

OVERSEAS

Quarterly journal of the ROSL

Issue 2, June-August 2012



Let the Games begin

An alternative view of London 2012 from Oceania's hopes to Shakespeare in Urdu

Forging links

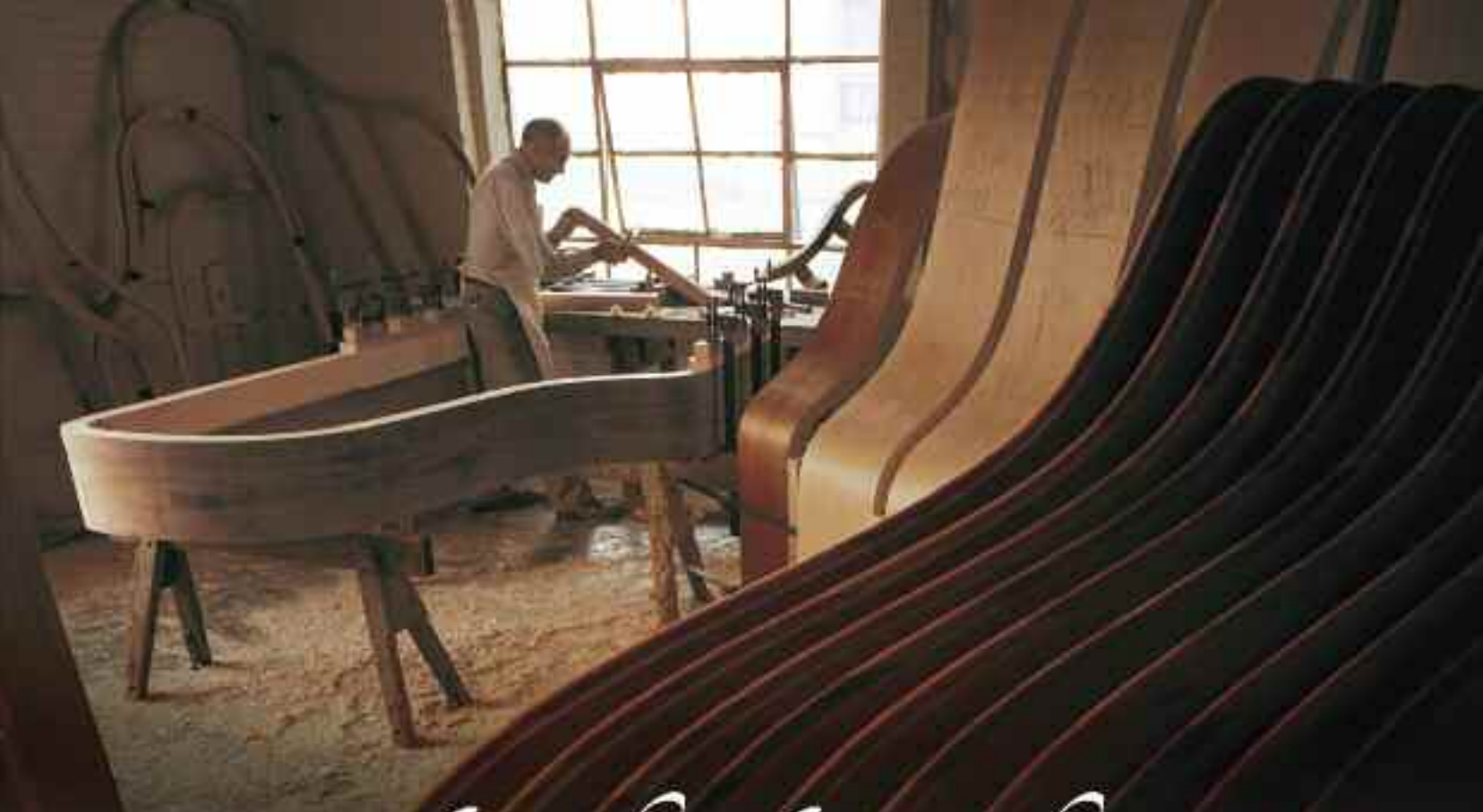
New showcase for organisations with ROSL membership schemes and benefits

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**From the Director-General;
 Editor's letter** 4

World

World of movement 5

One of the Cultural Olympiad highlights: a dance series inspired by cities across the globe

Oceania goes for gold 6

What would it mean for some of the world's smallest nations to win an Olympic medal?

Golden opportunities 8

Why the Games are introducing spectators to little known, yet inspiring Paralympic sports

Staging Pakistan 10

Tracking the difficult journey to London of an inventive Urdu adaptation of one of Shakespeare's best-known comedies

Alone in Antarctica 12

Felicity Aston answers our questions about her incredible lone journey across the South Pole

My Buenos Aires 14

Former *Overseas* Editor, Vicky Baker, offers her recommendations for a trip to the city

ROSL news

News and views 16

The latest from the ROSL clubhouses

**Annual Report 2011
 summary** 17

ROSL world 18

An Aussie club crawl 20

From the Brisbane Polo Club to the Karrakatta Club, a review of some Australian reciprocals

Young Artist 2012 21

Announcing the 17-year-old Thai winner

Special links 22

A new series on ROSL's organisational membership scheme launches with a look at the Royal Academy; plus Grange Hotels

FRONT COVER: A London 2012 test event, the London-Surrey Cycle Classic begins on The Mall in August 2011. Top British rider Mark Cavendish went on to win © LOCOG

12



© KASPERKY ONE TRANSPARENT EXPEDITION

Harping on 23

Why world-renowned harpist Ieuan Jones has been serenading ROSL diners for 30 years

Books 24

In the UK

Exploring the Lothians 25

Spectacular day-trips from Over-Seas House, Edinburgh, including a visit to Kelso Races

Krakow: worth its salt 26

Why this Polish city makes a great destination for a short break from the London clubhouse

What's on: London 26

Top arts and cultural events this summer

Events

Younger Members 27

Forthcoming events; plus a review of the 2012 Inter-Club calendar so far

ROSL ARTS 28

Including 'A Musical Bouquet for Her Majesty'

Members' events 30

Food and drink: London ... 32

What's on: Edinburgh 33

**Discussion Group and
 London Group** 34

From the Director-General



Summer is upon us and we are keenly anticipating the Olympic Games, which open soon. This year of almost continuous celebration began, in March, with the Commonwealth Observance Day service in Westminster Abbey. This annual landmark also acted as a fitting 'curtain raiser' to the celebration of The Queen's Diamond Jubilee. In her Commonwealth Day message, Her Majesty emphasised that 'Connecting Cultures' (the 2012 Commonwealth theme) should be about strengthening "the bond of Commonwealth citizenship we already enjoy, by using our cultural connections to help bring us even closer together, as family and friends across the globe". This theme lies at the heart of ROSL's mission. Our own celebrations this year, within and beyond the Commonwealth, are not simply about enjoyment of the occasion; they are also very much about strengthening the social and cultural bonds that unite us.

We will be marking the commencement of the Olympic and Paralympic Games with a special event on Friday 27 July (see page 30), and will hold a reception for the Kenyan Olympic team at Over-Seas House in July. Television facilities will be available to members for the duration. Road closures and diversions are inevitable but we will hold a social gathering each evening, for members staying at the London clubhouse, at which we can brief you on Olympic events and answer questions; details will be available at the clubhouse.

We learned with great sadness of the death of one of our ROSL vice-presidents, Lady (Patricia) Gore-Booth, on 2 February; many members will have known her and read her obituary in the newspapers. Lady Gore-Booth led a most distinguished life, acting as Aung San

NEXT CHAPTER: Maj Gen Roddy Porter with his wife Marianne (left) and President of the Ontario Chapter, Ishrani Jaikaran, during his visit to the Chapter in October

Suu Kyi's guardian, and co-founding the Britain-Burma Society and Prospect Burma, an organisation supporting Burmese students. We are also deeply grateful for everything she contributed towards ROSL.

I would like to express my thanks to Claire Simon and Alex Pavry for producing the 2011 ROSL Annual Report, available to members on request from the Public Relations Department (see summary on page 17). It is a good read, summarising last year's activities and reflecting on another year during which a satisfactory surplus of income was achieved, full use was made of our facilities in London and Edinburgh, and all branches held a wide range of events.

Membership declined in 2011 to just under 16,000, but we also welcomed more than 1,400 new members. Membership is our life blood, so I encourage everyone to play their part in introducing family, friends and colleagues. We have much to offer in the months ahead and I am planning year-on-year refurbishments and improvements in both clubhouses to enhance your membership. There is much to be enjoyed at ROSL this summer and I look forward to meeting you at our events.

In order to make communication with members more effective, we would like to do much more via email. Therefore I ask all members who have an email address to let us know by emailing membership@rosl.org.uk.

Roddy Porter

Editor's letter

As we go to press, talks are already taking place at Over-Seas House about how to cope with the travel and postal restrictions during the



Games. For me, the potential problems are immense; I am based in East London, in the heart of the Olympics area, and am still unsure what to expect. A pop-up campsite is set to bring 10,000 visitors a day, music and live entertainment to the area, but many residents have yet to secure tickets to any of the events. Despite these gripes, I can't help but be excited by the prospect of this major sporting event coming to London.

Already the Cultural Olympiad is bringing us gems such as the Globe to Globe Shakespeare Festival (page 10), with 'World Cities: 2012' (page 5) and other exciting dance, music and theatre extravaganzas set to follow. Our Focus on London 2012 celebrates the hope and magic of the Games, and their potential to make a real change to people's lives. With so much Olympics coverage, we asked ourselves if we could really run any new material on the subject, but our articles on the medal chances of the Pacific Islands (page 6) and the unique Paralympic sports (page 8) provide two very different and truly inspiring perspectives.

Another sporting inspiration, Felicity Aston reports back on her journey across Antarctica alone (page 12). Hers is an incredible story of determination and perseverance through some of the harshest and most beautiful terrain in the world.

Finally, if you have ever dined in the ROSL Restaurant, you may well have enjoyed music from one of the world's foremost solo harpists, Ieuan Jones. We celebrate the ROSL Gold Medallist's 30-year role as ROSL harpist on page 23. For the chance to hear other outstanding musicians and ROSL ARTS Finalists, including the 2011 winner, Sean Shibe, please see the details for forthcoming events (page 28).

Miranda Moore

World of movement

Samantha Whitaker on one of the highlights of the London 2012 Festival

When German choreographer Pina Bausch was asked to create a dance for London to mark the 2012 Games, she refused. "Pina said that London was too fragmented, too much a multiple-personality city," recalls Michael Morris, Director of Cultural Industry, who worked with Bausch for more than 20 years.

Instead, an idea was born to bring to London 10 existing co-productions by Bausch's company, Tanztheater Wuppertal, each based on a different global city. "The Cultural Olympiad presented the perfect opportunity, as the collaborative spirit of Bausch's work counterpoints the competition between nations that exists in the Games," explains Morris.

Bausch died suddenly in 2009, just five days after being diagnosed with cancer. But by then work on 'World Cities 2012' was well under way. The series will run for six weeks during the London 2012 Festival, the culmination of a four-year Cultural Olympiad designed to inspire and celebrate creativity across all forms of culture. For Festival Director, Ruth Mackenzie, "Bausch's great work is unforgettable and will be a highlight of the festival." Such an ambitious staging, involving 75 dancers, was only made possible through funding from the Cultural Olympiad.

Bausch was appointed choreographer at Wuppertal in 1973 and quickly began to make her unique mark on the dancing world. "There is an atmosphere of questioning, but it's very playful. People tend to see her work as bleak, but there is always a lot of laughter. She had a tremendous sense of humour," recalls Morris.

"There are moments of joy, despair, hope, loss and terror. Then everything from the rehearsal is distilled and presented on stage." The result is *tanztheater* ('dance theatre'), a much-imitated fusion of dance and drama, with elaborate set designs, costumes and props, where the dancers mime, laugh and cry, and speak aloud self-penned monologues.

In 1986, the first global collaboration, 'Viktor', was commissioned for Rome. Other cities followed suit, and over the next 23 years the group travelled around the world, from India to Brazil, Hong Kong to Los Angeles. "As guests of the local commissioner of the piece, the company were able to soak up the atmosphere and were shown unusual things that they might not otherwise have seen," says Alistair Spalding,

Chief Executive and Artistic Director of Sadler's Wells, which is co-hosting 'World Cities 2012'.

When the dancers returned home after each trip, Bausch asked them to perform what they had discovered. She once said she was "not interested in how people move, but in what moves them". The result of the collaborative improvisations was a series of choreographic travelogues, each one deeply informed by its host location. "In the case of 'Palermo, Palermo' (1989), for example, the dishevelled city, with buildings falling down in disrepair, is recreated literally with the dancers picking their way over rubble on stage," says Spalding.

The intricate and complex stage designs, by Bausch's longstanding collaborator Peter Pabst, meant that it would be impossible to present the whole series in just one theatre, as each project takes several days to set up. The works will therefore be split between Sadler's Wells and the Barbican, an unprecedented collaboration between two usually competing dance venues.

Dominique Mercy and Robert Sturm, the new Directors of Tanztheater Wuppertal, have said that being part of London 2012 is "an amazing and outstanding homage to Pina Bausch and a great honour". Spalding is only sorry Bausch herself couldn't be there. "For her, it would have been a break; the company are rarely in the same place for more than two weeks."

Samantha Whitaker is a Sub-Editor at Sunday Publishing and a former Deputy Editor of Overseas.

The dancers mime, laugh and cry, and speak aloud self-penned monologues

Tanztheater Wuppertal Pina Bausch: 'World Cities 2012', 6 June - 9 July.

