionately illustrates the desire to contribute that underlies our collective humanness. Based on scholarly research but written in plain, easy-to-read language, this is a must-read for those interested in leadership, self-development and service. It is personal, practical and inspirational.

*Reviews by Samantha Whitaker.*



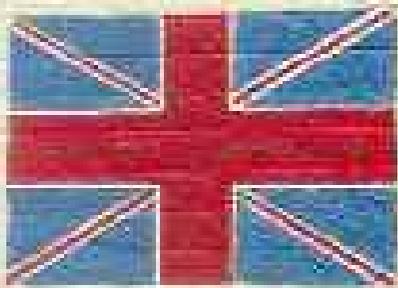
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 Tel: 020 7408 0214 ext 338 or 205 Email: info@rosl.org.uk (marked FAO ROSL SHOP)

HAIDSTONE - GRANITAR-  
SCHOOL



# Namibia past, present and future

**Margaret Adrian-Vallance** reports on February's monitoring visit and the recommendations for the future of the ROSL-Namibia project

**Q**uinton Gertze wants to become an ornithologist and admits that his interest began with his skill at capturing birds to eat. He is one of six bright ROSL bursary recipients at Da-Palm Senior Secondary School in isolated Otjimbingwe, a beautiful and friendly area where much of the food is wild and the nearest shop is miles away.

Quinton was one of several bursary recipients and alumni who met Clive Carpenter, ROSL Central Council and Executive Committee member, when he joined me on the recent monitoring visit in February and visited schools that had received ROSL funding. Clive's 22-page report on the past,

present and future of the ROSL-Namibia project was presented to the Central Council in March and includes admiration for the 'excellent governance' at Da-Palm and 'its forward-thinking Principal', Helena Xoagus.

He found Hippo Primary to be the 'epitome of discipline, good governance and achievement, at every level, under the guidance of Principal Zirk Vermeulen'. Of 30 primary schools in the Omaheke region, Hippo is now rated number three. When showing us how ROSL funds were spent, we were taken to a flat being built for an additional teacher.

At Katora Primary, Clive noted that 'despite its remoteness, the school has mains electricity

(since June 2010) and a transmission signal for mobiles (since 2007). This evidence of the Namibian government's overall development of the country was well illustrated in many areas we visited.' There are now ten bursary recipients at Katora Primary; the three featured in the ROSL Centenary DVD have all progressed to secondary schools.

Thanks to the generous support of the Fondation Espace Afrique in 2010, there are also ten bursary awardees, from San, Himba and other remote communities, at Windhoek College of Education (WCE), and one at the University of Namibia. In his report, Clive refers to the fact that during the apartheid era it was



**TOP CLASS:** (Clockwise from above) One of Hippo Primary's colourful murals; (l-r) Clive Carpenter, Margaret Adrian-Vallance, HE Mark Bensberg and Paul Oosthuizen; and Jon Noadeb, a former bursary student, who is now a teacher in Gobabis

*Despite its remoteness the school has mains electricity and a mobile phone signal*

thought that San children from remote areas did not have the perseverance to progress through the educational system, a misconception that the ROSL-Namibia project has helped to debunk.

During the visit, HE Mark Bensberg, the British High Commissioner to Namibia, hosted an enjoyable lunch for us at the Residency in Windhoek. The project is grateful to him for his hospitality, good advice, practical help and suggestions for project development over the last few years. We also received excellent logistical support from Paul Oosthuizen, co-monitor and Namibian education representative, and it was lovely to see former bursary recipients Ellie Velskoen, Jon Noadeb and Elias Araeb again. All are now teaching in the Gobabis area.

Namibia's roads, scenery, meat, school choirs, clean and graffiti-free towns, and speedy prescription glasses service were as wonderful as ever.

So what of the future? Clive concludes that,

while support for primary schools will continue, donors may prefer to concentrate support at secondary and tertiary levels, where pupil potential has already become evident. It is also proposed that, over the next three years, administration on a regional basis should be gradually passed to alumni, with ROSL concentrating on fundraising and monitoring.

Finally, at the suggestion of two ROSL members living in next door Botswana, Mike and Sarah Ward, there are tentative plans to support a very poor school near Gaborone. As Clive's report suggests: 'There are obvious synergies and economies of scale that could be explored.' During our two-day stay in the country, we were grateful to ROSL member Reg Richardson and the Botswana Training Authority, who arranged for us to view their Hole in the Wall computer project and visit a nearby school. It was also a pleasure to meet HE Jennifer Anderson, the British High Commissioner, who gave us time, information and good advice.

# ROSL WORLD

The latest from the global branches



© GRAHAM CARNE / © IAN BIRD

**COMMONWEALTH DAY:** Guest speaker Tavish Scott MSP in Edinburgh

## Australia

Commonwealth Day was celebrated by the **New South Wales** Branch, at the Parliament of NSW. The Governor of New South Wales, Professor Marie Bashir, read The Queen's speech, and the Master of Ceremonies was the eminent Australian broadcaster Alan Jones. The **South Australia** Branch's February lunch and meeting was their first event of the year. The speaker was Terry Kreig, an outspoken advocate of nuclear power, who is trying to remedy the lack of information available on the subject. At the lunch in March, there was a talk on gardening by Sophie Thomson, columnist and presenter on ABC's *Gardening Australia* show. There was also an outing to Warrawong, a recently acquired out-station of Adelaide Zoo, where many native animals can be seen.

At the **Western Australia** Branch AGM, Jeff Turner announced his retirement as Chairman, after 20 years of loyal and dedicated service. Incoming Chairman, Tony Abbott, conveyed grateful thanks to Jeff for the many and varied duties he carried out so cheerfully. He then gave an illustrated talk on his time as Governor of Montserrat. Branch members are delighted that Jeff has agreed to stay on as Vice-Chairman.

**New South Wales:** Lily Murray, [murraylily@hotmail.com](mailto:murraylily@hotmail.com)

**Queensland:** Sharon Morgan, [sllmorgan@hotmail.com](mailto:sllmorgan@hotmail.com)

**South Australia:** Michael Kent, [rosl.sa@mac.com](mailto:rosl.sa@mac.com)

**Tasmania:** Robert Dick, [gradick1@gmail.com](mailto:gradick1@gmail.com)

**Victoria:** Coral Strahan, +61 (0)3 9654 8338; [rosl@alphalink.com.au](mailto:rosl@alphalink.com.au)

**Western Australia:** Anthony Abbott, +61 (0)8 9368 0379, [losabbotts@hotmail.com](mailto:losabbotts@hotmail.com)

## Canada

**Alberta:** Cynthia Cordery, +1 780 477 0001, [ccordery@shaw.ca](mailto:ccordery@shaw.ca)

**British Columbia:** Pamela Ducommun, +1 604 925 3719

**Nova Scotia:** Liz Stern, +1 902 678 1975, [lizstern317@gmail.com](mailto:lizstern317@gmail.com)

**Ontario:** Ishrani Jaikaran, +1 416 760 0309, [rosl.ont@sympatico.ca](mailto:rosl.ont@sympatico.ca)

## Hong Kong

In January, branch members were invited to join members of the Russian Club at the White Russian Ball. In March, they celebrated Commonwealth Day with members of The Royal Commonwealth Society at the Hong Kong Club. The Queen's speech was read by the British Consul General, and Dame Anson Chan, Hong Kong Branch and RCS patron, toasted the Commonwealth.

