

OVERSEAS

Quarterly journal of the ROSL

Issue 4, December 2010-February 2011



Inspiring art

View work by recent ARTS scholars, and find out what inspired them

Going native

Discover how British travel advice is formed; plus how to meet locals abroad

Just desserts

Stunning images of the Empire Pudding ceremony, recreated for the BBC

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Front cover: ROSL Annual Scholars (l-r) Anikpe Ekene, Todd Stratton, Keegan Simon, Chan Kok Hooi and Leo du Feu outside the gallery@oxo. © Jules Lawrence

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Members will be interested to hear that we are already taking bedroom reservations for the 2012 Olympics and that, during 2011, Piccadilly, Lower Regent Street, Pall Mall and St James's Street are reverting to two-way traffic flow. On behalf of our President Lord Luce, Chairman Sir Anthony Figgis, members of Central Council, my colleagues on the staff and myself, I send my very best wishes for Christmas and the New Year.

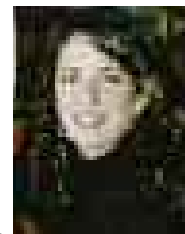
Robert Newell



PICTURE PERFECT: Ontario Chapter President Ishrani Jaikaran (centre) and member Maureen Milne present a painting by Canadian artist Charles Pachter to Sir Anthony Figgis (ROSL Chairman) at the Ontario Chapter Annual Lunch in October. The painting was commissioned by Maureen and bought by Chapter members to commemorate ROSL's centenary. It will be hung at Over-Seas House, London with a copy at the Edinburgh clubhouse

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Miranda Moore

Spread the word

Adele Smith on the vital role of the Travelling Secretary. From her 'History' of ROSL

When Evelyn Wrench returned from his 17-month tour of the Commonwealth in 1913, he was convinced that this exhausting undertaking had in fact been the true beginning of the Over-Seas movement and that the 1910 foundation had been a prelude to the real business. He realised that regular personal contact between the headquarters and the branches and Honorary Corresponding Secretaries was necessary to avoid misunderstandings, encourage membership and to keep the enthusiasm for the Empire project alive. The magazine *Overseas* already in prospect would be important but there could be no substitute for personal contact.

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... A pattern for the tour emerged; success entirely depended on the individual Honorary Corresponding Secretaries in the various regions. A good organiser would have first-class introductions at the highest level, enabling Philip Noakes to organise meetings and receptions at prestigious locations including Government House. The prestige of the Over-Seas League on the sub-continent is clearly demonstrated. The Delhi meetings were some of the most successful despite the strong National Party movement for Indian independence, which made the attraction of membership of an Empire organisation more dubious.

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OVER-SEAS QUEST: Philip Noakes rides in a rickshaw during his Far Eastern tour

Journey to India

'Diary of a Travelling Secretary'
by **Eric Rice**, from the January 1936
issue of *Overseas*

The boat was even fuller than she was expected to be, for we took some emergency naval passengers to Malta; and stopped for just one hour when the sun was setting and painting golden shades on Malta's oyster-grey; lighting up, too, the "boom" newly laid across the harbour. During that hour Members of the Committee of our strong Malta Branch came on board to say *bon voyage*, and I had the pleasant experience, shared by many another who has called at Malta during the past few years, of "spotting" a number of Over-Seas badges from afar, gleaming in the lapels of distant figures approaching the liner in their little motor-boat.

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Front cover: ROSL Annual Scholars (l-r) Anikpe Ekene, Todd Stratton, Keegan Simon, Chan Kok Hooi and Leo du Feu outside the gallery@oxo. © Jules Lawrence

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Common values

What does the Commonwealth mean to you? We asked High Commissioners in London and this is the response



Australia

John Dauth



The Commonwealth is, first, of immense historical significance for Australians. Its evolution from imperial times to now is one way in which we chart our relatively short history as

an independent country. It is a path marked by remarkable agreement among many parties to free association among equal partners.

But it is also a vital, modern institution that links us with many countries in parts of the world where we have less immediate connections. In this respect, it is a vital link and a link based on common values and common commitments. In a world too often categorised by strife and discord, the Commonwealth is a group that Australia values for its capacity for agreement and consensus. It is one of the rocks on which our international personality is built.



Canada

James R Wright



As a founding member of the Commonwealth of Nations, Canada endorsed an institution whose core values coincided with our own. Among them were the pursuit of democracy,

good governance, human rights and the rule of law. Since then, the number of countries has grown, and the organisation has expanded its areas of interest, thanks particularly to the impetus of its newer members. However, Canada believes strongly that the ideals on which the Commonwealth was founded remain as relevant as ever and that the Commonwealth has a continuing role to play in advancing them. Canada is deeply committed to the Commonwealth's success in this endeavour.

Through its association with the Commonwealth, Canada enriches and deepens

its relations with fellow member states, and helps to play a constructive role in North-South issues. The relationships that develop among Commonwealth leaders, the emphasis on consensus-building, and the diversity of its membership, all place the Commonwealth high among organisations capable of helping to enhance the understanding, and work toward the resolution, of global challenges affecting member countries.



Grenada

Ruth E Rouse



It is great to belong to a family of large and small, rich and poor, different faiths, different cultures, spanning six continents, but speaking the same language. Grenada is one

of the Commonwealth's small states and we have never felt 'left out' due to our size. We have been included and have benefited from all the programmes of the Commonwealth. We are proud of our heritage and the fact that we have a 'watchdog' who will nudge us when we are straying from the 'straight and narrow', and who reminds us of our commitment to observing the principles of democracy, freedom, peace and the rule of law.

The Commonwealth is our main avenue to form partnerships through sports, business and civil society. Grenada's growth and development owe a lot to its membership of the Commonwealth family of nations.



Nigeria

Dr Dalhatu S Tafida



The Commonwealth is important to Nigeria as an association uniquely placed historically to understand the challenges confronting developing countries. Over the years,

it has served as a trusted partner for peace, democracy, equality, and good governance, as well as a catalyst for assistance for sustainable development and poverty eradication. Through the Commonwealth Fund for Technical Co-operation (CFTC) programme – its primary source of technical assistance and policy advice to support national development priorities of member countries – it has provided national strategic interventions for the development of institutional capacity and human capabilities in Nigeria.

As a developing country, Nigeria places a huge premium on trade and economic relations. In this connection, the Commonwealth has delivered some important projects, specifically designed to meet some of the needs and requirements of Nigeria. The highlights of the current assistance being given include sustainable external debt management; strengthening of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC); strengthening capacity and providing training for public sector development, as well as provision of technical support in negotiation of economic agreements.

For Nigeria, the Commonwealth therefore remains a vast network for championing democracy and development, as well as playing a dynamic role in bringing government, civil society and the private sector together, to create the essential synergy for economic growth and social harmony.



South Africa

Dr Zola Skweyiya



For South Africa, the importance of the Commonwealth lies in its ability to provide a platform for affirming the common values and goals of promoting democracy, human rights, good governance, multilateralism and world peace. Through various activities of Commonwealth bodies,

Working in the service of the world

Highlights from Chief Emeka Anyaoku's keynote speech at Over-Seas House, London

such as the CFTC, Commonwealth of Learning (CoL), Commonwealth Foundation, and Commonwealth Local Government Forum (CLGF), South Africa has benefited from its Commonwealth membership in the areas of capacity building, local economic development, combating HIV/Aids and gender empowerment, among others.

Besides the historical, cultural and democratic ties that bind Commonwealth countries, the organisation is significant for South Africa in terms of advancing the African Agenda and reaping developmental benefits for the country, the region and the continent.

Trinidad & Tobago Gail P Guy (Acting HC)



Trinidad and Tobago joined the Commonwealth family in 1962 upon attaining independence from Great Britain. Since then we have continued to attach great importance to our

membership in the organisation, and to its fundamental values and principles of democracy, freedom, peace, the rule of law and opportunity for all, many of which are reflected in our national constitution.

As a small state, with limited capacity to unilaterally influence decisions made in international fora, we place great store in the Commonwealth as an avenue to develop collective and feasible responses to current global challenges. Additionally, through its many programmes on technology, health, education and the environment, the organisation has contributed significantly to our own efforts to advance economic and social development.

Trinidad and Tobago was especially honoured to host the 2009 Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) in Port of Spain and, as current Chair-in-Office, we look forward to the implementation of the mandates arising from that meeting.

“We should look to the future of the Commonwealth, not through the prism of an imperial past but as a new and growing organisation, able to deploy its unique attributes in global service”, declared Chief Emeka Anyaoku in his keynote speech at Over-Seas House, London on 5 July. The former Commonwealth Secretary-General was concluding a lecture series on ‘Empire into Commonwealth’, organised by ROSL and *The Round Table* (the Commonwealth Journal of International Affairs).

Speaking on ‘The Modern Commonwealth’, Chief Anyaoku set out three key themes: “First, the Commonwealth must be true to its

fundamental principles, since values are the basis of our unity. Second, we must be a global Commonwealth, engaged with the world, and working in its service. Third, we should make good our ability to connect people. Like the Roman playwright, Terence, we should “count nothing human foreign”.

On the question of values, the former Nigerian Foreign Minister recalled the adoption of the Millbrook Commonwealth Action Programme (in 1995), which established the procedures for dealing with persistent or flagrant violations of Commonwealth principles. He also provided the background to his role in establishing a mechanism to help carry this forward – the Commonwealth Ministers Action Group (CMAG). As a result, he said: “No longer would a leader be welcomed into the Commonwealth’s councils if he or she had shot or cheated their way to power. We had taken a step closer to being a genuine ‘community of democracies’ and

in so doing had blazed a trail for other international and regional organisations.”

Turning to the future of CMAG, he commented: “Clearly, it needs to develop a remit which allows the group to move beyond military rule or unconstitutional change. The solution which I proposed in 1999 – and to which I still hold – is that the Commonwealth ought to be able to develop agreed and objective ‘triggers’ which, if activated, would result in an automatic referral of the country concerned to CMAG.”

On his second theme, he said: “On a whole range of issues – from debt relief and the special vulnerabilities of small states; to climate change and the



“On a whole range of issues the Commonwealth has been a pace-setter”

challenge of HIV/Aids – the Commonwealth has been a pace-setter.” Finally, Chief Anyaoku spoke of the capacity of the Commonwealth to connect and communicate with people across the divides of race, religion and region. He defined the “inability to recognise and cherish identity and to manage diversity” as “one of the most important issues of our time.”

On 30 September, Chief Emeka Anyaoku received an award from the Federal Government of Nigeria for his outstanding contribution to the nation’s development in the first 50 years of its independence. He and 49 others received the award at a banquet, in the presence of several Heads of State and the Duke of Gloucester, representing HM The Queen.

FOCUS

Passing judgement

British travel advice can be very influential, but how are decisions made and who by, asks **Miranda Moore**

When the ROSL Director of Public Relations and Development, Margaret Adrian-Vallance, and filmmaker Chris Swann went to Windhoek last year, for the filming of the Namibia section of the Centenary DVD, the insurance company was initially reluctant to cover a stay in the capital due to concerns about swine flu. Quoting travel advice from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office's website, the insurers explained that the threat level associated with the pandemic had been raised.

When I contact the FCO's Geographical Desk for Namibia, they describe their notes on swine flu as 'general advice and guidance as provided by the WHO [World Health Organization]'. It is clear that British travel advice – even when no restrictions are in place – can have a huge impact, not just on the individual traveller but also on insurance and travel companies.

