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WELCOME

“Being a member of ROSL
in these turbulent times
underlines that there is
far more that brings us
together than divides us”



Spring has come early this year and we have even seen members enjoying the warm sunshine in the garden here at Over-Seas House. Whilst this is welcome, it is also a reminder that climate change is impacting all of our environments wherever we live. The scale of the issues facing the world resulting from these changes can feel overwhelming and must be tackled at a global level through international cooperation. Living in London, in one of the highest consuming economies in the world, we clearly have an even greater responsibility to reduce our environmental footprint. Every small step matters and our team at Over-Seas House are looking at how we can use less plastics, consume less energy, reduce wastage, and recycle and reuse wherever possible. We welcome your ideas on what more we could do and also to hear your experience of innovative approaches to climate change from around the world. David Attenborough said recently:

"In the 20 years since I first started talking about the impact of climate change on our world, conditions have changed far faster than I ever imagined. It may sound frightening, but the scientific evidence is that if we have not taken dramatic action within the next decade, we could face irreversible damage to the natural world and the collapse of our societies. We're running out of time but there's still hope... I believe that if we better understand the threat we face, the more likely it is that we can avoid such a catastrophic future."

I am delighted to welcome the Honourable Alexander Downer AC as our new Chairman, and this is also an opportunity to thank our President, Lord Luce, for all that he does to support ROSL behind the scenes. Our governance review has made good progress and we are bringing together all the compliance and fabric surveys on Over-Seas House so that we can develop a five-year repair and refurbishment plan. This work will be led by our new Head of Estates and Projects, Tomasz Sikorski. Our membership services are also undergoing a complete overhaul following investment in a new system that will enable members to access their accounts, bookings, and ROSL information much more easily later this year.

I hope that being a member of ROSL in these turbulent times underlines that there is far more that brings us together than divides us as peoples of the world. ROSL has always taken seriously our founder's vision to create an organisation that promotes international friendship and understanding and enables people to come together to share their experience and knowledge with tolerance and respect. Thank you for your continuing support and I look forward to meeting you.

Diana Owen OBE
DIRECTOR-GENERAL

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“With the global population set to hit ten billion by 2050, it is getting harder and harder to provide enough healthy food for everyone”

WELCOME

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From the EDITOR

Rising temperatures, rising sea levels, plastic waste, coral bleaching, loss of biodiversity, air pollution. The list of environmental challenges the world is facing can at times seem insurmountable. Have world powers been too slow to react to these threats or is there still hope that climate change can be halted by starting with us?

This issue of *Overseas* looks at some of the challenges specific to the people of the Commonwealth and asks what changes we can all make to reduce our ecological footprint. Some of it makes for uncomfortable reading, but we must all play our part.

No countries are more endangered by climate change than low-lying island states, such as Seychelles. On page 10, find out how the country is working hard to protect its marine ecosystems. However, it is a responsibility that lies not locally, but internationally.

That's why the Commonwealth has responded by launching its Blue Charter, which seeks to reach consensus on ocean-use best practice among the 53-member states.

The Secretariat's Jeff Ardron details some of the progress that has already been made on page 14.

This kind of international cooperation can only achieve so much though; the choices we make as individuals are just as important. Take the example of fast fashion, known to seriously harm the environment. We all want cheap, readily available, and ever-changing clothing, but should we be looking at alternatives?

Abi Millar asks how the industry and consumers can both make a difference on page 20.

Our eating habits, too, could be better attuned to reduce the ecological footprint of feeding us. As the world's population continues to balloon, we need to think carefully about how we feed the future (page 16). Grayson's are already doing their bit to make ROSL that bit greener. Find out how they choose their suppliers and deal with their waste on page 19.

ROSL's garden, too, can play a part in promoting biodiversity in central London. On page 32, garden designer Jane Atwell explains how our little patch of green is a haven not just for members, but also wildlife. *Overseas* itself is produced as sustainably as possible, but if you would prefer to receive it by email, please let us know.

Read all this plus more features, news, views, and events from the clubhouse and branches around the world.

Mark Brierley
editor@rosl.org.uk

GOING POINT?

Not a week goes by without dire warnings from scientists that we are on course to fail in our obligations to halt climate change. With the US now planning to withdraw from the Paris Agreement, it could fall to other nations to step up to the plate, writes Ross Davies

PRIN

When it was unveiled on the evening of 12 December 2015 that a new global climate change pact had been signed in Paris, some saw it as a new dawn not only for collective action over the fate of the planet – but international diplomacy as well. Looking back at the images of jubilation on that night, in a non-descript convention centre on the outskirts of the French capital, it seems like another lifetime ago. A simpler time. Many of the leaders involved in the negotiations, including US President Obama, French President Francois Hollande and UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon have since moved on from office.

On the same day the Paris Agreement was sealed, on the other side of the Atlantic, then-Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump was addressing a typically raucous crowd of supporters – and protesters – in the white-picketed town of Aiken, South Carolina. On the GOP man's agenda: the usual fare of Hillary-bashing, promises

could mean its basic target – to keep global temperatures well below two degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels – will be missed, as other countries also choose to withdraw. Perhaps we shouldn't be too gloomy in our outlook. After all, the US constitutes only one of the Paris Accord's 195 signatories. Lest we are tempted to get sucked into debate around American exceptionalism, other countries are evidently doing their bit for the cause. As mentioned further down, China and India's respective love affairs with coal are now on the wane, with renewables investment growing all the time. Smaller nations, too, are also setting a good example. As revealed in a recent report from the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, Morocco has commissioned the biggest concentrated solar power plant in the world, while also ramping up its natural gas imports. The North African country is forecast to derive 42% of its energy needs from renewables by 2020.

According to Climate Action Tracker, Gambia also deserves praise for its plans

THE

to dismantle Obama policies, and a bizarre rant on low water pressure shower heads. It's not likely that many – if any – of the delegates celebrating on the floor of Le Bourget conference centre gave Trump much of a chance of being elected the following November. The convergence of these two worlds, at that time, seemed almost impossible. We all know the rest. Fast forward three years, and the halcyon hopes of December 2015 have taken an unexpected turn. The US – the most influential player at the table in Paris under Obama – intends to withdraw from the agreement. President Trump, who campaigned aggressively on a promise to return the US coal industry to former glories, believes the accord to be a “bad deal” for the country.

Some fear the US decision to pull out from the Paris Agreement to reduce emissions, which are centred around a large-scale reforestation project. So, not all doom and gloom then. But there remains a broad cross section of the scientific community who fear the deal was never muscular enough in the first place to force collective action from nations. This is because at the heart of the Paris Agreement lies a good faith deal – when the pact comes into force next year, it will be up to each country to set its own target for emissions reductions, with further goals renewed every five years.

As an essentially non-binding agreement, some environmentalists believe the Paris accord – while a heartening example of international diplomacy at work – should form part of an even bigger deal. But given that the deal eventually hammered out in 2015 came on the back of almost two decades' worth of testy to-and-froing, might it be too late in the day to set the ball rolling on a new global agreement? “Yes, there's certainly that risk,” says Bob Ward, Policy and Communications

Extreme weather events of the last two decades, from Hurricane Katrina to Russian heatwaves – not to mention devastating floods in Pakistan in 2010 – indicate climate change is not on the horizon, but something that is already well in motion. Have we already crossed the Rubicon?





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WORLD

is whether it can prevail without US participation. Obama's engagement with China during the early stages of talks is now hailed as one of the former President's finest hours – and a crucial component towards the eventual inking of the pact.

On the face of it, Trump's planned withdrawal is regrettable on many levels. Not only could it see the US fall behind in its efforts to reduce its carbon emissions, it could also potentially create a sizeable blackhole in funding – particularly for emerging nations reliant on climate finance. Only \$1billion of the \$3billion pledged by Obama to a climate change fund reached its target before he left office; Trump is yet to issue any backing.

For all this, though, Ward still holds out hope that, the current White House notwithstanding, the US could yet decide its own environmental future at a state level. "As the US is the world's second biggest emitter after China, its withdrawal would be a blow on many fronts," he says. "However, Trump gives the impression that he's already withdrawn, but he hasn't. The withdrawal process won't take place until next year. A lot could change in the interim.

"There are also signs that many within the country are unhappy with the decision. The state of California has already stated that it is going to pursue the goals set out by the Paris agreement regardless."

"The withdrawal isn't a foregone conclusion," agrees Mann.

"Even without Trump's support, the US has an excellent chance still of making good on its Paris commitments due to the tremendous action that is taking place at the municipal, city, state levels, and through



We are already seeing some dangerous climate change impacts. These are as a result of our failure to act over the past two decades

multi-state consortia for pricing carbon and incentivising renewable."

Elsewhere, Ward has been impressed by developments in Asia – traditionally the world's biggest user of fossil fuels. China has emerged as the largest producer of renewables on the planet, while investments in Indian solar power reached record levels in 2018.

"Both those countries are moving in the right direction," he says. "They understand the economics of investing in clean energy. China, in particular, is aware of the benefits of the move to low-carbon. Beijing sees it as a race."

Still though, there are concerns that Trump's intransigence – some might call it denial – over climate change might have a spill over influence on other national governments' environmental policy. Indeed, Brazil's newly-elected President Jair Bolsonaro has hinted he could remove his country from the Paris Agreement, as well as pledging to relax rules on deforestation in the Amazon.

"The rise of right-wing, climate-denying leaders like Trump in the US and Bolsonaro in Brazil poses a huge threat to the multilateral approach to the global commons," fears Lucy Cadena, Climate Justice and Energy Coordinator at Friends of the Earth.

"The Paris Agreement should have been a starting point, propelling us to urgent action – instead we see global geopolitics pulling our earth closer to the brink of disaster."

The issue of climate change might be a global one, but individual companies and industries have their own part to play – potentially setting out more ambitious targets than those created at government level for the Paris Agreement.

For instance, the Swedish Shipowners Association, a national trade body, recently announced plans to phase out the use of fossil fuels by 2045 – a bold move for a heavy fuel industry not even included in the Paris pact. "I would actually say that the industry is ahead of politicians in this regard," asserts Managing Director Richard Engström. As for the fate of Paris, Mann believes

"it gets us a foot in the door, but there's much more work that needs to be done". While the advice of climatologists, such as Mann, evidently needs to be heeded like never before, progress will ultimately rest upon skilled and committed political leadership – "something we don't have at the moment," says Ward.

There's hope this could change. Just as 12 December 2015 has gone down in the history books, it is perhaps worth pencilling a red circle around Wednesday 4 November 2020 in the calendar. It's the date set for the US' official withdrawal from the Paris Agreement. It also happens to fall on the day after the country's next presidential election.

THE PARIS AGREEMENT

The Paris Agreement aims to keep the increase in global average temperature to well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels; and to limit the increase to 1.5°C, limiting the impact of climate change.

Negotiated in Paris as part of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the agreement was adopted on 12 December 2015. 195 members have signed and 185 have become party to it.



PARIS2015
COP21-CMP11

Paradise PROTECTION

The global causes of sea-level rise, coral bleaching, plastic pollution et al adversely impact small island states such as Seychelles. To protect its waters, the country has created a Marine Special Plan, which aims to protect this precious ecosystem.

Dr Joanna Smith, Helena Sims, and Alain de Comarmond tell Overseas how it works

What inspired Seychelles to create its Marine Spatial Plan (MSP)?