**Hong Kong:** Paul Surtees, [roslsecretary@rosl.org.hk](mailto:roslsecretary@rosl.org.hk), [www.rosl.org.hk](http://www.rosl.org.hk)

## New Zealand

Commonwealth Day was observed by **South Canterbury** Branch members, with guest speaker Lady Fiona Elworthy, who described Craigmores's Maori rock drawings. The **Southland** Branch enjoyed an illustrated talk on The Royal Mile in Edinburgh by Judy Christie, and, in **Manawatu**, The Queen's speech was read, followed by a screening of the ROSL Centenary DVD. Manawatu Branch Chairman, Val Swann, reported on the presentation she made to the NZ Singing School of NZ\$1,000, which had been raised by the branch.

**New Zealand:** Lyn Milne, [royalo-s@xtra.co.nz](mailto:royalo-s@xtra.co.nz), [www.roslnz.org.nz](http://www.roslnz.org.nz)

## Switzerland

**Switzerland:** Jo Brown, +334 5040 6631

## Thailand

**Thailand:** Roger Willbourn, + 66 2649 2690, [info@roslthailand.com](mailto:info@roslthailand.com)

## UK

In March, **Bath** Branch members and guests enjoyed a lunch at the Bath and County Club, with guest speaker Central Council member Patricia Farrant, who discussed the 2011 Commonwealth Day theme, 'Women as Agents of Change'. Members in **Cheltenham** enjoyed Malcolm Kelsall's account of his life as a Professor of English at Hiroshima University in Japan; Brian Torode's illustrated talk on Regency buildings in the Tivoli area of Cheltenham; and Matthew Gemmill's enlightening talk on 'Changes in China'. All the talks were followed by afternoon tea. Also in March, branch members attended a buffet lunch at the Real China Restaurant to mark Commonwealth Day.

Members in **Edinburgh** were kept busy during the first quarter of the year, with a concert by the Menuhin scholars and a violin recital by Gina McCormack. At the February Arts Lunch, Dr Lesley Orr presented new details on the history of ROSL in Scotland. The guest speaker at the Commonwealth Day lunch was Tavish Scott MSP, Liberal Democrat leader in the Scottish Parliament. Also in attendance was the new Indian Consul General for Scotland, Anil Kumar Anand, and his wife Anu.

The **Exeter** Branch had a successful winter season, with well-attended meetings. Talks included the experience of a housewife in Sierra Leone by Marian Scott, and the 'Code Breakers of Bletchley Park' by Tony Smale.

At the **Glasgow** Branch meeting in February, members heard a talk from Kenneth Norris on



**SAMBURU TALK:** Pat Dixon and Cllr Nigel Stuart-Thorn from the Taunton Branch with speaker Roger Stoakley (r)



**CEREMONY:** The Governor of NSW (centre) at the Commonwealth Day event

the history of postage stamps. In March, Mae and Bill Barr gave a talk about their recent South Atlantic cruise to Antarctica.

The speaker at the Taunton Branch meeting in February was author and writer Roger Stoakley, who gave an update on his experiences of sponsoring a young Nigerian from the Samburu tribe, whose injured foot meant he could not take part in tribal life. In March, author and architectural historian Diana Crighton took members on a virtual tour through Somerset, from Frome in the east to Exmoor in the west, illustrating architectural gems, long-forgotten historical associations and literary connections.

In West Cornwall, the year began with a talk on the Hindu Kush, followed, in February, by a fascinating film about Thailand. Branch members were delighted to welcome ROSL Chairman, Sir Anthony Figgis, to the annual lunch in March. The West Sussex Branch held an informal lunch in February, and the branch AGM and lunch in March.

**Bath, Exeter, Taunton, Torbay:** Sally Roberts, 01823 661148, [sally@roslwest.org.uk](mailto:sally@roslwest.org.uk)

**Bournemouth:** Gordon Irving, 01258 480887, [westoverirving@aol.com](mailto:westoverirving@aol.com)

**Cheltenham:** Kathleen Northage, 01242 515540

**Edinburgh:** Bill Chalmers, 0131 5572754

**Glasgow:** Bill Agnew, 0141 8844290

**West Cornwall:** Ian Wood, 01736 333460

**West Sussex:** Marilyn Archbold, 01444 458853

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# On your bike

## Samantha Whitaker road tests the Barclays Cycle Hire scheme

I am, at best, a fair weather cyclist. So it has taken me a while to pluck up the courage to try out the Barclays Cycle Hire scheme. Nicknamed the 'Boris Bikes', this fleet of bicycles was launched in July 2010 as part of London Mayor Boris Johnson's 'cycling revolution'. Since then, 3.5 million journeys have been made. "London's blue bikes are simply the best way to travel", said Johnson. In the first six months, Londoners used them to cycle 10 million kilometres.

Of course there were teething problems, but it seems that there are now enough bikes – and enough people using them – for the system to work. And it really is easy. There are membership options, with 'keys' that give quick access to regular users, but for a casual ride all you need is a credit or debit card. You pay an access fee using a touch screen at the docking point – just £1 for 24 hours – and receive a four-digit release code that unlocks a bike. The first half hour is free; after that prices range from £1 for up to an hour to £50 for 24 hours. Technically, you can ride around all day for the £1 access fee: just dock your bike within 30 minutes, wait five minutes, and take another.

You can return the bike to any docking point, as long as there is space, and if there isn't, the screen will direct you to the nearest empty

docking point and grant you an extra 15 minutes to get there. The website shows the status of docking stations, while the handy 'London Bike' iPhone app, which costs just 59p, provides real-time information about the number of bikes and spaces available at the 20 docking stations closest to your location. Eco-friendly electric vehicles redistribute the bikes throughout the day, to try to prevent the docking stations becoming either full or empty.

