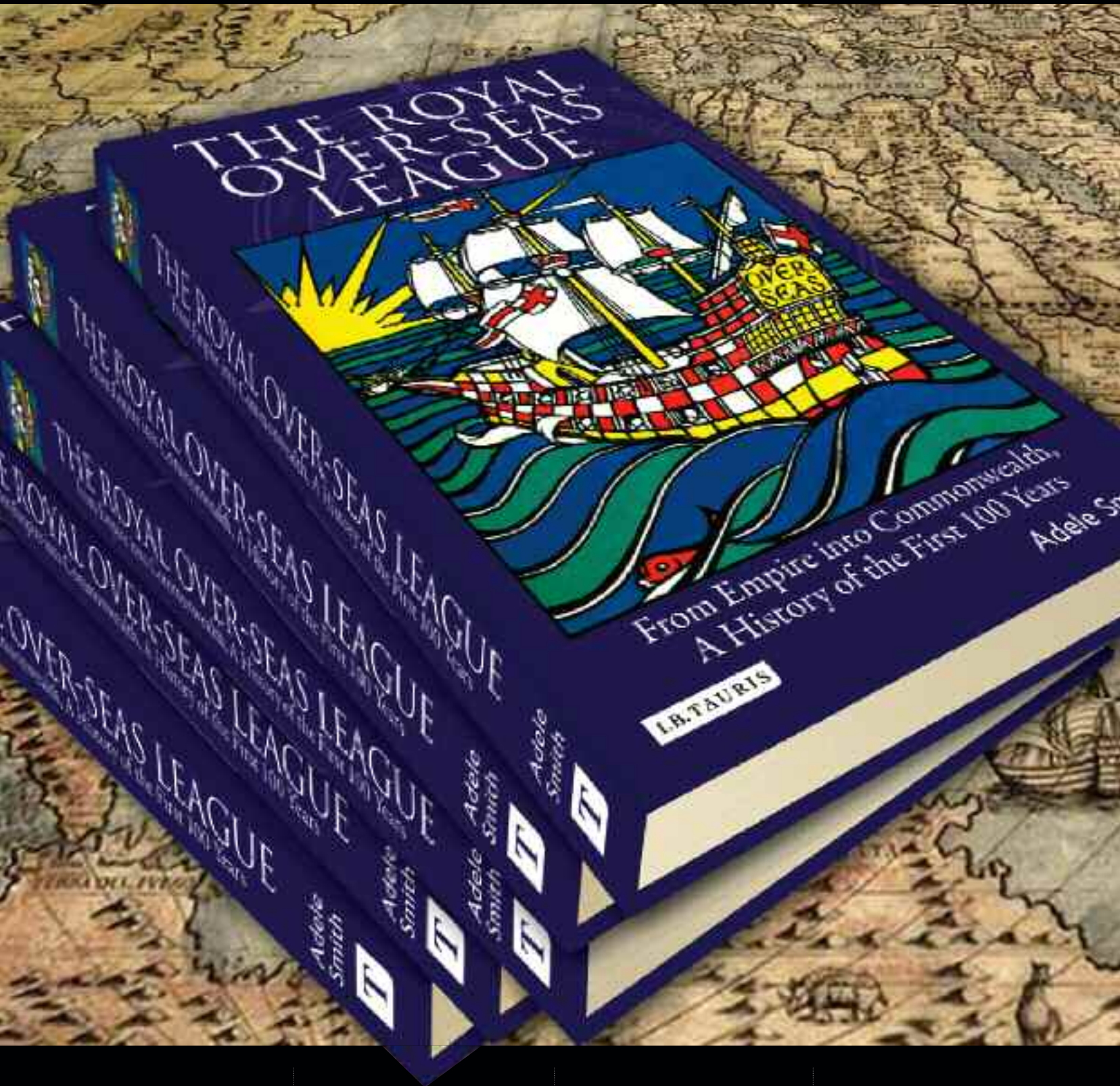


OVERSEAS

Journal of the Royal Over-Sea League

Issue 3, September-November 2009



ROSL celebrations

An exciting programme of events and a new book to mark our 100th birthday

Heads together

What can be achieved by Commonwealth countries at this year's CHOGM?

Sound futures

ROSL ARTS introduces the winners of the Annual Music Competition

Top cats

A day in the life of a chief keeper at the Cheetah Conservation Fund

MUSIC HOLIDAYS

FOR DISCERNING TRAVELLERS



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ALASDAIR BEATSON - CATHERINE HOPPER - THE CARDUCCI QUARTET
SIMON ROWLAND-JONES - MORGAN SZYMANSKI

These are just some of the musicians engaged by Kirker Holidays for their wide range of holidays and cruises during 2009.

A SELECTION OF OUR DESTINATIONS:



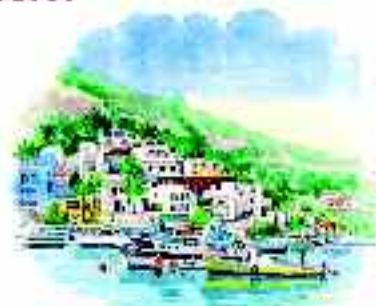
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OVERSEAS

ISSUE 3 September-November 2009

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

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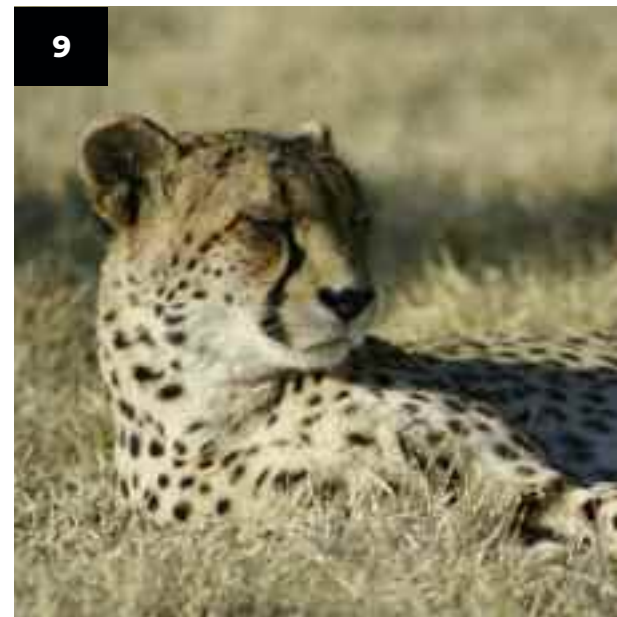
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Front cover: The drawing of the ship on the front cover of this issue is by the artist Macdonald Gill (1884 -1947). It was commissioned by Evelyn Wrench and used on the jacket of the *Overseas* journal for many years from 1915, when first published. Then, ROSL was called the Over-Seas Club. This drawing emphasised the club's global aspect.



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From the Director-general

Preparations for the centenary next year are gathering pace. A history of ROSL by Adele Smith is published in November and a range of merchandise incorporating the new ROSL logo is available now in the ROSL shop and by mail order. In the next issue, we will publish the programme of centenary events. In this issue, Roderick Lakin outlines plans for the Centenary Appeal, which aims to raise a significant endowment for ROSL Music Competition Awards and Scholarships (page 5). Over the past 100 years, ROSL has benefitted from generous donations from members. The Centenary Appeal will continue after 2010 and will be a lasting legacy of the centenary year.

In comparison to 2008, this year is proving less successful for ROSL, which is hardly surprising when one considers the effect of the recession. It seems we will not see a repeat of last year's excellent membership retention and recruitment or its good bedroom occupancy. I ask you to spread the word and encourage friends and family to join. There are many benefits, not least our two residential clubhouses and their wonderful series of events. Additionally, there are 85 reciprocal clubs throughout the world and ROSL's altruistic endeavours in Namibia and for young musicians, artists and writers. For membership application forms, contact Angela Farago on 020 7408 0214 x214 or afarago@rosl.org.uk.

In July, two of my colleagues celebrated long service with ROSL. Fatima Vanicek, membership secretary and my assistant, completed 30 years and Mick McCall, head hall porter and health and safety officer, 25 years. Earlier in 2009, Roderick Lakin completed 25 years in charge of ROSL ARTS and, last year, Alan Chalmers celebrated 20 years as manager of Over-Seas House, Edinburgh.

In April, at the Bournemouth Branch AGM, we said farewell to Mrs Marjorie Harvey, who retired as branch secretary. Marjorie gave 24 years of loyal and dedicated service to ROSL, for which we will always be grateful. We welcomed her successor, Gordon Irving. We also said farewell to Janet Moir and her husband Michael, who retired as branch chairman and deputy chairman respectively. Christopher Bladen succeeds Janet and David Lange succeeds Michael.

Robert Newell



Editor's letter

With this year's CHOGM looming, the heads of



government from all 53 Commonwealth countries are mulling over the major issues up for discussion in Trinidad and Tobago. Eduardo del Buey, from the Commonwealth Secretariat, outlines the agenda (page 10). This includes controversial topics – not least the debate over whether to accept Rwanda's application for membership, which Derek Ingram weighs up (page 12). Meanwhile, Port of Spain journalist Tony Fraser offers a local perspective on the Meeting (page 14).

This is the first in our series of centenary issues of *Overseas*. Celebrating 100 years of ROSL, we look back at the founding of the League, publishing an extract of Adele Smith's new book *The Royal Over-Seas League: From Empire into Commonwealth, A History of the First 100 Years* (page 6). The next four issues will see further extracts from this publication.

Overseas takes on a slightly different format for our special centenary issues. The Focus section will be broader in theme, looking at ideas that span all Commonwealth countries, rather than looking at a single country as we usually do. We will also publish a dedicated centenary section at the front of each magazine.

While introducing these new features, I should also say hello myself, as I start my short stint as acting editor of *Overseas*. Since Miranda went on maternity leave, I have received a very warm welcome from everyone at ROSL. I have thoroughly enjoyed working with them to produce this issue. I hope you enjoy reading it just as much.

Jessica Moore

GOOD SPORTS: HIH Princess Takamado of Japan (in her capacity as Honorary Patron of the Japan Football Association) was entertained to brunch at Over-Seas House, London by the Football Association, in July. Pictured are: (l-r) Miss Lucia Sanchez (FA international manager), Mr Geoffrey Thompson (ROSL Central Council member, Vice-President of UEFA and FIFA, and past FA Chairman), Princess Takamado and Mr Robert Newell (ROSL director-general).



Centenary Appeal

Director of ROSL ARTS, **Roderick Lakin**, announces ambitious plans for the future of the Annual Music Competition

To mark the centenary of the ROSL in 2010, and to acknowledge the ROSL Annual Music Competition as one of its most significant and enduring achievements, the major awards in the 58th ROSL Annual Music Competition are to be doubled in the centenary year. The first prize for solo performers and the two ensemble awards will therefore become £10,000 each and the awards for keyboard, strings, wind, singers, and accompanists will be £5,000. The total value of competition awards from 2010 onwards will be in excess of £50,000.

The ROSL Centenary Appeal aims to secure endowment in excess of £1,000,000 to support outstanding young professional musicians through the ROSL Annual Music Competition and ROSL ARTS international music scholarships. The funds raised will be held in a restricted fund within the ROSL Golden Jubilee Trust (registered charity number 30695).

Largely thanks to generous donations and legacies from ROSL members, over the past 10 years ROSL ARTS has raised in excess of £500,000 towards the ROSL Annual Music Competition, the refurbishment of Princess Alexandra Hall (formerly St Andrew's Hall), Over-Seas House, London and the purchase of a magnificent new Steinway grand piano for the hall. Encouraged by this success, a Centenary Appeal advisory board has been formed under the chairmanship of Graham Lockwood, former deputy chairman of ROSL.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

You can support the Centenary Appeal by making a one-off donation or by becoming a Friend of ROSL ARTS.

Gift aid

ROSL ARTS can reclaim tax on all donations taxpayers make by gift aid, increasing the value of the gift to ROSL ARTS and decreasing the cost to the donor.

Share aid

In addition to exemption from capital

gains tax, a donor of publicly quoted shares may claim tax relief on the current value of the shares.

Legacies and gifts

All outright gifts and bequests are exempt from inheritance tax. Direct transfer of assets, for example property or works of art, does not incur capital gains tax.

Friends of ROSL ARTS

Friends of ROSL ARTS was established in 1999 to encourage new supporters, to

*Over 60 years,
ROSL has helped
thousands of
outstanding young
musicians*

develop audiences, and to retain and foster the active involvement of ROSL ARTS sponsors and donors. From 2009 onwards, all the income from Friends of ROSL ARTS is to be devoted to the ROSL Centenary Appeal.

For more than 60 years, ROSL has helped thousands of outstanding young musicians from the UK and the Commonwealth. Pictured is one of the most successful of recent ROSL music competition alumni, soprano Lucy Crowe (ROSL gold medallist 2002). Already a star of English National Opera, in 2009 Crowe made auspicious debuts at the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden and at Glyndebourne Festival Opera, receiving rave reviews for her radiant singing and stage presence. Help support the next generation of great musicians by supporting the ROSL Centenary Appeal.



Photo: Susse Anenburg

CRITICAL ACCLAIM: According to Hugh Canning of The Sunday Times (28 June 2009): 'Lucy Crowe dazzles with her every appearance, a young singer extravagantly blessed with look-at-me-and-listen charisma'.

