

OVERSEAS



Remembering Her Late
Majesty Queen Elizabeth II



ROSL
ROYAL OVER-SEAS LEAGUE
ESTD 1910



MASTERPIECE

8X8

COLLECTION

To honour and celebrate the natural beauty of the earth's most precious woods, Steinway & Sons has created the MASTERPIECE 8X8 collection, a limited edition of eight grand pianos and eight upright pianos in its hand-crafted veneer, designed to showcase the quality and unique personality of each wood and bring it to life.



MASTERPIECE 8X8 pianos are issued as model B 211cm grand and model K 132cm upright. The model B is equipped with **SPiRIO** | r, the most modern technology Steinway currently has to offer.

For more information or to arrange a private appointment at our London showrooms, please call: **0207 487 3391** or email info@steinway.co.uk

Steinway Hall London W1U 2DB www.steinway.co.uk

Availability is limited to:
1 Figured Sycamore Model B
1 American Walnut Model B
1 Macassar Ebony Model K



STEINWAY & SONS



The Royal Over-Seas League is dedicated to championing international friendship and understanding through cultural and education activities around the Commonwealth and beyond. A not-for-profit private members' organisation, we've been bringing like-minded people together since 1910.

Cover Image by Christian Furr: HM Queen Elizabeth II, 1995 (oil on canvas), Furr, Christian (b.1966) / The Royal Overseas League Headquarters, Park Place, London / © Christian Furr. All rights reserved 2022 / Bridgeman Images

OVERSEAS EDITORIAL TEAM

Editor

Rosie Allen: editor@rosl.org.uk; +44 (0)20 7408 0214

Design

zed creative: www.zedcreative.co.uk

Advertising

charlotte@parkwalkmedia.com
renata@parkwalkmedia.com

ROYAL OVER-SEAS LEAGUE

Incorporated by Royal Charter

Patron HM The Queen

Vice-Patron HRH Princess Alexandra KG GCVO

President

The Rt Hon The Lord Geidt GCB GCVO OBE QSO PC

Chairman The Hon. Alexander Downer AC

Deputy Chairman Anne Wilkinson

Hon Treasurer Richard Harbord FCA

Over-Seas House, Park Place, St James's Street, London SW1A 1LR; +44 (0)20 7408 0214; Fax +44 (0)20 7499 6738; info@rosl.org.uk; www.rosl.org.uk

CENTRAL COUNCIL

Anjola-Oluwa Adeniyi, Paul Arkwright CMG, Ruth Bala, The Hon. Alexander Downer AC, Nabeel Goheer, Richard Harbord FCA, Alistair Harrison CMG CVO, Anthony Teasdale, Susan Walton, Helen Prince, Atholl Swainston-Harrison, Anne Wilkinson

Director-General

Dr Annette Prandzioch: +44 (0)20 7408 0214 x201; patodirectorgeneral@rosl.org.uk

Director of Education Projects

Margaret Adrian-Vallance MBE: +44 (0)20 7408 0214 x307; mvallance@rosl.org.uk

Artistic Director

Geoff Parkin: +44 (0)20 7408 0214 x325; gparkin@rosl.org.uk

General Manager

Warren Miller: +44 (0)20 7408 0214 x203; wmiller@rosl.org.uk

Director of HR

Sarah Banner: sbanner@rosl.org.uk

Membership

+44 (0)20 7408 0214 x214; membership@rosl.org.uk

For more contacts visit www.rosl.org.uk/the-team

Print Gemini Print Group: +44 (0)127 346 4884

The journal is published by the Royal Over-Seas League, Over-Seas House, Park Place, St James's Street, London SW1A 1LR. Any views expressed in editorial and any advertisements included are not necessarily endorsed by the Central Council. ISSN 00307424



WELCOME



“I was excited and honoured to be introduced to Her Majesty, who asked me if there were ‘many ladies at the Bar’. She chuckled when I explained we were ‘getting there’”

I hope members enjoy this special Tribute edition of *Overseas Magazine*, dedicated to our much-missed Patron, Her Late Majesty The Queen. We include articles by Dickie Arbiter LVO, a former Press Secretary to the Late Queen and well-known Royal Commentator, and the Hon. Alexander Downer AC, former Chairman of ROSL, and now Chairman of the ROSL Foundation. His article is about the pivotal role The Queen played in the Commonwealth. Of course, ROSL has a Royal Charter mandate of promoting international friendship in the Commonwealth and beyond, and the clubhouse is regularly frequented by High Commissioners — ambassadors from Commonwealth countries — and Commonwealth organisations as well as ROSL members from many Commonwealth and indeed also Realm countries, where the Monarch is Head of State. We also have an article by His Excellency Emmanuel Mallia, the High Commissioner of Malta, a country that we know The Queen was immensely fond of, having spent many happy months there in her early married life.

I met The Queen on a few occasions, including at Malborough House, home of the Commonwealth Secretariat. But the first time was in 2008 on the 400-year anniversary of the Royal Charter being granted by James I to secure the occupancy of lawyers of the Temple, the home of the legal profession, where I am currently a Master of the Bench, but was at that time a practising barrister. I was excited and honoured to be introduced to Her Majesty, who asked me if there were ‘many ladies at the Bar’. She chuckled when I explained we were ‘getting there’ in terms of numbers of female barristers getting closer to their male counterparts.

In ROSL news, we are continuing successfully to grow our network of reciprocal clubs as we know our members are particularly well travelled. Our newly reopened 1910 Dining Room continues to be great success with members, and, of course, we're in the festive period, so do look out for our Christmas and New Year's celebrations and join in if you can!

Dr Annette Prandzioch
DIRECTOR-GENERAL

From the EDITOR

Before September, most of us couldn't imagine a Britain in which Elizabeth Windsor was not Queen. In these present times of political, economic, and global turbulence we – both royalists and republicans alike – especially miss the sense of quiet yet dignified reassurance she represented.

At ROSL the Queen's place was not just one of Royal Patron, but Head of a Commonwealth, across which it has been our privilege to enable and promote friendship and collaboration for over a century. Throughout her reign, the Queen was a committed champion of the Commonwealth, and during her tenure as its leader, the institution has expanded, blossomed and amplified the voices of its member nations across the globe. Here at ROSL, we renew our commitment to strengthening ties and championing collaboration across the Commonwealth, in tribute to the monarch who led it with such duty and commitment.

In this special edition, we pay homage to HM the Queen's tireless and committed service to the Commonwealth and to ROSL itself, including a heartfelt tribute from Dicky Arbiter LVO, the Royal Press Secretary for the Queen on page 6, while the High Commissioner of Malta shares the very special affection the Queen had for this Commonwealth nation on page 10. Hon. Alexander Downer AC reflects on the Queen's contribution to the Commonwealth and its future without her on page 12, and I dig into our archives to relive the Queen's many visits to ROSL, and ROSL coverage of the Royals over her reign.

I also had the privilege to speak to artists Christian Furr – whose characterful portrait of the Queen takes pride of place on the front cover of this edition, and also the Over-Seas House lobby – and Anna Rumsby, whose quirky images of Her Majesty have delighted members on Christmas cards and prints over the years.

We'll be back with a more regular edition in March and in the meantime we wish members a peaceful Christmas and a very happy New Year.

Rosie Allen
editor@rosl.org.uk

14

“Members of the League, including many recent arrivals from overseas, thronged the building to welcome her Royal Highness”

INSIDE

3 From the D-G

Annette reflects on a meeting with the Queen

6 Thank you Ma'am

Dickie Arbiter LVO, the Queen's longest serving Press Secretary, warmly reflects on his career working alongside Her Majesty

10 Elizabeth's Malta

H.E. Emmanuel Mallia, the High Commissioner of Malta, explains the special relationship between the Queen and his country, where she spent some of the happiest months of her life

12 The Commonwealth after the Queen

Elizabeth II steadfastly led the Commonwealth for 70 years; but what now for the institution? The Hon. Alexander Downer AC gives his view on how the Commonwealth can face the challenges yet to come

14 The Queen and the League

Rosie Allen digs into the archive to chart the Queen's Royal visits to Over-Seas House and the League's coverage of Her Majesty over the decades

20 Portrait of a Queen

Artists Christian Furr and Anna Rumsby tell Rosie Allen about the joys and challenges of capturing a monarch on canvas

23 News & views

We welcome new Chairman Helen Prince, plus a sneak preview of a new year of arts, dining and entertainment at ROSL

26 The year in review

Look back on an events-packed 2022 at Over-Seas House

28 ROSL around the world

News from our branch network globally, as well as dates for upcoming events near you

30 Events highlights

Look ahead to the beginning of our Annual Music Competition concerts, a special musical tribute to the Queen and much more

31 Events calendar

Upcoming arts and music events to put in your diary for the new year

Christmas and New Year at ROSL

Celebrate Christmas in beautiful St James's, with our exciting festive packages. By planning ahead you can take advantage of special rates for accommodation at the London Clubhouse in December, including scrumptious meals and a choice of seasonal events and activities

THANK YOU MA'AM

Dickie Arbiter LVO, Press Secretary to the Queen between 1988 and 2000, recounts his time working for Her Majesty in this warm and insightful tribute

On a tour of Southern Africa with her parents, King George VI, and Queen Elizabeth, the then Princess Elizabeth committed herself to a lifetime of service.