The ocean has always been important to Seychelles. Article 38 of the Seychelles Constitution declares that: “The State recognises the right of every person to live in and enjoy a clean, healthy, and ecologically balanced environment”. This Article and the Seychelles Sustainable Development Strategy provided an overall goal to create a marine spatial plan which optimises the sustainable use and effective management of the Seychelles’ marine environment while ensuring and improving the social, cultural, and economic wellbeing of its people.

In 2012, Seychelles was inspired to commit to protect 50% of the land and a 30% of the ocean at the Rio+20 United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development.

At that time, the global target was 10% protection by 2020 for oceans. Seychelles land protection was already at 47% and thus very close to reaching the national goal (and exceeding the international voluntary commitment by five times), however ocean protection was low with only 0.04% of the waters in legally protected designations, or about 550 sq km. It’s a good idea to keep in mind the scale of Seychelles ocean for the context of the 0.04% because the size of the Seychelles’ Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) is very large at 1,351,700 square kilometers – Seychelles is a large ocean state.

Seychelles was inspired to create a comprehensive marine spatial plan in order to safeguard the oceans for generations to come and to ensure the sustainable and long-term effective management of the economic

activities that sustain the country’s economy – tourism and fisheries. The marine spatial plan is also an essential component of the Seychelles Blue Economy Roadmap, the aim of which is to ensure conservation of the oceans and a healthy, resilient economy. As a Small Island Developing State, or SIDS, Seychelles also needs to be concerned about the effects of (external) global economic shocks and impacts on the local economy and wellbeing of Seychellois.

Since its inception in 2012, how successful has it been in reaching its protection targets?

The planning initiative has been very successful at reaching the protection targets set during the negotiations for the debt-for-climate-adaptation swap. The debt swap was negotiated between 2012 and 2016 to convert

\$21.6million in debt to conservation and climate change goals. The Seychelles Marine Spatial Plan Initiative began in 2014 and has three milestones to reach for the protection targets: 15% by 2017, 22.5% by 2018 and 30% by 2020. The MSP initiative has successfully completed the first milestone to designate 15% in new marine protections and nearly completed the second milestone to reach 26%. The areas for the second milestone have been through the stakeholder consultation process, public comment period, and are awaiting the final steps for the designation order for the Minister of Environment, Energy and Climate Change to sign. In March 2019, the MSP launched the third and final milestone for the remaining 4%. The MSP is ahead of its protection target by 3.5%, or 47,300 square kilometres.

How do you balance the competing needs for the protection of the marine environment with its use for tourism, fisheries, and oil and gas exploration and production, amongst other uses? The so-called Blue Economy.

A marine spatial plan is, by definition, multi-objective and must balance ecological, social, and economic objectives. Generally speaking, MSP is developing a plan for the future – this is where an understanding of national and international commitments to biodiversity are important plus any historical context to maritime planning.

A marine spatial plan is ultimately about objectives and managing human activities. The purpose of the marine spatial plan in Seychelles is to provide government with direction about what activities can occur where and when.

Ecologically, some of the guidelines are size of the area, spacing, and connectivity between areas. The sociocultural and economic guidelines include equity, transparency, feasibility, practicality, and advocate a precautionary approach.

Once a percent goal is set for ocean protection, the next steps are to identify and map the existing and potential future uses and activities, and identify priority sites for ocean conservation. MSP Guiding Principles are developed to inform the decision-making process to identify new zones, especially any that may restrict existing or future uses.

With a protection goal of 30% by area and by representation, we then use specialised computer software, geographic information systems, and spatial analysis to identify priority conservation sites. This provides a starting point for discussions, and in most cases there is more than one solution to meeting the target for a species or habitat.

In a situation where there are limited solutions to expand or increase protection for a particular species or habitat – like a

spawning area or unique habitat type – then more time is needed to discuss these areas and examine tradeoffs related to the MSP objectives.

In the case of the Seychelles MSP, with the 30% goal for biodiversity protection, nearly 100 data layers are examined to find the high-priority sites at each milestone. Similarly, the same 30% target is used with the economic sectors – where are the most important areas? Then, when all of this information is gathered and mapped, it is examined for overlap and potential conflict. Apart from the Inner Islands – where most of the human activity occurs – there was only one other area in the entire EEZ where there was overlap with more than five sectors and this was just west of the Mahe Plateau.

These discussions also include examining legislation and regulations, monitoring and enforcement, as well as information from scientific studies, stakeholder, and local knowledge. It is important for the MSP to have all input provided to the process carefully reviewed so that discussions about competing needs are verified.

For example, an area might be proposed for increased marine protection and there is concern from the public about effects on a local fishery. In one case, an area more than 1,000km from Mahe Plateau was confirmed from fisheries logbooks that no domestic fishing activity had occurred in this area for the last decade and none is planned for the future.

In the case of a potential future activity with a lot of uncertainty, we discuss allowable activities and any conditions

“The State recognises the right of every person to live in and enjoy a clean, healthy, and ecologically balanced environment”

that would restrict or prohibit certain uses in the future. We are using lessons learned from other countries that have had to address similar challenges related to deep sea mining and conservation on the seabed, oil and gas, and sensitive habitats, and even from terrestrial planning processes involving indigenous people and mining.

It's important to always remember that the ocean is multidimensional, and we are viewing the ocean from the sea's surface, through the water column to the ocean floor or seabed.

We are doing this from depths of just a few metres near the coast to depths greater than 2,000m further afield.

How important is it to include the public in the planning process?

The public is very important to the MSP. The definition of marine spatial planning includes that it is a public and participatory process. At all stages of the MSP, we hold stakeholder workshops and public information sessions. Since February 2014, the MSP has held more than 120 meetings, workshops and public information sessions on Mahe, Praslin, or La Digue islands. These are essential to develop draft products, review and discuss, iterate, and finalise with high levels of agreement.

Do you think protection of the oceans is more than just the responsibility of individual nations? Should we collectively be working to look after our marine ecology?

Yes, regional cooperation is required for most issues in the marine environment including how we look after marine ecology, or ecosystems. We can look to the CBD Aichi Biodiversity Target 11 and UN Sustainable Development Goal 14 to confirm that nations agree it is everyone's responsibility to do their part to protect and conserve the ocean – the signatories demonstrate that individual nations understand the importance to share and deliver on these responsibilities.

Marine species travel hundreds and thousands of kilometers, far beyond the borders of national jurisdiction, and this is well known by governments. Turtles, whales, sharks, tuna, billfish, albatross – these are just a few of the many species that require a huge amount of the ocean for breeding and foraging. Scientific research that uses satellite and other tagging equipment is



PROTECTION
IN PRACTICE

550km²
The size of Seychelles' land area

1.37km²
The size of Seychelles' Exclusive Economic Zone

\$21.6m
Debt converted to conservation and climate change goals

30%
Percentage target of Seychelles' ocean protected by 2020

really helping to improve our understanding of how far species travel, including for top trophic level predators like sharks, commercially important sport fish like marlin, and endangered sea turtles.

The countries in the Western Indian Ocean have long recognised the need to work together and plan to ensure a healthy ocean. Regional groups have been formed to identify areas of global, regional, and local biodiversity significance. Scientific associations like the Western Indian Ocean Marine Sciences Association have been created to share information, research and identify priorities for future studies in this region. Inter-governmental partnerships have been formed for regional collaborations and decisions, such as Nairobi Convention.

Are you confident other nations will follow the good practices employed by Seychelles?

In the early days of the MSP, in 2014-2015, Seychelles benefited from the lessons shared by our colleagues in other nations that had successfully completed a marine spatial plan.

We are using these and continue to share this information with others – the 'best practices' for MSP include participatory, transparent, and evidence-based decision making. It also includes using best-available information and knowledge, as well as developing a plan that can be adapted over time. Seychelles has seen a high interest by other SIDS to develop marine spatial plans, and this interest is increasing every year.

In the last four years, we have received a lot of interest in Seychelles, and requests to share information about the approach and methodology for the 30% marine protection goal and also for developing the comprehensive marine spatial plan.

Other countries in the region have made commitments to undertake a marine spatial plan including Mauritius with a government declaration in December 2016. It can take time to organise an MSP planning process and begin the discussions with stakeholders – we are seeing much more activity for beginning MSP in other nations in the last 12 months.



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CHARTED WATERS

Ocean protection is a global issue that needs an international response. Step in the Commonwealth, whose Adviser on Oceans Governance, Jeff Ardron, explains the leading role the organisation is playing with its Blue Charter



Why was it decided the Commonwealth should play a role in better managing our oceans?

46 of the 53 Commonwealth countries have a marine coastline. Over a third of the ocean under national jurisdictions is Commonwealth. So, our collective interest in the global ocean is significant. In June 2017, the Commonwealth Secretariat organised a side-meeting at the first UN Oceans Conference in New York. There, the Secretary-General posed the question: should the Commonwealth be doing more to address ocean issues? The response was a resounding 'Yes!' Maritime countries are all facing similar challenges. The idea of cooperating to meet shared global commitments resonated deeply with those present. Subsequently, in April 2018, the Commonwealth Blue Charter was adopted unanimously and enthusiastically by Commonwealth Heads of Government.

How does the Blue Charter fit within the larger principles and values of the Commonwealth Charter?

Our tagline is 'Shared ocean, shared values', because the Commonwealth Blue Charter explicitly commits members to applying the 16 principles of the Charter of the Commonwealth to meeting ocean-related commitments. The two are very tightly linked together. Additionally, it commits members to take a principled, science-based approach.

How is it possible to balance the need for conservation and the economic demands we place on the ocean?

It can be a challenge, but it is not a new one. Some Commonwealth cultures have been living sustainably with the ocean for millennia. That said, I think that mistakes have been made in the past on various scales and we have the opportunity to learn from them. More recently, however, it has become evident that the pressures – and the stakes – have increased dramatically. It is the raison d'être of the Blue Charter to share experiences, what has worked and what has not, and to together develop good practices and approaches for both conservation and sustainable development.

What role do you play in heading up the efforts of member nations?

The member countries themselves have stepped forward to lead on issues important to them. So far, we have nine such action groups, with 12 countries leading or co-leading them. These Champion countries set the tone, the pace, and indeed the agenda. So, our role in the Secretariat is mainly to support these groups. For example, in May we will be hosting the first 'All-Champions' meeting here in London, to allow the Champion countries to come together, share progress to date, and to build internal and external partnerships.

How receptive have member nations been to the aims of the Blue Charter?

Very receptive. There is great interest in the Blue Charter and in joining its action groups. Any country is welcome to join any

Action Group. This is all still quite new, and the action groups are at various stages of development. For example, the Commonwealth Clean Oceans Alliance (the Action group on marine plastic pollution, co-led by the UK and Vanuatu) has 24 members, whereas some others just getting started.

How was the topic of each Action Group chosen?

Do you think these provide a good representation of the threats faced and opportunities offered by our oceans?

The topics are a result of Commonwealth countries stepping forward on issues of their own choosing. It is a very pragmatic way to sort through the 'ocean of noble causes' out there, and to zero in on those topics most likely to see meaningful progress. I think they do offer a representative selection of the sorts of issues facing us all, but naturally there are still many other topics that could be addressed. Coastal and small-scale fisheries, for example, are not currently covered. And while all Action Groups will be developing training materials, there is no single group yet established to look at education specifically, and issues such as encouraging girls and boys to study marine sciences. Nonetheless, the door for new groups is always open, and the nine to date are a wonderful beginning.