So how does the FCO make its assessments? Does it take into account the possible impact on the country? Who reviews the information? And where does the data come from? According to its website (www.fco.gov.uk/en/travel-and-living-abroad): "All advice is based on objective assessments of the risks to British nationals... We know that our travel advice can have a knock-on effect on travel, trade and political considerations, but we do not let this influence the advice we give."

Those 'objective assessments' are made by the FCO's overseas post, in conjunction with the relevant Geographical Desk and, where appropriate, the Counter-Terrorism Department. They take into account a whole range of issues, including political unrest, conflict, terrorist activities, anti-British demonstrations,

lawlessness, violence, natural disasters, epidemics, and aircraft and shipping safety. Sources of information include Consulates and High Commissions, the intelligence services and local people.

There are 102 Geographical Desks at the FCO in London. Some deal with one country; some with several countries. Most are helped by an Assistant Desk Officer. Once they have revised the travel advice for the country (or countries) they cover – often after consultation with their counterparts at the European Union and/or Commonwealth Secretariat – the Desk Officer sends the new draft to the Travel Advice Team. It is checked for anomalies before being uploaded to the website.

Where changes relate to factual information, for instance about the activity of a volcano, the Desk Officer has authority to update it. But to change a warning level – for example to lift a travel restriction – clearance must come from the Director of Consular Services at least, and, in many cases, from a Foreign Minister.

In focus

The Desk Officer for Namibia, Amanda Archer, is able to talk to me in more detail about how information is gathered on specific issues. I ask her about the warning on violent crime that has recently been added to its travel advice. It now states: 'There is a growing level of violent street crime affecting foreign tourists, particularly in Windhoek.' Apparently, this does not mean that crime is significantly high in the Namibian capital, only that it is rising. Although street crime is still quite low in the country, I can imagine why a traveller consulting the web page might be concerned.

The advice on street crime was based on incident reports by British nationals at the High



ISTOCKPHOTO

KNOCK-ON EFFECT: Although landmines are still being cleared (below), Sri Lanka was given the all clear in August, putting Thuparamaya Temple (above) and other sites in Anuradhapura back on the tourist map



© FRANKFURT PHOTO



Commission in Windhoek, reports from the Namibian Government and police, and consultations with consular services, embassies and missions of other countries. "With such consultation, we can determine emerging trends and advise accordingly," Archer says. "All judgements are based on trends rather than on actual cases."

Under review

So far, the FCO has been more transparent than I could have imagined. But when I ask about more sensitive issues, such as terrorism and civil unrest, they are, unsurprisingly, less forthcoming. I get no response to my questions about the recent lifting of travel restrictions to Sri Lanka after 30 years – although that could be because the relevant Geographical Desk is too busy to talk to me.

The FCO reviews its advice for each country at least once a month, and following any significant incident. When necessary, advice is revised daily or even several times a day. Although travel restrictions have been lifted in

Sri Lanka, the web page continues to list a number of dangers, including unexploded landmines and the need for permission to travel to certain districts. The Desk Officer must keep on top of developments in all these areas.

The FCO's Director of Consular Services, Julian Braithwaite, explains: "The decision to revise our travel advice (TA) is dependent on what is happening in any particular country at any particular time. If the situation is unfolding rapidly, for example in the case of civil unrest such as occurred in Thailand earlier this year, then the TA is updated as and when required."

"In the event of a major incident, our Consular Crisis Centre acts as coordinator. It has the facilities to allow members of staff from the Geographical Desk/s concerned, as well as country casework and travel advice staff, to relocate for the duration of the crisis."

Braithwaite is keen to stress that the overriding concern is the safety of British nationals. "In most cases, it is an informed judgement call, often erring on the side of caution," he says. In the case of terrorism,

travel restrictions are issued only when the threat is considered to be "sufficiently specific, large-scale or endemic to affect British nationals severely". The FCO does not warn against travel to every country where there is a risk of terrorists operating, as this would rule out travel to a large proportion of the world – including, presumably, all UK cities.

Open access

The focus is on giving British nationals the information they need to make an informed decision about travel to a particular country. A major concern, therefore, is access to information. The website is fairly comprehensive, offering detailed advice on any country you could wish to visit. Using the 'travel advice by country' page, I search, at random, for St Kitts and Nevis. Even though the report states 'Most visits to St Kitts and Nevis are trouble-free', it still offers a further 1,000 words of advice, covering everything from hurricane season (normally June to November) to violent crime (low but rising, with a recent double murder noted).

"It's important that people can access our advice on the go," explains Braithwaite. "So we use social media such as Twitter and Facebook to reach as many British nationals as possible, wherever they are." As I write, the recent updates on the 'British abroad – travel advice from the Foreign Office' Facebook page include a ban by the authorities in Karnataka, India, on gatherings of more than five people, and the ban on Angolan air services to the European Union. On Twitter, @britishabroad has similar information in 140 characters, including links for further details, and there are also Twitter accounts for several UK embassies and consulate generals, taking the form @ukinaustralia or @ukintanzania.

"We cannot stop British nationals travelling to a destination against our advice," says Braithwaite. However, when there is evidence of real and grave danger, the FCO will issue a travel restriction that either advises against all travel to a country, or recommends only 'essential travel'. Individual travellers are expected to determine whether a trip is 'essential', based on family or business needs, concerns for personal safety, and personal knowledge of the country or area. Most travel agencies, on the other hand, will automatically cancel trips following such guidance.

Whatever your take on British travel advice, the number and breadth of resources available to the FCO cannot be ignored. Those with their own contacts and sources of information would do well to check the Government's advice, and make choices about their travel options based on all the available information.

FOCUS

Going underground

Vicky Baker looks at the growing trend for 'local travel', and offers her tips on how to meet, stay and dine with the locals

Authors of 50 guidebooks, travel journalists Lara Dunston and Terence Carter were coming to the end of their fourth year of non-stop travel when they were struck down by an acute case of hotel fatigue. They were tired of constantly checking in and out, and having their breakfast time rigidly dictated. They were also tired of being stuck in a tourist bubble.

"When you stay in hotels, you're in this artificial world where you only meet other tourists, or – depending on how relaxed the hotel's policy is – hotel staff," explains Lara. "For us, the most enjoyable part of travel is connecting with locals, whether you're meeting your neighbours in the elevator or stairwell, or having a coffee or glass of something at a neighbourhood café or bar."

So, keen to change their approach, they embarked on project Grantourismo (grantourismotravels.com), a year-long, round-the-world trip during which they would swap hotels for rental homes, provided by their partners, HomeAway Holiday-Rentals. The aim was to experience their destinations as insiders and make more lasting connections with their surroundings.

One of their best experiences so far has been staying in Puglia, Italy, where the caretaker of their *trullo* took them under her wing, teaching them to make pizza and inviting them for family dinners. "What we love about living in ordinary neighbourhoods rather than tourist areas is that the locals are more warm and welcoming," says Lara.

Making connections

Making a stand against the prescribed, impersonal and well-trodden routes of guidebooks and organised tour groups is part of a growing trend known as 'local travel'. Although some travellers have been putting these ideas into practice for years, only recently has it gathered enough momentum to inspire its own website. Localtravelmovement.com was launched in February to bring together companies and individuals that are working to promote interaction between locals and tourists. Members include Rentallocalfriend.com and tripbod.com, which connect travellers with in-situ locals for expert advice.

The internet is providing a great shortcut for travellers looking to make connections in new places. A leader in the field is Meetup.com, which lists worldwide get-togethers for specialist interests. If you want to find a local dance group, conversation classes or hiking

HOME FROM HOME: Lara Dunston sets the table for a pizza dinner in Alberobello, Puglia, during her 'Grantourismo' adventure



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club, this is the place to head. "A little less face-to-screen and a little more face-to-face" until very recently was the tagline of the site, which now arranges 250,000 meets every month.

A UK-only site that uses a similar model is CitySocialising.com. It currently covers most UK cities and there are plans to expand abroad. Although many of its 37,000 members arrange regular meetings – in the same way as members of Meetup.com – there is also more flexibility to create one-off events. If you want to find people to watch a particular film or eat at a certain restaurant, you can create a diary date that will then be emailed to other members, who will let you know if they want to join in. There are search facilities that allow you to specify an age group and location.

Eating in

If you don't fancy using a computer screen to make local contacts, you could also try the oldest hospitality network around: Servas (joomla.servas.org). The organisation, which celebrated its 60th anniversary last year, was founded by an American pacifist, Bob Luitweiler, to promote the idea of 'peace through understanding'. It now has 20,000 members in more than 100 countries and, unlike the new websites, where anyone can sign up, potential Servas members can only join after having a face-to-face interview. After this, they contact their local secretary to arrange meetings, and members are asked to host other members in their homes for two nights. Alternatively they can just be a day host and show someone around.

Another good way to get behind closed doors when travelling is to try an 'underground' restaurant. The idea of ordinary people turning their homes into restaurants has become incredibly popular in the last couple of years. Some function like intimate group dinners, others are like casual house parties.

A legend in this field is 76-year-old Jim Haynes, who has been holding Sunday dinners in his Parisian home for more than 30 years. Originally from the US, charismatic Jim spent his childhood in Venezuela and many years living across Europe, during which time he built up a wealth of engaging stories. His weekly

76-year-old Jim Haynes' weekly soirées attract a lively mix of expats and Parisians



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TASTE OF ADVENTURE:

The caretaker of a *trullo* in Puglia shows guests how to make *orricchetti*

Golden gappers

Janet Street-Porter's done it, and so has Ewan McGregor – the rise of the adult 'gap year' is showing no sign of slowing. Once the domain of university students, gap years are now increasingly being taken by an older generation, with 90% of gap year travellers above the age of 30, according to research by American Express Insurance Services.

In the UK alone, 200,000 adults embark on extended travel overseas every year – a trend that continued through the recession, with more and more people turning redundancy into an opportunity for foreign adventure. In 2005, the BBC picked up on the emerging trend with its series *Grown Up Gappers*, which followed eight gappers aged 35 and over.

With the average trip costing around £5,000, 'golden gappers' are now worth £1 billion a year, so it is no surprise that the travel industry has begun to target them. Many hostels now cater for the needs of 'flashpackers'. Online agencies with names such as Gapyearforgrownups.co.uk and Goldengapyears.com have sprung up, while other travel websites now have pages dedicated to older gappers (see, for example, the Travellers Worldwide website).

Rentallocalfriend.com and tripbod.com connect travellers with locals for expert advice

soirées attract a lively mix of expats and Parisians. A donation of €25 covers food, drinks and an evening of entertaining conversation. If you want to attend, all you have to do is call or send an email (jim-haynes.com or +33 143 27 17 67).

The trend has also started to take off in London, with new openings all the time. One host – who goes by the pseudonym of Ms Marmite Lover – has a blog dedicated to finding and reviewing underground restaurants (marmite lover.blogspot.com). She says underground dining is particularly appealing to tourists: "Often you visit a city such as London, you see all the sights, you eat in restaurants, stay in a hotel, but never get to meet any Londoners, go to their houses or eat with them. A home restaurant is a unique insight into the country you are visiting." Her recommendations for ROSL members are the Hidden Kitchen in Paris (£78, hkmenus.wordpress.com), Casa Saltshaker in Buenos Aires (£20, casasaltshaker.com) or, for those who feel like splashing out, the loft project in East London (£120, theloftproject.co.uk).

Branching out

Of course, ROSL members already have a great advantage over the average traveller by having access to the worldwide network of ROSL branches and reciprocal clubs, spread across 26 countries. One advocate of using these facilities is member Cyril J T Sullivan, who has visited reciprocal clubs all around the world and relishes the 'at home' feeling they offer. One of his best memories is watching the 1999 New Year's fireworks from his room in Over-Seas House, London.