'I declare before you all that my whole life, whether it be long or short, shall be devoted to your service, the service of our great imperial family to which we all belong.'

In subsequent years she reiterated that commitment — at her 1977 Silver Jubilee, her Golden in 2002, her Diamond in 2012 and latterly her Platinum in 2022, when she made history by being the first monarch in the thousand-year history of the British monarchy to have celebrated a Platinum Jubilee.

Forty-eight hours before she passed away at Balmoral Castle, she had asked her 15th Prime Minister to form a government; and she sent a message to the Governor-General of Canada expressing her sadness over the mass shooting in Saskatchewan.

Right to the end the Queen kept her promise to serve.

To millions around the world, and particularly the Commonwealth — to which the United Kingdom is a member state — Queen Elizabeth the Second featured prominently for more than seven decades. I was fortunate enough, and honoured, to have worked for her, something I could never have imagined in my formative years.

I first saw Princess Elizabeth in person in June 1947. It was the first Trooping the Colour, or King's Birthday Parade, since the end of World War II. Coming as it did two years after the end of war all the participants were still in khaki uniforms — the scarlet tunics seen today did not make a comeback until 1949.

The only splash of colour was that of Princess Elizabeth dressed in a dark navy uniform as Colonel of the Grenadier Guards and riding side-saddle on 'Tommy,' a bay horse belonging to the Metropolitan Police. Little did I know then that 37 years later I would be speaking to the very same lady who rode past me that June morning or for that matter 41 years later working for her.

As a broadcast journalist I had met her late Majesty a number of times before I joined her Press Office team at Buckingham Palace in 1988. Foreign Royal tours were always a good opportunity for a few words during press receptions for the travelling British and host country media — always an icebreaker. Aman, Jordan, in 1984; Beijing, China, 1986; and in Perth, Australia, at the start of her 1988

bicentennial tour, are just a few that come to mind. It was always interesting to watch hardened journalists in awe, but she always had that marvellous capacity of putting them at their ease. Her timing was perfect because by the time journalists had got the measure of her, she had moved on before they had a chance to ask an awkward question.

Within weeks of starting at Buckingham Palace I was invited to a 48 hour 'dine and sleep' at Balmoral Castle. Arriving in the pouring rain I was informed I was to join Her Majesty for a picnic in a log cabin.

Just four of us sat down to lunch — The Queen, Prince Philip, the on-duty lady-in-waiting and me. There were no servants. Lunch lasted about 45 minutes. I cannot for the life of me remember the conversation, but I do remember The Queen telling us we had

A familiar voice said, 'no I'll wash, and you dry.' And with that Her Majesty plunged her hands into the soap suds — no rubber gloves — and I did the drying

to clear away the lunch debris. I took this as my cue as the newbie to start washing up. No sooner had I started, I heard footsteps entering the kitchen. Without looking but thinking, *'how nice the lady-in-waiting has come to give me a hand.'* I said casually without looking back; *'OK, I'll wash you dry.'* A familiar voice said, *'no I'll wash, and you dry.'* And with that Her Majesty plunged her hands into the soap suds — no rubber gloves — and I did the drying. As the 48 hours ticked away, I came to realise the kind of lady she was. Yes, she was Head of State, Head of Nation, and Head of the Commonwealth, but as a person she was no frills and certainly no fuss — quite simply, very down to earth and a country woman at heart. She enjoyed the company of people and loved dogs and riding horses — but not necessarily in that order.

Her Majesty was born to a generation where one did not show personal emotions in public, believing 'you do not wear private grief on a public sleeve'. After 73 years of marriage, it would have taken all her willpower to maintain stoicism and dignity following

the death of her beloved Philip in April 2021. She had known him for 80 years — he was her liege man of strength and stay, and the only man in her long life, other than her father, whom she loved and adored. Who can ever forget that lonely figure sitting in the choir of St George's Chapel, Windsor, leading by example and obeying the social distancing rules set down by her government during the Covid-19 pandemic? She contained her emotions, too, following the death of her father George VI in 1952; the assassination of her cousin Lord Louis Mountbatten in





1979 and the deaths in 2002 of her sister Margaret and seven weeks later of her mother Queen Elizabeth. Devasted as she was on each occasion, she was good at keeping her emotions in check.

I believe one of The Queen's most challenging times was the premature death of Diana Princess of Wales in August 1997. All week leading up to the Westminster Abbey funeral she had endured an untold barrage of negative and vicious press. Upon returning to London on the eve of the funeral, she with Prince Philip, paid respects to Diana lying at rest in The Chapel Royal; she talked to mourners signing Books of Condolence in St James's Palace; she went on walkabout talking to people gathered outside Buckingham Palace and looked at the floral tributes banked up against the railings.

Apprehension was very much in the air.

At both St James's and Buckingham Palaces there was applause when she arrived and as I walked Her Majesty back to her car, we made eye contact. She sought reassurance her presence was appreciated. I assured her it was fine.

I worked for Queen Elizabeth the Second for 12 years, and for King Charles, when he was The Prince of Wales, as one of their press secretaries. I was often considered to be

unconventional in my approach and invariably my dress sense raised a few eyebrows. Not for me military, university, old-school or club ties but instead brightly coloured ones that in time became my trademark. My conversations with Her Majesty were always straight-talking but she never commented on my ties. I was not naïve enough to believe she liked them, tolerated perhaps.

The last time I spoke with The Queen

was in 2020 at the very last Buckingham Palace reception she attended before the first pandemic lockdown. It was a farewell party for one of her private secretaries where she always took the opportunity to catch up with retirees.

As I took my leave, she said with a mischievous twinkle in her eye, 'I see you're still wearing those dreadful ties.'

I still find it hard to believe that Her Majesty is no longer with us. I suppose at ninety-six departing this world for the next can come at any time and I am enough of a realist to accept that at that age, while she didn't plan when, I do believe she planned where — Balmoral Castle, her 'happy place'.

Thank you, ma'am, for 70 years of devoted service. You were the ultimate symbol of unity in good times and in bad.



DICKIE ARBITER

The best known of all the former press secretaries to HM The Queen, Dickie Arbiter LVO is the man the world's press always call on to offer credible insight when the Royals are in the news. A broadcaster and journalist with over 50 years' experience covering royalty, heads of state, and other globally recognised personalities, Dickie was also responsible for organising the media coverage for Princess Diana's funeral.

Left: 'Her liege man of strength and stay': Elizabeth with Prince Phillip on a Royal tour
Right: : The Queen with Prince Philip and Princess Anne in 1970

'ISLE OF HAPPY MEMORIES'

THE QUEEN IN MALTA

A place of happy memories for the Queen and Prince Philip, HM had a very special connection with the island of Malta. Here High Commissioner of Malta H.E Mallia Emmanuel reflects on the late Queen's enduring love for the country

I presented my Letters of credentials to Queen Elizabeth II at the end of April of this year. Her Majesty was visibly delighted to receive me in the audience and was pleased to learn news of Malta and the Maltese people. With great fondness and affection, she reminisced

about her special connection with the island and asked me to relay her kind wishes to the leaders and people of Malta, which I did upon leaving the Palace.

Little did I know that in only a matter of months, the beloved Monarch and Head of the Commonwealth would no longer be

there as the beacon of global inspiration for her lifelong devotion to service and duty.

Just as Her Majesty reminisced on her 'isle of happy memories' (as she used to warmly refer to Malta), here, I take a look at her special relationship with the island that she so lovingly cherished.

1949 - 1951

On 20 November 1949, the second wedding anniversary of Princess Elizabeth and the Duke of Edinburgh, the young princess flew to Malta to join her husband. Philip was, at this time, in the Royal Navy, as second-in-command of *HMS Chequers*, leader of the first destroyer flotilla of the Mediterranean Fleet based in Malta. Only seven years earlier, her father King George VI had awarded the George Cross to Malta to 'bear witness to the heroism and devotion of its people' during the great siege Malta underwent in the early part of World War II.