What achievements have been made since the introduction of the Blue Charter?

Well, it is a bit premature to be trumpeting achievements. I would say that the very existence of these nine Action Groups is a very good sign that there is genuine interest in these areas, and that progress will be made. One of our next critical steps here in the Secretariat is to establish an independent mechanism to enable the funding of the Action Groups and their pilot projects.

Taking the example of the Clean Oceans Alliance, which tackles plastic waste, there are so many facets of the problem to explore, such as microplastic in fish stocks, improving plastic recycling in member nations, or banning some plastics from sale altogether. Where do member nations start when trying to work together to tackle these issues?

There are many ways that Commonwealth countries are responding. Last year, Vanuatu, which is co-leading this Action Group, began by banning plastic bags, straws, and styrofoam food containers (styrofoam cannot be recycled). They are now looking at expanding the restrictions to other things such as plastic cutlery, disposable nappies, and so forth. It is hard to know where to begin, true. But then again, once you get started, things have a way of just falling into place.

To quote from the sagacious Lewis Carroll, *The White Rabbit put on his spectacles.*

"Where shall I begin, please your Majesty?" he asked.

"Begin at the beginning," the King said gravely, "and go on till you come to the end: then stop."

(Alice's Adventures in Wonderland, Ch. 12)

“
Maritime countries
are all facing similar
challenges. The idea of
cooperating to meet shared
global commitments
resonated deeply

FEEDING THE FUTURE

One third of all food produced annually around the world is lost or wasted. With the global population set to hit ten billion by 2050, how can we produce more, waste less, and eat the foodstuffs that limit our environmental impact?

In January this year, a team of scientists made headlines with a sprawling *Lancet* report. The report, entitled 'Food in the Anthropocene', made a provocative series of recommendations on how to fix our broken food system. Most controversially, it included what the authors called 'the planetary health diet'.

According to the authors, a wholesale transformation of the food system is urgently needed. With the global population set to hit ten billion by 2050, it is getting harder and harder to provide enough healthy food for everyone. Already, more than 820 million people don't get enough to eat, and billions more eat unhealthy diets that contribute to the chronic disease burden.

However, if everyone were to follow the planetary health diet, the planet would notionally be able to support a growing population and future catastrophe could be averted.

"Humanity has never attempted to change the food system at this scale and this speed," Line Gordon, director of the Stockholm Resilience Centre at Stockholm University, told the BBC. "Whether it's a fantasy or not, a fantasy doesn't have to be bad... it's time to dream of a good world."

While the diet is extremely detailed – including, for example, 232g of whole grains a day and 31g of added sugars – its key feature is that it's highly plant-based. It allows just

one serving of red meat a week, along with two of chicken and two of fish. This is a far cry from many Western diets, which incorporate meat into every meal.

Perhaps unsurprisingly, the report has received some pushback from the meat industry. It has also been criticised for its implication that a one-size diet fits all, and for being potentially too high in carbohydrates.

That said, if we do wish to feed everyone 'within planetary boundaries', ambitious targets of this nature are essential. Currently, the food industry is responsible for between 19 and 29% of total greenhouse gas emissions, with the bulk of that coming from livestock.

In fact, avoiding meat and dairy products is thought to be the best thing a person can do to reduce their environmental footprint. According to a major analysis published last year, the combined meat and dairy industries use up 83% of the world's farmland and produce 60% of agricultural greenhouse gas emissions.

“Half of all food disposed of is done so by private households, with other spoilage occurring during the manufacturing process and in the supply chain

"A vegan diet is probably the single biggest way to reduce your impact on planet Earth, not just greenhouse gases, but also global acidification, eutrophication, land use, and water use," said lead researcher Joseph Poore, of the University of Oxford.

This may be a tough ask, especially in countries like the US, where the average person consumed 222lb of red meat and poultry last year. Never mind veganism – convincing everyone to adopt the planetary health diet would require a major legislative push. However, plant-based diets are on the rise, with a growing number of consumers taking action.

"It's so exciting that the next generation are such conscious consumers," says Lauren Lovatt, a plant-based Chef and Founder of The Plant Hub culinary academy. "We know climate change will actually impact all of us in the world today – we simply can't keep consuming as we are. Not only is it vital to our human survival but on the whole it is cool to care."

Lovatt's academy, based in East London, provides plant-based cookery classes and is seeing strong demand. Over the past five years or so, the number of people identifying as vegans (particularly among a younger demographic) has grown astronomically.

As of 2017, 6% of US consumers claimed to be vegan, up from just 1% in 2014, and a quarter of 25-34 year-old Americans now say they are vegan or vegetarian. Sales of vegan foods in the year to June 2018 grew ten times faster than food sales as a whole.

In the UK, a record 250,000 people signed up to this year's Veganuary, more than in the past four years combined. And as of April 2019, Waterstones has 2,114 books tagged 'vegan', compared with 994 in August 2018.

"We have seen popular brands and producers introduce plant-based dishes and ranges so there are now so many options," says Lovatt. "I'm confident we are all moving in the right direction and it's important to remember every little helps." ➤

This doesn't have to be an all-or-nothing endeavour. In the UK, there are an estimated 22 million 'flexitarians' (meat eaters who make an effort to reduce their consumption).

According to a 2016 study, if everyone on the planet went vegan, this would cut food-related greenhouse gas emissions by 70% by 2050. Vegetarian diets would cut emissions by 63% and a balanced omnivore diet by 29%. Other studies have found greater environmental benefits to flexitarianism, postulating that anything beyond that leads to diminishing returns.

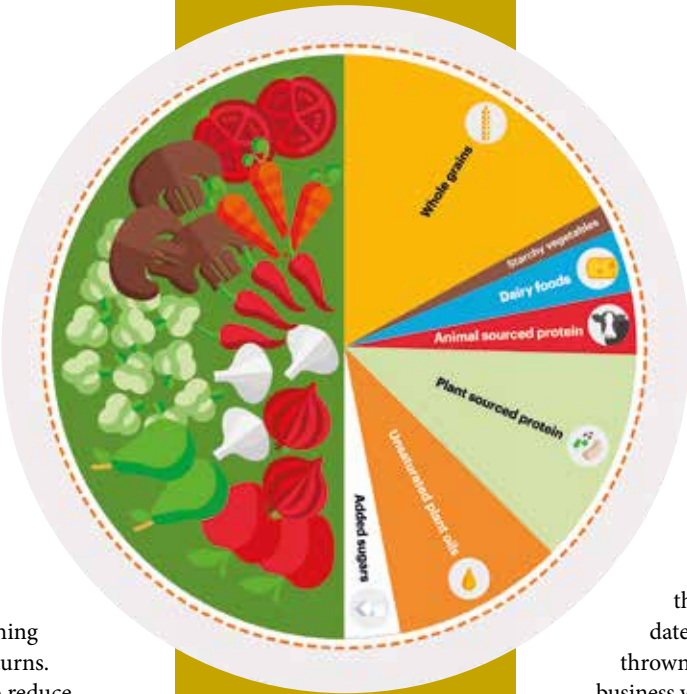
For those who really don't want to reduce their meat consumption, the good news is that what we're eating is only one aspect of the equation. If we're truly fix the food system, the other piece of the puzzle is avoiding waste.

"A staggering amount of food is wasted in the UK every year," says Andy Needham, director at Approved Food. "According to WRAP, the national waste prevention body, more than seven million tonnes of food is thrown away in Britain each year, 70% of which is intended to be eaten, while the rest is the inedible parts."

He adds that WRAP puts a value of more than £20 billion a year on the amount of food thrown away, which would be associated with over 25 million tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions. Roughly half of all food disposed of is done so by private households, with other spoilage occurring during the manufacturing process and a smaller amount in the supply chain.

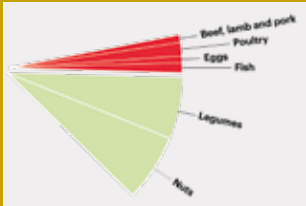
"The average UK household throws away £500 worth of food each year – this is food that could go to feed the homeless," says Grant Keenan, managing director of Keenan Recycling. "When food waste is landfilled, it rots down anaerobically and this process creates methane, which is 21 times more harmful than CO₂ and is a significant contributor towards climate change."

Clearly, the UK is not the only country with this problem. In the US, it is thought that around half of all produce grown in the country goes to waste, requiring around 4.2 trillion gallons of water and two billion pounds of fertiliser for food that's never eaten. Globally, the amount of food wasted or lost stands at around



PLANETARY HEALTH PLATE

This diet advocates 50g of nuts per day; 75g of beans, chickpeas, lentils and other legumes; 28g of fish; 13g of egg; 14g of meat; 232g of carbohydrates; 250g of dairy; 300g of vegetables; and 200g of fruit.



© EAT Foundation

a third – and ironically enough it's healthy foods, like fruit and vegetables, that are most likely to meet this fate.

What this means is that you could be the strictest vegan out there – but if you're throwing away half the contents of your fridge, you shouldn't let yourself off the hook.

Luckily, governments are waking up to the scale of the problem. In October 2018, the UK Government set up a pilot scheme to reduce food waste from retailers and food manufacturers, with further action being considered later this year.

There are also various private initiatives under way, such as the US company Hungry Harvest, which 'rescues' excess produce from farmers and wholesalers to sell on to consumers. In the UK, the supermarket chain Lidl recently launched its £1.50 'Too Good to Waste' fruit and veg boxes, which contain slightly damaged or discoloured produce that is still good to eat.

Andy Needham's company, Approved Food, sells food and drink that is nearing or past its best-before date, which might otherwise have been thrown away. He estimates that, since the business was founded in 2009, it has diverted around four million tonnes of goods from being wasted.

"Unfortunately, misunderstandings about 'best before' and 'use by' dates account for households throwing out food that is perfectly safe to eat," he says. "'Best before' is about optimum quality, not safety – if it smells and looks okay, it's highly likely that it will taste perfectly fine as well. There is so much confusion around the terminology. In the past, the government has considered scrapping 'best before' dates altogether in an effort to reduce the amount of food we throw away."

Then there are food waste recycling companies such as Keenan Recycling, which takes food waste to an anaerobic digestion plant. Present in Scotland since 2010, the company recently announced plans to expand into North-East England.

"In Scotland, food waste recycling has been a legal requirement since 2014," says Keenan. "In England, presently there is no legislation but it is tabled for 2023."

Looked at one way, fixing our global food system sounds like a herculean task. Our current system, barely fit for purpose today, could lead to calamity later on – contributing to a looming climate disaster and incapable of sustaining a growing population.

The good news is that these issues are being talked about, and that real change is in the air. As many commentators have noted, the ostensible 'trend' towards plant-based diets has the hallmarks not of a fad, but of a real shift in Western food culture. Collectively and individually, we should do all we can to redress the situation before it's too late.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Graysons, provider of ROSL's food and drink, takes its commitment to the environment seriously. General Manager Paul Williams explains what steps the company is taking to minimise its carbon footprint

At Graysons Restaurants, we work hard with our suppliers to keep our food seasonal, local, and deliver good value for money. We can trace all of our products back to source and this is something of which we are truly proud. We maintain control of our own supply chain, using local suppliers where possible and through them develop strong relationships with British producers, which means we have input in to the quality of the ingredients early in the supply chain. We endeavour to source all of our produce from the UK and, wherever possible, locally to our operations.