For further information about making a donation or legacy in support of this appeal or becoming a Friend of ROSL ARTS please contact Roderick Lakin MBE, Director of ROSL ARTS, Over-Seas House, Park Place, St James's Street, London SW1A 1LR. Tel 020 7408 0214 x325 or email rlakin@rosl.org.uk



From Empire to Commonwealth

A new book celebrates the history of ROSL's first 100 years. We introduce its author, Adele Smith, and treat you to a preview extract



To celebrate the centenary of ROSL, in 2010, a history of the first 100 years, written by Adele Smith, will be published in November 2009 by I B Tauris. Adele Smith was born in Northumberland and educated at the Universities of Leeds and Oxford. She has enjoyed a varied and distinguished career in public relations, development and fund-raising. She was director of public relations for ROSL for four years in the 1980s and has maintained a strong association ever since.

Smith has structured the book thematically into nine concise chapters, illustrated with evocative archive photographs and documents. These deal with different facets of ROSL's development over the last 100 years, including the First World War Overseas Aircraft Flotilla, The Royal Connection, Branches, Architecture and History of Over-Seas House, London and Edinburgh, Arts and Welfare projects, plus a time line and appendices.

The London launch event for *The Royal Over-Seas League: From Empire into Commonwealth, A History of the First 100 Years* takes place in Princess Alexandra Hall, Over-Seas House, on Monday 16 November 2009 (see book events listings on page 31).

The following is an extract from the introductory chapter of the book, focusing on Evelyn Wrench and the founding of the Royal Over-Seas League. Further extracts from *The Royal Over-Seas League: From Empire into Commonwealth, A History of the First 100 Years* will be published in each celebratory centenary issue of *Overseas* magazine.

Evelyn Wrench and the founding of the Royal Over-Seas League

*We sailed wherever ship could sail,
We founded many a mighty state,
Pray God our greatness may not fail
Through craven fears of being great*

Alfred Lord Tennyson

The Royal Over-Seas League was founded as the Over-Seas Club in 1910, at a time when the British Empire was the focus of unprecedented interest by politicians, churchmen, theorists and idealists of all kinds. The idea of Empire with its potential for the creation of an advanced multicultural society, benefiting its people both materially and spiritually, had become a

THE FOUNDER: Evelyn Wrench in his office at Over-Seas House

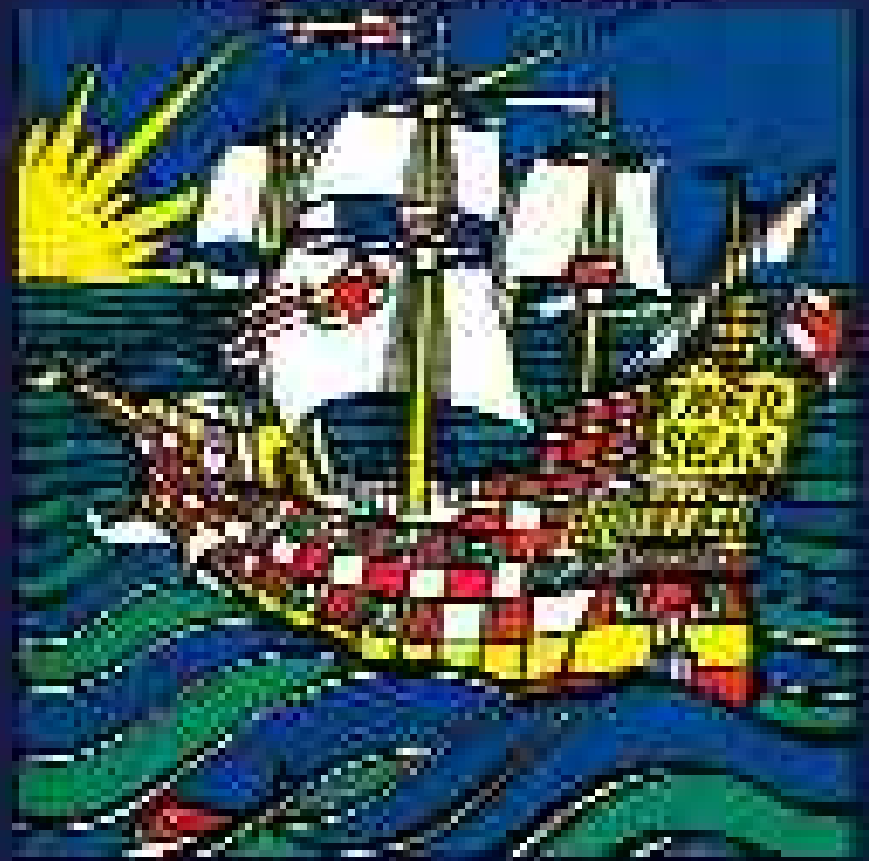
dominant force in British life. Empire builders, statesmen and soldiers, such as Joseph Chamberlain, Cecil Rhodes, Dr Livingstone and General Gordon, were popular heroes.

Throughout the last two decades of the nineteenth century, this interest had been building, spurred on by elements in the popular press, led by Alfred Harmsworth (Lord Northcliffe), and extending to novels and poetry, such as that of Alfred Lord Tennyson, Alfred Austin and William Henley, with particular emphasis on the excitement and adventure that the Empire seemed to offer.

Periodicals for children, such as *Boy's Own*, were full of these possibilities. The new Boy Scouts organisation and sport prepared a boy generally for an adventurous life with an imperial purpose. The Boer War, with its attendant atrocities, caused a more sceptical mood to develop in the early 1900s, but by



THE ROYAL OVER-SEAS LEAGUE



The Royal Over-Seas League: From Empire into Commonwealth, A History of the First 100 Years

IB Tauris

Adele Smith



CENTENARY

too rapid over-expansion, but his entrepreneurial skills had been noticed by Lord Northcliffe, the newspaper proprietor whose assistant and protégé he became. He worked for Amalgamated Press for eight years, editing the Over-Seas Daily Mail, among other papers.

The empire-builder Cecil Rhodes had been an idol of Wrench's since boyhood, together with the whole idea of Empire brotherhood. The critical moment of Wrench's life came in 1906, when, on a visit to Ottawa, he was staying with the Governor General, Lord Grey, a Rhodes Trustee. During his visit they discussed the future of the British Empire continually, and particularly the idea of forming a great non-partisan society to promote unity throughout the Empire. Lord Grey showed Wrench a document in which Cecil Rhodes set out his ideas for just such a society to extend the influence of the Empire. During the rest of his time in Canada, Wrench formulated the idea on which the Over-Seas Club (later the ROSL) would be based. He was 24 years old at the time.

Wrench later wrote: 'I left Ottawa on 15 August 1906, by the train Imperial Limited, for Winnipeg – a two day journey – and my first afternoon in the train was spent in putting down in black and white the aims and objectives of an Imperial Society such as I longed to found'.

The Royal Over-Seas League: From Empire into Commonwealth, A History of the First 100 Years by Adele Smith, published 2009 by I B Tauris ISBN 9781 8488 5010

1907 the imperialists were back in full force, with serious suggestions as to how the Empire could develop.

Books on Empire topics, such as *Colonial Nationalism* by Richard Jebb, and Norman Angell's *The Great Illusion*, examining the future of the imperial idea, were best-sellers. This interest had led to the formation of many societies fostering Empire connections, such as the Royal Colonial Institute, the Victoria League, the Navy League and the Boy Scouts.

In the Empire itself, the new countries were developing their independence and looking for ways in which they could assert their individuality without challenging their ties to the Mother Country. The first Imperial Conference was held in 1909. The question of Empire federation versus autonomy was a central theme in the years before the Great War, and

politicians talked of the 'Greater Britain', seeing the Empire as integral in purpose.

Against this background, John Evelyn Wrench, the founder of the Over-Seas Club, later the Royal Over-Seas League, was completely a man of his time. He was born in Ireland in 1882 into an Anglo-Irish family with aristocratic connections. His boyhood at Eton was marked by illness and injury but, despite this, he emerged as a remarkably lively, mercurial personality. Leaving Eton at 17 years old, undecided as to whether to become a missionary or a diplomat, he travelled extensively abroad, particularly in Germany where he studied the language. With his talent for seizing opportunities, he returned to England and set up his own postcard business, modelled on the ones he had seen in Germany. The great success of this teenage venture was short-lived due to

Exclusive offer for ROSL members

List price, hardback	£20
ROSL members' price	£15
List price, paperback	£10
ROSL members' price	£8

Books will be available for purchase from the ROSL shop at Over-Seas House, London and Reception, Over-Seas House, Edinburgh from mid-November.

**By post – please use gift catalogue order form (enclosed) – postage and packing charges apply.
ORDER NOW FOR CHRISTMAS**

Too old to fight

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

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

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

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

Too proud to ask



This is Anwar Lalitendra Thapa (L) aged 87 and his partner, Anwar Bahadur Thapa, both served with the British Army throughout the 1940s. The ladies they each adore support them on their day with the usual everyday needs from their home village in the rural Gurkha Welfare Trust Area. The ladies also collect their "wishes" parcel. This is their chief source of income and it stands between them and death.

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

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



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ROC

Cool for cats

A glimpse at the work of the Cheetah Conservation Fund in Namibia, by chief keeper **Adrian Nisbett**

It's amazing there are any wild cheetahs at all. Consider the odds: a small gene pool; an inability to protect food or cubs against other predators; females living singly, without the protection of community life. Even the cheetah's most impressive asset, its speed, turns into a liability when farmland fences criss-cross the once open plains. Consequently, cub survival rate in the wild is estimated at only 15-25%.

In Namibia, home to more cheetahs (perhaps 3,000) than any other part of Africa, human activity is the greatest threat to survival. The land is marginal for farming, so Namibian farmers are not naturally well-disposed towards predators. Cheetahs prefer wild game, but a hungry female with cubs to feed will catch the easiest prey: livestock. And understandably, farmers have traditionally shot predators.

Enter Dr Laurie Marker and the Cheetah Conservation Fund. Founded in 1991 and occupying some 40,000 hectares near Otjiwarongo in northern Namibia, the CCF is dedicated to saving the wild cheetah. Much of CCF's work is through education: regular courses for farmers are conducted and students of all ages visit the centre frequently. Increasing numbers of farmers are adopting farming techniques that allow predators to exist on the same land as livestock, or are now catching cheetahs and arranging for them to be released on reserve land.

CCF's research activities include studies of cheetah behaviour and health issues in collaboration with world-renowned bodies including the Smithsonian Institution. The subjects are often wild cheetahs, caught on farms and brought to CCF. After a full medical they are released onto CCF land to live freely, often with collars which allow for satellite tracking.

Unfortunately, most of CCF's 35 or so orphaned cheetahs are destined to spend their

lives at CCF, as they lost their mothers before learning to survive in the wild. Lately, however, CCF has been releasing some young orphaned cheetahs into the Namib Rand game reserve.

For the past six years, I have worked as a cheetah keeper. Despite daily contact with these beautiful cats, I have never lost my sense of awe. Everything about the cheetah is designed to maximize its ability to outrun its prey and the result is a hunter whose breathtaking turn of speed (over 100 km/h) is one of nature's great sights.

As CCF's cheetahs don't have to hunt for their food, feeding is a large part of my job. Cheetahs don't like surprises, so we follow a set routine every day. This encourages consistency and safe practice. Two or three keepers, assisted by short-term volunteers, feed the animals (usually donkey meat), provide fresh water, clean pens and check the cats' well-being. As the pens are up to 25 hectare areas, the daily feed is a time-consuming process. It can also be demanding physically, as volunteers quickly discover! Other duties include pen maintenance, showing visitors around, doing paperwork and assisting with medical checks. It is a full-on but very rewarding job.

Captive cheetahs are particularly susceptible to gastritis, so it is essential to maintain very high standards of hygiene. Additionally, each cheetah is given a medical check-up annually where keepers help sedate and care for the cats. Getting to know individual animals is an essential part of that process. This means being able to identify individuals, usually by their distinctive 'tear' mark on each cheek, or tail marking. It is also important to get to know each animal's personality and characteristics.

All is not routine though! Bringing up cubs is one of the delights of cheetah keeping. While demanding in time and effort, these young tearaways provide hours of entertainment. There are few better ways to spend time at CCF than with a cub purring loudly as it demands scratches



© ADRIAN NISBETT

IN THE SPOTLIGHT: The beautiful and graceful cheetahs near Otjiwarongo in northern Namibia

behind the ear and your leg to sleep against.

CCF's work is funded entirely through donations, largely from the USA and the UK. Additional funds are generated by visitors to CCF's centre, which is open daily for tours that include CCF's museum and education centre. It is also possible to book tours to outlying cheetah pens and to watch early morning 'cheetah runs', at which young cats demonstrate what cheetahs do best.

Adrian Nisbett is a ROSL member who writes freelance travel and wildlife articles in addition to working at CCF.

To learn about CCF, visit www.cheetah.org. The website also has information on donations, sponsoring, volunteering and visiting the CCF centre.

On the agenda

Eduardo del Buey provides a potted history of the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting and outlines the main topics up for discussion this year

Forty years ago, the Commonwealth's first Secretary-General, Arnold Smith, posed the question: "Does the Commonwealth have a future?"