There are currently 385 docking stations and 5,000 bicycles in circulation. Within walking distance of Over-Seas House there are four: the closest on Pall Mall, opposite St James's Palace. I picked up a bike in St James's Square and rode down The Mall to Buckingham Palace. The bikes are a little cumbersome, but feel sturdy: in laboratory tests they withstood 15

years worth of use. Each has a kick stand, dynamo-powered lights, a basket and a bell. I cycled along the side of Green Park, dismounted to cross the chaotic intersection at Hyde Park Corner, and looped round Hyde Park, across Serpentine Bridge and via the Rose Garden.

The cycle paths are clearly marked and on the roads there are wide cycle lanes. There are six docking stations within the park and I saw lots of other people on Boris Bikes. I docked mine at Constitution Hill, within the free half hour, but you could always stop for ice cream or to watch the boats on the Serpentine.

Another part of the 'cycling revolution' is the introduction of 12 Barclays Cycle Superhighways. These 1.5m-wide cycle lanes make it safer and easier to commute to the capital by bike. The aim is to increase cycling in London by 400%, by 2025, which should ease congestion on public transport and help to keep people fit. The number of cyclists on the two pilot routes, on the A24 and A13, has increased by 70% since 2009, and, of those asked, 75% said the Superhighway had improved safety for cyclists.

The future of the bikes seems positive. With summer approaching, there couldn't be a better time to get peddling and see London from a different perspective.

*In the first six months, Londoners used the bikes to cycle 10 million kilometres*



Visit [tfl.gov.uk/barclayscyclehire](http://tfl.gov.uk/barclayscyclehire) or call 0845 026 3630 for a free map and information on cycle safety and reporting damage. Remember to wear a helmet at all times.

# City of dreams

**Margaret Adrian-Vallance** discovers the wonders of Kiev on a short break to Ukraine's fairytale capital

**K**iev, capital of Russia in the Middle Ages and now of independent Ukraine, is a 'Narnia meets Hans Christian Andersen' kind of city, with towering cathedrals, golden minarets and hidden doorways; a place where you can see a chess set on a pin head and a flea wearing golden horseshoes. It leaves powerful memories that don't fade with time.

It's a different world, too: all signs are in Cyrillic script and very few people speak English. There are no tourist offices, so independent travellers should bring maps, alphabet, numbers and useful phrases in Ukrainian. We left Luton on a Wizz Air flight (£141.98 return) and arrived at Kiev Inn on Mykhailiv'ska Street around five hours later. My studio (US\$370 for three nights) had a kitchen, balcony, jacuzzi, slippers and powerful radiators – much appreciated as night temperatures were below freezing (although we could sit out on the balcony by day).

The main attractions were within walking distance, including the famous Pechersk Lavra (entrance £2). This is a UNESCO World Heritage

site, with cathedrals and museums built on top of an 11th-century monastery, which is known as The Far Caves and The Near Caves. The caves are notoriously difficult to find: an unmarked door at the back of a shop leads to winding, underground corridors, 6ft high and 3ft wide. You need to buy a candle to light the way. In alcoves are glass-topped caskets containing the remains of holy men.

Also on the extensive site is the Museum of Microminiatures (70p), where, through a microscope, you can see the pin-head chess set, horseshoe-wearing flea and a miniature rose inside a single hair, among other wonders.

Elsewhere, Kiev's streets are mostly tree-lined, so it is a pleasure to walk around. The view from the top of the Bell Tower at Saint-Sophia gives a glorious view of the city, and there are cobbled streets to walk down, markets to visit, and the food is great. You can have dinner with wine for about £7. There is also a magnificent Opera House, with tickets starting at around £5. I am already planning a return visit.



**MAGICAL WORLD:** The golden minarets of Saint-Sophia Cathedral

## LONDON

### What's on...



© BILL COOPER

#### English National Ballet: Roland Petit

London Coliseum

21-24 July

The famous French choreographer Roland Petit shapes a triple bill featuring *L'Arlésienne*, *Le Jeune Homme et la Mort* and the ever-popular *Carmen*.

**Tickets: £10-£67. Contact: 0871 911 0200 or [www.ballet.org.uk](http://www.ballet.org.uk)**

#### Watch Me Move: The animation show

Barbican Art Gallery

15 June-11 September

This exhibition of the last 150 years of animation brings together contemporary artists, animators, auteur filmmakers, experimental film and commercial studios, such as Disney and Aardman.

**Tickets: £7-£10. Contact: 0845 120 7550 or [www.barbican.org.uk](http://www.barbican.org.uk)**

#### 'Doctor Faustus' by Christopher Marlowe

Shakespeare's Globe

18 June-2 October

Its famous open-air stage makes the Globe the perfect summer venue for Marlowe's classic tale about the insatiable human desire for knowledge and power. Expect anarchic comedy and some of the greatest poetry ever written for the stage.

**Tickets: £15-£37.50. Contact: 020 7401 9919 or [www.shakespearesglobe.com](http://www.shakespearesglobe.com)**



**T**he mysterious waters of Loch Ness, one of the most iconic locations in Britain, beguile tourists from all over the world. You only have to glance briefly at the view to start imagining strange shapes on the surface, and rippling wakes from passing boats can take on a life of their own.

Operating a business in such a stunning location makes every day exciting for Highland company Cobbs, who consider themselves hugely privileged to have managed the Loch Ness Clansman Hotel there, for the last five years. Many of the hotel's 25 bedrooms overlook the loch, as does the observation bar and restaurant. There is even a mirrored wall in the restaurant that allows diners without a window table to view the loch's reflection as they eat. Guests can often be found gazing at the deep waters before them, wondering and pondering as they enjoy a dram.

Regular boat trips depart from the adjacent harbour, so the scene is always changing, with the comings and goings of small and large vessels ferrying visitors across the deep waters to the dramatic stronghold of Urquhart Castle, a much-visited and well-known local sight. The castle is a 5-star attraction, as is Jacobite Experience, which operates year-round cruises.

Six miles along the A82, towards Inverness, another lovely hotel sits amid extensive gardens and peaceful surroundings. With its log fires, comfy sofas and sumptuous bedrooms, Loch Ness Country House Hotel provides a tranquil setting for a Highland break. There is a gracious yet bucolic air about this place and it is a real 'home from home', despite being only two miles from Inverness city centre. Cobbs took over the reins here last year, installing a



**LOCH NESS COUNTRY HOUSE HOTEL:** From the garden (above) and the drawing room (r)

young management team to look after the growing business. This spring, a lovely function suite was created to accommodate the increasing number of couples choosing the hotel for their wedding receptions. Lunch and dinner can be taken at the renowned In the Park Restaurant, where French doors open onto a sunny terrace – just the spot for pre-dinner cocktails on long summer evenings.