Sadler's Wells, +44 (0)844 412 430; www.sadlerswells.com.

The Barbican, +44 (0)845 120 7550; www.barbican.org.uk.

LEAP OF FAITH:

The Kolkata-inspired 'Bamboo Blues', one of 10 works in the 'World Cities 2012' series



© ANGELOS GIOTPOULOS

FOCUS

Oceania goes for gold

Most Pacific Islands have yet to win a medal at the Olympics. So what would it mean to their athletes to bring home the gold? By **Catherine Quinn**

As any world map will tell you, the Pacific Islands are but a drop in the ocean. Sprinkled across a wide stretch of the Pacific between New Zealand and South America, the many small islands start at a mere eight miles across. Even the largest, Papua New Guinea, hosts a population only slightly larger than London.

With such a small pool of potential Olympians, and fairly restricted international-standard training facilities, it is perhaps no wonder that the islands of the South Pacific have yet to win an Olympic gold. The nearest has been a silver medal back in 1996, won for Tonga by native boxer Paea Wolfgramm.

With South Pacific athletes traditionally performing well in weightlifting at Commonwealth Games, many natives are looking to this sport to bring home the medals. But 2012 also promises a new diversity for Pacific Island competitors, with more Olympic qualifiers than ever before.

One such hopeful is canoeist Ella Nicholas, who is representing the Cook Islands. Nicholas was born in New Zealand but is native to the Cook Islands on her father's side, and boasts an enormous extended family on the island of Aitutaki. "It means so much that I'm competing on behalf of the Cooks," says Nicholas. "It's not like with bigger countries where there are so many entrants you can't really follow them. On the Cooks people really do get behind the few who make it to the Olympics."

Having landed in London back in April, Nicholas has been training hard to familiarise herself with the course, and has dedicated herself to making her nation proud. "I'm having so much fun, the facilities are amazing!" says Nicholas of the newly built Lee Valley White Water Centre, where the competition will take

place. "It's so exciting to try it out, and very different to what I've trained with back home. I've cut out the gym part of my training so that I know the course really well by the time I come to compete."

With an £800-a-month grant from the International Olympic Committee's Olympic Solidarity Fund, Nicholas has been able to gain access to better training and international events that would otherwise have been closed



NEAR MISS: In Beijing, Samoan weightlifter Ele Opeloge came fourth in her category

"On the Cooks people really do get behind the few who make it to the Olympics"





to her. "The sponsorship has been extremely valuable to me," she explains. "It's really hard for the Cook Islands to send athletes to the Olympics because the country doesn't have a lot of money."

So, do the Pacific Islands stand a chance of winning a medal this year? With small populations and a financial disadvantage compared to large nations, the islands tend to focus on only a few disciplines – those which utilise the natural strength and height of the populace, including weightlifting, and water-based sports such as swimming. The current wisdom is that the few athletes in these categories have done well to simply get through. But there is always hope that some will return home with a medal.

For some countries, such as the tiny eight-mile long Nauru, the pride of qualifying is more than enough. But others are tipped for big things in 2012. Weightlifters Wendy Hale of the Solomon Islands and Ele Opeloge from Samoa have proved themselves world-class. While Papua New Guinea swimmer Ryan Pini won gold at the Melbourne Commonwealth Games in 2006, and despite a disappointing performance in Beijing 2008, hopes to do well this year.

"It hasn't really sunk in yet that I've qualified," says Pini. "But things are looking good in terms of my training." The swimmer has moved from his native island to Australia in

order to access the best training facilities, and concedes that South Islanders are disadvantaged in this respect.

"It was tough back home," he says, "the pool was often closed when I wanted to train, and it was difficult to find other athletes who were of the same standard to train against. But there is a real camaraderie amongst the South Islanders, and athletes from New Zealand and Australia too. We're all usually staying in the same area when we're competing, so we see quite a lot of each other."

Pini has also benefitted from sponsorship, and as one of an expanding number of athletes from smaller nations, is proving the importance of the IOC Solidarity Fund. "The fund is designed to help smaller National Olympic Committees to prepare and qualify their athletes for the Olympic Games," explains Sandrine Tonge of the International Olympics Committee (IOC), based in Switzerland.

"The programme includes access to top-class training facilities and coaches at home or abroad; medical assistance; board and lodging costs; and a fixed subsidy to enable athletes to compete in Olympic qualification events."

The IOC are understandably proud of their achievements, and have grown their sponsorship candidates from 939 for Athens 2004 to 1,088 in the 2008 Beijing Games, to 1,220 for London 2012. The funding has helped to secure medals for athletes from India and Afghanistan

TRAINING: Cook Islands canoeist Ella Nicholas has been in London since April, training at the Olympic venue for her sport: the new Lee Valley White Water Centre

who otherwise wouldn't have been able to train. In Oceania, Tuvalu and the Marshall Islands competed for the first time in Beijing, thanks to this support. "The priority for the IOC is to focus primarily on athletes who need funding the most, and place them on an equal footing with their competitors from more developed regions of the world," explains Sandrine.

For athletes from the tiny islands of Oceania, the funding means the chance both to compete and to experience the wider world beyond island life. "It's an amazing experience," says Ryan Pini. "The fund helps make the Olympics available to more people. The greater the number of South Pacific athletes who compete, the more recognition the islands will have on a world stage and the more locals will realise the opportunity exists. The chance to be able to travel, experience different cultures, and potentially the glory of medalling for your country – it's just too good to pass up."

Freelance journalist Catherine Quinn writes for numerous publications, including The Times, The Guardian and The Telegraph.

FOCUS

Golden opportunities

Jessica Moore gets a crash course in some of London 2012's lesser known sports from our top Paralympians

Expect to learn something from the London 2012 Paralympic Games. After the Olympics has delivered a host of familiar sports – among them swimming, athletics, boxing and 23 other stalwarts – the Paralympics could open eyes and minds to new events.

“We introduce people to lesser-known Paralympic sports by linking them to an equivalent able-bodied sport,” explains Craig Spence, Media and Communication Director at the International Paralympic Committee (IPC). “Powerlifting is essentially weightlifting – bench

pressing. Boccia is effectively crown green bowls, but in a wheelchair.” Then there’s goalball. “Goalball is a very interesting sport,” says Spence. “Have you seen the film *Dodgeball...*?”

For those who missed it, *Dodgeball* was a 2004 comedy blockbuster that saw Hollywood sillymen Will Ferrell and Ben Stiller throwing balls at each other at high speeds and with alarming ferocity. “Goalball is just like that, but you’re totally visually impaired,” says Spence. Another key difference is that the goalball has bells inside, so the athletes – two teams of three players – rely on their hearing to block



and pass it. All competitors are blindfolded to ensure their impairment is the same. “The ball travels at up to 80km an hour, so your body is on the line. It’s one of the most popular sports at the Paralympics. Those who watch it at London 2012 will see some of the best goalkeepers in the world.”

Strategic play

Boccia is the chalk to goalball’s cheese. While the latter is high-octane, “boccia can be quite slow,” says Leslie Halicki, Boccia Committee Chair at the Cerebral Palsy International Sports and Recreation Association (CPIISRA).

“Experienced players can spend a lot of time strategising.” The game, which was first introduced to the Paralympics in 1984, is for athletes with a locomotor disability. Players are divided into four classifications, and the object is to propel a ball closest to the ‘jack’. With number-one-ranked player Nigel Murray, Team GB fancies its chances of gold this year.

Powerlifting, meanwhile, is about brute strength. These are no ordinary bench-pressers. “The world record-holder can lift the equivalent weight of two baby elephants,” says Spence. The sport has been at the Games since 1964, and today it is practiced in about 100 countries, by lower limb amputees, people with spinal cord injuries, and athletes with cerebral palsy.

While each of these three sports is internationally successful, “We need to raise awareness,” says Spence, whose organisation acts as the international federation for powerlifting. “The two top powerlifting nations are Iran and Iraq – countries with a history of hostility – so the atmosphere when they



“In China, people with a disability were excluded. The Games changed all that”

INSPIRATION: The 2008 Swedish men’s team for goalball, a fast-paced, high-octane sport for the visually impaired



PICTURES © LEWIS COOPER

ROLE MODEL:
In Beijing, Zoe Robinson was the youngest member of the GB boccia team, playing alongside silver medallist Nigel Murray, Dan Bentley and David Smith

role models growing up, because I've always wanted to be involved, but I hadn't even heard of goalball until 2008, when I was 15," says Ottaway.

She joined a local team in Norwich in December that year. By 2010, she was training with the national women's squad. "That was a bit of a shock," she laughs. "The coach offered me the chance to go to one of their training camps, as an experience. At the end of that weekend, they said I had potential and invited me to keep training with them." Both the British men's and women's goalball teams have qualified for London 2012. "I'm training hard," says Ottaway. "We have to go for the dream – and that's the gold medal at a home Games."

Determination

Jawad echoes her determination. "Powerlifting is my life," he says, although he was initially a reluctant recruit. "My friend dragged me to the gym. I didn't think I was strong enough." That was 2005. Within two years, he was training for Beijing, but then he fell ill with Crohn's Disease. "It's been hard," he admits.

Jawad is mentored by the Olympic medal-winning British athlete Roger Black MBE and believes that such role models are important. "When I was six, I watched him compete at the 1996 Olympics. If it wasn't for that race, I probably wouldn't have dreamed of the Paralympics. He's where it all began."

So could Jawad inspire today's six-year-olds? "We need a role model to win some medals. The reason people don't know about powerlifting is because the British athletes haven't been in the media enough. That's understandable, because we haven't achieved anything great yet," he says. "With my illness, I can have very bad days. But on a good day, who knows?"

Millions worldwide will see him and his fellow Paralympians compete. "We sold 1.1m tickets in the first four weeks, which is a record for any Paralympic Games, and we're expecting 4 billion TV viewers to tune in, which would make it the second-biggest sporting event in the world after the Olympics," says Spence. "Tickets are still available and you can buy a day pass for a venue – so at Excel, on one ticket, you can see boccia, powerlifting, sitting volleyball, wheelchair fencing and table tennis." Time to break from tradition? "The Paralympics is a great way to get a flavour for new sports."

The London 2012 Paralympic Games run from 29 August to 9 September.

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

compete is intense. For London 2012, we're targeting UK publications for those communities, inviting them to come and cheer on their athletes."

For the International Blind Sports Federation (IBSA), the focus is on extending goalball into new territories. "We do that through clinics where we train coaches and referees," says Kari Marklund, chairman of IBSA Goalball. "We hope they will then start their own groups. We've recently been in parts of Africa, Asia and South America, getting interest going there."

It's a similar story with boccia. Halicki explains: "We do promotional workshops in developing countries and we train the international technical officials." A challenge is cost. "Boccia balls are expensive. They're mostly handmade, and there are only about four companies worldwide that produce them." Yet the sport is not difficult to promote; for the most severely disabled people, "it's the only sport they can compete in", and CPISRA knows that boccia can change lives.

There's no doubt that big international competitions are also important for the progression of these sports. "It's not very often that people with severe disabilities get noticed or acknowledged, but with the Paralympics, boccia has more exposure now than ever before, and that's great," says Halicki,

Spence goes further: "Four years ago, in China, people with a disability were excluded from society. The Paralympic Games totally changed that. In fact, 72% of people with a disability in China said they feel they have greater job opportunities and greater opportunities to be included in society as a result of the Paralympic Games – and 82% of

able-bodied people agreed with that. China spent millions of pounds in the lead-up to those Games on increasing accessibility across China. So the Paralympics have a proven track record for instigating change."

Changing perceptions

The aims for London 2012 are more targeted. "Our starting point in the UK is far better than it was in China – but there will still be some perception changes," says Spence. "The Paralympics is getting more attention from the British media than ever before. For example, Sainsbury's have signed David Beckham as an ambassador, and he did a training session with the British five-a-side blind football team, where they blindfolded him. Paralympic football, as a result, had a lot of coverage on Channel 4 and it has been one of the best-selling sports for London 2012."

Paralympic athletes are taking centre stage, too. "One of the main challenges for the Paralympic movement is that people cannot name our athletes," says Spence. "A key difference between this Games and previous ones is that sponsors are now using Paralympic athletes – so BT's face for their London 2012 campaign is [South African Paralympic sprinter] Oscar Pistorius. Richard Whitehead, who's a [British] double leg amputee sprinter, is in Poweraid adverts on British TV. [British athlete] Stefanie Reid is in the Visa adverts. We never used to see our Paralympic athletes, and now we do."

Two new faces are Amy Ottaway and Ali Jawad. Ottaway is a member of the British women's goalball squad. Jawad is a British powerlifter. "I was aware of Paralympic sports

FOCUS

Staging Pakistan

The cast and crew tell **Miranda Moore** why they sacrificed so much to bring an Urdu version of *The Taming of the Shrew* to London

February 2012: In the science lab of Foreman Christian College in Lahore, an illustrious cast are preparing to take their version of *The Taming of the Shrew* to London's famous Globe Theatre. It is a constant struggle. Rolling blackouts mean there is often no electricity; the musicians frequently leave town to play 'bread and butter' gigs; and a new Director, Haissam Hussain, recently took over, just four months before the play is due to go on stage.

"Wherever we can find rehearsal space – college labs, rooftops – we meet; whoever can volunteer water and a snack, crisps, biscuits brings them along. Actors make the four-hour drive from Islamabad every week to make it to rehearsals," says leading actress Nadia Jamil, who plays Katherina. They are humble words from one of Pakistan's most celebrated actors, who has appeared in numerous TV series and films.