He was speaking to a group of parliamentarians in Trinidad and Tobago, the host country for this year's Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM), where I am certain this question will be asked again, this time by the media.

After an unequivocal 'yes', my response will be reassuringly much the same as the one Smith gave, back in 1969. He argued that, far from being a backward-looking association, the Commonwealth is "the product of a whole series of forward-looking decisions by statesmen concerned to shape the future."

This shared concern will ensure that the Commonwealth remains pre-emptive in addressing the needs of its member countries and, in so doing, that it will continue to be both active and relevant in the future.

The notion of coming together on equal

MONEY MATTERS: The current global economic crisis is likely to be addressed at this year's CHOGM



footing to address challenges of mutual interest has been at the heart of the Commonwealth since it was reconstituted in 1949. This turning point in the Commonwealth's history saw eight leaders come together in London to discuss constitutional implications arising from India's desire to remain a member of the Commonwealth after becoming an independent republic. What emerged from their meeting were revised criteria for membership, where countries were no longer required to owe a common allegiance to the British crown.

This marked the end of the colonial British Commonwealth and the birth of what is now referred to as the modern Commonwealth, an

The Commonwealth is about coming together on an equal footing to address challenges

association of independent countries united as 'free and equal members.' With the signing of this declaration in London, an association founded on inclusiveness was born. This inclusiveness has remained integral, as the association has grown from eight to 53 member countries.

Whether large or small, rich or poor, there is no distinction made or special treatment given to any of these countries. Tuvalu, for instance, with a population of around 10,000 people, has



© STEPHEN MORRISON/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

an equal status to the largest member, India, with a population of over one billion.

This inclusiveness is seen no more clearly than at the biennial CHOGMs, which act as the principal policy and decision-making forum to guide the strategic direction of the association.

These summits, like the Commonwealth, have evolved. During the days of the British Empire, Colonial Conferences – later known as Imperial Conferences – saw constitutional issues, foreign affairs, defence and trade discussed by the British prime minister and leaders of the Dominions. Another change of name came in 1944, as the summits became known as Commonwealth Prime Ministers' Meetings. They continued to be held in the UK for over 20 years more, until 1966, when Nigeria hosted a meeting that focussed on the constitutional crisis in Rhodesia. Then, in 1971 they became known as the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meetings. Since the summit in Singapore that year, leaders have regularly met every two years.

These summits bring together world leaders who would otherwise rarely have occasion to meet and hold informal discussions. From these discussions emerge agreements on the Commonwealth's position and how it is going to respond. One of the principal and most easily recognised benefits is the issue of mandates by the Heads of Government, which are then executed by the Commonwealth Secretariat. At the last summit in Kampala in 2007, for instance, Commonwealth leaders made another strong call for the reform of international institutions such as the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, to make them, in principle and



QUEEN AND COUNTRIES: HRH Queen Elizabeth II speaks at the opening ceremony of the CHOGM 2005 in Valletta, Malta

in practice, fit for the purposes of the 21st century. This has since been taken forward by leaders and organisations across the world. Their statement carries more weight – as with all Commonwealth statements – because it was agreed by consensus and not by majority.

And so to the forthcoming 20th CHOGM in Trinidad and Tobago. Leaders have come together before during troubling global times, but in 2009 the world faces a confluence of crises. These are undoubtedly serious times with serious challenges – be they those of financial turmoil, food scarcity and price rises, population growth, diminishing energy resources, or climate change.

These are global threats and, as such, require a globally inclusive response. The CHOGM unites 53 leaders, representing over a quarter of the world's countries, coming together to discuss these issues of mutual importance and forge a way forward.

While leaders can talk about anything, there are some topical issues that are likely to be addressed this year, which could include, among other things: climate change, the global economic crisis, and measures to increase collaboration among Commonwealth election bodies.

Climate change

In the run-up to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in Copenhagen this December, leaders, ministers and negotiators are debating proposals on a way forward. CHOGM will be the last chance for leaders to get together before Copenhagen. Whatever message emerges from the

CHOGM, it is likely to include a call for inclusiveness, urging those present at the UN Conference to ensure that the voices of all 192 countries are heard, and not just those with the largest presence around the negotiating table.

Economic crisis

Every Commonwealth country has been affected by the global economic crisis in some way, whether they have seen a drop in their

These are serious times with serious challenges that require a globally inclusive response

exports or big rises in unemployment. In fact, 24 Commonwealth countries – almost half our membership – will experience negative or zero growth this year. While there is some talk of an end in sight, as confidence trickles back into a few economies, the crisis has had a profound, long-term economic and social impact in many developing countries. As with climate change, therefore, leaders are likely to urge an inclusive approach, as the world continues to forge a way forward, to ensure a sustained recovery.

Election management bodies

In recent years, the Commonwealth Secretariat has been supporting election management bodies, after receiving requests from member governments, including providing a media expert to the Malawi Electoral Commission, and an election expert to support the Guyana Election Commission. To strengthen their work, leaders are expected to discuss how support for Commonwealth election management bodies can be enhanced. These key institutions play a vital role in determining the credibility of an election. The aim of the initiative is to provide a support mechanism for them, including increased Secretariat assistance, peer support mechanisms, the promotion of good practices, and the sharing of resources and information.

In Trinidad and Tobago in 1969, Arnold Smith predicted: "The future of the Commonwealth will be what its member governments, its member peoples and those who represent them in member parliaments, choose to make of it." Four decades on, heads will converge on the Caribbean country of Trinidad and Tobago and demonstrate to the world just what they have chosen to make of the Commonwealth; an active and inclusive association with an important and vibrant future ahead of it.

Eduardo del Buey is director of communications and public affairs at the Commonwealth Secretariat.

Members club

Will Rwanda be the next country to join the Commonwealth? How are membership decisions made? **Derek Ingram** reports

The Commonwealth is easy to leave but difficult to join. To cease membership, a president or prime minister should simply write a letter to the Secretary-General. In 1972, Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto of Pakistan did not even do that. Secretary-General Arnold Smith flew to Islamabad to persuade him to stay, but as Smith checked in to the hotel, Bhutto was already on television saying that Pakistan had left. Benazir Bhutto brought Pakistan back into membership as soon as she became Prime Minister in 1989.

Then, in 2003, Robert Mugabe pulled Zimbabwe out without any notice, although the country was already suspended. Zimbabwe still remains outside.

This is all possible because, unlike other international organisations, the Commonwealth is not bound by any treaties. Its voluntary nature has proved a strength. Pakistanis were uncomfortable outside the Commonwealth and now the evidence is that most Zimbabweans similarly want to return as soon as possible. Several other countries would also like to join as membership has come to be seen as a measure of international respectability. These include Yemen, Palestine, Israel, Algeria, Timor-Leste (East Timor), and Somaliland (the northern part of Somali Republic that was once British Somaliland). However, as Palestine and Somaliland are not sovereign countries, they cannot join. Historically, Yemen would qualify, as half of it was once the British Aden colony. Palestine and Israel can also claim a British colonial connection, but Algeria has no qualification whatever and Timor was Portuguese. The most obvious candidate to rejoin is Ireland. When Chief Emeka Anyaoku was Secretary-General, he engaged the then president of Ireland, Mary Robinson, in informal

discussion while they were both in Canada for the 1994 Commonwealth Games. It is entirely possible that Ireland could rejoin soon.

Another candidate is Burma, which left at independence, in 1948, because it wanted to be a republic. In those days, there was no way a republic could be in the Commonwealth. Ironically, a few months later, the London Declaration devised the formula for India to remain a member as a republic. For Burma, that decision came too late. Arguably that country's history might have been different if it had been able to stay in the Commonwealth.

The immediate firm applicant for Commonwealth membership is Rwanda. It became German in 1899, was mandated to

Membership has come to be seen as a measure of international respectability

Belgium in 1919, which later ran it as a UN trust territory until independence in 1962. So, historically, it has had no constitutional relationship with any Commonwealth member. However, Rwanda does border on Uganda and Tanzania, and there is a precedent for Commonwealth membership, in such a circumstance, in Mozambique, which joined in 1995. Mozambique was a Portuguese colony but



its six neighbours are all Commonwealth countries. Mozambique has proved an excellent addition to the Commonwealth and is a better member in terms of democracy and good governance than one or two longstanding ones.

Another member that joined recently, which had been a part British and part French colony, is Cameroon. This relationship has proved more difficult. The Commonwealth Secretariat has had to work hard to move Cameroon towards more democratic governance. Paul Biya has been President since 1982 and the country still does not fulfil many Commonwealth principles.

The question is whether Rwanda does either. At the last CHOGM, in Kampala, the heads of governments adopted a report on Commonwealth membership from a committee chaired by former prime minister P.J. Patterson of Jamaica. In doing so, they stiffened one or two of its provisions. It was agreed that countries applying should have had a historic constitutional association with an existing member, but there was a let-out: 'in exceptional circumstances' applications should be considered 'on a case-by-case basis'. Nevertheless, it was clearly laid down that applicants should show commitment to democratic processes, good governance, protection of human rights, freedom of expression and so forth. Rwanda does not, at present, fulfil a number of these requirements.

The British are strongly supportive of



MOVING IN: (l-r) Yoweri Museveni, President of Uganda, chats to Paul Kagame, President of Rwanda, in Dar es Salaam, November 2004

Rwanda being brought in – for what reason has never been entirely clear – and so are its East African Commonwealth member neighbours. President Museveni of Uganda, who is at the end of his two years as chairperson of the Commonwealth, has been working for Rwanda's admission.

In July, the Rwandan foreign minister Rosemary Museminali visited Canberra to seek investment. On her first days, she pledged support for Australia's bid to secure a seat on the UN Security Council in 2013-14. Later, foreign minister Stephen Smith pledged Australian support for Rwanda's application to join the Commonwealth – possibly encouraged by the British. Interestingly, the Rwanda visit was part of a renewal of Australian government involvement in Africa. During the long term of the Howard government, Australian interest in Africa tapered off. In earlier years, when Malcolm Fraser was Prime Minister, Australia played a major role in the fight against apartheid and the independence of Zimbabwe.

In Rwanda's involvement in the Commonwealth, President Museveni has played a big role. Kagame and Museveni are old comrades-in-arms. They fought together in the New Resistance Army for many years, in the struggle to free Uganda from the Milton Obote regime. Canadian General Romeo Dallaire, who led the UN force in Rwanda that found itself tragically helpless in the face of the genocide,

describes in his book *Shake Hands with the Devil* his many dealings with Kagame. He found him a clever man, but quite difficult to deal with.

The next chairperson of the Commonwealth will be Prime Minister Patrick Manning of Trinidad and Tobago, who will host CHOGM in Port of Spain in November. Museveni has already chatted up Manning on the Rwanda

Applicants must show commitment to democracy and the protection of human rights

membership. However, the application has to be re-presented to the heads of government in Trinidad and Tobago, so the process really starts only then. It will be an important matter before leaders when they are in retreat session, where the heads sit informally, without officials, and sort out the knottier problems among themselves. There they could well speed the process.

Kagame's main challenger is likely to be the

chair of Rwanda's combined opposition parties, Victoire Ingabire. She warns that Rwanda could be heading for a Kenya situation, where an unstable coalition was cobbled together after days of violence. In Rwanda, elections were held in 2008. The ruling Rwanda Patriotic Front put together a coalition of six small parties. Two others fought the election, but both support Kagame so there was no real opposition. The United Democratic Forces Opposition Coalition, which is based in Belgium, said the Patriotic Front had control of the electoral process. Turnout was said to have been 98.5%. One interesting outcome is that Rwanda's parliament now has a majority of women.

Rwanda has an election commission that handled parliamentary elections in 2008. Several observer teams were sent, including ones from France and the European Union. A team was sent from the Commonwealth, but its findings were not published.

Presidents of Rwanda serve seven-year terms. The next election is in 2010. In my view, the Commonwealth would be wise to send an observer group and wait until this election has taken place before making a final decision on Rwanda's membership of the Commonwealth.

Derek Ingram is a journalist who specialises in Commonwealth affairs. He has covered the last 20 CHOGMs and has reported from almost all the Commonwealth countries.

A host's dilemma

High expectations, excitement and cynicism in Trinidad and Tobago as CHOGM 2009 approaches.

Tony Fraser offers a local view

Trinidad and Tobago – and by extension, the Caribbean Community (Caricom) – is seeking to establish a profile in international forums by taking on the responsibility of hosting the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM), 27-29 November 2009.

Trinidad and Tobago's Prime Minister, Patrick Manning, gave a statement to the National Parliament, 23 January 2009, saying: "We took the decision to host in the context of the progressive vision we have for this country and after careful consideration of the benefits that can accrue to the Caricom region from leading multilateral initiatives of such importance and magnitude." Manning said that he believes hosting the CHOGM will provide "an opportunity to move Trinidad and Tobago to the centre stage". He added: "there is much to gain from this intense involvement in global affairs. The benefits span the political, economic, social and cultural spheres." Trinidad and Tobago is a small country. Manning is confident that hosting this meeting of all the presidents and prime ministers of the 53-member Commonwealth, in the circumstances of the present global economic arena, will bolster possibilities for trade and investment.

