

# OVERSEAS

Journal of the Royal Over-Seas League

Issue 3, September–November 2010



## A royal blessing

Stunning images of the centenary celebration in the presence of HM The Queen

## Winning notes

Insider's view of the 58th Annual Music Competition Final Concert

## Who was Sir Evelyn?

Special feature on the life of the ROSL founder, with photos spanning 40 years

## On the ball

Join ROSL members and the Inter-Club Group at the fabulous summer ball



## OVERSEAS

ISSUE 3 September-November 2010

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

## Centenary

**Comfort for the troops ..... 5**

How the Allies Welcome Committee supported the troops. From Adele Smith's 'History'

**Survival spirit ..... 5**

How *Overseas* covered the bombing of Over-Seas House during the Blitz

**The Queen marks ROSL's  
100th year ..... 6**

The centenary reception in pictures, as members are presented to HM The Queen

**ROSL branches out in  
London ..... 8**

A portrait of the Branch Conference

**Many members, one body .. 8**

The Dean of Westminster on Wrench's Christian vision, from his thanksgiving address

**Members have a ball ..... 9**

Party-goers are caught on camera at the Centenary Summer Ball at Over-Seas House

**Founding father ..... 10**

A special Focus on the life of Sir Evelyn Wrench, taking in his early childhood, his most important relationships and the organisations he founded

## World

**Ashes to Ashes ..... 16**

The heat nearly gets the better of Oli Broom as he cycles on through Asia

**My Sydney ..... 16**

Top recommendations from Renée Jones, former Marketing Assistant for ROSL ARTS

## ROSL news

**News and views ..... 18**

The latest from the London clubhouse

**On a winning streak ..... 19**

Report on the Younger Members' programme

**House Full ..... 20**

Insight into the ROSL Annual Music Competition

**ROSL world ..... 22**

Branch reports from around the world

**Books ..... 25**

Reviews of the latest publications by members

## In the UK

**On a roll ..... 26**

Learn how to make sushi with a master

**Mid-week wonders ..... 27**

Why Berlin is the perfect destination for art-loving guests at the London clubhouse

**What's on: London ..... 27**

Our pick of art and drama events in the capital

## Events

**ROSL ARTS ..... 28**

**What's on: Edinburgh .... 30**

**Food and drink ..... 31**

**Members' events ..... 33**

**Discussion Group and  
London Group ..... 34**

**Front cover:** The ROSL Director of PR and Development Margaret Adrian-Vallance and Central Council member Clive Carpenter present ROSL-Namibia project bursary recipients (l-r) Cwisa Cwi and Elias Areab to HM The Queen





## From the Director-General

**T**hank you to all members who have attended the ROSL centenary events held so far this year. The Service of Thanksgiving, held in May at St James's, Piccadilly, was conducted by the acting Priest in Charge, the Revd Lindsay Meader. We are grateful to Lindsay and the Very Revd Dr John Hall, Dean of Westminster, who gave the address (page 8). The service was followed by a splendid Chairman's Lunch, the ROSL AGM and a members' reception. Undoubtedly, the highlight of our centenary celebrations was the reception at St James's Palace (page 6), on 1 June, in the gracious presence of HM The Queen, HRH The Duke of Edinburgh and our Vice-Patron, HRH Princess Alexandra. The following evening Princess Alexandra honoured us again by her presence at the Final Concert of the ROSL Annual Music Competition, held at Queen Elizabeth Hall (page 20). During the week of these special events, which included a reception at the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office (page 22), we held an International Branch Conference for 32 branch chairmen and presidents from the UK and overseas. It was chaired by Sir Anthony Figgis, ROSL Chairman (page 8).

120 members and young people from the Inter-Club Younger Members' Group came to the Centenary Summer Ball in June (page 9). In glorious summer weather, the evening began with a reception in the garden and a superb dinner. I am grateful to my colleagues who, through their diligent hard work, ensured that the centenary events and the conference were successes.

**Robert Newell**

**CULTURAL LINKS:** Hong Kong Branch President Paul Surtees welcomes the Director-General and other guests to the reception held by the Hong Kong Branch, in London, in June (see page 22)



© Alexandra Swain

## Editor's letter

**I** was fortunate enough to hear Alex May speak at the Central Council lunch in March, so I am not surprised that his Focus on Sir Evelyn Wrench is so detailed and informative, yet lively, humorous and eloquent (page 10). I have learnt a lot about ROSL's founding father, from his support of both a United Ireland and appeasement, to his powerful charisma and almost boundless energy.



Finding a cover image was not hard; if anything, we had too many stunning photographs to choose from following June's centenary reception. There are many other striking images, which give a flavour of the event for those of us who were unable to attend, on page 6. See the Events section for upcoming events (pages 28-34).

I was also fascinated to read the extracts from the *Overseas* archive and Adele Smith's 'History' on page 5, which show how ROSL coped with the pressures of the Second World War.

**Miranda Moore**

## MICHELE BOGEN

**It is with great sadness that we report the death of Michele Bogen, on 15 June, after a long illness. Michele was ROSL Shop Manager from 1995 to 2008, when she was no longer able to come to work.**



ROSL members and staff extend their deepest sympathy to her sister, Jasmine, with whom she lived in north London. Before joining ROSL, Michele had worked at Harvey Nichols as a cosmetics department supervisor and as a beauty consultant at John Lewis. At ROSL, Michele's helpful and friendly personality endeared her to members, many of who continued to write to her or ask about her long after 2008. Michele was a fount of information about London life, from restaurants and markets, to dressmakers and shops. She had a lively and humorous way of describing everyday events, and her positive attitude and fortitude over the last two years were an inspiration.

**Margaret Adrian-Vallance**

# Comfort for the troops

The Allies Welcome Committee provided hospitality and support for Allied servicemen between 1940 and 1950. From Adele Smith's 'History' of ROSL

The first Canadian troops coming to Britain to fight in the war arrived on 11 December 1939. The various Empire societies began immediately to organise hospitality for them and for the large number of Empire servicemen who followed. It was soon realised that no similar provision had been made for the great influx of allied forces from occupied nations – French, Dutch, Belgian, Norwegian, Polish and Czech – who, together with their exiled government, found refuge in the UK.

At the Over-Seas League, Sir Jocelyn Lucas, MC, was already Head of Hospitality. This remarkable man, MP for Portsmouth South from 1939 to 1966, combined his activities with the Club with parliamentary duties and arduous part-time work as an auxiliary fireman. Since the rules of the Over-Seas Club originally precluded raising money for anything but Commonwealth causes, he realised the need to form an independent Allies Welcome Committee to extend hospitality to all troops regardless of race, nationality, rank or gender. As Chairman, backed by an influential committee, he raised money to support hospitality not only from members but also from wealthy individuals and large businesses. The Committee started its work in 1940, soon after Dunkirk...

Despite wartime shortages, bombings and the diminished staff at Over-Seas House, and with meals sometimes cooked over oil stoves when air raids cut off gas supplies, from the first these lunches were a great success, enabling guests to meet their British opposite numbers. Photographs of these events were forbidden in case of enemy reprisals on relatives who remained in occupied Europe...

The Committee entertained nearly every war leader present in London at that time, with General de Gaulle being one of the first. Royal guests included HMs the Kings of Greece and Yugoslavia, the Crown Prince of Norway, Prince Bernhard of the Netherlands, the Princess Royal, the Duchess of Kent and the Duke of Gloucester...

Much hospitality was less formal. Parties of



**ROYAL WELCOME:** HRH the Princess Royal with Australian servicemen at an Allies Welcome Committee event

all kinds were popular, from fork lunches and tea parties and broadcasts to dances held several times a week, which drew large crowds. Sir Jocelyn Lucas estimated that on average 3,000 servicemen and women passed through Over-Seas House each week. A dedicated group of volunteers ran all the activities. Out in the rest of the UK the League's branches were also very active, particularly in Liverpool, Ulster, Edinburgh, Glasgow and Cardiff, where large groups of servicemen were made welcome both at the club's premises and in private homes. Private hospitality indeed was extensive, especially at Christmas time, and this tremendous effort by League members was paralleled by fund-raising activities to provide comfort for the troops abroad and help at home for sufferers of the effects of war.

In 1950, with the war safely over, the Committee was wound up. Sir Jocelyn, who had also been Chairman of the returned Prisoner of War Advice Committee, wrote: 'The term Allies infers war. We wish to remember old friends but to forget past differences and we feel therefore, that the time has come to cease our activities.'

# Survival spirit

'A Letter From Lord Willingdon to our Members' from the June 1941 issue of *Overseas*

A few weeks ago, Lady Willingdon and I had the pleasure of making our first "tour" of the Over-Seas League, of which I have recently accepted Chairmanship... We explored the League's great building, from the topmost bedrooms with their wonderful view over the Green Park, to the kitchens and the snack bar...

## "IN THE FRONT LINE"

The following night came one of the severest raids that London had ever experienced. With complete indiscriminate the Nazis rained their bombs and incendiaries on the heart of London, and Over-Seas House was among many buildings in St. James's which were in the front line that night.

In consequence my wife and I found ourselves two days later paying a return visit to Over-Seas House. We were reintroduced to the same staff, housed now in the big Lecture Hall, with salvaged furniture piled high around them, and in the small bedrooms of the Club House. They were all as cheerful as before, and conducting their work as if they did not even notice the discomforts. But we gazed sadly at the blackened ruins of those fine bedrooms and offices from which two days ago we had looked out upon Green Park in its spring beauty; and we walked through the drawing-rooms, built and designed by William Kent, and hung with age-old brocades, that were now dripping with water and ankle deep in *débris*, and our hearts were heavy when we realised the wanton destruction and the irreplaceable loss of so much historic beauty.

## Editorial from the same issue: 'HEADQUARTERS CARRIES ON'

Had it not been for the timely help given to the staff on that fateful night by the members of the overseas forces who were staying under our roof, the damage might have been much worse. Not only did they help us deal with "baskets" of incendiary bombs, but they also worked for many hours during the height of the bombing to help to save furniture, and some of our records.

# The Queen marks ROSL's 100th year

Attended by HM The Queen, HRH The Duke of Edinburgh and HRH Princess Alexandra, the centenary reception at St James's Palace in June was the centrepiece of this year's celebratory events



▲ ROSL Australia Chairman Jason Ronald OAM presents (l-r) Marjorie Scriven (South Australia Branch President), Coral Strahan (Victoria Branch Secretary), Lily Murray (NSW Branch Secretary) and Peter Harrington (Melbourne)



▲ Central Council member David Jamieson introduces past ROSL Annual Music Competition prizewinners Australian saxophonist Amy Dickson and South African pianist Ben Schoeman to HRH The Duke of Edinburgh

▼ Adele Smith, author of the 'History' of ROSL, shows the centenary timeline to HM The Queen







▲ ROSL Chairman Sir Anthony Figgis escorts HM The Queen and HRH The Duke of Edinburgh to meet immediate past-Chairman Stanley Martin and his wife Hanni



▲ Central Council member Clive Carpenter, beside HM The Queen, presents ROSL ARTS prizewinning musicians and artists (l-r) Bangladeshi artist Murshida Arzu Alpina, Sri Lankan soprano Kishani Jayasinghe, Australian pianist Piers Lane, and ROSL Annual Music Competition Chairman of adjudicators, Gavin Henderson CBE



▲ Event coordinator Alexandra Debarge presents a posy to HM The Queen



▲ HRH Princess Alexandra meets ROSL members



▲ ROSL President Lord Luce escorts Her Majesty through St James's Palace to meet ROSL members

► Event coordinator Polly Hynd presents a posy to Princess Alexandra



▲ HM The Queen speaks to ROSL members Anthony and Janice Bonnici



To buy these photos and many others, visit [www.rosl.org.uk](http://www.rosl.org.uk) and follow the link to the photographer's website. An email address and Paypal account are required.

