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

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“Our aim is to develop a strategic plan that will enable us to understand fully the challenges and opportunities that we face”



What an eventful first five months with ROSL this has been! Much of my time has been spent recruiting new key team members and dealing with issues arising from the closure of the Edinburgh clubhouse, with the failure of the boilers at our London clubhouse, and with ensuring our process and procedures are compliant. I would like to thank all the staff in Edinburgh and London for their hard work and support during these last few months. It has been a steep learning curve, and I also fitted in a pre-booked holiday in India in January, renewing contacts with family and friends.

A key focus has been initiating, with Central Council, a review of our governance structures, partly to meet new requirements arising from, amongst other things, the General Data Protection Regulations, and also to ensure that we have more effective delegation of accountability and responsibility that meets current best practice standards.

I am delighted to report that by the time you read this, a new leadership team will be in place: Alexis Corzberg joined us in April as our Chief Finance Officer; Keith Poles joined us in March as Director of Operational Estates; Sarah Banner joined in November as Director of Human Resources; with Gemma Matthews, Margaret Aiden-Vallance, and Geoff Parkin completing the team. Our aim is to develop and present a five to ten-year strategic plan for Central Council to consider by the end of 2018. This will enable us to understand fully the challenges and opportunities that we face in the years ahead and how we will meet them.

Real highlights have been the Section Finals of our internationally renowned Annual Music Competition, the Commonwealth Day Service at Westminster Abbey and reception at Over-Seas House, the celebration event to mark the opening of our music centre in Kenya in memory of former Chairman Simon Ward, and our International Women's Day event with Helen Pankhurst, Sophie Walker, Akeela Ahmed, and Deeba Syed. And most of all, I have enjoyed meeting you, our members, and hearing about your sometimes life-long experiences of ROSL, and what it means to you and your family. I look forward to meeting many more of you in the coming months.

Diana Owen
DIRECTOR-GENERAL

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“Delivering sports leadership throughout the Commonwealth, based on partnership and engagement”

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From the
EDITOR

The four-minute mile, The Thriller in Manila, “They think it’s all over”. We all have our own favourite sporting moment forever imprinted on our memories. The drama, the glory, the feats of skill and athleticism, keep the world hooked to both playing and watching sport in all its many forms. In this issue of *Overseas*, we look why at the high ideals of inclusion, equality, and fair play are what make sport so universal.

The recent Commonwealth Games on the Gold Coast placed these ideals at the centre of the event, with the largest ever programme of para-sports included in the main schedule, with 40% more para-athletes competing than in Glasgow four years ago. The 2018 Winter Paralympics in PyeongChang also gave athletes who specialise in snow sports a chance to compete. On page 32, I speak to Grace Brulotte, founder of Fernie Adaptive Ski, about the provisions for para-skiers in Canada and the enjoyment disabled people can glean from snow sports.

The Gold Coast in April also saw equal medal opportunities for women and men at the games for the first time. A laudable achievement, which sadly isn’t met everywhere in the professional sphere. While most sports are played by both genders, in some cases the pay gap at the professional level remains wide. On page 36, Abi Millar explores what can be done to promote equality in participation and pay in sport.

Darren Hall, Chief Operating Officer at the Commonwealth Games Federation, discusses these achievements and more on page 20. Of course, these high ideals of inclusion, equality and fair play can sometimes come under threat as the rewards of winning become so great. Sport is big business after all; the adulation, the prestige, and the money can all contribute to sportspeople crossing that ethical line and deciding to dope.

Ross Davies looks into the ongoing fight against doping on page 28, the public’s changing perception of elite sport given the frequent revelations of doping across a wide number of disciplines and asks if public confidence will ever be restored in our sporting heroes.

Mark Brierley
editor@rosl.org.uk

Edinburgh announcement

A read through ROSL's annual reports over the last decade reveals that the condition of the clubhouse and the service provided for members in Princes Street has been of considerable concern for many years.

In 2009, we reported on 'an extremely difficult year for ROSL in Scotland' with a heavy financial loss and fall in new members despite an active arts and cultural programme. In our 2010 centenary report, we recorded 'another difficult year' and a financial loss and a 'complete boiler failure'. In 2011, the new D-G reported that there 'is still a long way to go in Edinburgh' and much-needed repair works to the roof and chimneys, which would be costly. In that year, it was also decided to outsource catering and the day-to-day running of the clubhouse, and bring in a commercial company with a track record in running hotels – Cobbs. In the same year considerable investment was made to convert the fourth-floor flat into four new bedrooms and generally upgrade facilities.

In the last five years, ROSL has continued to invest considerable sums of money into repairs and improvements to the clubhouse, and changed operators in an attempt to stem large annual financial losses. However, the continuing deterioration of the fabric of the building due to a lack of planned preventative maintenance over generations, and the need to replace fundamental buildings infrastructure such as the electrical, fire safety, and heating systems, finally overwhelmed ROSL's capacity to absorb any more costs or deal with issues arising from the building. Mindful of their duty of care to everyone using the clubhouse, ROSL's Central Council reluctantly came



to the conclusion in November 2017 that it had no option but to close the clubhouse in early 2018.

The sheer scale of the works required, is conservatively estimated at a cost of £2million plus refurbishment costs of £3.5million, including the replacement of windows, boilers and ventilation, fire alarm and sprinkler systems, and rewiring, among others. Set this against a valuation of the building of £1.5million means that ROSL has no choice but to sell the building and realise what value it can. To this end, Galbraith Property Services has been appointed to consider our options and oversee the sales process. We thank Ricky and Jesus at the clubhouse for their support over the last few months, and the

Edinburgh Branch Committee for their ongoing commitment.

Central Council remains clear that ROSL will still be servicing members in Scotland, initially through the agreement reached with the Royal Scots Club.

All members will receive a 20% discount when using the Royal Scots Club until the end of 2018. Once the sale process has been completed, there will be an opportunity to review again how best to support members across Scotland and the north of England.

Beyond Edinburgh, ROSL faces many financial challenges over the next few years stemming from an uncertain economic outlook impacting income, increasing regulation, and from a long-standing lack of adequate maintenance of the London clubhouse and several installations that are no longer fit for purpose through natural obsolescence. These costs are likely to be in the region of £4million over the next five years not including a significant asbestos removal

programme that will be necessary.

However, ROSL is more than a clubhouse, in Edinburgh or London, and has a network of supporters worldwide drawn to its message of international friendship and understanding. It is a unique organisation strongly identified with the Commonwealth and held in affection by many who never visit the clubhouses. ROSL's arts programmes are second to none and its education work genuinely changes lives for the better, contributing to the wider well-being of our worldwide community. These are surely important strands of ROSL's work that must continue in some form whatever becomes of our clubhouses or wherever we find ourselves 'living' in the future.

ROSL goes green

While ROSL has always taken its responsibility to the environment seriously, under Director-General Diana Owen, the organisation now has a new environmental policy, which will seek to make our activities more sustainable

The new environmental policy calls for ROSL to go above and beyond our legal and legislative obligations where possible by creating an environmental action plan to reduce our levels of waste; recycle and reuse where possible; and sustainably source equipment and products locally, wherever possible.

The new policy aims to encourage staff, our suppliers, contactors, and other stakeholders, as well as you, the members, to make personal contributions to reducing our environmental footprint.

Where better to turn over a new green leaf than in the clubhouse. Housekeeping are making great strides, with plans to remove plastic water bottles from bedrooms, and replace them with refillable glass bottles. Recyclable toiletries, with biodegradable packaging, are also being introduced in each bathroom. The marketing team have already made moves to be more environmentally sound, by introducing membership cards that need not be replaced every year. Together, these seemingly small acts are adding up to be a big impact on our environmental footprint.

Graysons, too, are committed to actively improving environmental performance and have the ISO 14001 certification to prove it. Sourcing ingredients from a variety of local,

national and Fairtrade producers, using recyclable food packaging and recycling cooking oil into biofuel are just some of the initiatives undertaken so far.

The Overseas Journal is now also printed using paper from sustainable sources, thanks to ROSL's switch to Gemini Print Group in 2017. The printers, based on the south coast of England, are an FSC® and ISO 14001 certified eco printers in the UK that has invested time and capital in becoming green, carefully choosing its paper sources and sponsoring the Woodland Trust, the UK's leading woodland conservation charity.

As part of the Edinburgh clubhouse closure, the furniture, fixtures, and fittings have largely been removed from the building, the task of which ROSL entrusted to Bright Green Environmental Solutions, who specialise in environmental management, reuse logistics, and the so-called 'circular economy'. The bedrooms, public, and staff areas were all cleared of their furniture, fixtures and fittings, which were then renovated and redistributed to those in need. Ultimately, 100% of that which was removed was reused, comprising 1,345 individual items, everything from light fittings and dining tables, to bed frames and duvet sets, diverting 13,746kg from landfill and saving 101,905kg of CO₂ emissions.

Ontario Chapter Honoured by Royal Heritage Trust

The links between ROSL and the English Speaking Union (ESU) date back to our founder, Sir Evelyn Wrench, when he launched both organisations in 1910 and 1918 respectively. In 2011, the President of the ROSL Ontario Chapter, Ishrani Jaikaran, agreed with her counterpart at the ESU Toronto-Hamilton Branch, Arthur Bousfield, that the ROSL Ontario Chapter would annually donate a trophy prize named in honour of Sir Evelyn Wrench for the runner-up in the ESU's 'Shakespeare on the Platform' competition.

As a result of this long standing support and in the ESU's centenary year, the ROSL Ontario Chapter has been honoured for its outstanding contribution to Canada's Royal Heritage with the 2018 Canadian Royal Heritage Award. It was presented to Ishrani by Hon. Alan Redway, PC, QC, Honorary Chairman of the Canadian Royal Heritage Trust of which the ESU is an affiliate.

ROSL and ESU branches provide their members with close ties to this day. In addition to the links in Canada, the Bournemouth Branch of ROSL and the Salisbury Branch of the ESU regularly hold joint events.



For the Love of Reading

To celebrate ROSL's long-standing connection with the Caine Prize, this year, members have a chance to have their say on who should win the inaugural ROSL Readers' Award. Director of Arts Geoff Parkin explains how to get involved

ROSL has been proud to support the Caine Prize for African Writing since its inception in 2000. Each year, the shortlisted writers have stayed at our London clubhouse for around ten days, as they embark on a series of talks, readings, and media appearances, culminating in the announcement of the winner.

The original concept for the prize was to highlight the quality of African writing and bring it to a wider audience. Entries are written in English and the winner receives £10,000. The prize was established in memory of Sir Michael Caine, former Chairman of Booker plc and for 25 years Chairman of the Booker Prize committee.

Given that there are 19 African countries that are members of the Commonwealth, the prize has always

felt a good fit with ROSL. Each year, the Caine Prize organises a workshop for 12 writers in a different African country, with the resulting works forming that year's Caine Prize anthology, alongside the shortlisted works for the prize itself.

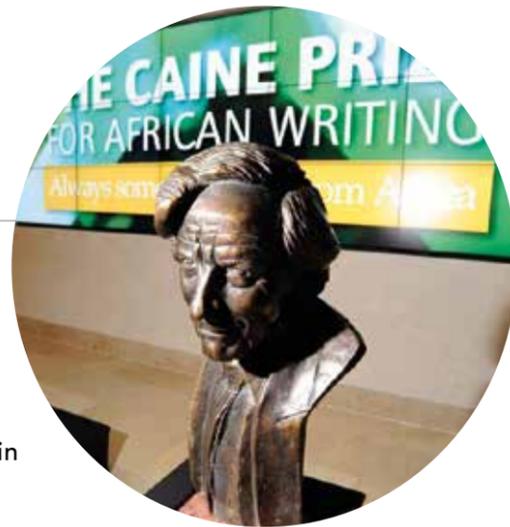
We were pleased to host this year's jury for the shortlisting, who locked themselves away in the Bennet-Clark room until they had decided the shortlist for 2018. This year's jury is author and journalist Dinaw Mengestu (Chairman), journalist and poet Ahmed Rajab, author and 2008 Caine Prize winner Henrietta Rose-Innes, and author and poet Lola Shoneyin.

I am pleased to announce that from this year we have enhanced our relationship with the Caine Prize and ROSL members can all play a part by voting in the ROSL

Readers' Award. Copies of the shortlisted stories are now available to download from our website at www.rosl.org.uk/books or email rosllarts@rosl.org.uk and we can send you a printed copy.

Vote for your favourite online at www.rosl.org.uk/books by Monday 25 June at 4pm and the winner will be announced shortly after. Our ROSL prizewinner will receive £1,000 and will be commissioned to write an original piece for a forthcoming edition of *Overseas*.

On Wednesday 27 June at 7pm the shortlisted writers will all gather in Princess Alexandra Hall to read a section of their stories and there will be an opportunity for questions and answers from the audience. Tickets are £5 at www.rosl.org.uk/events



Sir Kenneth Scott

1931-2018

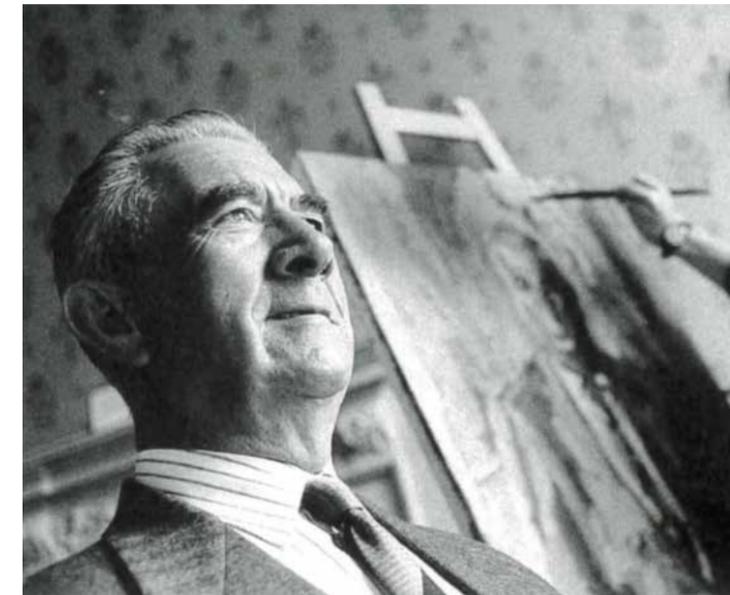
It is with great sadness we report the death of former ROSL Vice-Chairman Sir Kenneth Scott KCVO CMG, who died on Friday 23 February at the age of 87.

After his education in Edinburgh, Sir Kenneth embarked upon a life of service to Queen and country, first joining the Diplomatic Service, which included spells in Moscow, Bonn, Washington, and Brussels. From 1982-85, he served as the British Ambassador to Yugoslavia.

Upon return to the UK, he became the Queen's Assistant Private Secretary for five years until 1990, when he became Deputy Private Secretary for a further six years until 1996. He was made a KCVO in 1990, and a CMG in 1980. In 2016, he gave a memorable interview to Vanity Fair about his time with the monarch.

After retirement from the Royal Household, Sir Kenneth served in a number of other positions, included a short spell as ROSL Vice-Chairman, before becoming Vice-President in 2002. He also spent nine months as the Chairman of the Provisional Election Commission in Bosnia, helping to organise the country's first democratic elections after the 1992-95 war.

Speaking after his death, former ROSL Director-General Roddy Porter paid warm tribute to Sir Kenneth: "A wonderful servant of Queen, country and the League. A lovely man and, on only six years acquaintance, a friend. He was a generous and deeply committed ROSL Vice President and a great advocate for ROSL in Scotland and in the corridors of influence."



Sir Lawrence Byford

1925-2018

We are saddened to report former ROSL Chairman Sir Lawrence Byford passed away on Saturday 10 February, aged 92. Serving as ROSL Chairman from 1989 to 1992, Sir Lawrence took up the role shortly after serving as the Chief Inspector of Constabulary from 1983 to 1987, where he famously published a report on the police investigation into Yorkshire Ripper Peter Sutcliffe.

Published in 1982, the Byford Report highlighted major errors of judgement on the part of the police, which led to changes in the procedures used during investigations by police forces across the UK.

Before joining the police, West-Yorkshire born Byford had been a part of the Royal Signal's Special Communications Unit during the Second World War. In 1947, he joined West Riding Constabulary, where he eventually rose to Chief Inspector of Constabulary.

Following his retirement, he served as Chairman of ROSL for three years from 1989 to 1992, while also becoming the President of Yorkshire Country Cricket Club in 1991, serving until 1999. During this time, he helped to end the club's policy of only hiring UK-born cricketers, paving the way for world-renowned Indian player Sachin Tendulkar to join the club in 1992.



FAREWELL TO IEUAN JONES

After decades as ROSL's resident harpist, Ieuan Jones stepped down from his role in the Restaurant last month. Here, he bids members and friends farewell

Few could have imagined that, when I entered the ROSL competition for the first time in 1983 as a student at the Royal College of Music, I would still be at the club over 35 years later. Thanks to the musical ideas of Myriam Barling, Roderick Lakin, and the management of Robert Newell, live music was being introduced in the Restaurant at the London clubhouse and the harp was the only instrument that worked successfully. It has been the backdrop to my regular work for all my working life to now. As a solo harpist, I was never

interested in taking the orchestral route as it would in time take over my desire to show what a harp could do in a solo capacity. Hence my staying at ROSL for so long. After winning the Gold Medal in 1985, new opportunities arose and I was fortunate to travel the world as a solo player, taking my harp to far flung places but always coming home to ROSL. That was the last time the harp took the Gold Medal at this prestigious competition.