"Transport, electricity and family commitments also interrupt rehearsal schedules. Some of the actors are juggling jobs as they must earn their bread and butter, and we can only offer small stipends," adds Executive Producer Susannah Harris-Wilson.

Such working conditions reflect the gaping hole in funding behind this Urdu adaptation of one of Shakespeare's best-known comedies. But the lack of funds is compensated for by the determination, commitment and verve of the cast and crew. "This has been a show propelled at the local level by the sheer love, passion and will of the actors and those directing us," agrees Jamil.

Showcase for talent

Fast forward to May, and Theatre Wallay's *Taming...* debuted at the Globe to Globe Festival, part of the Cultural Olympiad that is running alongside the London 2012 Games. ROSL member Susannah Harris-Wilson, Music Director Valerie Kaul, and UK Coordinator Patricia Rogers have been the driving force behind the production. When they heard that The Globe was inviting international companies

to put on the works of Shakespeare in 37 languages, they were determined to bring a Pakistani play that would showcase the country's dramatic arts. *The Taming of the Shrew* fitted the bill.

"This play is very Pakistani," said Hussain, a director who is known for his TV work. "A man wants to marry [off] his two daughters. The younger is likable and pretty but the older one is stubborn, and the man will not let his younger daughter marry until the older one is out of the way. What is not Pakistani about this story?"

Jamil agrees. "This translation has left us feeling Shakespeare wrote about many aspects of Pakistan perfectly," she says. Like many of

SPECTACLE:

Nadia Jamil and Omair Rana as Katherina and Petruccio (right); and posing with some of the cast and musicians (below)



"This has been a show propelled by the love, passion and will of the actors and directors"



A global playwright

A nationwide celebration of William Shakespeare as a global playwright is at the heart of the London 2012 Festival. Launched in April, the World Shakespeare Festival involves thousands of international artists in around 70 productions.

In *To Be or Not To Be*, 50 actors are taking Shakespeare's words to the streets of London and using them to speak to the public in 'pop-up moments of wonder' (ends 9 September). In April, a production of *Romeo and Juliet* at the Swan Theatre

set the play in modern Iraq, using the country's rich traditions of poetry, music and ritual; while LIFT at Riverside Studios will stage a Tunisian version of *Macbeth* in July, casting the eponymous tyrant as modern-day Tunisia's Zine Ben Ali.

The World Shakespeare Festival is produced by the Royal Shakespeare Company, in collaboration with leading arts organisations and the Globe to Globe Festival. See www.worldshakespearefestival.org.uk.

DEDICATION:

(L-r) Hamza Kamal (Grumio), Omair Rana (Petruccio) and Osman Khalid Butt (Hortensio) rehearse in a college science laboratory (right)



the other actors, Jamil has turned down better paid work to bring this show to London. A former student of Harris-Wilson, she relished the chance of playing one of Shakespeare's strongest female roles and was particularly drawn to the Producer's interpretation of the play. "Susannah's view was that the characters [Katherina and Petruccio] were shrews who tame each other. They are both rebellious and disdainful of conventional society; they are both disdainful of *rasm* ['customs'], *rivaaj* ['formalities'] and status quo," she said.

With no government funding nor any local sponsor, Theatre Wallay and the Kashf Foundation launched the project with just a quarter of their proposed £85,000 budget. Aamna Kaul started work on the translation with sisters Mariam and Zaibun Pasha. Divided by continents and new to literary translation, they worked together over Skype, sending passages of the play to each other via email.

They set their adaptation, not in 16th-century Padua, but in Lahore in the late 20th century: "A time when there was a dictatorship and women were particular targets for repression, as appears to be the case for the female characters in this play," explains Kaul. "As feudal and cultural norms clash with the industrial and modern in Pakistan today, women continue to find their balance in juggling tradition and

independence. *Taming...* is the story of such women and men, straddling two worlds and learning to find the balance," adds Jamil. "Pakistan has a common love of the bawdy comedy and romance, and in *Taming...* we have taken full advantage of this."

Seasoned actor Omair Rana, who plays Petruccio, agrees. "The crassness, the crudeness, the gentleness, the colour, the humour – all that fits very organically to Pakistan. The script includes people from interior Sindh, Punjabis, Pathans... it's not just one city or community," he told reporters. "We're acting as ambassadors for Pakistan, reflecting alternate views of the country."

The play lends itself very well to this. The characters hail from various Italian cities, including Padua, Verona and Pisa, and the translators utilised this for comic effect. In many areas of Pakistan, Urdu is not the first language. "Characters coming from these regions speak Urdu with particular linguistic quirks," says Kaul. This not only enabled them to showcase the "vernacular richness" of the language but also to explore "the dynamics between dominant and otherwise under-represented communities".

They made Petruccio's servant a Pathan from Khyber Pakhtunkwa and, as a Pashto-speaker, he tends to mix up genders when speaking Urdu,

creating some humorous ambiguity. At one point Katherina agrees to submit to Petruccio's wishes, but the servant uses a feminine ending when he tells his master 'you have won', so it sounds as if he is also talking about Katherina.

A greater challenge were the aspects of the play that could cause offence in Urdu. Its most famous line, 'Kiss me Kate', accompanied in the final instance by an on-stage kiss, would not have been permissible in Pakistan, so the translators had to go for the "rather less passionate" 'Give me your hand'.

World class

When the Urdu *Taming of the Shrew* debuted in May, no one could have guessed it had had such a challenging journey to The Globe. Pakistan's contribution to the festival was a riot of colour and music, with live singers and musicians, and even a bhangra jig.

Hussain's main concern had been to ensure that everyone – not just Urdu-speakers – would be able to understand the play; "to convey the essence, beauty and feel of the country through the actors, action, dancing and music". When he took over as Director, he declared: "I want this to be the best play among the 37 countries. For me, it's about representing Pakistan through a world-class production."

Alone in Antarctica

Felicity Aston reports back following a record-breaking expedition to the South Pole. By **Claire Simon**

On 22 January 2012 Felicity Aston reached Hercules Inlet on Antarctica's Ronne Ice Shelf, ending a 59-day, 1,084-mile expedition in which she became the first woman to ski across Antarctica alone. The incredible journey took her from the Ross Ice Shelf to Hercules Inlet via the South Pole.

Crossing Antarctica is no mean feat. What were the biggest challenges you faced?

The biggest challenge of all was mental rather than physical. Of course the physical challenges were immense – I was skiing around 10 hours each day in minus temperatures, so my body took a beating. However, I'll never forget when the plane dropped me off at the start of the expedition and I realised I was thousands of miles away from anyone, completely alone. There was a physical reaction too: I have 10 years of experience and that just seemed to go away; I was left shaking. Although I knew I was safe and had all the equipment I needed, I felt a huge sense of vulnerability.

What motivated you and did you ever want to give up?

Every single morning. The first thought that hit me whenever I woke up was 'I can't do this

ROOM WITH A VIEW: Securing the tent on the Antarctic Plateau



anymore'. It wasn't even a discussion with myself, it was a decision I made every day. Then I'd have to argue with myself to carry on.

Some days I would get on with it; others I would find myself crying about what lay ahead. What I did discover was the mental determination that I possessed to just carry on. It's all about perseverance; bravery goes out the window and I realised I just had to keep going. We do it every day in our lives; persevere in jobs we may not be happy in, in situations we don't want to be in. I think we should give ourselves a pat on the back about how we manage to persevere all the time.

Did you encounter any surprises?

I was very well prepared, but the most surprising thing was the sense of aloneness. It's not the same as loneliness: I just had such a huge sense of being alone, thousands of miles from anyone else.

Another thing was the altitudes I reached. I didn't expect the change in altitudes at all, but at one point I was 3,500 metres above sea level. The air is much thinner, and because the air is so dry in Antarctica anyway, I developed this strange cough. It seemed ridiculous to me that in Antarctica I could be suffering effects from altitude, but the cough kept me awake. Also, my kit kept playing up and some of it just stopped working: a bubble appeared in my compass, my lighters stopped working. I lost my appetite. Then I started heading downwards to the Pole and everything started working again and my cough disappeared.

What is your most poignant memory?

It's funny you ask that; I normally get asked what is my best or worst memory. However, so often the two are simultaneous, completely intertwined. There were days when the weather was so bad that I couldn't see anything and it was really miserable. But suddenly some sun rays would appear in shafts through the clouds and I'd see these most incredible cloudscapes, and I'd look

The sun was the only constant thing in my whole expedition; I knew it was there, almost like it was protecting me

PICTURES © KASPERSKY ONE TRANSMANTARIC EXPEDITION

around at this amazing landscape I was in. It would be a moment where I'd realise how lucky I was to be experiencing all of this. The sun would shine down and, even in -40 degree temperatures, I'd feel its warmth. It was incredible.

The sun was the only constant thing in my whole expedition; even when the weather was miserable I knew the sun was there somewhere, almost like it was protecting me. My shadow was there for the first half of my journey, but after that it was behind me, away from my view. Those moments where I just stopped and realised what an amazing experience it was often came from really tough times.

Did you ever feel you were going crazy, being alone for 59 days?

As I said, the sun felt like the only constant thing around me, and sometimes I'd have conversations with it. At times I did consider how talking to the sun would be viewed in

PERSEVERANCE:
Felicity Aston skis
towards Wilson Nunatak
on the coast of Antarctica



normal society, but when you're out there everything is so different. Also, I'd constantly have arguments with myself. I'd get so emotional about being alone and not wanting to carry on, then I'd get angry at myself for feeling like that.

Did you fall ill or injure yourself?

No, luckily – I couldn't afford that to happen. Being alone, I had to be extremely cautious and look after myself as there was no one there to look after me. I did suffer from chilblains and other things, but nothing major.

Did you speak to your family while you were there?

I had a satellite phone as I had to make a daily, scheduled call to the camp in Antarctica to let them know my whereabouts. If they didn't hear from me in 24 hours they'd send a plane to my last known location. I could have called anyone with the phone but I didn't; I didn't want to face the ultimate sense of being alone that would hit after ending a conversation with my family. I

rang my mum on Christmas Day and just cried down the phone. I knew it was a bad idea because it would make it harder after the call, but I just had to do it.

Did you have a typical routine?

My routine was extremely important – it was what helped me to carry on as it removed any emotion from the situation. The focus on what I had to do every day took my mind off what lay ahead. My routine encompassed the smallest things, from when I'd put my jacket on to when I'd turn on my stove. I'd ski for 90 minutes, then have a break, then I'd ski for another 90 minutes – for 10 hours each day. In previous expeditions I skied for longer hours each day, but I was very aware that I was alone and needed to look after myself. I made sure I got 7-8 hours sleep a night.

What did you eat?

I had to carry food, so it was light. I ate things which were high in carbohydrate, fat and calories, like porridge or noodles for breakfast.



TRIUMPH: Reaching the South Pole,
part-way through the journey

Then I'd eat lots of chocolate and nuts throughout the day for energy levels, and a freeze-dried meal in the evening. I took 16 supplements a day to keep me going.

The video you filmed the moment you reached Hercules Inlet was extremely emotional. What were you feeling?

I don't think I knew what I felt, or even if I know now. There was a huge sense of relief that I'd reached the end safely. However, there was much sadness that the adventure was over. There was also a feeling that my sense of momentum, my routine and life for 59 days had come to an abrupt halt. It was a hugely emotional experience reaching the end and I'm glad I filmed it, although I haven't been able to watch the film since being back, because of the emotions involved.

How did it feel coming back to the UK?

To be honest, I haven't had a chance to think about how I feel; there's been no sense of anticlimax because I'm so busy. I'm not quite sure I really know or understand what the whole experience has meant to me yet. I'm going to write a book about the experience to try and find out.

What's the next adventure?

I don't have any immediate plans on the horizon, but it's extremely unlikely I'd do anything on my own again.



VICKY BAKER'S

Buenos Aires

Buenos Aires is considered one of the top world cities to visit. If you are there for just a couple of days, what should you see?

There are some important sights, such as the Casa Rosada (pink-hued government house) and the beguiling Recoleta Cemetery, which is a maze of elaborate tombs. Without doubt, you should take time to wander through the cobbled streets and antique shops of San Telmo, and the restaurants and boutiques of fashionable Palermo. However, be sure to also set aside some time to visit a non-touristy café or *parrilla* (steakhouse) for the best people-watching opportunities.

How would you describe Buenos Aires in three words?

Cultural, passionate, unpredictable.

What's your favourite thing to do there?

I love taking a Sunday day-trip to Tigre [on the Paraná Delta] for long lunches and kayaking. It's only an hour away from the city centre, but it's another world – so peaceful and relaxing.

What would you miss most if you left?

The spontaneity. In the UK, people plan months ahead and struggle to coordinate their diaries; in Buenos Aires, you can call someone one day ahead, or even on the same night, to make dinner plans. I also like the fact it's a 24-hour city. I am a big fan of late night dining and often go to restaurants around 11pm or later.

Argentina is famous for good steak and red wine. What's your favourite thing to eat?

Not steak for me, because I'm vegetarian (I landed in the wrong place for that). But I make up for this 'problem' through appreciation of local wines. Of course, Argentina is best known for its malbecs from Mendoza, but it also does a fine line in cabernet sauvignon, pinot noir and torrонтés, coming from the northeast of the country, and even Patagonia.