Inverness has a vibrant centre, with an attractive riverside, boasting fabulous restaurants and shops to suit all tastes and budgets. Loch Ness is an ideal base from which to tour the Highlands of Scotland, where there are numerous castles, gardens, golf courses and distilleries. A scenic drive to the west brings you to the Isle of Skye, via Eilean Donan Castle and Loch Duich. As you travel further west, the Gaelic influence becomes stronger, as can be seen in the place names.

In the opposite direction, eastwards, you cannot fail to be awed by the majesty of the Cairngorm National Park, with its native woodlands, wide straths and winding rivers. Here you can follow the Whisky Trail and perhaps have your taste buds tantalised by a



few Speyside malts. To the north lies the rugged landscape of Sutherland, with the lovely town of Dornoch and the ornately beautiful Dunrobin Castle – Scotland's most northerly great house – at its heart. At the top of Scotland, at Caithness, sits the home of the Queen Mother, Castle of Mey and Gardens. And finally, on your homeward journey down the A9, the jewel that is Perthshire awaits.

**Cobbs, who now also manage ROSL's Edinburgh clubhouse, are offering special discounts to members at their two Highland hotels. Members will receive 25% off accommodation and food at both Loch Ness Clansman Hotel and Loch Ness Country House Hotel. Guests can book add-ons, such as tours, whisky tastings, golf outings, fishing and loch cruises. For further information, contact each hotel direct:**

**Loch Ness Clansman Hotel**

[www.lochnessview.com](http://www.lochnessview.com)

+44 (0)1456 450326

**Loch Ness Country House Hotel**

[www.lochnesscountryhousehotel.co.uk](http://www.lochnesscountryhousehotel.co.uk)

+44 (0)1463 230512

# Younger Members

## June-August 2011

### Garden party

Friday 24 June

Kick off the summer with this Inter-Club event at the Travellers Club. *Inter-Club details TBA.\**

### Henley Royal Regatta

Saturday 2 July

Enjoy this quintessential English summer event and treat yourself to a wonderful day with other ROSL members and guests alongside a beautiful stretch of the River Thames. Tickets (£140pp) include:

- Regatta Enclosure entrance badge
- Glass of champagne on arrival
- Exclusive table reservation all day (on a shared ROSL table) in the Regatta Restaurant overlooking the Thames
- Three-course lunch
- Henley Afternoon Tea
- Drinks (Pimm's, house wine, beer and soft drinks) from midday to 7pm.

*Transport to and from Henley is not included.*

### Cocktail reception

Friday 8 July

Event at the Hurlingham Club, with



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mixologist, music and canapés. *Inter-Club details TBA.\**

### Polo day out

Saturday 16 July

Join fellow ROSL Younger Members on a day trip to view some of the top polo players in Europe battle it out at the Guards Polo Club in Windsor (*pictured*).

Tickets (£35pp) include:

- Continental breakfast and bacon sandwiches at Over-Seas House

- Travel to and from Windsor
- Access to the Guards Polo Clubhouse with use of the bar
- Seats in the grandstand

*\* For further information on ROSL Younger Members and the Inter-Club Group, email Alex Pavry ([apavry@rosl.org.uk](mailto:apavry@rosl.org.uk)) or Conrad Purcell ([conradpurcell@hotmail.com](mailto:conradpurcell@hotmail.com)).*

### Mad Hatter's tea party

Thursday 28 July

Event at Over-Seas House. *Inter-Club details TBA.\**



## Journey to the east

The inter-club group kicked off the year in international style, says **Alexandra Pavry**

The 2011 Inter-Club calendar began with a unique voyage over mountains in Nepal, across the Indian desert and through the jungles of Mongolia, with Colonel John Blashford-Snell, one of the world's most renowned explorers. Inter-Club members were treated to vivid tales of the Colonel's encounters with wild animals, accompanied by clips and photographs, in the Travellers Club Library. Later, members had the chance to discuss the expedition with the Colonel over dinner in the club's Coffee Room.

To enhance Younger Members' taste for the exotic, the Oriental Club invited them to warm their cockles on a chilly February evening, by sampling their range of secret 19th-century curry recipes. 130 members attended, making