In advance of the CHOGM, Trinidad and Tobago will also host the Commonwealth Business Forum, 23-26 November 2009. Manning has invited the business community of Latin America to attend. "Our Business Forum will have the capacity to contribute significantly, not only to a reinvigoration of Commonwealth economies, but also to a global economic revival," the Trinidad and Tobago Prime Minister told international business leaders when he launched this Business Forum, in London, in May.

This year's CHOGM happens at a time of environmental change and global financial insecurity. Discussions will focus on food security for small states, the Secretary-General of the Commonwealth, Kamalesh Sharma, told a news conference, on a visit to Trinidad and Tobago in May. "In such circumstances, the host country benefits, as it is able to play a significant role in the establishing of the agenda for the Summit," Sharma added.

In the months ahead, Manning and his government will have to invest energy and time to persuade the 1.3m people of Trinidad and Tobago of the benefits to their country in hosting this meeting of the leaders of the Commonwealth. The government recently spent TT\$350m (GB£35m) on the infrastructure

'There is much to gain. The benefits are political, economic, social and cultural'

to host another international conference of world leaders, the Fifth Summit of the Americas (VSOA), which was held in Trinidad and Tobago in April. Although the CHOGM is expected to cost far less, locals are sceptical about whether the benefits justify any expense.

One section of the business community in Trinidad and Tobago, the Downtown Merchants



Organisation (DOMA), is concerned about the disruption to the business operations of its members and the everyday life of citizens by security arrangements for CHOGM. "It seems clear that hosting CHOGM is not really the type of vehicle that creates opportunities to encourage foreign direct investment; none has come from hosting the Summit of the Americas," says the president of DOMA, Gregory Aboud.

Opinion on the street is also cautious: "I don't understand how it is going to benefit T&T, both the meeting and the hosting of it," says Khrystal Wilson, an administrative clerk from Buenos Ayres, Trinidad and Tobago.

Meanwhile, the leader of the Trinidad and Tobago Parliamentary Opposition, Basdeo Panday, argues that Summits allow leaders to talk and exchange ideas and that CHOGM should be held – but not here. "We cannot afford it," says Panday, who was prime minister between 1995 and 2001. "The people of Trinidad and Tobago are suffering from lack of water, lack of proper roads and poor-quality health care services. The money would be better spent providing these basic services to our people".

But the CHOGM is not without supporters. A more positive outlook comes from the Network of Non-Governmental Organisations of Trinidad and Tobago. Hosting the Summit here and with a Caribbean focus "provides a



A SUNNY OUTLOOK: Opinions over whether hosting the 2009 CHOGM will be beneficial are divided in Trinidad and Tobago

platform for development and should be valued”, says Hazel Browne, coordinator of the NGOs, who is planning the Civil Society Forum. Culture, climate change and equity in international trade are the main areas of focus for the Network. “Among our major objectives are to get Caribbean countries to ratify the promotion and preservation of cultural assets; to take decisions to mitigate against the ill-effects of climate change on our Small Island Developing States and to bring equity in trade to poor and disadvantaged states,” says Browne. She says NGOs from the Commonwealth members in Asia, the Pacific, Africa, Britain, Malta and the Caribbean have been consulted on the issues to be pursued at the Civil Society Forum of CHOGM.

The South Chamber of Industry and Commerce also welcomes the CHOGM: “It provides Trinidad and Tobago with an opportunity to showcase our brand of ‘T&T Inc’ to the globe”, says Charles Percy, president of the Chamber. “It gives the country an opportunity to capture lessons from other countries in diversifying our economy away from the dependence on oil and gas; I believe that hosting CHOGM will raise the country’s profile.”

Former Secretary-General of the Commonwealth, Caribbean national Sir Shridath Ramphal, agrees. “Figures cannot be

put to the value of hosting CHOGM,” he says. Sir Shridath, who has been chief trade negotiator and adviser to Caricom governments, believes the experience of Malaysia can be instructive to Trinidad and Tobago. “I remember urging prime minister Mahathir to host the meeting in Malaysia [in 1989]; I wasn’t surprised that after the Summit the Malaysian economy took off in a very big

‘I don’t understand how it will benefit T&T, either the meeting or the hosting of it’

way,” he says. The political contacts to be achieved by hosting “could not ever be achieved but in such a situation of intimacy as [this]”.

“Partnering for a more Stable and Equitable Future” is the theme of CHOGM 2009. The major issues to be discussed by the leaders are concerned with promoting sustained

economic growth, eliminating extreme poverty and reducing inequity, and developing urgent responses to climate change. Caribbean-specific issues include the impact of the financial crisis on the Caribbean, the vulnerability of the Caribbean to food price shocks, renewable energy development, and non-communicable diseases.

At the moment, local media are paying little attention to the hosting of the summit; but that is expected to change closer to November, when the national secretariat organising the CHOGM begins issuing statements and when significant individuals make visits in relation to developing the meeting agenda.

“We are where we want to be in our preparations for the summit,” says Felipe Nougera, communications coordinator of the national secretariat responsible for organising the summit. Nougera says that representatives from the 53 participating states are satisfied with the preparations being made for matters such as security and media. Whether the people of Trinidad and Tobago emerge equally satisfied, both with the hosting and the outcome of the CHOGM, remains to be seen.

Tony Fraser is a freelance journalist in Port of Spain. He is a columnist for the *Trinidad Guardian*, a correspondent for the BBC World Service, and Trinidad and Tobago correspondent for the Associated Press.

Grog's notebook

News from the London clubhouse



▲ The Chairman's Lunch preceded the 2009 AGM on 12 May. Pictured are (l-r) Mrs Hanni Martin, Lord Luce (ROSL President), Mr Stanley Martin (ROSL Chairman), Mr Hugo Vickers (historian), Lady Luce, John Julius Norwich (Viscount Norwich, the writer and broadcaster, who was the guest of honour and spoke on Venice), the Hon Ivor Lucas and Mrs Christine Lucas. In his introduction, the Chairman reminded Viscount Norwich that the League's founder, Sir Evelyn Wrench, purchased Rutland House for the League from his maternal grandmother, the Dowager Duchess of Rutland, in 1934.



▲ The Chairman and the director-general held a lunch party in honour of HE Ms Penny Wensley, Governor of Queensland, during her official visit to London for an audience of The Queen. The Governor accepted our invitation to be the Patron of the ROSL Queensland Branch upon her appointment last year. Pictured in the Mountbatten Room at Over-Seas House, London are (l-r) Mrs Susan Craig, Mr Andrew Craig (Agent-General for Queensland), Mrs Shanaz Newell, the director-general, the Governor, the Chairman and Air Commodore Mark Gower (the official secretary to the Governor).



▲ Miss Catherine Onyango (duty manager) welcomes Mr Morgan Tsvangirai (Prime Minister of Zimbabwe) to Over-Seas House, London, where he attended a dinner in his honour in June.



◀ A tea party was held in May at Over-Seas House, London, for the Hong Kong Down's Syndrome Association football team. Some of the players are pictured with HRH Princess Eugenie and, standing, Sir David Tang.



► Mr John Freel with Sir William Patey, the British Ambassador to Saudi Arabia, taken at his residence in Riyadh on The Queen's Birthday, 26 April 2009.

► The winner of the 2008 ROSL Young Artist of Thailand competition, Miss Patcharaporn Arunsirichok, with her family, the director-general and Miss Jean Black, vice-president of the Victoria branch, at the private view of the paintings of the finalists.



▲ Newly elected members of central council, Mr Ian Partridge, Mr David Jamieson, Mr Graham Archer and Miss Sheila MacTaggart attended the Council lunch in May. Pictured (l-r) are Mrs Ann Partridge, Ian, David, Mrs Patricia Jamieson, Graham and Sheila.

► Membership secretary and assistant to the director-general, Mrs Fatima Vanicek, celebrated 30 years of service to ROSL and her 60th birthday. The 25 years service of both Mr Roderick Lakin (director of ROSL ARTS) and Mr Mick McCall (head hall porter and health and safety officer) were also celebrated.



Hot property

Location, Location, Location's Phil Spencer meets ROSL's younger members. By **Alexandra Debarge**

March

'On Location', hosted by the Royal Automobile Club, was an entertaining evening talk by property developer and television presenter Phil Spencer. It was an opportunity to get a real insight into the property world as Spencer shared many entertaining stories, including how the programme has exposed a wanted fraudster and how he witnessed armed officers raid a crackden, while trying to convince two nervous househunters that the area was definitely 'on the up.' The evening continued with drinks, which gave members the opportunity to share their property trials and tribulations with Spencer.

May

The Lansdowne Club successfully hosted the Inter-Club Moveable Feast for 120 members and guests. Even by Lansdowne standards, this was a huge event with three long tables set up in the

Ball Room. After drinks on the terrace, the dinner began. The boys changed seats after each course, moving around the table by whatever number of places was identified by the Wheel of Fortune. This was a great success as members of different clubs had fun getting to know one another while enjoying a delicious dinner. The evening carried on with drinks at the bar long after the dinner had finished.

June

The anniversary of D-Day was celebrated with the Inter-Club Summer Swing Ball hosted by the Army and Navy Club. This was a sell-out event that saw members and their guests dressed in black tie and military uniforms, as the club was transported back to the 1940s. It was a magnificent evening, with a delicious dinner and fantastic music that had everyone dancing into the early hours.

STEP BACK IN TIME: The Inter-Club Summer Swing Ball transported members to the 1940s

Forthcoming events

Thursday 10th September

Inter-Club Quiz at the Savage Club

Friday 25th September

Ceillidh at the Caledonian Club

Wednesday 28th October

Reverse Dinner at the Savile Club

Friday 6th November

Port and stilton tasting at the Carlton Club

Friday 18th December

Christmas Ball at the Hurlingham



MAKING HIMSELF AT HOME: TV property guru Phil Spencer with the Inter-Club younger members

OVERSEAS TO GO ON THE WORLD WIDE WEB – DO YOU KNOW OF A SECTION SPONSOR OR HAVE A COPY OF ISSUE 1?

In view of the increased number of universities and individuals researching ROSL and the transition of the British Empire into the present day Commonwealth, ROSL will be making all its archive material available online to mark the centenary.

This will include all editions of *Overseas* – which was established in 1915 and published monthly, with illustrated articles, cartoons and advertisements. Unfortunately, we are missing Issue 1. If any reader has a copy, we would love to hear from them.

Secure Data Services, a company specialising in this type of work, expects that this massive task will cost over £20,000 to complete. The plan at present is for ROSL to donate £2,500 pa to the project, starting this year, but if any ROSL member is interested in sponsoring a section or knows of someone who might be, then the time scale could be much shorter. If so, please contact Margaret Adrian-Vallance, Director of PR and development, 020 7408 0214 x204.



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High notes

Anna Maciuk reviews this year's ROSL Annual Music Competition



Looking back through the list of previous ROSL Annual Music Competition prizewinners is akin to reading a who's who of classical music. The names listed have since graced international concert posters, recital brochures and opera programmes and appeared on the staff lists of world-leading conservatoires.

It is therefore unsurprising that the competition, which has become a platform of excellence from which young musicians can launch their careers, attracts so much emerging talent. During February and March, over 400 UK and overseas Commonwealth musicians converged on Over-Seas House, London to audition for the four competition solo sections: wind, singers, strings and keyboard; and the two ensemble sections: Ensembles A (strings/pianos) and Ensembles B (wind/brass and mixed). This year's competitors ranged from a harpsichordist to a ten-piece brass ensemble.



Pianists had the added pleasure of performing on the new Steinway Model D piano, inaugurated earlier this year by Princess Alexandra. The competition's section finals, open to the public, demonstrated the instrument's qualities, particularly in the solo keyboard section, which featured some of the most demanding piano repertoire of Bach, Prokofiev, Liszt, Chopin, Ravel, and Scarlatti.



The four solo section finalists chosen to compete at the 57th Royal Over-Seas League Annual Music Competition final at the Queen Elizabeth Hall on 5 May 2009 were British clarinettist Sarah Beaty, New Zealand soprano



PITCH PERFECT (TOP TO BOTTOM):

Sarah Beaty, from the UK, winner of the ROSL award for wind; Madeleine Pierard, from New Zealand, winner of the ROSL award for singers; Yelian He, from Australia, winner of the ROSL award for strings; Ben Schoeman, South Africa, winner of the gold medal and first prize, and the ROSL award for keyboard

Madeleine Pierard, Australian cellist Yelian He, and South African pianist Ben Schoeman. To have the majority of the finalists from overseas is a first in the competition's history and an accolade to an organisation that prides itself on fostering international friendship.

Clarinettist Sarah Beaty opened the concert with *After the Tryst* by Scottish composer James MacMillan – a piece originally written for violin. Sarah's vivid style displayed both imagination and technical accuracy. Sarah concluded with an exhilarating performance of Gershwin's *Three Preludes*.

In a vibrant yellow dress, New Zealand soprano Madeleine Pierard was a commanding presence on the stage. Through a contrasting programme ranging from Handel to Berg via Puccini, Rossini and Herbert Howells, Madeleine demonstrated her vocal flexibility and musical understanding which had impressed the adjudicators in earlier rounds. The Berg in particular displayed the beautiful deep rich tones around her middle range.