MUST-SEE: Casa Rosada in the Plaza de Mayo



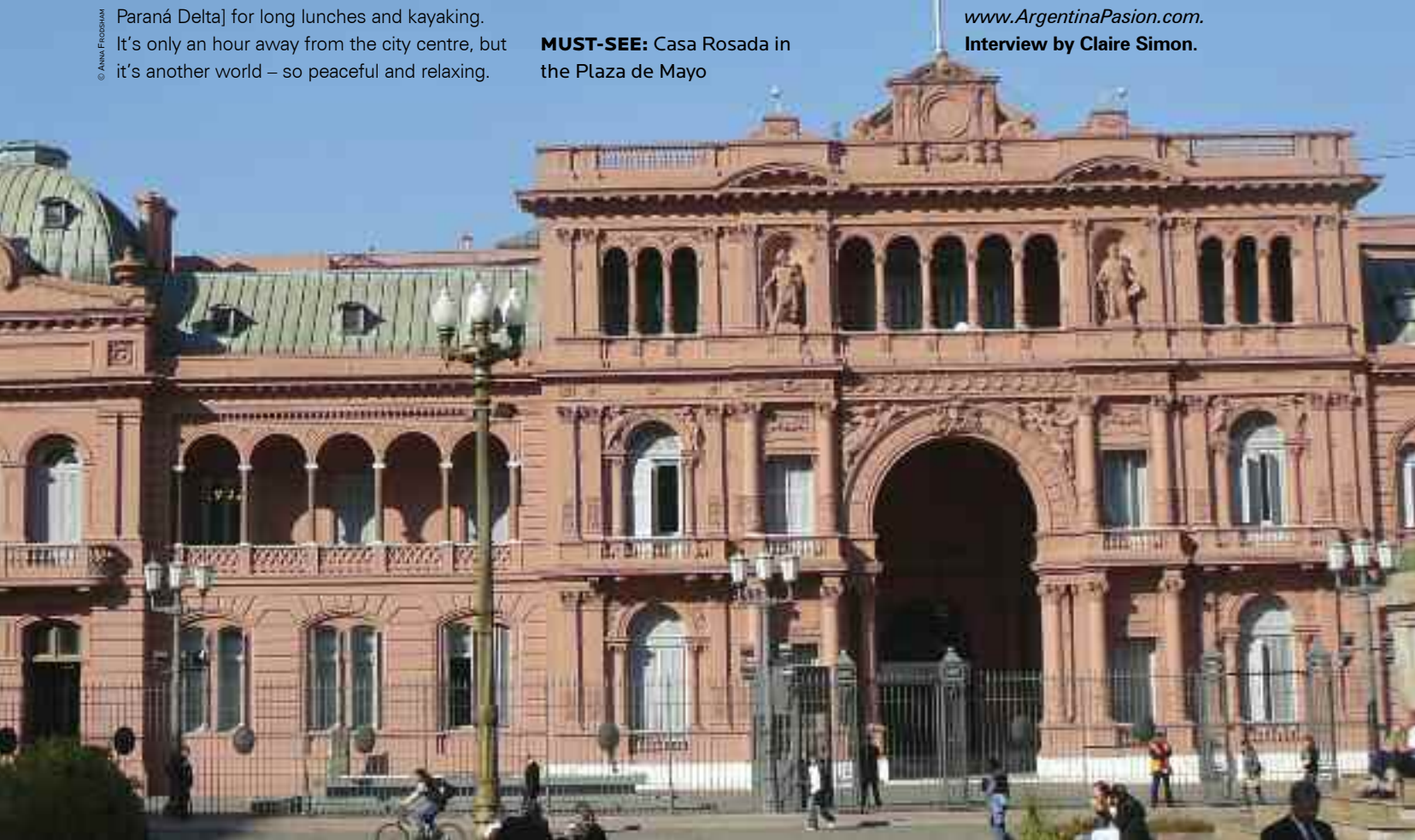
COLOURFUL: A street in the Abasto neighbourhood

Buenos Aires has been called the 'Paris of the South'. What is your favourite cultural experience?

I quite like something that is not at all Parisian. *Peñas* are small music clubs that showcase folklore musicians from the country's northeast. There's a specific sort of dance called *chacarera* that I like more than tango. It's more open and down-to-earth, involving dancers clapping to the beat and then swirling around each other. I always say I'll learn it one day, but that never seems to happen.

Vicky Baker is a former Editor and Deputy Editor of Overseas. She has lived in Buenos Aires for four years and works as a freelance journalist. She has just launched a small travel agency to help travellers get the most out of trips to Argentina: www.ArgentinaPasion.com.

Interview by Claire Simon.



Members' Trip to the Highlands

29th September - 1st October

Back by popular demand, this trip is organised by Cobbs in conjunction with ROSL Edinburgh. All ROSL members are invited to explore lochs, castles, gardens and more...

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(with an optional two nights at ROSL Edinburgh at the start and end of the trip)

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Cobbs

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E: reception@rosl-edinburgh.org.uk

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News and views

The latest from the clubhouses in London and Edinburgh



◀ Celebrating 25 years

In March, staff celebrated Tony Hanmer's 25 years' service to ROSL as Deputy Catering Director/Conference and Banqueting Manager. Both ROSL and Convex Leisure are very grateful for his dedicated work. Tony is pictured with Jessica Taube, Head of Sales for Convex



▶ Guest speaker

The ROSL Central Council welcomed The Lord Mayor of Westminster, Councillor Susie Burbridge, as their guest of honour and speaker at their January lunch. She is pictured with ROSL Chairman, Sir Anthony Figgis (left), and the Director-General, Maj Gen Roddy Porter



▲ Central Council

In March, the ROSL Central Council welcomed HE Dr Chris Nonis, Sri Lanka's High Commissioner to Great Britain, as guest of honour and speaker. He is pictured (second from left) with ROSL Vice-Chairman, Sir Roger Carrick (left), Central Council member, Marilyn Archbold, and Director-General, Roddy Porter



Annual Report 2011 summary

The retirement of the former Director-General, Robert Newell, and former Assistant to the Director-General and Membership Secretary, Fatima Vanicek, in late 2011 after 32 years' service, featured prominently in the Annual Report. Major General Roddy Porter, who succeeded Mr Newell, wrote the Director-General's report and, in it, refers to Robert Newell's great contribution to ROSL as well as his own reasons for taking up the post and his hopes for the future.

Similarly, ROSL Chairman, Sir Anthony Figgis, reflects on the uncertainties ROSL felt at the beginning of the year with the recession, the out-sourcing of Over-Seas House, Edinburgh, to Highland company Cobbs, and the changes in staff, but concludes that ROSL has fared well. Sir Anthony also refers to his trip to the Australian branches during the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting, and his trips to branches in Canada and Hong Kong.

Honorary Treasurer, Simon Ward, reports a pleasing surplus of £125,391 for 2011, but reiterates the importance of not only attracting new members but also retaining existing ones. He talks about the 'programme of rolling refurbishment of the bed and public rooms at Over-Seas House, London', which continued in 2011, and the plans for extensive and substantial repairs and improvements for Over-Seas House, Edinburgh, in 2012.

The Annual Report also records the varied activities of the Discussion Group, London Group, ROSL members' events programme, ROSL Younger Members, worldwide ROSL branches, ROSL ARTS and ROSL development projects, as well as providing 'Snapshots of 2011' – a photo montage of significant events.

The 2011 Annual Report was edited, designed and produced in-house by Claire Simon, Deputy Editor of *Overseas*, and Alexandra Pavry, Marketing and Events Coordinator. It is available from the PR Department, or by calling +44 (0)20 7408 0214 ext 205/206.

▼ Changes in Edinburgh

The Members' Lounge at Over-Seas House, which offers superb views of Edinburgh Castle and Gardens, has recently been refurbished. House Manager, Daniel Campbell, oversaw the restoration of the wooden floor and added some beautiful period furniture, including a grandfather clock and leather sofas. A small library has been established along the rear wall, and a request has gone out to members in Scotland for hardback books

▲ A Royal visit

At the end of January, while visiting one of the Scottish regiments at its Edinburgh barracks, ROSL's Vice-Patron, HRH Princess Alexandra, paid an overnight visit to the Edinburgh clubhouse. The following day she met the staff and had morning tea with some Edinburgh Branch Committee members and guests



ROSL WORLD

The latest from the global branches

Australia

At the South Australia Branch's monthly lunches in February and March, the guest speakers were Anthony Steel, a former Adelaide Arts Festival Director, and Professor Rick Sarre, who discussed alternatives to custodial sentences. The branch had a day-trip to a specialist cheesemaker, and celebrated Commonwealth Day with a reception hosted by the Lord Mayor of Adelaide.

In February, the Victoria Branch organised a Diamond Jubilee Dinner at the Hotel Windsor in Melbourne, in honour of HM The Queen. More than 150 people attended, including two former Governors-General: Major-General Michael Jeffery AC CVO MC and Rt Rev Dr Peter Hollingworth AC OBE. The Branch President, Jason Ronald, read The Queen's message, and a special presentation was made to the Branch Secretary, Coral Strahan, for her 21 years' service to ROSL in Victoria.

The Western Australia Branch Chairman, Tony Abbott, represented the branch at the Multifaith Commonwealth Day Service at St George's Cathedral, Perth. At the AGM, also held in March, he reported an increase in membership and a very satisfactory financial year, which included a AUS\$5,000 donation to the ROSL-Namibia Project. The officers were

ANNUAL EVENT: Edinburgh Branch Chair, Bill Chalmers (left), with Dr Richard Simpson MSP, guest speaker at the ROSL Edinburgh Commonwealth Day Lunch



re-elected for a further term, and members enjoyed a talk by Helen Reynardson about living in Libya. The branch also held a dinner on 16 April to celebrate The Queen's Birthday and Diamond Jubilee.

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South Australia: Michael Kent, rosl.sa@mac.com

Tasmania: Robert Dick, gradick1@gmail.com

Victoria: Coral Strahan, +61 (0)3 9654 8338, rosl@alphalink.com.au

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

Canada

In March, the Alberta Chapter held its AGM and brunch, at which a change to the award structure, to focus on music and the arts, was approved. President Cynthia Cordery reported on her trip to New Zealand, where she had met ROSL NZ Director, Lyn Milne. Liz Murray is due to succeed Pamela Ducommun as President of the British Columbia Branch, and the hand-over will include a reception for members.

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British Columbia: Liz Murray, evmurray@telus.net

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Ontario: Ishrani Jaikaran, +1 416 760 0309, rosl.ont@sympatico.ca

Hong Kong

Hong Kong: Stella Lam, presidentS@rosl.org.hk, www.rosl.org.hk

New Zealand

ROSL NZ will celebrate the Jubilee of both HM The Queen and the ROSL Annual Music Competition, in Wellington, on 18 September. The Jubilee Concert and reception will be hosted by Governor-General and NZ Patron, HE Lt General The Rt Hon Sir Jerry Mateparae



and HE Lady Janine Mateparae, in Government House. Maj Gen Roddy Porter will attend the event, which will showcase ROSL prizewinners. Members will be sent an application form in August. Diamond Jubilee celebrations are also taking place at the Auckland, Manawatu, Christchurch, South Canterbury, Oamaru and Southland branches.

New Zealand: Lyn Milne, royalo-s@xtra.co.nz, www.roslnz.org.nz

Switzerland

Switzerland: Jo Brown, +334 5040 6631

Thailand

The reception and prize-giving ceremony for the ROSL Thailand Young Artist of the Year 2012 competition was held at the Sukhothai Hotel in March. From an initial entry list of more than 100 paintings, 12 finalists were chosen. Hataiwan Thepmalee, a 17-year-old student at the Darasamutr School in Chonburi, won the competition with her painting 'Private World'. Trophies and prizes were presented by ROSL Thailand Vice-Patron, Chulakorn Singhakowin. The winner received a substantial cheque and a visit to Over-Seas House, London, where the paintings of the finalists will be displayed (see page 21 for a full report).

ROSL Director of Arts, Roderick Lakin, was Chairman of the judging panel for this year's competition. During his stay, he and the ROSL Thailand Council members had the opportunity to discuss the further development of arts competitions for the young people of Thailand. The branch is grateful for the generous sponsorship of the Sukhothai Hotel, Jet Airways and *The Bangkok Post*, without which the competition could not have taken place.

Thailand: Roger Willbourn, +66 2649 2690, info@roslthailand.com



CELEBRATION: (L-r) Christine Thompson (Secretary to British Consul-General), Dr Peter Hollingworth (former Governor-General), Jim Thompson and Lily Murray (Secretary ROSL NSW) at the Victoria Branch's Diamond Jubilee event (right); and Director-General Roddy Porter at the West Sussex Branch AGM, with (l-r) Marianne Porter, Branch Chairman Marilyn Archbold and Branch Secretary Brenda Heaton (left)



UK

At the **Bath** Branch lunch in March, the guest speaker was Brigadier Bruce Jackman OBE MC, Chairman of the Western Branch of the Gurkha Welfare Trust. The branch holds its monthly coffee mornings on the second Wednesday of the month at Pratt's Hotel.

The **Bournemouth** Branch held a Diamond Jubilee Concert in Blandford Forum on 21 April, as part of a drive to recruit members in the North Dorset area. Its regular coffee mornings continue at Marriott Highcliff Hotel on Thursdays, and all are welcome. The **Cheltenham** Branch's monthly meetings included illustrated talks by local guest speakers, entitled 'Bus Across the Andes', 'Iceland' and 'Mary Kingsley, Victorian Explorer, Extraordinary and Forgotten'.

Members in **Edinburgh** continued to enjoy the branch's arts lunches. Adrienne Chalmers spoke on disability and the arts in February, and Dr Richard Simpson MSP was guest speaker at the annual Commonwealth Day Lunch. Outstanding music was provided by the

Menuhin Scholars, and the cello and piano duo Yelian He and Yasmin Rowe. Around 25 members visited Loch Ness and stayed in the hotels run by Cobbs, who manage Over-Seas House, Edinburgh. Cobbs have beautifully refurbished the Drawing Room in Edinburgh.