# ROSL branches out in London

## ROSL Chairman **Sir Anthony Figgis** reports on the Branch Conference

The International Branch Conference was held at Over-Seas House, London, 1-4 June, with participants from branches in Australia, Canada, Switzerland, England, Scotland, Thailand, New Zealand and Hong Kong. All agreed that it was excellently organised and should be repeated – well before 2110. It was an opportunity for branches to get to

know one another, and to discuss what works best for members in their area. We established a mechanism for keeping in closer touch, and heard presentations on the monarchy by Lord Luce; on the Commonwealth by Simon Gimson, Head of the Secretary-General's Office; and on ROSL ARTS by its Director, Roderick Lakin. We

agreed that ROSL should underline its support for the Commonwealth with further welfare projects, especially in the smaller South Pacific states and Africa. Those could follow the pattern of the ROSL-Namibia project, though health and sport were also possibilities. It was a thoroughly worthwhile and enjoyable occasion.



© Alex Livo

## Many members, one body: Wrench's Christian vision

### From the Service of Thanksgiving address by **the Very Revd Dr John Hall**

It seems that it all began in Westminster Abbey. In his memoir *Uphill*, Evelyn Wrench describes how, in 1910, a turning point came in his life. A 'vision' came to him at the memorial service to King Edward VII in Westminster Abbey. 'The scales fell from my eyes; I vowed I would devote my life to great causes – to the Empire, to my fellows.' We celebrate this year the remarkable achievement of that vision over the past 100 years of the Royal Over-Seas League. We commit ourselves afresh to carrying the best of that vision forward into ROSL's next century.

To begin this address with the particular vision of one man is right and proper, for more than one reason. First, the extraordinary energy and persistence of Sir Evelyn Wrench, the way he brought his vision to a remarkable fulfilment, is itself exemplary and encouraging. Second, it is apparent that, throughout the 100 years of ROSL's history, it has been the commitment of particular individuals that has achieved its survival and development.

A good story has many meanings. We can

understand the Parable of the Good Samaritan in various ways. One aspect of its significance concerns the response of individuals and the difference an individual can make. After the man on the Jericho road had been robbed and left for dead, two individuals passed by on the other side but someone did stop and was able to help. This individual taking of responsibility is an obvious point of the story, but well worth noting, as we celebrate the achievement of individuals at a time when, too often, people are inclined to leave it to someone else.

There is another theme to the parable which should also give us courage. We are told that Jews and Samaritans hated each other. The Samaritan broke down the barrier of enmity by assisting – serving – the Jew. Part of Evelyn Wrench's vision was to see what was then the British Empire, not merely as a political and economic structure, but as a 'far flung brotherhood of individual men and women of diverse creeds and races living under differing conditions in different latitudes'. He sought to

encourage friendship and understanding between them, to break down the barriers. In its support for the Commonwealth, the ROSL remains true to that vision of building an international community of people of different creeds, nationalities and ethnicities. Mutual support and service across ethnic and religious divides fulfils Wrench's original Christian vision.

Our other reading, from St Paul's letter to the Romans, reminds us not only that we are better together but that we depend on each other and without one another we can't function effectively. The metaphor Paul uses is the body, and he elaborates it in his letter to the Corinthians. 'If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole body were hearing, where would the sense of smell be? But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. If all were a single member, where would the body be? As it is, there are many members, yet one body.'

*This is a shortened version of the Dean of Westminster's speech, St James's, 4 May.*



# Members have a ball

Top entertainment made the event a resounding success, says **Alexandra Debarge**



Blessed with sunshine, the Centenary Summer Ball was a fantastic end to the summer programme. More than 120 ROSL members and guests, including many from the Younger Members' Inter-Club Group, descended on Over-Seas House, London for an evening filled with entertainment.

Members arrived in outfits bearing a twist of purple – ROSL's house colour – and were greeted by a stunning 1910 Talbot Tourer. They gathered in the ROSL garden to enjoy an alfresco reception while sipping the centenary cocktail, served with canapés. There was entertainment from magician and mind reader Robert Fox before guests went inside to the Hall of India and Pakistan, where a delicious three-course meal was served.

After some more surprising acts of magic, there was an incredible performance by Paul Handley (a UK Multiple Finalist bar flairer), which made us feel as if we were in the film *Cocktail*. He surprised Polly Hynd, who was one of the event coordinators, by asking her and another volunteer to attempt, on stage, some cocktail making of their own, under the careful instruction of Director-General Robert Newell. Cocktails were served after dinner; though these were, thankfully, mixed by the professionals.

After dinner, members and their guests had the opportunity to relax in the Drawing Room and enjoy music from harpist José Antonio Domene. Some gathered in the cocktail bar and garden to enjoy the summer weather. Others danced the night away to the live band, Gefunkt, in Princess Alexandra Hall, which had been transformed into something from *A Midsummer Night's Dream* for the occasion.

The ball was a resounding success – a night to be remembered. A special thanks must go to Michael and Gill Manning for bringing their 1910 Talbot Tourer for all to admire. It was a real treat that helped to mark our centenary in style.



© NICK WHITAKER PHOTOGRAPHY

**SUMMER FUN:** (Clockwise from top) Party-goers gather in the ROSL garden before dinner; members of the Younger Members' Inter-Club Group enjoy the centenary cocktail; Michael and Gill Manning pose with guests in their 1910 Talbot Tourer outside Over-Seas House; and Robert Fox surprises a guest with his magic



# Founding father

**Alex May** gives a unique insight into Sir Evelyn Wrench's life, aspirations and motivation, taking in his happy childhood in Co. Dublin, falling out with Gandhi, and tireless work to develop and promote the ROSL

The Edwardians were great founders of clubs, societies and associations, whether in sport, politics, or any other walk of life. Not many have survived to celebrate their centenaries, and very few have done so in such good health as the Royal Over-Seas League. For this, many people deserve credit. But ROSL owes its existence, to a peculiar extent, to one man: Sir Evelyn Wrench.

It was Wrench who founded the organisation in 1910, who initially ran it as a one-man band, who remained secretary for its first 30 years, who launched and for many years edited its journal, *Overseas*, and who was, until his death in 1966, its presiding spirit – though latterly perhaps more *fidei defensor* than *genius loci*.

## Family and childhood

John Evelyn Leslie Wrench was born in Brookeborough, Co. Fermanagh, Ireland, on 29 October 1882. The name Evelyn, by which he was always known, was given him after his godfather, Field Marshal Sir Evelyn Wood.

His mother, Charlotte, was a strong influence, and a spirited woman: a vegetarian and a supporter of women's suffrage. She was one of the famed Bellingham sisters, daughters of Sir Alan Bellingham. Her sister Alice married Sir Victor Brooke; their grandchildren included Viscount Brookeborough, Prime Minister of Northern Ireland.

Evelyn's father was the Rt Hon Frederick Stringer Wrench, PC. Originally from a Lincolnshire family, he was an Irish Land Commissioner, charged with developing the Irish rural economy by means of agricultural fairs, stock and crop improvements, and the encouragement of small industries. In pursuit of

these aims he made regular tours of the west coast of Ireland in a schooner, frequently taking the young Evelyn with him.

Both parents were devout (without being strict), loving and encouraging, and it was by all accounts a happy childhood. Evelyn had three siblings. His brother Arthur (four years older) died of malaria in 1902, while a subaltern in the Central India Horse. His older sister Mary married young, but Evelyn was very close to his younger sister Winifride.

Evelyn was brought up mainly at Killacoona, Co. Dublin, but there were frequent stays with

Bellinghams who had served the Empire, whether as officials or as army or naval officers. Other relatives lived at Dunoon, near Glasgow, where he spent many a happy hour watching boats on the Clyde bound for distant lands. Drawings of boats figured prominently in his early artwork.

## Summer Fields, Eton and Germany

In 1893 Evelyn was sent to the renowned preparatory school Summer Fields, in Oxford, where the headmaster, Dr Williams, took him under his wing. He was fair to middling academically, but noted for his popularity, and his almost manic energy. Early on, Dr Williams wrote to his father, 'I'm keeping Evelyn in bed today as his temperature is a little above normal – and I am very glad that at last I have an excuse for sending him there!'

In 1896 Wrench went to Eton, where his tutor was Lionel Ford, later headmaster of Repton and Harrow, and Dean of York. Again, he failed to shine academically, but was clearly popular. In July 1898, his housemaster reported that he 'converses cheerfully as he works. It would not do for everybody, but he has a way of his own which carries things off'.

As a child, Wrench imbibed a conventional imperialism. He read Kipling, Baden-Powell's *The Matabele Campaign*, and Mary Kingsley on West Africa. 'Every day in my hurried morning prayers, I prayed that one day the British flag might fly over Tibet, Mesopotamia and elsewhere', he wrote. 'In optimistic moments I envisaged an all-red world'.

Having resolved upon a diplomatic or consular career (he had by now discarded an

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*The headmaster wrote:  
'I'm keeping Evelyn in  
bed today – and I am  
glad I have an excuse  
for sending him there!'*

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relatives, and the family travelled widely, including many times to the continent. He was kept quiet on long train journeys with a copy of the Army and Navy catalogue, and later with a partwork, 'Peoples of the World'.

Like many Irish Protestant families, his was steeped in imperial service. At Castle Bellingham, Co. Louth (his mother's birthplace), were the memorabilia of his ancestor Richard Bellingham, an early governor of Massachusetts, and of other



**MAN OF LETTERS:** Sir Evelyn wrote 12 memoirs – four published. He is pictured here at his desk in Over-Seas House, London

earlier ambition to become a missionary), in March 1899 he left Eton (two years early) in order to improve his languages. After travelling in Russia and Turkey, he spent eight months in Weilburg, Germany, staying in a 16th-century castle and taking German lessons. He was much affected by the hostility to Britain shown during the South African War, which served only to increase his patriotism.

### Wrench Postcards

While in Germany, Wrench noted the popularity of picture postcards, which were of a much higher quality than he had seen in Britain. Spotting a business opportunity, he put to one side his plans for a diplomatic career and instead launched the Wrench series of postcards on his return to Britain. He had the cards printed in Dresden and shipped in bulk to London. Old Etonian contacts were useful, especially Lord Esher at Public Works, who arranged permission for him to set up stalls at royal palaces.

Wrench's business expanded rapidly, and within a couple of years he had premises in Haymarket, 100 employees, and a turnover in excess of £60,000pa. He later estimated that in total he sold around 50 million cards. He was fêted by the press as a fine example of a young entrepreneur, and given a grand banquet (widely reported in the press) for his 21st birthday.

Nevertheless, Wrench over-extended, with too much capital tied up in stands and stock. Ironically in view of his later career, the plug was pulled in early 1904 by Alfred Harmsworth's Amalgamated Press, which owned an £8,000 debenture in the business. The failure of the

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*On Wrench's first day he found colleagues taking bets on how long he would last. He stayed for eight years*

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business was a personal blow, but one from which he learnt: thereafter his enthusiasm was always tempered by perseverance.

### With Lord Northcliffe

The press baron Sir Alfred Harmsworth (who became Lord Northcliffe in 1905) had been impressed by Wrench's entrepreneurial ability and, after meeting him, by his character. On the winding-up of Wrench Postcards he offered

him a post, initially as his private secretary. Harmsworth had a habit of recruiting promising young men, very few of whom lasted: on Wrench's first day at Carmelite House he found his new colleagues taking bets on how long he would last. In the event, he stayed for eight years.

Acting as Northcliffe's troubleshooter, Wrench served at various points as editor of the overseas edition of the *Daily Mail*, editor of the *Weekly Dispatch*, launch editor of the Braille edition of the *Daily Mail*, director of the Paris-based continental *Daily Mail* (standing in at times for the editor, Norman Angell), export and sales manager of the *Daily Mail*, and, finally, sales manager of the Amalgamated Press. Wrench later spoke of his "hero-worship" of Northcliffe.