Of course, some produce needs to come from specialist producers outside the UK and when this is the case, it must be of a consistent high quality, and ethically and sustainably sourced.

Supporting the farmers

We are an active member of LEAF, which enables us to work with growers and producers directly. The LEAF (Linking Environment and Farming) mark is a guarantee to consumers that the producer operates their business and production techniques in an environmentally responsible way. Several farms that supply Graysons already demonstrate the LEAF principles and we want to encourage all Britain's farmers to produce food in the most responsible way.

Slow food

Barry Nichols, our Group Executive Chef, is a member of Slow Food, and we annually sponsor a range of foods from the Ark of Taste, an "at risk" register of some 1,500 products from around the UK, that are in severe danger of decline. Slow Food UK campaigns for sustainable, good, clean and fair food, which means that our food should taste good, that it should be produced in a clean way that fully respects the environment, human health, and animal welfare, and that food producers are paid a fair wage. Slow Food UK aims to protect and preserve the traditional foods of the UK, defend biodiversity and promote food education.

We use fresh, seasonal, natural, and ethically sourced foods to create our menus. Our vision is to enthuse, educate, and share our passion for good quality seasonal food with members. Our ethos promotes natural, sustainable and enjoyable food that not only endorses local British suppliers, fair prices, Fairtrade, and ethical sourcing, but also supports creative food and drink that is imaginative, flavoursome, and on trend. Where possible, we produce all our menu items on site from scratch, using fresh seasonal ingredients.

Bringing waste down

We take global food wastage very seriously and implement systems and procedures to reduce food wastage as much as possible. As well as affecting profitability, food wastage has a serious impact on the environment, and we strive every day to ensure that our chefs and suppliers do all they can to reduce it. Our cooking oil is collected and recycled for repurposing as biofuel, and our packaging is now 90% plastic free, being composed of plant based, recyclable and biodegradable materials. We are currently in discussion with Planz Heroes to provide leftover foods for the homeless, thus ensuring that leftover foods from our London sites as much as possible, do not reach landfill. Our development team created technical workshops last year to focus on safe reuse of vegetable trimmings, stalks, outer leaves etc. in order to utilise food more effectively in our menus, a true "root to fruit" sensibility where foodstuffs are used to their maximum potential.





The fashion industry is one of the most polluting in the world, with cheap, readily available clothing, and ever-changing trends contributing heavily to the problem. How can the industry become more conscious of its impact, and how can we as consumers use our power to make environmentally sound buying decisions?

When we think about polluting industries, there are a few main offenders that come to mind. Petrochemicals, mining, transportation, food production – all of these have rightly come under flak for their contributions to greenhouse gas.

What is perhaps more surprising is that fashion can be numbered among their ranks. According to one oft-repeated statistic, fashion is the second most polluting industry in the world. Whether or not that statement stands up to scrutiny (other sources place it between fourth and tenth), the industry's green credentials could certainly stand to be improved.

In 2015, the fashion industry was responsible for around 1.7 billion tonnes of CO₂, or around 4.3% of total global emissions. It also consumed 79 billion cubic metres of

water (0.87% of the global total) and produced 92 million tonnes of solid waste (4% of the total). This is not to mention the garments piling up in landfill sites, and the microplastic pollution from washing synthetic clothes.

As Patsy Perry, a senior lecturer in fashion marketing at the University of Manchester, explains, fashion has many environmental costs, some more obvious than others.

"All the materials we use have quite significant negative environmental impacts," she says. "With natural materials like cotton, we use a lot of water, chemicals, pesticides, and insecticides at the agricultural stage, and then we use water and chemicals when we dye or put finishes on the fabrics. Then, in recent years, we've seen a great increase in the use of polyester, which gives us the whole issue of microplastic pollution from consumer laundering."

On top of that, there are various different issues relating to water consumption and the leaching of toxic chemicals into waterways. Even without factoring in fabric dyeing, it takes 715 gallons of water to produce the cotton needed for one T-shirt – almost three years' worth of drinking water – and 1,800 gallons for a pair of jeans.

"I guess the environmental consequences of fashion have been overlooked because in developed countries we've outsourced all the production, so we haven't really seen the effects on our home soil," says Perry. "It's taken a while for the evidence to come back from far flung parts of the supply chain, to see the impacts from the production and the agricultural sides of things."

In late 2017, Perry wrote a widely shared article about the environmental costs of fashion. She argued that 'fast fashion' is

particularly bad for the environment, not just because it entails overproduction of clothes, but because the speed of production can sometimes mean cutting corners environmentally.

To put it simply, fast fashion refers to cheap clothes with a rapid turnover – low-cost brands churning out new lines as often as possible. Rather than waiting around for new seasonal collections, as was common in the past, you only need wait a couple of weeks for a catwalk trend to filter into your local high street.

This is good news from a consumer perspective. If you're a young person on a limited budget, it means you can keep up with trends without breaking the bank. Over the last few years, sales have surged at online retailers like ASOS and Boohoo, which offer £6 dresses and £10 pairs of jeans.

The downside is that clothes are no longer being made to last. In the UK, 235 million items of clothing were landfilled in 2017, and each person bought 26.7kg of new clothing. We are buying more, throwing away more, and in an image-dominated culture many people are loath to wear the same outfit twice. Each second, the equivalent of one bin lorry of textiles is sent to landfill or burned.

"It's quite hard to live with our principles, with the intense amount of variety, and competition and trends being pushed at us all the time via social media," says Perry. "But younger people are concerned about this and they're looking to make a change."

Already, we're seeing these issues being debated at a governmental level. Last October, UK MPs wrote a letter to top fashion retailers, asking what they were doing to reduce their footprint. The resulting

report, released in January, found distinct variability among brands. This implies that voluntary efforts aren't working well enough and that some kind of legislative change is required.

Suggestions include a 1p garment tax, VAT reductions on repair services, a 'net zero' emissions blueprint, and a ban on incinerating or landfilling unsold stock that can be reused.

"It may be that that's what's needed as a wakeup call, otherwise you're just relying on the pioneers to do the work and all of that good work can be undone by others that aren't playing ball," says Perry.

What we do know is that there isn't much time to waste. According to the United Nations, if nothing changes, the fashion industry will use up a quarter of the world's carbon budget by 2050. 🌱

“Forget about the fashion industry – think about our global history. We’re at an enormous turning point,” says Daniel Hatton, founder and CEO of the Commonwealth Fashion Council. “I think the fashion industry has been quite slow to adapt to what has been a fast-changing view on how we should treat this planet. We’re at a point where change has to be backed up by some type of policy or enforcement.”

The Commonwealth Fashion Council, launched last year, is a not-for-profit international council for the fashion industry. It works with governments, fashion weeks, and fashion councils, to help develop the fashion industries across the 53 Commonwealth member states. Through bringing together different stakeholders, it aims to spark important conversations, creating a more connected and conscious global fashion sector.

“One of my major visions is to create a forum for government and industry to come together to discuss commonwealth fashion policies, potentially leading the way for positive change,” says Hatton. “It’s about, how do you increase the pressures on particular subsectors of the fashion industry in order for them to become greener and more aware, without affecting regional economies?”

He feels that, while consumer action certainly plays a role, discussions around fast fashion can too easily devolve into snobbery.

“Vivienne Westwood once said we need to buy less but pay more for our products – I tend to agree with that but obviously that would work quite nicely for me as I’ve only got myself to look after,” he says. “When it comes to families making ends meet, their number one priority isn’t making sure Edward and Sarah have sustainable shoes on.”

He would like to see more of a focus on sustainability education in schools. Ideally, children would be taught how to mend their own clothes, which would mean less incentive to buy new ones.

“The ‘buy less and mend’ culture is spot on emotionally and economically at this moment in time when people have less money,” he says. “You’re shifting into sort



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In 2015, the fashion industry was responsible for around 1.7 billion tonnes of CO₂, or around 4.3% of total global emissions

of pre-war mentality where everything was done locally, and local economies prospered. This is a beautiful thing I feel.”

Perry agrees that the best thing to do from the consumer side is to keep your own clothing in use for longer. While it’s a good idea to take your old clothes to a charity shop, there’s no guarantee that what happens next will be good for the environment.

“Livia Firth said you need to ask yourself, ‘Am I going to wear this 30 times?’, and if you don’t think you are then you shouldn’t buy it,” she says. “So is it necessary to own every piece in your wardrobe, or are there things that can be rented? It’s good to look at laundering as well – trying to reduce temperature, trying to reduce the amount of washing that goes on, and using a Guppyfriend washing bag to prevent the plastic microfibres leaching out into the effluent of the washing machine.”

Despite the scale of the challenge ahead,



Fashion industry representatives from across the Commonwealth come together at St James’s Palace, attended by HRH Duchess of Cornwall and Daniel Hatton, founder of the Commonwealth Fashion Council (left)

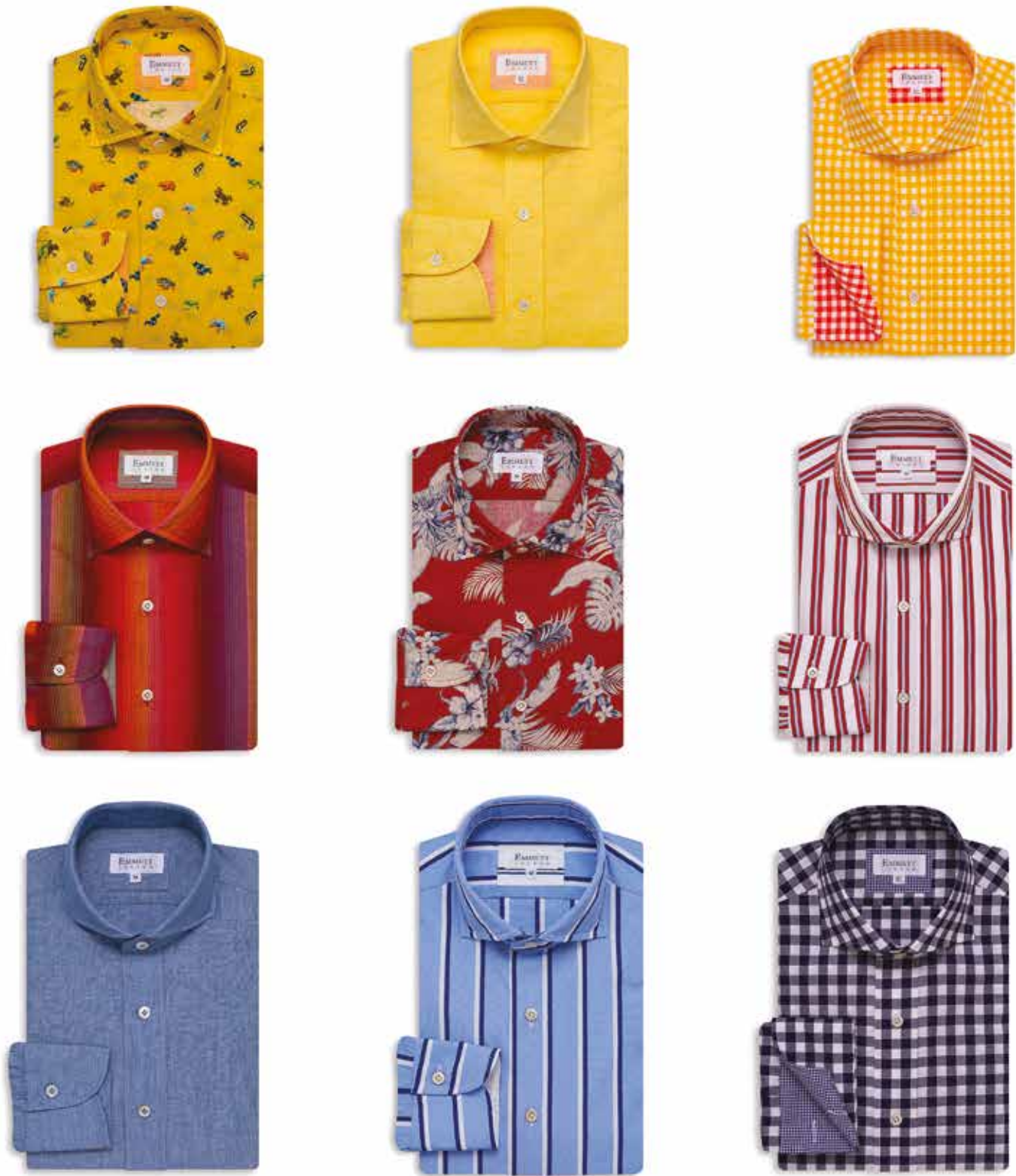
both Perry and Hatton are optimistic about the future.