Member Ken George uses reciprocal clubs to play host to his friends when visiting their hometowns, enabling him to reciprocate invitations to lunch or dinner. "The Mount Stephen Club in Montreal has an amazing interior which few of my Canadian friends had seen," he says. And that, in essence, is the idea of 'local travel': breaking down barriers between insiders and out-of-towners. Travel should never be a one-way road.

Vicky Baker is a journalist based in Buenos Aires and writes a blog about local travel (goinglocaltravel.com).

FOCUS

Back to their roots

As interest in our heritage grows, more and more people are going on quests to find out about their origins, says **Chris Pritchard**

“**S**top the car!” shrieked the Londoner. “I need to get out now.” We were on a winding road in Jamaica’s Blue Mountains when I hit the brakes. She stepped into a cloud of dust and gazed across a lush valley. “So, this is where I come from,” she said softly, more to herself than to me. I had offered to drive and, along the way, she told me that she had left as a toddler when her parents emigrated to England. Her homesick father soon returned and, for 28 years, father and daughter hadn’t seen each other.

We reached a small village. A shopkeeper pointed out an unremembered house. I watched the two hug and weep. Neighbourhood children peered in, but the older man would not let the five-year-old grandson he had only just met go out and play. “They’re rough country boys,” he explained.

Such reunions are an increasingly common global phenomenon. People’s curiosity about their roots is encouraged by the growing number of ancestry-related websites and genealogy TV shows, such as *Who Do You Think You Are?*. Developed in Britain but replicated in other countries, the series follows celebrities as they trace their often-surprising roots. Investigation is enabled by cheap airfares.

According to Australian travel agent Gina Morgante Varnier, Managing Director of Omega World Travel, ‘roots travel’ is a global phenomenon. “My family arrived in Sydney 50 years ago,” she says. “When I visit the Italian village my grandparents left behind I don’t just meet locals. I find people from many countries doing the same as me – learning more about parents, grandparents and family members further back, in a dim-and-distant past.”

Some destinations – Ireland and Scotland, for instance – boost this interest by featuring

such quests in their tourism advertising, and have even set up linked websites that help people to trace their ancestors. The message: come and investigate your family tree.

Tracing the past

Perhaps the highest-profile group exploring the past is African Americans. Many have ancestors who were shipped from Africa in brutal conditions to be New World slaves. The 1970s TV series *Roots* awakened interest in this history, but only in the past decade have cheaper airfares broadened the base of travellers to West Africa. Ghana, The Gambia and Senegal specifically encourage African Americans to make back-to-Africa trips. Although documented evidence of their precise ancestry remains elusive because of the reliance on oral history in Africa at the time, ‘roots travellers’ gain an insight into the circumstances in which slaves came to North America and the Caribbean.

Most group tours of Ghana’s Cape Coast Castle and Elmina Castle – from where shackled slaves were shipped – seem to include emotionally distraught African Americans. The Gambia holds biannual International Roots Festivals to commemorate enslavement, and the Gambian President, Yahya Jammeh, speaks of “welcoming home all people of African descent”.

Although there are organised tours aimed specifically at ‘roots travellers’, many people do not use travel agents, embarking on their voyages of discovery independently. As a result, the evidence is largely anecdotal and there are currently no reliable figures on the

MAGICAL HISTORY TOUR: African Americans find out about the slaves shipped from Elmina Castle in Ghana

Tourism advertising spreads the message: come and investigate your family tree



trend. In my experience, however, this kind of travel isn't always plain sailing.

An oft-heard complaint from returnees to places where parents, grandparents or ancestors lived is that they are treated no differently from other visitors. In a Ghanaian hotel lobby, some African Americans asked me why this was so. It seemed unfair to them, when their ancestors had left as slaves. I decided not to point out their loud complaints about inadequate air-conditioning, poor-quality hamburgers and the scarcity of good pizzas. Staff would surely have overheard them and decided they were just like other foreigners.

Two years ago, I found myself trudging down the streets of a Wellington suburb with an elderly woman who had left New Zealand as a child and was on her first trip back. She was determined to show me her childhood home. We found the address but the timber dwelling had been replaced by box-like apartments. "Oh, well," she shrugged, choking back tears. "At least I tried." She subsequently found family members and official records that revealed that her family had come from the north of England.

Some journeys are best postponed, a Pakistani man told me glumly. After scrimping and saving, he was finally able to tell his

Roots-tracking tourists are as likely to experience culture shock as anyone

parents he'd be visiting Lahore. He had met his grandparents as a child but planned to learn more about previous generations. His parents, however, were more interested in the future. "They told me they were counting the days until they could meet our children," he said. The plan had been to leave the children with their aunt. "We have four children – that means six return tickets for the family. We couldn't afford it, so I told a lie, saying I couldn't get time off work. We'll save some more and go in a year or two," he said.

A member of Ghana's large diaspora sympathised. He had to delay a trip home to Kumasi after calculating the cost of the gifts. "As in many countries, it's expected that visitors bring gifts," he explains.

Although roots-tracking tourism can give some tourists a sense of oneness, those

seeking an epiphanous moment can be disappointed. They are as likely to experience culture shock as anyone. And they tend to harbour the same worries as other tourists, as I realised in Jaffna airport, listening to British Tamils who were visiting their families for the first time in many years. "Do you think it's safe here?" they asked. When I encountered them a week later they had changed. Their foreboding was forgotten as they excitedly regaled me with tales of meeting elderly parents and cousins, of bumping into former schoolteachers in the market off Hospital Road, and being told stories about their ancestors.

For the most part, trips unveiling the past prove enjoyable. Exploration of family history makes travel memorable. It puts flesh on grandma's stories about how she made pasta sauce from homegrown tomatoes, or grandpa's tales about harvesting his crop of legendary bananas. What's more, it is arguably a more real dip into another culture than rushing from one tourist attraction to the next.

ROSL member Chris Pritchard is a Sydney-based journalist who writes for local and foreign publications – mostly on travel and business topics.



Roots volunteers

In 2008, the Department for International Development (DFID) set up a £3 million fund to encourage people from diaspora communities to volunteer in their heritage countries. Run by VSO (Volunteer Services Overseas), the three-year project taps into a trend that saw the number of diaspora organisations asking VSO for help in this area rise from 29 in 2005 to 50 in 2008.

The scheme has two strands. Working with more than 20 diaspora organisations, the DFID Diaspora Volunteer Programme helps people to find volunteer placements. The Diaspora Volunteering Alliance (DVA) enables diaspora groups to share experience, skills and knowledge, take collective decisions, and discuss development issues.

For information, see www.dfid.gov.uk/Working-with-DFID/Funding-opportunities/Individuals/DVS.

Being abroad is not without its hazards, as one Southampton University student found out when he fell from the seventh-floor balcony of his hotel in Mazatlan, Mexico, on New Year's Day. There were insufficient local supplies of his rhesus negative blood group. However, as he is a member of the Blood Care Foundation (BCF), the blood he needed was delivered within a few hours.

In many countries, both the availability and the quality of blood is a major problem, particularly in most of Africa, Asia, Eastern and Southern Europe, and Central and South America. Recent surveys by the World Health Organization (WHO) indicate that there are only about 25 countries where blood is both available and of an acceptable quality, including the UK, Australia, Canada, New Zealand and Singapore.

This is why the BCF is doing potentially life-saving work in providing blood, tested to the highest international standards, to people living or travelling abroad. Established in 1991 with the support of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and the Ministry of Defence, the charity delivers screened blood worldwide in emergency situations. Its first blood bank was located inside the British High Commission in Lagos, Nigeria, and it has shipped blood to Lagos every 28 days ever since. A second blood bank was later established in southern Nigeria, and there are temporary blood banks, set up to meet specific objectives, in Kenya and South Africa, with two more being planned for Haiti and Uganda.

World-class service

Drawn from six internationally renowned blood processing centres, in France, Holland, Switzerland, Hong Kong, Singapore and the United States, blood is sent from the centre closest to the patient by local, medically-trained couriers. Not only do patients get a service equal to that of any world-class blood transfusion service, but they also avoid becoming a drain on scarce local supplies.

Although calls for blood are received every month, not every call results in a delivery, because the treating doctor may change the treatment programme or move the patient to a country where reliable blood is available.

The charity is fully independent, with its services financed through membership fees from corporate members (some with 300,000 employees), medical insurance companies (which include membership as a standard policy benefit) and individual members (available through the BCF Travel Club). Although the Foundation is not subsidised, it is always grateful for any donations it receives.



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True blood

Michael Bruce, Chairman of the Blood Care Foundation, looks at the charity's life-saving work

In 2008, the BCF also began to deliver anti-rabies treatment to members. This invariably fatal disease is becoming an increasing problem across much of Africa, throughout Asia and in South America. The WHO warns that there are more than 1 million potential exposures to rabid animals a year, resulting in some 55,000 deaths. There is no treatment once the disease becomes clinically apparent, so if you are bitten – or even licked – by an animal in a country where rabies is present, it is vital that you are given anti-rabies immunoglobulin (HRIG) and/or a vaccine straight away.

Supplies are difficult to obtain in many countries, which is why the BCF maintains a permanent supply of both human rabies immunoglobulin and the vaccine. Because they are very expensive, and to encourage members to get vaccinated, it charges an excess fee of £150 for this service, as a contribution towards the costs.

When an emergency occurs, the BCF member or treating doctor contacts the Foundation's alarm centre. The Duty Medical Officer identifies the transfusion or rabies prophylaxis required and arranges for the patient to receive the appropriate product. Membership of the Foundation can prove vital for expatriates, travellers and visitors. It may not be required very often (like fire insurance on one's house), but when it is, it can save the patient's life.



© BY MAKELENDROZE

GIFT OF LIFE: A patient has a transfusion

The cost of annual membership is £60 or £36 for a child; lifetime membership is £500; corporate and group fees are available on request. There is a 15% discount for ROSL members. Contact CEO Julian Bruce on +44 (0)1403 262 652 or ceo@bloodcare.org.uk.

CYNTHIA OLSON'S CHICAGO



What do you love most about Chicago?

The architecture for which it is known is varied and stunning. My New York friends love Chicago as there is everything here that you could wish for, but at a more relaxed pace than in the Big Apple.

Do you have a favourite gallery?

The Art Institute is one of the great art museums of the world, especially in the area of the French Impressionists, which were purchased by members of some of the founding families on their 'Grand Tour'. Heaven bless their prescience! Therein are Caillebotte's masterpiece 'Paris Street; Rainy Day' and Seurat's 'La Grande Jatte'. There is also a new wing, designed by Renzo Piano.

Where do you go to relax?

Near the Art Institute is a fairly new addition to the city: Millennium Park, which has become a major tourist attraction. It features Anish Kapoor's 'Cloud Gate' sculpture, affectionately dubbed 'The Bean'. Seemingly simple, it is a masterpiece of understatement as it reflects the surrounding buildings. People love to walk through it and see themselves reflected upwards into infinity. In this same park is a people-friendly fountain by Spanish designer Jaume Plensa. Giant photos are projected on the inside of the two separated glass tower walls. As their mouths

form an O, water shoots out and the children squeal and run around in it.

What restaurants or cafés would you recommend?

There are too many restaurants to make a list, but if you want the chance of bumping into Michael Caine or Oprah, RL is the place to go. It's attached to the Ralph Lauren store, hence the name. There are wonderful, small neighbourhood cafés and trattorias, as well as haute dining of the finest calibre (price to match). There are clubs that rock into the night, and also comedy clubs. Second City originated here.

Where do you like to shop?