### An 'Empire Society'

In 1906, Northcliffe sent Wrench to the US and Canada to study newspaper methods there, and to discuss ways of improving the news supply. In Canada he stayed for a week with Earl Grey, the Governor-General. They talked long into the night, and Grey (a Rhodes Trustee) showed him a copy of Rhodes's political will and testament, with its vision of a 'secret society' to further the British Empire. Wrench 'determined then and there to devote my life to an attempt to give effect to Rhodes's idea, only I did not see any necessity for secrecy'.

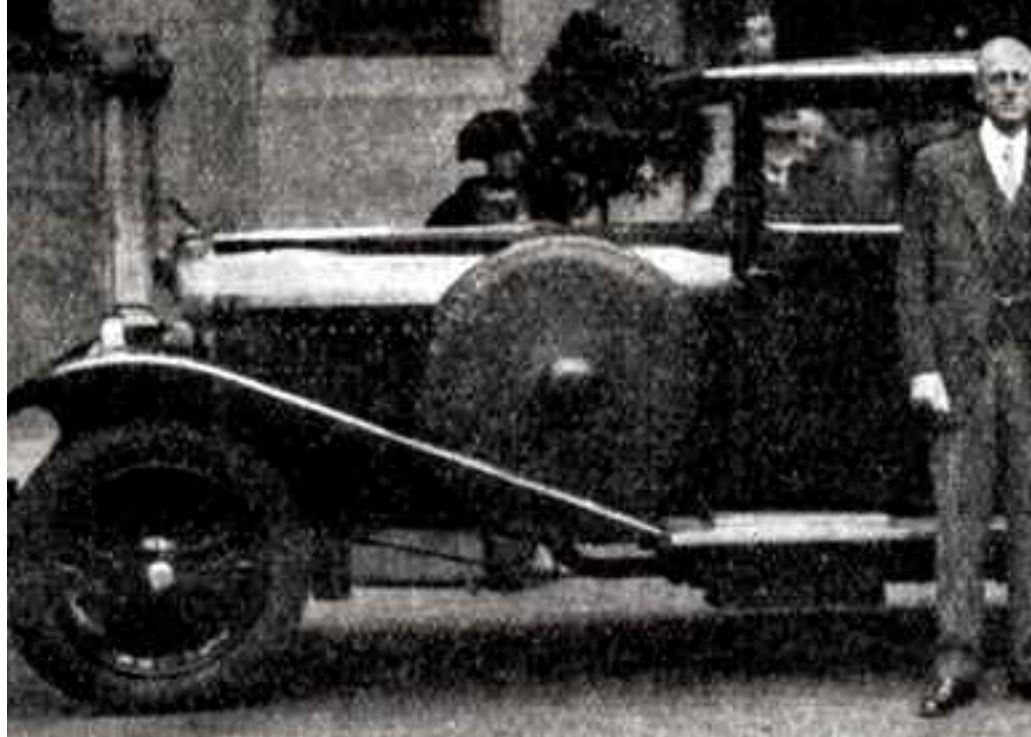


In letters exchanged with Grey over the next couple of years, Wrench fleshed out some of his ideas for what he called an 'Empire Society'. He spoke of an immediate target of recruiting one million members within a year. The object 'would be to further the British Empire, British institutions and British liberty in every possible way'. This would include campaigning for better transport between the parts; improved cable services; state-aided emigration; a universal Empire Day, throughout the empire; dominion contributions to the costs of imperial defence; annual or biannual imperial conferences; and the opening of Indian and colonial civil services to recruits from the dominions. The society would also encourage the sale and purchase of British-made goods; disseminate imperialist literature; organise visiting 'Imperial' lecturers; and provide facilities for dominion visitors to Britain and vice versa.

### The Over-Seas Club

Wrench finally launched the Over-Seas Club on 27 August 1910, with an article in the *Daily Mail*. Initially it was a non-subscription organisation (but sold badges costing one shilling), and run entirely by Wrench himself, out of Carmelite House. The launch prompted a vast correspondence. 'The Empire became even more of a reality to me', wrote Evelyn. 'It was no dry as dust affair, but a living organism

**AT EASE:** Wrench relaxes in the garden of his house in Marlow, Buckinghamshire



made up of living human beings.' The club held its first meeting on 27 June 1911 (at the time of the Coronation), attended by some 300 people from Britain and the dominions. Wrench shared a platform with Northcliffe, Leo Amery, and others, who all struck 'a high note of imperial fervour'. Wrench himself spoke of "how largely the future of the world's progress lies in the hands of the Anglo-Saxon race".

Wrench variously described the Over-Seas Club as 'a kind of grown-up Boy Scouts', 'a

Despite its imperialist character and aims, Wrench always emphasised that the club was non-sectarian, non-party, open to women, and non-jingoist. In 1924 he stated that it 'has never stood for blatant Imperialism or flag-wagging, rather since its inception it has sought to emphasise the tremendous responsibilities incurred by citizenship of the British Commonwealth', and that its aims included giving subject nations 'a helping hand along the path of freedom and independence'.

Although he played an important role in getting the Over-Seas Club off the ground (by encouraging Wrench, helping to fund the organisation, and providing the free use of an office and secretarial facilities), Northcliffe alternated between supporting Wrench and trying to curb his enthusiasm. As Wrench later wrote, to Northcliffe the club was a 'side-show', whereas to him it was a 'religion'. Matters were not helped when Northcliffe got hold of a copy of the membership list and wrote to all members suggesting that it was their patriotic duty to subscribe to the overseas edition of the *Daily Mail*. In 1912 Wrench resigned his newspaper posts in order to devote himself solely to the club. Luckily, Northcliffe generously paid him off with a year's salary over three years, and the continued use of an office.

In 1912-13 Wrench undertook a gruelling world tour with his sister Winifride to drum up support for the Over-Seas Club, eventually covering 64,000 miles, and addressing more than 250 meetings. He was again struck by the democratic atmosphere and vitality of the dominions – which he believed represented modernity. The dominions were in turn struck by his charm. One new recruit wrote to Lord Northcliffe from Pietermaritzburg: 'They have captivated everybody with their charm... No wonder the Club has "caught on". Its objects, of course, appeal to all true Imperial patriots,

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*He sold around 50 million cards and was fêted by the press as a fine example of a young entrepreneur*

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kind of "Imperial" Salvation Army', or 'a kind of freemasonry open to both sexes with nothing secret about it'. Its stated objects were:

- 1** to draw together in the bond of comradeship British citizens the world over
- 2** to render individual service to the British Empire
- 3** to maintain the power of the British Empire and to hold to its best traditions
- 4** to help one another.

Wrench also drew up a 'creed': 'Believing the British Empire to stand for justice, freedom, order and good government, we pledge ourselves, as citizens of the Empire, to maintain the heritage handed down to us by our fathers.'



**IN THE DRIVING SEAT:** League members presented Wrench with a Bentley in 1927

but such a lot depends on the organiser.' On his return, Wrench decided to constitute the Over-Seas Club properly, with a new subscription basis for membership.

## The First World War

On Empire Day (24 May) 1914, the Over-Seas Club opened its first premises, in General Buildings, Aldwych (with the help of a £3,000 donation from Alexander Smith Cochran, an Anglophile New York banker). By the eve of the First World War, however, the club still only had 850 subscribing members (though it had sold 180,000 badges) and, as Wrench later admitted, he was 'still seeking for some tangible work to give the far-flung members'.

The outbreak of war answered Wrench's dilemma. The club (now much helped by his first cousin Hylda) threw itself wholeheartedly into supporting the war effort. The club's Tobacco Fund raised £1million for tobacco and other 'comforts' for the troops; 350 aeroplanes were bought for the Royal Flying Corps; and a hospital for flying officers was funded. In 1915, Wrench launched the club's magazine, *Overseas*. Meanwhile, Wrench also served as secretary of the Patriotic League of Britons Overseas, which was formed in 1914 to fund-raise for very similar objects, but among Britons who lived in foreign countries.

In March 1917 Wrench was called up and opted for the Royal Flying Corps. Rejected for active service, he was initially involved in recruiting work, then joined the staff of the Air Board. In December 1917 he became private secretary to Lord Rothermere (Harold Harmsworth), and in April 1918, he moved to the British Empire section of the Ministry of Information, working under yet another press baron, Lord Beaverbrook.

In 1917, and again in 1919, Wrench was closely involved in failed attempts to mediate

in the Anglo-Irish crisis (and founded an Irish Unity League to agitate for dominion status for a united Ireland). He was more successful in Anglo-American relations. Having been fascinated by all things American from an early age, he was struck by the need for Anglo-American unity. He outlined his first plans for a new society embracing Britain, the dominions and the US in 1915. On 28 June 1918 he formally launched the English-Speaking Union, at a meeting presided over by Lord Balfour.

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*Wrench fleshed out his ideas for an 'Empire Society'. He spoke of recruiting one million members within a year*

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## The English-Speaking Union and the Over-Seas League

The English-Speaking Union prospered rapidly: it acquired its first office in July 1918; soon developed a programme of exchanges, travelling fellowships, debates, lectures and social events; and, in 1919, merged with the Atlantic Union (founded in 1897 by Sir Walter Besant). It also developed branches in each of the dominions, and a sister-organisation in the US, with ex-President William H Taft as its first president. In 1920, it moved to Trafalgar Square, and in 1926 it acquired Dartmouth House.

Though he remained closely involved in the English-Speaking Union, Wrench's heart was undoubtedly more in the Over-Seas Club, of

which he remained secretary (having handed over the corresponding post at the English-Speaking Union to others). In 1918, the club merged with the Patriotic League, becoming (after a short interval) the Over-Seas League. He was again much helped by Hylda, who became the League's honorary controller.

In 1921, the League purchased Vernon House to commemorate the soldiers of the Empire who had fallen during the war. Followed, in 1924, by 4 and 5 Park Place, this was soon able to provide accommodation for visiting members. The League also ran an Information Bureau, facilitating the exchange of information on a wide range of matters – from tips on fruit growing, through book recommendations for teachers, to information on employment opportunities; an Overseas Trade Bureau, to link importers and exporters; and various infant welfare programmes, run by Winifride Wrench. As a result of these attractions, by 1934 the League could boast 44,000 fully paid-up members, and an annual income of £79,000.

## Journalist and public figure

For most of the interwar period, Wrench was editor both of *Overseas* and *Landmark*, the English-Speaking Union's newsletter. Both were light, readable, but serious publications, which bore the hallmark of Wrench's training on Northcliffe's *Daily Mail*. But his journalistic interests found their most significant outlet in his connection with *The Spectator*. He first began contributing to the magazine in 1922, became a director in 1923, and in 1925 bought a controlling interest from St Loe Strachey. He edited the magazine himself from 1925 to 1932 (the year in which he was knighted); he then appointed others as editor. In 1954 he sold the magazine to Ian Gilmour, but he remained a regular contributor and chair of the board of management until his death.

During the interwar period, Wrench was particularly noted for his campaigns on two issues. The first was constitutional reform in India. As early as 1922 (three years after the Montagu-Chelmsford reforms), he was calling in *The Spectator* for further reform (and the formation of a British-Indian Friendship Union). In 1924, he again called for 'a further instalment of freedom at the earliest possible



moment', and a policy of 'magnanimity' (which had been so successful in South Africa). As editor of *The Spectator*, his support of reform in India reflected a more general proposition: 'Old-fashioned doctrines of white predominance must go by the board. Equal rights for every civilised man is the only logical goal. We must take all those nations into partnership when they are ready for political advancement.'

In an influential series of *Spectator* editorials in 1929, Wrench advocated an immediate offer of dominion status for India: 'India's permanent position in the British Commonwealth would be much more secure if based on the good will of the people of India rather than on force.' When Gandhi was in London in the autumn of 1931 for the round table conferences, he specifically asked to meet Wrench. Wrench had him to dinner, seated on the floor – he cleared his dining room of furniture for the occasion – and later described the evening as the most interesting of his life. He continued to support radical reform in India afterwards, and was fiercely opposed to those, such as Winston Churchill, who sought to block the passage of the 1935 Government of India Act, though he considered this insufficient.