At the **Exeter** Branch's February meeting, Mac Maclaren spoke about the Penlee Lifeboat disaster, and, in March, Ewart Walker spoke on the murder of Lord Erroll in Happy Valley, Kenya, in 1941. At the **Glasgow** Branch's monthly meetings, talks were given on the ROSL Annual Music Competition prizewinners, the Coptic Church in Egypt, and the charity Mary's Meals. The **Taunton** Branch's February talk about the code-breakers of Bletchley Park was followed, in March, by a visit from the Director-General and his wife. Maj Gen Porter spoke of his hopes and plans for ROSL, and discussed the future of the branch as part of the Strategic Review.

For the **West Cornwall** Branch, the year started with a talk on 'Sending a Cow to Africa', and continued with a film about a visit to

Eastern China. Margaret Adrian-Vallance, ROSL Director of PR and Development, was guest of honour at the branch's Annual Lunch in March. The **West Sussex** Branch held an informal lunch party, followed by the Annual General Meeting in March, with guest of honour Maj Gen Roddy Porter, who was accompanied by his wife, Marianne.

Bath, Exeter, Taunton, Torbay: Sally Roberts, +44 (0)1823 661148, rosl.west@googlemail.com

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West Cornwall: Ian Wood, +44 (0)1736 333460

West Sussex: Marilyn Archbold, +44 (0)1444 458853

HIGHLAND TOUR: On a trip to Loch Ness, Scotland members (left) visited Urquhart Castle (below)



An Aussie club crawl

ROSL member **Jill Courtnell** takes a whirlwind tour of some of the reciprocal clubs in Australia

On a recent visit to Australia, I made use of several ROSL reciprocal clubs and met the ROSL representatives for New South Wales and Adelaide, who both had some useful local information. I used the **Brisbane Polo Club** as a base to meet acquaintances. It is an attractive colonial building, with a good club atmosphere in the bar area, a comfortable library and a small downstairs dining area. Well-polished mahogany, substantial leather chairs and gleaming silver trophies are all pointers to the fact that it was a true sporting club in the past.

The Club Bar is where the livelier events are held, and there is a large dining/function room upstairs, with a first-class chef in residence. Homemade biscuits, platters of finger sandwiches and warm scones with afternoon tea were just what I required to entertain guests. The staff are charming and helpful; there is no accommodation.

Central Perth

The **Karrakatta Club** in Perth is also housed in an historic building, squeezed between modern towers. It is very central, with bus stops close by. Formed by women, the club continues to host many lectures and groups that appeal to women. The accommodation is comfortable with en-suite facilities, and there is a pantry from which guests can make their own continental breakfast, tea and coffee.

CLUB ATMOSPHERE: The Brisbane Polo Club holds some lively events in its opulent Club Bar



It's a little spooky when you seem to be the only guest, the large rooms are locked and the lighting is dimmed

GRANDEUR: The lobby at the New South Wales Masonic Club, also known as the Castlereagh Boutique Hotel



Lunch is served in the dining room, which can be booked for evening functions. However, most staff leave the building by 5pm, and if you are staying you are given a key to the premises. Should you wish to arrive 'after hours', the club will arrange for somebody to admit you. It's a little spooky when you seem to be the only guest, the large rooms are locked and the lighting in the passages is dimmed.

There is a lecture room, with a grand piano for concerts and recitals, an elegant drawing room and a small library with some fascinating historic photographs, as well as a sitting-room for overnight guests. Embroidery and artwork, made by members, adds to the genteel flavour of the place. You can hear the chimes of the carillon from the famous bell tower that stands across the gardens in front of the Ferry Pier, which provides a swift and useful link across the Swan River to South Perth.

Sydney boutique

My final stay was at the **New South Wales Masonic Club** in Sydney, which prefers to call itself the Castlereagh Boutique Hotel. The entrance is discreet, but once inside the design opens up to a scale of some grandeur – marble floors, large mirrors, chandeliers and columns. The welcome is brisk and efficient.

The bar is an obvious venue for the business community, but remains open late.

There is a café that closes at 9pm and an elegant restaurant, which is only open for lunch (unless booked for private functions). There are meeting rooms upstairs; access to the accommodation is by lift only, activated by the bedroom keycard. The room I was allotted was of adequate size, but the proportion was spoiled by the addition of the en-suite facilities, which were squeezed into a narrow passage up a somewhat alarming step behind the door.

The decor was rather tired baroque, but all the essentials were there, and the bed was comfortable. I think the hotel operation is relatively recent and is aiming to restore the whole building to its former glories. It offers a practical solution for a single traveller who prefers a club atmosphere to a slick and anonymous city hotel.

Brisbane Polo Club: +61 (0)7 3229 3766; info@brisbanepoloclub.com.au; www.brisbanepoloclub.com.au
New South Wales Masonic Club, Sydney: +61 (0)2 9284 1000; reservations@thecastlereagh.com.au; www.castlereaghboutiquehotel.com
Karrakatta Club, Perth: + 61 (0)8 9325 8111; karrakattaclub@aapt.net.au; www.karrakattaclub.org.au.



PRIZE WORK: Vice-Patron of ROSL Thailand, Khun Chulakorn Singhakowiri, presents winner Hataiwan Thepnalee with the Royal Trophy (above); and her winning work, 'Private World' (left)

Young Artist 2012

Director of Arts, **Roderick Lakin**, reports from Bangkok on the 5th ROSL Young Artist of Thailand competition, and reveals the winning entry

The ROSL Thailand Branch has been in existence for only six years and in that short time it has established its presence in Thailand by supporting young people, excellence and the arts through the creation of the Young Artist of Thailand and Young Musician of Thailand competitions. I was honoured to be invited to chair the panel of judges in the 2012 Young Artist competition, and travelled to Bangkok, in April, for the final judging and award ceremony, which took place at the elegant and luxurious Sukhothai Hotel.

Prior to meeting in Bangkok, the five judges (curator and lecturer Dr Axel Feuss, architect Asnee Tasnaruangrong, and artists Kriankrai Khongkhanun, Tawatchai Somkong and Louise Truslow) and I had assessed more than 100 submissions independently online. The age limit is 20 and most of the submissions were from artists still at school – although the judges are not given the age, name or any other biographical information about the artists until they have chosen a winner. From our combined scores, 40 semi-finalists were chosen and these works were brought together to exhibit in Bangkok.

All the judges agreed that it was fascinating to compare our impressions of the actual works with their online image. The standard of all 40 works was impressive, reflecting good teaching and a foundation of technical skill. At this stage we were looking for artists who had

put their own stamp on what they had been taught and used their chosen medium to express something distinctive and personal.

Again assessing the 40 works independently, we selected 12 finalists and, after further deliberation, chose as the winner Hataiwan Thepnalee from Darasamutr School in Chonburi Province. Her painting, 'Private World', is a wry commentary on the avoidance of face-to-face conversation in the age of social media and electronic communication.

All the finalists received a certificate and trophy in the award ceremony at the Sukhothai Hotel on 24 March. In addition to the overall winner, two artists were especially commended by the judges: Kasidis Laoboonmee from Shrewsbury International School for his painting 'Bomb-Shell-Shock' and Mairin Sirisahawat from Saint John's International School for 'Ying Yang'.

The Vice-Patron of ROSL Thailand, Khun Chulakorn Singhakowiri, presented Hataiwan

with the Royal Trophy, graciously granted by HM King Bhumipol, and a cheque for 100,000 baht (£2,300). Hataiwan also won a trip to the UK later this year, where she will spend a week at Over-Seas House, London, as a guest of ROSL ARTS. Her visit will coincide with an exhibition of work by the 12 finalists at the clubhouse.

Speaking at the award ceremony, the Chairman of the Thailand Branch, Jim Napier, acknowledged *The Bangkok Post*, Jet Airlines, the Sukhothai Hotel and Louise Truslow for their support of the ROSL Young Artist of Thailand, and paid well-deserved tribute to ROSL Council member Simon Leslie, supported by Lily Hataikan Leelakitichok and Yudee Suwanborisut, for their untiring efforts and expertise in administering the competition submissions, overseeing the judging and mounting the exhibition of semi-finalists. ROSL should be very proud of the achievements of its 'youngest' branch.

Insights into a 'Private World'

Artist Hataiwan Thepnalee, 17, discusses her winning work (above left):

"Nowadays, technology plays a very important role in our daily lives. It seems like part of our lives. It makes communication easier and more convenient; on the other hand, it makes us anti-social. We ignore family and people around us.

Although these people in the painting are in the same room, they do not look at one another. They only live in the 'square' in their hands, as if they live in their own world."

SPECIAL LINKS

Royal Academy

Margaret Adrian-Vallance launches a new series on ROSL's organisational membership schemes

The largest ROSL organisational membership group comes from the Royal Academy of Arts at Burlington House, Piccadilly. Situated just five minutes walk from the London clubhouse, the RA has pleasing architectural, arts and education similarities, so it is no surprise that its supporters now account for 12% of ROSL's membership. "Tea in the ROSL garden is just bliss after walking round exhibitions", say RA/ROSL members Denys and Paola Johnson-Davies, who live in Morocco.

The RA was founded by King George III in 1768 to promote art and design through education and exhibitions. Sir Joshua Reynolds was its first president. The Academy had a variety of homes until 1867, when it obtained a 999-year lease on Burlington House, originally an 11-bay mansion, completed in 1668 for the first Earl and Countess of Burlington.

It was set back from the busy east-west thoroughfare, then known as Portugal Street, and had views over open countryside to the rear. In 1709, the second Countess commissioned James Gibbs, who designed Rutland House (now part of Over-Seas House and the venue for ROSL's own art exhibitions), to improve the entrance and main staircase. Successive owners, including the RA itself, have further altered the exterior and interior.

This year, David Hockney's 'The Bigger Picture' and Johan Zoffany's 'Society Observed' have been big attractions. Its famous Summer Exhibition (4 June - 12 August) is the largest

open submission contemporary art show in the world. First held in a warehouse on Pall Mall in 1769, with 136 paintings, it now attracts 12,000 works for consideration (including paintings, photography, prints, architectural models, film and artists' books), from which 1,200 are exhibited.

ROSL member Biljana Tesic had works selected in 2005, 2008 and 2011. "It is unbelievably exciting," she said, showing me a coloured etching with a number of red 'sold' dots on it. "Last year there was a service to give thanks for art at St James's, Piccadilly, on Varnishing Day [when artists, in the past, could re-touch their pictures]. Afterwards we go back to the RA to view the exhibition with food, drink and a prize-giving. It is wonderful."

With ROSL's own connections to art and education, it is pleasing that an institution with similar objectives tops the list of ROSL's organisational membership schemes.

Forging new partnerships

ROSL is pleased to announce a new partnership with Grange Hotels. When we are fully booked and unable to accommodate members at Over-Seas House, London, you will be offered a choice of 10 properties in various locations within central London; the nearest to Park Place is Victoria or Vincent Square, off Buckingham Gate. There are other hotels in Holborn, St Paul's, Tower Bridge, Cooper's Row and Langham Street, all with their own unique style and charm. Room rates will be charged at equivalent members' rates and, if desired, we would bring members back to the clubhouse once a room became available.

This partnership includes reduced membership and treatments at the St Paul's Spa and Health Club (either daily or annually), offered to all ROSL members whether you stay there or not. We are determined that, when necessary, our members should be comfortably accommodated elsewhere by an organisation that will look after them. www.grangehotels.com.

Scheme benefits

Individual members of certain organisations can obtain a 50% joining fee discount when applying for ROSL membership and do not need a proposer or seconder. These organisations range from the diplomatic missions of Commonwealth countries to bee-keeping associations; from the Institute of Directors to the Erin Arts Centre; and from the Society of Authors to the universities of Oxford, Cambridge and Toronto. The full list can be found at www.rosl.org.uk.

Although each family member joining ROSL has to complete their own application form and pay an annual subscription, there is only one joining fee per household.

AT THE ACADEMY: Johan Zoffany's 'The Tribuna of the Uffizi' (below) is displayed in the 'Society Observed' exhibition; and the Summer Exhibition (right)



THE ROYAL COLLECTION © 2011, HER MAJESTY QUEEN ELIZABETH II

JOHN BURNETT, DUNWAS.CO.UK

Harping on

Director of Arts, **Roderick Lakin**, talks to Ieuan Jones, resident harpist at the clubhouse Restaurant, about his 30 years with ROSL

In a recent survey of Restaurant users at Over-Seas House, London, regular diners expressed particular appreciation of the resident harpist and the distinctive contribution which his playing makes to the dining experience. Few diners, however, realise that they are being serenaded by one of the foremost solo harpists of his generation, a ROSL Annual Music Competition Gold Medallist and Professor of Harp at the Royal College of Music (RCM) in London.

Ieuan Jones comes from a farming family in Mid Wales and, thanks to the encouragement of an aunt and an enlightened County Music Scheme in Montgomeryshire, he began to play the harp at the age of 6. He made rapid progress, winning local and national eisteddfods, and was soon playing in the Montgomery County Youth Orchestra, subsequently becoming Principal Harp of the National Youth Orchestra.

His playing came to the attention of the renowned Spanish harpist Marisa Robles, who became his teacher and mentor. With her support, Ieuan came to London to study at the Royal College of Music.

An 'experiment'

In 1981, while at the RCM, Ieuan won a prize in the ROSL Annual Music Competition, and the Director of Music and Art, Miriam Barling, invited him to play in the clubhouse Restaurant a few evenings a week as an experiment. He has been playing there regularly ever since. His solo debut at London's Purcell Room, supported by ROSL, was attended by Sir Georg Solti, whose party included Lady Fermoy, Lady-in-Waiting to The Queen Mother. This led to an invitation to play at Royal Lodge, Windsor, the first of many performances for members of the Royal Family.