That year, Princess Elizabeth spent her first Christmas on the island, whilst living at Villa Guardamangia, a property leased to Prince Philip's uncle and aunt, the Earl and Countess Mountbatten of Burma. Interestingly, Prince Philip had his own ties with the island. His mother, Princess Alice

of Battenburg, was brought up in Malta, amongst other places, and her father, Prince Louis of Battenburg was occasionally stationed in Malta during his time as a naval officer.

In 1950, the Princess celebrated her 24th birthday in Malta, as well as Christmas. Whilst living in Villa Guardamangia, the royal couple spent their days enjoying all the pursuits Malta had to offer and danced the nights away in the Grand Ballroom of the iconic Phoenicia hotel. On numerous occasions, later in life, she spoke fondly of driving around, in her own car, all over the island.

Malta remains the only country besides the UK that the Queen called home and described her time on the island as the best moments of her life – as it was the only time where she could lead an ordinary life.

1952

The carefree life as the wife of a naval officer came to an end when Princess Elizabeth's father, the King, died in 1952 and was succeeded by his daughter. In 1952, after she was crowned Queen Elizabeth II, together with her husband Prince Philip, they started an extensive tour of the Commonwealth.

The last leg of the world tour included Malta and the reception the new Queen and Prince Philip received was indeed remarkable.

1954

In 1954, whilst in Malta for her first State Visit, on the Royal Yacht *Britannia*, the recently crowned Queen said that, 'Although among the smallest in size, Malta takes an honoured place among the countries we have visited. Indeed, throughout all the nations of the Commonwealth and of the whole world, the memory of her heroic stand during the war is still fresh.'

1967

On Queen Elizabeth II's second State Visit to Malta in 1967, only three years after Malta became independent, the Royal aircraft left London flying the British monarch's flag but landed on the island flying Malta's colours. This was very significant for the Maltese who at the time had accepted a monarchical form of government. With reference to events culminating in independence, Her Majesty remarked that 'things have changed since I was here last, and this time it is my particular pleasure to be here as Queen of Malta.'

1992

Once again Queen Elizabeth and Prince Philip sailed into the Grand Harbour on board the *Britannia*. I remember vividly the thousands of Maltese people who lined the red-and-white-flag decorated bastions to welcome the Queen.

2005

Malta held the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) in 2005. As Head of the Commonwealth, Her Majesty The Queen travelled to Malta and addressed the 52 world leaders present.

2017

It was Prince Philip's idea to celebrate their 60th wedding anniversary in Malta, while on a stopover visit en route to Uganda,

to inaugurate that year's CHOGM. When on the island they also met other couples celebrating their diamond wedding anniversary.

2015

It is very fitting that Queen Elizabeth II's last ever visit abroad was to Malta in 2015 for CHOGM where she stated that 'visiting Malta is always very special for me.' The Queen asked about her former home Villa Guardamangia, and when she learnt that whoever owned it left it in a dilapidated condition, she remarked that it was "rather sad".

The royal couple spent their days enjoying all the pursuits Malta had to offer and danced the nights away in the Grand Ballroom of the iconic Phoenicia hotel



PA IMAGES

The Restoration of Villa Guardamangia

When the opportunity presented itself in 2020, the Government of Malta purchased Villa Guardamangia. It entrusted the property to Heritage Malta to restore it to its former glory, after emergency structural consolidation measures were taken and a detailed architectural survey was conducted. The aim is to turn this Grade II-listed building into a museum marking the legacy and documenting the history of Malta's relationship with the British monarchy, particularly with Her late Majesty The Queen.

After the passing of the Queen, Villa Guardamangia became the focal point of Malta's remembrance of the late Monarch and her ties to the island. A sea of flowers and other tributes covered the front of the villa.



Chest of oranges

The Queen has always been an enthusiast of Maltese produce - particularly Maltese oranges. They're sweeter types of blood oranges. During her long reign, a number of successive Maltese Presidents used to send her a chest of Maltese oranges from the presidential San Anton Gardens, as a gift for Christmas. Next month we'll find out if this tradition will continue with her son, His Majesty The King.

The Queen and COMMONWEALTH

Former Chairman Hon. Alexander Downer AC reflects on the Queen's tenure as Head of the Commonwealth, and what the institution must do to survive without her

The personality and the presence of the Queen helped the Commonwealth survive as an institution as many of its members states cast off British colonial rule and emerged as independent states. Their leaders were a diverse group: some were hard-core Marxists, others mild socialist, and very few traditional mainstream conservatives. Yet for all of that, their countries remained in the Commonwealth and through the Queen's reign the Commonwealth evolved as a bastion of liberal democracy.



The Queen meets Rwandan President Paul Kagame at a CHOGM dinner

In 1952 when the Queen came to the throne the Commonwealth was little more than the dying embers of the British Empire. By the time she died 70 years later it had its own charter that defines its values. The Commonwealth is committed to liberal democratic norms, the rules-based system and international standards of human rights.

All of this simply illustrates the evolution of the Commonwealth under Queen Elizabeth. The heads of government and heads of state of Commonwealth countries have almost all attended the Queen's funeral. The fact that they would fly halfway around the world in many cases to attend the funeral attests to the convening power and influence of the Queen in that institution.

The challenge will be to ensure, as with any successful institution, the Commonwealth continues to grow under King Charles. With imagination, creativity and leadership in particular from the UK and India – the Commonwealth's most populous country – the Commonwealth can evolve as a still more relevant and useful institution than it already is.

Here are four suggestions for how the Commonwealth can evolve.

First, it can strengthen its convening powers by not just bringing together legal professionals, health workers, academics and so on but by appointing distinguished Commonwealth professionals to help member states deal with domestic problems and crises.

Secondly, the Commonwealth should start to turn itself into an economic entity. In an era when many countries are worried about the vulnerability of their supply chains particularly to authoritarian regimes like that of China, the Commonwealth could look at ways of linking Commonwealth members' supply chains. It has plenty of potential. Countries like Bangladesh are becoming major manufacturing centres while India is increasingly one of the IT capitals of the world. The UK hosts the world's largest

financial centre. With strong leadership, the Commonwealth could find ways of using these strengths to reduce the vulnerability of member states.

Thirdly, the Commonwealth should talk more forcefully about the need for free trade. It's not realistic to expect a Commonwealth free trade area to evolve but it is realistic for the Commonwealth to follow the model of APEC and start to benchmark member states' trade liberalisation initiatives, thereby becoming a driving force for freeing up trade as well as investment between Commonwealth countries.

Fourthly, the Commonwealth does need to reinforce its own charter and in particular its commitment to the rules-based international system. We live in an era where that rules-based international system is increasingly being challenged by authoritarian regimes, in particular China, Russia and Iran. They made it clear at this year's Shanghai Cooperation Meeting that they wanted to create a new world order diminishing

the liberal democracies' rules that have governed the world since the end of the Cold War. The Commonwealth can play a significant role in resisting this trend.

But to maintain and build the momentum of the Commonwealth will require leadership. That will have to come in particular from the UK

working with countries like India, South Africa and Australia all of which carry particular weight in the Commonwealth. In my opinion, there's no point in allowing the institution to become a debating chamber for what some might perceive to be the wrongs of history. That is for the classroom, not for diplomacy.

The King himself will be able quietly to encourage leaders within the Commonwealth to take these sorts of constructive initiatives to ensure the legacy of the Queen is carried forward.

With imagination, creativity and leadership... the Commonwealth can evolve as a still more relevant and useful institution than it already is



Christmas and New Year



Celebrate Christmas in beautiful St James's, with our exciting festive packages. By planning ahead you can take advantage of special rates for accommodation at the London Clubhouse in December, including scrumptious meals and a choice of seasonal events and activities

A Christmas Stay

CHRISTMAS EVE

Choose our two-night stay package (24 and 25 December) to receive a warm welcome, enjoying mince pies and mulled wine on arrival. Members can dine in the stylish 1910 Dining Room where a delicious festive menu will be served, and a selection of family board games can be enjoyed in the Drawing Room. For information on local church services, please ask at Reception.

CHRISTMAS DAY

Wake up on Christmas Day in the grand surrounds of our historic Grade I-Listed clubhouse. Celebrations begin at midday with a sparkling drinks reception followed by Executive Chef Elliot Plimmer's spectacular Christmas lunch menu, including half a bottle of wine, along with coffee and mince pies. Each guest will receive a personal gift from ROSL, before a special screening of HM The King's speech.