This is the third consecutive year that the string award has been awarded to an overseas cellist. Australian Yelian He displayed technical mastery, opening his programme with Ligeti's *Sonata for Solo Cello*, an intense piece that demands the performer to jump from complex chords to lingering harmonics via a host of tricky passages. This was contrasted with Schumann's *Adagio and Allegro* in which Yelian displayed beautiful phrasing, before concluding his performance with Rostropovich's virtuosic *Humoresque*.

The last to perform, South African pianist Ben Schoeman, presented a challenging

CDs of the final concert, recorded on 5 May 2009 at the Queen Elizabeth Hall, Southbank Centre, are available from the ROSL shop at Over-Seas House, London.



GOING FOR GOLD: South African pianist Ben Schoeman receives the Over-Seas Award trophy, designed by Katherine Morling, from David Sigall

programme that was a mini recital in itself. Beginning with a Bach *Toccat*a, he captivated the audience with a passionate rendition of *Isolde's Liebestod* from Liszt's piano transcription of Wagner's *Tristan und Isolde*. Ben's energetic performance of a Messiaen *Prelude* was breathtaking and a fitting conclusion to the first half.

After the interval, the adjudicators retired to the green room to choose which of the four would receive first prize and gold medal. Meanwhile, the winners of the two ensemble prizes took to the stage. The Cambridge based Solstice Quartet performed a gutsy, powerful performance of Bartók's one-movement *Third String Quartet*, perfectly realising the Hungarian folk inspiration. The final performance of the evening – Barber's sensuous *Summer Music for Wind Quintet* – came from the St James's Quintet, named after their inaugural concert at the Palace.

Among the jury members lining the stage for the award ceremony were several past competition finalists now prominent in the music profession. The awards were presented by David Sigall, director of Ingpen & Williams Ltd, one of the most respected artist managers in the music industry. First to be presented were competitors from Australia, Canada, Ireland, New Zealand, South Africa, Malaysia and the UK for outstanding performances in the section finals.

After medals were presented to the four finalists, the chairman of adjudicators, Gavin Henderson, announced the winner as South African pianist Ben Schoeman. A previous ROSL Commonwealth music scholar, the award arrives at a fitting point in Ben's career as he is about to move to London to begin a doctorate at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama. We look forward to showcasing his talent at future concerts across the UK and overseas Commonwealth.

This year's finalists not only join the Competition's distinguished past alumni roster, but are destined to become familiar names to concert and opera goers at major venues worldwide in the years to come.

THE WINNERS

Gold medal and first prize (£5,000)

Ben Schoeman, piano (South Africa)

ROSL award for keyboard (£2,500)

Ben Schoeman, piano (South Africa)

ROSL award for strings (£2,500)

Yelian He, cello (Australia)

ROSL award for singers, in memory

of Pamela Faulkner (£2,500)

Madeleine Pierard, soprano (New Zealand)

Worshipful Company of Dyers Award

for wind and percussion, in memory

of Lady Barbirolli (£2,500)

Sarah Beaty, clarinet (UK)

ROSL award for accompanists (£2,500)

Simon Lane, piano (UK)

ROSL ensemble prize A and

Miller Trophy (£5,000)

Solstice Quartet

ROSL ensemble prize B and

Miller Trophy (£5,000)

St James's Quintet

Awards for musicians from overseas

Lorna Viol Memorial Prize and ROSL

trophy for the most outstanding musician from overseas (£1,500)

Ben Schoeman, piano (South Africa)

Audrey Strange Memorial Prize for

a singer of promise (£500)

Sarah Power, soprano (Ireland)

Tait Memorial Scholarship for

an Australian Musician (£500)

Yelian He, cello (Australia)

McCallum Prize for a pianist of

promise (£500)

Shuenda Wong, piano (Malaysia)

Liszt Society Prize (£500)

Ben Schoeman, piano (South Africa)

Sir John Manduelli Prize for a South

African Musician (£500)

Erik Dippenaar, harpsichord

Tait Memorial Scholarship for an

Australian Musician (£500)

Jayson Gillham, piano

Mitchell Award for a New Zealand musician (£500)

Madeleine Pierard, soprano

Philip Crawshaw Memorial Prize for a musician from overseas (£500)

Alison Murphy, flute (Ireland)

Sheila MacBrayne Memorial Prize

for a Canadian Musician (£500)

Carlisle Anderson-Frank, piano

Additional awards

Philip Jones Memorial Prize for an outstanding brass player (£500)

Will Porter, trombone

Len Lickorish Memorial Prize for a string player of promise (£500)

Sean Shibe, guitar

Marissa Robles Harp Prize (£500)

Daniel De-Fry, harp

Tessa Uys Prize for performance of a keyboard work composed pre1830 (£500)

Erik Dippenaar, harpsichord

Elias Fawcett Award for an outstanding ensemble (£1,250)

Ksenija Sidorova and Brooks

String Quartet

Panel of adjudicators for the 2009 ROSL annual music competition

Peter Bassano, Daniel Bates, Juliette Bausor, Colin Bradbury, Thomas Carroll, Margaret Cable, Nicholas Cox, Edmund Fivet, Sarah Francis, Marion Friend, Elizabeth Gale, Joan Havill, Gavin Henderson CBE, William Howard, Renna Kallaway MBE, Dennis Lee, Gina McCorrmack, Ronan O'Hora, Caroline Palmer, Ian Partridge CBE, Melissa Phelps, Marisa Robles, Jane Salmon, Chris de Souza

ROSL WORLD

The latest from the global branches



AROUND THE GLOBE: (l-r) British Consul-General Stuart Gill and Victoria Branch president Jason Ronald; in New Zealand, the British High Commissioner HE George Fergusson hosts a benefit concert for Pettman/ROSL scholarship winners Helen Bevin and Rafaella Garlick-Grice, who performed a composition by Tabea Squire (2nd l); and pictured in Hong Kong are (l-r) Countess Cawdor, Sir David Tang (Hong Kong Branch patron), HRH Princess Michael of Kent, and branch chairman Mr Paul Surtees

Australia

The **New South Wales** Branch celebrated HM The Queen's birthday at the Strangers' Dining Room at Parliament House, where Australian wines were served. Regina Daniel entertained the group with various operatic arias, followed by a talk by General Peter Cosgrove, former chief of the Australian Defence Force. A luncheon hosted by the English-Speaking Union with guest speaker Maj Gen Michael Jeffery, former Governor-General of Australia, was well attended.

In **Victoria** in April, the Australian Governor-General, Quentin Bryce, visited Melbourne during her first official visit to the state and spoke with members of the branch at a reception in the Great Hall of the National Gallery of Victoria International.

The AGM in May was held at the Returned Services League Headquarters in Melbourne where guest speaker British Consul-General Stuart Gill spoke of his time in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. Ron Williamson was welcomed on to Council and tribute was paid to the excellent financial result.

The Council of British and Commonwealth Societies celebrated The Queen's Birthday in June, with a church service at St George's

Anglican Church, Malvern. Morning tea was served after the service, giving Council members an opportunity to mingle with parishioners, followed by luncheon at the English Speaking Union, where Bruce McBrien gave an entertaining speech entitled 'I did but see her passing by'.

In **Western Australia**, following the formal business of the AGM in March, guest speaker Brett Christian, managing editor of the local newspaper, gave an insight into the foundation and progress of the publication.

In April, the branch was well represented at The Queen's birthday dinner, which was organised by the Joint Commonwealth Societies Council, with guest of honour, the Hon Professor David Malcolm. Branch members assisted with the J.C.S.C.

The Sir Francis Burt Speech and Leadership Contest were held in May/June. The set topic was 'The Commonwealth at 60 – serving a new generation'.

Also in June, an *Antiques Roadshow*-themed morning tea was held with guest speaker Carolyn Staveley, who gave members advice on their own antiques. Branch chairman Jeff Turner, with his wife, enjoyed the hospitality of Jason Ronald, president of the

Victoria Branch, at a luncheon at the RACV Club, together with members of his Council.

New South Wales: Lily Murray, murraylily@hotmail.com

Victoria: Coral Strahan, +61 (0)3 9654 8338

Western Australia: Jeff Turner, +61 9381 2600

Hong Kong

ROSL hosted an afternoon tea for visiting members of the Hong Kong Down's Syndrome Association football team at Over-Seas House, London, during their trip to London in May. The team, accompanied by their patron, Sir David Tang and HRH Princess Eugenie, spent the morning meeting soccer hero Frank Lampard at Chelsea Football Club, and were guests of HRH Prince Michael of Kent at lunch in Kensington Palace. The familiar faces of Dame Anson Chan and other members of the Hong Kong Branch joined the group at Over-Seas House for the traditional afternoon tea, speeches and presentations.

Back in Hong Kong, HRH Princess Michael of Kent was guest of honour at the branch's 10th anniversary reception in April at the China Club. The Princess proposed an anniversary toast to the branch, and president Paul Surtees paid tribute to the ever-supportive branch

patrons and committee members for all they had achieved over the past decade.

Hong Kong: Paul Surtees,
president@rosl.org.hk, www.rosl.org.hk

New Zealand

The Barbirolli Quartet will be touring in New Zealand, 16-28 November, and performing in Christchurch, Dunedin, Wellington, Hamilton, Napier, Gisborne and Waiheke Island. See www.roslnz.org.nz for details. The Wellington Club is now a reciprocal club for ROSL members. Situated on Central Terrace, it is the ideal location for members visiting the capital.

Timaru Branch members enjoyed Natalia Lomeiko and Maurice Till performing Mozart, Tchaikovsky and Faure at a concert in Chalmers Church, and Alexandra and Friends from the Purcell School returned to St Paul's Church, organised by the Oamaru Branch.

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

United Kingdom

The Bath Branch hold coffee mornings on the second Wednesday of every month at Pratt's Hotel and there will be an autumn lunch in October at the Bath and County Club.

In April, at the Cheltenham Branch, guest speaker Norman Ellis gave an interesting talk on Saudi Arabia. After the AGM in May, branch member George Johnston showed a film on the Gulf Stream. The branch summer lunch was held at the Renaissance Restaurant.

The Edinburgh Branch 2008/09 season ended with the AGM, attended by ROSL Chairman Mr Stanley Martin. A splendid Arts lunch was held with guest speaker Patrick Cadell, former Keeper of the Records of Scotland. The Scottish Members' Dinner welcomed guest speaker Robin Harper who took 'The New Parliamentary Experience' as his theme. And there was a Gala Opera Evening where students from the Royal Scottish Academy gave a performance inspired by Offenbach's *Tales of Hoffman*. The musical year concluded with the ROSL ARTS Edinburgh Festival Fringe programme. The Bridge Club hosted a successful lunch and guest day and the final coffee morning of the series welcomed a presentation by Temple Melville on behalf of the Gurkha Welfare Trust.

The Glasgow Branch programme



OUT AND ABOUT: WA branch secretary Anna Dean on a fundraising bike ride which raised over \$500 for the Namibia project; Taunton branch members enjoy a day out on Exmoor

concluded with its AGM and Scottish members enjoyed their annual visit to the London Clubhouse in August.

At the other end of the UK, the Exeter branch welcomed Margaret Adrian-Vallance, ROSL director of PR and development, to their AGM in April. At a coffee morning held at Topsham Museum in June, the branch held a raffle for the Namibia fund. The Exeter Branch annual picnic took place in Send in July.

The Taunton Branch are sad to report the death of branch president Maj Gen V H J (John) Carpenter CB MBE in June, aged 88. He enjoyed an eminent army career having served, post war, in Palestine, Korea, Aden and Singapore. During the Second World War he was evacuated from Dunkirk, served in the Western Desert and with the D-Day landings. His last position before retiring in 1991 was as senior traffic commissioner, Western Traffic Area and Licensing Authority. John Carpenter was also a ROSL central council member from 1991 to 1997.

The Taunton Branch enjoyed an outing to Exmoor in June with an entertaining and informative guide. Another outing to Tiverton took place on a day of high rainfall. However, members still enjoyed a trip on the canal and lunch at the charming but lesser-known Tiverton Castle, followed by a private guided tour of the house by its owner. At the Chairman's coffee morning in August, a cheque for £600 was presented to the Taunton Deane Association for Neighbourhood Care. Weekly coffee mornings are held on Wednesdays at the Brewhouse Theatre, and,

in Torbay, coffee mornings are held on the last Saturday of the month at the Livermead Cliff Hotel.

The West Cornwall Branch begins its programme in September with a social evening at Trevethoe House, which has become something of a tradition over the years, thanks to the kindness of Rose Tempest, a longstanding ROSL member. Monthly afternoon meetings with a cream tea continue thereafter at the Carbis Bay Hotel, including talks on Kiribati and the Falkland Islands.

In May, a group of West Sussex Branch members attended a Brighton Festival lunch concert, arranged in association with ROSL, featuring Laura Lucus, flute, winner of the 2008 ROSL Music Competition gold medal, with Dominic John, piano. The annual luncheon to celebrate The Queen's official birthday was held in June, with guest of honour ROSL chairman, Stanley Martin, accompanied by Hanni Martin. Members of the ROSL London Group were also welcomed to this special occasion.