He was invited to play in the Restaurant a few evenings a week as an experiment. He has been playing there regularly ever since



SERENADE:

ROSL Gold Medallist Ieuan Jones plays at the Restaurant three evenings a week

In 1984, Ieuan added the Grill Room at the House of Commons to his client portfolio, and he continued to play there regularly until 1997. In 1985, he became the first and only harpist to win the First Prize in the ROSL Annual Music Competition, and his career as a concert soloist, recitalist and chamber musician took off. Playing in the ROSL Restaurant, and similar work elsewhere, has given him the freedom to concentrate on his solo career without having to commit to a full-time orchestral job.

In demand

In 1997, at the age of 34, Ieuan succeeded Marisa Robles as Professor of Harp at the RCM and he now sends his star students to deputise in the ROSL Restaurant when his solo commitments take him elsewhere. He is much

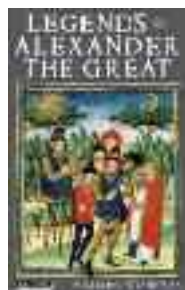
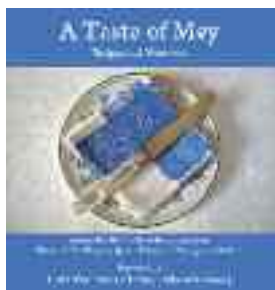
in demand as an adjudicator, including, in recent years, for the ROSL Annual Music Competition, and he divides his time between London and Gregynog, Mid Wales, where he runs a festival and a young musicians' competition.

Ieuan finds ROSL members a rewarding audience to play for (more discerning than at the House of Commons) and his ROSL Restaurant playing has led to engagements as far afield as Hong Kong and Australia. Over the years, he has built up a repertoire ranging from familiar light classics to West End hits and show tunes, which he adapts to suit the mood and number of diners throughout the evening.

Ieuan Jones plays in the Restaurant at Over-Seas House, London, on Tuesday-Thursday evenings. A selection of his recordings are available from the ROSL Shop.

Books

Reviews of recent works by ROSL members



A Taste of Mey: Recipes and Memories
Christina Murray; Foreword by HRH The Prince Charles, Duke of Rothesay
The Queen Elizabeth Castle of Mey Trust, 2011

ISBN: 978-0-9569604-0-5, £20

A mix of anecdotes about HM Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother, photos, and recipes connected with her life at the Castle of Mey, which she owned for 50 years, *A Taste of Mey* is at the same time funny, moving and mouth-watering. The book is the product of a combined effort by those who knew The Queen Mother at the Castle of Mey, and provides some of her favourite recipes, interspersed with snippets of her conversations, offering a fascinating and touching insight into her remarkable life.

Opening with a Foreword from HRH Prince Charles, the book works through a selection of starters, meat, poultry and game dishes, fish and seafood, vegetables, puddings, savouries and baking, to end with 'hoosh-mi' – 'a word devised by HRH The Princess Margaret... to describe a mix of any kind'. The first recipe is taken from a dinner menu card, given to The Queen Mother by her Head Chef at the castle.

But are the recipes any good? I tried the famous Jam Puffs. According to the anecdote accompanying the recipe, these little half-moon 'puffs' created a lot of laughter on picnics due to the mess they created. Easy to

make and absolutely delicious, they are an ideal sweet treat, and can be served with cream.

This is a thoroughly enjoyable book, which manages to give the reader a rare and insightful look into the life of Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother, while also delivering some truly delicious recipes.

Houses with Private Chapels in the Heart of England
John Kinross; Foreword by Michael Tavinor, Dean of Hereford
Fineleaf Editions, 2012

ISBN: 978-1907741081, £9.95

John Kinross explores the finest private chapels of Herefordshire, Shropshire, Staffordshire, Worcestershire and Warwickshire. This detailed book explores 34 chapels, from the isolated Heath Chapel – a small Norman building which stands on the site of a medieval village – to the richly decorated interior of the chapel in Madresfield Court, on which Evelyn Waugh based *Brideshead Revisited*. Illustrated with photographs and drawings, *Houses with Private Chapels...* also provides instructions on how to get to each chapel.

Legends of Alexander The Great
Richard Stoneman
I B Tauris, 2012

ISBN 978-1848857858, £14.99

Alexander the Great is often cited as the greatest commander of all time, yet his existence is

shrouded in myth and marvel – from fighting ants the size of foxes to battling Indian monsters larger than elephants.

Richard Stoneman, a leading modern interpreter of the life of Alexander, presents a range of translations from Greek and Latin texts, recounting tales of the man who is reported to have asked, 'How can a man become a god?'

Children in her Shadow
Keith Pearson
Grosvenor House Publishing Limited, 2011

ISBN: 978-1-908105-42-4, £9.99

A book which sets emotions running high, *Children in her Shadow* is set in the Second World War and follows 17-year-old Ruth as she leaves Wales to serve the war effort. Profoundly sad, the book provides a fascinating view of how the War affected society, and the lives of women in particular.

Tales Out of School: Real adventures at the chalk face
Stuart Newton
AuthorHouse, 2009

ISBN: 978-1-4490-0870-3. For

prices, please contact the publisher Set in London between 1980 and 2000, *Tales Out of School* is a behind-the-scenes story of life in the teaching profession. Having taught in various countries, Stuart Newton provides readers with an insight into the lives of teachers by drawing on his own extensive experiences and sharing them with readers through the

life of his teacher protagonist, Scott Robinson.

Gilded Lives, Fatal Voyage: The Titanic's first-class passengers and their world
Hugh Brewster
Robson Press, 2012

ISBN: 978-1849541794, £20

The Canadian author, Hugh Brewster, has delivered a well researched and engrossing contribution to the wealth of material covering the centenary of the sinking of the Titanic. While many focus on fact or myth, this account is about the anecdotal stories of the people who took passage; some to die, others to survive. It is an intensely human portrait of this maritime disaster.

Hugh Brewster weaves a fascinating tapestry of both personal loss and survival around the more traditional narrative; from hopeful, even triumphant beginnings, through the assumptions that all was well, to the controversies, celebrations and recriminations, on both sides of the Atlantic, that inevitably followed.

This very readable and dramatic account, gleaned from personal recollections, adds significantly to the body of Titanic work.

Review by Maj Gen Roddy Porter.

Hugh Brewster will deliver a unique talk on his book on 8 June at Over-Seas House, London.

Reviews by Claire Simon, except where stated.

Exploring the Lothians

Director of PR, **Margaret Adrian-Vallance**, on some of the best day trips from the Edinburgh clubhouse

The joy of the Edinburgh clubhouse at 100 Princes Street is that it is not only near the National Gallery and other pleasures, but also within easy walking distance – even with a suitcase – of bus, rail and coach stations. This is day-trip heaven: the countryside is lovely, the buses come on time and the choice of things to do and see is vast. There are magnificent castles, glorious golf courses, fine fishing and exciting racing. So where to start?

Lena, the Head Receptionist, recommends Inchcolm Island, a tiny, beautiful strip of land in the Firth of Forth, with sandy beaches, puffins and the occasional dolphin. It has beautiful gardens and a magnificent 13th-century abbey, with the best preserved group of monastic buildings in Scotland, and is popular for weddings. The ferry from South Queensferry, in the north of the city, takes about 45 minutes.

I like the quirky atmosphere of Kelso Races, the smallest racecourse in Scotland, which has a habit of rewarding each winner with a bag of carrots. You can walk there from Kelso town, which has cobbled streets, a ruined church in the centre, views of Floors Castle from almost every angle, and glorious walks by the river Tweed. Ednam House Hotel is good for log fires and food, and the pastry shop near the bus stop (90 mins to Edinburgh) is alluring for snacks.

A tiny, beautiful strip of land with sandy beaches, puffins and the occasional dolphin

QUIRKY: Scotland's smallest racecourse, Kelso Races, in the pretty town of Kelso

© John Gressock



If you have a car, visit beautiful Mellersten House, especially in March, when it holds a Snowdrop Festival. Nearer to Edinburgh is picturesque Musselburgh, which also has a race course, a good beach and a famous ice cream parlour called S Luca, founded in 1908.

If you want a change from bus and ferry, take the train to the small seaside town of North Berwick and have a look at the gannet population on an extinct volcano called the Bass Rock. Up the coast is the 14th-century fortress of Tantallon Castle, built on a headland with the sea on three sides.

Inland, amid the lush fields of the east Lothian hinterland, is something completely different: the Museum of Flight at East Fortune. This was an aerodrome in both world wars and now has a Concorde into which visitors can climb.

"Historical towns like St Andrews and the 18th-century village of Lanark are also an easy train journey away. And it is easy to forget that there are some great places to visit in Northumberland and Northern England," says clubhouse manager Daniel Campbell. "And don't forget that there is a good cycle route between Edinburgh and Glasgow," says a guest checking in at reception. So whether it's by train, bus, coach, bike, plane or on foot, Edinburgh is a fabulous centre from which to explore.



SUN, SEA, SAND: Seacliff Beach, North Berwick, with Bass Rock in the distance

Beneath the city

If you're looking for an interesting and unusual tour of Edinburgh, instead of strolling round its beautiful streets, why not take a walk under its pavements? On a recent trip to the Scottish capital, I visited the rabbit warren underworld of Edinburgh's Royal Mile. Centuries ago the closes of Old Town Edinburgh were the heart of the city's social scene; open-air and buzzing. Today, they are notorious for the chilling tales of the ghosts of the 17th-century plague victims which supposedly haunt them.

Until 2003, these wonderfully preserved streets – some dating as far back as the 16th century – were sealed up. Now there is no shortage of tours on offer. My tour of choice was the Real Mary King's Close Tour, hailed as 'The most unique visitor experience of Scotland'. Mary King was a prominent business woman in Edinburgh, and visitors are led into her close by a costumed character, who tells stories about the lives of the people who lived there centuries ago, from the Foul Clengers (Plague Cleaners) to Mary King's daughter.

There is something very harrowing about walking down the historically preserved pavements of a close which, before the devastation of the plague, was thriving. However, I came away having thoroughly enjoyed myself, as well as having learnt a great deal about the history of Old Town Edinburgh.

Claire Simon

Krakow: worth its salt

A two-hour flight from Gatwick, the Polish city is perfect for a short getaway, finds Miranda Moore

Descending the first of 378 steps, I make the mistake of looking over the banisters into the vertiginous depths of the mine below. I had read a little about Poland's salt mines before making the trip to its one-time capital, Krakow, but nothing prepared me for the size and beauty of the caverns and tunnels carved out underground by miners since the 13th century.

A short bus-ride from Krakow, Wieliczka Mine stretches out beyond the town above to 300km, extending downwards through nine levels. The three-hour tour takes 1.2 million visitors a year through just a tiny area of the top three levels. Via labyrinthine tunnels, we are led through eerie hallways, adorned with salt sculptures of important mining and religious figures, to chapels with carved salt idols and chandeliers made of salt crystals; caverns exhibiting the tools of the trade; shops, cafes, and a museum. The crowning glory is the ornately carved cathedral; beautiful but spooky as the salt shimmers in the unnatural light.

Miners in hard hats pass by carrying heavy loads. The last of Wieliczka's mineable salt was

BUSTLING: Pedestrians, tourists and shoppers in the busy Main Market Square



HISTORIC: Wawel Cathedral and Castle, atop Wawel Hill

extracted in 1996, but hundreds of miners still work at the site in order to maintain and secure it – an especially important task considering that nearly 20,000 people live overhead!

The short trip back to Krakow gives a glimpse of suburban Poland. It is the only time we use transport during our three-night stay. Our hotel, one of many situated in or close to the Main Market Square and buzzing Jewish district, is within strolling distance of all the major sights, including St Mary's Basilica and the Old Synagogue, which houses an interesting little museum on the city's Jewish history.

Circled by parkland where the city walls once stood, the old town is pretty, with some colourful and impressive architecture. Running through the centre of the Main Market Square is a covered arcade of stalls selling traditional products, from handcrafted wooden toys and ceramics to amber jewellery. Many of the bars and restaurants are housed in brick cellars with vaulted ceilings. The owners need only add low lighting to create a dramatic effect which, coupled with the fantastic quality of food, makes the dining experience as enjoyable as the sights.

From Wawel Hill there are great views over the city and river Wisla. Despite surviving the wars, Wawel Castle suffered years of neglect and internal damage, but its interiors have been faithfully reconstructed. The guided tour of the Royal State Apartments is particularly interesting, piecing together a fascinating recent history of Poland via an exploration of the castle's rooms.

Miranda's three-night stay cost £200 via lastminute.com, including flights from Gatwick and 3-star accommodation with breakfast (based on two sharing).



© Pina Nistri

DANCING CITY: The outdoor dance programme comes to London's Docklands

LONDON

What's on...

Damien Hirst Exhibition
Tate Modern

4 April - 9 September

Key works by one of the world's most influential contemporary artists, including iconic sculptures from his 'Natural History' series; the installation 'In and Out of Love', not shown in its entirety since its creation in 1991; and 'Pharmacy' (1992).

Tickets: £12.20-£14 (Tate members free).

Contact: +44 (0)20 7887 8888.

Web: www.tate.org.uk.

Greenwich + Docklands International Festival
Greenwich and East London

21-30 June

Ten days of theatre, dance and spectacle, with a mix of free and ticketed events.

Highlights include a puppet performance of Ted Hughes' *Crow* poems, and an inventive interpretation of the Greek myth *Prometheus Awakes*, by the disabled-led Graeae Theatre Company.