The second area in which Wrench achieved a particularly notable public profile was in relation to the 'German problem'. He had been a critic at the time of the Treaty of Versailles, and his dislike of its punitive terms was only increased by the intransigent policy pursued by successive French governments. He made

frequent visits to Germany and, in 1929, founded yet another 'friendship' organisation: the All Peoples' Association. This soon established branches in 17 European cities, seven of them in Germany itself.

Though it is clear that Wrench abhorred Nazism, his attempts to understand and sympathise with the German people after 1933

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*Wrench had Gandhi to dinner, seated on the floor, and described the evening as the most interesting of his life*

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caused him much subsequent embarrassment. After meeting Goebbels, he wrote a series of articles in *The Spectator* suggesting that anti-Jewish feeling in Germany was a passing phase, declaring that it was 'as if the German people at last found themselves free', and comparing Hitler to Éamon de Valera: 'he was so terribly in earnest'. After its German branches were taken over by the Nazis, Wrench closed the All Peoples' Association in 1936, but he continued to call for 'understanding' of the

German viewpoint, and was a prominent advocate of appeasement. His final visit was in July 1939, when he attempted to broker a compromise on the status of Danzig.

### Character and private life

At Over-Seas House, London, there is a portrait of Wrench by Sir Oswald Birley, painted in 1921, which captures his character and appearance in all but one respect: slim, ascetic-looking, with intelligent, quizzical eyes, as if bemused by the world's eccentricity. But Birley also makes him look languid, and the one trait not captured by him – which all Wrench's contemporaries remarked upon – was his intense – almost manic – energy, coupled with an infectious enthusiasm for the matter in hand.

He was indeed ascetic. As a young man he enjoyed 'high society', and was 'Gold Stick' at the Coronation of George VI. But he soon tired of the showy side of society life. In 1910 he gave up smoking and drinking. In later life he said that the two best meals of his life were beans and potatoes round a campfire in Canada and chapattis and curry at Gandhi's ashram.

In May 1937 he caused a minor scandal by marrying Hylda, only four months after the death of her first husband. Wrench and she had been very close – he described them as 'soulmates' – from an early age, and corresponded almost daily when separated. But there is no suggestion that they had had sexual relations before their marriage. Indeed, in 1910, Wrench had also taken a vow of sexual abstinence, partly for religious and partly for supposed 'health' reasons, and he is known to have broken it only once (in Amsterdam, in 1912: curiously, he reported this to Hylda).

Perhaps the most notable of Wrench's character traits was his ability to combine the idealistic and the practical, or the romantic and the businesslike, without admitting or even recognising any contradiction between them. A scrap of paper which he kept, entitled 'Things I love in my beloved (written while shaving, Aug 8 1931)' illustrates this perfectly. He lists 'her humility, her steadfastness, her solicitude for others, her cosiness, her hair, her little fingers, her love of bathing, her love of flowers...', before ending, without any trace of self-consciousness, 'her plans, her punctuality, her packing arrangements'.

### The Second World War

In August 1940, Wrench and his wife embarked on an officially-sanctioned (but privately-arranged) lecture tour of the US. They returned via New Zealand, Australia, Singapore (leaving

**WEDDING DAY:** Wrench caused a minor scandal in 1937 by marrying his first cousin, Hylda (Lady des Voeux), just four months after the death of her first husband



not long before its fall to the Japanese) and India. The sudden deterioration of the British position meant that they were stuck in India until April 1944. Initially, they filled their time with a tour of the country, and had various meetings with Gandhi (staying at his ashram), Nehru, Jinnah, V D Savarkar and others.

Possibly because of his Irish Unionist background, or possibly because of his commitment to the righteousness of the British cause in the war, Wrench increasingly fell out with Gandhi, and expressed sympathy with Jinnah's Muslim League and Ambedkar's Untouchables. He believed that Gandhi was deluded in thinking he spoke for India, and was angered by Gandhi's lack of faith in the British government's intentions. He blamed the failure of the Cripps mission in 1942 on him (even though Jinnah also rejected it). Subsequently, he described Gandhi as 'unyielding', 'full of prejudices', and 'not the great man that I believed him to be'. In May 1942 he became the Government of India's American Relations Officer, mainly arranging meetings for American journalists with Jinnah and others, in an attempt to reverse the largely pro-Gandhi line taken by the American press.

## Final years

As well as being a prolific journalist, Wrench was an inveterate writer of memoirs. He wrote around 12 volumes in all, though only four of them were published: *Uphill* (1934), recounting his life up to 1914, *Struggle* (1935), taking the story up to 1920, *I Loved Germany* (1940), an attempt (much lambasted by his contemporaries) to explain and justify his support for appeasement, and *Immortal Years* (1945), about his wartime experiences in India.

After the war, he continued to write and re-write his memoirs, including a one-volume edition ('Citizen of the English-Speaking World'), but he also turned to biography. In 1949, he published a study of his cousin, Francis Yeats-Brown (best known as the author of *The Lives of a Bengal Lancer*, but also a supporter of Mosley's Fascists – an episode not so much whitewashed as ignored in Wrench's study). His biography of another arch-appeaser, Geoffrey Dawson, was published in 1955, and of the great imperial pro-consul and seminal figure of early 20th-century 'new imperialism', Alfred Milner, in 1958.

In 1958, Wrench founded two more organisations: the Commonwealth Union of Trade and the Anglo-Kin Society (the latter to promote genealogical research). He was also president of the Dickens Fellowship and a



**FLYING VISIT:** Evelyn Wrench with Queen Alexandra at the ceremony that marked the presentation of airplanes donated by the Over-Seas Club in 1915

senior trustee of the Cecil Rhodes Museum. In 1960, on the occasion of the Over-Seas League's golden jubilee (when it became the Royal Over-Seas League) he was knighted a second time, as a KCMG. (Friends quipped that he had wanted something after his name as well as before.)

Despite his achievements, Wrench's final years were rather sad. He was deeply affected by the death of Hylda in 1955, and spent much time copying and re-copying her letters. He also felt some unease at the direction that the

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*He was ascetic and soon tired of the showy side of society life. In 1910 he gave up smoking and drinking*

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Royal Over-Seas League was now taking (with the beginnings of its world-renowned cultural programme in art, music and literature, accompanied by the abandonment of any attempt to pursue a more political agenda) – though part of this seems to have been the understandable reaction of an old man unable, or unwilling, to let go of the organisation he had founded. He died at his home, Mill House, Marlow, on Armistice Day (11 November) 1966, and was buried at All Saints', Marlow. A memorial service was held at St Paul's Cathedral on 9 December.

## Legacies

Wrench seems to have wanted to be remembered as a man of letters, like Leslie Stephen or Lytton Strachey. He certainly wrote prolifically on all manner of subjects. But although he had an easy and engaging style, his writings had neither the literary brilliance nor the intellectual profundity of a Stephen or a Strachey.

His books have mostly sunk without trace: his biographies have long been superseded, and few people now read his memoirs. Ironically, the one book which is still frequently quoted by historians is *I Loved Germany*. This is perhaps a shame: his memoirs, in particular, are marked by an engaging honesty and modesty, and are especially interesting for their observations on the countries he visited, whether America and the Dominions in the early 20th century, Russia before the revolution, or Germany under Hitler.

But it is undoubtedly as a practical man that he will be best remembered. He was the founder of five organisations, and attempted to found two more. Of these, two have flourished and endured: the English-Speaking Union and the Royal Over-Seas League. Neither could have done so without his vital contributions – his vision, but also his practical energy and enthusiasm. Both have developed in ways he did not and could not have foreseen. But to have founded and set on a firm footing two such organisations at the heart of British, Commonwealth and English-speaking cultural life is an achievement that few could match. Even if for nothing else, for that he deserves to be remembered.

**Dr Alex May is Research Editor of the Oxford Dictionary of National Biography.**



# Ashes to Ashes

Oli Broom cycles through Asia as temperatures soar



When I decided on a route across the sub-continent, I didn't take into account India's seasons. To say the weather played its part during my 3,000km ride from Mumbai to Calcutta is an understatement. As I pedalled out of steamy Hyderabad – the biryani capital of the world – with 15 local cyclists from a fledgling green movement, my thermometer read 56 degrees. My new friends asked how I cycled in that heat every day. I didn't have an answer. In truth, India nearly broke me. The heat and sheer number of people on my eastward route made each day a test of nerve and patience. I constantly looked for excuses to seek shade and a few hours off the bike, and I found no shortage of options. These breaks provided me with opportunities to meet fascinating Indians from all walks of life. I hung out with sophisticated Mumbaikers, played cricket at an orphanage, and gave a talk at a sports academy for underprivileged children.

Eventually, I pedalled east from Calcutta, through endless paddy fields, to the border with Bangladesh and on to the capital, Dhaka. I noticed that the only land above water consisted of roads and houses, and imagined how tough life must get when the monsoon hits.

I have now made it to northern Thailand. I spent two weeks recovering from dengue fever in Chiang Mai before heading for the mountains bordering Myanmar, and south towards Bangkok. Last night, I slept in the staffroom of a school for Karen hill-tribe children, and was brought breakfast – cooked by 12-year-old pupils – in my camp bed. Another example of kind strangers. I'm learning that there are quite a few of those.

***Cycling to the Ashes in Association with Betfair: 25,000km – 14 months – on a bike – with a cricket bat – for charity. For information, email [cyclingtotheashes@gmail.com](mailto:cyclingtotheashes@gmail.com) or visit [www.cyclingtotheashes.com](http://www.cyclingtotheashes.com).***

## RENÉE JONES'S SYDNEY



**What are your earliest memories of Sydney?**

Coming to the city from Muswellbrook, New South Wales, as a child, I remember the anticipation of the big city – being bewitched by the sailing boats, the vast glittering harbour, the majestic bridge.

**What advice would you give someone coming to Sydney for the first time?**

My first tip would be to stay somewhere near the water. Sydney's heartbeat is its harbour and beaches. My second tip would be to climb the Harbour Bridge. It isn't half as terrifying as it appears and gives expansive views of the city, hemmed in by secluded harbour bays and bushland.

**Do you have a favourite restaurant?**

Definitely! The Victoria Room is a hidden gem in Sydney and one of my all-time favourites. Designed in the British-Colonial style it boasts decadently intimate dining, a delicious tapas menu, and an inventive cocktail list. On Sunday afternoons they also do high tea, with cakes, live music and champagne.

**Where do you like to shop?**

I love to amble through the Queen Victoria Building – a beautifully maintained Victorian arcade in the heart of the city. Its boutiques are wonderful for browsing, and there's also a delightful tearoom. My favourite shops are the Antique Print Store and the

Metropolitan Museum of Art boutique. Both are enchanting.

**What is the most romantic spot in the city?**

Anywhere on the harbour, but the Sydney Opera House has that extra special something. Sitting under the magnificent concert hall sails on a warm spring evening, the water gently lapping, the bridge glowing in the moonlight, and the city lights glistening – it really is mesmerising.

**Where do you go to relax?**

There is nothing I love more on a weekend than brunch by the beach, reading the paper, soaking up the sun and watching the world go by. From most beaches there are great coastal walks; one of my favourites is from the famous Bondi Beach along the rugged sandstone cliffs to Coogee Beach. In October every year, there is a month-long exhibition involving hundreds of sculptures perched in the most breathtaking locations along this coastal walk. It's on my annual to-do list.

**What do you love – and hate – most about Sydney?**

I hate that I need a car. It's such a vast city and the public transport is nowhere near as thorough or efficient as the Tube in London. On the upside, I love that so much of the harbour is accessible by foot, and that it rarely gets below 10 degrees.

**What can you do in Sydney that you can't elsewhere?**

There is no place like Taronga Zoo. Nestled in bushland right on the edge of the harbour, it has magnificent views of the entire city. In summer they hold a series of outdoor concerts: sharing a picnic on a warm evening accompanied by live music – it's incredibly relaxing!