Bath: June Jessop, 01722 780518

Bournemouth: Marjorie Harvey, 01202 674857

Cheltenham Branch: Kathleen Northage, 01242 515540

Edinburgh: Bob Gregor, 0131 3321874

Exeter: Brian Hawkes, 01395 442017

Glasgow: Margaret Beard, 0131 4412112

Somerset area: Sally Roberts, 01823 661148, rosl@aldith.org

West Cornwall: Ian Wood, 01736 333460

West Sussex: Marilyn Archbold, 01444 458853

Books

Reviews of recent works by ROSL members

‘The Case of the Missing Servant’

Tarquin Hall

Hutchinson, 2009

ISBN: 978-0091925635, £12.99

Set in modern-day India, this book takes the reader on an adventure with Vish Puri, a private investigator with a penchant for Indian street food. Puri is on a quest to solve the mysterious murder of a maid known as Mary. With the help of his trusty undercover team – Tubelight, Flush and Facecream – Puri grapples with some of the most menacing and devious criminals in India. Hall provides humorous and insightful observations of life in Delhi.

Polly Hynd



From his boarding school days through his ordination and radicalisation in Chicago to his founding of the Soul of Europe in 2000, which works for peace in the Balkans through the advancement of good relations between Islam and the West, Reeves takes us on his trip through his controversial life.

I thoroughly recommend this autobiography, especially to those that know of this dangerous man.

Robert Newell

‘Towards the New Horizon: World Order in the 21st Century’

James BL Mayall and Krishnan Srinivasan

Standard Publishers, New Delhi, 2009

ISBN: 978-8187471509, £9.50

What will the world be like in 2050? James Mayall is an emeritus professor of international relations; Krishnan Srinivasan is a senior Indian diplomat and active ROSL member. They offer two views.

Mayall predicts that nationalism will be harnessed to international co-operation, where the ‘malign effects of technology’ might be managed, to tame the impact of globalisation.

Srinivasan’s essay makes bleak reading. Global population will soar to around 9 billion. Oil, food and water will be in short supply. The American superpower will find it harder to enforce its will. Yet Srinivasan is surprisingly upbeat. He foresees an international system resembling the 19th century Concert of Europe, with regional great powers imposing order on their neighbours. Ideology will not drive diplomacy and terrorism will be a nuisance, not a threat. The world ‘will be safer and more stable’ – until one of the powers dominates the rest. Although Krishnan Srinivasan’s conclusions are controversial, his summary of issues is outstanding.

Professor Ged Martin



‘Three Men in a Minor’

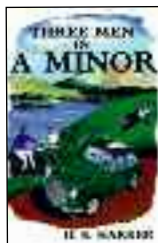
D E Harker

Matador, 2009

ISBN: 978-1848760554, £7.99

Three old school friends escape London for a few days in Galloway, in an ancient Morris Minor. Mobiles and newspapers are banned. Instead an itinerary of hiking, sightseeing and camping is on the table. As they become involved in unplanned social and sporting events, they are forced to reassess their problems with a new perspective. This novel is twee at times but a good holiday read, especially for those who, like the author, know this part of Scotland well.

Samantha Whitaker



‘Memoirs of a Very Dangerous Man’

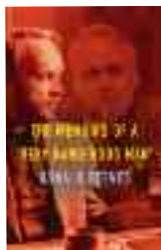
Donald Reeves

Continuum International Publishing Group Ltd, 2009

ISBN: 978-1847063137, £16.99

Donald Reeves was Rector of St James’s Piccadilly 1980-1998 and is a member of ROSL. His 18 years as rector coincided with my first 18 years at ROSL and I came to admire this ‘very dangerous man’ immensely. It was Margaret Thatcher, when Prime Minister, who coined this description of Reeves in a telephone warning to Enoch Powell: “Donald Reeves is a very dangerous man” she said. In 1980, I met this charismatic yet unassuming and caring Christian who wasn’t afraid to defy both his peers and the church establishment to undertake radical change and offer real care to his community. I liked him so much that I chose him to baptise my daughters.

His autobiography tells his interesting story but modesty prevents him from extolling his own fine humanitarian attributes. I await a biography to have Donald’s character fully explored.



Other books by members

- *Un Amicizia Elettronica/An Email Friendship*
Maria Quercioli Bosi (trans. by Caroline Higgitt)
Higgitt Translations, 2007
ISBN: 978-0955537905, £10
- *Iraq: Searching for Hope*
Andrew White
Continuum International Publishing Group Ltd, 2007
ISBN: 978-0826497161, £7.99
- *Dal & Rice*
Wendy M Davis
McGill-Queen’s University Press, 2009
ISBN: 978-0773534322, £18.99

All things quirky

Judith Steiner discovers London's lesser-known museums

Just as one man's nerd is another man's genius, one man's quirky is another man's fascinating. 'Quirky' is the word Google uses on its website to describe museums and collections not of the main stream. They probably wanted to use 'nerdish' but controlled themselves. Regardless, these collections – which are mainly about scientific and medical advances – are some of the most interesting in London. They also enjoy the distinction of being small and compact and are therefore entirely satisfying for a one- or two-hour visit.

We have our priorities regarding museums a little skewiff. Rather than gaze in wonderment at mechanical tigers gobbling up wounded subalterns (it's in the V&A in the Indian collection and a favourite of little boys), make your way to the British Dental Association Museum, the British Optical Association Museum, the Royal London Hospital Museum, the Museum of Brands, the Bank of England Museum, the Clockmakers' Museum, the Foundling Museum, the Freud Museum, and the Museum of Domestic Architecture and Design, to name but a few. These collections are the stuff of life.

There are many small collections describing medical advancement. Google 'From Apothecaries to Florence Nightingale - A Medical Museums Trail' for a list of collections including the Bethlem Royal Hospital Museum, the Royal College of Physicians Museum, the Florence Nightingale Museum, and the Museum of the Royal Pharmaceutical Society. The Hunterian Museum contains one of the oldest collections of anatomical, pathological

FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE MUSEUM: Many of London's best museums focus on advances in science and medicine



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© FREUD MUSEUM, LONDON

FREUD MUSEUM: The stuff of life

and zoological specimens in the UK, reflecting the work of John Hunter. The Alexander Fleming Memorial Museum celebrates the discoverer of penicillin with an in situ reconstruction of his laboratory at St. Mary's Hospital (Praed Street, W2). The Charles King Collection of Anaesthetics (9 Bedford Square, WC1), the Old Operating Theatre at St Thomas' Hospital (9a St Thomas' Street, Southwark, SE1), and the Freud Museum, (20 Maresfield Gardens, NW3) are also worth a visit.

If you, like me, thought the 1960s photographs of British boy bands, all dark, brooding looks and mouths clamped shut, reflected a national post-war misanthropy, think again. It was a clever ploy to hide their terrible British teeth. Much has improved since then though. A dentist is no longer a fang snatcher. This rapid improvement in dental care, over a 40-year period, merits recognition: at the British Dental Association (BDA) Museum (64 Wimpole Street, W1), 30,000 objects tell the story of dental care, from yanking out troublesome teeth in the town square to dental floss, implants, and the many complex procedures we all count on today to give us that film star smile. The idea for this excellent museum came from Britain's first female dentist, Lilian Lindsay, who donated her collection of old dental instruments to the BDA in 1919.

Other than The Queen, there isn't an adult in the land who doesn't handle money. How about a visit to the Bank of England Museum? (Bartholomew Lane, EC2) Learn about banking's earliest days to its current role setting interest rates to keep our financial system stable. If you are already smiling, there are interactive displays, one of which allows you to 'take control of inflation in a hot air balloon.' I think an

outright laugh is probably appropriate here.

Scientific and engineering breakthroughs for London are on show at the Science Museum in South Kensington. Go there to learn about Joseph Bazalgette. Bazalgette, the Chief Engineer to London's Metropolitan Board of Works, is the most important individual in the development of London as a place to live and work. He solved the cholera epidemics in London and the 'Great Stink' of the Thames during the hot summer of 1858 by designing and overseeing London's sewage system.

Bazalgette's great friend was Isambard Kingdom Brunel, who, with his father, built the first Thames Tunnel, which opened in 1843 as an underwater shopping arcade, and later a fairground, before being sold to the East London Railway in 1865. This was the first tunnel under a river anywhere in the world. The Brunel Museum (Railway Avenue, SE16), is dedicated to the Brunels and their achievements.

Heading back to ROSL headquarters for tea and a nap (museum-going is exhausting!) pause in Trafalgar Square in front of the enormous National Gallery, which requires a lifetime to appreciate. Look at the four plinths in the four corners of the square. You will see General Sir Charles James Napier, Major General Sir Henry Havelock and King George IV on three of them respectively. The fourth plinth currently entertains artist Antony Gormley's 'One and Other' concept, in which 2,400 people will scale the plinth for their one hour of fame (6 July to 14 October). Usually, however, this plinth remains empty. I would champion a statue of Joseph Bazalgette as its permanent occupant. And if not, one or another of the great souls whose work is the foundation of one of London's 'quirky' museums.

DISCOVERING LONDON

Raw passion

Samantha Whitaker crunches along with a detoxifying diet

"It's like lawn in a bowl!" exclaims Miranda in an episode of *Sex and the City*, as the girls sample their amuse bouche at Raw, a restaurant where everything on the menu is vegan, non dairy and nothing is cooked over 48°C. From downtown New York, pan to Saf in Shoreditch, East London, where Alex, ROSL events coordinator, and I sat down to a raw meal.

The clean, chic interior is the ideal environment in which to open your mind to such an unusual menu. From beetroot ravioli to wild mushroom risotto, the menu proffers well-known dishes recreated with raw food substitutes. There is an appealing degree of familiarity.

We kicked off with a non-alcoholic elixir – a mind-blowing concoction of apple, lemon, ginger and chilli sweetened with agave, which cleansed our insides with every sip. Alcohol is offered in the form of organic wines and botanical cocktails. For example, a basil-infused organic gin and jasmine green tea vodka.

We tried the beetroot ravioli – cashew herb ricotta wrapped with a thin slice of beetroot – and a cashew cheese served with flaxseed crackers. Most nuts and seeds can be cultured to make cheese and provide an important source of protein for vegan raw foodists.

A raw foodist will eat raw 75 to 100% of the time, depending on what feels right for them. This means a diet of fruit, vegetables, sprouts, nuts, seeds and grains, where everything remains uncooked, unheated and unprocessed. Coffee is definitely off the menu, but herbal teas, fruit juices and purified (not tap) water are fine.

For our main, we shared an Asian salad with smoked tofu and wakame seaweed dressed with a vinaigrette containing over 30 ingredients. We also tried the signature dish, the Saf bowl, which comprised more tofu, sweetened with a teriyaki glaze, rice and seed cake, pok choy, lotus root, and kimpura kimchee – a spicy pickled cabbage dish. This plethora of interesting flavours and textures was surprisingly filling, but not enough to say no to dessert – a tartlet of fruit with walnut



ON A ROLL: Raw food is thought to aid health and digestion

maple cream on a brazil nut and date crust, and a refreshing lychee granita.

As we polished off an edible pansy, we decided that perhaps going raw wouldn't be so bad. Our waitress, who is herself a raw foodist, told us more about it.

Raw foodists believe that cooking food above 48°C destroys its natural enzymes. This means we have to use our own limited supply of enzymes, and a lot more energy, during digestion. Eating raw food, which comes complete with its own digesting enzymes, allows the body to use its own enzymes to build, cleanse and heal. Many raw food eaters say they experience a clearer complexion, increased energy levels and often weight loss. Also, raw foodists believe that acid-forming foods – such as meat, dairy, bread and preservatives – affect our body's natural pH level. To counteract the acidity, alkaline minerals are robbed from our bones and tissue, which can lead to a host of ailments including arthritis, osteoporosis, depression and headaches. There is a wealth of information available on the internet on the benefits of eating raw, but there are also

counter-arguments and, ultimately, there are no definitive answers.

Inspired by our waitress, Alex and I decided to give it a try: for five days we would eat nothing but raw food. For the first two days the novelty made it bearable. We breakfasted on fruit and soaked oats and enjoyed preparing enormous salads together at work for lunch. Snacks were easy, with so many different nuts and dried fruits to try, as well as raw snack bars. Evening meals were harder. Salads and cold soups were not as appealing or satisfying as they had been at lunch. We scanned the internet for weird and wonderful raw recipes: flapjacks with nuts, dates and honey whizzed up in a blender, cold gazpacho and walnut cheese. We also tried tahini (ground sesame paste) and halva (sesame seed and honey confectionary). By midweek, we were more than a little obsessed, and were both feeling the effects of the detox. We missed the feeling of being properly full and found ourselves growing bored with salad and nuts.

We also noticed how unsociable it can be. It was difficult to eat out and a nuisance at a dinner party. Perhaps five days isn't enough to really judge the benefits of raw foodism, but it was enough for us, although the week had opened our eyes to a number of foods that we hadn't appreciated before.

However, raw meals can be delicious, and there is no better place than Saf to give them a try. The staff are efficient, friendly, and incredibly well-informed. They explain the menu, recommending personal favourites and popular dishes, and, as each dish is served, they point out each ingredient so you always know exactly what you are eating. What is more, you can even dine raw al fresco in Saf's Mediterranean-style courtyard and really feel at one with nature.