I would like to say my personal thanks to the club for sustaining live music during some difficult

times. Now on my fourth D-G, I wish Diana Owen the best of luck in keeping the club traditions alive. I would also like to thank so many members who have been so kind to me, very often supplying liquid refreshment and interesting connections around the world. I hope that I have given you more than just background noise and also given you music that was not so expected from a harp. I will miss the routine, delicious food, and the 'club' friends from all over the world. Thank you for your kindness.

Sincerely, Ieuan Jones



ANNUAL MUSIC COMPETITION UPDATE

To jump start the new year, the London clubhouse was buzzing with young musicians from around the Commonwealth as the 2018 Annual Music Competition began with our Section Finals in February. Every Tuesday for six weeks saw a new round of competitors in the clubhouse with hopes of progressing to the Grand Final in June for a chance to win the £15,000 Gold Medal Prize.

The Section Finals began with wind and brass, and with such a huge amount of talent in one round, every performer was awarded a prize, but the overall winner was Jonathan Radford saxophone. The second week brought arias and songs to the club with our voice Section Final. We heard from some incredible singers but in the end, it was bass-baritone Michael Mofidian who walked away with the win.

Next came the strings, which featured everything from violin to harp and guitar. This round really showed that persistence pays as it was our 2017 Len Lickorish prizewinner Emmanuel Bach violin, who managed to go one better and win the Section Final this year. Our final solo section was the keyboard round and again the competition was very close. But, after an unusually long deliberation, the panel found our final competitor for the Gold Medal in Florian Mitrea.

Following four weeks of solo competition, we went straight into our ensemble Section Finals, beginning with our string and piano ensembles. After hearing some incredible musicmaking, the Section Final winner was announced as the



Marmen Quartet. Rounding out this stage of the competition were the mixed ensembles, with an extremely varied set of groups to choose from. In the end, it was another 2017 prizewinning group, with A4 Brass Quartet being announced as the winner.

With the Section Finals complete, six weeks of competition was rounded out by the Overseas Award, which saw our best musicians from The Commonwealth from the four solo rounds performing again in the Princess Alexandra Hall. The Lorna Viol Memorial Prize and ROSL Trophy for an Outstanding Musician from Overseas went to violist Alexander McFarlane from New Zealand.

All eyes now turn our four soloists competing for our Gold Medal Prize at the Queen Elizabeth Hall on Monday 4 June. This evening of exceptional music will also give us the chance to hear our winning ensembles again, the Marmen and A4 Brass Quartets. Stay tuned to www.rosl.org.uk/amc and the next edition of *Overseas* to find out who our Gold Medal winner will be and find out all about them!

POP UP CREATORS

April saw a celebration of international art as we launched the Pop Up Creators exhibition, partnering with Pop Up Projects. The exhibition presented the achievements of 150 young storytellers from the Baltic countries and the UK, who through the project produced a leporello library, which was on display in the Central Lounge of Over-Seas House for six weeks.

The content of the leporellos provided the source for the work that adorned the walls of the Central Lounge during the exhibition, both blown-up prints and original artwork produced by the talented artists, which were accompanied for the evening of the private view by life-sized leporellos in the Princess Alexandra Hall.

Some of the artists from the Baltics attended the event along with the ambassadors from all three of the countries involved: His Excellency Renatas Norkus from Lithuania, Her Excellency Tina Intelmann from Estonia, and her Excellency Baiba Braže of Latvia.



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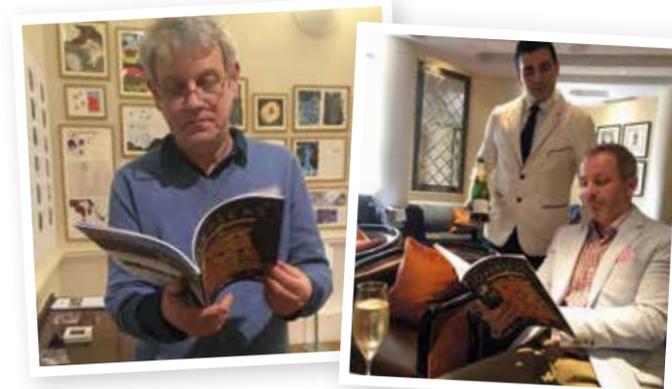
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More images online

Visit our [Facebook](#) page and the ROSL website to see more photos of ROSL events, including the ceilidh and Austentatious. Get daily news updates on the ROSL website and by following us on [Twitter](#).

BLACK-TIE DINNER & CEILIDH

In celebration of the famous Scottish poet, Rabbin Burns, members came together in their finest tartan threads to eat, drink, and dance in his memory. After a drinks reception, our very own proud Scottish Visual Arts coordinator, Eilidh (pictured), led the party in the traditional Selkirk Grace that precedes the haggis. The colourful procession was the highlight of the meal as guests stood to welcome the guest of honour, which was delivered by our talented chef Gavin. Despite the delicious three-course meal with haggis, neeps, and tatties, members couldn't wait to get on the dance floor. Our band was more than happy to oblige their eager guests with a series of highland favourites, ending with the traditional *Auld Lang Syne*.



SNAPPED READING OVERSEAS

ROSL member and Taunton Branch Secretary Neil Milne, enjoys *Overseas* over a glass of bubbly while on a visit to the American Bar of the Savoy in London.

Axel Scheffler, famed for his illustration of *The Gruffalo*, leafs through *Overseas* at the Pop Up Creators private view in April, noting the illustration commissioned specially for the front cover from Ian Murray.

Don't forget to send your 'Snapped Reading *Overseas*' pictures to editor@rosl.org.uk

A WOMAN'S PLACE IS IN POLITICS: AN INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY DEBATE

Following the flourishing global movement for women's rights and as we celebrate 100 years since the first women were given the right to vote in the UK, it seemed natural that ROSL would celebrate International Women's Day this year with a

politically themed debate. We were treated to a star-studded panel that included Sophie Walker, Leader of the Women's Equality Party; Helen Pankhurst, descendant of famous Suffragette Emmeline Pankhurst; Akeela Ahmed, organiser of the Women's March in London; and Deeba Syed, ROSL younger member and part of the Jo Cox Women in Leadership

programme, who chaired the evening. They discussed topics that ranged from the reasons behind the sudden rise in activism to barriers keeping women out of politics, the benefits of a diverse Parliament, and the involvement of men in the movement. The debate was heated, and the questions from the floor thought provoking and inspiring.



COMMONTIES

Continuing our Commonwealth celebrations, CommonTies was an opportunity for young people around the Commonwealth to come together and debate the big themes that the Heads of Government would be discussing at this year's CHOGM. Run in partnership with the Commonwealth Secretariat Youth Division, the evening opened with a fair run by different Commonwealth organisations, which gave guests the chance to find out what opportunities there were to get involved with the Commonwealth through volunteering, membership, and events. Afterwards, guests were invited to join the big panel discussion. Starting the evening was our keynote

speaker Geoff Thompson MBE FRSA DL, former world champion athlete, and one of the UK's most respected sports administrators and youth activists. Geoff spoke to the young people about the importance of sport, and the arts, outside of education and the escape it provides from day-to-day lives.

Afterwards, the panel, chaired by Lawrence Muli from the Youth Division, began to look ahead to CHOGM 2018, and how young people could help create a more sustainable, fair, secure, and prosperous future. Joining the discussion were Fran Mills from the UK Youth Climate Coalition, Vijay Krishnarayan from the Commonwealth Foundation, Tiffany Daniels from the Youth Development Practitioner, and Arif Zaman, FRSA Executive Director from the Commonwealth Businesswomen's Network. The discussion ranged from ensuring countries did not neglect their own development in favour of trade, to understanding that security might mean something different to future generations. After the spirited debate, guests continued to network and discuss the points raised over a glass of wine.



**AUSTENTATIOUS:
AN IMPROVISED
JANE AUSTEN NOVEL**

Members packed themselves into our beautiful Drawing Room on 2 February for a spectacular one-off performance from award-winning comedy improv troupe Austentatious.

Before the performance started, guests were encouraged to write down their title suggestions, one of which would be picked from a hat at the start of the performance. There were many great suggestions such as Mansplain Park, and Gentle and Gentility. The winning title was Austen 7, a story about the recently divorced and wealthy Mr Baxter whose mid-life crisis results in the purchase of the latest carriage on the market – the Austen 7. The cast, which included Cariad Lloyd, Rachel Parris, Daniel Nil Roberts, Joseph Morpurgo, and Graham Dickson, took us seamlessly through this hilarious improvised comedy and had the crowd reduced to side-splitting laughter in minutes.



COMMONWEALTH DAY SERVICE & RECEPTION

Every year, we offer members the chance to take part in the Commonwealth Day celebrations by joining Her Majesty the Queen at Westminster Abbey for the annual service. This year, our members were treated to spoken word and music performances, as well as enjoying being a part of the coming together of representatives from all 53 nations. Afterwards, members and guests made the short walk over to Over-Seas House and carried on the festivities. With live music from Mande Strings, activities, and food inspired by the Commonwealth, this was a celebratory evening that captured the diversity of the Commonwealth and encapsulated how ROSL bridges those differences with friendship.

THE ART OF MINDFULNESS

Everyone knows that stress is bad for you: it can disrupt your sleep, impact your eating habits and has an obvious impact on your emotions. So, we asked Dr Henry Ford, fellow ROSL member and an executive coach in mindfulness, to lead members through a variety of exercises to improve their mental well-being. Mindfulness, Henry explained, means paying attention in a particular way on purpose, in the present moment and non-judgementally. It helps us to process situations that would normally cause a knee jerk reaction such as anger or fear.

For our readers who were unable to make the session, try one of Henry's suggested stress-busting techniques. Imagine a river in your mind, hold that image in your mind. Focus on the noise it makes, the way the water looks and the smell of the fresh outdoors. Now, when a thought intrudes on your oasis, simply place it on a leaf, put the leaf on the river, and watch it float away.

**THE MOVABLE FEAST:
THE ARMOURERS' HALL**

Members and their guests were greeted for the first instalment of our new Movable Feast series at the Armourers' Hall by two beautiful sets of 17th century armour stationed in the guard position on either side of the red-carpeted stairwell. The walls were adorned with a selection of late medieval armour, crests, and weapons, including some exquisitely preserved horse armour.

In the elegant Drawing Room guests were given a brief history on the heritage of the building, and the Armourers & Brasiers' Company, which



it houses. Afterwards, guests were invited to the Livery Hall, which could have easily given Hogwarts' Great Hall a run for its money with the breathtaking fire places, medieval banqueting tables, and candles.

School to school

Following the completion of ROSL's Simon Ward Memorial Music Centre in Kenya, the UK-based Griffin Schools Trust has twinned with St Andrews Tarabete School to furnish the Centre with instruments. Trust Director of Music Lewis Delivett explains how the relationship came about



The Griffin Schools Trust (GST) was founded in 2012 by a group of education leaders who wanted to create a family of schools that provided access to the very highest quality education for all pupils, but particularly for those from socially disadvantaged backgrounds. Six years on, we are a family of 12 schools spread across the Midlands, Milton Keynes, Medway, and East London, who are committed to providing an outstanding education for all

students, whatever their starting points, backgrounds, and needs. We are focused on finding and nurturing talents so that children enjoy personal fulfilment.

Arts and sports are central to the work that we do at GST and remains a key priority at all of our schools. We are unique as a trust in that we have a Director of Drama and Performance, Director of Music, Director of Art, and a Director of Sport, all of whom are professionals in their own right, and are the driving force in developing and delivering high-quality experiences for all of our pupils. Included in this provision and vision is our annual Griffin Arts Festival, which takes place in June. Its aim is simply to celebrate the arts across each of our schools. The Griffin Arts Festival was set up in 2014, to acknowledge the importance of the arts to our founders, who value the creative as much as the academic in the lives of our children, young people, and the adults who work with them.

“A fundraising day at Riverley Primary School, with a view to creating funds that would allow the team in Kenya to purchase musical instruments

Working with ROSL

In September of 2017, our trust formed a new choir, The Griffin Children's Chorus. When looking for a home to rehearse our 110-strong chorus, it felt natural to come to ROSL, because we both share the similar vision of providing a platform for young musicians to grow and assist in nurturing their talents. Previous to this, we had received support from ROSL with the Griffin Arts Festival; in 2017, both Helen Sherman mezzo-soprano and Ferio Saxophone Quartet performed in our series of evening concerts.

With CHOGM taking place in London this year, we met again with the ROSL ARTS team to see how we might be able to collaborate on a project that would mark the occasion. It was at this time that we were told about The Music Centre at the St Andrews Tarabete School in Kenya, which was being built from donations in memory of former ROSL Chairman

Simon Ward. It was decided that we would twin the music centre in Kenya with the music room at Riverley Primary School, a GST school in Leyton, East London.

The Big Sing

With the concept of the twinning of the two music rooms established, we wanted to find a way that we could start a dialogue between the communities. After discovering that the wonderful new facility at St Andrews Tarabete was lacking in resources, we came up with the idea of hosting a fundraising day at Riverley Primary School with a view to creating funds that would allow the team in Kenya to purchase musical instruments and for Simon Ward's legacy to continue in the vein that was intended. On Friday 9 March, coinciding with our Founders Day, the students at Riverley took part in a sponsored Big Sing. During the day, children took part in singing workshops that culminated in a 'Big Sing'

celebration assembly that saw friends and family of the school coming together and perform *Sing*, a Commonwealth song written by Gary Barlow and Andrew Lloyd Webber to commemorate the Diamond Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II. We were delighted that Geoff Parkin, Director of ROSL ARTS, was able to attend this event and spoke of the impact that the fundraising would have on the lives of the children in Kenya. To date, the children have raised

an astonishing £700, a sum that completely surpassed our expectations.

Having had such a successful fundraising event we wanted to look at a way of building on this momentum and creating a musical way in which the schools may communicate. ROSL has kindly organised for 30 students from Riverley Primary to visit the London clubhouse and take part in a workshop with 2017 ROSL Music competition winners, World Music Ensemble, Kabantu. During the workshop, Kabantu will teach the Riverley pupils a Kenyan song that will be professionally filmed, along with a video message that is to be sent to the pupils at St Andrews Tarabete.

Future projects

Support from ROSL has been invaluable to us at the Griffin Schools Trust, and has allowed us to deliver and promote our vision that students should be given the opportunity to perform and work alongside professional musicians. Future projects will see pupils once again performing with ROSL prizewinner Helen Sherman in an original production of *Mother and I: A Children's Opera*. We are also extremely excited to be welcoming ROSL prizewinner Chad Vindin, who will be accompanist for the inaugural concert of the Griffin Children's Chorus, Britten and the Commonwealth. In short, there are lots of exciting opportunities for our students, and this is only made possible through the support from Geoff and everyone at the Royal Over-Seas League. Long may this wonderful partnership continue.

GET INVOLVED
Mother and I: A children's Opera
Friday 13 July, 2pm, Hoxton Hall
Griffin Arts Festival 2018
Monday 25 June – Friday 6 July
www.griffinschoolstrust.org
www.griffinartsfestival.com

Bottom left: Girls in rural Pakistan who are helped by the CGEF. Below: ROSL support enabling Pestalozzi Village students to extend their skills to include music and dance-at the opening of the Simon Ward Memorial Music Centre



ROSL education projects

Margaret Adrian-Vallance highlights support for young people in India and Pakistan, a reception for Simon Ward Music Centre donors, hospitality for CHOGM delegates and work on data protection, safeguarding and other relevant policies

Partnerships in India and Pakistan

At their meeting in March, the Trustees of the ROSL Golden Jubilee Trust agreed to widen support for education projects to India and Pakistan. Hitherto, such partnership projects have been mainly in Africa; the exceptions being Sri Lanka during the late 1990s and more recently in the Solomons. The two new partnership organisations are the Pestalozzi Village in India for impoverished young people from rural areas and the Commonwealth Girls Education Fund (CGEF), which sponsors bright but destitute girls in the Commonwealth's low-income countries.

A village for children

The Pestalozzi Asian Village for children from very poor rural families was established in 2003 at Dehradun in northern India. There are currently 168 children aged 11 to 18 of Indian, Nepalese, and Tibetan origin. They live in village houses with a house mother and attend some of the best English medium schools. The Doon School is perhaps the most famous in the area.

In keeping with Pestalozzi principles of 'Head, Heart and Hands', the students get practical training in a range of skills including carpentry, sewing, gardening, and computing. "Other than these activities, the children have lacked the opportunity for other interests such as playing musical instruments, singing and dancing," says Administrator Tanya Mowbray.

Although ROSL was originally asked to support two final year students in their academic studies, enabling a wider audience to develop skills that were not yet provided for became a new priority. Following discussions with Pestalozzi and their well-constructed proposal, ROSL will now be enabling interested pupils to explore the formal world of music, dance and singing over the next two years.