“I think the situation will change for the better because we’re armed with information, and we’re replacing processes with more environmentally friendly ones,” says Perry. “Even though brands may be competing in the marketplace, on the big issues like this they will work together because nobody can solve this on their own.”

As to whether fast fashion will survive into the distant future, she suspects otherwise – it may come to be seen as a negative for society as a whole.

Hatton points out that, in today’s Commonwealth, 60% of the population is under 30. Having talked to many young people about these issues, he has identified a real appetite for change.

“This idea of compromise and sacrifice is there with the youth population, because they’re the ones who will have to deal with the real issues,” he says. “If we don’t change as humans full stop – the way we consume, the way we act, the way we treat others – then when today’s 18 year-old hits 50 or 60, God knows what this planet will look like and feel like. But when you educate a person the right way, that’s much more powerful than any weapon.”



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CREATIVE RESPONSE

The cultural community is in a unique position to take the lead on climate change, by educating their audiences on the environmental challenges we face today. Charity Julie's Bicycle can help creatives get the message out, as Chiara Badiali, Knowledge and Sector Intelligence Lead, explains

What links Phillip Kusasa, Founder and Chairman of the Nda Festival of the Arts in Chipinge, rural Zimbabwe; Lucy Davies, Executive Director of the Royal Court theatre in London; and Gaja Mežnarič Osle, freelance designer based in Ljubljana, Slovenia? They are all, in their own ways and contexts, shaping a creative response to climate change and other present-day environmental challenges.

We are living through an ecological crisis as both actors and audience. Multiple crises, to be more exact, each spreading through our planet's life support systems – sometimes slowly, sometimes very quickly – driven by humanity's collective impacts.

Animal populations are collapsing, with disastrous implications for ecosystems and food security. Plastic pollution has been found on every continent including the Antarctic, with consequences that are still poorly understood. According to the World Health Organisation, nine out of ten people in the world breathe polluted air. And of course there is climate change: invisible, pervasive, and almost too big to comprehend – a warming atmosphere threatening to make parts of our planet uninhabitable and fundamentally changing life everywhere else. Despite international pledges, we are on track to far exceed global warming of two degrees celsius, with consequences that are already being felt around the world.

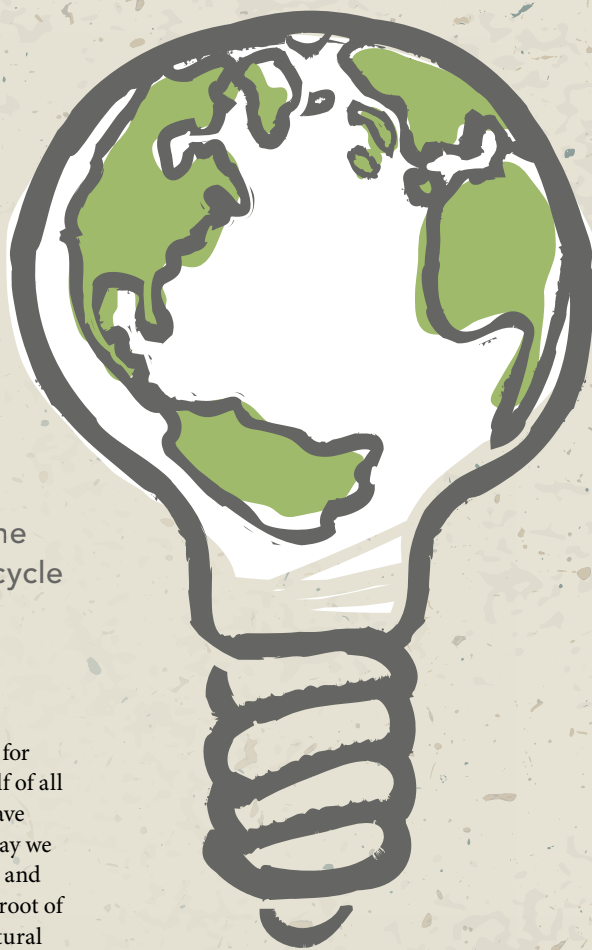
But what does all of this have to do with arts and culture?

We've known about global warming for several decades. And yet, more than half of all carbon emissions from fossil fuel use have happened within the last 25 years. We say we understand the seriousness of the risks, and yet we're not acting accordingly. At the root of our environmental challenges sits a cultural question: about what is important, the stories we tell ourselves about who we are, the kind of world that we want, and what we are willing to do (and how) to get there.

The arts shape and reflect our values, they can make the intangible feel tangible, move people, bring us together, build empathy, and help to carry us through guilt and loss. They can build new worlds – both imaginary and physical – and allow us to experiment and play. Creativity is one of humanity's most valuable tools for shaping the world we live in and how we live in it.

How do we unlock and accelerate this – to date mostly untapped – huge potential?

Julie's Bicycle is a charity that was founded over ten years ago from within the UK music industry to support the creative community to power action on climate change. We work to support the cultural industries to reduce their own environmental impacts and what science says is required. And we nudge artists and creative organisations to explore and reshape our relationship with life support systems, create new narratives about regeneration, speaking up and out about the most critical challenge facing us in our lifetime.



We do this by working at all levels – from helping Arts-Council-England-funded organisations monitor their carbon footprints, supporting institutions like the Royal Albert Hall with their environmental strategies, researching the environmental impacts of UK festivals, to working with policymakers across the world. And we do it through our Creative Europe co-funded Creative Climate Leadership programme, training cultural leaders from all kinds of backgrounds like Lucy, Gaja, and Phillip.

Over the past ten years, we have witnessed a hugely vibrant creative community bringing all of its strengths to bear on environmental challenges. Too often, artists are only thought of as communicators for the science. While this is one possible role, it is only one of many.

To try and capture the breadth of what we see, we came up with seven Creative Climate trends: a movement emerging globally that spans from switching lightbulbs to shifting hearts and minds.

ARTWORK: art itself that confronts us with our environmental challenges, gets us to question, feel, and immerse ourselves into other spheres of understanding. Like *Recreando a Vivaldi*, *porque to cambia suena* – a reinterpretation of Vivaldi's Four Seasons reflecting the impacts of climate change, supported by the Bogota Symphony Orchestra Foundation, as well as Fondo Accion in Colombia. Or like Phillip Kusasa's Nda Festival of the Arts, celebrating Nda indigenous culture and promoting the preservation of the environment through theatre, song, dance, tree planting, and environmental workshops.

ACTIVISM: artists and creative professionals using their platforms to support environmental causes, speaking out on environmental injustice and campaigning. Like Neil Young donating the profits of his Honor the Treaties tour to support the Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation Legal Defense Fund in Canada defending their

land rights against polluting tar sands exploitation.

ORGANISATIONAL LEADERSHIP: institutions transforming the way they work and integrating environmental sustainability into the way they run their businesses, present work, and cater to their audiences. Like Glyndebourne in the UK, which has installed a wind turbine that generates more electricity than the opera house uses every year. Or like the Royal Court Theatre, which, led by Lucy Davies, has integrated the Sustainable Development Goals into its sustainability policy, and is one of the institutions spearheading the Culture Declares Emergency movement of arts and culture organisations declaring a climate and ecological emergency.

COLLABORATION: creative organisations getting together with others both within and beyond the arts to shape new technologies and policies, exchange experiences, and amplify each other. Like Open House in the Netherlands, a start-up incubator for music festivals, partnering with the Red Cross in the Netherlands to trial technologies like mobile renewable energy on festival sites for possible applications in humanitarian contexts like refugee camps.

DESIGN AND INNOVATION: designers and creative organisations developing new technologies, materials, and business models to shape a zero carbon society. Like Gaja Mežnarič Osle's NotWeed paper, which uses the fibres of invasive Japanese knotweed to replace virgin tree fibres in paper production and ask questions about our relationship to invasive species.

PATHFINDERS: organisations like Julie's Bicycle that support the transformation of the creative sector, help build environmental expertise, and advocate within and outside the sector.

POLICY CHANGE: policy interventions that help scale up and embed environmental

action. Like Arts Council England, which was the first national cultural funding body in the world to include environmental reporting requirements in its funding agreements with nearly 800 organisations, a move that has seen energy consumption reduce by 23% across the portfolio.

This is a movement that is only growing. It is up to all of us to figure out how we respond to it. If you're an emerging artist, it might not feel like you have much power to make a change, but start where you can: bring a refillable bottle with you, ask whether you can travel by train, ask the venues you're playing at if they have an environmental policy, add your voice to campaigns, and speak to your audiences and peers about the environment.

And remember that you're part of something bigger than yourself. In Chipinge, Phillip Kusasa is busy rebuilding his community after Cyclone Idai

swept through it in March, affecting over 2.6 million people in Mozambique, Zimbabwe, and Malawi. The UN has said the disaster might be the worst of its kind to have ever struck in the Southern hemisphere – and it was made more severe by climate change. As a creative climate community, we should all feel affected and able to take action.

SIGNS OF A NEW CREATIVE ECOLOGY

1/4

of NPOs are now either on a green tariff or purchase their energy from a 100% renewable supplier

78%

of NPOs find their environmental policy useful for business planning

43%

of organisations find their policy useful for new partnerships and collaborations





we partner with across England that uses music to add depth to how respond to these issues.

But it is clear that however strong our artistic response is, it won't be authentic if we're operating in an environment that fails to prioritise reducing our carbon footprint and making environmentally-responsible choices. Thanks to Accelerator, what could have been an unsuccessful campaign to identify budget, amid so many competing pressures, to engage experts in their field to educate Philharmonia staff and musicians about the environmental choices we should be making, is now guaranteed expert training. We will use the next phase of the Accelerator support package, delivered by Julie's Bicycle, to educate and inspire staff and players on environmental issues and catalyse more creative thinking about our artistic contribution. Accelerator will help us navigate a course through the issues we've identified, and ensure that our creative response is authentic, and devised from the most informed position.