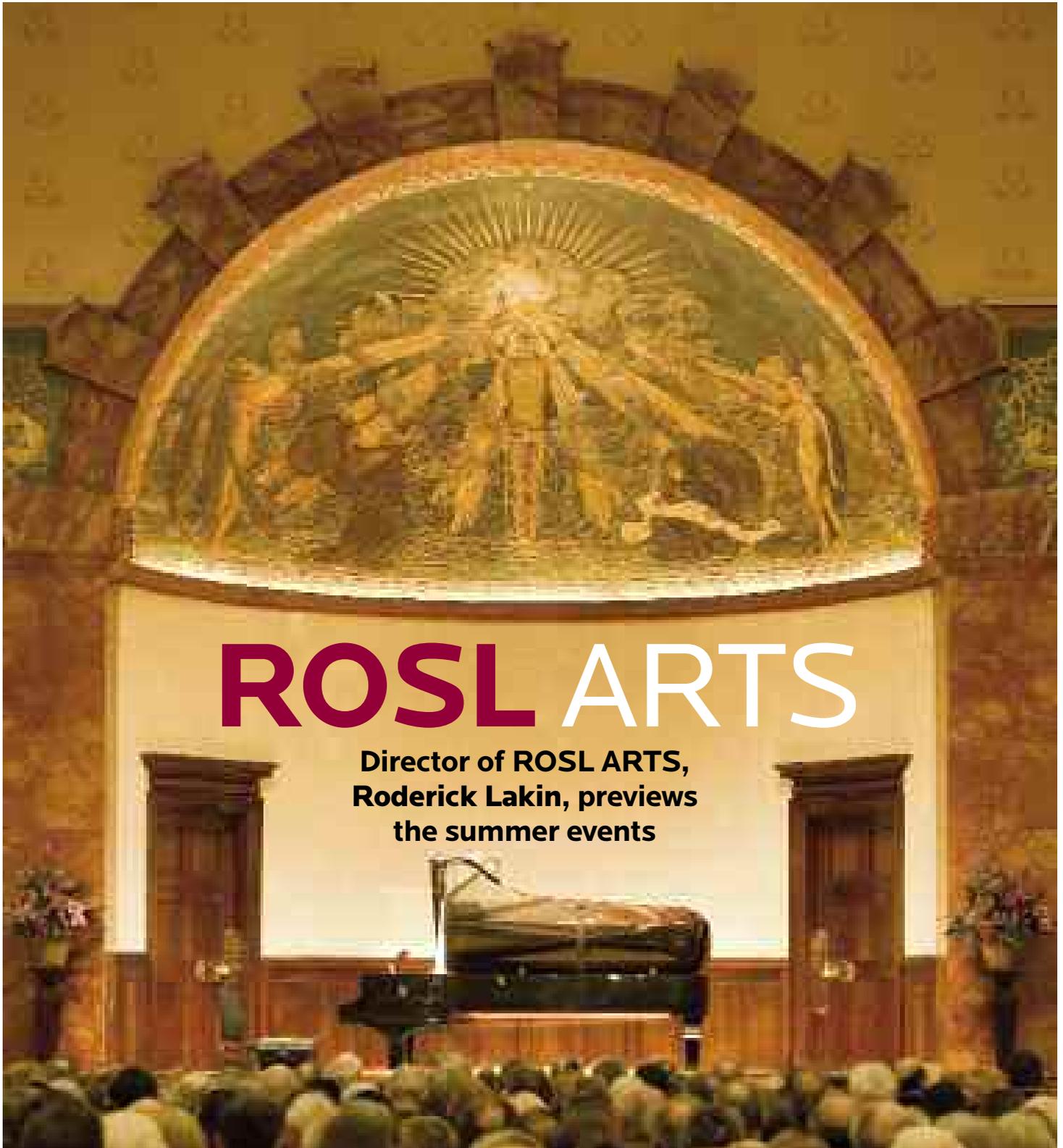
JAMES SCRIVENER

**TOP TALES:** Inter-Clubbers enjoy a drink with the renowned explorer Colonel John Blashford-Snell

it the Oriental's largest (and certainly most boisterous) Inter-Club event to date.

Better late than never, 120 Inter-clubbers celebrated Chinese New Year at the Oxford & Cambridge Club on Pall Mall. After a champagne reception, guests dined on crab and sweetcorn soup, followed by a range of dishes, including Chinese beef, chow mein and duck spring rolls. Caramelised banana and coconut ice cream followed, accompanied by a traditional fortune cookie and candied fruit.

To conclude the evening, O&C Younger Member Gerald Tan gave an informative talk about the history and origin of the New Year celebrations, and prizes were awarded for the best traditional dress.



# ROSL ARTS

Director of ROSL ARTS,  
Roderick Lakin, previews  
the summer events

## MUSIC EVENTS

### Wigmore Hall The Monday Platform ROSL Prizewinners

Monday 6 June, 7.30pm

The Rose Trio, Alex Hambleton (horn) and Ben Schoeman (piano) Music by Poulenc and Françaix compliments Mozart's *Quintet for Piano and Winds* K482. 'The best work I have ever composed.'

wrote Mozart in a letter to his father, in 1784, shortly after he completed the quintet.

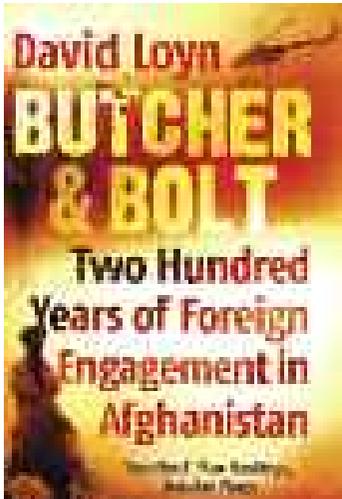
The 20th-century composer Poulenc, one of the few to have matched Mozart's facility in writing chamber works for wind, makes an ideal programme companion to the Mozart masterwork.

This concert showcases the

2010 ROSL Ensemble prizewinners, The Rose Trio, and the 2009 ROSL gold medallist, pianist Ben Schoeman.

**Tickets: £12 members and concessions; £10 Friends of ROSL ARTS (reduced from £15). Members and Friends tickets available only from ROSL ARTS, not from the Wigmore Hall Box Office.**

**PRIZE PERFECT:** ROSL prizewinners will perform at Wigmore Hall in June



**WAR STORY:** David Loyn comes to Over-Seas House, London

## BOOK EVENTS

Princess Alexandra Hall  
**David Loyn**

Thursday 16 June, 7pm

The International Development correspondent for the BBC talks about his experiences as a frontline TV reporter, covering the fall of the Berlin Wall, the rise of the Taliban in Afghanistan, the Asian tsunami and the Haiti earthquake.

His first book, *Frontline: The true story of the British mavericks who changed the face of war reporting*, was shortlisted for the Orwell Prize in 2005. *Butcher and Bolt* (2008) tells the story of 200 years of foreign engagement in Afghanistan.

**Tickets: £7; £6 ROSL members and concessions; £5 Friends of ROSL ARTS. Ticket includes a glass of wine.**

## Two Halves of Guinness

Friday 1 July, 7pm

In this lively and funny new play by Mark Burgess, Trevor Littleedale offers an uncanny portrayal of Sir Alec Guinness, one of the world's best-loved stars. The character reflects on acting, faith, family and his shattering insecurity, in this production, directed by Derek Parry and presented by Louise Chantal and Seabright Productions.

**Tickets: £12; £11 ROSL members and concessions; £10 Friends of ROSL ARTS. Ticket includes a glass of wine.**



**ON THE FRINGE:** Rhodes Piano Trio will perform at the Edinburgh clubhouse as part of ROSL ARTS's festival programme

## Caine Prize for African Writing

Friday 8 July, 7pm

This annual literary award offers a unique platform for some of the most distinctive new literary voices coming out of the continent. Its focus on the short story reflects the contemporary development of the African storytelling tradition. Five shortlisted authors for the 2011 prize will read from their nominated works.

**Tickets: £7; £6 ROSL members and concessions; £5 Friends of ROSL ARTS. Ticket includes wine and canapés.**

## FRIENDS OF ROSL ARTS EVENT Annual Champagne Garden Parties

As a thank you for the generous support Friends of ROSL ARTS have provided over the last year, ROSL ARTS are once again hosting two\* complimentary summer soirees, exclusive to Friends, on the following dates:

Wednesday 20 July, 6pm

Wednesday 7 September, 6pm

A champagne reception in the garden, with live music, is followed by an hour-long concert, in Princess Alexandra Hall, given by ROSL prizewinners. Afterwards there is a private view of the latest exhibition at Over-Seas House, with New World wines and sweet pastries.

*Please note this event is exclusive to Friends of ROSL ARTS*

*with one ticket per member.*

*\* Friends will be invited to choose one of these two dates.*

Now is the time to join Friends of ROSL ARTS, launched in 1999 to encourage new

**For tickets for ROSL ARTS events, contact 020 7408 0214 ext 324; [culture@rosl.org.uk](mailto:culture@rosl.org.uk).**

supporters, develop new audiences and to retain and foster the active involvement of our existing donors and sponsors. All income generated in 2011 will go towards the ROSL Centenary Appeal to endow the awards in the Annual Music Competition.