Classes will be provided by the Indian School of Talent, which teaches guitar, violin, keyboard, and drums, and they also make arrangements for students to sit for grade exams, held in May and June each year at the Doon School; the area's centre for the Trinity College of Music in London. For Indian Classical Singing, the teachers are affiliated to the Bhatkhande Sangit Vidyapith Music Institute, a government undertaking that also holds exams.

The Commonwealth Girls Education Fund

The CGEF has had a long-standing relationship with ROSL, holding many of its events at the clubhouse over the years. Both organisations are members of the Commonwealth Consortium for Education. Judith Fisher, CGEF



“
The students get practical training in a range of skills including carpentry, sewing, gardening, and computing

Chairman for the last ten years, and ROSL Central Council member welcomed a donation in 2010 from the ROSL Hong Kong Branch of £3,000 during a splendid ROSL Centenary reception at the Hong Kong Trade and Development Centre in London. Judith is also an ardent supporter of ROSL, promoting membership to CGEF visitors, funders and guests.

The renewed support will focus on the education of girls in rural Pakistan over the next four years. The cost of support here is around £68 pa for each girl. This enables them to complete their school certificate on a designated funding basis.



The CGEF has a 50-year track record of successfully empowering bright girls and transforming lives, and operates in 35 countries. Watch out for its upcoming events in newsletters and on the ROSL website.

Reception in memory of Simon Ward

A reception hosted by Sir Anthony Figgis, Chairman of the ROSL Golden Jubilee Trust, and Diana Owen, ROSL Director-General, was held in the Princess Alexandra Hall on 8 March to thank all those who had contributed towards the building of the ROSL

Simon Ward Memorial Music Centre at St Andrews Tarababete Secondary School in Naivasha, Kenya.

Amongst the guests were Raye Ward and family members, ROSL President Lord Luce and Lady Luce, ROSL Chairman Sir David Brewer, and representatives from the Kenya High Commission and other organisations. Short videos of ROSL education projects around the world and the Music Centre's opening ceremony in Kenya were shown during the evening. Uplifting music from the latter contributed to what was a unique and memorable occasion.

CHOGM hospitality for parliamentarians and youth

On 17 April, the Director-General and others hosted a dinner for the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association Secretary General, Mr Akbar Khan and representatives from Australia, Cameroon, Canada and Malta. ROSL's long-standing interest in the CPA was initially triggered by Peter Katjavivi, Speaker of Namibia's National Assembly and a long term ROSL-Namibia project supporter.

On 18 April the Director-General and others welcomed CHOGM Youth Forum delegates Dieudonne Rwaburindi from Rwanda and Grace Kibatha from Kenya, as well as members of their sponsoring organisation, Canada's Digital Opportunity Trust, to drinks and supper in the clubhouse.

Safeguarding and good practice

A concerted effort is being made to ensure good practice by ROSL in all its education projects - from fulfilling the new regulations regarding data protection to safeguarding, child protection and the use of photography. In this respect, all illustrative material in this and future issues will follow guidelines relating to permissions and identity protection.

Generous donors and supporters should also be informed that, whereas in the past, no donated funds in ROSL'S Golden Jubilee Trust were ever used for administration, it was agreed in March this year that a small percentage - around 2% - could in future be used in this way. This compares well with other charitable trusts, most of which allow around 12-15% of funds to be used for administration.

Thank you Prior Heath School

Prior Heath School in Camberley, UK, has continued its friendship link with the Rainbow School in Windhoek, Namibia - sharing information and photos. Prior Heath has also had another fundraising venture in support of items like benches and tables in the outside area where children have their school break at Rainbow. The initiator of this link is Marianne Porter, who teaches at the school.



Where you are

ROSL NEWS

1. Director of Arts Geoff Parkin with The Honourable Lois E. Mitchell CM AOE LLD; Lieutenant Governor of Alberta His Honour, Honorary Colonel Douglas Mitchell CM AOE QC LLD; Caroline Saunders, British Consul-General in Calgary; and Madeleine King

2. The Chairman of the Western Australia Branch, Miles Glanville (right), steps down from his role to move to the UK and hands over to incoming Chairman, Nigel Rogers

3. The Christchurch Branch AGM with a presentation to ROSL member Lorraine Logan who received the QSM for her dedication to the Christchurch Symphony Orchestra Friends. Seen with L-R Judith Leckie, President; Angela Parks, Treasurer; and Ruth Harwood, Patron of the branch



ROSL BRANCHES

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

Queen's Birthday lunch

Tuesday 12 June, Lenah Valley RSL

The United Commonwealth Societies of Tasmania invite you to the celebrate the Queen's Birthday with a two-course meal and The Governor H.E. Prof Honourable Kate Warner AC AM as the guest speaker.

\$30. Please RSVP to Robert Dick by the 1 June if you would like to attend on 6223 3763 or gradick1@gmail.com.

Victoria

The Wizard of Oz

Tuesday 26 June, 7pm, Regent Theatre Melbourne

The Wizard of Oz is an enchanting revision of an all-time classic. Developed from the ever-popular MGM screenplay it contains the beloved songs from the Academy Award winning score, all the favourite characters and iconic moments, plus a few surprises along the way AND new songs by Sir Andrew Lloyd Webber and Tim Rice.

\$110.

CANADA

Calgary

Lunch meeting

Wednesday 6 June, 12pm, The Ranchmen's Club

Over lunch, hear Madeleine King speak on 'Highlights of a stay at ROSL and adjacent treats'. **\$60.**

NEW ZEALAND

Christchurch

Coffee morning

Wednesday 13 June, 10am, Holly Lea Retirement Village

Dr Ian Lochhead discusses the history of Canterbury Chambers. **\$5. Guests welcome.**

Mid-winter lunch

Wednesday 11 July, 12pm Double Tree

Bookings required. **Price tba. Guests welcome.**

Musical afternoon

Wednesday 8 August, 2pm, Holly Lea Retirement Village

A special performance from pupils of Cashmere High School. **\$10. Guests welcome.**

Oamaru

Mid-year lunch

Date and venue tba

Price tba. Contact Bruce Albiston on 03 432 4194 to register your interest.

Southland

Morning tea

Wednesday 6 June, 10am, Club Southland

With guest speaker Jocelyn Donaldson recalling her visit to Gallipoli.

\$8. Guests welcome.

Morning tea

Wednesday 4 July, 10am, Club Southland

Monthly gathering with guest speaker Darren Ryan on 'Serving with the Army in East Timor'.

\$8. Guests welcome.

Morning tea

Wednesday 1 August, 10am, Club Southland

Speaker Ian Bekker talks of his experience in Turkey at this regular meet-up.

\$8. Guests welcome.

UNITED KINGDOM

Bournemouth

Coffee mornings

Thursday 7, 14, 21, 28 June, 5, 12, 19, 26 July, 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 August, 10.30am, Mayfair Hotel

The regular meetings continue. **£3. Includes coffee and biscuits.**

ROSL & ESU garden party

Saturday 23 June, 12.30pm, Horton Celebrate the ESU's centenary over a buffet and wine, at Horton, near Wimborne, BH21 7EP.

£10. Minibus from Hallmark Hotel at 11.15am, cost tba.

Summer concert

Sunday 8 July, 4pm, St Peter's Church, Bournemouth

Featuring ROSL alum Jonathan Radford and Gamal Kharmis, and the St Peter's Chamber Choir.

Free.

Cheltenham

Lunch

Wednesday 20 June, Matchams at the Everyman Theatre

Lunch at the Everyman.

Price tba.

Branch visit to Over-Seas House

Friday 27-Monday 30 July, Over-Seas House, London Visit ROSL HQ for a long weekend with the branch. **Price tba.**

Edinburgh

Coffee morning

Saturday 2 June, 10.15am, Royal Scots Club

Hear from Catherine Steyn on her volunteering adventures at our regular coffee morning. **£5.**

Scottish members' dinner

Friday 22 June, 6.30pm, Royal Scots Club

Speaker Alex Neil MSP will join this annual event. He is the SNP MSP for Airdrie and Shotts. He was Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice, Communities and Pensioners' Rights 2014-2016.

Price tba.

Scottish members' visit to the London clubhouse

Friday 27 July, Over-Seas House, London Head to ROSL HQ for the weekend with members from across Scotland. **Price tba.**

Taunton

Queen's Birthday lunch

Wednesday 6 June, 12.30pm, Oake Manor Golf Club

Two-course lunch with a charity raffle. **£21.**

Coffee mornings

Wednesday 13, 20, 27 June, 1, 8, 22, 29 August, 10.30am, The Boathouse

The regular weekly coffee mornings continue.

Pay for your own refreshments.

West Sussex

Queen's Birthday lunch

Wednesday 6 June, 12.30pm, Windsor Hotel, Worthing

See all the regulars at this staple of the branch calendar at the usual venue.

Price tba. Contact David Jamieson to book.

+44 (0)1444 440396

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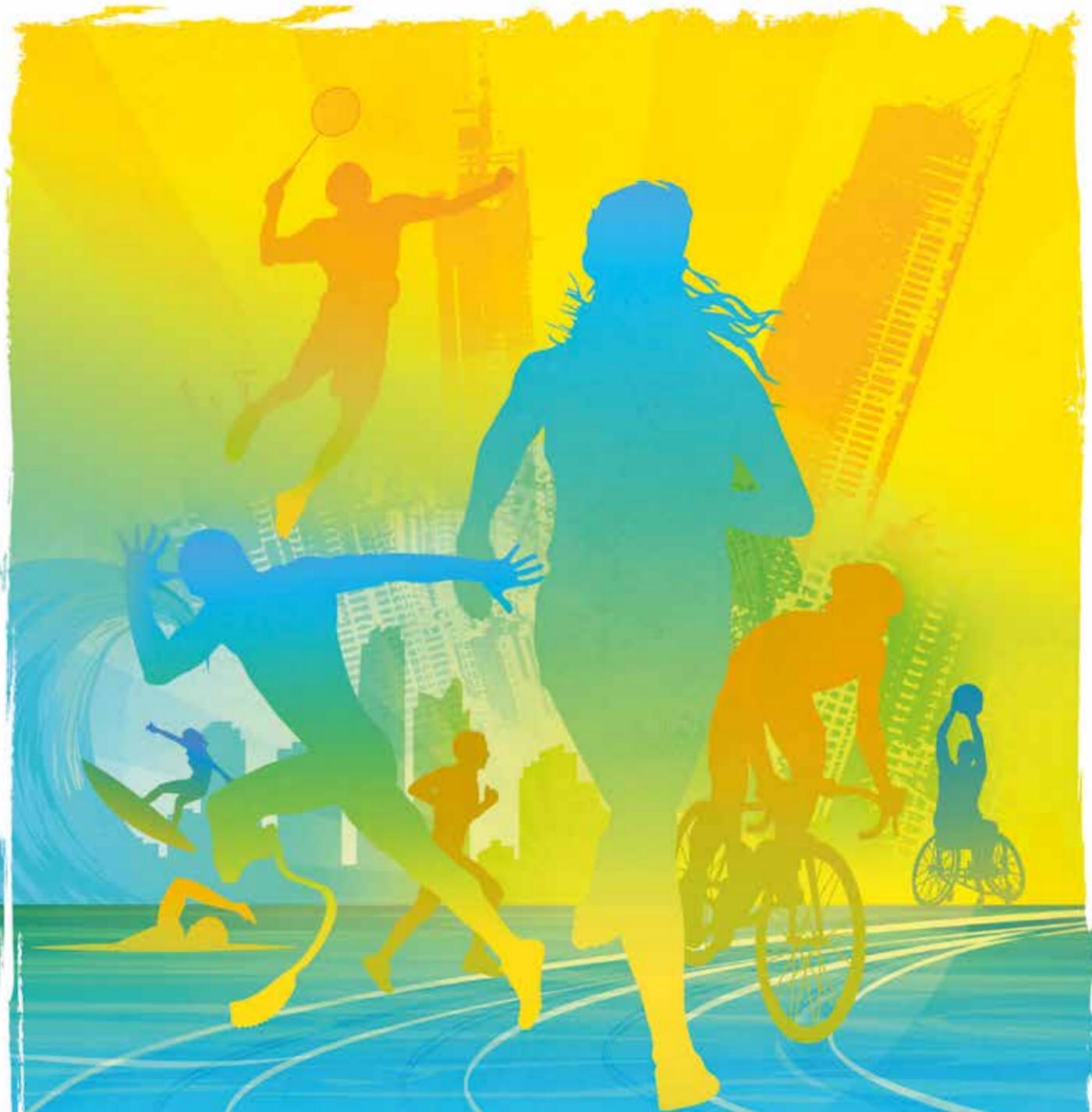
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Keeping in touch

Have you been receiving our new e-newsletters and events updates? If not, please email membership@rosl.org.uk, quoting your membership number, so we can update your email address in our database.



AHEAD *of the* GAMES

Darren Hall, Chief Operating Officer of the Commonwealth Games Federation speaks to Mark Brierley about the inclusive nature of Gold Coast 2018 and the plans to expand the organisation's remit beyond the games

What would you like the legacy of this Commonwealth Games on the Gold Coast to be?

Gold Coast 2018 saw 6,500 athletes and officials from every corner of the Commonwealth participate in an inspiring and inclusive festival of community, culture, and sport. Australia is a sporting powerhouse and this was the biggest multi-sports event hosted since the Sydney 2000 Olympic and Paralympic Games. However, the Games also demonstrated just how committed we are to ensuring that the benefits of the Games stretch beyond the thrilling impact of 11 days of sport. All our efforts are focused on delivering worldwide recognition and respect for the Gold Coast and Queensland, jobs and economic growth, community engagement right across Australia and, above all, the promise of greater reconciliation and social justice. It's why Gold Coast 2018 is the first Mega Sporting Event in Australia with a Reconciliation Action Plan, why Festival 2018 celebrated the diverse and dynamic cultures of the Commonwealth, and why we're proud to have been the first multi-sport event in the world to create a truly level playing-field of gender equality – with an exactly equal number of medal opportunities for men and women.

How does the federation work with the host city to ensure a successful Games?

All successful Games are delivered through a winning combination of people, partnerships and place. In Glasgow four years ago, and on the Gold Coast, we can see exactly how much can be achieved when a city, its communities and its government and wider network of stakeholders pull together to present a game-changing event for athletes and local communities. The Federation awards the hosting rights to a city traditionally six to seven years before the event. In the past, we played more of an inspectorate role, but recently – and now enshrined as part of a brand new delivery model aligned to our Transformation 2022 Strategic Plan – we will become a much more active partner with host cities. We'll support Organising Committees with expertise, systems, and staff to put them in the best possible position to succeed, and not have to "reinvent the wheel" every four years.

As COO, what is your role in the planning, run-up, and staging of the games?

I was Head of Finance for Glasgow 2014, and now oversee all Financial and Corporate Services for the CGF in London. I am a "child of the Commonwealth", being born in Australia



23
sports contested
at **16** venues
across the Gold
Coast over **11** days

1.2mn
tickets sold

More than
4,500
athletes took
part from **71**
Commonwealth
nations and
territories

More than **200,000**
items of clothing
were made for the
4,500
volunteers, or
Game Shapers, that
helped make Gold
Coast 2018 happen

96
world and Games
records broken
during the
competition

and now a UK Citizen. In my role as COO of the CGF I am fortunate enough to work with our Board and Committee members from across the Commonwealth – and lead on the operational delivery of Gold Coast 2018 with our partners at the Australian Commonwealth Games Association, Gold Coast Organising Corporation, Queensland Government, and Gold Coast City Council.

The inclusion of some lesser-known disciplines and para-sports in the main programme speaks of the inclusive nature of the Commonwealth. Are there plans to develop this further?

The Gold Coast was the most gender-equal multi-sport event in history, and delivered a number of other firsts – such as the inaugural Para-Triathlon, Beach Volleyball and Women's Rugby Sevens, and the largest para-sport tournaments ever to be presented at a Commonwealth Games. The Commonwealth Games has historically been known as the 'friendly' games, and we continue to uphold the ideals of Humanity Equality Destiny in everything that we do. Unlike other major sporting events, there is no separate para-sports event or schedule – all the para-sports are incorporated in to a day's programme and medals won in the T54 1,500m (for wheelchair athletes) count to the nation's medal tally just like the 100m. We are very proud to be a multi-sport event in which para sports are inclusive within the programme.

Do you see the Commonwealth Games Federation growing in scope beyond the hosting of the games to other areas of life in member states, as part of 'Transformation 2022'? How does the federation seek to fulfil the principles of the Commonwealth Charter?

Today, the Commonwealth Games Federation (CGF) is far more than the curator of a great Games every four years. Our strategic blueprint marks a historic change in the movement's focus from the four-year cycle of overseeing Commonwealth Games to a wider, ambitious role of delivering sports leadership within the Commonwealth, based on partnership, engagement, and value generation. We now run hugely successful Commonwealth Youth Games and development projects (such as pan-Commonwealth Women Coaching initiatives or sports leadership internships in Africa), and see ourselves as an important cornerstone of a thriving modern Commonwealth, jointly committed to upholding and advancing the principles of the Commonwealth Charter. ●



In January, CGF President Louise Martin spoke of the power of sport “as a force for good, that brings us together, reconciles our differences and has the inspiring potential to change lives for the better”. Do you see the fight against doping as crucial in maintaining these ideals, to avoid the integrity of sport and sportspeople becoming tarnished?