How do we ultimately address the conflict between the complex issues identified at the beginning of this piece and our moral obligation to become more environmentally responsible? Through embedding environmental consideration into the decisions we take, the suppliers we use, the products we buy, the work we produce, and the engagement activities we undertake. We have to move to a position whereby it's not a choice; it's a given.

Jennifer has worked for the Philharmonia in various roles since 2007, raising funds and helping take forward strategic initiatives.

HOW CAN THE ACCELERATOR PROGRAMME HELP?

Accelerator is already encouraging the small numbers of Philharmonia staff that have come into contact with it to find solutions to these issues, driven by the creation of an artistic response to climate change. The programme's training residential in Gloucester encouraged us to carve out the time to consider how best we can use art to hold a mirror up to nature, highlighting the ability of orchestral music to be a vessel for the human experience, the enormity of nature, and humanity's connection with the natural world. We have the opportunity to perform epic, transformative music on some of the most celebrated concert platforms in the UK. We're going to challenge emerging composers to write music that speaks to these issues, and to devise immersive, mixed reality experiences that deepen our audience's connection with the music and with environmental degradation. We will create participatory work with the community groups and participants

In tune

The Philharmonia Orchestra has been accepted on to Arts Council England's environmental sustainability-focused programme, 'Accelerator', in partnership with Julie's Bicycle. Jennifer Pattison writes about what the project means for the orchestra

Being a part of the Accelerator programme is undoubtedly a coup. It is a great fit for the Philharmonia as we develop plans to curate a programme dedicated to the environment, which is timely given the UN's latest advice that we only have 12 years left before climate change catastrophe is inevitable and irreversible. And it's a comfortable match for an orchestra led by an environmental champion in Esa-Pekka Salonen who co-founded the Baltic Sea Festival in order to

raise awareness of the devastating impact of environmental degradation.

But three months into the programme, Accelerator is already forcing us to ask some difficult questions about the extent to which our mission, which drives our creative output, can complement an environmental focus; and about the operational realities of enabling that work. Our sector as a whole is grappling with complex issues that only serve to divert us away from facing up to our environmental responsibilities.

Prioritisation

When Brexit threatens to undermine the financial and operational viability of our touring model; when costs inflate annually and our Arts Council England investment continues to decline in real terms; when the increasingly litigious environment in which we operate absorbs increasing amounts of time that would otherwise have been spent furthering our mission; and when we are focused on increased financial and organisational resilience and driving efficiencies, how can conversations around reducing our carbon footprint get a look-in?

Financial targeting

And within the necessarily rigorous application of cost control, efficiency savings and financial targeting, there is a fundamental tension between making environmentally friendly choices, and

choosing the cheapest option. How can we progress purchasing FSC certified paper, and moving to environmentally-friendly suppliers, when there's an assumption that the net effect on the bottom line will be increased costs? How can we make the case for reducing our use of resources and switching over to carbon-friendly solutions to achieve a cost-neutral outcome, when the financial calculations necessary to inform decisions won't be undertaken by colleagues whose priorities lie elsewhere?

Carbon footprint

And – the elephant in the room – orchestras that tour internationally have a weighty carbon footprint. Transporting 80 musicians, instruments and support staff around the world regularly is not an environmentally friendly activity, nor is driving a truck loaded with instruments around the UK throughout

the year a happy bedfellow of initiatives that encourage us to choose public transport over the road. We are mission-led, and our mission is to create thrilling experiences in music, supported by a vision that we will have a transformative impact upon the widest possible audience. This vision, and the economic reality in which we operate, drives the carbon-heavy touring model, as does our steadfast focus on maintaining the highest-quality orchestra. We are as strong artistically as the calibre of orchestral musicians we retain, and a diary with reduced touring brings with it the risk of losing the players

that collectively enable us to maintain our position as one of the world's great orchestras.

And while we wrestle with these intractable issues, we sleepwalk towards environmental disaster. While we champion for the rights of communities experiencing disadvantage to access the arts, devising audience development and engagement projects that move the culturally disengaged to becoming active arts participants and consumers, we are complicit in not doing everything we can to halt environmental calamity that will hit those same disadvantaged communities hardest and first.

The Eastern Himalayas represent some of the last remaining fragments of India's original forests and accounts for a quarter of the country's green cover. The region includes two of 36 global biodiversity hotspots, with nearly 60% of the region still under green cover. Many of India's most iconic species, including the one-horned rhino, make their homes in these forests, alongside myriad ethnic communities. In addition to being a biodiversity hotspot, the region represents India's richest concentration of cultural diversity, with over 200 different ethnic communities living in harmony with these forests.

However, rapid deforestation is threatening the destruction of this region's biodiversity and its cultural richness: by 2028, Assam and Arunachal Pradesh are expected to lose 9,000 square kilometres of forest. And while net forest loss remains at approximately 600 square kilometres across the region, green cover is growing increasingly fragmented, destroying habitats for the various wildlife species endemic to the region. The destruction wreaked by rampant deforestation has been compounded by the region's growing desertification crisis, with between 20 and 40% of the land under desertification across several of the north-eastern states. Combined with high exposure to climate change risks, this has created a negative cycle, in which severe flooding caused by unpredictable shifts in the South Asian monsoon pattern leads to further soil degradation and desertification, making natural regeneration of arid land virtually impossible. In some cases, severe floods have swept away whole forests, leaving habitats fragmented and in need of rebuilding from scratch.

Rural Futures In The Eastern Himalayas

The repercussions for communities living on vulnerable lands are severe – nearly 70% of the region relies on agriculture for a living and most are small-holding farmers, who are now struggling to earn stable livelihoods. Meanwhile, the looming threat of climate risks has accelerated the need for stronger adaptive capacities to meet the exigencies of climate change. Unlocking these adaptive capacities is no easy task: investments in the region are weak, and while the government has made significant effort to insulate against the worst of these effects, their efforts still fall short of the needed interventions.

The Rural Futures framework was born out of the need to unite community and conservation needs to rebuild fragmented habitats across the Eastern Himalayas. The impact of rebuilding habitats are twofold: improved green cover and greater climate resiliency. Habitat restoration is ordinarily a non-earning prospect for communities, but Rural Futures flips this on the head by building on the region's natural or forest assets to provide a stable source of income and basic amenities for communities.

In addition to afforestation, Rural Futures builds capacities within communities to create sustainable, long-term forest and land management mechanisms. In turn, this paves the way for sustainable agroforestry programmes, creating ecologically sound incomes for communities, and turning enriched forests into earning assets, rather than depleting capital. Ecologically and economically empowered communities, in turn, gain greater purchasing power and greater social mobility.

At the core of Rural Futures' vision lies the notion of a society in which economy and ecology are reintegrated – rather than the current model of externalised environmental costs. In other words, human needs, and forest and biodiversity needs no longer compete in a zero-sum game for land access, but develop a symbiotic relationship strengthening one another. In the future, this enriched relationship between ecology and economy – the Naturenomics™ perspective on economy – builds adaptive capacities to meet future and tertiary human needs such as education, healthcare, energy access, and water and food security.

RURAL FUTURES

The protection of the Eastern Himalayas relies not on the competition between communities and the natural world, but by their cooperation. The Balipara Foundation's Joanna Dawson, Saurav Malhotra and Ranjit Barthakur explain how

From Rural Futures To Ecological Civilizations

Rural Futures represents one stepping stone on the pathway to reintegrating economy and ecology to build ecological civilisations. Communities across the Eastern Himalayas have long been practitioners of this integrated economy, though industrial and economic pressures have forced many to abandon integrated models for the divided, commodity-creation-based model that drives global capitalism. Where forests once used to represent economic assets, accruing value as they grew, now forests represent value only when transformed into tradeable commodities.

Revaluing forests as community wealth assets, as the Rural Futures framework does, is one of the many tools to achieve the return to principles of ecological civilisation. A holistic model ultimately recognises not just the ecosystems service value of forests, but crucially, the labour value involved in managing and regenerating forests. In doing so, an ecologically centred





economy emerges in which economic value is created through ecologically restorative activity, not continued extractionism.

The depth of change required goes far beyond the realm of the economic. Current rights systems privilege individuals and single entities over communities and aggregate, borderless entities like forests; the present over the future. A new model of rights recognises not just the rights of community ownership of forest land, but also incorporates the community perception of their right to a continued, unsevered relationship with forest land. Restructuring rights must reflect the needs of governing the forest commons: mutualistic, cooperative relations that extend beyond the present and incorporate future responsibilities to the land.

In restructuring rights to include community rights to land, this lays the groundwork for transitioning away from competitive growth models to cooperative ones by creating long-term social investment in the future of both land and forests. Elinor Ostrom's work on governing the commons lays out how community cooperation can effectively manage resources held in the commons, when coupled with mechanisms for social control, accountability, and negotiation. Rebuilding cooperative efforts requires capacity building support to build negotiation, conflict resolution and planning tools on a community-wide scale.

Many of the communities the Balipara

“
Rural Futures builds capacities within communities to create sustainable, long-term forest and land management mechanisms

Foundation works with in the Eastern Himalayas recognise the importance of these principles and of pro-ecological action, but find themselves unable to act because of socioeconomic pressures. Scaling up the ecological civilizational model beyond the scope of the Eastern Himalayas, to create a substantial web of support for these communities requires shifting business and investment models away from externalised environmental costs and high yield but environmentally destructive fossil-fuel-based investments, towards investments in India's natural assets – and especially in the swiftly disappearing forests of the Eastern Himalayas.

The forests of the Eastern Himalayas are rich with natural wealth, relegated to the side because it cannot currently be liquidated. But in the future, in an ecological civilisation, a time might come when this natural wealth is the primary source of community and economic wealth.

The Supreme Court's recent judgement on the Forest Rights Act was lauded for its contribution to the conservation agenda, but restricting communities from using forest land will only restore increasingly fragmented islands of forests. Only ecological civilisations can undo the systemic damage exerted on our country's forests, by centring ecology in economy and building futures for rural communities; not just its urban centres.



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GREEN FINGERS

Jane Atwell, designer of ROSL's garden, discusses making our green space a haven not only for members, but also for the birds and the bees



On Wednesday 6 March, I paid my first professional visit of 2019 to the ROSL garden. Having completed my initial check, I sat on a bench to take stock of surroundings and what work I needed to plan. Should I clear all the beds leaving them neat and tidy or should I leave the 'leaf litter' at the base of the hedge and neighbouring plants to nurture and harvest wildlife whilst protecting the base of the plants? During that time, the impending joy of Spring was right there in front me. I lost count of the number of blue tits darting in and out of the dogwood, smiled at my red-breasted companion who had followed me around the garden and was charmed by the blackbird singing to me from the London Plane tree. The very next day, I was asked by Mark

Brierley if I would write a short piece for the *Overseas* journal, with particular reference to environmental issues from the garden's perspective. How could I say no?