*Please help us to invest in future generations of artists, musicians and writers by becoming a Friend of ROSL ARTS. Annual membership is only £30 for ROSL members (£35 for non-members) and benefits include a free ROSL CD on joining, regular newsletters and invitations, and discounts on ROSL CDs, books at literary events and artwork. To become a Friend of ROSL ARTS, please call 020 7408 0214, ext 324 or email [culture@rosl.org.uk](mailto:culture@rosl.org.uk).*

## Over-Seas House, Edinburgh

ROSL ARTS @ Edinburgh Festival Fringe 2011  
Monday 15 - Friday 26 August

*"The best place to spot future talent is undoubtedly the Royal Over-Seas League music series." The Herald*

*"The concert I attended... took me so far from the High Street's madding crowd that I left the ROSL uplifted, exuberant... I'm sure I'll be back for more Bach, Mozart, tea and biscuits!" Three Weeks*

In August, ROSL ARTS once again heads to Scotland for the 12th Annual Series on the Edinburgh Festival Fringe. Presenting 30 concerts in 12 days, with titles such as the popular 'Bach for Breakfast' and 'Mozart at Teatime', the series is fast becoming a priority for discerning festival goers.

Musicians include Lazarus Quartet, Yeliana He (cello), Yasmin Rowe (piano), Abraham Singer (bass-baritone), Timothy End (piano), Sarah Beaty (clarinet), Sam Armstrong (piano), Finzi Quartet, Sadie Fields (violin), Rhodes Piano Trio, Helen Bevin (viola), John Paul Muir (piano), Jayson Gillham (piano) and James Sherlock (piano).

**Tickets £12; £10 ROSL members and concessions; £8 Friends of ROSL ARTS. Brochures with full programme details are available to download at [www.roslarts.org.uk](http://www.roslarts.org.uk), or from ROSL ARTS from July. To book, call 0131 225 1501 or email [reception@rosl-edinburgh.org](mailto:reception@rosl-edinburgh.org).**



## EDINBURGH

## What's on...

June-September 2011

**JUNE****Bridge Club lunch**

Friday 3 June, 12.30pm  
One-course lunch. Members may bring guests.  
*Tickets: £12. Includes sherry.*

**Scottish members' dinner**

Friday 10 June, 7pm  
Three-course dinner with talk on 'ROSL and Sir Evelyn Wrench' by Dr Alex May, Research Editor of the *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography*.  
*Tickets: £31. Includes reception drink, wine and coffee.*

**Coffee morning**

Saturday 11 June, 10.30am  
With a talk on 'Shopping in Edinburgh' by Neil Shaw.

**Arts lunch**

Wednesday 29 June, midday  
Two-course lunch with talk on 'Storytelling in Broadcast and Print' by Anna Magnusson, daughter of television presenter Magnus Magnusson.  
*Tickets: £17.50; ROSL members £16.50. Includes coffee and glass of wine.*



**TELLING STORIES:** Scottish radio producer and broadcaster on religious affairs, Anna Magnusson will speak at the June Arts Lunch

**JULY Friends of ROSL ARTS gala opera evening**

Wednesday 6 July, 6.30pm  
With students of the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama in Glasgow, followed by a two-course supper with wine.

*Tickets: £35; Friends of ROSL ARTS £30. Includes an opera-inspired cocktail on arrival.*

**AUGUST Scottish members' London visit**

Friday 29 July - Monday 1 August

A weekend trip to Over-Seas House, London, for members living in Scotland.

**ROSL on the Edinburgh International Festival Fringe 2011**

Monday 15 August - Friday 26 August, 9.30am, 2.30pm, 4pm and 10.30pm  
ROSL prizewinners and scholarship winners from around the Commonwealth perform. Leaflet available in July.

**Jane Austen Invites...**

Friday 26 - Saturday 27 August  
Founded by ROSL members Sue and David Humphreys, Theatre Someone brings this innovative production to the Edinburgh Fringe.

**SEPTEMBER Bank of Scotland Fireworks Dinner**

Sunday 4 September  
Includes cocktails on arrival, five-course dinner with wine, coffee and a malt whisky. There will be access to the roof so guests can enjoy the fireworks from the best vantage point in Edinburgh.

**June and July at Over-Seas House, Edinburgh**

Stay for three nights mid-week from £159 per person sharing a twin/double room (supplement for single person £59). Includes three nights' bed and full, cooked Scottish breakfast, and dinner on one night of your stay, plus a ticket for an open-top city bus tour and entrance to the Royal Yacht Britannia.

**Business rate**

Available Sunday-Thursday. Single occupancy £69 (£16 supplement for double occupancy), with a complimentary malt whisky (or other drink of your choice) night cap and a morning newspaper delivered to your room.



ROSL has arranged special promotions to help you enjoy your time in Edinburgh, with great offers at Mussel Inn and Oloroso restaurants, Edinburgh Tour bus, and Royal Yacht Britannia. For further details and up-to-date information on the discounts available, check with reception on arrival.

# Food and drink

## Private parties at Over-Seas House, London

The ROSL clubhouse offers the ideal setting for a memorable wedding reception, anniversary meal or birthday celebration. Convex Leisure offers a complete package for 10-150 guests, with fine cuisine and excellent service. You might choose a champagne and canapé reception in the private garden, followed by supper, or an informal buffet in one of the elegant private dining rooms, many of which overlook Green Park.

An event coordinator will offer advice and assistance, from your initial enquiry through to the end of your event. The team is experienced in the planning and implementation of events, and can be called upon to offer professional support and advice at any stage.



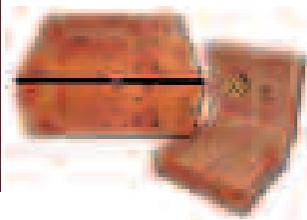
**SUMMER DINING:** The garden (above) and Mountbatten Room



## The garden

Soak up the sun in the peaceful ROSL garden with a delicious al fresco lunch. Sample the selection of cocktails, specially created for the garden menu. Garden lunch menu: Two courses: £17.90; three courses: £23.95. Full service from 23 May.

For more information, call 020 7491 3644 or email [ros1@convexleisure.co.uk](mailto:ros1@convexleisure.co.uk).



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# Members' events

June-August 2011

## JUNE

### Private tour of Fulham Palace

Tuesday 7 June, 2pm, £12, G  
Discover this architecturally eclectic, Grade I listed building and extensive grounds, used as the residence for the Bishops of London from c.700AD until 1973. Refreshments included.

### Afternoon tea at the House of Lords

Tuesday 28 June, 3.30pm, £30, G  
A chance to take afternoon tea in the historic Palace of Westminster. Hosted by ROSL President Lord Luce, tea will be served in the Cholmondeley Room in the House of Lords.