Michigan Avenue, called 'the magnificent mile', is the main shopping street. On or around it, you will find every designer store. There are also large malls and a discount store called Filene's Basement, where you might get lucky and pick up something from a top designer. If Armani, Ferragamo and all the Italian lads are your cup of tea, they hold court along the avenue, as does Burberry.

ROSL member Cynthia Olson has had a varied career in fashion modelling and stage acting, and is a successful artist. Currently she paints dogs and donates a large percentage of the profits to animal shelters. Interview by Samantha Whitaker.



SPACE TO REFLECT: Anish Kapoor's 'Cloud Gate' in Millennium Park

Ashes to Ashes

Oli Broom on the home straight across Australia



MAGICAL MOUNTAINS: Cricket on Java

I travelled from Indonesia to Australia by cattle boat. There were times, specifically when storms raged and 25ft waves crashed against the hull, when I was sure neither I nor any of the 15-strong crew would make it. After a week at sea, we cruised into Darwin. I was swaying for days, but I had arrived. My destination country. Although I had 4,000km of outback to cross, I finally began to dream of Brisbane, and the end of a long road stretching back to London.

Once I had found a bed, I headed for a bar, and was disappointed when a fight broke out on the packed dancefloor. I had travelled through 24 countries, many considered less 'civilized' than Australia, and I hadn't got close to a fight. Now I was back in the 'civilized West' and witnessing a drunken brawl. Yet I was excited to be in Australia. On my only previous visit, in 1999, I had loved the place and the people.

Luckily, the 'grey nomads' – older Australians caravanning round the country in their millions – have been keen to empty the contents of their fridges into my lap. I'm eating well, so have plenty of energy for the punishing outback distances, in temperatures of up to 55 degrees.

Today I won't pass a shop, café or house, nor tomorrow. My bike is laden with pasta, tuna, bread, peanut butter, biscuits and raisins to last me a week. I am carrying three days' water supply that is almost too hot to drink, but will cool at night. There are billabongs, but only the foolhardy would venture to the shore – 5m-long crocodiles inhabit the waters here.

As I write, just 49 days are left until I take my seat in Brisbane for the Ashes. See you there!

Cycling to the Ashes in association with Betfair. For details visit cyclingtotheashes.com or email cyclingtotheashes@gmail.com.

News and views

The latest from the London clubhouse

▼ Central Council lunch

The High Commissioner for South Africa, HE Dr Zola Skweyiya, and his wife were the guests of honour at the Central Council lunch in July. They are pictured with ROSL Chairman Sir Anthony Figgis. The High Commissioner spoke about the success of the football World Cup, which had just concluded in South Africa



▼ Hello and goodbye

Events Coordinator Alexandra Debarge (centre) left ROSL to live in Singapore in September, and we wish her much happiness in her new life. She has been replaced by another Alexandra (Pavry, right), who is looking forward to meeting members at the many events organised for them throughout the year. Ella Roberts (left) joined ROSL ARTS as Marketing Assistant in April



▲ Tango tea dance

On 27 August, ROSL marked its official centenary Founder's Day with a tango tea dance. The occasion coincided with the 200th anniversary of independence in Argentina (hence the theme), and ROSL were delighted to welcome special guest Silvina Murphy, cultural attaché from the Argentine Embassy. Members from as far as Dublin gathered in Princess Alexandra Hall for a delicious afternoon tea, accompanied by an enchanting performance from the Anglo-Argentine violin and piano tango duo, El Farabute. The musicians were then joined by glamorous tango expert Jenney Surelia (from A Taste of Tango) and her dance partner Alberto Ortiz, who deftly demonstrated steps from the tango, milonga and vals

► 20 years' service

At a party in September, Paul Streat, Maintenance Manager at Over-Seas House, London, celebrated 20 years' service with ROSL. He is pictured, with the Director-General Robert Newell, holding his celebration cake, which was emblazoned with Chelsea FC's emblem. He is a big fan of the London football club





▲ **Central Council lunch**

The Agent-General for Western Australia, Kerry Sanderson, was the guest of honour at the Central Council lunch in September, at which she spoke about Western Australia and the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting to be held in Perth in 2011. She is pictured with (l-r) Sir Anthony Figgis (ROSL Chairman), Sir Kenneth Scott (ROSL Vice-President) and Robert Newell (Director-General)

► **Golden and platinum anniversaries**

ROSL members John and Pat Rigge (top) were married at St Mary's Church, Kemsing on 7 September 1940, just as the Blitz began. They celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary with a concert and reception in Princess Alexandra Hall. Their website tells the story of the intervening years, from service in the Royal Navy to diplomatic and commercial life in Spain, via Bermuda, Portsmouth and Hong Kong (www.johnandpatrigge.com).

In September, the immediate past ROSL Chairman, Stanley Martin and his wife, Hanni, (right) celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary with a private lunch in Princess Alexandra Hall. They were joined by their friends from Denmark, school and university, ROSL, the diplomatic service, and elsewhere



On the Fringe

Simon Ward was impressed by his first taste of the ROSL ARTS programme at the Edinburgh Festival

My wife and I were staying with friends, just outside Edinburgh, on our way back from a trip to Orkney. We reckoned a glimpse of the Fringe would be just the right cultural counterbalance to the perfectly preserved Neolithic sites we had visited there.

We received a great welcome from Alan Chalmers' team at Over-Seas House, and from Anna and Ella of ROSL ARTS, who were there to organise the concerts. We had planned a bite to eat in the bar and a leisurely potter to the venue just before the concert began. Forget it! The place was heaving and the concert a sell-out, so it was a quick glass of wine and then in to grab a seat – just in time. The room was full 15 minutes before kick-off.

Presenting 30 concerts in 12 days, with titles such as Bach for Breakfast and Mozart at Teatime, the 'Music @ 100 Princes Street' series showcases the best of recent ROSL Music Competition and International Music Scholarship winners. Since it began, 11 years ago, it has become a Festival institution, attracting a loyal and discerning audience year after year.

We were treated to 50 minutes of magical music, as Ben Schoeman played a selection of Chopin wonderfully, and the Brodowski Quartet attacked Tchaikovsky's String Quartet No 1 with a special combination of gusto and sensitivity. Both proved their credentials as past ROSL prizewinners, and there was a real buzz of appreciation in the bar afterwards over the tea and biscuits that are laid on as part of the event. Memorable music and perfect organisation – a great way to spend a couple of hours.

As we discovered, the ROSL Fringe Concerts are (ever less) hidden treasures and completely justify their increasing critical acclaim – so we'll get there earlier next time and leave time for that snack as well.

Simon Ward is ROSL's Honorary Treasurer.

The ROSL music series is 'The best place to spot future talent' The Herald

Game, set and match

Younger members enjoyed the summer with a garden party, tennis tournament and the annual Club Crawl, says **Alexandra Pavry**



AL FRESCO: (clockwise from top left) Inter-Club members enjoy the fine summer weather; the jazz band rounds off the Club Crawl; and the tennis tournament finalists line up for a photo at the Queens Club

JULY

Inter-Club summer garden party

This year, the Travellers Club hosted the greatly anticipated annual Inter-Club summer garden party. The rain dutifully held off (just!) while guests were treated to a bottomless glass of champagne and succulent canapés. Philip Vallance, the club's Chairman, said a few words about the history and ethos of the club, and stayed on to mingle with the guests.

AUGUST

Tennis tournament

Following the success of last year's event, the Queens Club welcomed back younger members for another great tennis tournament. Starting with bacon sandwiches in the club's restaurant, the inter-clubbers took to the courts at 11am. Unfortunately, the weather did not cooperate, so they made use of the indoor courts. The crowds were entertained by some exciting (not to mention

'interesting') tennis. The final matches took place just as the lunch ticket-holders arrived. After a nail-biting final, at which the Queens Club emerged victorious, lunch was served in the club's newly refurbished President's Room, and drinks were served on the terrace overlooking centre court.

SEPTEMBER

Club Crawl and grouse dinner

This year's Club Crawl began with champagne at The Savile Club, where guests were entertained with tales of high jinks from the club's past. With stomachs rumbling, members were guided on to Over-Seas House, where they were treated to a spicy curry and wine.

Then it was on to the Carlton Club next door, where guests enjoyed more wine before moving swiftly on to the Naval and Military Club, popularly known as the In & Out Club. After relaxing in the Canning Room and inner courtyard, crawlers headed to the Savage Club

for an excellent combination of jazz and booze to round off the evening.

Just one week later, the Inter-Club group was back together to dine on grouse, prepared by Chef Littlejohn at the Oxford and Cambridge Club. Guests were greeted with a glass of champagne in the opulent smoking room, before enjoying a gastronomic feast in the club's enormous coffee room. After supper and a loyal toast, they retreated to the bar.

Forthcoming events

Christmas Ball at the Royal Automobile Club

Thursday 16 December

For more information on events, visit www.inter-club.co.uk. To join ROSL's young members network, email conrad.purcell@res-ltd.com.



RECIPE FOR SUCCESS: The ceremony (left and bottom right) originally took place in 1926 (top). Sue Perkins with chef Losine Khezour (below)

Pudding power

Margaret Adrian-Vallance reports on the Empire Christmas pudding ceremony recreated by staff and members at Over-Seas House, London, for BBC Two

In the Lord Mayor of London's Show, 1925, Australia's entry was a huge Christmas pudding. Its slogan, 'Make your pudding of Empire products', was mounted on a wagon drawn by six white horses. The theme that year was 'Imperial Trade' – part of a move to increase the use of goods from the British Empire. The Australians were particularly cross that their exports of currants and raisins were being challenged by those from America.

In 1926, the British Government's new Empire Marketing Board issued a poster asking British housewives to 'Buy Empire Goods'. It depicted Britannia carrying a Christmas pudding made from Canadian flour, Australian currants, South African raisins, Indian spices, Jamaican rum and other Empire ingredients. In a gesture of approval, King George V let it be known that the royal Christmas dinner that year would only include ingredients from within the Empire.

What's more, it was decided that his Empire Christmas pudding would be made at the Over-Seas League, with a film crew from Pathé News to publicise the event around the world. This elaborate ceremony took place on 20 December 1926 in the ROSL garden. Each ingredient was carried down the stairway from the Buttery and

formally announced, along with its country of origin, as if it were a person. It was then added to the mixing bowl under the direction of the League's chef and given a stir by Lord Meath.

On 3 August this year, Love Productions, on behalf of BBC Two, filmed a modern version of this ceremony for a three-minute section on the history of puddings for *The Great British Bake Off* series, fronted by Sue Perkins and Mel Giedroyc. After much to-ing and fro-ing of emails, talks with various currant suppliers, requests for ROSL members to represent the different countries, and a lot of hard work by ROSL head chef Losine Khezour, filming finally began.

ROSL members and staff, carrying different ingredients, followed Sue Perkins, who was bearing flour, down the Buttery steps. ROSL Director-General Robert Newell announced the ingredients in a fine, carrying tone. Sue then interviewed food historian Kaori O'Connor and we all got to try a slice of the 'one chef made earlier'. Empire pudding is delicious.

After four hours' filming by a crew of five, it was disappointing that the ROSL reference was so fleeting when the episode was broadcast on 7 September. But there were compensations: diners in the garden enjoyed the spectacle; Rob Haines, a member from Toronto, took some great photos; and the pictures on the ROSL Flickr site show off ROSL's attractive garden.

At the Director-General's Tuesday evening reception, Kaori O'Connor gave guests some fascinating foodie facts. In 1927, she said, a 40lb Empire pudding was made on the roof of Adelaide House, with views over the West India Docks, and, in 1931, they made the pudding in the Albert Hall. That one weighed in at 10 tonnes and went on show at the Army and Navy Stores for three weeks before being distributed to the poor. A smaller version will be on the menu in the ROSL restaurants this Christmas.