*Renée Jones was Marketing Assistant for ROSL ARTS and now works as Marketing Coordinator for the Australian Brandenburg Orchestra. She grew up in Muswellbrook, three hours north-west of Sydney, and moved to Sydney aged 16. Interview by Samantha Whitaker.*

**TARONGA ZOO:** Views over Sydney harbour



# News and views

The latest from the London clubhouse



▲ On behalf of Central Council members, Lord Luce (ROSL President) and Sir Anthony Figgis (ROSL Chairman) conveyed grateful thanks and paid warm tributes to immediate past Chairman Mr Stanley Martin and his wife, Hanni, who were guests of honour at the Central Council lunch in May. (L-r) Sir Anthony Figgis, Lady Figgis, Lord Luce, Mr Martin, Mrs Martin and Lady Luce



▲ Chief Emeka Anyaoku (former Commonwealth Secretary-General) was entertained to a dinner, hosted by Sir Anthony Figgis (ROSL Chairman), after his talk on 'The Modern Commonwealth' at the Discussion Group meeting in July. It was the last in the series of lectures on 'Empire to Commonwealth' held during this ROSL Centenary year in conjunction with *The Round Table* (the Commonwealth Journal of International Affairs). (L-r) Mark Robinson (*The Round Table* Hon. Treasurer), ROSL Director-General Robert Newell, John Edwards (Discussion Group Chairman), Lord Luce, Chief Anyaoku, Sir Anthony Figgis and Richard Bourne (*The Round Table* Chairman)



▲ The stonework of the front elevation of Over-Seas House, London was cleaned and repaired in April, in time for the centenary celebrations



▲ At the Chairman's Lunch after the ROSL Centenary Service of Thanksgiving at St James's, Piccadilly, on 4 May, conducted by the Revd Lindsay Meader (acting Priest in Charge), are (l-r) Sir Anthony Figgis, Lady Figgis, Councillor Louise Hyams (Lord Mayor Locum Tenens of Westminster), the Very Revd Dr John Hall (Dean of Westminster) and Mr Robert Newell (ROSL Director-General)

## ROSL on the web

Keep up-to-date with ROSL news on Facebook and Twitter.  
Visit the ROSL website for more details: [www.rosl.org.uk](http://www.rosl.org.uk).





# On a winning streak

From a casino night to the Inter-Club quiz, it has been a winning season, says **Alexandra Debarge**

## April

The Royal Automobile Club was transformed into a casino for the night, as the Inter-Club members and their guests descended on the club in their tux and evening dresses. All were greeted with a champagne reception before a delicious three-course meal was served in the Mountbatten Room. Guests were entertained by a superb magician, who mesmerised them with his magic, and soon the roulettes were spinning and the blackjack tables were out – until a winner was finally awarded a bottle of champagne. Later, guests made their way to the RAC Long Bar for some drinks and music, played by a DJ, before heading home.

## May

The eighth Inter-Club quiz, held at the Carlton Club, proved to be a night of challenging general knowledge questions. The competition

soon grew fierce between the clubs, as team members put their heads together to try to win. The host, James Scott, brought his favourite rounds from last year, combining questions on paintings and films, and there was a fantastic three-course meal. Once again, the Carlton Club won the trophy, narrowly beating the ROSL, and Oxford and Cambridge Club teams.

## June

The University Club hosted a wine tasting, which was blessed with English summer sunshine. Guests had the opportunity to try various white and red wines, led by Patrick Rosin of Smart Wines, who previously worked with celebrity chef Antony Worrall Thompson. Canapés were served as the guests mingled. A thoroughly interesting and entertaining evening was had by all.



**IMPECCABLE TASTES:** Inter-Club members sample a variety of wines at the University Club in June (above) and try their luck at a casino set up at the Royal Automobile Club in April (below)



## Forthcoming events

### Thursday 9 September

Club Crawl by the Savile Club

### Thursday 16 September

Grouse Gourmet Dinner at the Oxford and Cambridge Club

### Friday 8 October

Murder Mystery at the Army and Navy Club

### Thursday 28 October

Moveable Feast at the Lansdowne Club

### Friday 5 November

Guy Fawkes Fancy-Dress Ball at the Reform Club

### Thursday 16 December

Christmas Ball at the Royal Automobile Club

For more information on events, visit [www.inter-club.co.uk](http://www.inter-club.co.uk). To join ROSL's young members network, email [conrad.purcell@res-ltd.com](mailto:conrad.purcell@res-ltd.com).

# HOUSE FULL

## Director of ROSL ARTS **Roderick Lakin** reports on the 58th ROSL Annual Music Competition Final

The 'House Full' signs were up at London's Queen Elizabeth Hall for the Final Concert of the 58th ROSL Annual Music Competition on Wednesday 2 June. The audience was swelled to capacity by delegates from the International Branch Conference and the many overseas members who were in London for the Centenary Reception at St James's Palace, held the previous evening.

The occasion was graced by the presence of ROSL Vice Patron, HRH Princess Alexandra, who had also attended the St James's Palace Reception the previous evening. Her Royal Highness, who presented the prizes at the end of the concert, has been a loyal supporter of the Annual Music Competition for more than 30 years.

The Final Concert is a prestigious platform for the winners of the solo award sections, and for ensemble prizewinners. This year's performers earned their place in the final through a demanding and fiercely contested series of auditions, held in February and March. For the solo award winners, who perform during the first half of the concert, the challenge is to choose an imaginative and well-contrasted short recital programme of just 20 minutes, to showcase their particular musical strengths.

Trumpet player Huw Morgan (Royal Academy of Music) opened the concert with music from the early baroque to the present day. Particularly impressive was his controlled and carefully shaded performance of

*Légende* by the Romanian composer Enescu. Cellist Jun Sasaki (Royal College of Music) chose two highly contrasted works: the declamatory *Sonata for Solo Cello* by Kodály, and De Falla's seductive and lilting *Popular Spanish Suite*, in which he was effectively accompanied by guitarist Jadran Duncomb.

Baritone Jonathan McGovern (Royal Academy of Music) presented songs and arias in English, French, Italian and Russian. His youthful, light baritone, and easy and charming stage presence were particularly well suited to Mercutio's 'Queen Mab' aria from Gounod's *Roméo et Juliette*. Finally, pianist James Sherlock (Cambridge University) impressed with a powerful account of Dutilleux's organ-like *Chorale et Variations*,

**WINNER:** Baritone Jonathan McGovern receives the Gold Medal and First Prize from ROSL Vice-Patron HRH Princess Alexandra



## Panel of adjudicators

More than half of the adjudicators for the competition are themselves past ROSL prizewinners: Paul Archibald, Julian Baker, Peter Bassano\*, Wissam Boustany, Lucy Crowe\*, Amy Dickson\*, Norma Fisher\*, Gavin Henderson CBE (Chairman)\*, Janet Hilton, Jacques Imbrailo, Ian Jewel, Ieuan Jones\*, Renna Kellaway MBE, William Lyne CBE AM\*, Alastair Mackie, Gerard McChrystal\*, Ruth Palmer, Ian Partridge CBE\*, Jonathan Plowright, Sophia Rahman, Simone Rebello, Simon Rowland-Jones, Rohan de Saram\*, Charles Sewart, Chris de Souza\*, Ashley Wass and Frank Wibaut.

\* Adjudicators for the Final.



ending his programme with Liszt's expansive take on Schumann's *Widmung*. Pianist Timothy End (Royal Academy of Music) played for both Huw and Jonathan, amply demonstrating why he was chosen as the accompanist prizewinner.

While the jury retired to the Green Room to deliberate on their choice of overall solo winner, the two Ensemble winners – the Finzi Quartet and the Rose Trio (oboe, clarinet, bassoon) – entertained the audience. In the jury room, the discussions were unusually prolonged, as there was no clear front-runner from the initial voting, reflecting the different strengths and qualities of the four finalists.

Eventually, a decision on the winner of the First Prize and Gold Medallist was reached, just three minutes before the jury, HRH Princess Alexandra and ROSL Chairman Sir Anthony Figgis were due on stage for the award ceremony. The choice of Gold Medallist was the baritone Jonathan McGovern, who impressed the judges with his communicative power as a performer.



**CLASS OF 2010:** (l-r) Jadran Duncumb, Timothy End, Huw Morgan, Jonathan McGovern, James Sherlock and Jun Sasaki with HRH Princess Alexandra

As Director of ROSL ARTS, I look forward to arranging concerts and other performance opportunities over the next few years for all our 2010 prizewinners. Given the ROSL's outstanding track record of talent-spotting over 58 years, the 'class of 2010' can be expected to distinguish themselves in various aspects of the music profession around the world in the years to come.

## Best buy

A double CD of the Final Concert, recorded live at the Queen Elizabeth Hall, is available from the ROSL Shop at Over-Seas House, London.  
Price £7.50 (mail order plus p&tp).

## PRIZEWINNERS MAIN AWARDS

### FIRST PRIZE AND GOLD MEDAL

ROSL Award for Keyboard

ROSL Award for Strings

ROSL Award for Singers, in memory of Pamela Faulkner

Dyers Company Award, for wind and percussion

ROSL Award for Accompanists

ROSL Ensemble Prize A (strings/piano)

ROSL Ensemble Prize B (wind/percussion/mixed)

£10,000 JONATHAN McGOVERN, BARITONE

£5,000 James Sherlock, piano

£5,000 Jun Sasaki, cello

£5,000 Jonathan McGovern, baritone

£5,000 Huw Morgan, trumpet

£5,000 Timothy End, piano

£10,000 Finzi Quartet

£10,000 The Rose Trio

## AWARDS FOR MUSICIANS FROM OVERSEAS

Lorna Viol Memorial Prize and ROSL Trophy, for the most outstanding musician from overseas

£3,000 Duncan Rock, baritone (Australia), Sadie Fields, violin (Canada); £1,500 each

Edith Phipps Memorial Prize, for a Canadian musician

£1,000 Sadie Fields, violin (Canada)

Tait Memorial Scholarship, for an Australian musician

£1,000 Duncan Rock, baritone (Australia)

Len Lickorish Memorial Prize, for a string player of promise

£1,000 Jonathan Chan, violin (Canada)

Sheila MacBrayne Memorial Prize, for a Canadian musician

£1,000 Daniel Wnukowski, piano (Canada)

Philip Crawshaw Memorial Prize, for a musician from overseas

£1,000 Jayson Gillham, piano (Australia)

Audrey Strange Memorial Prize, for an outstanding singer

£1,000 Anna Devin, soprano (Ireland)

## ADDITIONAL AWARDS

Philip Jones Memorial Prize, for an outstanding brass player

£1,000 Huw Morgan, trumpet

Dyers Company Award, for an outstanding oboist, in memory of Evelyn Barbirolli

£1,000 Suzanne Thorn, oboe

ROSL Sussex Prize, for a woodwind player of promise

£1,000 Rocco Smith, flute

McCallum Prize, for a pianist of promise

£1,000 Jamie Bergin, piano

# ROSL WORLD

## The latest from the global branches



**JUNE EVENTS:** (l-r) Australian President Jason Ronald OAM, Hong Kong Branch President Paul Surtees and Sarah Wu at the cocktail reception at the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in London; and Taunton Branch members visit Cothay Manor

### Australia

The **South Australia** Branch held a reception at Government House, Adelaide, hosted by the State Governor, HE Rear Admiral Kevin Scarce. Six branch members travelled to London for the International Branch Conference and thoroughly enjoyed the week of events, meeting with old friends and making new ones.

The **Western Australia** Branch celebrated The Queen's birthday in April with a well-attended dinner.

**New South Wales:** Lily Murray,  
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sllmorgan@hotmail.com

**South Australia:** Michael Kent,  
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**Tasmania:** Robert Dick, gradick1@gmail.com

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### Canada

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**Ontario:** Ishrani Jaikaran, +1 416 760 0309,  
ishrani@sympatico.ca

### Hong Kong

In April, the **Hong Kong** Branch invited 80 members of the Hong Kong Federation of the Blind to a lunch at the China Club, sponsored by branch Patron Sir David Tang, who also entertained the guests by playing the piano.