BOXING DAY

Extend your celebrations a further night (26 December) and join our knowledgeable London tour guide for a Boxing Day walking tour of the local area, setting off from our central location.

Two-night stay package (24 & 25 December)

- Two nights' accommodation including breakfast
- Mulled wine and mince pies on arrival
- Family board games in the Drawing Room
- HM The King's speech
- Delicious Christmas lunch and gift

Three-night stay package (24, 25 & 26 December)

- Includes all of the above, plus:
- Accommodation on night of 26 December
 - Walking tour of London with a knowledgeable local guide

PRICE PER NIGHT	Single Room	Double Room (Single occupancy)	Double or Twin Room (Double occupancy)
Two nights (24 & 25)	£200	£215	£320
Three nights (24, 25 & 26)	£190	£210	£300

New Year's Eve

Celebrate a New Year in luxury and style at ROSL, with your exclusive invitation to our black-tie cabaret dinner in the glamorous 1910 Dining Room.

New Year's Eve Package includes:

- 8.30pm, Champagne and canape reception
- 9pm, Cabaret dinner
- 11.50pm, Countdown, Champagne and a screening of London's New Year's firework celebrations
- £200 per head inc VAT (accommodation is in addition to this)

Book our Cabaret Dinner package and benefit from a special discount on your room rate. The deposit payments are non-refundable and non-transferable after 20 December 2022, which is the deadline to book. At the time of booking, you will be requested to pay a **£200 per person deposit**.

PRICE PER NIGHT	Single Room	Double Room (Single occupancy)	Double or Twin Room (Double occupancy)
31 December 2022	£325	£340	£560

Christmas T&Cs:

At the time of booking, members are requested to pay a **£135pp deposit** and the remaining balance at check out. Deposit payments are non-refundable and non-transferable after the 16 December 2022, which is the booking deadline.

Book separately

Christmas lunch is £135 per person for adults and £35 for under 12s. At the time of booking, you will be requested to pay a **£135 per person deposit**. The deposit payments are non-refundable and non-transferable after the 16 December 2022, which is the booking deadline.

The Boxing Day walking tour of London may be booked separately at £18 per person.

All rates are inclusive of VAT



THE QUEEN AND THE LEAGUE

In our own words

Celebrating 70 years of HM Queen Elizabeth at the Royal Over-Seas League

In celebration of 70 years of patronage, Rosie Allen digs into ROSL's archives to bring alive the story of HM Queen Elizabeth's many visits to Over-Seas House and ROSL's coverage of the monarch over the decades

Throughout her 70 years of Royal Patronage, the Queen made several visits to Over-Seas House. Her first would be on 28 May 1946, when – accompanied by her sister Margaret along with Father King George VI and Mother, Queen Elizabeth – St Andrew's Hall (now the Princess Alexandra Hall) bustled with servicemen and woman from across the Commonwealth. The Royal Party had arrived to give thanks to the servicemen and women who had given their services to the war effort. However, it wasn't until 1948 that Princess Elizabeth would make her first visit as our Royal Patron, as reported enthusiastically in *Overseas Magazine* in the summer of that year (see right).

From the archive

Overseas Magazine 1948

Headquarters was gay with Dominion flags, and the forecourt bright with red geraniums and blue hydrangeas when Princess Elizabeth visited Overseas House on May 7 – her first visit since she became a Vice-Patron of the League.

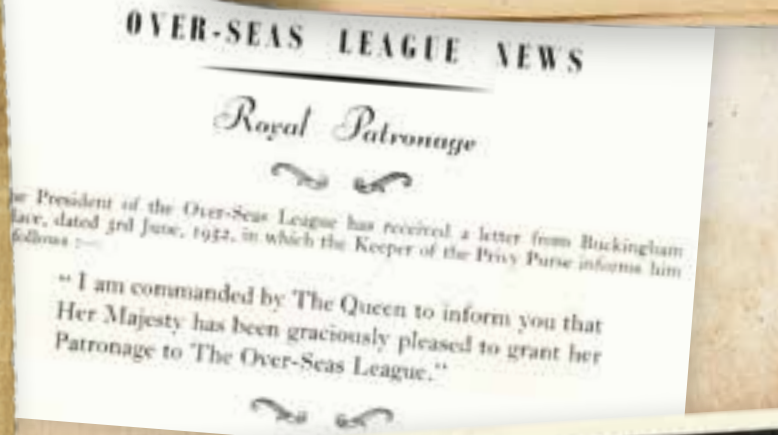
Her Royal Highness was welcomed by the Mayor of Westminster, the Founder of the Over-Seas League (Sir Evelyn Wrench) and the Chairman of the Central Council (Sir Shenton Thomas). Members of the League, including many recent arrivals from overseas, thronged the building to welcome her Royal Highness. In the Lounge, the staff of Overseas House, numbering over 100 were assembled, and here a beautiful bouquet was presented...



1953 onward: Commonwealth tour
Four years later in February 1952, Elizabeth would receive news of the death of her father and her subsequent and immediate accession to the throne while at her Kenyan home. Following her coronation, 1953 would see Queen Elizabeth and Prince Philip embark on the most ambitious royal tour ever seen, taking in the West Indies, Fiji and Tonga and then New Zealand and Australia. In May 1954 the Royal party would return to Malta, a place that had become very special to Elizabeth and Philip, having

spent several happy months living on the island between 1949 and 1951, as reported in *Overseas* that year.

Putting the 'Royal' in the Over-Seas League – the 1960s onwards
In 1960, as ROSL celebrated its 50th birthday, the Queen not only conferred on The League its Royal title, she also visited Over-Seas House and made our founder Evelyn Wrench KCMG (Knight Commander of the Order of St Michael and St George), an honour in recognition of his services to the Commonwealth. ●



In the October 1963 edition of *Overseas*, E R Yarham explained when and why the flags representing ROSL Patron HM Queen Elizabeth II are flown.

From the archive

Where the Royal Standard Flies

HM Queen Elizabeth II is the first British Monarch to have adopted a personal flag. The official description states: 'The flag consists of Her Majesty's initial E ensigned with the Royal Crown, the whole within a chaplet of roses, all in gold, on a blue field, the flag being edged or fringed also in gold.'

The Queen's personal flag was seen for the first time during the royal visit to India and Pakistan. It was designed in the college of Arms under the direction of Garter King of Arms.

It is square and in varying sizes appropriate to the occasion and the place where it is flown. Such places as buildings, cars, and aircraft in which the Queen is either living or travelling.

Of course, the flag most closely associated with the Sovereign is the Royal Standard, and this will not be supplanted. But whereas the Royal Standard is especially linked with the United Kingdom, the new flag is entirely personal to Her Majesty, and not specifically connected with any one of the nations of the Commonwealth of which she is the head. On occasion, indeed, Queen Elizabeth's personal flag may be seen flying side by side with the Royal Standard.



In 1980, one of incoming General Manager Robert Newell CVO's first jobs was the daunting task of preparing the celebrations to welcome the Queen and Duke of Edinburgh to Over-Seas House as part of our 70th birthday celebrations. He reflected in *Overseas Magazine*:

'The granting of a Royal Charter to the Royal Over-Seas League in 1922 heralded the start of a century of close links to the Monarch and the Royal Family, which has meant so much to ROSL members throughout the world ever since.

The Royal Standard flying at Buckingham Palace

The standards at Buckingham Palace are changed often. The stock is kept in perfect condition. A flag is immediately changed if it gets torn while flying, and new flags are flown on any big State occasion.

When Queen Elizabeth goes abroad sometimes as many as two score (40) Royal Standards precede her. They are held in readiness at the places to which she is going. A small Standard flies from her car and one is broken from a royal plane as soon as she boards it. It flies again as the plane taxis down the runway on landing.

Although commonly called the Royal Standard, the flag is, strictly speaking, the Royal Banner. It was the personal battle flag of the Sovereign. Nobody but royalty has the right to fly it, and during preparations for the Queen's Coronation a man who flew one from a balcony in London, and who at first refused to remove it when asked, might have found himself in gaol had he persisted.

In medieval times it was often the rallying point in battle, and the area around the Royal Standard was nearly always hard-pressed.

To organise a Royal visit was quite a baptism of fire, but one about which I felt immensely proud and grateful, as I was to have the honour of presenting the staff. It was a wonderful occasion at which the Duke endeared himself to the staff by making them roar with laughter.'