If we are truly committed to equality, athletes deserve a fair, legitimate and level playing field, and sports fans need to know that their heroes are clean. This is why we are determined that the CGF and its Medical Commission plays a leading role in the fight against doping in sport, alongside WADA. We worked collaboratively with our partners at Gold Coast 2018 and ASADA, so that all athletes and supporters know everything was done to ensure a clean Games. Together, the Partnership devised a rigorous anti-doping programme designed to protect clean athletes and the integrity of the Games.

Are there any sports you would like to see in future editions of the Games?

We have a Sports Committee who regularly review the Sports Programme, and recommend any changes to our Executive Board and ultimately our membership. It is part of our Constitution and cities bidding for the Games must select from a list of core and then optional sports to deliver a programme that best suits their ambitions. The ability of a host city to efficiently and sustainably host a particular sport is obviously very important when a city puts forward its sports programme when it is attempting to be awarded the Games. From a purely personal point of view, my favourite sport is cricket, which has historically been very strong within a lot of Commonwealth countries and regions, and still is today. Cricket was last contested in the Games in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, in 1998.

How does the federation encourage participation in sport in member states?

The Federation comprises 71 nations and territories, and supports its members through development grants and other initiatives to ensure they are in a strong position to participate at our events. Our President, Louise Martin, also chairs the Commonwealth Secretariat’s Commonwealth Advisory Body on Sport so that participation and sport remain high on government agendas. A Commonwealth Sports Ministers’ Meeting took place as part of Gold Coast 2018 – and with Birmingham 2022 fast approaching, sport was also high on the agenda at CHOGM in London.

What role does the Commonwealth Youth Games play in providing a stepping stone for aspiring athletes?

Launched in 2000, the Youth Games is a sustainable opportunity for smaller cities and nations (like Samoa in 2015 and Bahamas 2017) to benefit from hosting a major sporting event, using predominantly pre-existing venues, while also promoting an inclusive and positive youth and sustainable development agenda. The Youth Games are for some – like Kirani James (athletics), Chad le Clos (aquatics) and Jessica Ennis-Hill (athletics) – the springboard to future Commonwealth Games glory or a formative first taste of international multi-sport competition. For all, they represent a joyous celebration of impactful performance, personal development, and new Commonwealth friendships made on the level playing field of sport. The CYG plays a vital role in preparing young athletes for the future, be it in their chosen sport, or as Commonwealth citizens.

“**THE COMMONWEALTH GAMES ARE KNOWN AS THE ‘FRIENDLY’ GAMES, AND WE CONTINUE TO UPHOLD THE IDEALS OF HUMANITY, EQUALITY, DESTINY IN EVERYTHING THAT WE DO**”



DARREN HALL

Chief Operating Officer of the Commonwealth Games Federation, Darren took over all financial and corporate services at the GCF after having served as Head of Finance for the 2014 edition of the games in Glasgow

Square miles and circle lines Travel the London Days network



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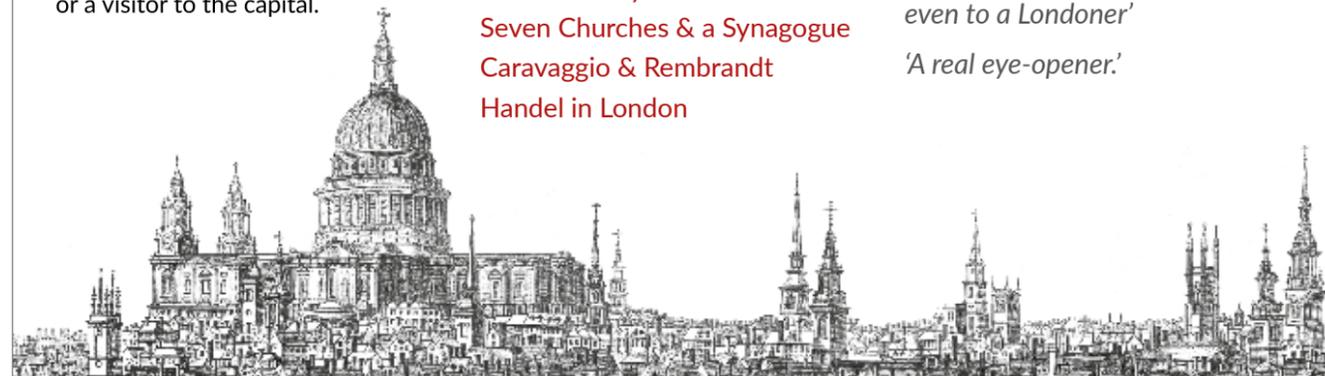
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ROSL 66th Annual Music Competition Gold Medal Final

Monday 4 June, 7pm
Queen Elizabeth Hall, London

Competing for the £15,000 prize will be:
Emmanuel Bach *violin*
Florian Mitrea *piano*
Michael Mofidian *bass-baritone*
Jonathan Radford *saxophone*

Performances from ROSL Ensemble Section Final winners complete our evening of musical celebrations.

Book now
Tickets £15-£20
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ROSLARTS

SOUTHBANK CENTRE



A DELTIOLOGIST of Distinction

Margaret Adrian Vallance takes a look at David Jamieson's magnificent collection of postcards and discovers the man behind 'GWW'

About a third of the UK's population collect something and collecting postcards – deltiology – is the third largest collecting hobby in the world. The earliest example, 4,500 years ago, was made up of small stones in forms resembling animals and was found by archaeologists in Altai, a mountainous area with lakes and leopards in south-east Siberia. Aristotle collected maps and manuscripts, and there is a present-day US attorney with 2,000 early railroad nails with dates on their heads. Collecting choices are endless!

Psychologists say that collecting benefits the brain. It enhances observation, recognition, and organisation skills, increases the desire for knowledge, inspires creativity, and leads to social connections, pleasure, and a sense of achievement. However, few people build up collections worthy of donating to – and being gratefully received by – a famous university but ROSL member and West Sussex Branch Treasurer, David Jamieson has done just that.

His photographer/postcard magnate of choice was George Washington Wilson (1823-1893), the first official Royal photographer in Scotland and probably the first person in the world to photograph a monarch.

Before his 9,000 items leave for St Andrew's University – generously donated by David – I went to see the collection at David and Patricia's home. This was a lovely day with distractions of early camellias, homemade soup, wonderment at how 5,000 fragile items could be so carefully organised in delicate see-through folders and cabinets. Manual dexterity must surely be another collecting benefit.

So how did it all start for this Cambridge graduate and former oil company executive, who has also been a prominent figure in local museums and societies in both Scotland and West Sussex?

"I have always been interested in local history", David says. "While we were living in Banchory, people from the oil industry would often ask



DAVID JAMIESON

David has had a long interest in the arts and culture, having served as Chair of the Friends of the National Gallery of Scotland, former ROSL Edinburgh Chair, plus a number of other local museums

about the area so I wrote a book called *Old Banchory* which was published in 1999 and I discovered George Washington Wilson (GWW) while looking for old photos of the area to go in the book.

"After seeing how beautiful many of these photos were – especially of landscapes, street scenes, people, islands, and of course Queen Victoria, I started collecting GWW photographs and postcards by many means including shops, eBay, dealers, and researching Wilson's life, times and why so many early Scottish cards had the imprint GWW on them".

David became so fascinated by what he researched that he went on to write three more books including *Old Royal Deeside* published in 2001 and all with photos by Wilson.



Who was George Washington Wilson? George was born in 1823 in Alvah, Banffshire, to a crofter who had an admiration for America. After an apprenticeship as a carpenter, he showed such artistic talent that he was sponsored to study art in Edinburgh. By 1851, he was making a living as a painter of miniatures, and visits to London and Paris introduced him to the potential of photography.

By 1853, he was a well-known Aberdeen photographer – snapping the great and the good and making a photograph a must-have – and he then came to the attention of Prince Albert who commissioned him to photograph the re-building of Balmoral Castle. By 1857, he was Photographer to the Queen who was very impressed with his photos of scenery and wanted to see more.

"By 1877, George's status as a landscape photographer was internationally acclaimed and his initial 330 views of Scotland had grown to 2,500", David tells me. "His business acumen recognised the potential value of tourism and the desire of tourists to take home photographic memories,

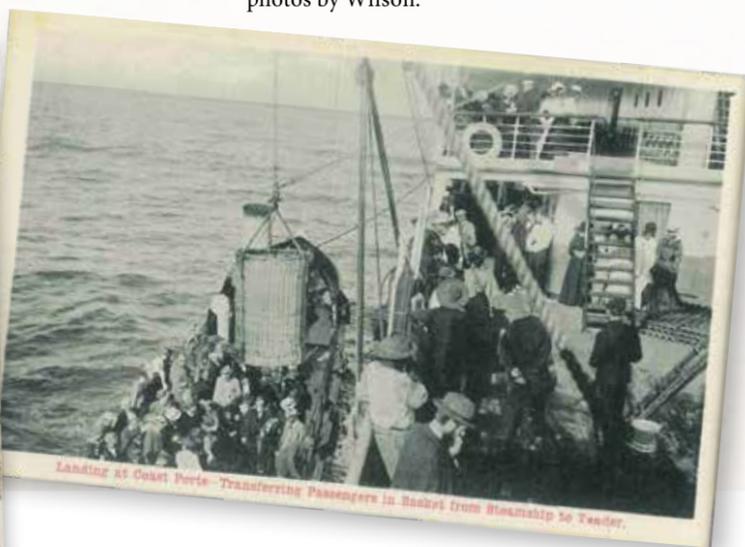
particularly via his tailor made 'Tours in Scotland' albums, for which the purchaser could select 100 views.

"At the height of his career in the early 1880's, GWW had set up his own business, employed 50 staff, and his photographers went as far afield as Australia and Africa to supplement the 25,000 views of Scotland and England now in stock."

George died in 1893, supposedly from epilepsy but more likely from the effects of inhaling photographic chemicals over many years. Unfortunately, his sons did not inherit their father's business acumen but they did embrace the new popularity of postcards thus enabling a wider world to see the photos taken by GWW and his staff.

Some images in David's collection have become iconic like those of Queen Victoria and the Scottish islands, others are mesmerising in the detail of dress, hats, carriages, shops, and buildings as found in the photo of Piccadilly Circus, just down the road from ROSL. Little wonder that collecting postcards and historical photos is so popular – fun and information all rolled into one.

Clockwise from top left: Parliament Square, Piccadilly Circus, the community on St Kilda, a ladies' egg and spoon race, a postcard featuring RMS Dunnottar Castle, the wicker basket used to winch passengers aboard a steamship, and Queen Victoria at Balmoral Castle



My city BIRMINGHAM

With the Commonwealth Games in the Gold Coast over, we look ahead to the next host city in four years time: Birmingham. ROSL members Andrew Day, Tony King and Kate Flynn, give us their highlights from Brum

Describe the city in three words

TONY & KATE: Diverse. Hardworking. Friendly.
ANDREW: Friendly. Vibrant. Progressive.

What advice would you give to first time visitors? Are there any must-sees?

TONY & KATE: City centre redevelopment is a work in progress so be prepared for traffic and disruption to the layout of streets. Ideally take public transport into the centre. One must-see is the new Library of Birmingham, the flagship project of Birmingham City Council's 20-year Big City Plan. Another is Grand Central, part of

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THE
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the Birmingham New Street Station Gateway Plus redevelopment. The architecture and light are a very welcome change for anyone familiar with New Street Station beforehand.
ANDREW: But don't be put off by any preconceptions you may have about the place. Most locals are well aware of the city's out-dated and undeserved reputation as a slightly 'grim' place with far more than its fair share of pre-fabricated concrete. Come, see the city and meet its people; I'm sure you won't regret it. Exactly what counts as a 'must-see' will depend very much on a given visitor's individual tastes, but there's definitely something for everyone here.

What improvements have been brought about by the ongoing regeneration of the city centre?

ANDREW: In the time I've known Birmingham, the city centre has changed beyond recognition. The 'new' New Street Station, Bullring shopping centre and Central Library are three genuinely iconic examples of its comprehensive regeneration, though there are countless others. Just a little way outside the city centre, areas like Digbeth and the Jewellery Quarter, are now also being very much improved, whilst retaining some original character.
TONY & KATE: For us, more and better public transport, such as the ongoing extension of the tramline now

connecting Wolverhampton, West Bromwich, and Birmingham, as well as upgrades to some of the local rail services.

What's the cultural scene like in Birmingham? Any recommendations for visitors?

TONY & KATE: The cultural scene is varied and diverse, and not as well known outside the city as it should be.

ANDREW: Absolutely, in Birmingham, we are lucky enough to enjoy an extremely mixed diet where culture and the arts are concerned, perhaps unsurprisingly for such a multicultural city.

The City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra and the Birmingham Royal Ballet perform regularly at Symphony Hall and the Hippodrome respectively, and are standard bearers for the traditional 'high' arts here.

There is a thriving repertory theatre scene in the city (most obviously at The Rep and Old Rep theatres, but also at the Alexandra, the Hippodrome, and the Crescent) and, of course, the Royal Shakespeare Theatre at Stratford-upon-Avon is only a short hop from Snow Hill or Moor Street Stations.

The Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery's collection includes some exceptional Pre-Raphaelite paintings and pieces from the Anglo-Saxon Staffordshire Hoard, and the Barber Institute of Fine Arts, on the University of Birmingham's campus, has an interesting selection of work by great European artists including Botticelli, Rubens, Van Dyck, Gainsborough, Turner, Manet, Monet, Degas, Van Gogh, Gauguin and Magritte. The Ikon Gallery hosts regular exhibitions of contemporary art.

Popular music is extremely well represented here with all kinds of concerts taking place at the city's National Indoor Arena and National Exhibition Centre, as well as at countless smaller venues across the city. The Hare and Hounds, in King's Heath, is a particular favourite of mine; I have seen the London poet/



rapper Kate Tempest, New Orleans' Hot 8 Brass Band, pioneering Chicago DJ and house music producer Marshall Jefferson, and many others there, all receiving a rapturous reception.

The city hosts a number of music festivals annually, including Handsworth's free Simmer Down reggae festival, the massive Birmingham Mela festival of Asian music, the Moseley Folk Festival, and, my favourite, the Mostly Jazz, Funk and Soul Festival.

There is also a terrific film festival, Flatpack, held once a year, across the city.

The city has a vibrant food and drink scene. Are there any hidden gems visitors might not know about?

TONY & KATE: In Birmingham, you must go out for south Asian food. We usually take visitors to Pushkar on Broad Street. Adam's on Waterloo Street is perfect for a very special meal of the highest calibre. Karibunis at Bournville College in Longbridge is the catering course's training restaurant - good value for money and great to support students improving their skills.

Clockwise from left: The Birmingham skyline has changed dramatically over the last few years, with the construction of the futuristic Bullring shopping centre, Birmingham Central Library and New Street Station regeneration

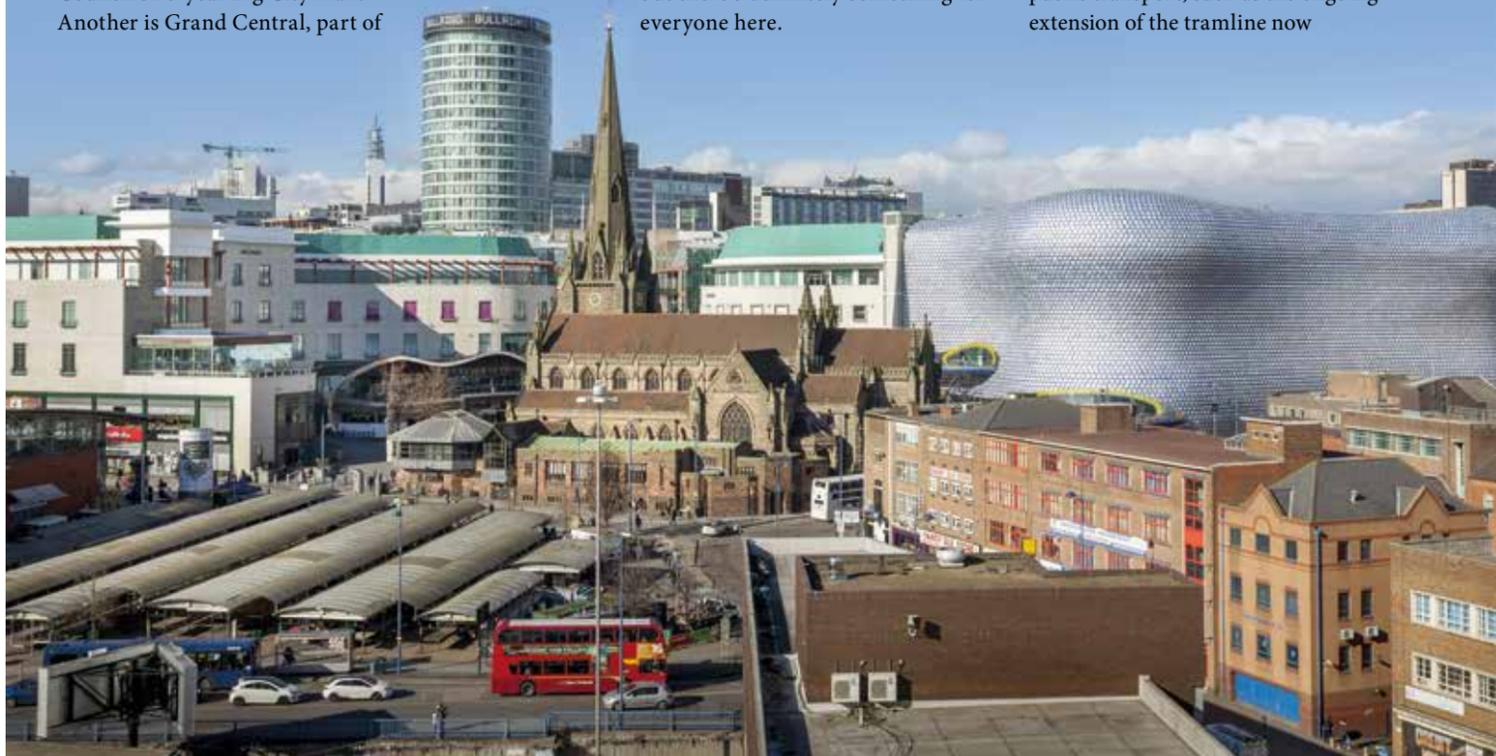
ANDREW: One absolutely outstanding, but less well-known, restaurant that is worth a visit, assuming you can get a table, is the Wilderness, where incredibly creative use is made of seasonal and wild ingredients to produce food and drink unlike any other.