In June, during the International Branch Conference in London, the Hong Kong Branch hosted a cocktail reception for more than 170 guests at the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office (HKETO) in London, sponsored by branch Patron Robert Shum. Guests included branch delegates from the UK and overseas, Central Council members, ROSL staff, and representatives from London-based societies and organisations connected with Hong Kong. Speeches were given by branch President Paul Surtees and HKETO Director-General Sarah Wu, who presented a message from the Hong Kong government's Chief Executive, Sir Donald Tsang. ROSL Chairman Sir Anthony Figgis thanked the hosts and a toast was proposed by Lord Wilson. Guests enjoyed the Hong Kong Branch's special champagne cocktail and Chinese snacks.

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

### New Zealand

Six presidents and the director of the New Zealand branches attended the International

Branch Conference in London in June. One of the highlights was a visit to New Zealand House, which has views of the London skyline from the penthouse. In September, ROSL ARTS and Chamber Music NZ will present performances by the Doric Quartet and Piers Lane in 10 major venues throughout the country.

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

### UK

The **Bath** Branch held a spring lunch in April with guest speaker Dudley Thomas, a retired District Judge. In **Cheltenham**, Arthur Ball gave a talk on the Galapagos Islands in April and a few members visited Over-Seas House, London. In May, after the AGM, member Barbara Snell spoke about her time living in Argentina. A garden party was held to celebrate the centenary, and a pub lunch at The Royal, Charlton Kings, completed the first half of the year.

In May, the **Exeter** Branch Chairman, Ewan MacLeod, and many branch members joined the ROSL Chairman Sir Anthony Figgis and Lady Figgis at the unveiling of a heritage plaque at Simcoe House. The plaque commemorates General John Graves Simcoe, founder of the city of Toronto. After the speeches, the branch committee entertained its guests for lunch.

Congratulations to ROSL member Susan Ward, who has founded the Budleigh Literary





**TRIBUTE:** (l-r) Jane MacLeod, Ewan MacLeod (Exeter Branch Chairman), John and Jane Crosse (owners of Simcoe House), Thelma Orford, Lady Figgis, Chris Dracott (biographer of General Simcoe) and ROSL Chairman Sir Anthony Figgis at the unveiling of a plaque to celebrate General Simcoe, in May

Festival in Budleigh Salterton. The festival will feature, among others, Carol Ann Duffy, Booker prizewinner and ROSL member Hilary Mantel, Susan Hill, Mal Peet and Jeremy Musson (24-26 September).

The **Glasgow** Branch season concluded with the AGM and year-end review by Scottish Promotions Officer James Wilkie. Former Glasgow Branch Chairman Jim Carson was awarded an OBE in The Queen's Birthday Honours list for services to geography education in Scotland.

The Scottish Members' Dinner was addressed by the eminent historian Professor John Mackenzie, who spoke on 'Scotland and the British Empire'. Central Council member David Jamieson chaired a successful centenary lunch at Over-Seas House, Edinburgh, and ROSL ARTS staged a Gala Opera Evening, in association with the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama, in July.

In May, members of the **Taunton** Branch visited Dartmoor, with a trip on the South Devon

**DINNER TALKS:** (l-r) Bill Chalmers (Edinburgh Branch Chairman), Professor John Mackenzie and Keith Stringer (Edinburgh Branch Secretary) at the Scottish Members' Dinner



Steam Railway from Totnes to Buckfastleigh, lunch at Buckfast Abbey, and an afternoon drive around the moor, with tea at Bovey Tracey. In June, members went to Bristol for shopping and lunch at Cabot Circus, followed by a private boat trip around Bristol harbour and a tour of SS Great Britain. Later that month, branch members enjoyed a tour of Cothay Manor and gardens, followed by cream tea.

After the **West Cornwall** Branch AGM in April, Adele Smith spoke to members about her recently published 'History' of ROSL and presented a signed copy to Margaret Knighton, who was re-elected as chairman. In **West Sussex**, in May, branch members attended a Brighton Festival lunchtime concert, arranged in association with ROSL ARTS and featuring the Camarilla Ensemble, winners of the 2008 Annual Music Competition. The concert was followed by a reception, organised by the Director of ROSL ARTS Roderick Lakin, at which members met with the musicians. The branch's centenary lunch was held in July, with guests of honour

**MUSICAL BENEFITS:** Marilyn Archbold (West Sussex Branch Chairman and ROSL Deputy Chairman) presents a cheque to Sir Anthony Figgis for the Sussex Prize for a Young Woodwind Player of Promise at the branch centenary lunch in July



ROSL Chairman Sir Anthony Figgis and Lady Figgis, and members of the London Group. The branch presented to the Chairman a cheque for the Sussex Prize for a Young Woodwind Player of Promise in the ROSL Annual Music Competition.

Bath, Exeter, Taunton, Torbay: Sally Roberts, 01823 661148, rosl.west@googlemail.com

Bournemouth: Gordon Irving, 01258 480887, westoverirving@aol.com

Cheltenham: Kathleen Northage, 01242 515540

Edinburgh: Bill Chalmers, 0131 5572754

Exeter: Brian Hawkes, 01395 442017

Glasgow: Bill Agnew, 0141 8844290

West Cornwall: Ian Wood, 01736 333460

West Sussex: Marilyn Archbold, 01444 458853

## EDGAR LAUFER 1917-2010

**The president of the Bournemouth Branch, Edgar Laufer, died in April, aged 93. He joined ROSL in 1947, while working in Hong Kong. Edgar had a fascinating life. He was born in Berlin of German parents. With astute presence of mind, after reading Hitler's *Mein Kampf*, he foresaw what was to come and, in 1937, he left Germany for China, where he was awarded a scholarship to Canton University. When the Japanese invaded China, Canton University decamped to Hong Kong and when Hong Kong was invaded, Edgar was not interned by the Japanese because he had a German passport. This left him free to run parcels of medicine and food to the British officers and men held in internment camps. These humanitarian acts were acknowledged by the British after the war, and he was awarded British citizenship in 1947.**

**After he finished university, Edgar joined the China Light and Power Company, where he stayed until his retirement in 1983, when he settled in the UK with his wife Beryl, who he had met at Over-Seas House, London, in 1951. Edgar was Chairman of the Bournemouth Branch before becoming President. He was much liked and admired by everyone at ROSL and will be greatly missed.**

# Books

Reviews of recent works by ROSL members

## 'I Remember it Well: Fifty Years of Colonial Service Personal Reminiscences'

**David Le Breton (Editor)**

*Librario Publishing Ltd, 2010,  
ISBN: 978-1906775186, £16.99*



Many ROSL members have a strong interest in the history of the Empire; a number of them have family connections with that history. There are numerous volumes on our imperial past, including the memorable books by Charles Allen, drawing together personal recollections by those who served in India, Africa and South East Asia. Now, David Le Breton (who had a distinguished career in both the colonies and independent Commonwealth countries) has edited this book of recollections of colonial life by men and women from some 25 different occupations: from administration to education, from forestry to mining.

As the editor readily admits, the collection is patchy, almost random, and is not a balanced description of the Colonial Service as a whole. Nevertheless, it provides a fascinating cross-section of daily life in the colonies, both before and after the Second World War. They include the loud footsteps heard in the night in a bungalow built over an old Malay graveyard; a Hong Kong magistrate who committed himself to a mental hospital by signing a warrant in the wrong place; the Solomon Islands district commissioner who was given a local chief's shirt after admiring it, and went on to admire the blouse of the chief's wife (unlike her husband, she did not take it off); and the aged lady golfer who was arrested during a Nigerian military coup because her clubs were thought to be deadly weapons, and the balls highly explosive. The book is enlivened by a series of colonial emblems and badges, which will remind ROSL members of those that adorn one of the staircases at Over-Seas House, London.

*Review by Stanley Martin*

## 'Victoria & Abdul: The True Story of The Queens' Closest Confidant'

**Shrabani Basu**

*The History Press Ltd, 2010,  
ISBN: 978-0752453644, £18.99*



The fascinating and tender story of Queen Victoria's relationship with the young Indian Muslim Abdul Karim, who taught her Urdu and Indian affairs, and became her confidant during the last 13 years of her life.

## 'Italian Sketches: The Faces of Modern Italy'

**Deirdre Pirro**

*The Florentine Press, 2009,  
ISBN: 978-8890243448, €12  
(to order, email [press@theflorentine.net](mailto:press@theflorentine.net))*

Drawn from Pirro's column in *The Florentine*, Tuscany's English-speaking newspaper, *Italian Sketches* showcases the icons of contemporary Italy.



## 'Fishguard Fiasco: An account of the last invasion of Britain'

**John S Kinross**

*Logaston Press, 2007,  
ISBN: 978-1904396680, £9.95*

A feast of tales, from both the French and Anglo-Welsh camps, about the French invasion of Fishguard, Pembrokeshire, in February 1797.



## 'The Dictionary of Falklands Biography (including South Georgia): From Discovery up to 1981'

**David Tatham (Editor)**

*David Tatham, 2008, ISBN: 978-0955898501, £33*

The personal details of people who are part of the history of the Falkland Islands and South Georgia – from the first discoverers in the 16th century up to the eve of the Falklands conflict of 1982. Contributors include ROSL members General Patrick Fagan and the Hon Alexandra Shackleton.

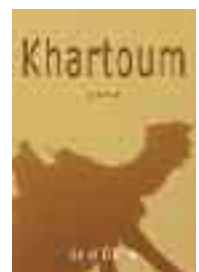


## 'Khartoum: A Novel'

**Luke Dixon**

*Matador, 2009, ISBN: 978-1848762367, £8.99*

Set against the backdrop of political unrest and warfare in Darfur, this novel is full of colourful characters, twists and turns, colour, and excitement.



*Reviews by Samantha Whitaker, unless otherwise stated.*



## DISCOVERING LONDON

## On a roll

**Samantha Whitaker** takes a course in the delicate art of sushi-making

I wouldn't exactly say that I was a sushi virgin, but I wouldn't call myself a pro either. Recently, however, chains such as YO! Sushi, Wasabi and Itsu have become almost as prevalent as Pret a Manger and Café Nero. Sushi is the 'fashionable' way to lunch. Promoted by celebrities such as Kate Moss and Victoria Beckham, this healthy, low-fat, stylish fast-food appeals to the cosmopolitan and health-conscious 21st-century customer far more than the tradition BLT.

A combination of sticky, vinegared rice and other ingredients, including raw fish, modern sushi was originally a working-class dish, first served at a street-food stall in Edo (now Tokyo) in 1824. A century later, and the cuisine began to permeate the Pacific rim, adapting and evolving to satisfy Western tastes, and eventually finding its way to the UK in the 1990s.

However, the complex and captivating technique of sushi-making is a fine art. Sushi chefs spend a minimum of 10 years in training, but usually two years learning how to prepare the rice, seven years learning how to cut the fish, and then a final three years learning to prepare sushi. At So Restaurant in London's Soho, Head Sushi Chef Tomokazu Matsuya

trained for 23 years in order to prepare the restaurant's contemporary Japanese cuisine. Matsuya san is also a trained Japanese cooking instructor and runs classes at the restaurant in how to make sushi at home.

Learning anything in two hours seemed a tall order, but I was willing to have a go at fashioning my own sushi roll. The atmosphere downstairs at So is cool and calm and, as I and six others took our seats, we were welcomed by Matsuya san and his assistant, Manri Kishimoto, who is also his interpreter. In front of us were the ingredients and equipment needed to make California rolls and *nigiri* sushi, plus an empty takeaway box.

The class began without ceremony. We watched Matsuya san deftly prepare a California roll – a combination of cooked crab and avocado wrapped in sticky rice and *nori* (seaweed), and sprinkled with *tobiko* (fish roe).