In the June 1985 edition of *Overseas*, then-Vice-Chairman Godfrey Talbot LVO OBE, penned an article for the journal in which he recollected his relationship with our Patron, HM The Queen, over the years.



From the archive

Our Sovereign Lady

We are having The Queen, our League's Patron, on the front cover of the next Journal,' said the Editor of *Overseas*. 'Will you write a piece for us about 'the Royal Connection', but perhaps also about your own long professional association with the Royal Family?'

I confess that my mind flicked back along a memory-lane shingly studded with State Visits and Overseas Tours logging a quarter of a million of miles when, quite recently, I had the privilege of going back into the Palace, microphone at hand, to speak with The Queen and specifically to record her personal memories of that Victory-in-Europe Day on which she, 19-years-old Princess Elizabeth, returned from Windsor's 'evacuation' to a London suddenly and thankfully at peace in the Spring of 1945. That day, she not only stood on the famous balcony with her father and mother and Mr Churchill, but had a 'never before or since' experience. For she went out into the streets incognito and was swept along with the rejoicing crowds.

It was not a scripted public speech that I recorded: it was her own informal recollections, put on tape for her peoples to have alongside their own memories. Her Majesty talked with delightful, characteristic verve and frankness, painting in a few exciting word-pictures the scenes which she, one young girl, experienced on an historic night so long

ago. A fascinating recall-uninhibited joy and fun bubbled out. Here was The Queen as she really is - not the remote and solemn pasteboard figure a few people still mistakenly imagine her to be. She was so much younger and more immediately captivating than the person television and newspaper photographs quite often present.

Looking at The Queen, the smile and whole presence seemed little advanced in years since, for instance, the time in New Zealand during the great six-months-round-the-world

Commonwealth Journey - soon after the Coronation - when in December 1953 in Government House, Auckland, I watched her making that year's usual Christmas Day broadcast, cool and collected at our microphone in a sultry room with windows wide open to a tropical night.

Now it was 1985: yet as I looked and listened again I found it almost impossible to realise that this far from middle-aged-looking Sovereign Lady - not at all unlike the young Queen in long-ago Auckland - had already worn the Crown for over 33 years, was a grandmother, and was far and away the most wise and experienced and hard-working Head of State in the world.

'Her Majesty talked with delightful, characteristic verve and frankness... uninhibited joy and fun bubbled out. Here was the Queen as she really is, not the remote and solemn pasteboard

Right: The Queen with Audrey Strange (left) our former Director of Music
Left: The Queen meets ROSL Vice-Chairman Godfrey Talbot OBE (right)

I have been fortunate enough, through the years, to see Her Majesty, beneath the Throne's limelight and sometimes off-stage and in the family life she loves, grow from Young Princess to her present unique stature and esteem, reigning monarch of the House of Windsor, a focus of ideals, and our Number One Ambassador.

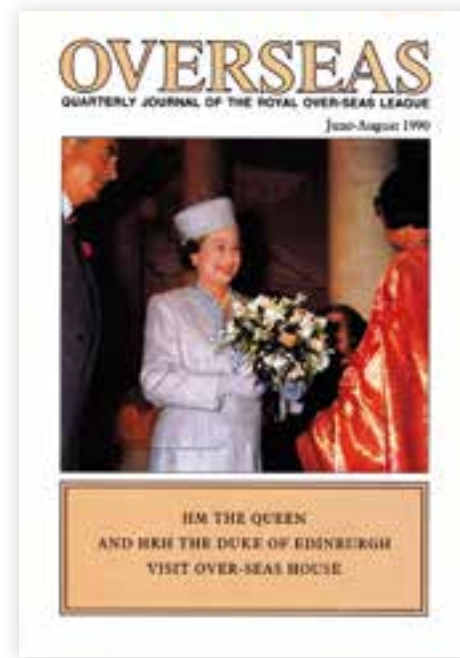
But encomiums are neither needed nor asked for. Facts tell the story.

The relevant fact for us in ROSL is our Royal Patron is acknowledged as 'Head of the Commonwealth' by half a hundred independent states in free association - The Commonwealth, a group of countries which girdles the globe and is of unparalleled variety in nature, race, language, economy, creed and culture.

That this situation endures - despite the contrariness and strains which patently exist within the association, causing snide critics the Commonwealth to be a nostalgic whim - is a measure of The Queen's own work for her Commonwealth, her first-hand knowledge of it, and her invaluable service to it.

The 90s and beyond

8 March 1990 saw another visit from the Royal household, with the Queen and Duke of Edinburgh meeting staff and members at Overseas House. In her letter of thanks received from Sir Kenneth Scott, Assistant Private Secretary to the Queen, Kenneth stated: 'The Queen was much struck by the success of the recent redecoration and all the rooms — and garden — were looking their best in the bright spring sunshine... It was a particular pleasure to meet the young musicians and artists in the Bennet Clarke and Rutland Rooms.' ◉



Monarchy in the Millennium

Celebrating our centenary year

In June 2010, HM the Queen, joined by HRH the Duke of Edinburgh and HRH Princess Alexandra attended ROSL's centenary reception, held at St James's Palace in what was to be the centrepiece of the year's celebratory events.

In a special statement to mark the occasion, the Queen wrote: 'The Royal Over-Seas League was founded by Sir Evelyn Wrench in 1910, the year that my grandfather, King George V, came to the throne. Within six years, he had granted his patronage to the young society and I am delighted to have followed him and my father, King George VI, in being Patron of the League. On its 50th anniversary in 1960, I was happy to approve the title 'Royal' and I have appreciated meeting its members, from the United Kingdom and the overseas Commonwealth, on many occasions during my reign. On its centenary in 2010, I wish the Royal Over-Seas League and all its members every success for the future'

The Australian Tour

In March 2012, *Overseas Magazine* reported on the Queen's successful tour of Australia and explored the question of what the future of monarchy might look like on the continent.



From the archive

Overseas Magazine March 2012

The Queen's 11-day tour of Australia united the country in its admiration for the monarch as the number of her supporters continues to grow, says Fran Molloy

'During the 11-day visit, tens of thousands of Australians lined the streets in Canberra, Brisbane, Melbourne and Perth to greet the pair, making this the most successful Royal Tour since The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh first visited Australia in 1954. It is true that interest in the monarchy has been more overt since Prince William's wedding last April – and this, together with ongoing media speculation that this might be The Queen's last visit to Australia, is credited with raising crowd numbers.

'While Australians' fervour for a Republic has waned, their affection for Queen Elizabeth II remains steady. 'There's enormous affection for the Crown among Australians', says Professor David Flint, head of the organisation Australians for a Constitutional Monarchy. Even Prof Flint's nemesis, the former leader of the Australian Federal Opposition and former head of Australia's republican movement, Malcolm Turnbull, has a great fondness for The Queen. During CHOGM, he told reporters in Sydney that all Australians, republican or not, welcomed The Queen's visit. 'Nobody could fail to have enormous respect and affection for Queen Elizabeth', he told the gathered journalists. 'As someone once said to me, 'There are a lot more Elizabethans in this country than there are monarchists', and I think that's probably a keen insight.

The Queen's legacy lives on

Sadly, 2010 would be the last time that the Queen visited Over-Seas House in person. However, the Queen's greatest legacy, the Commonwealth of nations lives on in ROSL's commitment to promote friendship and collaboration across the Commonwealth.



A Tribute to HER LATE MAJESTY THE QUEEN

17 January 2023, 6.30pm, Princess Alexandra Hall

ROSL presents a musical tribute to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, Patron of ROSL from 1952 to 2022. Featuring prizewinners of our renowned *Annual Music Competition* this concert reflects the Queen's life in music, ranging from A Nursery Suite, written by Sir Edward Elgar for the four-year-old Princess Elizabeth, to music used during the new Queen's coronation in 1953, to a work she commissioned herself from Benjamin Britten, to celebrate the 75th birthday of the Queen Mother.

We hope you can join us for this wonderful hour-long celebration followed by champagne and canapes.