There is a terrific 'street food' movement here. It all started with the excellent Digbeth Dining Club (visit, if you can, when Low 'n' Slow are there, serving their American style barbecue), though some of its best and most successful traders, including the Original Patty Men and Meat Shack, whose burgers are extraordinary, are now established in their own premises. Other independent local businesses, Bonehead and Otto, are highly recommended for fried chicken and wood-fired pizza, as is the Church, home of the Soul Food Project, for American soul food, of course.

A little further afield, in Stirchley, the Can Eat café, is definitely worth a visit. The multi-award winning Loki is a great place for a couple of glasses of good wine; they have just expanded their city centre base and opened a second in Edgbaston. We have too many exceptional cocktail bars to mention individually, but the gin bar at 40 St Paul's merits a particular mention, as does the recently opened home of the Birmingham Whisky Society; both can be found in the Jewellery Quarter.

When is the best time to visit?

TONY & KATE: Spring or autumn are the most comfortable for walking around the city centre. However, summer is best for visiting canal-side pubs.
ANDREW: Sports fans may wish to visit when the Commonwealth Games come to town in 2022 but there's no reason to wait that long. Really, the city is well worth a visit at any time, though I have a particular soft spot for the place in late-November and December, when the German Christmas Market, from Birmingham's twinned city, Frankfurt, takes pride of place in the city centre.



CROSSING THE (ETHICAL) LINE FIRST

With so many different sporting disciplines now tainted by accusations of doping, the public's perception of clean sport has been permanently altered. But as long as records keep being broken, do we even care? Ross Davies reports

In hindsight, the summer of 1998 had a whiff of destiny about it. On a balmy summer's night at the Stade de France in Paris on 12 July, the French football team do the unthinkable and defeat Brazil in front of 70,000 raucous compatriots to win their first World Cup.

Fans party well into the night amidst a sea of tricolours. *Les Bleus* – containing players of Armenian, Senegalese, Basque, and Algerian heritage – are lauded by President Jacques Chirac as a modern symbol of a “united France”. It was written in the stars, sportswriters romantically avow.

But over in Dublin that very same day, spirits are considerably more subdued. The Tour De France, starting in Ireland this year and only one day in, is embroiled in a scandal that will turn the sport of cycling on its head.

On 8 July, before the peloton had even laid a tyre on the road, the masseur for the much-feted Festina team, Willie Voet, was arrested by police on the French-Belgian border. In his possession: anabolic steroids, growth hormones, and masking agents. The fallout that follows in the subsequent days and weeks is as swift as it is explosive.

As the Tour moves across the Channel to Roscoff, and then on to Lorient, and Plouay, and Cholet, the local gendarmes become involved. The Festina team hotel is searched. On 15 July, after the fourth stage, Eric Ryckaert, the team doctor is taken by police for questioning.

By 18 July, it's all over for Festina; they are expelled from the race for doping. The tour continues in calamitous fashion. Angry spectators vent their spleen, spitting and swearing at the riders. At one point, the peloton even stages a two-hour delay in Tarascon-sur-Ariege in protest at what riders see as unfair treatment from the media and spectators.

When Marco Pantani is eventually crowned winner on the Champs Elysees on 2 August, the damage has been done. A cloud of suspicion hangs in the air. Sponsors have withdrawn. Reputations are in tatters. A French newspaper – which questions whether the event should be discontinued for good – coins the epithet “Tour de Shame”.

Looking back to that fateful summer of 20 years ago, it served to blow the lid off widespread doping in cycling. It had to happen, and what emerged from the wreckage of anger and disillusion was a clear inflection point: the sport had a serious drug problem. ◊

IMAGE DPA PICTURE ALLIANCE / ALAMY STOCK PHOTO



CRIME LINE



OLYMPIC FIRST

Doping at the Olympics dates back to 1904, when the trainer of Thomas Hicks admitted injecting him with strychnine during the marathon



ANABOLIC STEROIDS

After seeing Russian weightlifters using testosterone, American doctor John Ziegler began researching anabolic steroids and hit on DBOL in 1958



WADA FOUNDED

The World Anti-Doping Agency was founded in 1999, initially funded by the IOC, with the aim of coordinating the fight against drugs in sport

ARMSTRONG CONFESSES

After being dogged by accusations of doping for years, Lance Armstrong admits to using banned substances in a 2013 interview with Oprah Winfrey



RUSSIA BANNED

After state-sponsored doping by Soviets and East Germans in the '80s, Russia is found to be doping its athletes and banned from major competitions in 2014

ANCIENT DOPING

There is evidence of using illicit substances as far back as the Greek and Roman empires during chariot races



CONVICTS OF THE ROAD

At the 1924 Tour de France, journalist Albert Londres found cyclists to be taking a mixture of cocaine and chloroform, among others, called Pot Belge



1988 SEOUL 100M FINAL

Dubbed the dirtiest race in history, Ben Johnson initially won gold but was later disqualified. Of the top five, only one has never failed a drugs test



It led to the creation of the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) the following year and, when the peloton sheepishly assembled itself again in the summer of 1999, it was dubbed by organisers as the Tour of Renewal.

1999 was also the same year a brash Texan named Lance Armstrong destroyed the field to win his first Tour – made all the more remarkable given the victor had only three years before been diagnosed with stage four cancer and given a 50/50 chance of survival. His previous best finish had been 36th place in 1995.

We all know what happened next – or at least some of it. The so-called Tour of Renewal failed to usher in a new era of clean contest. Teams and their riders continued to dope with – in Armstrong's case, especially – shocking impunity. Hydra-like, doping scandals have since multiplied rather than let up.

It's not just cycling, of course. In recent years, evidence has come to light of state-sanctioned doping across Russian athletics. According to Dick Pound, WADA's former head, football remains in "self-denial" about its own doping culture. In 2016, former Wimbledon champion Maria Sharapova was slapped with a two-year ban – later reduced – after failing a drugs test. The lists of accusations are long.

If seen as a game of cat and mouse between drug users and testers, the latter is several furlongs behind in catching its quarry. Some would even argue it's an arms race they are destined to lose indefinitely.

"The athletes are definitely more savvy and more forward-looking in terms of what drugs might be available out there to help them win," says Australian anti-doping expert Robin Parisotto.

"It's been made easier for them by the fact that the testing agencies and sports federations have not really been committed to the cause. The excuse is always, 'We don't have the expertise, resources, or money'. Well then, it's implicit that they make those resources available and recruit the appropriate expertise, otherwise we'll never get to the bottom of the problem."

Paul Dimeo, senior lecturer in sports studies at the University of Stirling, and author of *A History of Drug Use in Sport: 1876-1976*, believes that there will always be a time lag between a performance-enhancing drug coming on the market, being used by athletes, and being identified by testers.

"It's been the same kind of pattern since anti-doping efforts began in the 1960s," he explains. "There's actually a great kind of creativity – even entrepreneurship – in the desire to use new drugs. To be honest, I can't see how that circle will ever be squared, or when we'll be completely on top of it."

Then there are even murkier areas. At the time of writing, Sir Bradley Wiggins and Team Sky remain under the uncomfortable glare of public scrutiny, after a parliamentary report into doping in the UK, suggested their use of therapeutic use exemptions (TUE) – in the form of triamcinolone, a steroid used to treat asthma – "crossed an ethical line".

Technically speaking, Wiggins and Team Sky boss Sir David Brailsford did not break any WADA anti-doping rules, but with triamcinolone proven to improve power-to-weight ratio – vital for a cyclist – question marks remain as to whether Team Sky knowingly exploited a loophole to its gain.

While Wiggins claims he has been the victim of a smear campaign, others such as David Walsh, the *Sunday Times* journalist famous for helping take down Lance Armstrong, believe Team Sky to be guilty of cheating.

"Personally, in the case of Wiggins and Team Sky, I believe the intention was probably reasonable," says Dimeo. "There are certain types of condition, such as asthma, which can be managed with certain types of medicines. Therefore, if it was a genuine case, then it seems like a reasonable response."

"But it does raise questions over TUEs. Even if it was inadvertent, a loophole has been exploited. The tricky element here is: why is it that for some illnesses and injuries, there are permitted cures, while for others there are not?"

“ WE ARE EXCITED ABOUT ATHLETES BREAKING RECORDS, WE WANT THEM TO BE FASTER, HIGHER, STRONGER. HOW CAN YOU EXPECT ATHLETES TO BE ABLE TO DO THAT WITHOUT PHARMACEUTICAL SUPPORT? ”

Conquering the MOUNTAIN

This year's Winter Paralympics and Commonwealth Games have put para sports centre stage, but does the positive portrayal of para-athletes at the elite level filter down to society at large?

Mark Brierley finds out how one small Canadian town is making sure it does

Household names like Usain Bolt, Michael Phelps, and Serena Williams trip off the tongue thanks to the hours of TV coverage and acres of column inches devoted to their exploits. With schedules packed thanks to the Winter Paralympics and Commonwealth Games this year, this could soon be the case for para athletes too. Johnny Peacock, Dame Tanni Grey-Thompson, and Ellie Simmonds already fit the bill here in the UK, but are para-athletes celebrated to the same extent elsewhere in the world? Moreover, does the positive portrayal of these stars of disability sport in the media filter down to the grass-roots level? The statistics paint a worrying picture.

Disabled people are twice as likely to be physically inactive (43%) as non-disabled people (21%) according to Sport England's Active Lives survey, which defines an active life as spending more than 150 minutes a week engaging in sport or physical activity. While perhaps not surprising, given the range of impairments disability can include, that might not be the only reason.

Some people may be unable, rather than unwilling, to engage in active lives. What the survey doesn't cover is access to suitable facilities, which can be just as limiting in terms of participation as the disability itself.

A number of reports from government bodies and private organisations catalogue a litany of barriers stopping would-be disabled sportspeople for accessing the facilities they need to be active. From the lack of disabled changing facilities, to parking spaces, trained instructors, and specialist equipment, the list ranges from the infinitesimal to the grandiose, and that is just trying to use the local gym or swimming baths. Just imagine, then the challenges facing those wishing to head out on to the slopes of a ski field, an altogether more inhospitable environment.

A bridge too far? Maybe not.

Nestled in the Elk Valley, in the Canadian province of British Columbia, the small town of Fernie is a skier's paradise, with over 2,500 acres of trails and bowls to enjoy across the Lizard Range. Home to just 5,000 or so people, it boasts the perfect conditions for those looking to get out on the pristine slopes, but isn't perhaps where you'd expect to find some of the best facilities going for disabled skiers, all thanks to the Fernie Adaptive Ski Program.



“Skiing gives me a freedom I have never known, freedom of movement, and freedom from the heavy labels I carry. I feel that skiing unites me with everyone else, becoming my common ground”

The brainchild of Grace Brulotte, the programme grew out of her desire to regain some of the freedom disability had taken away. "Growing up in a ski town and being unable to ski was unbelievably irritating...I remember going to the store, hearing people talk about powder over and over again, and wondering what on earth it was and why it was so fantastic. My winters were spent being what I like to call a book hobbit, because I so rarely had the ability to leave my house" explains Grace, whose disability means her mobility is severely limited below the neck. "After being diagnosed with a life-threatening Scoliosis curvature at 14 years old I wanted to experience anything and everything that I could before I couldn't anymore. When I heard about adaptive skiing, it just felt right. Once my skis touched the snow and I saw the world from a mountaintop for the first time, I knew I was hooked. Skiing gives me a freedom I have never known, freedom of movement, and freedom from the heavy labels I carry. But beyond that, I feel that skiing unites me with everyone else, becoming my common ground."

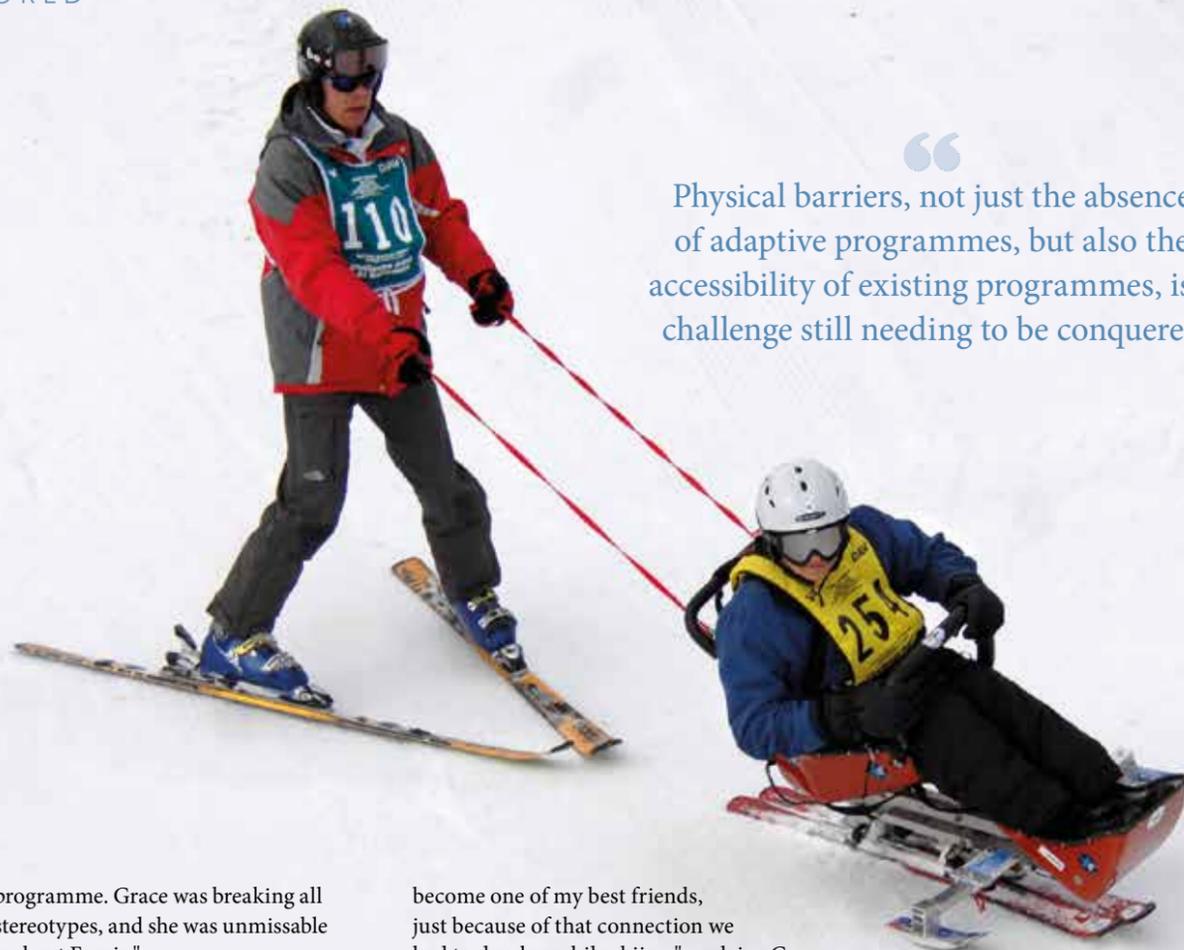
But in a town as small as Fernie there weren't the facilities Grace needed to pursue her new

passion; instead she had to travel for more than an hour and a half to reach the nearest suitable ski hill with an adaptive ski programme. "I just knew I didn't want to sit at the bottom of my home mountain looking up any longer. I was sitting at home after my first ski adventure, and the idea just came to me, "start an adaptive programme in Fernie". Even if I was only 14 at the time, I loved the idea of this challenge, as well as being able to introduce skiing to my friends with disabilities."