Tickets and event details: www.festival.org.

New English Ballet Theatre: 'Synergies'

Peacock Theatre

4-8 July

New English Ballet Theatre is an ambitious new venture to nurture the talents of young dancers, musicians, designers and choreographers. 'Synergies' will showcase its 18 young dancers through a mixed bill of world renowned choreography and premieres by emerging choreographers.

Tickets: £12-£38. Contact: +44 (0)844 412 4322. Web: www.sadlerswells.com.

Younger Members

June-August

JUNE

Best of British

Friday 22 June

The RAC kick-starts the summer with a celebration of all that is British. Join fellow Inter-Clubbers for Pimm's on the RAC's private terrace, overlooking the Carlton Gardens. Inter-Club details TBA.*

The Inter-Club quiz

Friday 29 June

The annual Inter-Club battle of wit and superfluous knowledge will be hosted by the reigning champions, The Savage Club. Join up with your fellow ROSL Younger Members and give the other London clubs a run for their money. Inter-Club details TBA.*

JULY

The Travellers Club Garden Party

July (date tba)

An annual summer favourite, hosted by the Travellers Club. Inter-Club details TBA.*

The Inter-Club Sports Day

Thursday 12 July

Dust off those egg and spoons, and start practising the three-legged sprint; a new addition to the Inter-Club calendar sees a return of old school favourites in the wonderful surroundings of St James's Square. Hosted by the Army and Navy Club. Inter-Club details TBA.*

AUGUST

The Inter-Club Tennis Tournament and BBQ

Sunday 19 August

Whether you're a tennis pro or simply enjoy a nice Pimm's, the fourth annual Inter-Club Tennis Tournament and barbecue at the Queen's Club is not to be missed. Inter-Club details TBA.*

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

ROSL recommends...

The Riding Club London is a private members' club and concierge service that brings together equine enthusiasts from across the city. The RCL hosts a variety of social events and regular riding lessons with leading experts in all disciplines, including dressage, jumping, polo and hunting.

As a ROSL organisational partner, the RCL offers all ROSL members £50 off their annual membership fee. For more information visit www.ridinglondon.com or call +44 (0)20 3589 2385 referencing ROSL.



PARTNER: The Riding Club London

Tickling the taste buds

The 2012 Inter-Club calendar got off to a delectable start, says **Alex Pavry**

It was a fiery start to the year for Inter-Clubbers, with the Caledonian Club hosting a whisky tasting in association with Morrison Bowmore Distillers. Members were treated to whisky cocktails and canapés, before sampling drams from the Auchentoshan and Bowmore Distilleries while Philip Nickson, of Morrison Bowmore, delivered an informative and entertaining presentation.

Participants were treated to a variety of whiskies, including a limited edition Valinch and a

Bowmore 15-year-old darkest, and a whisky miniature and tumbler to take home at the end of the evening.

The Carlton Club followed suit in early March, with a cheese and wine tasting. Charlie Miller, of Justerini & Brooks, conducted a tutored tasting of eight wines, with cheese and nibbles served to complement. The hotly contested, blind-tasting competition kept everyone on their toes, and sandwiches were served in the bar afterwards to help those who had neglected the spittoons!



TASTY TIPPLE: Inter-Club members enjoy a tutored wine tasting at the Carlton Club



PRIZEWINNER: Matthew Featherstone will perform in the Music @ 100 Princes Street programme for the Edinburgh Festival Fringe



ROSL ARTS

Director of Arts, **Roderick Lakin**, previews the summer programme

MUSIC EVENTS

Princess Alexandra Hall, Over-Seas House

A Musical Bouquet for Her Majesty

Wednesday 6 June, 7pm

Liane Keegan (contralto), Russell Harcourt (counter tenor), Lee Cheong (piano), Kylie Los (piano)
Presented in association with Tait Memorial Trust, a concert of music in celebration of the Diamond Jubilee of HM The Queen, on the anniversary of Coronation Day, 1953.

Tickets: £12; ROSL members £11; Friends of ROSL ARTS £10.

Includes wine and canapés, served afterwards.

Sundays @ 3: Leonore Trio

Sunday 24 June, 3pm

A welcome return to Over-Seas House for distinguished ROSL past prizewinners Ben Nabarro (violin) and Gemma Rosefield (cello), who are joined by pianist Tim Horton for a performance of piano trios by Dvorak and Arensky. A perfect treat for Midsummer Day.

Tickets: £12; ROSL members £11; Friends of ROSL ARTS £10.

Includes cream tea, served afterwards.

Sundays @ 3:

Estrella Quartet

Sunday 22 July, 3pm

The Estrella Quartet are winners of the Pettman/ROSL ARTS Scholarship 2011, for an outstanding chamber group from New Zealand, one of the

EXCLUSIVE: A Friends of ROSL ARTS Champagne Garden Party in the clubhouse garden

country's most valuable and sought-after awards. An unusual combination of four pianists at two pianos, they present a distinctive and captivating visual and auditory experience.

Their wide-ranging programme includes music by Beethoven, Mendelssohn and Smetana, plus virtuoso showpiece works, written especially for them by leading New Zealand composers Graham Farr and David Hamilton.

Tickets: £12; ROSL members £11; Friends of ROSL ARTS £10.

Includes cream tea, served afterwards.

Wigmore Hall

The Monday Platform
ROSL Prizewinners

Monday 11 June, 7.30pm

Sean Shibe (guitar)

Cavaleri Quartet

Music by Haydn, Janacek, Dowland, Britten, Albeniz and Boccherini. In *The Herald*, Michael Tumelty wrote: '...The finest acoustic guitarist I have ever heard, Sean Shibe... remember this name. One day he will be famous: I do not exaggerate.'

Of the Cavaleri Quartet's Wigmore Hall performance in December 2010, Bob Briggs wrote, in *Musicweb International*: 'Tonight's performance was obsessional, nothing was left to chance, every nuance was clearly determined in advance so that the music could be experienced as the dynamic, passionate and thrilling creation it is... performances which transcended mere music making.'
Tickets: ROSL members and concessions £12; Friends of ROSL



ON THE FRINGE:
ROSL Annual Music Competition award winners, The Busch Ensemble, will play in Edinburgh

ARTS £10 (reduced from £15). Members' and Friends' tickets available from ROSL ARTS, not from the Wigmore Hall box office.

BOOK EVENTS Princess Alexandra Hall, Over-Seas House *Gilded Lives, Fatal Voyage* by Hugh Brewster

Monday 18 June, 7pm

Gilded Lives, Fatal Voyage takes us behind the panelled doors of the Titanic's elegant private suites to present compelling, memorable portraits of some of its most notable passengers. The intimate atmosphere on board this famous ship is recreated as never before, as historian Hugh Brewster interweaves personal narratives of the liner's fascinating passengers with a haunting account of the fateful maiden crossing.

Tickets: £7; ROSL members and concessions £6; Friends of ROSL ARTS £5. Includes wine, served afterwards.

Caine Prize for African Writing

Thursday 28 June, 7pm

Readings by the five shortlisted writers for the 2012 Caine Prize for African Writing. The prize is named after Sir Michael Caine, the former

Chairman of Booker Plc and of the Booker Management Committee. The prize, which has been awarded annually since 2000, is for a short story published in English (whether in Africa or elsewhere) and written by someone born on the African continent whose work reflects that cultural background.

This event will be chaired by Lizzy Attree, Administrator of the Caine Prize, and offers a unique platform for some of the best new literary voices coming out of Africa.

Tickets: £7; ROSL members and concessions £6; Friends of ROSL ARTS £5. Includes wine and canapés, served afterwards.

'FRIENDS' EVENTS Over-Seas House, London

Friends of ROSL ARTS
Champagne Garden Parties

Wednesday 25 July, 6pm

Wednesday 5 September, 6pm

Exclusive to Friends of ROSL ARTS, the Annual Champagne Garden Parties are the highlight of the summer calendar. A Champagne reception in the garden at Over-Seas House, London, is followed by an hour-long concert by ROSL

prizewinners. Commonwealth wines and sweet pastries are served afterwards.

In June, existing Friends will receive an invitation to attend one of the garden parties. Joining the Friends costs just £30 for ROSL members or £35 for non-members. Benefits include discounted tickets to all ROSL ARTS events, invitations to private views of

exhibitions and regular mailings. *To become a Friend of ROSL ARTS, please call +44 (0)20 7408 0214 ext 219 or email culture@rosl.org.uk.*

For tickets, call ROSL ARTS on +44 (0)20 7408 0214 x 219 or email culture@rosl.org.uk.

Over-Seas House, Edinburgh ROSL ARTS @ Edinburgh Festival Fringe 2012

Monday 13 - Friday 24 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!'

In August, ROSL ARTS once again heads to Scotland for the 13th Annual Series of 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 has become a priority for discerning festival goers. Musicians include the Estrella Quartet, Sean Shibe (guitar), Jun Sasaki (cello), Matthew Featherstone (flute), Ashley Fripp (piano), the Busch Ensemble, James Sherlock (piano), Timothy End (piano), Brian O'Kane (cello), and the Castalian, Cavaleri and Brodowski string quartets.

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 or from ROSL ARTS from July. To book, call +44 (0)131 225 1501 or email reception@rosl-edinburgh.org.

Members' events

June-August

JUNE

Henley Royal Regatta

Wednesday 27 June - Sunday

1 July, all day, £150, G

Enjoy this fabulously British event alongside one of the most beautiful stretches of the River Thames. Tickets include a table in the Henley Restaurant for the duration of the day; unlimited table service beverages, 12-6pm (Pimm's, house wine, bottled beers, fruit juice and mineral water); a glass of pre-lunch Champagne; three-course lunch, including the Henley seafood platter; Regatta afternoon tea; and an entrance badge to the Henley Royal Regatta (Regatta Enclosure).

Transport to and from Henley is not included. If you have any queries, please contact Alastair Betty on +44 (0)20 7491 3644 or alastair@convexleisure.co.uk.

JULY

Tea at the House of Lords

Tuesday 3 July, 3.30pm, £35, G

An annual favourite, hosted by ROSL President Lord Luce. Afternoon tea will be served in the Cholmondeley Room and Terrace, overlooking the River Thames.

The ROSL Olympic quiz

Thursday 12 July, 6.30pm, £30, G

Test your sporting knowledge with a quiz to get you in the Olympic spirit. Prizes will be awarded to the winning team (consisting of 4-5 ROSL members and their guests). Tickets include a finger buffet and glass of wine.

Olympic Games Opening Ceremony

Friday 27 July, 7pm, £45, G

Join the Director-General and raise a glass in celebration of the London 2012 Games. A reception drink, followed by hot fork buffet with wine, will be served in the Hall of India and Pakistan, where the Opening Ceremony may be viewed on television screens.

AUGUST

Frogmore House and Jubilee Tea in the Savill Gardens

Thursday 2 August, 10am, £50, R

Enjoy a splendid day out with a tour of Frogmore House in Windsor, renowned for its beautiful landscaped garden and 18th-century lake; followed by entrance to the Savill Garden, where a gardening expert will be

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

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.



HRRP-NEWSTEAM © HISTORIC ROYAL PALACES



HRRP-NEWSTEAM © HISTORIC ROYAL PALACES

EXCLUSIVE ACCESS: Tower of London (August)



SPLENDID: The beautiful house and gardens of Frogmore House in Windsor (August)

on hand to answer any questions you may have, before you retire to ROSL's own private tent to enjoy a magnificent Jubilee Tea.

Tickets include travel to and from Windsor, departing from Over-Seas House, London; a private tour of Frogmore House; full afternoon tea; and a 'Gardens in a Royal Landscape' souvenir guide book.

Dinner in The Tower
Wednesday 15 August, 7pm, £55, R

A black-tie dinner, followed by the Ceremony of the Keys, at Her Majesty's Royal Palace and Fortress, more commonly known as the Tower of London. Hosted by ROSL Director-General, Major General Roddy Porter, the event includes a reception drink, three-course dinner with wine in the Royal Fusiliers' Officers' Mess, and a Yeoman Warder guided viewing of the Ceremony of the Keys.



OLYMPICS: Celebrate with top events at Over-Seas House (July)

Kensington Palace private tour

Tuesday 21 August, 11am, £15, R

A private tour of the recently re-opened Kensington Palace, following a £12 million, two-year transformation. Discover stories from Queen Victoria's life, told in

her own words, in the new Victoria Revealed exhibition; master the games of Royal Court in the magnificent King's State Apartments; get a glimpse of a modern Princess in a small but special exhibition of some of the dresses of Diana, Princess of Wales; and uncover secrets in the beautiful Queen's State Apartments.

Chairman's Lunch

Tuesday 13 November, midday, £58, G

The annual Chairman's Lunch, hosted by ROSL Chairman, Sir Anthony Figgis. Reception drinks will be served in the Wrench Room, followed by a three-course lunch in the Hall of India and Pakistan. Guest of honour and speaker to be announced.

.....✂

Members' events Application form *(see opposite)*

Please complete this form (or a photocopy) and send to: Alexandra Pavry, PR Department (Members Events), Over-Seas House, Park Place, St James's Street, London SW1A 1LR. **Tel:** +44 (0)20 7016 6906. **Email:** apavry@rosl.org.uk
It is advisable to call in advance to reserve a ticket. Alternatively you can now book online: see www.rosl.org.uk for more details.