ROSL Members: £30 Non-Members: £40
For more details and tickets please visit www.rosl.org.uk/events

Featuring

- Elgar / A Nursery Suite (selection)
- Butterworth / The Banks of Green Willow
- Britten / A Birthday Hansel (selection)
- Vaughan Williams / Fantasia on Greensleeves (arr for two pianos)
- Elgar / Nimrod from *Enigma Variations* (arr. for two pianos)
- Holst / The Planets: Jupiter (arr. for two pianos)
- Maxwell-Davies / Farewell to Stromness
- Cassandra Wright / soprano
- Oliver Wass / harp
- Dominic Doutney / piano
- George Todica / piano

Portrait of a Queen

At Over-Seas House we're lucky to host several unique artistic interpretations of Elizabeth II, from teenage Queen-in-waiting, to her final role as Britain's longest-reigning monarch; Rosie Allen takes a closer look at these images and the artists behind them

Personal branding' is nothing new. In fact, over the centuries, Royal portrait artists would become adept at maximising their subject's desired attributes with the stroke of a brush, using ornate iconography to convey the formidable impression of virtue and strength; from symbolism showing diplomacy and dominion, to opulent colours, richly painted fabrics and jewels to represent wealth; ermine-furred cloaks and pearls to denote purity and rarity; and domineering poses, shoulder pads and extravagantly puffed sleeves to convey power. Intricate symbolism was even used to portray virility (think Henry VIII's bold, wide-legged stance in Holbein's famous portrait) or virginity in the case of Elizabeth I. Royal portrait artists were expected to flatter, to depict an untouchably iconic and otherworldly image of the King or Queen.

In modern times, however, our values have changed. We no longer look to the monarch as a masthead of absolute power, dominion and imperialism. It's duty, resilience, warmth and humour that radiate from depictions of Queen Elizabeth II throughout her 70-year reign and, one of Elizabeth's great legacies was transforming the formal, rather formiddable, iconography of monarchy, allowing the public image of royalty to evolve, soften and ultimately resonate with the expectations of a 21st-century press and public.

We spoke to both Christian Furr and Anna Rumsby, who have created thoroughly modern depictions of monarchy with their images of the Queen, both of which are on display at Over-Seas House. Here they tell us about the responsibilities and challenges of painting a Royal.

Capturing a Queen on canvas

Back in 1995, Christian Furr was a 28-year old painter starting out his career; little did he think that he'd become the youngest artist ever to paint the Queen. Having previously been commissioned by the League to paint the former Chairman of ROSL Maneck Dalal, Christian was surprised to receive a call asking him to paint the Queen, at her personal request.

'The telephone call I received from the League's Director General Robert Newell in 1994 is one that will always stay with me' he says; "'The Queen would like you to paint her portrait.'"

'Her Majesty had seen my portrait of former chairman Maneck Dalal which currently hangs in the corridor of the ROSL adjacent to my portrait of HM. I often wonder what it was about that painting that resonated. Mr Dalal looks very

tranquil in the painting with his colourful garden flooding in, in the background.'

In painting the Queen, Furr wanted to move away from the image of a monarch being impersonable and distant and sought to capture Elizabeth's humour. In recollections from the sitting, he recalls Her Majesty bringing a blanket to keep warm (this can be seen in the painting

itself, draped over the side of the chair) and her enjoyment of the music that was playing outside as part of the Changing of the Guard ceremony in the grounds of Buckingham Palace.

'It was an honour to paint a portrait of Her Majesty for the Royal Over-Seas League and to spend time in her company for this process' says Christian. 'I think ROSL is a wonderful commonwealth organization that continues to support young artists and musicians, often at the



Left: Christian Furr's iconic 1995 portrait of HM the Queen

Below: Furr's picture of former ROSL Chairman Maneck Dalal that inspired the commission

Bottom: Anna Rumsby's Jubilee illustration of the Queen



start of their careers when they need it most. I will always be thankful to the Royal Over-Seas League and to the Queen herself for facilitating a commission that changed the course of my life.'

The portrait would become a well-loved and iconic image of Queen Elizabeth, portraying both her humour and humility, along with capturing the optimism and energy that the mid-90s 'Cool Britannia' era would come to represent.

An illustrator's approach

For Anna Rumsby, whose images of the Queen have graced a ROSL Christmas card, prints and also a children's book, using the perspective of a children's illustrator allowed her to capture the Queen in a whole new light. 'I'm interested in character, fashion and colour. Queen Elizabeth ticked all of those boxes. I'm also naturally drawn to small figures that have individuality. I think it helped that I was drawing the Queen from the perspective of a children's illustrator rather than depicting every detail. Life is momentary and

fleeting and that's how I like to depict people.'

Anna's images use bright block colours and simple shapes to depict the Queen with an illustrator's eye, capturing her iconic sartorial style with humour and fun. ROSL Art Curator, Robin Footitt adds 'Anna's depictions of Queen Elizabeth II have proven really popular with our members and visitors – I think she captures a character that we all feel so familiar with, growing up with a monarch in the public eye that we would see photographed often in the media. Those colourful outfits, our commissioned Platinum Jubilee print on the throne and her 2021 ROSL Christmas card walking the corgis in the snow (which was the fastest selling Christmas card in our history) have really struck a chord with their charm and gentle humour.'

Anna says: 'Likeness is important to me and it's hard to achieve without studies from life. I can't copy from photographs well, so I had to work on many drawings at



Christian Furr

Christian Furr (b. 1966, Wirral) first gained an international audience in 1995 at the age of 28, when he was commissioned by ROSL to paint Queen Elizabeth II, making him the youngest artist ever to do so. This was to be the beginning of a decades-spanning art career, which would see him collaborate with many contemporary British artists

speed and use collage to piece bits together. There are always so many failed attempts that it can be frustrating but suddenly if the character starts feeling alive it's worthwhile.'

She adds; 'The response from people all over the world shows how much Queen Elizabeth will be missed. She was a wonderful female role model and for me her loss reconfirms the relevance and importance of portraiture, to capture and hold people in memory.'

To LA and back again: King George VI and Family by George Harcourt

Our longest-standing portrait of the Queen features King George VI, Queen Elizabeth and the Princesses Elizabeth and Margaret, and takes pride of place in the Member's Drawing Room. Scottish artist George Harcourt's rendering of the Royal Family was said to have been well-liked by the Queen, who apparently commented in a visit to ROSL how well the painting resembled her late father. Despite being a well-loved fixture of the ROSL furniture, the painting went missing for several years, as



Anna Rumsby

Anna Rumsby (b. 1979, Suffolk) lives and works in Suffolk. Rumsby studied Fashion Design at University of Derby (2003) and MA Children's Book Illustration at Cambridge School of Art (2014). In 2016 she was awarded a scholarship to study at The Royal Drawing School and has since been teaching on their Young Artists programme



this excerpt from our *Overseas* archive shows: 'Many members may have noticed the large painting *King George VI and Family* by George Harcourt, which hangs in the Members' Drawing Room, but did you know it was lost for many years before being returned to the club in the early 1990s?

You would be forgiven for thinking that the portrait of a young Princess Elizabeth with her family, smiling benignly down at members as they sit and read the paper, has always been a feature of the Drawing Room at Over-Seas House. However, the portrait was in fact sold during the 1980s, in somewhat unclear circumstances, disappearing from the club for good, or so we thought. It transpires the painting had in fact been sold to the late Peter Langan, renowned restaurateur of Langan's Brasserie fame, for his restaurant in Los Angeles, California.

After weeks of enquiry, the painting was found to be languishing in a Hollywood warehouse

Some years later, then-Director-General Robert Newell was determined to retrieve the painting and return to its original spot on the wall. By this time, Langan's LA restaurant had closed and the painting was nowhere to be found. So followed a search the length and breadth of the city with the aid of Langan's widow, Susan, herself a ROSL member.

After weeks of enquiry, the painting was found to be languishing in a Hollywood warehouse. Upon discovery, arrangements were immediately made for the painting to be returned to London and within seven days it was reinstated to its original position, where it has remained ever since.'



NEWS & EVENTS

The latest from our clubhouse; branches; and art, music, and education projects

Balancing Bird

Art Curator Robin Footitt introduces our new art exhibition which runs from 3 December - 5 February 2023

OPENING RECEPTION

Friday 2 December, 6-8pm
(RSVP at rosl.org.uk/events)

Balancing Bird examines opposing themes of poise and restlessness in contemporary art including works by 2022 ROSL RCA Ceramics and Glass Award Winner Sogon Kim and contextual work by influential 20th-century British sculptor and printmaker Dame Elisabeth Frink (1930-1993).