We then tried the process ourselves, step-by-step, with fairly successful results. The second attempt was even better, and I felt the class unite in childish satisfaction as we placed our home-made rolls in our takeaway boxes. The key to good sushi, Matsuya san explained, is to use good, organic ingredients. These can be found in specialist Japanese food shops, such as the Japan Centre on Regent Street, and also in Waitrose supermarket.

Next, Matsuya san demonstrated how to prepare *nigiri*, which means 'grasp' or 'grip' – a key part of the procedure. An oblong mound of rice is pressed delicately between the palms of the hands, smeared with a fingertip of *wasabi* (a type of horseradish), and adorned with a sliver of raw salmon or tuna. The secret, we learnt, is to create an air channel through the rice, which affects the way the flavours of the warm, firm rice, fresh cold fish and fiery *wasabi* combine in the mouth. This is the test of sushi quality, he explained. If there is no air channel, then it is more than likely the sushi has been



prepared by an inexperienced chef. Even the machine-made sushi that is now commonplace is preferable to badly-made sushi, although Matsuya san warned us that supermarket sushi is almost always frozen and he finds it almost inedible.

We then made our own *nigiri*, using salmon and tuna, until we had filled our takeaway boxes, which were then garnished with fresh ginger and tiny sachets of *wasabi*. Matsuya san demonstrated how to slice the California rolls with a careful sawing action to create colourful wheels, while we feasted on some he had prepared earlier.

The course runs most Saturday afternoons, with a maximum of 10 students per class. Several of those on the course had been given the experience as a gift, and Matsuya san also offers team-building experiences and private tuition. He would like to open a Japanese cooking school, and is seeking advice from Government organisations that are keen to back initiatives that help to promote Japanese culture in the capital. I left with my takeaway box and bamboo mat, feeling inspired to demonstrate my newly-acquired skills as soon as possible.

*So Restaurant, 3-4 Warwick Street, London W1B; 020 7292 0767; [www.sushi-course.sorestaurant.co.uk](http://www.sushi-course.sorestaurant.co.uk). Price: £75pp.*



© SAMANTHA WHITAKER

**RAW TALENT:** Samantha Whitaker's successful attempts to make her own sushi (above), and So Restaurant's Head Chef, Matsuya san, shows how it's done (left)

# Mid-week wonders

Berlin makes an ideal excursion for clubhouse guests, says ROSL ARTS Administrator **Anna Maciuk**

A visit to Germany's capital can easily become a historical field trip. However, while sights such as Checkpoint Charlie, the hauntingly beautiful Jewish Memorial, and the Topography of Terror offer fascinating insights into 20th-century history, the city is also home to a treasure trove of architecture, museums and galleries.

To get a feel for the artistic side of Berlin, I made a reservation at the Arte Luise Kunsthôtel. The decor and furniture of each bedroom is based on a different concept, created by a local artist. To stay at the hotel is to sleep in a work of art, with rooms including Christopher Platz's 'Standby', in which socks appear to have escaped from the wardrobe and started racing up the walls; 'Mammels Traum' by Dieter Mammel, where guests are dwarfed by a gigantic oak bed, evoking childhood memories of staying with grandparents; and Silke Vollmers's 'Mythos Fliegen', where the furniture is made from reclaimed airplane fragments.

Arte Luise Kunsthôtel is conveniently located near the Berlin Reichstag, restored by Norman Foster in 1999 – a must-see for any first-time visitor to the city. As I climbed Foster's futuristic glass dome perched on top of the building, I was torn between taking in the breathtaking views across the city and

looking inwards to the kaleidoscope images reflected in the dome's spine of interlocking angled mirrors. To avoid the long queues, combine your visit with a meal in Kaefer's Restaurant Dachgarten, which is located next to the dome and offers similar views.

Partially destroyed in the mid-20th century, Unter den Linden is the main cultural hub of Berlin and home to many of the city's main attractions. On the north side is an area commonly known as Museum Island, where visitors can see the great Pergamon Altar, the iconic bust of the Egyptian Queen Nefertiti, Byzantine art, and the 300BC sculpture *The Praying Boy*. For fans of contemporary art, the Deutsche Guggenheim, on the ground floor of the Deutsche Bank building, hosts four international exhibitions a year.

At the western end of Unter den Linden stands the imposing Brandenburg Gate. A short walk from here, across the Tiergarten, is the Berlin Kulturforum, the cultural centre of former West Berlin. Situated just beyond the Neue Nationalgalerie and the Berliner Philharmonie – home to one of the world's top orchestras – is the Bauhaus Archive. Built in 1979 by Walter Gropius, the movement's founder, the archive has an impressive collection of furniture, artworks, architectural models, graphic design, and products of the early 20th-century design school. As well as more recognisable works, by artists such as Wassily Kandinsky, there are some beautiful, hand-painted geometric studies in colour and design by students of the movement.

To experience the bohemian side of the city, head east to Kreuzberg and Friedrichshain, where you can explore side streets peppered with galleries and coffee houses. The most interesting and quirky galleries in any city often are not listed in traditional guidebooks. To save yourself time, take part in Berlin's latest art project by booking an art escort ([www.art-escort.de](http://www.art-escort.de)). An artist, writer, filmmaker or designer will walk you through a personalised itinerary of hidden cultural sights while providing a unique insight into the life of a Berlin artist.

**INSIDE ART:** Sleep at the Arte Luise Kunsthôtel and become part of a piece of art



## LONDON

### What's on...

#### Gauguin

##### Tate Modern

30 September 2010-16 January 2011

An exhibition dedicated to the French Post-Impressionist, featuring paintings and drawings from around the world. Gauguin's sumptuous, colourful images of women in Tahiti, and beautiful landscapes of Brittany are some of the most popular images in modern art.

**Tickets:** £10-£13.50. **Contact:** 020 7887 8888; [www.tate.org.uk](http://www.tate.org.uk)

#### ROH2: Faeries

##### Linbury Studio Theatre

10 December 2010-2 January 2011

Will Tuckett's magical show for young families and the young at heart is a combination of actors and puppets from Blind Summit Theatre. The story follows the adventures of a child who is drawn into a world of fantasy and imagination as twilight falls in Kensington Park.

**Tickets:** £8-£19.50. **Contact:** 020 7304 4000; [www.roh.org.uk](http://www.roh.org.uk)

#### The Enchanted Palace

##### Kensington Palace

26 March 2010-30 June 2012

Exhibition of garments by top fashion designers, including Vivienne Westwood, William Tempest and Stephen Jones. Each room tells a story about one of its former royal residents, with sound effects, interactive exhibits and quirky artwork.

**Tickets:** £5.75-£12.50. **Contact:** 0844 482 7799; [www.hrp.org.uk](http://www.hrp.org.uk)





# ROSL ARTS

**Ella Roberts** takes a look at the arts programme for autumn

## Music events

### Princess Alexandra Hall

#### Schumann and More

*Friday 3 - Sunday 5 September, 7.30pm*

A weekend celebrating Schumann's chamber music, including *Fantasiestücke*, *Piano Trio*, *Adagio and Allegro*, and *Piano Quintet*.

Presented by the ROSL prizewinning violinist Natalia Lomeiko and friends.

#### Sundays @ 3

Our popular Sunday afternoon series continues, with performances from ROSL prizewinners.



Concerts last approximately one hour, and are followed by cream tea and an opportunity to meet the performers.

*Sunday 3 October, 3pm – Jun Sasaki, cello*

*Sunday 24 October, 3pm – Daniel Wmukowski, piano*

*Sunday 14 November, 3pm – Sadie Field, violin*

#### Rhodes Piano Trio

*Wednesday 24 November, 7pm*

The ROSL Annual Music Competition 2008 Elias Fawcett Award winners perform.

#### Konstantin Shamray piano

*Tuesday 7 December 7pm*

In association with the Sydney International Piano Competition, the 2009 First Prize winner performs.

**Tickets for all Over-Seas House concerts: £12; ROSL members £11; Friends of ROSL ARTS £10. Evening events include a glass of wine.**

### Hampstead Parish Church

#### Hampstead and Highgate Festival lunchtime concerts

In association with the Hampstead and Highgate Festival, ROSL prizewinners perform works inspired by Dhiaghilev – a recurring theme of the festival.

*Monday 27 September, 1pm – Laura Lucas, flute, with Daniel Swain, piano*

**AMY DICKSON:** Performs a lunchtime concert at the Hampstead and Highgate Festival in September

*Tuesday 28 September, 1pm – Brodowski Quartet*

*Wednesday 29 September, 1pm – Amy Dickson, saxophone with Martin Cousin, piano*

*Thursday 30 September, 1pm – Cappa Ensemble*

*Friday 1 October, 1pm – Ben Schoeman, piano*

**Admission is free. For directions, see [www.hampsteadparishchurch.org.uk](http://www.hampsteadparishchurch.org.uk).**

### Wigmore Hall

#### The Monday Platform ROSL prizewinners

*Monday 1 November, 7.30pm*

*Finzi Quartet; St James Quintet*

ROSL prizewinning ensembles perform works by Barber, Beethoven, Britten, Ligeti, Pärt and Poulenc at London's premier chamber music venue.

**Tickets: £10 to ROSL members at the ROSL ARTS office.**

## Book events

#### 'Gandhi: Naked Ambition' by Jad Adams

*Tuesday 12 October, 7pm*

Historian Jad Adams offers a concise and elegant account of Gandhi's life: from his birth and upbringing in a small, princely state in Gujarat, to his assassination at the hands of a Hindu extremist in 1948, only months after the birth of the independent India that he was instrumental in bringing about.

#### 'Edith Cavell' by Diane Souhami

*Tuesday 26 October, 7pm*

A biography of the extraordinary Edith Cavell. Matron of her own hospital in Belgium, she was



shot in Brussels on 12 October 1915 by the Gestapo for sheltering British and French soldiers and helping them escape over the Belgian border.

**Tickets: £7; ROSL members £6; Friends of ROSL ARTS £5.**

### **Guilty Pleasures** **Spread the Word genre writing**

*Saturday 20 November, 9.30am-4.45pm*

Spread the Word is London's leading writer development agency, providing bold, playful

and accessible support for writers at all levels and from diverse backgrounds ([www.spreadtheword.org.uk](http://www.spreadtheword.org.uk)). With a distinguished line-up of authors and editors, the day will include masterclasses, workshops and panel discussions on how to write thriller, horror, fantasy and romantic fiction.

**Tickets: £55/£45.**

## **Visual arts events**

**gallery@oxo**

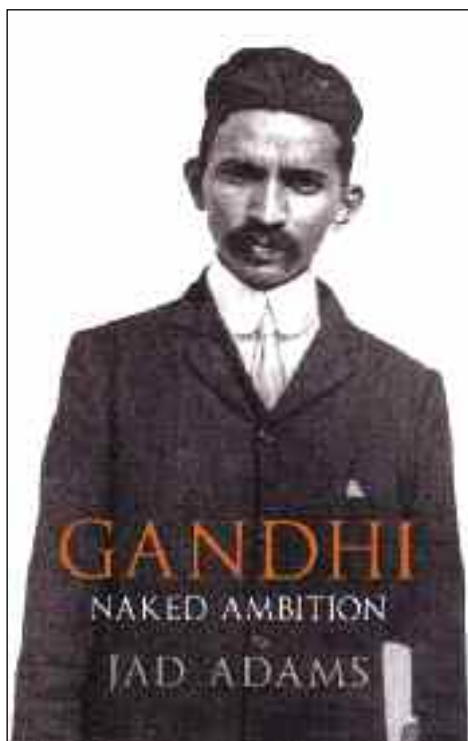
### **Annual Scholars Exhibition 2010**

*Thursday 7 - Sunday 24 October, 10am-6pm*

ROSL ARTS returns to gallery@oxo at the landmark Oxo Tower, situated between Tate Modern and the National Theatre on the riverside walkway of London's South Bank. The exhibition brings together work in a variety of media by Anikpe Ebene (Nigeria), Chan Kok Hooi (Malaysia), Leo du Feu (UK), Keegan Simon (Trinidad and Tobago) and Todd Stratton (New Zealand).