Membership no.
Name
.....
Name of guest(s)
and trip they are attending:
.....
.....
Address to which tickets should be sent:
.....
.....
.....
Tel no

EVENT	DATE	PRICE	NO.
Henley Royal Regatta	£150 £
Tea at the House of Lords	Tue 3 Jul	£35 £
The ROSL Olympic quiz	Thu 12 Jul	£30 £
Olympic Games Opening Ceremony	Fri 27 Jul	£45 £
Frogmore House & Jubilee Tea	Thu 2 Aug	£50 £
Dinner in The Tower	Wed 15 Aug	£55 £
Kensington Palace private tour	Tue 21 Aug	£15 £
Chairman's Lunch	Tue 13 Nov	£58 £

Payment – please send a SEPARATE CHEQUE for each event. Cheques (sterling) payable to ROSL. For credit/debit card payments call +44 (0)20 7016 6906.

Food & drink: London

July-August

Olympic specials

Brunch menu

Enjoy brunch in the Buttery with a glass of sparkling wine throughout the London 2012 Games.

*Served daily, 10am-2pm.
£12.80 pp.*

Olympic hour

To celebrate the Olympic and Paralympic Games coming to London, selected drinks will be half price in the Cocktail Bar for 'Olympic hour', while the Games are on.

27 July - 12 August & 29 August - 9 September, 6-7pm.



CELEBRATION:
Cocktails will be part of the Olympic-themed food and drink menus at Overseas House, London

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Overseas

EDINBURGH

What's on...

June-September

JUNE

Bridge Club lunch**Friday 1 June, midday**

An opportunity to introduce a guest.

*One course with sherry: £12.***Coffee morning****Saturday 2 June, 10.30am**

Duncan McCallum (Historic Scotland) will speak about Edinburgh Castle.

Royal Diamond Jubilee**Sunday 3 June**

Special lunch and large screen TV event.

*Details to be announced.***Scottish members' dinner****Friday 8 June, 7pm for 7.30pm**

With Speaker Rev John P Chalmers, Principal Clerk of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland.

*Three courses with wine, coffee and reception drink: £31.***Gala Opera Evening****Thursday 21 June, 6.30pm**

Students of the Royal Scottish Conservatoire Opera Department present an enticing programme of music by Mozart from their

summer production of *The Magic Flute*.
*Tickets, including pre-concert cocktail reception and supper: £30.***Arts Lunch****Wednesday 27 June, midday for 12.30pm**

Philip Long, Director of the V&A Museum in Dundee, talks about its eagerly-anticipated opening.

Two courses, coffee and glass of wine: £18; ROSL members £17.

AUGUST

Edinburgh International Festival Fringe 2012**Monday 13 - Friday 24 August**

Now in its 13th season, Music @ 100 Princes Street returns for its critically acclaimed sell-out series.



Presenting 30 concerts in two weeks, it includes the popular Bach for Breakfast and Mozart at Teatime programmes. These concerts feature outstanding ROSL prizewinners from the UK and the Commonwealth.

Brochures available in July.

Tickets: £12; ROSL members £10; Friends of ROSL ARTS £8.

SEPTEMBER

Edinburgh Festival Fireworks**Sunday 2 September**

Cocktails on arrival, with a five-course dinner with wine, followed by coffee and malt whisky. Roof access available to view fireworks.

*Tickets: £125. Time to be arranged.***PAINTING PARADISE:** Work from Hatti Pattison's 'East Neuk Paradise' exhibition, at the Edinburgh clubhouse, will include 'Pink Forest' (top left) and 'Sea Explosion' (above)**ROSL ARTS exhibition: Over-Seas House, Edinburgh****Friday 27 July - Sunday 16****September; admission free**

Scottish artist Hatti Pattison exhibits 'East Neuk Paradise', a series of her latest paintings, inspired by the sea and landscapes of Fife. Pattison's mixed media style is created using highly textured brush strokes juxtaposed with subtle watery mark-making. Her work varies from the figurative to the abstract, depicting the local seascapes and landscapes she grew up with.

Hatti Pattison studied at Central Saint Martins in London and later at Duncan of Jordanstone College of Art and Design in Dundee. She currently lives and works from her studio in Edinburgh.

Special mid-week offer

ROSL Edinburgh has a special offer for June and July. A two-night stay between Sunday and Thursday is just £115 pp for a double room with a full Scottish breakfast and dinner on one night, including a bottle of

wine (single occupancy supplement £59).

We are also offering a 10% discount on Royal Yacht Britannia visits. For more information call reception on +44 (0)131 225 1501.



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, +44 (0)1732 883556, johncoatesedward@aol.com. Please note: The Discussion Group does not meet in August and September.*

2012: ROSL/ Goodenough Diamond Jubilee series

Discussion Group meetings in 2012 are organised in association with Goodenough College. Founded in 1931, the college provides residential accommodation in the heart of Bloomsbury for postgraduate students from all over the world. It is justifiably proud of its rich extra-curricular life, which draws on the intellectual and cultural interests and strengths of its student body. See www.goodenough.ac.uk.

Shock and Awe: An exploration of contemporary art and theology

11 June
With The Rev Jennie Hogan, a priest in the Church of England, and Chaplain and Faith Adviser at Goodenough College.

The Hanoverian Royal Palaces

9 July
With Wolf Burchard, a member of Goodenough College and Curatorial Assistant at the Royal Collection.

LONDON GROUP

Meetings and outside visits are open to London Group members and their occasional guests. ROSL members staying overnight at

Over-Seas House, London, are also welcome. To join the London Group, ask for an application form from the PR Department or from the London Group Executive Vice-Chairman c/o Porters' Desk at Over-Seas House, London. *Contact Clive Carpenter, +44 (0)7798 824193, clivedavidcarpenter@compuserve.com.*

Meetings

Held once a month on a Thursday, at 6-7pm, in the Mountbatten Room, Over-Seas House, London.

Treasures from the Royal Collection

21 June
An illustrated talk by Oliver Everett, Royal Librarian Emeritus, who was Librarian at the Royal Library, Windsor Castle, from 1984 to 2002.

The History of the Ancient Olympic Games

19 July
To mark the London 2012 Games, a talk on the history of the Olympics will be given by Dr Steve Kershaw, Classics Tutor in the Department of Continuing Education at the University of Oxford.

Parliamentary Peregrinations

23 August
A talk by London Group Chairman, Dr Edmund Marshall, about his overseas experiences as an MP, from Ottawa to Esbjerg, and Baltasound to Berlin.

Outside visits

For more details, contact Doreen Regan, +44 (0)20 7584 5879. To apply for events, write to Doreen Regan, London Group, c/o Porters' Desk, Over-Seas House, London. Please enclose a cheque payable to London Group ROSL and a stamped, self-addressed envelope.



ANCIENT WORLD: The famous statue 'Discobolus'; the ancient Olympics is explored in July

Guided tour of the Royal Military School of Music and the Museum of British Military Music

Tuesday 12 June 2012, 2.15pm
Founded in 1857 by the Duke of Cambridge, the Royal Military

School of Music, Kneller Hall, currently trains the musicians and future band masters of the British Army and armies overseas. Tea and light refreshments will be available at the end of the tour. Travel is by coach from Over-Seas House, London, departing at 2.15pm and returning by 6.30pm. *Tickets: LG members £22; guests £24.*

TREATING PROSTATE CANCER QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

For a **FREE** copy of this booklet please contact us at the address below.

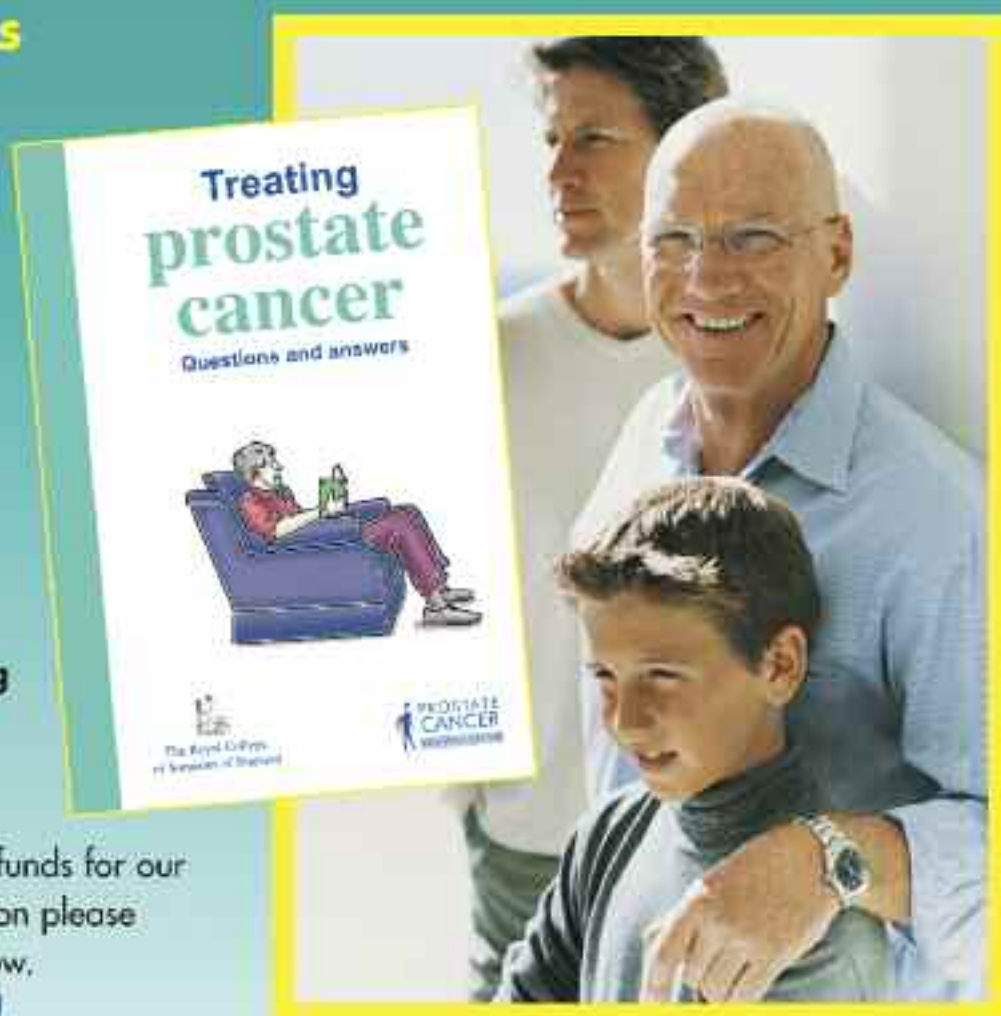
This booklet has two aims:

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VENICE

Ca' Dei Conti
**** Superior

Formerly a patrician palace, the Ca' Dei Conti is a family-run, boutique hotel with just 35 rooms and a small terrace.

It overlooks a canal and is five minutes' walk from St. Mark's Square. All bedrooms are decorated in classic 18th Century style.

4 nights for the price of 3 all year – price from £746, saving £126

Includes Doge's Palace, Accademia or Ca' Sagredo tickets and water taxi transfers.

ANDALUCIAN COUNTRYSIDE

Hacienda De San Rafael (a Deluxe Country Inn)

Set among sunflower and cotton fields between Jerez and Seville, this is one of our favourite hotels. The Reid family have converted their handsome former farmhouse into a luxurious boutique hotel. There are 11 elegantly furnished rooms set around a flower filled courtyard and three 'Casitas'. Great food, attractive gardens with summer swimming pools, rustic furnishings.



It is the perfect base to explore the charming white villages such as Arcos de La Frontera nearby, and for those who wish to travel further Seville, Cadix, Ronda and Puerto de Santa Maria are easily accessible in a day trip.

*3 night price from £948
Includes flights, car hire and half board with wine*

ROME

d'Inghilterra **** Deluxe

This delightful hotel has the best location of any in Rome – close to the bottom of the Spanish Steps. A favourite of Hemingway and Mark Twain, it has been described as among the 20 most charming hotels in the world.

3 nights for the price of 2 for Sunday arrivals – price from £896, saving up to £247

Includes entrance tickets to the Vatican Museums & Sistine Chapel or Villa Borghese.

SARGENT AND THE AMERICAN IMPRESSIONISTS: AMERICANS IN FLORENCE

AT PALAZZO STROZZI UNTIL 15 JULY



John Singer Sargent, A Tower Garden, 1910

To celebrate this major exhibition in Florence, we are offering our clients special short breaks with guaranteed entrance tickets. This stunning exhibition tells the story of the love affair between Americans and Florence through the eyes of Sargent who was born in the city.

Antica Torre di via Torraibonni

This beautiful hotel dates from the 13th Century and has a spectacular roof terrace. Kirker clients stay in the seven renovated rooms which are amongst the most stylish and comfortable in Florence. The Antica Torre offers exceptional personal service.

3 nights price from £719 including private 2 hour walking tour

Includes Uffizi Gallery tickets & Palazzo Strozzi tickets (until 15 July)

PARIS - DÉGAS AND THE NUDE

AT MUSÉE D'ORSAY UNTIL 1 JULY 2012



Edgar Degas, La Toilette, 1884-86, Private Collection

To celebrate this major exhibition in Paris, we are offering special short breaks with guaranteed entrance tickets. The exhibition traces the artist's approach to the nude throughout his long career.

Victor Hugo * Superior**
A very good quality, well maintained, family-run hotel located some 10 minutes' walk from the Arc de Triomphe and the Champs Élysées. Comfortable lounge, small bar, attractive breakfast room where buffet breakfast is served and 76 well furnished bedrooms with tea and coffee making facilities.

4 nights for the price of 3 for stays including a Sunday night – Price from £568 pp, saving £89

Includes Degas exhibition tickets (until 1 July), 48 hour museum pass to other exhibitions including the Louvre, plus Seine cruise & Metro tickets

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