## JULY

### Glyndebourne Festival Opera: 'Don Giovanni'

Friday 1 July, £50, B  
Robin Ticciati, former Music Director of Glyndebourne on Tour and now Principal Conductor of the Scottish Chamber Orchestra, returns to conduct the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment in a vibrant realisation of Mozart's richly textured score. Tickets are for the Upper Circle slips.

### Henley Royal Regatta

Saturday 2 July, all day, £140, R

Tickets include: A Regatta Enclosure badge; exclusive table reservation all day (on a combined ROSL table) in the Regatta Restaurant, overlooking the Thames; a glass of champagne on arrival; a three-course lunch; Henley afternoon tea; and drinks (Pimm's, house wine, beer and soft drinks) from midday to 7pm. *Transport to and from Henley is not included.*

### From mills to medals

Tuesday 5 July, 2.15pm, £14, G  
An industrial walking tour through history, starting in the 18th century with Britain's oldest surviving tidal mill, passing the 'cathedral of sewage' and a working film studio, and ending with a viewpoint overlooking the 2012 Olympics site.



**ON THE WATERFRONT:** Inside the Regatta Enclosure at Henley

### All The Queen's men

Thursday 21 July, 2.30pm, £13, G  
A guided tour of the Guards Museum, offering a wealth of information and artefacts relating to the five regiments of Foot Guards: Grenadier, Coldstream, Scots, Irish and Welsh Guards, who, along with the Household Cavalry, make up HM's Household Division. Includes tea/coffee.

### Royal Fabergé at Buckingham Palace

Thursday 11 August, 11.30am, £20, R  
Visit the Buckingham Palace State Rooms, lavishly furnished with many of the greatest treasures from the Royal Collection, including paintings by Van Dyck and Canaletto, sculptures by Canova, and some of the finest English and French furniture in the world. This summer, the State Rooms will also house a dazzling exhibition of the most outstanding examples of Fabergé's craftsmanship.

## AUGUST

### Glyndebourne Festival Opera: 'Rinaldo'

Friday 5 August, £30, B  
Following on from productions of *Theodora*, *Rodelinda* and *Giulio Cesare*, Glyndebourne continues to celebrate the genius of Handel with its first staging of *Rinaldo*, the work with which he made his sensational London debut – and the first Italian opera specifically created for the British stage. Tickets are for the Upper Circle standing.

### ROSL falconry display

Sunday 21 August, 4.30pm, £26, G  
A live display and talk by Countrywide Falconry's Head Falconer Randal Carey, who will bring a selection of owls, hawks, eagles and falcons to

## 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 note: A booking confirmation will be sent within 10 working days of receiving the application. Refunds can only be given if cancellations are made at least 15 days in advance. 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.*



**BIRD'S EYE VIEW:** See the Falconry display at Over-Seas House

the ROSL garden. Members will have the opportunity to discover more about these incredible creatures and have a go at handling them. Refreshments included in ticket price.

**Tour of Clarence House**

Wednesday 24 August, 4.30pm, £37, R

An exclusive guided tour of the official London residence of

The Prince of Wales and The Duchess of Cornwall, and of Princes William and Harry – formerly the London home of HM Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother. This tour will include the Cornwall Room, not available on a normal day visit, and a view of the enchanting garden. A glass of champagne and copy of the official guidebook are included in the ticket price.

**Chairman's Lunch**

Tuesday 15 November, midday, £55, G

Drinks will be served before this sumptuous three-course lunch at Over-Seas House, London, hosted by the ROSL Chairman, Sir Anthony Figgis. The guest of honour and speaker will Lord Wright of Richmond GCMG, a former British diplomat and Head of HM Diplomatic Service.



**PRIVATE TOUR:** The Morning Room at Clarence House

..... ✂

## Members' events Application form

**Please complete this form (or photocopy) and send to:** Alexandra Pavry, PR Department (Members Events), Over-Seas House, Park Place, St James's Street, London SW1A 1LR. **Tel:** 020 7016 6906. **Email:** apavry@rosl.org.uk. It is advisable to call in advance to reserve a ticket

**Membership No** .....

**Name** .....

**Name of guest(s)**  
and trip they are attending:

.....

.....

.....

EVENT	DATE	PRICE	NO.
Private tour of Fulham Palace	Tue 7 Jun	£12	..... £ .....
Tea at the House of Lords	Tue 28 Jun	£30	..... £ .....
Henley Royal Regatta	Sat 2 Jul	£140	..... £ .....
From mills to medals	Tue 5 Jul	£14	..... £ .....
All The Queen's men	Thu 21 Jul	£13	..... £ .....
Royal Fabergé at Buckingham Palace	Thu 11 Aug	£20	..... £ .....
ROSL falconry display	Sun 21 Aug	£26	..... £ .....
Tour of Clarence House	Wed 24 Aug	£37	..... £ .....
Chairman's Lunch	Tue 15 Nov	£55	..... £ .....

**Address** to which ticket(s) should be sent:

.....

.....

.....

**BALLOTTED EVENTS** DO NOT SEND PAYMENT YET. YOU WILL ONLY BE CONTACTED IF SUCCESSFUL.  
Maximum TWO tickets per member.

	No of tickets:	Apply before:
Glyndebourne: <i>Don Giovanni</i>	Fri 1 Jul	..... Fri 17 Jun
Glyndebourne: <i>Rinaldo</i>	Fri 5 Aug	..... Fri 22 Jul

**Tel no** .....

**Payment – Please send a SEPARATE CHEQUE for each event.**  
Cheques (sterling) payable to ROSL. For CREDIT/DEBIT CARD PAYMENTS call 020 7016 6906

CHRISTOPHER SIMON SYMES: THE ROYAL COLLECTION © 2010 HER MAJESTY QUEEN ELIZABETH II



**HISTORY TOUR:**  
Visit historic York  
in September

# Discussion Group & 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, no need to book and all ROSL members and guests are welcome.

Contact *John Edwards*,  
01732 883556,  
[johncoatesedward@aol.com](mailto:johncoatesedward@aol.com).

## Does Britain's Foreign Policy still need a Foreign Office?

13 June

With Lord Jay of Ewelme, former British diplomat and Permanent Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.

## UK Defence Cuts: The cut too far

11 July

With Lieutenant Colonel Chris Parker, a former Chief of Staff in the Middle East and well-known television commentator on security and strategic issues.

*The Discussion Group does not meet in August and September.*

## LONDON GROUP

Meetings and outside visits are open to currently subscribed London Group members and their occasional guests. ROSL members staying overnight at Over-Seas House, London, are also welcome.

To become a member of the London Group, ask for an application form from the PR Department, or from the London Group Honorary Membership Secretary c/o Porters' Desk at Over-Seas House, London.