While considering what to write, I found myself going back to my initial involvement with the Royal Over-Seas League and remembering how it has evolved since then. Six years ago, I was invited to ROSL in St James's, with a view to discussing some potential changes to the garden. While I had been a visitor to Green Park on several occasions, this visit was a first for me to view the park from the other side of the garden fence. Entering the elegant building

from Park Place, I knew I had come to something special. But as I walked through the Brabourne Room with the then Director-General, I silently gasped as he opened the door at the top of the stunning wrought iron staircase; looking down on to the garden and out to the Royal Park, my heart skipped a beat as discussions began.

Throughout these six years, I have worn a few different hats to try to create what I hope is a mini oasis in the most beautiful part of London. My potential 'member's hat' guided me to remember that the garden needed to welcome me/ members, make me feel special and almost at home but

somewhere that is private and sociable at the same time. My 'onlooker's hat' made me view the club from the Green Park perspective, as a passer-by, craning my neck to sneak a view, imagining being the happy couple under the rose arch, or calling in for a glass of Muscadet in the garden, while marvelling at the building. Perhaps, just perhaps, that passer-by might become a member to realise their dream. My 'designer hat' has borne all these factors in mind as well as the key physical elements and aspects of the garden and building. The decking area, as well as being a dining space, is also a stage for midsummer plays. A shaded area to sit was needed as well as one for smokers to 'visit' while still feeling part of the garden and not ostracised. The contemporary water feature, a gift to the club, needed to be



Jane (left) has plotted a careful path between making the most of the existing mature planting that was already in place and adding new planting that appeals to members at ground level, on the terrace, the public looking in, and wildlife

'shown off' sympathetically and to sit alongside the decking area, each element with its own different style but needing to blend as one. The most significant structural change was the addition of the splendid terrace by the Duke of York Bar, and this meant the garden was going to be enjoyed more frequently from an aerial perspective than ever before.

I believe that many garden lovers instinctively seek out plants that will attract wildlife, even if they aren't working from a prescribed plant list. With the concern over pollination and wildlife heightened in recent years, there is more and more guidance about planting, plant care, soil, leaf mulch, and so on. Creating a planting plan for an established garden can be trickier than when starting from scratch, and this was the case at ROSL. For colours, I was led by

the ROSL's own club colours and from which a more pastel palate has been used. For style, my initial priority was to create a garden that didn't feel landscaped or too structured, one that felt welcoming and not just to be looked at from a distance. Frequently, when putting 'planting for pollination' into Google (other search engines are available), perennial and wild flower plants are the dominant suggestions. Whilst we do not have a wildflower meadow in Park Place, I am pleased to note there are many shrubs and plants that get an RHS tick of approval; lavenders, alliums, verbenas, gaura, sedums, rosemary, ceanothus, pieris, beech (hedge), flowering blackcurrant, skimmeas, geranium, salvias, sorbus, veronica, phlox, verbenas, ceratostigma, mahonia, dogwood,

amelanchier, and veronicas, to name just a selection.

Last year, the garden benefited hugely from a significant amount of mulching with good-quality, peat-free mulch. We are looking to maintain a good and regular programme of mulching, and to ensure all feeding and nurturing of plant life is done with the environment at the forefront when making decisions of product and plant choice. The hope is to develop the ROSL garden into a floral sanctuary for humankind and wildlife alike. Nature is awesome in the truest sense of the word. As I type these words, the hail heavens have opened to challenge the gardens, soon followed by glorious sunshine. Would we want it any other way?

Jane Atwell can be contacted on jane@jmagardendesign.co.uk

ROSL GARDEN favourites

ROSE ARCH

As well as giving the public a glimpse into the tranquility of ROSL's garden, the rose arch also provides the perfect photo opportunity for members.

TERRACE

The commanding view from the terrace lets members look out over the garden and beyond into Green Park.

WATER FEATURE

The exquisite wrought iron water feature is surrounded by rows of lavender, which in Summer become alive to the buzzing sounds of bees and wasps.

LONDON PLANE

The great plane tree in the corner of the garden not only provides shelter for those in need of a cigarette, but also offers a home for birds in one of several boxes.

DECKING

As well as providing a perfect spot to eat and drink in comfort, the decking also doubles as a stage for those midsummer performances.



I believe that many garden lovers instinctively seek out plants that will attract wildlife

20
YEARS

AT THE FRINGE

Artistic Director Geoff Parkin plots the growth of two decades of the finest music making from our ROSL alumni at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe and outlines the plans for this year's celebrations

2019 marks the 20th anniversary of ROSL's annual concert series as part of the Edinburgh Festival Fringe. The series was intended to offer the opportunity for prizewinning musicians from the ROSL Annual Music Competition to perform in our then second home in the Scottish capital at one of its most exciting times of the year. The concerts were also a way for musicians to work together for the first time, and over the years the series has created new musical ensembles, partnerships and friendships, and has introduced ROSL to thousands of people and the media through articles and reviews.

The Edinburgh International and Fringe Festivals between them attract

over 2.5 million visitors to the city, with the Fringe alone hosting more than 3,000 performances. So, it was a natural fit for Roderick Lakin, our former Arts Director to propose using the Princes Street clubhouse for a new series of concerts. Whenever something like this is tried for the first time it is always a risk, but his risk paid off and the concerts proved to be a huge success with both ROSL members and visitors to the city.

The first year featured 19 concerts which all took place in the Stevenson Room, allowing audiences to enjoy the view of Edinburgh Castle as well as the exceptional music making from our prizewinning musicians. From the very start, all concert tickets included a cup of tea or coffee, and something to eat, always a nice bonus

with any concert, and helped to draw in the punters who needed a restful musical break from the busy city.

Looking at the brochure for the first season now, it is heartening to see the list of musicians and how many have gone on to successful careers, and also stayed close friends and ambassadors of ROSL and our arts programme. Performers included

pianists Stephen de Pledge, Simon Lepper and Martin Cousin; soprano Gillian Keith; clarinetist Stuart King; and cellist Alice Neary.

And then there is the format that Roderick Lakin hit upon and which we continue to this day; 9.30am concerts! Not always the most popular with the performers, they are always the most popular with Fringe audiences, who when meticulously planning their day of culture and entertainment find them an excellent start to their day. Bach and Beethoven were good composers for the printed listings, as they appeared at the start of the music pages in the Fringe Guide and audiences responded warmly.

The format is largely the same to this day, with concerts at 9.30am, 2pm, and 4pm daily for the first two weeks of the Fringe Festival. Featured composers include Bach, Beethoven, Mozart, Brahms, Gershwin, and Rachmaninov but we always try to add in some lesser-known repertoire as well.

Each week features a new cohort of musicians and the full ROSL ARTS team travels to Edinburgh for the duration. Contrary to popular belief, no one ever stayed at the ROSL Edinburgh clubhouse, but always in university Halls of Residence! Not quite as glamorous perhaps, but it created an added sense of community for our musicians and arts team.

GILLIAN KEITH

Returning to the series in recent years as an alumna to perform with a new generation of ROSL prizewinners has been a privilege and a joy, and has been a wonderful reminder of how ROSL brings musicians from different generations, cultures and backgrounds together for a common aim. And amongst the amazing variety and choice of events on the Fringe schedule, I'm thrilled that the ROSL series is still going strong, allowing young performers a chance to expand their repertoire, gain valuable stage experience, forge new artistic relationships, and to give great value to the audience who so enjoy these intimate concerts of exceptionally high quality.



As I write this article, I am also working on the jigsaw of musicians and repertoire that I am using to put together this year's series. We will have 31 concerts over two weeks. I am thrilled that alongside our more recent prizewinners who will feature this year, we are delighted to welcome back pianists Stephen de Pledge and Simon Lepper, both of whom featured in the original series. As in 2018, we will be back in the comfortable surroundings of the Royal Scots Club. Simon (pictured far left) had these words about his Fringe experience:

The Edinburgh Fringe experience is unforgettable. There's something very special about living and working with your colleagues and experiencing Edinburgh at Festival time together. It's another example of the support that you find in the "family" of musicians that are created among prizewinners of the Annual Music Competition and why we're always happy to return (even 20 years later!)

We will be celebrating 20 years with a special gala concert in the evening of Thursday 8 August, to include Schubert's Quintet in C major with the Marmen Quartet and cellist John Myerscough, as well as performances from guitarist Sean Shibe and pianist Simon Lepper. There will also be a special celebratory reception. Details will be available on the ROSL website.

The ROSL Recitals series runs from Monday 5 to Friday 16 August. Tickets available at www.edfringe.com

FROM THE MEDIA

Seen and Heard International: Every Fringe, I love to go and hear the young musicians that are featured in the Royal Over-Seas League's series of recitals. These are normally competition winners and those who have excelled in a way that gains the society's attention, and they make for exciting discoveries away from the hustle and bustle of busier festival venues.

These bright young things always face two major obstacles at the ROSL series. The first is getting an audience, something nearly every performer struggles with in a festival that seems to get bigger and busier every year. They always do remarkably well, however, and I don't think I've ever been in an audience for one of their events that has been fewer than about 40, which is no mean feat when you consider what else is on offer.

ASHLEY FRIPP

The ROSL series at the Edinburgh Fringe is one of the most exciting and exhilarating experiences for me. The week of music making is wonderful, but it is the unique, familial atmosphere among my fellow musicians and the arts team, combined with the buzzing vibe of Edinburgh during its peak season, that makes it so utterly unique. It has been a tremendous pleasure to have been a regular part of it for several years now, and I think it is a phenomenal achievement that ROSL has reached this 20 year milestone. Congratulations - and thank you!



THE RODERICK LAKIN MEMORIAL FUND

This series continues to be a celebration of the legacy of Roderick Lakin, who we were all so sorry to lose in 2015. Many members and friends of the arts programme donated to a fund in his memory and following the closure of the Edinburgh Clubhouse we have consulted closely with Roderick's widow Margaret on how best to use this fund. I'm pleased to say that the money will be transferred to the ROSL Golden Jubilee Trust where it will be invested as a protected and restricted fund for the purposes of projects for young musicians in Scotland, a large part of which is the continuation of our Festival Fringe series.

LONDON & UK highlights

SCOTLAND

ROYAL HIGHLAND SHOW

Thursday 20 – Sunday 23 June, Royal Highland Centre, Edinburgh
Celebrate rural life by getting up close to some of Scotland's finest farmyard animals, plus it's a chance to taste exceptional Scottish food and drink and find out exactly where it has been sourced.

£24.

www.royalhighlandshow.org



WEST ENGLAND

BATH & BRISTOL FESTIVAL OF NATURE

Saturday 1 – Sunday 9 June, venues across Bath and Bristol
Running across the two cities, you can enjoy the UK's largest free celebration of the natural world with free interactive

exhibitions, music, workshops and talks.

Free. www.bnhc.org.uk

EAST MIDLANDS

TIMBER: THE INTERNATIONAL FOREST FESTIVAL

Friday 5 – Sunday 7 July, Feanedock, The National Forest
Spanning 200 square miles, the National Forest is England's first new forest in 1,000 years. Timber is a festival celebrating the transformative power of forests, and takes in folk and soul music, as well as woodland sound art.

£117. timberfestival.org.uk

LONDON

BBC PROMS

Friday 19 July – Saturday 14 September, The Royal Albert Hall
The 2019 programme gives you nearly two months of affordable concerts to attend, covering all manner of genres, repertoire, performers and composers.