Frink's anthropomorphic forms such as *Small Bird 1* (1961) which will be on display, operate as avatars for feelings of panic, tension and aggression. Her expressionist style gives a grounded, flightless human mobility to birds – often seen as a progressive symbol of freedom and flight. The accompanying preparatory sketch follows this example, the bird's hindlimbs are encumbered its own weight, lurching forwards. This teetering tension is present in many forms,

a 'balancing bird' for example, is a simple children's toy illusion, performing the seemingly impossible feat of an outstretched bird capable of balancing its entire body on a fingertip using the tip of its beak. Sogon Kim's *Celestial* series encapsulates the interaction between metal oxides and glass. The effect is a dazzling world suspended in time at the point of reaction, presented in a circular form capable of rolling off at any moment.



© Sogon Kim, Celestial; Black #1 (2022)



Meet ROSL's new Chairman

We're delighted to announce the appointment of Helen Prince to the post of ROSL Chairman following Alexander Downer's departure in August

Helen has been on ROSL's central council for several years and has held various senior management positions in charities and cultural organisations, most recently as Head of Development at the Shakespeare Birthplace Trust. As a member of ROSL for more than 25

years, she is particularly focused on working with the ROSL team to develop fundraising to help the organisation grow and thrive into the future. We all wish Helen the very best in this new role and look forward to taking ROSL to further successes in 2023.

A delicious New Year and beyond at ROSL

There's still time to celebrate a Christmas and New Year to remember at ROSL when you take advantage of our special seasonal packages

Beat the winter gloom with our lively calendar of events this winter; every Saturday night throughout December and January, we'll be hosting a series of Jazz evenings in the 1910 Dining Room – the perfect Art Deco setting to enjoy a delicious dinner from Executive Chef Elliot Plimmer and some of London's finest Jazz musicians. Jazz evenings

will take place on the 3, 10 and 17 December 2022, and the 7, 14, 21 and 28 of January 2023.

And if you haven't yet planned your New Year's celebrations, then why not let ROSL be your host for a wonderful night of fizz, music and gourmet dining? The ticket price includes a Champagne Reception, four

course fine-dining dinner, a cabaret performance by renowned jazz-and-blues-singing sensation, Kai Hoffman, and a glass of Champagne to accompany a screening of London's firework display as we count down to midnight. Tickets are priced at £200 per person,

and an overnight stay is £340 (double, single occupancy) or £560 double or twin (double occupancy). Room prices are not included in the ticket price. To book please email dining@rosl.org.uk



New reciprocal clubs for 2022/3

Make 2023 a year of exploration by visiting one of our 92 reciprocal clubs across the world, including five new for 2022/23.

Visit www.rosl.org.uk/membership/reciprocal-clubs for a full list of participating reciprocal clubs and for more details on booking.

Our new clubs are: Commonwealth Club, Canberra, Australia, The Australian Club, Melbourne, Australia, The Northern Club, Auckland, New Zealand, Phoenix Club, Peru, Lima, and Rand Club, Johannesburg, South Africa, The Royal Exchange, Sydney, the United Service Club, Queensland, The City Tavern Club, Washington, The University Club of Cincinnati and The Commonwealth Club, Richmond, Virginia.

A tribute to the late Angela Parks

In memory of the late Angela Parks, Judith Leckie, President of the Royal Over-Seas League Christchurch Branch, New Zealand, writes a touching tribute.

'It is with great regret that our long-standing and most loyal Treasurer of the Christchurch Branch, Angela Parks, recently passed away suddenly. Not only have we lost an outstanding Treasurer, who presented meticulous financial accounts for over 20 years, but also a life member whose main focus was always the commitment to the ROSL's Branch here in Christchurch. Angela is irreplaceable and her loss is deeply felt by all our members.'

All at ROSL offer our deepest condolences to Angela's family and friends, and her colleagues at the Christchurch branch.



Dr Kylie Russell presented special award

In celebration of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, the ROSL Western Australia branch suggested that the Loyal Societies of Western Australia should make a special award to a recipient who has displayed the 'sense of dedication to the community as exemplified by the life and work of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II'. Dr Kylie Russell, a former Army Nurse with service in East Timor, and the widow of Sergeant Andrew Russell (the first Australian SAS member to be

killed in the Afghanistan conflict) was presented the award in recognition of her spearheading the Andrew Russell Veteran's Living Programme; providing veterans both housing and access to professional support services. Dr Russell said: 'This award has so much more significance with the Queen's passing, and as I look back on Her Majesty's extraordinary example, it inspires a greater commitment to the community than before. The honour is deeply felt'.

Jason Ronald steps down as Chairman of Victoria Branch



Keir Watt, Branch Secretary of ROSL's Victoria branch pays tribute to Jason Ronald's long service to ROSL Australia

Over 60 guests joined the Victorian Branch Council on Friday 26 August 2022 at an 'Appreciation and Recognition' Lunch at the Lyceum Club of Melbourne to honour past President Jason Ronald OAM. Jason stepped down as President of the Victorian Branch on 24th May 2022 after 21 successful years in that leadership role.

In his tribute to Jason, the incoming Victorian Branch President Ronald Williamson noted the significant contribution Jason has made to the success of the Branch and more widely over a remarkable period, reflecting on the old adage – 'if you want something done, ask a busy person to do it'. In 2007 Jason was awarded a Medal of the Order of Australia [OAM] for 'his service to the community through a range of social welfare, cultural, political and agricultural organisations.'

In the context of 'no-one achieving great things alone', Jason in his response paid tribute to the successive members of Branch Council, the late Coral Strahan (Branch Secretary from 1991 to 2015) and subsequent incumbents in that key role.

Staff Christmas Gratuities Fund

Many of our hard-working staff will be providing our usual warm welcome to everyone who visits Over-Seas House over the festive period. If you would like to add your thanks to the team at ROSL, please consider giving to the Staff Gratuities Fund.



Members can give to the Staff Gratuities Fund by:

- Giving in person at the clubhouse
- Sending a cheque payable to "ROSL" and addressed to the Director-General's Office, referencing the ROSL Staff Gratuities Fund
- Making a bank transfer to "The Royal Over-Seas League", Account number 04478169, Sort Code: 180002, referencing "SGF - member name". For International Transfers, ROSL's IBAN number is GB95COUT18000204478169

THE YEAR IN *Review*

We take a look back at the best of ROSL's events, workshops and concerts in 2022



1. The Muse Exhibition, May 2022, saw a series of artists reimagine the role of the artist's muse in the modern world
2. Zeb Soanes narrates an ambitious multi-media art project, Les Animaux modeles, September 2022
3. Musicians entertain members at the ROSL Centenary Reception in June, celebrating 100 years of our Royal charter
4. MasterChef winner Irini Tzortzoglou creates a very special menu for members in July 2022
5. In collaboration with the RBA, our Rising Stars Exhibition, June 2022, showcased the very best of young artistic talent
6. Members of the ROSL-supported Kenya National Youth Orchestra take part in a workshop, July 2022
7. Maltese Tenor, Joseph Calleja performs at our Centenary Gala, August 2022
8. Guitarist Jack Hancher wins the ROSL AMC Gold Medal in July 2022
9. Musicians perform music from one of Britain's best-loved composers at ROSL's Vaughan Williams 150th Birthday Celebration Concert, October 2022
10. Former Chairman Hon. Alexander Downer AC and Director General with historian Andrew Roberts at our Centenary Reception, October 2022

ROSL around the world

Our branches provide an opportunity for members in all parts of the world and across the UK to enjoy a range of social events close to home. To find out more about getting involved, simply contact your local representative

AUSTRALIA

Tasmania

The Year in Review

The Tasmanian Branch held a very successful events programme throughout 2022, and events ranged from a reception at Government House to celebrate Commonwealth Day, and a luncheon to celebrate the 120th anniversary of the Australian flag. The successful Book Group Afternoon Teas held each month continued throughout 2022, with members sharing their thoughts on books they have read based on an agreed theme for each month, over afternoon tea.

I would like to sincerely thank Branch members for their ongoing support in the Branch throughout 2022 – your membership is valued by the Branch – Stephen Jones, Branch Secretary

Tasmania Branch's 75th anniversary

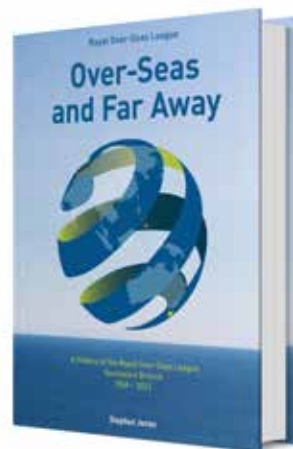
The Tasmanian Branch celebrates its 75th year in 2023, and a number of events will be organised for members to celebrate this milestone during 2023, including a book

launch celebrating the Branch's history. The book contains 224 pages of information, photographs, and other images from the past 75 years and before.