And so, the Fernie Adaptive Ski Program was born. "Basically, I took out a piece of paper, wrote "sit ski program" at the top, and started jotting down ideas to start the programme. Two years later, FIRE Adaptive Snow Program was born, and I have been the President/ Programme Manager ever since. We just finished our sixth season." But what did it take to actually make the idea a reality? "We are very blessed to have an amazingly supportive community, so once the idea got out there, the community really rallied to raise funds for our first sit skis. Fernie Alpine Resort was and is very supportive of the programme, so making a deal for the programme to operate wasn't a problem. Besides liability details, which are usually pretty daunting, our only true challenge was finding enough instructors to fill a certification course."

And that's where the first serious barrier appeared, with too few willing applicants in the first year meaning the opening of the programme had to be pushed back for a season until enough qualified instructors could be found. "Our second attempt was successful, and we were able to open in January 2013. Finding and retaining instructors is always difficult now that our lesson demand is greater."

It's the support of these volunteers which makes the programme possible, but where to find them? Step in, Hannah Owen, an instructor with Fernie Adaptive Ski who, like many, came to the area just looking for a brilliant ski venue, but was able to find something more meaningful by volunteering as part of the programme. "I moved to Fernie because I was chasing 'ultimate champagne powder' snow, having always loved skiing," explains Hannah. "My new life was a lot of fun when I arrived in Fernie but one day I met Grace. She immediately made me feel like my life in Fernie had a purpose and my professional experience collaborating with 'othered' and excluded communities in London was going to be able to develop



“Physical barriers, not just the absence of adaptive programmes, but also the accessibility of existing programmes, is a challenge still needing to be conquered

the programme. Grace was breaking all the stereotypes, and she was unmissable throughout Fernie.”

Suitably inspired, the next stage was to become certified before she could start volunteering.

“We spent three days with instructors learning the basics of on-ice coaching, applicable to all ski and snowboard instructors Level 1, and then tethered and sit-ski piloting, blind guidance, and a full day of ASD support. It was an emotionally and physically draining weekend, and the routes to which you just understand getting around town were dramatically challenged.”

Fully certified, Hannah could now start skiing with the disabled members of the Fernie community, and helping them to enjoy all the adventure and excitement of the ‘ultimate champagne powder’ she had come in search of. In fact, the sensation of skiing with a pilot or partner is something quite special in its own way, unique from the usually solitary experience of tearing down the slopes.

“Skiing with my partner most definitely enhances the experience, but it also makes it challenging. The trust that is required from both of us is difficult to describe using words. We must become one person when we ski and that requires a special connection. I am very blessed that my current ski partner has

become one of my best friends, just because of that connection we had to develop while skiing,” explains Grace.

That connection makes the experience so enjoyable for both skiers, all while helping to make winter sports more inclusive for everyone in Fernie, but sadly that experience is not one that many other Canadians get the chance to experience. “At this point, accessibility is a huge problem, which often gets overlooked. Inclusive activities, no matter what they are, are so important to shift society’s perspective of disability. The more we are able to do, the more we are able to feel accepted for who we are. Physical barriers, not just the absence of adaptive programmes, but also the accessibility of existing programmes, is a challenge still needing to be conquered. But inclusive activities as I’ve said have an immeasurable value, not just for the disability community, but for able-bodied individuals as well.”

But the lack of progress elsewhere is stopping Grace from further developing Fernie’s adaptive offering and hopefully getting the momentum going across the country as well. “We hope to expand FIRE to include paddle boarding and mountain biking as well. I am involved with a project to build a 15km adaptive mountain biking

trail in Fernie, which will be launched this summer. I also founded another society, called the Canadian Adaptive Network or CAN. CAN will be a central web-based tool for everything disability in Canada. This will include information on adaptive programmes, accessible travel locations, education, and awareness, etc. The vision of CAN is creating a society where people with disabilities have equal opportunities to participate in activities of their choosing and be defined by who they are rather than what they can or can’t do. I’m so excited to be involved in all the projects, as I think they will make a huge impact.”

With a work ethic like Grace’s, it’s easy to see CAN progressing into a huge success, just like the Fernie Adaptive Ski Program has, and Hannah agrees: “The Elk Valley is such an industrious and entrepreneurial place, and it’s no surprise that it’s produced such a formidable woman as Grace! Everyone here gets it, and Fernie is at the front of progression.”

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LEVEL PAYING FIELD

While most sports are played by both genders, in some cases the pay gap at the professional level remains wide. Abi Millar explores what can be done to promote equality in participation and pay in sport

In July 2017, Lewes FC made history when it became the first professional, or semi-pro, football club to pay its women's team the same as its men's. In a world where the top male football players can earn more in a day than the top female players do in a year, this decision marks a rare commitment to equality in football. "With women's football, there's a vicious circle of low media coverage, low sponsorship, low pay, and low attendances – and unless you change at least one of those things, none of the other things will change," says Charlie Dobres, a board member at Lewes FC. "So while people have been saying it's OK to pay women more, but only once you have the same crowd or the same sponsorship, the reality is those things won't spontaneously change until you take some kind of decisive action."

Lewes FC, which currently plays in the Isthmian League Division One South (men's team) and the FA Women's Premier League Southern Division (women's team), may seem like an unlikely catalyst for an equal-pay revolution. However, the club has been trailblazing gender equality for some time.

For the last ten years, its women's team has played on the same pitch as the men's, and has had access to the same facilities. (Compare this with, say, Arsenal Women's FC, the most successful club in English women's football, which has its stadium miles from the men's ground in Hertfordshire.) With equal provision of facilities already established, the next step was parity of budgets and pay.

"It's an investment, loosely put," says Dobres. "We were never going to cut the money from the men's playing budget, so the money came from a few of the directors. We calculated that over a three-year period, the decision would pay for itself through increased sponsorship and attendances, and that's been happening. You have to take a bet on it – follow what you think is correct both morally and from a business point of view."

Despite the hike in attendance and sponsorship (as well as a boost in its number of fan owners), Dobres says the club's decision is still regarded as "a novelty, an oddity". In recent months, Norway's football association has done something similar,

striking a deal to ensure their national men's and women's teams receive the same compensation. Overall, however, the gender disparity in football is striking.

Last year, the Danish women's team pulled out of several matches, owing to an ongoing dispute around pay. And members of the Republic of Ireland's women's team threatened to strike over poor provisions, after being forced to get changed in public toilets.

These kinds of incidents may seem shocking in 2018, at a time when female sportspeople are increasingly celebrated. In 1896, Pierre de Coubertin, the founder of the modern Olympics, claimed: "no matter how toughened a sportswoman may be, her organism is not cut out to sustain certain shocks." Four years later, women comprised 22 out of 997 Olympic athletes. By Rio 2016, women were competing in every sport and the gender split was approaching 50-50.

“There is still a significant gap between the treatment of men's and women's events, more needs to be done from a social perspective to improve the perception of women's sport

However, football – in the UK at least – retains a serious imbalance. According to a 2017 study conducted by the BBC, which looked at the prize money awarded for various sports, football had the biggest gender disparity by some margin. Take the 2017 prize money for winning the Premier League (£38million), versus the Women's Super League (zero).

Golf and cricket – two other well-funded, stereotypically 'male' sports – were also considerably more generous to their male players, while the rugby governing bodies did not reveal their prize money.

"We believe there is still a significant gap between the treatment of men's and women's events," said Ivan Khodabakhsh, the then / Chief Executive of golf's Ladies European Tour. "More needs to be done from a social perspective to improve the perception of women's sport and the financial rewards."

This is not to say, of course, that progress hasn't been made. It has, significantly – of the sports surveyed by the BBC, 83% now award men and women equal prize money. This represents a big jump from 2014, when the proportion was just 70%, and 1973, when no sports awarded equal prizes at all.

We only need look at tennis, which has been the subject of a high-profile debate that has (mostly) worked out in female athletes' favour. Since 2007, Wimbledon has offered equal prize money to its male and female players, and eight of the 10 highest-paid female athletes overall are tennis players.

However, it is no secret that the average male sportsperson is paid more than his female counterparts. What's more, in 2014, women's sport only received 7% of overall sports media coverage in the UK. There is still a sense in which men's sport is seen as the default, women's sport a special category.

Given the other disparities that exist, the equal pay discussion is actually somewhat nuanced. As the counterargument goes, if men's sport is more popular, shouldn't it be better remunerated? The tennis player Novak Djokovic captured this viewpoint well when, in 2016, he claimed: "We have much more spectators [sic] on the men's tennis matches. I think that's one of the reasons why maybe we should get awarded more."

Clearly, true equality in sport has several facets – not just payment for pro athletes, but the cultural cachet associated with men's sport versus women's sport, and the kind of opportunities given to promising youngsters.

Charlie Dobres, of Lewes FC, feels that unequal pay and uneven participation are two sides of the same coin.

"For young girls, there's simply a total lack of expectation and therefore encouragement that they would want to play football," he says. "As they go into secondary school, there may be boys' teams provisions but less of a girls' team provision. So hats off to the women who are currently playing professional football, because they've had to go through so much more than male footballers to get there."

He feels that changing the one might be a spur for changing the other. Already, he says, the club's decision is having a "powerful and rewarding effect" on young girls' football in the area, as well as attracting far more women to its matches. ●

WOMEN IN SPORT

49%

The percentage of sport national governing bodies where less than a quarter of their board is female

7%

The amount of media coverage dedicated to women's sport

73%

The number of sports which now award equal prize money

1.55m

The participation gap between adult men and women who participate in sport at least once a month in the UK



Kate Dale, who heads up the This Girl Can campaign at Sport England, agrees that pay, participation and public profile are all connected.

“Many girls grow up thinking that sport isn’t for them because they don’t see it,” she says. “More women’s sport on TV, better and fairer treatment of female athletes, more women working in sport either as professional sportspeople or as admin or backroom staff – that would all contribute to a sense that sport really is for everyone and not just those who identify as male.”

The This Girl Can campaign, which started life in 2015, was developed in response to the findings that two million fewer UK women than men participated in sport or exercise. Since then, it has worked to close this participation gap by tackling women’s obstacles to playing sport, be those fear of judgment or bad memories of PE.

“It goes back to the sports we did at school – certainly when I grew up, girls were taught netball and hockey, boys football and rugby. So it’s not surprising that this carries through to adult participation figures,”

says Dale. “The women we’re targeting with This Girl Can are less likely to play competitively – they focus on physical activities like running, swimming, cycling, group exercise or going to the gym. This makes sense – if you’re not confident about getting active then throwing yourself into a rugby scrum may seem daunting.”

The campaign has resonated with many women. To date, the participation gap is down to 1.55 million, #ThisGirlCan has entered the Twitter lexicon and over 800,000 women have joined in online community. In its next phase, says Dale, This Girl Can will look to engage with more women from lower socioeconomic backgrounds and BAME groups, many of whom face additional practical barriers.

With campaigns like This Girl Can focusing on the participation side, and various sports associations tackling pay, it seems clear that the overall trajectory is positive. While a frustrating number of inequalities remain in place, these issues are at least being talked about. Dobres thinks change is in the air.

“I’m 100% sure it will be changed – it’s just about the time frame,” he says. “If you asked me whether men and women’s football will have equality in 100 years I’d say definitely yes; if you asked me whether they’ll have equality in 50 years I’d say almost certainly yes; if you asked me whether they’ll have equality in 20 years I’d say I wasn’t sure. So for me it’s only a matter of time.”

For those who doubt that men’s and women’s sport could ever have parity, he points out that women’s football was huge in the 1920s, with one ladies’ match drawing 53,000 spectators. Though the women’s game was subsequently all but banned by the FA, there’s no denying the appetite was there.

“We can also look abroad, where there are really big crowds for women’s football,” he says. “In Spain last weekend, the Atletico Madrid women took on the other Madrid women’s side in front of 22,000 people. It’s a matter of getting rid of the barriers, getting rid of the inertia, and change is inevitable.”

LONDON & EDINBURGH
highlights



London Masterpiece
Wednesday 27 June –
Wednesday 4 July,
Royal Hospital Chelsea

EDINBURGH

PLANES, TRAINS AND AUTOMOBILES
Saturday 2 June – Sunday 13 January 2019, Scottish National Portrait Gallery

An exhibition exploring the photographic collection of the National Galleries of Scotland, focusing on a variety of different transport modes from the 1840s onwards.
Free.
www.nationalgalleries.org



LONDON

TASTE OF LONDON
Wednesday 13 – Sunday 17 June, Regent’s Park

Dubbed “the ultimate al fresco feast”, Taste of London sees more than 40 of London’s top restaurants gather in Regent’s Park to celebrate the best food the capital has to offer. Sample food and drink from more than 200 stalls and watch a cooking demonstration from world-renowned chefs.
Free. www.royalparks.org.uk/parks/the-regents-park

LONDON

GREENWICH+ DOCKLANDS INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL

Thursday 21 June – Saturday 7 July, East London
Taking place across Royal Greenwich, the Docklands, and Tower Hamlets, this large outdoor arts festival includes innovative music, dance, open-air theatre, and art installations.
Free. festival.org



LONDON

RAF 100TH ANNIVERSARY FLY-PAST
Tuesday 10 July, 10am, The Mall

As part of the year-long celebrations commemorating 100 years of the Royal Air Force, Tuesday 10 July will see a special parade and fly-past of historical military aircraft along the Mall, just a stone’s throw from the clubhouse.
Free. www.raf.mod.uk/raf100/whats-on

EDINBURGH

THE BARBER OF SEVILLE

Sunday 5 – Wednesday 8 August, Festival Theatre
A new production of Rossini’s masterpiece, the comic opera *The Barber of Seville*.



Greenwich+Docklands International Festival
Thursday 21 June – Saturday 7 July, East London

Co-produced by Theatre des Champs-Elysees, Opera National de Bordeaux, Opera de Marseille, and Theatres de la Ville de Luxembourg, this new treatment promises to be something you haven’t seen before.

£28-96. www.eif.co.uk/whats-on/2018/barber

EDINBURGH

NATIONAL YOUTH CHOIR OF SCOTLAND
Sunday 5 August, 3pm, Usher Hall

Made up of outstanding 16-25-year-old singers from across Scotland, the Youth Choir is one of the best in the business. Under conductor Christopher Bell, the programme will include everything from Vaughan Williams to Eric Whitacre.
£15. www.eif.co.uk/whats-on/2018/nycos

EDINBURGH

LOVE CYCLE: LOVE CHAPTER 2

Friday 10 – Sunday 12 August, King’s Theatre
From the L-E-V Dance Company, *Love Chapter 2* is a powerful expression of emotion and obsession, choreographed by Sharon Eyel, who has worked with multimedia designer Gai Behar to put on the show.
£14-32.
www.eif.co.uk/whats-on/2018/love2

MAYFAIR ART WEEKEND

We all know that our headquarters is situated in a prime location but an exciting weekend of art unfurling around us confirms that Over-Seas House is the place to be. The fifth edition of Mayfair Art Weekend is taking place from Friday 29 June to Sunday 1 July and for, the second year, ROSL ARTS is taking part and playing host to some great art and fantastic events. Eilidh McCormick gives us her top picks