For the recipe, see the Royal Over-Seas League on Flickr or join us on Facebook.

Display of inspiration

ROSL ARTS Administrator **Anna Maciuk** on the 2010 Scholars Exhibition

In September 2009, Nigerian artist Anikpe Ekene, Malaysian artist Chan Kok Hooi, Trinidadian artist Keegan Simon and New Zealand artist Todd Stratton came to the UK as ROSL Visual Arts Travel Scholars. After a week exploring London's galleries and cultural institutions, the four artists travelled to Hospitalfield House in Arbroath, Scotland, for a month-long residency.

Hospitalfield House is an architecturally unique 19th-century country house – a prototype for the Scottish Arts and Crafts movement, set in tranquil gardens and with generous artist studio space.

The fifth scholarship recipient was the Scottish artist Leo du Feu, who chose to use his scholarship to explore the Canadian wilderness by train and travelled the width of the country.

One year later, ROSL ARTS welcomed the five artists back to London to exhibit their works in the ROSL Annual Scholars Exhibition at the gallery@oxo, part of the landmark Oxo Tower on London's South Bank. The exhibition opened on Wednesday 6 October with a well-attended private view, at which guests were treated to cheese and wine as they met with the artists.

Walking round the exhibition, one of the first things that strikes you is how differently each artist responded to their experiences. While the works cover a broad range of styles and media, each takes inspiration from the scholarship residencies.

Hidden images

The imagery of Hospitalfield is very prominent in the works of Chan Kok Hooi. Two lightboxes illuminate prints of the grand hall in the Scottish castle. Only on closer inspection do you notice that each of the historical paintings hung on the high walls has been replaced with a picture of the MSN icon.

"When I was at Hospitalfield, I became aware of how much time fellow residents spent on social networking websites," he explains. "The internet is such a huge part of daily life for our generation that how you represent yourself online is almost as important as how you represent yourself in person."



What strikes you is how differently each artist responded to their experiences

Chan further demonstrates this with a series of painted portraits depicting Polaroid pictures of the MSN icon. "Previously, humans exchanged paintings, and latterly photographs, as tokens of remembrance. Now these exchanges take place online, the photo becomes the MSN icon. Despite feeling close to your fellow online networkers, you never know who they really are."

The three works exhibited by New Zealand artist Todd Stratton explore the relationship

between secrecy and childhood, and the selected knowledge imparted to children. Prior to his trip, Todd worked a lot with taxidermy. During his time at Hospitalfield he found a dead rabbit in the grounds and became fascinated with it, depicting it in drawings and paintings.

"The discovery of the rabbit was the first time I had been confronted with something looking dead. Usually, I use taxidermy to make things look alive. However, this experience has led to me to explore death in its natural state." For the exhibition, Todd encased a fox in resin and concealed it in a frosted Perspex box, so the viewer must crouch down to discover the image of death. He explains his choice of animal: "The name Todd means 'cunning fox'."

Arbroath has a rich farming heritage and this features heavily in the work of Nigerian artist Anikpe Ekene. He recreates the vast fields of bundled straw in a sculpture made entirely of drinking straws. While in Scotland,



OPENING NIGHT: The five artists with their work: Keegan Simon (left); (this page, clockwise from top) Leo du Feu, Todd Stratton, Anikpe Ekene and Chan Kok Hooi

he was impressed by the recycling procedures that have become routine to UK residents but, he says, do not happen in Nigeria.

"These are not things to be wasted. They can be made into something beautiful to convey an artistic message," he says. To illustrate this, he has created four giant sculptures (the largest is 5ft high), made entirely from the bases of fizzy drink cans, sewn together like medieval armoury.

Gaining confidence

For Trinidadian artist Keegan Simon, the residency affected him more psychologically than artistically, although it did have a profound effect on his work. "While in Scotland, I was suffering from artists' block. I had spent years studying and producing graffiti-style work as an art student in Jamaica, but felt unsupported, and the genre was not well considered. The Director of Hospitalfield, Willie Payne, brought in some local graffiti artists for me to meet and work with. It provided me with a huge confidence boost to know that I can continue with the genre and that it is well respected in European culture," he says. "It certified the crazy talks in my head!"

Scottish artist Leo du Feu spent six weeks in Canada on the trail of the Group of Seven – early 20th-century landscape painters who captured the Canadian wilderness. His work consists of beautiful miniature paintings, which provide the viewer with snapshots of his trip, as seen from the window of the train, or from the shores of a lake.

Also on display are his sketchbooks from the trip, projected on to the gallery walls. Accompanied by text, the books produce a wonderful visual diary. With sketches ranging from detailed watercolours to quick pencil drawings of the local bird life, the projected pages transport you from the London gallery to a remote Canadian wilderness. According to Leo, it was "very refreshing to just indulge in unplanned, organic sketches. Everything about the Canadian environment is different and new to me – from the plants to the wildlife – it made me so much more observant."

Also present at the private view were the four 2010 ROSL Visual Arts Travel Scholars, from Kenya, Australia and Trinidad and Tobago, who were staying at Over-Seas House, London, before their own trip to Hospitalfield House. We look forward to seeing the outcome of their residency at next year's exhibition.



© JULES LAWRENCE

ROSL WORLD

The latest from the global branches

Australia

In September, ROSL members and friends in Sydney, **New South Wales**, enjoyed a concert given by the Doric String Quartet and then met the musicians at a champagne reception. The branch held two events with the Australian Monarchist League: a 'Christmas in July' celebration and a lunch in September. Members also attended a dinner, held by the English Speaking Union.

In August, the Governor of Victoria, Professor David de Kretser, and Mrs Jan de Kretser hosted a centenary reception for the **Victoria Branch** at Government House. More than 30 members attended. For a DVD of the event, email rosl@alphalink.com.au. The branch was also treated to a magnificent performance by the Doric String Quartet at the home of Lino and Di Bresciani in Toorak, in September.

In **Western Australia**, the Annual Competition for Young Singers, organised by the Royal Schools Music Club and sponsored by the branch, was held in August at the Callaway Auditorium. For the ROSL's centenary year, the prize money was doubled. The adjudicator, Australian tenor Angus Wood, awarded the first prize to soprano Joanne Norma.

The branch was saddened by the death of Grahame Coppin, aged 87, in July. A former Branch Chairman and Secretary, Grahame was a dedicated member of the branch for more than 50 years and made a major contribution to the ROSL's activities.

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

Queensland: Sharon Morgan, sllmorgan@hotmail.com

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

Tasmania: Robert Dick, gradick1@gmail.com

Victoria: Coral Strahan, +61 3 9654 8338

Western Australia: Jeff Turner, +61 8 9381 2600

Canada

In August, the **British Columbia Branch** President, Pam Ducommon, hosted a reception to report on the International Branch Conference and show the Centenary DVD.

Alberta: Cynthia Cordery, +1 780 477 0001, ccordery@shaw.ca

British Columbia: Pamela Ducommun, +1 604 925 3719

Nova Scotia: Liz Stern, lizstern317@gmail.com

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

Hong Kong



SEPTEMBER LUNCH: Hong Kong Branch event with Lord Patten

In June, the Hong Kong Branch took a group of blind people to a special concert by the Hong Kong Police band. In July, branch members were invited to the residence of the South African Consul-General for an evening of South African food and wine, and, in August, members enjoyed a croquet and Pimms garden party at the Oxford and Cambridge Society of Hong Kong. A charity fundraising cocktail reception was held at the Kee Club, in September, to raise



CELEBRATION: At the Switzerland centenary dinner are (front row, l-r) Elisabeth Morris, Clarissa Starey, Jo Brown (Branch Chairman), Shanaz Newell, Jozsef Molnar, HE Sarah Gillett (British Ambassador), Maryse Zeiter, Fatima Vanicek and (back row, l-r) Alan Chalmers (Hon British Consul Baste), Robert Newell, Sir Anthony Figgis and Clive Carpenter (ROSL Central Council member)

money for the Hong Kong Down's Syndrome Association, and, at the China Club, Lord Patten, the last Governor of Hong Kong and Chancellor of Oxford University, gave a talk on his life since Hong Kong's handover in 1997.

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

New Zealand

ROSL members and friends in New Zealand attended concerts given by the Doric String Quartet and Piers Lane, who played in Invercargill, Dunedin, Wellington, Nelson



large-scale sponsorship for the two annual arts competitions, the Thailand Branch formed a supporters group, Friends of ROSL Arts Thailand. This will help to provide core funding for the arts competitions and promote ROSL Thailand to a wider audience. Preliminary judging for the ROSL Young Artist of Thailand 2010 competition took place in October.

Thailand: Roger Willbourn, + 66 2213 1589, rswillbourn@gmail.com

UK



THANKSGIVING: (l-r) Chris Bladen (Bournemouth Branch Chairman), Jill Bladen, the Mayoress and Mayor of Bournemouth, the Lord Lieutenant of Dorset, Lady Figgis and Sir Anthony Figgis

In September, 30 members of the Bath, Exeter and Taunton branches (plus the Chairman of the Glasgow Branch) enjoyed a weekend at Over-Seas House, London. They visited the Geffrye Museum, Bank of England Museum and Osterley Park, and took a river cruise to Kew.

In September, the Bournemouth Branch held a service of thanksgiving to celebrate the ROSL centenary and the bicentenary of Bournemouth town, followed by a lunch at the Marriott Highcliff Hotel. The event was attended by 80 people, who dedicated themselves afresh to the founding principles of ROSL. Those present included the Lord Lieutenant of Dorset, the Mayor and Mayoress of Bournemouth, and the ROSL's Vice-President, Chairman, Deputy Chairman and Director-General.

In Cheltenham, in July, Sir Anthony and Lady Figgis, the Director-General and his wife, and 11 branch members enjoyed a concert given by the 2009 winners of the Annual Music Competition, the Solstice String Quartet, at the Annual Cheltenham Music Festival. In September, the branch held a screening of the Centenary DVD, followed by afternoon tea. Former Cheltenham Branch Secretary Kathleen Northage became Branch Chairman.

In August, Edinburgh Branch members enjoyed the successful ROSL ARTS Festival Fringe music programme and fireworks dinner, and a lunchtime show featuring the Osiligi Warriors Maasai group. The branch's arts lunch programme entered its 19th season, with a



MUSIC LESSONS: On his New Zealand tour, Piers Lane gives a masterclass to pianist Rafella Gartick-Grice

performance by the talented pupils of St Mary's Music School.

In June, the Exeter Branch held a picnic at Escot Gardens near Honiton, and, in July, Trio Leonari, holders of the ROSL/Pettman Scholarship for a New Zealand Chamber Ensemble, gave a concert at the Budleigh Festival and joined branch members for lunch.

The Glasgow Branch began a new season of events with a talk by John Messner, Curator of Transport and Technology in Glasgow Museums. The Taunton Branch raised £1,000 for the Gurkha Welfare Trust and, in August, Branch Chairman, Cllr Nigel Stuart-Thorn, hosted a coffee morning at which the Deputy Lieutenant of Somerset, Brigadier Christopher Wolverson, presented a cheque to Jeremy Brade, one of the trustees. The West Cornwall Branch began its events programme in September, with a concert by a group of local young musicians at Trevethoe House.