The Tasmanian Branch Christmas Luncheon

Thursday 8 December, 12.00pm, Motor Yacht Club of Tasmania

Join us for our annual festive dinner: the menu will be a la carte, and there will also be lucky door prizes, provided by members. Guests welcome – please let Stephen Jones know by 1 December if you wish to attend.



Judith Leckie of Christchurch branch



Jason Ronald receiving award



The Victoria Branch dinner

Victoria

Platinum Jubilee Dinner

On Wednesday, 29 June 2022 the Royal Over-Seas League Victorian Branch and the Council of British and Commonwealth Societies held a dinner at the RACV Club to celebrate the Platinum Jubilee of Her Majesty the Queen in the presence of Her Excellency the Honourable Linda Dessau AC Governor of Victoria and Mr Anthony Howard AM QC and 115 members and guests.

Her Excellency gave a wonderful keynote address highlighting Her Majesty's great leadership, constancy, and outstanding commitment to service during a time of significant change in the world, including in the United Kingdom, the Commonwealth and Australia, over the last 70 years. Her Excellency noted Her Majesty's many visits to

Australia and Victoria since the first visit in 1954 and her natural humour, joy of family, genuine passion for horses and horse racing and her capacity to put people at ease which they have had the privilege to experience first-hand.

Thank you to all who participated in the evening to make it such a joyful celebration of the Platinum Jubilee of Her Majesty the Queen.

Dr Di Bresciani also hosted a group of ROSL members at her studio for a preview launch of her new book, *A New Look at Australian Light* and an open studio of her art' – Keir Watt, Branch Secretary

Future events include the Annual Christmas Reception Wednesday 7 December, 6pm, British Consul General's Residence

Support Us

To allow ROSL to continue funding art and music education projects in the UK and around the Commonwealth, please consider donating at www.rosl.org.uk/supportus

The Mousetrap
Wednesday 22 February 2023, time tbc, Comedy Theatre Melbourne

Our annual William Angliss Luncheon will be held in late March and further details will be featured in the next branch News Bulletin due out in late November. Members interested in attending these events should contact the Victorian branch secretary to confirm your bookings – Keir Watt

NEW ZEALAND

Christchurch

Christmas Lunch
Wednesday 14 December, 12:00pm, Chateau on the Park hotel, price tbc

LONDON GROUP

As well as our sold-out London Library visit, the London Group will be organising a visit to two city churches and a history talk from Tim Potter in early February. Please keep an eye on the events page at rosl.org.uk/events for more details of this year's London Group events.

Member-led Activities

ROSL Book Group

The ROSL Book Group meets in person at the Club, as well as on Zoom for overseas members, on Wednesdays, once a month, to discuss primarily novels. The discussion starts at 6pm, but we meet beforehand for a drink and a chat and afterwards for dinner (optional) at 7.30pm Dates of meetings: 23 Nov and 14 Dec 2022 (followed by Christmas dinner).



ROSL Backgammon Club

Meets on Wednesdays 2pm - 4pm in the Drawing Room and for lunch (optional) at 12pm. New members are welcome.

To join any of the Member-led activities, please contact Eve at E.Mitleton-Kelly@mitleton-kelly.org.uk



ROSL Bridge Club

The Bridge Club meets at ROSL every Monday 2pm - 4pm (except on Bank Holidays) and we play duplicate ACOL. Twice a month there is a refresher course with a truly excellent tutor. New members are welcome. Lunch at 12.30pm is optional. Courses at different levels, from Beginners to Advanced will be offered. The tutor also offers online evening play.
Cost: £10 pp for supervised play;
£20 pp for refresher course sessions;
£5 pp Mon evening online play.

ROSL Theatre & Opera Group

We go regularly to the theatre, opera, ballet and modern dance. We also go to Glyndebourne twice a year in Summer and Autumn.

CONTACTS

British Columbia:
Liz Murray
evmurray@telus.net
+1 604 922 1564

Calgary:
Madeleine King
madeleine.king@telus.net

Christchurch:
Judith Leckie
jrleckie@xtra.co.nz

Ireland:
Palmer Carter
palmercarter@eircom.net

New South Wales:
Contact tba
membership@rosl.org.uk

Ontario:
Ishrani Jaikaran
www.rosl-ontario-canada.ca
rosl.ont@sympatico.ca
+1 416 760 0309

Queensland:
Contact tba
membership@rosl.org.uk

South Australia:
Graham Beckett
secretary@roslsa.org.au
www.roslsa.org.au

Switzerland:
Jo Brown
+334 5040 6631

Tasmania:
Stephen Jones
stephenj1@iprimus.com.au
+61 (0)613 558 95

Taunton:
Contact tba
membership@rosl.org.uk

Victoria:
Keir Watt
www.rosl.org.au
rosl@alphalink.com.au
+61 (0)3 9654 8338

Sussex:
David Kay
sussex.branch@rosl.org.uk

Western Australia:
Anthony Howes
+61 (0)8 9450 6050

Enjoy a new season of entertainment with our calendar of events

A Musical Tribute to Her Late Majesty The Queen
17 January 2023, 6.30pm

Enjoy an hour-long musical celebration of the life of Her Late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. Featuring prizewinners of our renowned Annual Music Competition this concert reflects the Queen's life in music. Expect a repertoire including Elgar, Vaughan Williams and Britten, followed by Champagne and canapes.



Annual Music Competition finals
Every week from February to March

An absolute treat for music-lovers, our AMC finals will be the musical jewel in our late-winter calendar, featuring the brightest and best rising music stars. Now in our 71st year, the competition boasts of £75,000 in awards and has provided a springboard into the industry for scores of musicians. Join us to see who will join the illustrious ranks of our ROSL Annual Music Prizewinners and support the brilliant young musicians who take to the Princess Alexandra Hall stage.

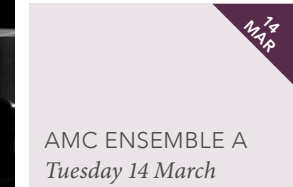
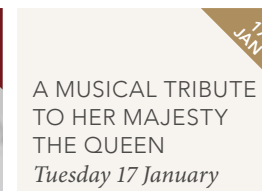
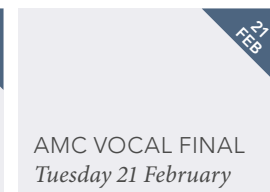
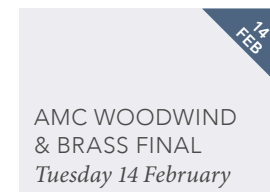
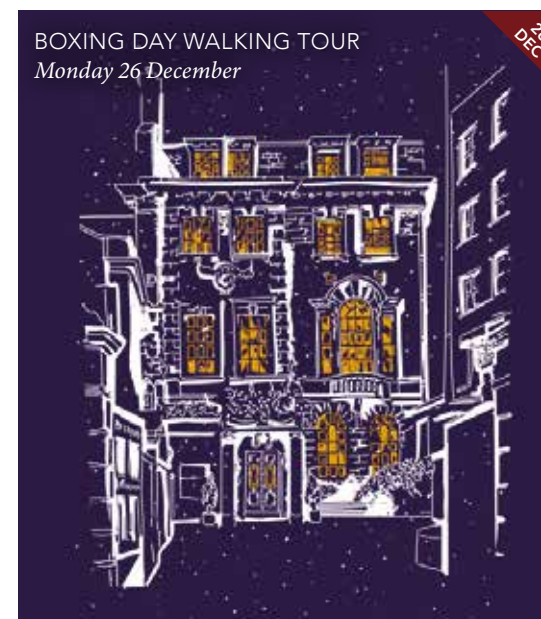
A season ticket for the Annual Music Competition gives you access to each section final.

Dates include the Woodwind and Brass Final (14 Feb), Vocal Final (21 Feb), Keyboard Final (28 Feb), Strings Final (7 March), Ensemble A (14 March), Ensemble B (21 March), AMC Overseas Final (28 March).

Season tickets are available, or purchase individual tickets at rosl.org.uk/events

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Go online to get full details and book your next event at www.rosl.org.uk/events



THE
NATIONAL
GALLERY


The Credit Suisse Exhibition

LUCIAN FREUD

NEW PERSPECTIVES

Until 22 January 2023

Book now
National Gallery Members go free

CREDIT SUISSE 
Partner of the National Gallery

With additional support from
The Thompson Family Charitable Trust

This exhibition has been organised by
The National Gallery and Museo Nacional
Thyssen-Bornemisza, Madrid