**Admission free. gallery@oxo, Oxo Tower Wharf, Bargehouse Street, South Bank, London SE1 9PH; [www.coinstreet.org](http://www.coinstreet.org).**

**UNMISSABLE:** (top) Finzi Quartet at Wigmore Hall in November; (right) 'Love Chat with the Mirror', acrylic on jute, by Malaysian artist Chan Kok Hooi, ROSL Scholars Exhibition at gallery@oxo in October; (left) 'Gandhi: Naked Ambition' by Jad Adams – a book event in October



## **CAINE PRIZE FOR AFRICAN WRITING**



Sierra Leone writer Olufemi Terry is the winner of the £10,000 2010 Caine Prize for African Writing. The prize was given for his story *Stickfighting Days*; the judges said it presented a heroic culture and was 'Homeric' in its scale and conception. They described Olufemi as a talent with an enormous future.

The award was announced at a celebratory dinner held on Monday 5 July at the Bodleian Library in Oxford. The finalists included Ken Barris (South Africa), Lily Mabura (Kenya), Namwali Serpell (Zambia) and Alex Smith (South Africa).

The Royal Over-Seas League has supported the Caine Prize since 2001, by providing accommodation for the shortlisted writers at Over-Seas House, London, prior to the announcement of the winner. During their stay at Over-Seas House, the shortlisted writers gave readings from their works.





## EVENTS

## EDINBURGH

# What's on...

## September-November

### September

#### Festival lunch

*Wednesday 1 September, midday*  
Osiligi Maasai Warriors performs at this two-course lunch. Tickets: £17.50; ROSL members £16.50. Includes coffee and glass of wine.

#### Bridge Club lunch

*Friday 3 September, 12.30pm*  
One-course lunch. Tickets: £12. Includes sherry.

#### Bank of Scotland Fireworks dinner

*Sunday 5 September, 6 for 6.30pm*  
Six-course dinner with a

champagne reception, wine, cheese and biscuits, a malt whisky, and a rooftop view of the Edinburgh International Festival fireworks. Tickets: £90.

### October

#### Arts lunch

*Tuesday 5 October, 12.30pm*  
Two-course lunch with music from pupils of St Mary's Music School in Edinburgh. Tickets: £17.50; ROSL members £16.50. Includes coffee and a glass of wine.

#### Coffee morning

*Saturday 9 October, 10.30am*



**CAPTIVATING PERFORMANCE:** The Osiligi Maasai Warriors bring their traditional song to Scotland

#### Theatre visit

*Matinee tbc*  
See noticeboard at Over-Seas House, Edinburgh for details.

#### Chairman's Reception

*Thursday 28 October, 6.30pm*  
Reception for new members.

### November

#### Centenary lunch

*Wednesday 3 November, midday*  
Two-course lunch with talk on 'Life

with ROSL' by Director-General Robert Newell. Tickets: £17.50; ROSL members £16.50. Includes coffee and a glass of wine.

#### Coffee morning

*Saturday 13 November, 10.30am*

#### St Andrew's Day Dinner

*Friday 26 November, 7.30pm*  
Three-course dinner with speaker Professor Alistair Bonnington on 'Scots Law and Lockerbie'. Tickets £31. Includes reception drink and wine.

## Christmas and New Year at Over-Seas House, Edinburgh

### Christmas shopping breaks in Edinburgh

Two-day break in Edinburgh for Christmas shopping. Enjoy the German market, outdoor ice rink and a selection of major stores on your doorstep, including Jenners, Harvey Nichols, John Lewis, and Marks and Spencer.

Two nights' bed and breakfast, with dinner on one night of your stay. Mid-week: £121pp, sharing; £165, single room. Weekend: £129pp, sharing; £169, single room.

### Christmas package (24-26 December)

Stay three nights over Christmas from £320pp, including Christmas Eve dinner and Boxing Day lunch with wine.

On Christmas and Boxing Day nights, the club closes at 4pm, and a cold buffet supper will be provided in the bar at 7.30pm.

Christmas Day lunch, £52pp, includes Kir Royale and canapés, and gifts from Father Christmas for all the family.

### Hogmanay (31 December)

Stay three nights over Hogmanay from £295pp. Three nights' bed and breakfast, with a ticket to the Hogmanay Ceilidh Dinner on 31 December.

Hogmanay Ceilidh Dinner, £105pp, includes champagne reception, three-course dinner with wine, ceilidh band and a pass to the famous Street Party. View the fireworks at midnight from the rooftop, with champagne and black bun. Coach home in Edinburgh area at 1am.



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# Food and drink

## September-December

### Christmas Day lunch, 12 for 12.30pm

#### Saturday 25 December

Celebrate Christmas at Over-Seas House, London, in the Hall of India and Pakistan.

### Autumn Seafood Festival

Monday 4 - Saturday 16 October

Head Chef Losine Khezour has created a selection of delicious seafood dishes, which members can sample in the air-conditioned, art deco-style restaurant.

For reservations, call 020 7408 0214 ext 220.

After mulled wine, the traditional Christmas lunch (with wine) will be followed by a screening of The Queen's speech.

Book a private table and invite family or friends, or book a space on a shared table and enjoy the company of other ROSL members. £80 per person.

### New Year's Eve candlelit dinner, 8.30pm

#### Friday 31 December

Indulge in a lavish four-course meal this New Year's Eve, with champagne on arrival and music to see in 2011 and keep you entertained until 12.30am. £95 per person.

For reservations, contact Alastair on 020 7491 3644.



**TASTY TREATS:** Foodies should visit the clubhouse for October's Seafood Festival

### Reliable live-in care for continued independence at home



Christies Care is a specialist provider of full-time, live-in Care Assistants who help our clients to remain living at home independently and safely.

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### How to live a longer more active Life.

Pointy shoes squash and restrict your circulation, give you corns, hammer toes, bunions, ingrowing toenails and they impede your stability and balance. Falls are the major cause of accidental deaths and injury in old people - look at their shoes.

In my handmade, feet-shaped Shoes your toes can spread out, corns will disappear, weakened, under-used muscles and tendons stretch, strengthen and rejuvenate. Your circulation improves, so your cold feet will warm and your natural balance and stability will be restored. *"I walk with new life in my whole being."* In over 35 colours, the fine Italian leather Uppers are fully lined in suede, the 12mm leather soles are soft, so your unique footprints will imbed into them.

For a free brochure ring me - Alan James Raddon - Shoemaker and retired Reflexologist - right now on +44 (0)1545 570 904 between 9am-6pm GMT.



# Members' events

## September-December

### September

#### Musicians, medicine and mystery: historic Marylebone

*Thursday 16 September, 2.30pm, £16.50, G*

Join us on an entertaining walking tour of Marylebone, where you will discover a winding village high street, majestic 18th-century houses, a famous music college, and the centre of medical London. You will also hear about the literary world's best-known love story.

### October

#### Private tour of Shakespeare's Globe

*Monday 4 October, 1.45pm, £15, G*

Discover the iconic Globe theatre and auditorium on this behind-the-scenes guided tour. You will be taken on a colourful journey, filled with stories of the 1599 Globe, the reconstruction process in the 1990s, and the 'wooden O' as it is today: an imaginative and experimental theatrical space.

**MARLBOROUGH HOUSE:** HE Mr Kamallesh Sharma welcomes members to the former palace of Queen Mary, in November

### Wine tasting

*Wednesday 20 October, 5pm, £30, G*

Enjoy a tutored tasting of fine clarets from the cellar at Over-Seas House, London. Participants will also have the opportunity to have a three-course meal in the restaurant for just £20.

### November

#### Marlborough House

*Thursday 4 November, 6pm, £45, B*

The Commonwealth Secretary-General, HE Mr Kamallesh Sharma will host a reception for ROSL members at Marlborough House, the former palace of Queen Mary. Canapés will be served.

### December

#### Festival of Christmas carols and readings

*Sunday 5 December, 3.30pm, £18, G*

End the century year with a



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#### PRIVATE TOUR: Inside Shakespeare's Globe theatre

service at St James's church, followed by a delicious festive tea and a visit from Father Christmas, bearing gifts. A great family treat.

#### Private tour of Somerset House

*Wednesday 8 December, £15, 2pm, G*

Discover this magnificent 18th-century private palace, built between 1756 and 1766 for the first Earl Spencer. Explore the fascinating architecture, designed by Sir William Chambers; the Nelson Staircase (a spectacular cantilever

staircase); and exhibitions of a wide range of artefacts.

#### Chairman's Lunch

*Tuesday 9 November, 12.30pm, £51, G*

Join us for a three-course meal at Over-Seas House, London, hosted by the Chairman, Sir Anthony Figgis, with guest of honour and speaker Lord Patten of Barnes.



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## Application form opposite

These codes identify ticket availability:

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

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



# Discussion Group & London Group

## DISCUSSION GROUP

Meetings will be held at Over-Seas House, London, on the following Monday evenings from 7 to 8.30pm. There is no charge, no need to book and all ROSL members and guests are welcome. For more information contact John Edwards, 01732 883 556, johncoatesedward@aol.com.

## British Diplomatic Oral History Programme

**4 October** With Malcolm McBain, Director of the British Diplomatic Oral History Programme.

## Global Hand

**8 November** With Ben Solanky, UK Director of Global Hand, which brokers ideas, people and resources between business and a world of need.

## The fall of Yugoslavia

**6 December** Talk by the writer and broadcaster Misha Glenny.

## LONDON GROUP

Meetings and outside visits are open to currently subscribed London Group members and their guests. ROSL members staying overnight at Over-Seas House, London are also welcome to attend meetings. To become a member of the London Group, ask for an application form from the PR department, or from the London Group Honorary Membership Secretary c/o Porters' Desk at Over-Seas House, London. The London Group meets at 6.30pm on the third Thursday of each month. For more information, contact Pamela Voice, pawallingtonvoice@yahoo.co.uk.



**SPEAKERS' CORNER:** (Clockwise from left) Malcolm McBain (October); a prisoner works with the charity Fine Cell Work (October); and writer and broadcaster Misha Glenny (December)

## The history and work of the Order of St John

**16 September** Illustrated talk by Tom Foakes, Deputy Curator of the Museum of the Order of St John.

## A stitch doing time

**21 October** Illustrated talk by Cherry Conway-Hughes and Jacqui Wood, who volunteer at HMP Wandsworth for the

charity Fine Cell Work, which trains and pays prison inmates to do top-quality embroidery and to design soft furnishings ([www.finecellwork.co.uk](http://www.finecellwork.co.uk)).

## Some corner of a foreign field

**18 November** Talk by Lieutenant Richard Hutton of the Grenadier Guards, in honour of Remembrance.

## London Group Christmas lunch

**2 December, 12.30pm** Lunch, served in Princess Alexandra Hall, will be followed by entertainment from pianist and singer Andrew Brewis. Tickets: £45, LG members £42. Apply for tickets before 19 November to: Celia Goh, London Group, c/o Porters' Desk, Over-Seas House, London. Enclose a cheque payable to London Group ROSL

and a stamped addressed envelope.

## LONDON GROUP OUTSIDE VISITS

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

## Red House, Bexleyheath

**23 September, 12.45pm** Guided coach visit to Red House, designed by Philip Webb and home to textile designer and artist William Morris. Tickets: £23; LG members £21; members of the National Trust £18; LG National Trust members £15. Tea is available but not included in the ticket price. Send a cheque payable to London Group ROSL and a stamped addressed envelope.

## VOLUNTEER POPPY SELLERS NEEDED

**30 October-14 November, Over-Seas House, London** Please leave your name and contact number for Helen Osborne, c/o Porters' Desk, Over-Seas House, or telephone 020 8503 5693.