DONATION: The Deputy Lieutenant of Somerset presents a cheque to Jeremy Brade, a Gurkha Welfare Fund Trustee, on behalf of the Taunton Branch

Bath, Exeter, Taunton, Torbay:

Sally Roberts, 01823 661148, rosl@aldith.org

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

Auckland, Palmerston North, New Plymouth and Napier. The tour ended in Hamilton with the fifth Pettman/ROSL Arts International Scholarship auditions (see page 29). New Zealand Branch presidents reported back to members on the centenary celebrations in London, presenting the Centenary DVD and 'History' of ROSL, along with their personal memories.

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

Switzerland

In July, the branch held a centenary dinner at the Lausanne Hotel School, with guests of honour HM Ambassador to Switzerland HE Sarah Gillett, ROSL Chairman Sir Anthony Figgis, Director-General Robert Newell and Asst. to DG/Membership Secretary Fatima Vanicek. Music was provided by Jozsef Molnar, who played a traditional mountain alpenhorn, accompanied by accordionist Maryse Zeiter.

Switzerland: Jo Brown, +33 4 5040 6631

Thailand

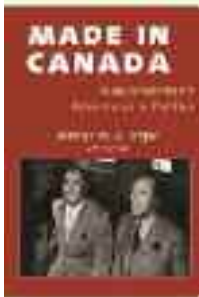
Owing to the continuing difficulty of obtaining

Books

Reviews of recent works by ROSL members

Made in Canada: A Businessman's Adventures in Politics
Alastair W Gillespie and Irene Sage

Robin Brass Studio, 2009
ISBN: 978-1896941592, £23.50



An autobiographical account of Gillespie's successful career in business and subsequent journey into politics, describing how he became one of the most influential cabinet ministers to serve under Prime Minister Pierre Elliott Trudeau.

Heads on Pillows: Behind the Scenes at a Highland B&B: The Joys and Tribulations of Running a B&B in the Scottish Highlands

Joan Campbell
Luath Press Ltd, 2009
ISBN: 978-1906307714, £9.99

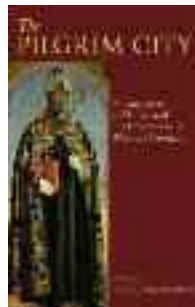


This book is part autobiography, part 'how to' guide. The owner of an award-winning B&B in the Scottish highlands, Campbell

offers witty anecdotes, personal experiences and helpful hints to anyone aspiring to enter the trade.

The Pilgrim City: St Augustine of Hippo and His Innovation in Political Thought
Miles Hollingworth

T & T Clark Ltd, 2010
ISBN: 978-0567480101, £19.99



An outstanding new examination of St Augustine's political philosophy and its bearing on the roots of Western civilization. Hollingworth investigates how Augustine's understanding of discipleship caused him to resist the ideas common to Western political thinkers of the time.

Passageways: The Story of a New Zealand Family
Ann Thwaite

Otago University Press, 2009
ISBN: 978-1877372674, £18.50



Biographer Ann Thwaite explores

her own remarkable Anglo-New Zealand family history, starting in 1858 and culminating with the story of her parents, who met as children in Hokitika.

The Commonwealth and International Affairs: The Round Table Centennial Selection
Alex May (Editor)

Routledge, 2010
ISBN: 978-0415485234, £75



Historian Alex May provides a unique commentary on imperial/ Commonwealth and international affairs, and makes available to a new generation, articles now acknowledged as key influences in the evolution of British and Commonwealth policies.

The Contemporary Commonwealth: An Assessment 1965-2009
James Mayall (Editor)

Routledge, 2009
ISBN: 978-0415482776, £75



This collection of essays provides an analysis of the modern Commonwealth since the establishment of the Secretariat in 1965. It provides an overview of the contemporary Commonwealth and places the organisation in its rich historical context, while assessing its achievements, failures and prospects.

These two companion volumes mark the centenary of The Round Table.

Birth of a Nation: The Story of a Newspaper in Kenya
Gerard Loughran

I B Tauris & Co Ltd, 2010
ISBN: 978-1845118389, £29.50

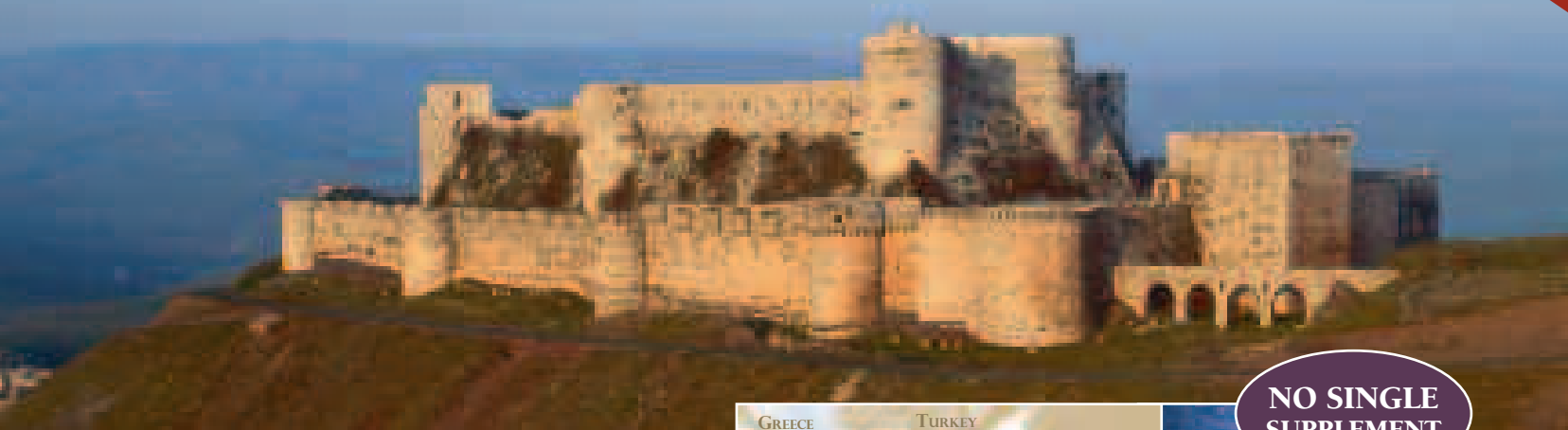


Marking its 50th anniversary in 2010, the *Nation* looks back on its performance as a standard-bearer for journalistic integrity, and assesses whether it lived up to its founding slogan: 'The Truth shall make you free'. Nation Media Group pioneer Gerard Loughran takes the reader on a journey from the paper's committed beginnings to its current position as East Africa's leading newspaper group, and highlights the ways in which its story is intertwined with the recent history of Kenya.

Reviews by Samantha Whitaker.

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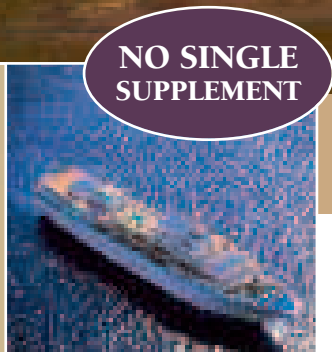
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15-DAY JOURNEY DEPARTING NOVEMBER 21, 2010

	PORT	FEATURES	ARRIVE	DEPART
Nov 21	CAIRO, Egypt	Fly to Cairo and transfer to hotel		
Nov 22	CAIRO	Morning tour to the PYRAMIDS at GIZA Afternoon visit to the Museum of Antiquities - Pharaonic Art and Treasures of Tutankhamun's Tomb		
Nov 23	LUXOR	Flight to Luxor, hotel check-in Evening sound & light show at KARNAK		
Nov 24	SAFAGA	Full day tour of KARNAK, Temple of Amun, visit to THEBES, VALLEY OF THE KINGS Drive to Safaga to board the <i>Aegean Odyssey</i> embark	10.00pm	
Nov 25	SHARM	Visit St Catherine's Monastery and WELL OF MOSES	6.00am	6.00pm
Nov 26	AT SEA	Cruising the Gulf of Suez		
Nov 27	SUEZ CANAL	Daytime sailing through the SUEZ CANAL		
Nov 28	BEIRUT, Lebanon	Full day tour to HELIOPOLIS (Baalbek)	7.00am	8.00pm
Nov 29	TARTUS, Syria PALMYRA	Morning tour of the KRAK DE CHEVALIERS Afternoon drive to PALMYRA Dinner and overnight at hotel	6.00am	overnight
Nov 30	PALMYRA TARTUS	Morning visit to the ruins and Museum Return to Tartus		midnight
Dec 1	LATAKIA	Full day tour of ALEPPO, CITADEL, GREAT MOSQUE	6.00am	8.00pm
Dec 2	LIMASSOL, Cyprus	Morning visit to Kourion, including the Stadium and sanctuary of Apollo Hylates Afternoon at leisure in LIMASSOL	7.00am	5.00pm
Dec 3	ANTALYA, Turkey	Tour to PERGE and ASPENDOS with Roman theatre	8.00am	6.00pm
Dec 4	AT SEA	Cruising the Cycladic islands		
Dec 5	PIRAEUS, Greece	Disembark and transfer to Athens Airport for flight home		

VOYAGES  TO ANTIQUITY

FOR A BROCHURE CALL 01865 302 557 OR VISIT www.voyagestoantiquity.com

FOR RESERVATIONS CALL 0845 437 9737



Mid-week wonders

Samantha Whitaker boards the Glen Massan for a dramatic tour of the Argyll countryside

Following in the footsteps of HM The Queen, who cruises the coast of Scotland aboard the luxurious Hebridean Princess with 60 guests and 40 staff, I climbed aboard the Glen Massan. A more modest vessel, able to accommodate up to 12 passengers with four crew, the boat is one of two owned by The Majestic Line, a company set up by Edinburgh-based architect Andrew Thoms and Dr Ken Grant in 2005, with the aim of showing off the beautiful coastline of Argyll.

Surrounded by rugged hills, I was soothed by the stillness around me. Our day had begun early, with a train from London Euston to Glasgow, and from there another train and connecting ferry to Dunoon. However, the seven-hour journey was quickly forgotten when we climbed aboard the Glen Massan and were shown to our en suite cabin. The wooden boat, which for 25 years was a fishing trawler, is now a wood-panelled, gold-funnelled luxury mini cruise ship. We could hear the water lapping against the porthole of our cabin, which had once been the fish hold.

We gathered in the saloon to meet the other guests and the crew: Martin the skipper, Andrew the engineer, Steve the chef and Alistair the bosun. Boat life was quickly explained: the itinerary changes with the weather and the whims of the guests. Someone expressed a desire to see Inveraray, and, since no one objected and the weather was fine, we swiftly set sail up Loch Fyne to the town.

I watched the scenery drift by from a sun lounger on deck before we gathered at the communal table in the saloon for a sumptuous dinner of salmon and beef hotchpotch. The cruise is known for its cuisine and there is plenty of it. The timetable is built around the meals, each served at a different idyllic anchorage.

Although we were on a three-night tour (most last six), we managed to sample a wide range of locally-sourced produce and Scottish favourites, including kippers, haggis, black pudding, lobster, deep-fried Mars bar and Irn-Bru jelly. The feasts that Steve created in the tiny galley were beyond belief. Wine is served with the evening meal, and there is a reasonably-priced bar, which serves generous measures.

Sights of exploration

After breakfast the next day, we motored to shore in the tender. Refreshed after a peaceful night's sleep on the calm water, my friend Jess and I pottered around the Inveraray Jail museum, learning how the wrongdoers of the 19th century were punished. Back onboard, we

We watched gannets dive like torpedoes for fish and grey seals lolling on a rocky island





SAIL AWAY: (Clockwise from left) seals; the saloon; Samantha relaxes on deck; Martin fishes for mackerel; and the Glen Massan

pestered Martin with questions about sites of interest and wildlife, as we sailed back down the loch. Through his binoculars, we watched gannets dive like torpedoes for fish, and grey seals lolling on a rocky island.