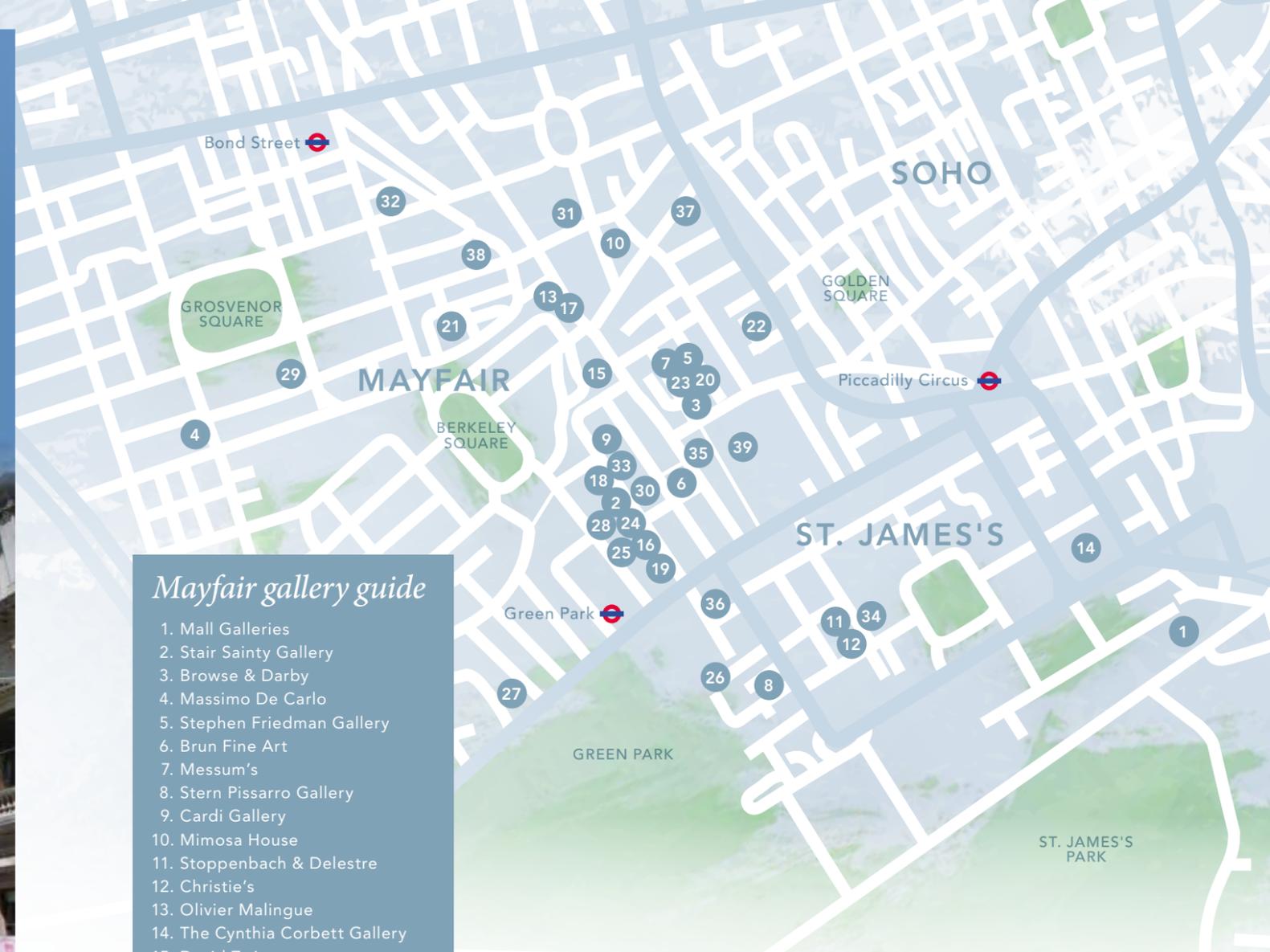


Mayfair Art Weekend 2017, © David Parry, Courtesy of the Royal Academy of Arts

Held in partnership with the Royal Academy of Arts, Mayfair Art Weekend presents an enriching and lively programme of events, exhibitions, and art experiences hosted by a selection of galleries, auction houses and luxury retailers to celebrate the creativity and craftsmanship of Mayfair. The exhibition being held at ROSL over

the weekend is titled 'Edit, Adapt, Evolve; Artists that alter Reality'. Developed with the Liberty Gallery, the work on display takes inspiration from the familiar and everyday, which is creatively altered to make something new. The exhibition is supported by two free events specially coordinated for Mayfair Art Weekend, the Gallery HOP! on the Friday evening and the Artists Brunch

on the Saturday morning. The Gallery HOP! will have a party atmosphere and involves all the participating exhibition spaces with late-night openings, drinks receptions and at ROSL, an opportunity to meet the artists. On Saturday morning ROSL hosts talks from two exhibiting artists, Frances Bloomfield and David Wightman, who will share their practice and inspiration over



Mayfair gallery guide

1. Mall Galleries
2. Stair Sainy Gallery
3. Browse & Darby
4. Massimo De Carlo
5. Stephen Friedman Gallery
6. Brun Fine Art
7. Messum's
8. Stern Pissarro Gallery
9. Cardi Gallery
10. Mimosa House
11. Stoppenbach & Delestre
12. Christie's
13. Olivier Malingue
14. The Cynthia Corbett Gallery
15. David Zwirner
16. Partners & Mucciaccia
17. Fine Art Society
18. Galerie Thaddaeus Ropac
19. Peter Harrington Rare Books
20. The Mayor Gallery
21. Gagosian Gallery
22. Pippy Houldsworth Gallery
23. The Redfern Gallery
24. Gazelli Art House
25. Richard Saltoun
26. The Royal Over-Seas League
27. Herrick Gallery With Art Below
28. Robilant + Voena
29. Timothy Taylor
30. John Martin Gallery
31. Victoria Miro
32. Kamel Mennour
33. Senesi Contemporanea
34. Whitford Fine Art
35. Lévy Gorvy
36. Skarstedt Gallery
37. Maddox Gallery
38. Sophia Contemporary
39. Royal Academy Of Arts

drinks and pastries in the relaxed setting of our club overlooking Green Park.

After starting the weekend with a party and a pastry, head off to explore the local exciting art events around Mayfair and St James, London's oldest art district and home to over 145 exceptional galleries and auction houses, making it the artistic heart of the city.

With 90 free events held across 60 galleries, the hub of the action is the courtyard of the Royal Academy where guides to the weekend can be collected and free artist-led walks around the local

area take place. In this space, there will also be workshops, performances and food stalls to fuel and entertain on what will hopefully be a sunny summer's weekend.

Beyond the RA, the participating galleries are all hosting special events over the weekend as well as unconventional exhibition spaces such as the shops of Victoria Beckham and Max Mara presenting the work of artists amongst their designer goods. All the participating spaces are identifiable by the bright green balloons outside and the public are welcome to wander in and out. In 2017, the weekend was voted 'The Mayfair Awards 'Best Local Event' so some of the events may require booking due to popular demand, it is advised to visit www.mayfairartweekend.com to avoid disappointment. We are excited to be a part of this weekend, and the wider, local, creative community that it unites, so plan your visit now to enjoy the work we do.

“
THE WORK ON DISPLAY TAKES
INSPIRATION FROM THE
FAMILIAR AND EVERYDAY,
WHICH IS CREATIVELY
ALTERED TO CREATE
SOMETHING NEW

ROSL EVENTS

Just some of the highlights over the next few months, followed by the full calendar



For booking information, see page 50.

ROSL calendar EVENT HIGHLIGHTS



Accommodation Offers

Looking to stay at the club and get involved in our busy events programme? Or perhaps you're already attending an event and would like to stay overnight? Whatever the case, check out the special offers we have lined up in 2018 so you can make the most of your visit to the club



**BATTLEFIELD TOUR:
THE HUNDRED DAYS
OFFENSIVE**
5-10 July 2018
Book any room from
5-10 July and get 25%
discount on your room rate.

**MAYFAIR ART
WEEKEND**
29 June-1 July 2018
Book one night in a deluxe
double or twin room and
get the second night free.
Applies to 29, 30 June and
1 July.



**SHAKESPEARE
IN THE GARDEN**
7 September 2018
Book a deluxe room on 7
September and get 25%
discount on your room rate.

WWI COMMEMORATIONS
3-4 November 2018
Book one night in a deluxe
double or twin room and get
the second night free. Applies
3-4 November.

ME

WUTHERING HEIGHTS SUMMER BALL

Saturday 16 June, 6.30pm,
Over-Seas House, London

Cathy and Heathcliff request your company at Wuthering Heights for their summer ball to celebrate the 200th birthday of their beloved Emily Brontë. With champagne in hand, join your fellow lords, ladies, and debutantes in our garden, and meet your favourite characters from this Brontë classic. Our talented actors from Past Pleasures will be immersing guests in the Georgian period as they interact with you and recreate the tragic love story of Heathcliff and Cathy throughout

the evening. Afterwards, head to our banqueting hall for a three-course meal with wine.

Take home a memento of the evening with your very own Georgian selfie. The UK's most popular silhouette artist Charles Burns, who has cut not one but two portraits of Her Majesty the Queen, will be on hand throughout the evening to capture your striking Georgian profile.

After the final act of the play and dessert, join our actors in the ballroom and try your hand at traditional period dancing. Once your feet are too tired, or you simply prefer the comfort of



a nice armchair, take a seat in the back of the Duke of York Bar and listen to the relaxing melodies of our harpist.

£110. £1,000 for a group of 10.
Includes champagne reception, three-course meal, and evening entertainment.

RA

EDINBURGH FESTIVAL FRINGE

Monday 6 – Friday 17 August,
The Royal Scots Club (Venue 241)

Our prizewinning musicians are back for the 19th year of music making at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe in our new location at The Royal Scots Club. Over a two-week period in August, ROSL members and lovers of classical music will have the opportunity to see some of the rising stars of classical music in our unique series of concerts at breakfast, lunch, and dinner. Our Fringe series is a focal point of the ROSL ARTS' calendar, enabling us to provide our prizewinners and scholars with an international stage on which to perform, raise their profile, and collaborate with new



musicians. It also provides us with the chance to welcome back previous prizewinners as part of their continued relationship with ROSL. This year's concerts will include

Bach for Breakfast, Beethoven for Breakfast, Chopin after Lunch, Gershwin after Lunch, Mozart at Teatime, and Debussy at Teatime. Our concerts provide you with

a relaxing escape from the bustle of the city with an hour-long classical concert.
£15. Concessions £12.
Book at www.rosl.org.uk/fringe
29-31 Abercromby Place

Members' BBQ
 Join fellow members in the Garden for an informal BBQ, weather permitting, on Thursday evenings throughout the summer.
 A range of hot fingers foods, salads and accompaniments will be available for £12.50pp and no pre-booking is required.



RA
LUNCHTIME CONCERT
Wednesday 6 June, 1.10pm, St James's Piccadilly
 ROSL ARTS presents our Wind and Brass Section Final winner, Jonathan Radford, performing alongside Christine Zerafa piano at our local church.
Free.



RA
NORTHERN LIGHTS
Thursday 21 June, 7pm, Over-Seas House, London
 ROSL ARTS welcomes the Northern Lights Symphony Orchestra String Ensemble to London for a summer evening concert including Tchaikovsky's Serenade in C Major, as well as Judith Weir's Still Glowing and the much-loved Lark Ascending performed by ROSL ARTS prizewinner Martyn Jackson.
£20. £15 Friends of ROSL ARTS.

ME
HOUSE OF LORDS AFTERNOON TEA
Tuesday 26 June, 3pm, Houses of Parliament
 A staple for many members' social calendars, ROSL President The Rt Hon Lord Luce invites you and your guests to the House of Lords for Afternoon Tea. Dine with views of some of London's most iconic buildings while sitting in a room steeped in political history.
£30. £35 for guests.

£7. £5 Friends of ROSL ARTS. Includes a glass of wine.

RA
REFLECTIONS ALBUM LAUNCH
28 Thursday June, 7pm, Over-Seas House, London
 2016 Gold Medal winner Huw Wiggin saxophone, launches his debut solo album Reflections with Orchid Classics. Joins us for an evening of music and wine where Huw will perform a selection of songs from the album alongside John Lenehan piano, and Oliver Wass harp.
Free.



Mayfair Art Weekend

RA
GALLERY HOP! EDIT, ADAPT, EVOLVE
Friday 29 June, 6pm, Over-Seas House, London
 Edit, Adapt, Evolve has been developed with Liberty Gallery and presents contemporary art that takes inspiration from the world around us, be it everyday items, nature, architecture, or recognised imagery. The artists creatively alter these in their practice. The exhibition is open late for Mayfair Art Weekend with a drinks reception

welcoming the public and some of the exhibiting artists.
Free. RSVP required.

RA
EDIT, ADAPT, EVOLVE ARTISTS BRUNCH
Saturday 30 June, 10.30am, Over-Seas House, London
 Two exhibiting artists from Edit, Adapt, Evolve, Frances Bloomfield and David Wightman share their practice over coffee and pastries in an intimate free talk overlooking Green Park.
Free. RSVP required.

Book one night in a deluxe double or twin room and get the second night free. Applies 29, 30 June and 1 July. To book email reservations@rosl.org.uk or call +44 (0)20 7408 0214.

RA
ANNUAL MUSIC COMPETITION GRAND FINAL
Monday 4 June, 7pm, Queen Elizabeth Hall, Southbank Centre
 Watch as the winners of the ROSL Music Competition Section Finals compete for the prestigious ROSL Gold Medal and £15,000 first prize. The competitors are; wind and brass winner Jonathan Radford saxophone, voice winner Michael Mofidian bass baritone, strings winner Emmanuel Bach violin, and keyboard winner Florian Mitrea piano. They will also be accompanied by our fantastic Ensembles A and B winners the Marmen Quartet and A4 Brass Quartet.
From £15. To book call +44 (0)203 879 9555, visit the ticket office at Royal Festival Hall, or www.rosl.org.uk/amc.



ME
WUTHERING HEIGHTS SUMMER BALL
Saturday 16 June, 6.30pm, Over-Seas House, London
 Join in the celebration of Emily Brontë's 200th birthday with an evening of Georgian pleasures at Over-Seas House. With champagne in hand, join your fellow lords, ladies, and debutantes for an immersive evening of fine food, silhouette portraits, dancing, and music.
£110. £1,000 for a group of 10. Includes champagne reception, three-course meal and evening entertainment.

RS
SCOTTISH MEMBERS' SUMMER DINNER
Friday 22 June, 6.30pm, The Royal Scots Club
 Join us for a three-course dinner, plus tea/coffee and two glasses of wine, with Speaker Alex Neil MSP. He is the SNP MSP for Airdrie and Shotts and was Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice, Communities and Pensioners' Rights between 2014 and 2016.
£35.

JUNE

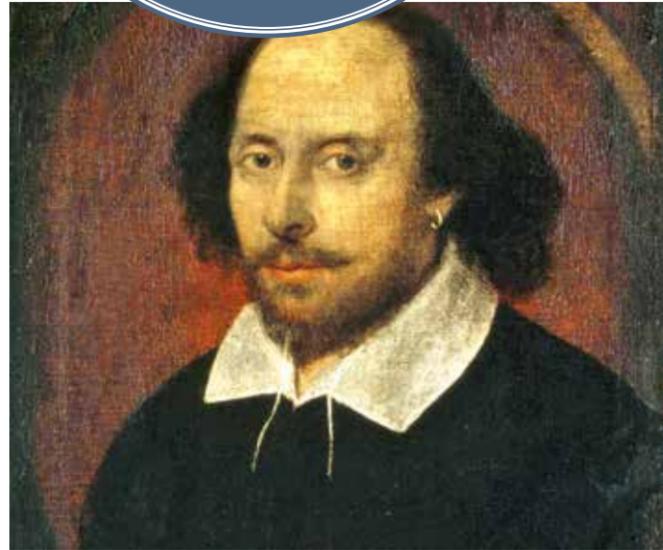
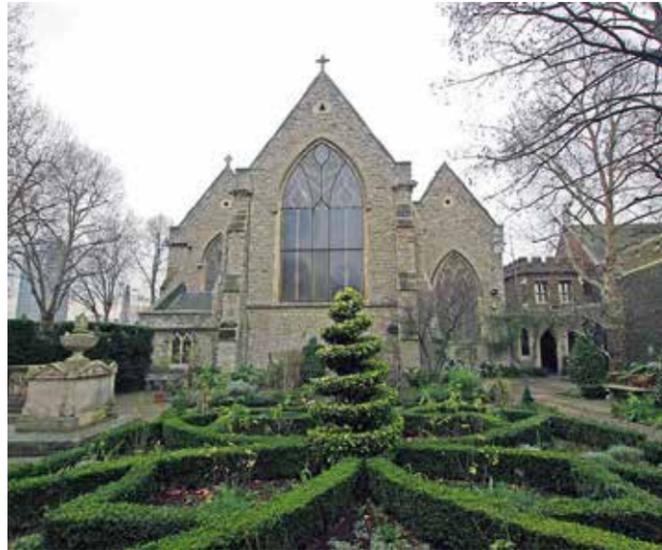
LG
LONDON GROUP SUMMER DINNER
Tuesday 5 June, 7pm, Over-Seas House, London
 Join your fellow London Group members for their annual Summer Dinner! Enjoy a three-course meal with wine followed by a talk by the Rt Hon Lord David Owen, former Foreign Secretary.
£50. £55 for guests.



Best of British

A number of special food and drinks offers will be available at the club throughout June as we celebrate the Best British cuisine on offer. Enjoy Pimms, sparkling English wines, and cream teas.

RA ROSL ARTS RS ROSL Scotland LG London Group
ME Members' Events YM Younger Members
For booking information, see page 50.



JULY

LG
LONDON GROUP VISIT: THE GARDEN MUSEUM
Wednesday 4 July, 11am, Garden Museum
We will have a self-guided tour of the newly redeveloped museum housed in the medieval and Victorian church of St Mary-at-Lambeth, which was deconsecrated in 1972, beside the Tudor Gatehouse of Lambeth Palace on the south bank of the River Thames. It houses the tomb of the two 17th century royal gardeners and plant hunters, John Tradescant the Elder and the Younger. The collection includes tools, art and ephemera of gardening, with a gallery about garden design and the evolution of gardening practices. The redevelopment of the museum includes two new garden designs and The Sackler Garden contains the tomb of Admiral Bligh.
£10. £12 for guests.

RA
AQUINAS PIANO TRIO
Wednesday 4 July, 7pm, Over-Seas House, London
The Medical Music Society of London presents a concert and post-concert buffet supper. Aquinas Piano Trio, together with Sarah-Jane Bradley viola and Leon Bosch

double bass, perform an intriguing programme that will bring three, four and then five players on to the stage as the evening progresses.
Concert only £32. Concert and buffet £62. Friends of ROSL ARTS concert only £25. Friends of ROSL ARTS concert and buffet £54.

RA
SHAKESPEARE: WORDS AND TONE 'LIKE MADNESS IS THE GLORY OF LIFE'
Tuesday 10 July, 7pm, Over-Seas House, London
Performers from the Royal Shakespeare Company and Glyndebourne Opera come together to perform the first in a series of concerts using Shakespeare's text to explore the colourful and multi-faceted world in which we live. *Like Madness is the Glory of Life* uses songs and texts from Shakespeare's plays such as *Macbeth*, *The Tempest*, and *As you like it*, as well as his sonnets to explore the many and varied concepts of what we call madness and the world in which we define it. Members and guests welcome.
£15. Friends of ROSL ARTS £12.