For more information, contact *Pamela Voice (Chairman)*,  
[pawallingtonvoice@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:pawallingtonvoice@yahoo.co.uk).

## Meetings

On the third Thursday of each month, at 6.30pm, at Over-Seas House, London.

## Sir John Betjeman: His life, times and enthusiasms

16 June

An illustrated talk, by lecturer and author Andrew Davies, on the people and places beloved of the poet, historian, conservationist and performer (pictured, left).

## Japanese Architecture, Gardens and Tea Culture

21 July

Illustrated talk by Suzanne Perrin, Cultural Director of Japan Interlink London, on the history of Japanese architecture and tea houses.

## Passenger Aviation in London

18 August

London Group Minutes Secretary, Jonathan Lewin, on the growth of Heathrow

Airport and its effect on transport infrastructure in the region.

## Outside visits

For more information, contact *Doreen Regan*, 020 7584 5879. To apply for events, write to Doreen Regan, London Group, c/o Porters' Lodge, Over-Seas House, London. Enclose a cheque payable to London Group ROSL and a stamped addressed envelope.

## The Ismaili Centre

26 July, 2pm

Guided tour of the Ismaili cultural and religious centre, including the meeting rooms, social hall, prayer hall and delightful roof garden.

*Tickets: LG members £10; guests £12.*

## York

1-5 September

Four nights in historic York with guided tours throughout. Return coach to York and 4-star accommodation. *Cost: £495pp, sharing a double room (some single rooms available at a supplement). Personal travel insurance not included. All ROSL members and guests welcome.*

# SHORT BREAKS

## FOR DISCERNING TRAVELLERS



Why not treat yourself to a great short break? Whether that means staying in a characterful pensione or the grandest luxury hotel, or perhaps dining at a great gastronomic restaurant or enjoying your favourite opera. Whatever your travel plans for 2011, we offer over 140 destinations in 40 countries – including 70 cities throughout Europe, the Mediterranean, North Africa, Southern Africa & India and would be delighted to help you to create the perfect tailor-made solution. If you book with Kirker, you can rest assured that we will take full responsibility for the smooth running of every aspect of your holiday.

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Independent holidays for individuals including flights, return transfers or car hire, accommodation with breakfast, Kirker Guide Notes to restaurants, museums and sightseeing and the services of the Kirker Concierge to book concert and opera tickets or reserve a table for a delicious dinner.

#### PRAGUE

Paris ★★★★★

In the heart of the atmospheric 'old town', the Paris is one of Prague's best known traditional hotels and one of the few where all the public rooms are still in the original Art Nouveau style. All bedrooms have been renovated recently. Prague offers a comprehensive and affordable opera programme in three ornate opera houses – contact the Kirker concierge for schedules and prices

3 nights for the price of 2 - price from £632 per person, saving £118. Valid all year

#### MADEIRA

Choupana Hills ★★★★★

This stylish, contemporary hotel is located near the centre of Funchal, on a tranquil hillside, with views over the Atlantic Ocean. There are 63 bedrooms located in the subtropical gardens; each with a large balcony and spectacular views. There is a spa, indoor and heated outdoor swimming pool and an outstanding restaurant. Choupana is perfect as a place to relax and unwind.

4 nights for the price of 3 - price from £738 per person, saving £136. Valid all year

#### TUSCANY

Relais La Suvera 'Dimora Storica'

Located on a hillside 18 miles west of Siena and close to the towns of Volterra and San Gimignano, La Suvera is a beautiful relais dating back to the Middle Ages. It is decorated with an extraordinary

collection of antiques including ancient manuscripts, tapestries and paintings by Ingres. The heated swimming pool and tennis court are set in beautiful landscaped grounds with statues, fountains and cypress trees. There are two restaurants and a health centre.



5 nights for the price of 4 from 15 May - price from £1,248 per person, saving £198

### CULTURAL TOURS & MUSIC HOLIDAYS

Small exclusive groups of like-minded travellers in the company of an expert tour leader

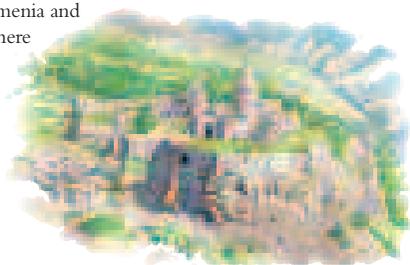
#### A JOURNEY THROUGH ARMENIA & GEORGIA

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Our escorted tour to these two contrasting countries makes for a splendid introduction to a little known but richly historic region. Both countries boast breathtaking mountainous scenery and proudly maintain their separate cultural identities through a strong link with their past. Visits include Zvartnots Cathedral and Geghard Monastery in Armenia and Tblisi and Gori in Georgia where we will visit the Josef Stalin museum.

Price from £2,346 per person including ten dinners and lunches, visas and comprehensive sightseeing as described.

Departs 13 September 2011



#### THE KIRKER MUSIC FESTIVAL ON ISCHIA

Join us for a spectacular week of music, performed at the very highest level on this exclusive holiday in the glorious Bay of Naples. Melvyn Tan, the Sacconi Quartet and Joan Rodgers will perform in a wonderfully varied programme of music by Rameau, Mozart, Chausson and many more. Concerts are given at La Mortella, the fabled garden created by the late Lady Walton, a few minutes drive away from the 5 star Hotel San Montano where the holiday is based. The concerts are not open to the public and all the musicians have been engaged by us. A half day guided tour of Ischia is included and there are optional excursions available to Pompeii and to Herculaneum and the Villa Oplontis.

Price from £1,995 per person for 7 nights including seven dinners and seven concerts.

Departs 18 October 2011



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# A LEGACY OF VALOUR

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We provide financial, medical and community aid for brave Gurkha soldiers who face destitution or hardship in their twilight years. Did you know that you can help repay our debt of honour to the Gurkhas with a gift in your Will?

For nearly 200 years, the Gurkhas have fought alongside us and helped keep our peace. Today, they continue to do so. Famed for their courage and loyalty, Gurkhas have been awarded a remarkable 13 Victoria Crosses.

They return to their desperately poor homeland, with no welfare system whatsoever. For those who face hardship in old age, the Gurkha Welfare Trust is often their only lifeline.

Today, 9,600 ex-Gurkha soldiers and widows rely on us for a monthly welfare pension, with many more looking to us for medical care, emergency aid and community support. Our debt of honour to these gallant, courageous men means we must never abandon them or their families; especially when so many now find themselves impoverished.

The young men of Nepal have never let US down. When they become old men, we must never let THEM down. That is why your bequest can help us fulfil our long term commitments to the gallant Nepalese Gurkha.

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