We anchored at Tarbert for a nose around the town. From the shore, ours was by far the most handsome boat in the bay and we watched with envy as Alistair bombed the little tender back towards it. The staff of the Glen Massan could not be more accommodating. Nothing is too much trouble – or, rather, everything is ‘nae bother’. On the final leg of the trip, I steered the boat into Holy Loch, feeling for myself the tug of the 500 horsepower engine, which we had been shown the night before.

That evening, when we anchored for the night in the beautiful setting of Lochranza, on the Cock of Arran, Alistair took us for a spin in the tender. He even let us drive it ourselves, skimming over the glittering water and doubling back to bounce over our own waves. When we returned, Martin was showing one of the guests how to fish for mackerel. Their bucket was already half full, and, less than two hours later, the fish was served as our starter.

In Lochranza, we visited the Arran whisky distillery and sampled the famous Arran Gold, a whisky liquor that is similar to Baileys. We sailed along the Kyles of Bute – up the West Kyle and down the East Kyle to Rothesay, where we saw the glamorous Victorian gothic mansion, Mount Stuart.

All aboard

The Glen Massan’s twin vessel, the Glen Tarsan operates from Oban in more open waters further north. Between them, the boats welcome around 600 guests a year. Jess and I helped to lower the average age on our trip, which is usually around 70.

The transfer in the tender is smooth and the boat is as accessible as possible. If you don’t fancy going ashore, there is a lot to do onboard: from the deck you can spot wildlife; and in the saloon there are books on local wildlife, history and attractions, board games, and a plasma screen, which usually displays GPS navigation data but can also play DVDs.

We were back on dry land by 10.30am on day three, and bid a fond farewell to the other guests and the superb crew, who had shown us genuine highland hospitality.

The Majestic Line, www.themajesticline.co.uk; info@themajesticline.co.uk; 0131 623 5012.



JESSICA CUMIN/TFE



LONDON

What’s on...

**Underground Journeys
V&A**

Until 13 February 2011

Subheaded ‘Charles Holden’s designs for London Transport’, this exhibition features designs by Holden and his architectural practice, Adams, Holden and Pearson.

Free admission. Contact: 020 7907 7073 or www.vam.ac.uk

**The Royal Ballet: Alice’s
Adventures in Wonderland
Royal Opera House**

2-15 March 2011

The world premiere of Christopher Wheeldon’s new ballet of Lewis Carroll’s famous tale of Alice and her encounters with extraordinary people, strange creatures and unusual events.

Tickets: £5-£360. Contact: 020 7304 4000 or www.roh.org.uk

**Yes, Prime Minister
Gielgud Theatre**

Booking until 15 January 2011

The original writers of the BBC series, Antony Jay and Jonathan Lynn, have reunited for this 30th-anniversary production, starring Henry Goodman as Sir Humphrey Appleby and David Haig as Jim Hacker.

Tickets: £17.50-£52.50. Contact: 0844 482 5138 or www.yesprimeminister.co.uk



©MANUEL PERAZA

ROSL ARTS

Director of ROSL ARTS, **Roderick Lakin**, introduces the winter programme



LAUNCHING PAD: The cream of young Commonwealth musicians will take centre stage in Princess Alexandra Hall, in March and April, for the 59th ROSL Annual Music Competition auditions

MUSIC EVENTS

Over-Seas House Princess Alexandra Hall Daniel de Borah

Sunday 23 January, 3pm

The first concert of 2011 in our popular Sundays @ 3 series features Australian pianist Daniel de Borah in an hour-long programme of music by Schumann and Brahms.

Tickets: £12; ROSL members and concessions £11; Friends of ROSL ARTS £10. Tickets include tea and scones.

A Handelian tribute to Sir Charles Mackerras

Wednesday 26 January, 7pm

An evening of highlights from Handel's greatest operas, performed by outstanding young Australian musicians, in celebration of the life of the great Australian conductor Sir Charles Mackerras, who died in July, aged 84. Presented in association with the Tait Memorial Trust.

Tickets: £16; ROSL members and



TOP SOUNDS: Handel at the opera (above), and a concert given by Daniel de Borah (top)

concessions £14; Friends of ROSL ARTS £12. Tickets include a glass of champagne, wine and canapés.

59th ROSL Annual Music Competition Section Finals

For the young Commonwealth musicians, there is all to play for. Solo section prizewinners will each receive £5,000 and the opportunity to compete for the First Prize of £10,000. The two prizewinning ensembles also receive £10,000.

The section finals are open to the public, and are an ideal way to hear some of the brightest emerging talent in the classical music world. After the performances, there will be the opportunity to speak to performers and judges over a glass of wine.

Tuesday 8 February, 7pm

Wind and percussion.

Tuesday 15 February, 7pm

Singers.

Tuesday 22 February, 7pm

Strings.

Tuesday 1 March, 7pm

Keyboard.

Tuesday 8 March, 7pm

Overseas awards.

Tuesday 15 March, 7pm

Ensembles A (strings; strings and piano; piano duo/duet).

Tuesday 22 March, 7pm

Ensembles B (wind; percussion; vocal; mixed ensembles).

Tickets: £12; ROSL members and concessions £11; Friends of ROSL ARTS £10. Tickets include wine, served after the announcement of the winner.

Date for your diary

The Final Concert of the 59th Annual Music Competition will be held on Tuesday 17 May 2011 at 7pm, at the Queen Elizabeth Hall on London's South Bank. Booking opens April 2011.

Brochures and bookings

To obtain the latest ROSL ARTS brochure, or to book an event, telephone 020 7408 0214 ext 324 or email culture@rosl.org.uk



WINNING COMBINATION: The Lazarus String Quartet with members of the adjudication panel: John Myerscough (2nd from left) and Jonathan Stone (right)

A vintage year in New Zealand

Roderick Lakin reports on the winner of the fifth Pettman/ROSL ARTS International Scholarship

The winner of the fifth Annual Pettman/ROSL ARTS International Scholarship is the Lazarus String Quartet, from the University of Canterbury, Christchurch: Emma Yoon (18), violin; Julianne Song (21), violin; Lindsay McLay (20), viola; and Alice Gott (19), cello.

The scholarship, generously supported by Prof Barrie and Mrs Maureen Pettman, and valued in excess of NZ\$50,000, offers the winning group return flights from New Zealand to London; accommodation and hospitality for up to five weeks; a cash award of NZ\$1,000 each; performance opportunities in the UK; consultation lessons with prominent teachers; access to international summer schools; and tickets for cultural events, including the BBC Proms and concerts at the Royal Opera House and Edinburgh Festival.

The Lazarus String Quartet was selected from nine ensembles, nominated by the Universities of Canterbury (Christchurch), Waikato (Hamilton) and Auckland, and the New Zealand School of Music (Victoria University of Wellington), at auditions held at the WEL Academy of Performing Arts, University of Waikato, 18-20 November. The adjudicating panel for 2010 were the Doric String Quartet (Alex Redington, Jonathan

Stone, Simon Tandree, John Myerscough), pianist Piers Lane, the CEO of Chamber Music New Zealand, Euan Murdoch, and the Director of ROSL ARTS, Roderick Lakin.

Piers Lane and the Doric String Quartet also went on a nationwide tour for Chamber Music New Zealand, celebrating both the centenary of the ROSL and the 60th anniversary of Chamber Music New Zealand.

The tour and the scholarship auditions were covered extensively on

“The future of music in New Zealand is gloriously safe”

Radio NZ Concert fM, including three separate feature interviews with Piers Lane, John Myerscough, Alex Redington and Roderick Lakin. The radio station also recorded the final concert for future transmission.

“We have had a unique night,” commented Lane, as he announced the winner at the final concert. “The three quartets showed such diversity. I was amazed at the level... The future of music in New Zealand is gloriously safe.”

Centenary Appeal

Over the past three months, the positive response to the ROSL Centenary Appeal from members around the world has been hugely encouraging, with donations, large and small, coming from members in Australia, Belgium, Canada, France, Germany, Greece, Guyana, Hong Kong, India, Israel, Malta, South Africa, Switzerland, UK and USA.

Branches as far afield as Hong Kong and Tasmania have also rallied to the cause. The appeal, which aims to secure endowment in support of the ROSL Annual Music Competition Awards and ROSL ARTS International Music Scholarships, is more than half-way towards its initial target of £1,000,000.

Donations should be sent to Roderick Lakin MBE, Director of ROSL ARTS, Over-Seas House, Park Place, St James's Street, London SW1A 1LR. For information, telephone 020 7408 0214 ext 325 or email rlakin@rosl.org.uk.

Members' events

December 2010- March 2011

DECEMBER

Festival of Christmas carols and readings

Sunday 5 December, 3.30pm, £18, G

End the centenary year with the ROSL Christmas carol concert and readings at St James's Church, Piccadilly, followed by a delicious Christmas tea at Over-Seas House, London, with Father Christmas bearing gifts.

JANUARY

Wormwood, oysters and garden snails

Wednesday 19 January 11am, £8, G

Handle herbal materials and see a demonstration of poultice and pill making at the Old Operating Theatre Museum and Herb Garret. Explore 2,000 years of the history of medicinal plants, animals and minerals, and their uses at the old St Thomas's and Guy's hospitals.

The National Army Museum

Thursday 27 January, 11am, £7, G

From Hastings to Helmand in 30 minutes: a private demonstration looking at how the Army evolved from its medieval origins to the modern organisation it is today, using images, weaponry, kit and equipment from the museum's extensive collection. There will be tea and coffee, plus access to a free lunch-time lecture.

FEBRUARY

Ink and the bottle

Wednesday 2 February, 11am, £14, G

A private talk and tour of the Cartoon Museum that focuses on the pleasures and perils of the 'demon drink', starting with Hogarth and Cruikshank, and ending with a heady cocktail of contemporary cartoons. Tickets include tea, coffee and biscuits.

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.



CAPITAL VIEWS: The 'Fashionable London' tour will take in the Expanding City Gallery at The Museum of London

Fashionable London

Thursday 10 February, 2pm, £15, G

A fashion curator from the spectacular new Galleries of Modern London will give members a guided tour of the costumes on show, including the 18th-century Pleasure Garden exhibit, full of period costumes and specially-commissioned masks and hats by Philip Treacy. Tickets include afternoon tea.

Buckingham Palace Garden Party ballot

Application by 25 February, no charge, B

If you have not previously attended and would like to be invited to the Buckingham Palace Garden Party in London, in June/July, you must submit a request for consideration by Friday 25 February by POST ONLY (no emails, faxes or phone

calls). Include your membership number, and contact details for you and your guest (one per member), and send to the PR Department, clearly marked 'Garden Party'.

A ballot will be held and only **successful applicants will be notified**. Please note that it is officials of Buckingham Palace who scrutinise applications and issue the invitations, which are not sent out until early June.

MARCH

London glass-blowing

Tuesday 8 March, 11am £10, G

Experience the ancient craft of glassmaking at Peter Layton's studio, one of Europe's leading glassmaking workshops. Creating contemporary glass art, the studio is known for its use of colour, form and texture. Ticket proceeds will be donated to Crisis, the national charity for homeless people.

Commonwealth Day Service

Monday 14 March, tba, £6, G

At Westminster Abbey, in the presence of HM The Queen. A £6 administration charge applies.