Saf Restaurant and Bar, 152-154 Curtain Road Shoreditch, London EC2A 3AT, 020 7613 0007, www.safrestaurant.co.uk

HILARY KAY'S LONDON



How do you relax?

Occasionally, on Sundays, I visit the Serpentine Gallery, walk in Hyde park and just soak in the London atmosphere – especially in the spring and summer. When I lived in Covent Garden, we used to walk a lot. We had a car but rarely used it. In the evening we would sit in the piazza and watch the entertainers, enjoying the vibe. Sometimes, on a summer evening, we would be able to hear the opera singers rehearsing from our flat. They were very special days.

What do you miss about London?

Usually, I live in Oxfordshire. I lived in Covent Garden for many years, and I loved it. Oxford is a bit like Covent Garden used to be – it is vibrant and full of kids and interesting shops. I now spend very little time in London. My clients are all over the country, as is the BBC work. I mainly come to London now for culture and to see friends.

Do you have a favourite London restaurant or cafe?

I worked at Sotheby's for almost 25 years, and I love the cafe there. It's very small and intimate and I often run into people I know. The food is good and there is always something wonderful to look at on the walls.

What are your extravagances?

My husband and I are addicted to travel. And I love modern, unusual jewellery, using different materials – pebbles, silver, glass. I inherited quite a lot of pieces from my mother and then continued to collect them.

SOTHEBY'S CAFE: Kay's favourite



What's your favourite view?

From a helicopter hovering not very high up above the Houses of Parliament. That is truly spectacular. You can get a similar view from the top of the London Eye, but the wonderful thing about the helicopter is that you can move very slowly and look at things in depth. And it's surprising to see how big areas such as Whitehall and Downing Street are!

What would be your ideal evening out in London?

A rock concert with a group of friends – Led Zeppelin, Eric Clapton or the Stones – followed by a cheap and cheerful meal in China Town.

Why has the Antiques Roadshow remained so popular?

All the experts have made strides to keep it current. Also, the way the programme is made has changed: it is now an hour rather than 40 minutes, and the editing is sharper and slicker. There is a variety of pace – often a longer interview followed by several shorter ones. It is shot on HD, which almost gives the objects a fourth dimension, and the lighting really makes the objects sparkle. We film at beautiful locations too, usually stately homes.

A previous presenter, Hugh Scully, once said of it that the show is "a private conversation which is overheard by 11 million people". There is drama: the lottery-win element; the I-could-have-had-one. It appeals to lots of different sorts of viewer, including a big international following. In Australia the show is screened every night. They love the 'tea and cucumber sandwich' feeling. It's very cosy and very British.

What advice would you give to an aspiring collector?

Never collect for investment; only collect things that you are passionate about.

Member Hilary Kay joined the Antiques Roadshow aged 21. She worked as an auctioneer at Sotheby's for over 20 years and is now a consultant, lecturer, writer and broadcaster. She also founded a company that organises antiques-related corporate evenings. Interview by Samantha Whitaker

LONDON

What's on...

Turner and the Masters

Tate Britain

23 September 2009-31 January 2010

This exhibition reveals how Turner imitated, challenged and rivalled the works of masters including Canaletto, Claude, Poussin and Rembrandt to establish his own reputation as one of the greatest European landscape painters.

Tickets: £10.50-£12.50. Contact: 020 7887 8888 or www.tate.org.uk

The Black Album

The National Theatre

Until 7 October 2009

Hanif Kureishi's witty stage adaptation of his acclaimed novel, *The Black Album*, considers how the events of 1989 shaped a world where fundamentalism battles liberalism.

Tickets: £10-£31. Contact: 020 7452 3000 or www.nationaltheatre.org.uk

Inside Out

Sadler's Wells (Peacock Theatre)

14-31 October 2009

The Swedish Cirkus Cirkör offers acrobatics laced with style and humour. *Inside Out* tells the story of two characters whose worlds are twisted upside down when they come into contact with a company of bizarre, magical oddballs.

Tickets: £10-£36. Contact: 0844 412 4322 or www.sadlerswells.com



Scottish celebrations

A guide to the ROSL centenary and pre-centenary events taking place in Scotland. By **James Wilkie**

In Scotland, ROSL is planning not only a centenary programme for 2010, but also a short series of pre-centenary events.

In 2004, I was invited, along with delegates from Edinburgh University and the Church of Scotland World Mission, to make a presentation to the newly-formed Commonwealth Parliamentary Association of the Scottish Parliament on how it might celebrate its Year for Africa (2005). While working as a freelance press officer at BBC Scotland, I had met the Scots cultural activist, Billy Kay. He had produced a radio series on historic Scottish links with Malawi. An idea was born: instead of spreading money and expertise thinly around, the committee focused upon this one smaller African state with strong links with Scotland.

The idea was expanded by Professor

Kenneth King – then head of the centre for African studies at Edinburgh University – and taken up by the Scottish Government. The Scotland-Malawi Partnership now assists many schemes, including a project to help an association of macadamia nut growers in Malawi sell directly to countries including Scotland, and Scottish International Relief’s ‘Mary’s Meals’ programme, which helps provide a free meal for 11,000 children – for many their only hot food of the day.

ROSL in Scotland supports the Edinburgh University Centre for African studies via an annual arts lunch. On 4 November, Jack McConnell MSP will speak on the Scotland-Malawi links. Mr McConnell has been tipped for a diplomatic role in Malawi after the next election. Among the guests will also be two



STRONG LINKS: Michael Matheson MSP at Nansato Primary School in Malawi.

African students who are sponsored by Evelyn Small in memory of her brother John, a past Edinburgh branch chairman. And, for our St Andrew’s Day Dinner on 28 November, our guest speaker is Billy Kay who has a new book, *The Scottish World*.

Mid-week wonders

Alexandra Debarge and **Polly Hynd** hop on the Eurostar to Lille

In an effort to buck the trend, we decided not to take a short trip to Paris. Instead, we sought other treasures across the Channel. Lille is a mere hour and 30 minutes by Eurostar from St Pancras, London. It is convenient, economical and a great way to get a taste of France. As a city, Lille offers a compact yet diverse cultural experience. It’s a fantastic day trip.

After a typical French breakfast at Café Paul, the original establishment of the well-known chain, we explored the meandering, cobbled streets of Vieux Lille on foot. Beautiful yet imposing edifices provided an interesting contrast to bars, cafes and quirky boutiques nestled in peaceful side streets.

We paid the obligatory visit to the Palais des Beaux Arts, arguably France’s second largest art collection after the Louvre. This was followed by a leisurely gourmet lunch at L’Huitrière, a Michelin starred restaurant. Its

opulent surroundings did more than justice to the cuisine; every dish was as superb as the next and the extremely knowledgeable staff were welcoming and happy to offer assistance – especially for those whose French might not be up to scratch! This is a restaurant we would highly recommend.

During the afternoon, we took a 20 minute Métro ride to Roubaix, La Piscine; one of Lille’s most original art spaces. This is a former Art Deco public bath, which houses both permanent and temporary collections. As the sun began to set on the Place du Théâtre, we rounded off our excursion with a chilled glass of French rosé à la terrasse.

It truly was a day to be remembered. In under 24 hours one can sample a varied selection of Lille’s delights and return to reality refreshed, culturally enriched – and laden with shopping baskets!



GOING SWIMMINGLY: Art is housed in a former public bath

EDINBURGH

What's on...

September-November

September

Bridge

Friday 4 September, 12.30 for 1pm
One-course lunch with sherry and guest day. Tickets: £9.50

October

Music with a view

Friday 2 October, 6.30pm
Recital by pianist Shuenda Wong; exhibition by ROSL Visual Arts Scholar Lauren Porter.

Arts lunch

Wednesday 7 October, 12 for 12.30pm
Two-course lunch, coffee and a glass of wine. Music performed by pupils of St Mary's Music School, Edinburgh. Tickets: £17; members £15.

Coffee morning

Saturday 10 October, 10.30am
With speaker Nickol Stewardson from Water of the Leith Conservation Trust.

Theatre visit (tbc)

Matinee. See noticeboard for details.

Concert

Thursday 29 October, 6.30pm
Performance by soprano Adele Paxton and pianist Sarah Downs,

with post-concert wine and canapés. Tickets: £10; members £8; Friends of ROSL ARTS £6.

November

Arts lunch

Wednesday 4 November, 12 for 12.30pm
Two-course lunch plus coffee and a glass of wine. Guest speaker Rt Hon Jack McConnell, MSP and former first minister, speaks on 'Scotland and Malawi' at a Centre for African Studies benefit. Tickets: £17; members £15.

Coffee morning

Saturday 14 November, 10.30am
Rodney Ferguson speaks on 'High Constables of Edinburgh'.

Music with a view

Wednesday 25 November, 6.30pm
Recital by violinist Tamsin Waley Cohen; exhibition by ROSL Visual Arts Scholar Jacob Carter.

St Andrew's Day Dinner

Saturday 28 November, 7 for 7.30pm
Three-course dinner plus wine


BILLY KAY:
Guest speaker at the Edinburgh Clubhouse



with guest speaker, broadcaster and writer Billy Kay. Tickets: £25.

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Vietnam is the centerpiece of our Southeast Asia voyages, a stunning nation of emerald beaches, soaking pearls and a kaleid of emerald paddies. While in major cities, tuk-tuks and motorbikes throng streets bustling with markets and entrepreneurial energy.

Explore exotic lands and experience the thrill of authentic discovery while indulging mind and body in the relaxed luxury of The Yachts of Seaborn. Our intimate all-inclusive Seaborn Pride will take you closer to these lands and their people. Overnight on board stays in ports like Hong Kong, Ho Chi Minh City, Bangkok and Shanghai ensure the extra time needed to explore such remarkable cities. And with Seaborn as your guide, you'll experience these lands with far more depth and insight... all the while knowing that your luxurious yacht awaits at the end of each fascinating day.

ROSL ARTS

Renée Jones previews the autumn season events

Music events

Over-Seas House Princess Alexandra Hall

This season ROSL ARTS presents a wide-ranging concert series. The ROSL Annual Music Competition provides a wealth of past prizewinners who will be performing in the autumn. Our Sundays at 3 series continues with performances ranging from Barber's *Hermit Songs* with Adèle Paxton to Debussy's *Preludes* with Shuenda Wong. Featuring in our evening concert series is

renowned trombone quartet Bones Apart who return to Over-Seas House to celebrate their 10th Anniversary. Piers of the Realm, presented by Gavin Henderson CBE, will be another highlight.

Sundays at 3

Sunday 4 October, 3pm
Shuenda Wong – piano
Sunday 1 November, 3pm
Adele Paxton – soprano
Sunday 22 November, 3pm
Tamsin Walley-Cohen – violin

BONES APART: Celebrating their 10th anniversary at an evening concert in November



Evening events

Thursday 22 October, 7pm

Plane, Neary, Rahman Trio

Friday 30 October, 7pm

Bones Apart Trombone Quartet

Thursday 19 November, 7pm

St James Quintet

Tuesday 8 December, 7pm

Piers of the Realm with Gavin Henderson

Tickets: £10; members and concessions £9; Friends of ROSL ARTS £8. At Sundays at 3, ticket includes tea and scones. At evening events, ticket includes a glass of wine.

Wigmore Hall

ROSL Prizewinners Concert

Monday 9 November, 7pm

This concert forms part of the prestigious Monday Platform series at London's premier chamber music venue, The Wigmore Hall. ROSL prizewinning ensemble the Solstice String Quartet and the Camarilla Ensemble

Brochures and bookings

To obtain the latest ROSL ARTS brochure or to book please telephone 020 7408 0214 x324 or email culture@rosl.org.uk

Amy in Zimbabwe

ROSL gold medallist Amy Dickson is inspired by the Harare International Festival of the Arts



In March this year, Martin Cousin and I received an unusual email from Roderick Lakin at ROSL ARTS, asking whether we would be interested in playing in Harare in April. We were both able to make space in our diaries, and so we accepted. We were initially hesitant to do so, given the travel advice on the British and Australian foreign travel websites, but we were confident that we would not have been asked to go if there was any chance

of seeing any troubles. Nevertheless, in the week before we left, I visited my doctor and asked for every possible inoculation – which left me with such a sore arm that I wondered whether I would be able to play at all!

As soon as we arrived, we realised we were in very safe hands. The Harare International Festival of the Arts (HIFA), is wonderful, and I had one of the best weeks of my life there. Set in the Harare botanical gardens, the grounds are enormous. They need to be: 10,000 people visited the festival this year! I met musicians, actors, dancers and artists from all over the world – a stimulating mix with a celebratory atmosphere.

HIFA is the brainchild of Manuel Bagorro, a concert pianist and past ROSL prize-winner. He has been running the festival for 10 years and it is astounding to see what he has built in that time. The emphasis is on providing artistic input (and, I daresay, relief) for a city where local people rarely experience it.

This was my first trip to Africa. Hearing African music in its natural home has

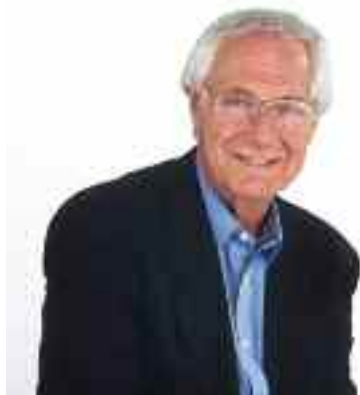
changed the way I appreciate it. One morning in Harare, on my way to a concert, I was passed by a truck. In the back of the truck was a dog, some work tools, and a traditional marimba. Music seemed to be everywhere, and that, to me, was magical.