RA
FOLLOWING THE RIVER ALBUM LAUNCH
Thursday 12 July, 7pm, Over-Seas House, London
Winner of the Piano Section of the Annual Music Competition Florian Mitrea will introduce and perform extracts from his debut solo CD *Following the river* – a collection of folklore-inspired virtuoso music by Liszt, Schubert, Bartók and three Romanian composers: Todu Paladi, and Constantinescu.
Free.

of Rights. But how did the Diarchy work in practice? Jonathan Keates examines how the shrewd king and his short-lived wife shared the reins of power and steered the country into a new era.
Free.

RA
FRIENDS OF ROSL ARTS GARDEN PARTY
Wednesday 25 July OR Wednesday 5 September, 6pm, Over-Seas House, London
Friends of ROSL ARTS have the chance to attend one of two (dates above) exclusive garden parties this summer. A drinks reception will take place in the garden, followed by an hour-long concert by ROSL prizewinners. Commonwealth wines, canapes and sweet pastries will be served afterwards.
Free. Exclusive to Friends of ROSL ARTS.

LG
WILLIAM AND MARY: THE DIARCHY IN PRACTICE, 1688-94
Thursday 19 July, 6pm, Over-Seas House, London
Britain's Glorious Revolution changed the course of history when William III and Mary II were proclaimed joint sovereigns of Great Britain under the new Bill

ME
BUCKINGHAM PALACE TOUR
Friday 27 July, 11am, Buckingham Palace
Enjoy a leisurely day out at Buckingham Palace with this combined visit to the State Rooms and Gardens. The day will start with a stroll around

tour of the most remarkable features of the garden.
£33.

RA
LUNCHTIME CONCERT
Wednesday 30 July, 1.10pm, St James's Piccadilly
ROSL ARTS presents a series of free concerts in the wonderful church setting, featuring prizewinners from our Annual Music Competition.
Free.



Mother's Ruin

To coincide with The History of London in Five Drinks walking tour on 18 August, the club will be offering a number of special gin cocktails throughout that week, available in the Bar and Garden for £6 each.

AUGUST

ME

DAVYS WINE TASTING
Wednesday 1 August, 6.30pm, Over-Seas House, London

Enjoy a summery evening in the garden with Davys Wine Merchants as they launch a new collection of wines at the clubhouse by Court Garden Vineyard & Winery. The owners of this international award-winning, family-run winery based in East Sussex will be talking members through the history of their single-estate vineyard and a selection of their finest wines. **£20. £25 for guests.**

YM

LET'S PIG OUT
Thursday 2 August

It's sun's out, buns out, at our summer BBQ extravaganza. Join your fellow younger members and their guests in the garden, and pig out on a mouthwatering al fresco feast, cooked in front of you by our Head Chef Gavin. With a couple of glasses of Pimms, this is the best way to forget about the troubles of the day and get into that Friday feeling early. **£25. £30 for guests.**



RA

EDINBURGH FESTIVAL FRINGE

Monday 6 – Friday 17 August, The Royal Scots Club
Since 2000, ROSL has been proud to take its unique series of concerts to Edinburgh and give Fringe Festival-goers an opportunity to hear the future stars of classical music, and also provide invaluable performance experience for our alumni. We continue this tradition in our new home, The Royal Scots Club. **From £15. Book at www.rosl.org.uk/fringe**

RA ROSL ARTS

RS ROSL Scotland

LG London Group

ME Members' Events

YM Younger Members

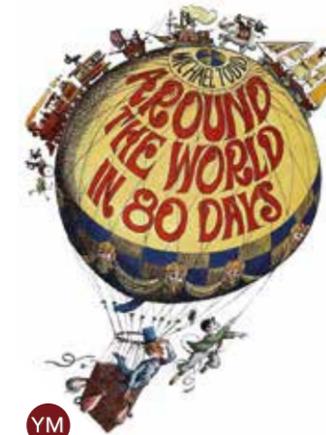
Looking ahead...

ME

SHAKESPEARE IN THE GARDEN: ROMEO AND JULIET

Friday 7 September, 7pm, Over-Seas House, London
Shakespeare Birthplace Trust actors bring to life, on our very own balcony, the classic tragedy of the world's favourite star-crossed lovers. In the ebbing heat of the last days of summer, watch the garden transform into war-torn Verona, and a story of such woe about Juliet and her Romeo. **£45. £50 for guests.**

and the challenges being faced, to discuss whether the UK is prepared for terrorism. **£25 Lecture and reception. £30 for guests. £60 Lecture, reception and dinner. £70 for guests.**



ME

EVELYN WRENCH LECTURE SERIES: IS THE UK PREPARED FOR TERRORISM?

Friday 21 September, 6.30pm, Over-Seas House, London
The panel of policymakers, practitioners and academics will explore both the challenges the UK is facing but also its strengths. For example, the UK's intelligence agencies — MI5, MI6, and GCHQ — are among the most capable counterterrorism forces in the world. Information gleaned from their work has thwarted more than 18 Islamist plots since 2013 in the UK. They have good and usable intelligence; a great deal of work has gone into trying to prevent radicalisation, and into incident planning and response. The UK's biggest advantage is the joined-up nature of policing, intelligence, and emergency response. We will look realistically at the balance between preparedness

YM

INTER-CLUB BALL: AROUND THE WORLD IN 80 DAYS

Friday 28 September, 7pm, Over-Seas House, London
Swagger your way around the globe, crossing continents and hopping in hot air balloons at this year's annual Inter-Club Ball. Whilst we cannot promise you daring rescue attempts, battles with bandits, or the violent storms poor old Phileas Fogg had to deal with, we can promise that an incredible evening of adventure and wonder await you at the Royal Over-Seas League this September. With live entertainment, an exotic three-course meal and our signature photo opportunity that will literally lift you off your feet, by the end of the night you will feel as though you've travelled around the globe and back without ever leaving the clubhouse. **£75.**



WWI Commemoration Events

2018 marks 100 years since soldiers laid down their arms in 1918 and ended the First World War. To honour and commemorate this monumental moment in history, the Royal Over-Seas League will be hosting a series of events in November from concerts and poetry readings to walking tours and our own memorial service. For more information, visit www.rosl.org.uk/memories

WWI CONCERT SERIES: CHAMBER CONCERT
Thursday 1 November, 7pm, Over-Seas House, London

LUNCH & LEARN: FUNDRAISING OUR WAY TO VICTORY
Saturday 3 November, 12pm, Over-Seas House, London

WWI WALKING TOUR
Sunday 4 November, 1pm, Over-Seas House, London

WWI CONCERT SERIES: NEVER SUCH INNOCENCE
Monday 5 November, 7pm, Over-Seas House, London

ROYAL OVER-SEAS MEMORIAL SERVICE
Thursday 8 November, 3pm, Over-Seas House, London

WWI CONCERT SERIES: LONDON MILITARY BAND
Thursday 8 November, 6.30pm, Over-Seas House, London

If you would like to stay at the club the weekend beginning Saturday 3 November, book a twin or double deluxe room and get two nights for the price of one. To book email reservations@rosl.org.uk or call +44 (0)20 7408 0214.

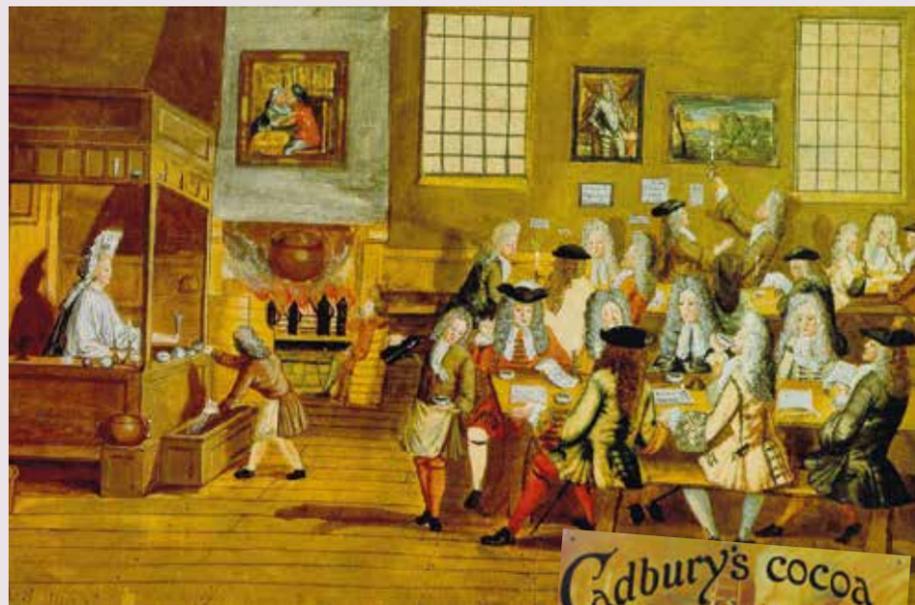
ME

THE HISTORY OF LONDON IN FIVE DRINKS

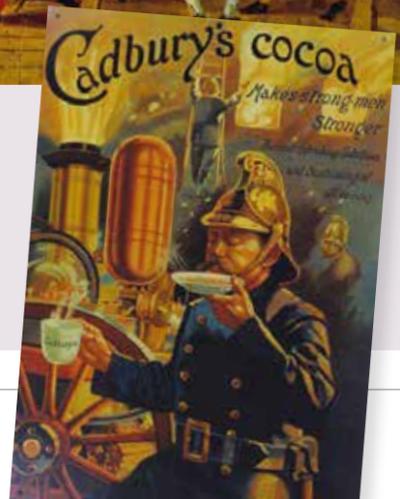
Saturday 18 August, 1.30pm, Meet outside the steps of St Michael's Church, Cornhill

After the success of last year's Medieval Wine Tour, Dr Matthew Green is back with an epic new whirlwind tour through the metropolis, exploring how five drinks forged modern London.

Beginning outside St Michael's Church, Cornhill, explore how, from the 1650s, 'bitter Muhammedan gruel' – coffee – and 'the drink of the Gods' – hot chocolate – transformed the social fabric of London forever. From there, sip wine from coconut shells and learn about the snobbery of wine during the times of the warlords of Anglo-Saxon England before enjoying a pint of beer in one of the oldest taverns of London. For the finale, leapfrog to the present at the City of



London Distillery which was at the heart of London's recent 'Ginnaissance'. This chic venue is leading the way in rehabilitating what was once widely regarded as an agent of oblivion and scourge of the working classes. **£40. Includes five drinks and entry costs.**



Christmas at the Club

Celebrate at your home-away-from-home with our special festive packages!

Get into the festive spirit with mulled wine and mince pies at our Christmas Eve drinks reception, followed by a screening of a classic Christmas movie. The Bar will be open and an optional supper will be served in The Restaurant. Make sure to save some room, as on

Christmas day the celebrations start at midday with a sparkling drinks reception and a traditional three-course lunch, including half a bottle of wine, coffee, and mince pies. If you choose to stay with us for three nights, after a delicious Boxing Day breakfast, your package includes a tailor-made winter walk around the area led by one of our Blue Badge guides.



To book a two or three-night package at the clubhouse, contact reservations@rosl.org.uk or +44 (0)20 7408 0214 x217. Package elements can be booked separately and are also open to members and their guests not staying at the

clubhouse. For lunch bookings only contact rosldining@graysonsrestaurants.com or +44 (0)20 7629 0406. For tickets to just our Boxing Day Walking Tour contact membersevents@rosl.org.uk or +44 (0)20 7016 6906.

	DOUBLE/TWIN	SINGLE
Two nights	From £305pp	From £355pp
Three nights	From £380pp	From £465pp

CONTACT DETAILS AND BOOKING INFORMATION

Visit www.rosl.org.uk/events for more information on the full programme of events and to book your place

ROSL ARTS

+44 (0)20 7408 0214 x219; roslarts@rosl.org.uk

MEMBERS' EVENTS

Book online at www.rosl.org.uk

To reserve a ticket for popular events or if you have trouble booking online, contact Jessica Harris-Edwards: membersevents@rosl.org.uk; +44 (0)20 7016 6906.

To pay by cheque, send separate cheques (sterling) for each event, payable to 'ROSL', to Members' Events, Marketing Department, Over-Seas House, Park Place, St James's Street, London, SW1A 1LR.

YOUNGER MEMBERS

For members aged 35 and under. Book online at www.rosl.org.uk/events. Inter-Club events must be booked independently via www.inter-club.co.uk.

For information about the ROSL YM programme, join the Facebook group [facebook.com/groups/roslym](https://www.facebook.com/groups/roslym) or contact Jessica Harris-Edwards: membersevents@rosl.org.uk.

LONDON GROUP

For London Group members, their guests and ROSL members staying at Over-Seas House, London. To join, speak to the Membership Team on +44 (0)20 7408 0214 x214/216 or email membership@rosl.org.uk. No booking is required for talks.

To book outside visits, send a cheque payable to 'Royal Over-Seas League' and a stamped, addressed envelope to Maureen Howley, London Group, Over-Seas House, Park Place, St James's Street, London, SW1A 1LR. The London Group is a voluntary organisation and unfortunately cannot take bookings by email or telephone. Confirmation is sent approximately ten days in advance. Cancellations and refund requests must be made at least two weeks before the event. Contact howleymaureen@hotmail.com.

SOUTH OF FRANCE

FOR DISCERNING TRAVELLERS

The colours of Provençal lavender, pastel-painted villages, and golden sands against the brilliant azure of the Mediterranean, have drawn royalty, celebrities and artists to the South of France for more than a century – including Monet, Renoir, Picasso, Chagall and Matisse, who famously remarked: "When I realised that every morning I would see this light again, I couldn't believe how lucky I was."

Today, the allure of the South of France is undimmed, and it is easier than ever to visit, with flights from many local airports, TGV high-speed rail connections from Paris, and a direct Eurostar train from London to Avignon and Marseille. Whether you are looking for fine dining or a relaxed al fresco dinner overlooking the sea, fine art in one of the many excellent museums, or wine tasting amid the rolling vineyards and olive groves of the Luberon or the Languedoc – our experts would be delighted to create the perfect tailor-made holiday to the South of France.

Prices are per person and include flights, return private transfers or car hire, accommodation with breakfast, Kirker Guide Notes and the services of the Kirker Concierge.



PROVENCE

Crillon le Brave **** Superior

A sublime haven in the heart of Provence, Crillon le Brave is the perfect destination for a relaxing break. Just 25 miles from mediaeval Avignon, the property occupies part of a 16th century hilltop hamlet amid the vineyards of the Côtes du Ventoux. There are wonderful views of the surrounding countryside from 32 Provençal bedrooms. There is a heated outdoor swimming pool, a small spa and an exceptional kitchen with a terrace overlooking the serene, picturesque valley.



3 nights for the price of 2 until 30 June - price from £780, saving £195

VENCE

Château St. Martin **** Deluxe

This Relais & Châteaux hotel is located in the hills outside Vence with spectacular views towards the Mediterranean. There are 36 junior suites, each with a private terrace, and six Provençal style villas located in the private gardens. There is a heated swimming pool, a Michelin-starred restaurant and a luxurious Sisley spa.

4 nights for the price of 3 until 8 June (excluding Fri & Sat) - price from £1,358, saving £343

NICE

La Pérouse **** Superior

Located a short walk from the Flower Market and Nice's old town, La Pérouse stands in a secluded position one block back from the waterfront and nestling into the rock face above. This most attractive hotel has 63 comfortable bedrooms, a bar, flowered terraces, an outdoor summer swimming pool and wonderful views of the town and the Baie des Anges.

3 night price from £797
5 nights for the price of 4 until 13 July and 17 August onwards - price from £989, saving £176

THE LUBERON

Couvent des Minimes Hotel & Spa **** Deluxe

A member of Relais & Châteaux, this beautifully restored 17th century convent is located on a hillside amongst lavender fields, orchards and olive groves close to the hamlet of Mane. There are 46 extremely comfortable bedrooms and a swimming pool in the terraced gardens. Chef Jerome Roy prepares exceptional cuisine using local produce and the spa uses local products from the famous L'Occitane range.

4 nights for the price of 3 all year - price from £1,094, saving £230

ST. PAUL-DE-VENCE

Le Mas de Pierre **** Deluxe

Just outside historic St Paul de Vence, this Relais & Châteaux hotel is an elegant retreat set in five acres of gardens. Enjoy modern facilities including a spa and an outdoor heated pool, alongside traditional Provençal style in the five 'bastide' buildings. There are 48 rooms, all with private terrace or balcony, and a gastronomic restaurant.

4 nights for the price of 3 until 30 June - price from £1,198, saving £290

MOUGINS

Le Mas Candille **** Deluxe

This beautiful Relais & Châteaux hotel and spa, imaginatively converted from a Provençal farmhouse, is located close to the centre of mediaeval Mougins on a hill above Cannes. It is set in a mature and tranquil park, with 46 rooms, wonderful views and exceptional cuisine. The Michelin-starred 'Le Candille' serves delicious Provençal dishes in the sumptuous dining room or in the shade of the orangery. There are two outdoor swimming pools.



4 nights for the price of 3 until 5 July - price from £989, saving £205

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GREAT WAR
10-15 SEP, 2018

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