Duchy diversions: Historic Kennington

Friday 25 March, £14, G

Explore one of London's least-known districts, home to Edward the 'Black Prince' and Charlie Chaplin. The tour will feature elegant 18th-century terraced houses, a gin distillery, the famous cricket ground, an execution spot, and a park where radicals once gathered to campaign for the vote.

Chairman's Lunch

Tuesday 3 May, 12.30pm, £55, G

Reception drinks will be served before a scrumptious three-course lunch at Over-Seas House, London, hosted by ROSL Chairman Sir Anthony Figgis, with guest speaker to be announced. The AGM will take place at 4pm and will be followed by a reception.



Christmas wrapped up with ROSL

Give ROSL membership as a gift

In its centenary year, ROSL has much to celebrate, so why not share the membership benefits by introducing friends, colleagues and family members, or giving them membership as a gift. Offering access to the ROSL's attractive clubhouses, restaurants, events programmes, reciprocal clubs and Inter-Club Younger Members' Group, membership makes an original Christmas gift that will be much-appreciated.

Contact the Membership Department by 15 December (10 December for overseas members) to receive a membership card gift pack in time for Christmas. Mark all correspondence clearly CHRISTMAS GIFT MEMBERSHIP and send to Membership Department, Over-Seas House, Park Place, St James's Street, London SW1A 1LR. Alternatively, call 020 7408 0214 ext 214 or 216, or email membership@rosl.org.uk.

ROSL Shop

Stuck for Christmas gifts?

Be inspired by ROSL's new range

There is a wide range of unique and unusual gifts available from the ROSL Shop, located underneath the Gibbs Staircase in the Central Lounge at Over-Seas House, London (and by mail order). You will find everything from stocking fillers, such as **ROSL keyrings (£3.50) and biro (50p)**, to luxury gifts, including the new **leather goods (£12-£20)**, **ballpoint and fountain pens by Waterman (£30-£35)** and the ever-popular **club ties (£17-£20)**. There are also **Christmas chocolates (£6)**, **shortbread biscuits in a festive cylinder tin (£7.50)**, and boxes of **Belgian chocolates, bound with ROSL ribbon (£7)**. 2011 diaries are available in black and burgundy (**A5 diary £7; pocket diary £5**), and this year's **Christmas card** features an image from the ROSL Centenary Reception at St James's Palace (**50p each; 10 for £4.50**).

The shop is open Monday-Friday, 10am-5pm. Contact ROSL Shop, Over-Seas House, Park Place, St James's Street, London SW1A 1LR; 020 7408 0214 ext 338 or 205; info@rosl.org.uk (marked FAO ROSL SHOP). Pick up a 2010-2011 gift catalogue from Over-Seas House or contact the PR Department to have one posted to you. Mail orders can be made by post, email or telephone.

Members' events Application form *(see opposite)*

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

Membership No	EVENT	DATE	PRICE	NO.
Name	Festival of Christmas carols and readings	Sun 5 Dec	£18 £
.....	Wormwood, oysters and garden snails	Wed 19 Jan	£8 £
Name of guest(s)	The National Army Museum	Thur 27 Jan	£7 £
and trip they are attending:	Ink and the bottle	Wed 2 Feb	£14 £
.....	Fashionable London	Thur 10 Feb	£15 £
.....	London glass-blowing	Tues 8 Mar	£10 £
.....	Commonwealth Day Service	Mon 14 Mar	£6 £
Address which tickets should be sent:	Duchy diversions: Historic Kennington	Fri 25 Mar	£14 £
.....	Chairman's Lunch	Tues 3 May	£55 £
.....				
Tel no	Payment – Please send a SEPARATE CHEQUE for each event. Cheques (sterling) payable to ROSL. For CREDIT CARD PAYMENTS telephone 020 7016 6906.			

Food and drink

December 2010-March 2011

Over-Seas House for your Christmas party

The attractive and historic private rooms at Over-Seas House, London, make perfect venues for Christmas parties, lunches and dinners, at very competitive rates.

Christmas Day lunch, 12 for 12.30pm

Saturday 25 December

Enjoy a traditional Christmas lunch in the Hall of India and Pakistan, followed by a screening of The Queen's speech. Book a private table, or a place on a shared table in the company of other ROSL members. £80 per person. Includes half bottle of wine, coffee, mince pies and a gift.



FESTIVE BITES: Celebrate Christmas at Over-Seas House

Bargain claret

We have recently learned that some of the ROSL stocks of claret on sale in the Restaurant at Over-Seas House, London, are actually worth many thousands of pounds per case. They will continue to be sold to ROSL members at a fraction of the market price, making lunch or dinner in the Restaurant even better value for money.



© SHUTTERSTOCK

New Year's Eve candlelit dinner, 9pm

Friday 31 December

Enjoy a delicious four-course dinner, with champagne on arrival, and music and dancing to keep you entertained until 12.30am. £95 per person.

Valentine's Day candlelit dinner

Monday 14 February

A romantic three-course dinner in the Restaurant, with a complementary glass of sparkling wine with dessert. £46.50 per person.

For reservations, contact Alastair on 020 7629 0406



What do the words 'Eden' and 'Paradise' mean to you? Imagine a world with no gardens...

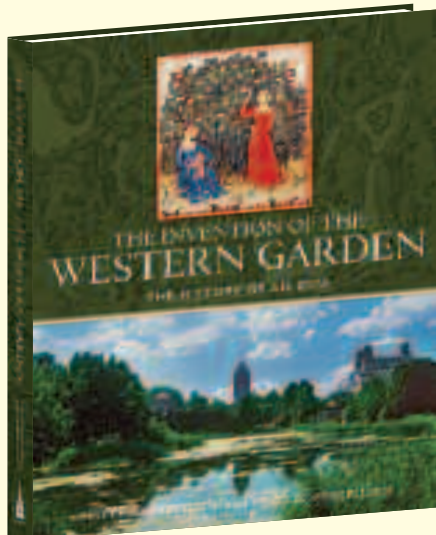
This beautifully illustrated book explores the invention of the western garden which developed from the idea of Eden and Paradise and of man trying to create heaven on earth.

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EDINBURGH

What's on...

December 2010-February 2011

DECEMBER

RL Stevenson arts lunch**Wednesday 1 December, midday**

Two-course lunch with talk on 'Stevenson's Son: Lloyd Osborne'.
Tickets: £17.50; ROSL members £16.50. Includes coffee and wine.

Bridge Club Christmas lunch**Friday 3 December, 12.30pm**

A members-only event.
Tickets: £17. Includes sherry.

Carol singing afternoon**Wednesday 8 December, 3pm**

Tickets: £6. Includes tea/coffee and mince pies.

Coffee morning**Saturday 11 December, 10.30am****A life behind curtains****Wednesday 15 December, 6.30pm**

Scottish soprano Linda Esther Gray talks about her career. With recorded musical illustrations. *Tickets: £6; Friends of ROSL ARTS £5. Includes cocktail, wine, canapés.*

**ON SONG:** Linda Esther Gray will talk about her operatic career**Christmas Day lunch****Saturday 25 December, midday**

Kir Royale and canapés, a three-course lunch, plus coffee, mince pies and gifts for all the family.
Price: £52.

Boxing Day lunch**Sunday 26 December, from 12.30pm**

Last orders will be at 1.30pm.
Price: £21 two courses; £24 three courses. Includes wine.

Hogmanay event**Friday 31 December**

Reception cocktails, three-course dinner with wine, plus black bun, champagne and shortbread at midnight. Dance to a ceilidh band and see the fireworks from the rooftop. Coach home in Edinburgh area at 1am. *Tickets: £105.*

JANUARY

New Year's Day lunch**Saturday 1 January**

Contact the restaurant. *Price: £21*

two courses; £24 three courses. Includes wine and champagne.

Coffee morning**Saturday 8 January, 10.30am****Gala opera evening****Wednesday 19 January, 6.30pm**

Two-course dinner and music by Handel. *Tickets: £35; Friends of ROSL ARTS £30 (priority booking until 15 December). Includes cocktail and wine.*

Burns supper**Friday 28 January, 7pm**

The Immortal Memory, delivered by author Howard Purdie, and three-course dinner. *Tickets: £30. Includes wine and glass of whisky.*

FEBRUARY

Arts lunch**Wednesday 2 February, midday**

Two-course lunch with talk on '20th-Century Scotland, Civil Society and the British Empire Research Project' by Lesley Orr of Edinburgh University. *Tickets: £17.50; ROSL members £16.50. Includes coffee and wine.*

Yehudi Menuhin School concert**Friday 11 February, 6.30pm**

Tickets: £12; ROSL members £10. Includes wine and canapés.

Coffee morning**Saturday 12 February, 10.30am****Midweek breaks at Over-Seas House, Edinburgh, January-March**

Three nights' bed and breakfast, with dinner on one night of your stay, for £156 per person (single £195, studio room £180pp). We have arranged special promotions with nearby restaurants to help you to enjoy your time in Edinburgh.

The Mussel Inn is offering a 10% discount to members producing their ROSL room card (Monday to Thursday only). The restaurant has a wonderful, relaxed atmosphere,

and specialises in great Scottish seafood at reasonable prices.

Diners producing a ROSL room card will receive a complementary glass of bubbly at **Oloroso**. The dynamic chef owner, Tony Singh (pictured), leads a team that prides itself on producing fresh, seasonal food that puts flavour first.

ROSL has secured a 10% discount on **Edinburgh Tour** tickets, which can be purchased from our reception. Enjoy a one-



hour tour of the city's main attractions, and then use the hop on, hop off service to visit the sights that most interest you.

Pick up a 10% discount voucher for the **Royal Yacht Britannia** from our reception. The bus stops just outside Over-Seas House.

We will be adding more special offers soon, so please check with reception on arrival at Over-Seas House for the most up-to-date information.



MERCY SHIPS:
The Lord McColl of Dulwich will talk about the charity

© Mercy Ships

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.

The fall of Yugoslavia

6 December

Talk by the writer and broadcaster Misha Glenny.

Health Services around the world

10 January

Talk by Robert Bell, Chief Executive of the Royal Brompton and Harefield NHS Foundation Trust, a specialist teaching and research hospital in London.

The British Council

14 February

Talk by Vernon Ellis, Chair of the British Council.

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.

The elegant explorer

20 January

An illustrated talk by Dr Andrea Tanner, Archivist at Fortnum and Mason, looking at the rise in international sports, foreign travel and exploration in the inter-war period.

Mercy Ships

17 February

An illustrated talk by Professor The Lord McColl of Dulwich CBE, Chairman of Mercy Ships UK Board of Trustees (www.mercyships.org.uk).

LONDON GROUP OUTSIDE VISITS

For more information, contact Doreen Regan, 020 7584 5879.



© PHIL ASHLEY

TOUR: St Martin-in-the-fields

To apply for events, write to Doreen Regan, London Group, c/o Porters' Desk, Over-Seas House, London.

English National Opera at the London Coliseum

17 January, 11.15pm

A guided tour of the London Coliseum, which was built in 1904 and has been home to the English National Opera (formerly Sadler's Wells Opera) since 1968.

Tickets: £13; LG members £11

St Martin-in-the-fields

9 February, 10.45am

A guided tour of this Royal Parish Church, which was designed in 1726 by the influential British architect James Gibbs. Located on the corner of Trafalgar Square, the church is known for its welfare work and musical events.

Tickets: £10; LG members £8

Enclose a cheque payable to London Group ROSL and a stamped addressed envelope.

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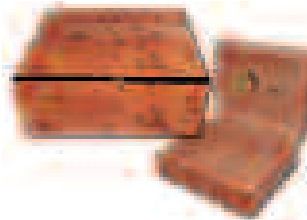
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