Together, Martin and I gave one chamber concert. I also played a concert on my own. The venue was a reformed church, which was beautifully candle-lit and had a lovely acoustic. Our audiences were incredibly appreciative and we enjoyed every minute. Wandering around the grounds of the festival after I had played, I was stopped many times by locals who wanted to show their support and gratitude to us for coming to Harare. However, I felt that it was an honour to be asked, and an honour to be a part of such an incredible event.

Both Martin and I are grateful to ROSL ARTS for sending us to Harare, and applaud the support they have given HIFA over the last 10 years. I can't wait to visit Zimbabwe again, and wish HIFA the greatest success in the future.

(wind quintet) perform works by Stravinsky, Haydn, Nielsen and Beethoven. This is a wonderful opportunity to support emerging young musicians as they forge their way in the London chamber music scene.

Tickets: £10, available from ROSL ARTS only. 020 7408 0214 x324. Wine will be served after the concert, included in ticket price



BARRY NORMAN: Launching his new *Book of Cricket*

© WOMAN'S WEEKLY/REX FEATURES

Book events

Over-Seas House, London

Wednesday 4 November, 7pm

'Book of Cricket' by Barry Norman

The former BBC film critic Barry Norman talks about his first and enduring passion – the game of cricket.

Monday 16 November, 7pm

'The Royal Over-Seas League: From Empire into Commonwealth, A History of the First 100 Years' by Adele Smith

The launch of *The Royal Over-Seas League: From Empire into Commonwealth, A History of the First 100 Years* with author Adele Smith is a much-anticipated event in the ROSL calendar. It will bring to life our diverse and fascinating history and it is not to be missed!

Tickets: £5; ROSL members and concessions £4.50; Friends of ROSL ARTS £4. Ticket includes wine, which will be served after the readings.

ROSL ARTS Annual Exhibition

7–25 October, 10am–6pm
gallery@oxo, Southbank, London

Featuring:

Melanie Fitzmaurice (Australia)

Michele Fletcher (Canada)

Lililan Nabulime (Uganda)

Kazi Sahid (Bangladesh)

Join ROSL ARTS at this unique occasion to sample art inspired by month-long ROSL scholarships to Hospitalfields in Scotland. This year sees four young Commonwealth artists present a variety of painting and sculpture at gallery@oxo on London's South Bank.

Members' events

September-January

September

Historic Soho

Wednesday 23 September, 2pm, £15, G

Discover Soho's development from the fashionable 18th century through the scandalous 19th century to its present day status as the centre of London's cafe and club land.

October

Syon Park House and Gardens guided tour

Thursday 1 October, 1.30pm, £14, G

Visit the home of the Duke of Northumberland, built by Edward Seymour. A hidden treasure, Syon House is the last surviving ducal residence and country estate in Greater London. It also boasts arguably the finest Robert Adam interior in the country. Enjoy the Great Conservatory and 40 acres of garden as well as the state and private apartments.

Application form opposite

These codes identify ticket availability:

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

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

Wine tasting

Monday 5 October, 5pm, £15, G

Join us in the restaurant for a tutored wine tasting. Try an exclusive selection of clarets from the ROSL cellar. A three-course meal for £20 will also be available for all participants.

Guided tours of the House of Lords

*Tuesday 13 October, 10.30am;
Tuesday 20 October, 9.15am, £7, B*

An opportunity to explore the House of Lords on a guided tour with Lady Luce. Due to a limited amount of spaces, priority will be given to those who attended the House of Lords Tea on 7 July when tours were cancelled due to a House Sitting. This will be on a first come, first served basis.

November

Wellcome Collection

Wednesday 25 November, £7, B
The Wellcome Collection explores



OFF EXPLORING: The Medicine Now exhibition at the Wellcome Collection (above) and Syon House (top)

'ideas about the connections between medicine, life and art'. Gain an insight on this guided tour, which will include the Wellcome Collection's permanent collections.

December

Foundling Museum tour and concert

Thursday 3 December, 11am, £14, G

The Foundling Museum tells the story of the Foundling Hospital, the original home for abandoned children, founded in 1739 by Thomas Coram, William Hogarth and George Frideric Handel. After our tour, there will be the opportunity to listen to an afternoon concert from 2pm.

Festival of Christmas carols and readings

Sunday 6 December, £16.50, G

Join us for our annual Christmas Carol Service at St James's Church, followed by a festive tea held at Over-Seas House.

January

Centenary launch event

Tuesday 26 January 2010, 6.30pm, £tbc, G, R

The very first event of the ROSL centenary calendar, featuring the exclusive launch of the centenary cocktail, tombola, live music, entertainment and much more. There will also be an opportunity to purchase the latest ROSL centenary gifts. This is an event not to be missed!

Chairman's Lunch

Wednesday 28 October, 12.30pm, £50, G

Drinks will be served before a three-course lunch at Over-Seas House, London. Hosted by ROSL Chairman, Mr Stanley Martin, with guest of honour and speaker Cardinal Cormac Murphy-O'Connor, former Archbishop of Westminster.

Food and Drink events

September-December

The Restaurant, Over-Seas House, London
For reservations contact Bianca on 020 7491 3644

November

Autumn food festival – The food of Spain

2-14 November

A seasonal selection of the finest food from Spain. To book a table, call 020 7408 0214 x220

December

Christmas Day lunch

Friday 25 December, 12pm, £77.50

Join us for drinks at midday followed by a traditional festive Christmas lunch with wine for £77.50 per person.

New Year's Eve candlelit dinner

Thursday 31 December, £75

See in the New Year. Enjoy a glass of champagne on your arrival, followed by dinner and entertainment until 12.30am.



SHELLFISH PAELLA: Enjoy the Spanish food festival

Application form for members' events (see opposite)

MEMBERSHIP NO.....

Name.....

Name of guest(s) and trip they are attending

.....

.....

Address to which tickets should be sent

.....

.....

Tel no.....

PAYMENT

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

Please complete this form and send to:

Alex Debarge, PR Department (Members Events), Over-Seas House, Park Place, St James's Street, London SW1A 1LR. Tel: 020 7016 6906. Email: adebarge@rosl.org.uk.

Please send a SEPARATE CHEQUE for each event.

			No. of tickets
Historic Soho	Wed 23 Sept	£15 £.....
Syon House	Thurs 1 Oct	£14 £.....
Wine Tasting	Mon 5 Oct	£15 £.....
Chairman's Lunch	Wed 28 Oct	£50 £.....
Wellcome Collection	Wed 25 Nov	£7 £.....
Foundling Museum	Thurs 3 Dec	£14 £.....
Festival of Christmas carols and readings	Sun 6 Dec	£16.50 £.....
			Total £.....
Centenary Launch Event	Tues 26 Jan 2010	£tbc (tick here)

BALLOTTED EVENTS

DO NOT SEND PAYMENT YET. YOU WILL ONLY BE CONTACTED IF SUCCESSFUL. Maximum **2 TICKETS** per member.

	No. of tickets	Apply before
Tour of House of Lords	18 Sept
Tour of House of Lords	18 Sept

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Applicants must be mobile, able to look after themselves and attend meals. There are no medical facilities at Huntly, although a local doctor visits each week and welfare officers are employed to provide support for the residents. All residents pay a standard fee that covers their accommodation, meals and welfare support.

Contact the House Governor on Tel: 01626 77 5223, Fax: 01626 779241 Email: huntly2@officersassociation.org.uk for further details and a colour brochure and application form. Or visit our Website: www.officersassociation.org.uk

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General

Food and drink

LIQUID ASSETS

I don't get out much, but when I do, I come away from London restaurants wondering why I have to sit cheek by jowl with the person on the next table, so that their conversation is overheard by me, and mine by them. I suppose they have to pack in tables to make their money but I am reminded of how well spaced the tables are in the restaurants at Over-Seas House in London and Edinburgh.

On my forays into London's restaurants, I have scrutinised their wine lists, particularly the sections on red Bordeaux, or clarets as we in England like to call them. In them all the prices of decent claret, from good vintages, have been a real shock and have prompted me to remind members of the fantastic value of those from our own cellars. We list them at historic purchase price plus a reasonable mark up. It could be that the opportunity to drink fine aged clarets, at

prices less than they can be bought wholesale, let alone retail, is reason enough to use the ROSL restaurants.

Some examples from the London restaurant are: Chateau La Tour St. Bonnet 1995, a cru bourgeois from the Medoc at only £25; or a Chateau d'Issan 1999, a third-growth Margaux, for only £57. We presently list first-growth wines: a Chateau Lafite Rothschild 1993 at £99; a Chateau Latour 1994 at £106; and at the top end a Chateau Cheval-Blanc 1994 at £119. The last three might sound expensive, but they and all the others would cost three or more times as much in other restaurants.

In total there are 15 clarets listed in the ROSL restaurant, all from vintages in the 1990s and we have laid down equally fine wines from later vintages for members' enjoyment for decades to come.

Robert Newell, director-general



TOP OF THE RANGE: First-growth wines: Chateau Cheval-Blanc 1994 at £119; a Chateau Latour 1994 at £106; and a Chateau Lafite Rothschild 1993 at £99

Royal Weekend in Scotland

£315 per person

Friday 6th November – Monday 9th November 2009

Three nights dinner, bed and breakfast with wine.

Friday evening: Talk about the Royal Yacht Britannia, by Andrew Large, former crew member

Saturday: Day tour to Glamis Castle, including tea and shortbread in Glamis 16th century kitchens

Sunday: Tour of Britannia and Holyrood Palace
Staying at Over-Seas House, Edinburgh, situated in the heart of Edinburgh, directly opposite Edinburgh Castle. Not included in price: lunches and gratuities.



To book, please contact:
reception@rosl-edinburgh.org
or phone:
0131 225 1501, quoting 'Royal Weekend'



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. All ROSL members and guests are welcome. For more information contact John Edwards, 01732 883556, johncoatesedward@aol.com.

The future of economic policy in the light of the economic crisis

5 October With Lord Skidelsky, emeritus professor of political economy at the University of Warwick and author of the biography of John Maynard Keynes.

Sentencing

2 November With the Rt Hon Lord Woolf, former Lord Chief Justice of England and Wales. Lord Woolf is also a vice-president of ROSL.

Swinfen Charitable Trust - Global Telemedicine 2009

7 December With Lord Swinfen, trustee, and Lady Swinfen, director of the Trust.

LONDON GROUP

Please note that you are not automatically a member of the London Group: please ask for an application form from the PR department, Over-Seas House, London. The London Group meets at 6.30pm on the third Thursday of each month. For more information about the London Group, please contact Beryl Keen, 020 8449 5686.

Soho in the 1950s and 1960s

17 September A talk by writer and broadcaster Jonathan Fryer.



SUPPORTING OTHERS: (left) Ayah, an Iraqi child whose family was supported by the Swinfen Charitable Trust (7 December) and (right) Royal British Legion poppies (October-November)

Masters of the Sea

15 October James Taylor on maritime art since the 17th century. This talk profiles historic buildings at Greenwich.

Living and working in Ghana

19 November A talk by Derrick Fulford JP.

Christmas Lunch

3 December, 12.30pm for 1pm Princess Alexandra Hall Entertainment after lunch will be provided by pianist and singer Andrew Bewis. Tickets: £42; LG members £39. Apply for tickets before 20 November to Celia Goh, London Group, c/o Porters' Desk, Over-Seas House, London, enclosing a cheque payable to London Group ROSL and a SAE.

Volunteers needed!

If you can help sell poppies at Over-Seas House, London, from 26 October to 11 November,

please leave your contact details at the Porters' Desk marked FAO

Helen Osborne, or telephone 020 8503 5693.

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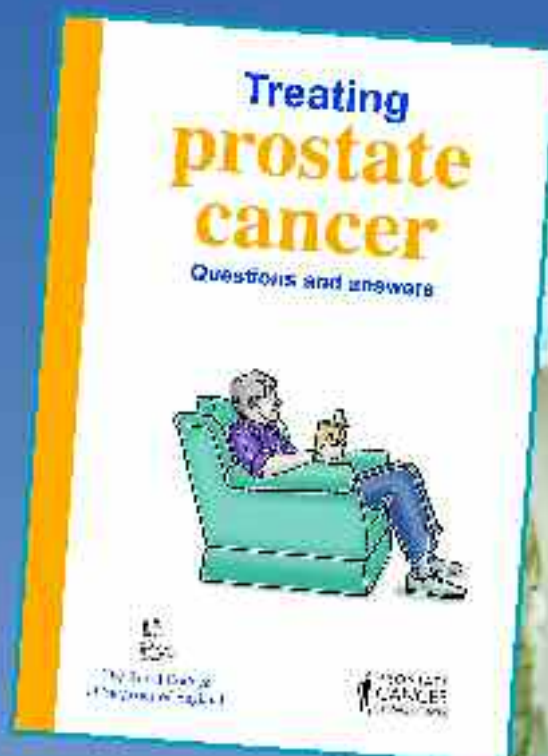
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