From £5.

www.bbc.co.uk/proms

LONDON

NATIONAL PARK CITY FESTIVAL

Saturday 20 – Sunday 28 July, venues across London

Seeking to make London a greener, healthier and wilder place, the festival launches London as a National Park City with a week-long series of events that anyone can take part in.

Prices vary.

www.nationaparkcity.london

LONDON

WOMAD FESTIVAL

Thursday 25 – Sunday 28 July, Charlton Park

The international arts festival returns with diversity on display from the musical acts performing, to the arts and dance taking place on site.

£225. womad.co.uk

SCOTLAND

EDINBURGH ART FESTIVAL

Thursday 25 July – Sunday 25 August, venues across Edinburgh
To coincide with the music,

comedy and theatre on offer during the Edinburgh International and Fringe Festivals, this festival provides the visual arts element.

Prices tba.

www.edinburghartfestival.com

LONDON

NOTTING HILL CARNIVAL

Saturday 24 – Monday 26 August, Notting Hill

Europe's largest street festival sees nearly one million people come together to celebrate Caribbean culture with stalls, floats, dancing and music for all. Visit on Sunday for family day.

Free. www.thelondonnottinghillcarnival.com



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NEWS & EVENTS

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

Alexander Downer AC becomes ROSL Chairman

Last month, we welcomed Alexander Downer AC, former Australian Foreign Secretary and High Commissioner to the UK, as the new ROSL Chairman

Speaking ahead of his arrival, Lord Luce, President of ROSL, said:

"I am delighted to welcome Alexander Downer as our next Chairman to succeed Sir David Brewer... Mr Downer is a most distinguished Australian public servant whose career has covered politics, diplomacy and the Commonwealth. He was Australia's longest serving Foreign Minister and recently retired as High Commissioner to the UK. His extensive experience and skills will be invaluable at this exciting time in the organisation's long history."

Mr Downer said: *"I am delighted and honoured to take on the role of Chairman of ROSL. This is a historic organisation which helps to bind the peoples of the Commonwealth together. As a citizen of the Commonwealth, I am enthusiastic about the work ROSL has done to promote the arts internationally, to help people suffering from disadvantage, and to provide a home away from home for many in London. This work is particularly valuable at a time when so much internationally and within our own countries is going through substantial change and uncertainty"*

Downer was born in Adelaide, the son of Sir Alick Downer and the grandson of Sir John Downer. After periods working



“This is a historic organisation which helps to bind the peoples of the Commonwealth together

for the Bank of New South Wales and with the diplomatic service, he was appointed Executive Director of the Australian Chamber of Commerce in 1983. He also served as an adviser to Liberal leaders Malcolm Fraser and Andrew Peacock. Downer was elected to parliament at the 1984 federal election, winning the Division of Mayo in South Australia. He was added to the opposition frontbench in 1987.

He served as Minister for Foreign Affairs from 1996 until the government's defeat in 2007, making him

the longest-serving Foreign Secretary in Australian history.

Downer left politics in 2008, and was subsequently named Special Adviser to the UN Secretary-General on Cyprus, in which he worked on peace talks between Greek and Turkish Cypriots. He held that post until 2014, when he was appointed High Commissioner to the United Kingdom by the Abbott Government, four decades after his father had filled the same post.

In addition to a range of other political and diplomatic roles, he was Executive Director of the Australian Chamber of Commerce and is currently Chairman of the UK think tank Policy Exchange and a trustee of the International Crisis Group.

ROSL BREAKFAST

Making an early visit to the clubhouse? The Brabourne Room is now offering hot breakfast options every day until 12pm.

On offer, you can enjoy toasted English breakfast muffins served with:

Smoked salmon, poached free-range eggs, hollandaise sauce and chives

Honey-roast Sussex ham, poached free-range eggs, watercress

Avocado, poached free-range eggs, tomato, coriander and red onion salsa (v)

Or why not try French toast with cinnamon and fruit compote, or Greek yoghurt, fruit salad and granola?



Governance update

The Governance Review Group has been busy assessing various options for the future governance structure of ROSL, so that it can best meet the demands of the future

Since our last Overseas article (Dec-Feb 2019), the Governance Review Group (GRG) has been making considerable headway; developing the principles of what good governance means and how this will drive the future decision-making in ROSL to ensure that we have robust and agile processes to allow ROSL to react to opportunities and threats effectively. Endorsed by Central Council, the GRG has undertaken the following tasks:

- Assessed various governance structures within similar London Clubs, most of which varied in status, (charitable versus non-charitable, limited liability companies), and powers of committees.
- Looked at the business units/activities of ROSL and the role of the ROSL Golden Jubilee Trust (GJT) to establish how these might best be managed in future.

Given the complexity of the legal and financial implications of making any change to governance, advice from legal and financial experts was sought.

Our legal advisers reviewed the available options' ability to deliver a modern and agile governance structure that would allow the organisation

to achieve the aims of the Governance Review:

- To provide stronger and more future-oriented leadership
- Ensure the future resilience and success of ROSL
- To improve clarity of accountability and responsibility
- To better reflect the changing world, and the challenges and opportunities it presents.

In January 2019, Central Council agreed to the following recommendations:

- Clarification of the Powers and Objects of the Royal Charter; separating the objects of Charter and Bye-Laws and modernising the terms to ensure that they are fit for purpose.
- Reform of the current governance structure:
 - Reducing the size of Central Council (currently up to 35 members), best practice suggests 6-12 councillors appointed to a new Board/ Central Council. This newly established Board would negate the need for an Executive Committee (ExCom), that presently meets monthly.
 - The process for nominating and electing the Board



should be reviewed to ensure that the councillors best meet ROSL's governance needs, appointing members against a skills matrix. (A skills matrix was adopted for appointments to Central Council in 2018).

- The new structure would seek to provide clear accountability and responsibility between the staff who manage the business on a day-to-day basis and the Board which directs and advises on vision, values, strategies, business planning, policies, and risk.

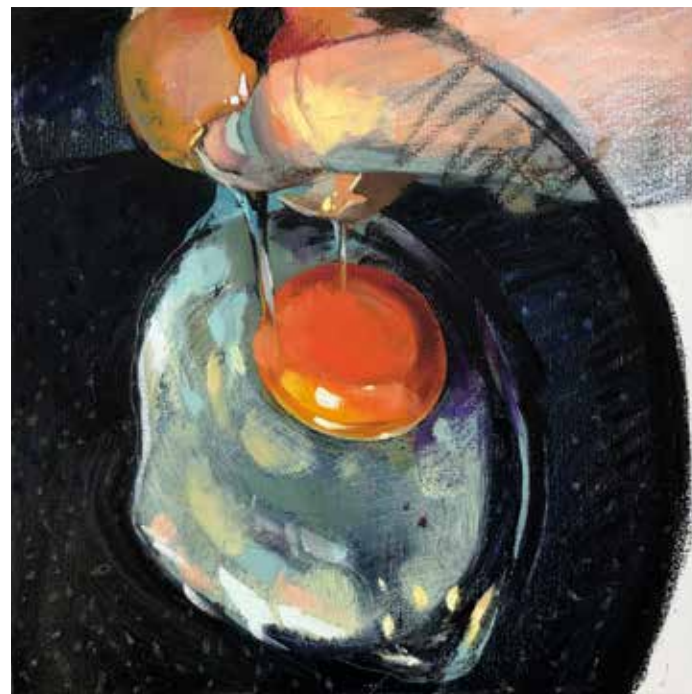
- Considering the value of establishing sub-committees to help the work of the Board.
- Review of policies and procedures by which a new Board governs ROSL, including those relating to the identification and management of conflicts of interest; risk management, role and responsibilities, and induction of councillors. Many of these policies have already been established over the last 12 months – including a Risk Register, induction

process for councillors, roles and responsibilities for Central Council, Code of Conduct, conflict of interest register, terms of reference for sub-committees.

- ROSL and the Golden Jubilee Trust (the charitable arm of ROSL) – review the working relationship between ROSL and the trust to clarify the administration and financial roles and responsibilities of the two parties.

The next steps for delivering these recommendations are well under way, with Central Council working alongside GRG, and the trustees of the Golden Jubilee Trust to finalise a governance structure that works for the whole organisation. Legal advisers will then advise how this can be best delivered within the Royal Charter, with the Privy Council granting final approval.

We will be seeking to provide more information to ROSL members during this period of change. Watch this space for updates, or send questions to governance@rosl.org.uk



RBA Star students exhibition

For a third year, ROSL played host to the work of young artists selected by The Arts Society and the Royal Society of British Artists (RBA) in the RBA Rising Stars 2019 exhibition. Many of the 41 young artists exhibiting and their families joined ROSL members and invited public at the Private View on Thursday 25 April at Over-Seas House.

The final exhibition is at ROSL until Sunday 16 June 2019, and was honed down from 247 proposed young artists chosen by The Arts Society, to 21 selected by the RBA to be presented on the walls of the clubhouse. The exhibition also includes the work of 20 semi-finalists aged 35 years or under who entered the esteemed RBA Rome

Scholarship 2019. All the artists exhibiting at ROSL are early in their careers and were selected for their exceptional works which combine the highest levels of skill, expression and draughtsmanship using a variety of media exploring equally varied subjects.

The exhibition has been a great success and a first for many of the exhibiting artists who are still in their studies and developing their creative practice. We are proud to have once again worked with the two respected and prestigious organisations, The Arts Society and the RBA to offer our members, friends, and the public a glimpse into the future of fine art. *Find out about upcoming exhibitions at www.rosl.org.uk/visualarts*



More images online

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

Lord Mountbatten needs YOU!

Work to protect ROSL's collection of beautiful portraiture needs your help

ROSL has long supported visual art and we have acquired some wonderful paintings, particularly portraits to be permanently hung on the walls of Over-Seas house, but unfortunately the years are taking their toll on our precious works of art. Visual Arts Curator Eilidh McCormick is currently working to rehang much of our clubhouse, to bring to light the work we have in storage, and to present some work from our Edinburgh building. Before any work on the walls can move, we need to make sure it is safe and in a stable condition, so we have secured some quotes to restore and preserve our brilliant collection, focusing on the works that need it most.

In the Wrench Room, we have the portrait of our founder, Sir Evelyn Wrench by Oswald Birley (oil on canvas) and his wife, Lady Wrench by John Berrie (oil on canvas), as well as a beautiful still life *Summer Blooms* built in above the fireplace (oil on board), all of which need some care due to the temperature and humidity changes of the room.

In the Drawing Room, we have two lovely portraits, one of Viscountess Willingdon by De Laszlow (oil on canvas) and the other of Viscount Willingdon by Oswald Birley (oil on canvas), both of which

need some attention, particularly as they have been reframed recently and the varnish is looking quite yellow. In this room, we also have *The Royal Family* by George Harcourt (oil on canvas), which, other than needing a clean, is in quite good condition, but the frame is splitting, and needs attention too before it causes any larger problems.



Finally, in the Mountbatten Room, we have the striking portrait of Lord Mountbatten by Frank Beresford (oil on canvas) which is in desperate need of some repair work, with paint flaking thanks to some poorly carried out repairs undertaken in the past.

To get just these works back to a good condition, we need about £26,000, a sum that is an estimate and depends on what

is found beneath the surface of the paintings. Looking at all the work we have on the walls, the cost of the repairs reaches closer to £33,000, a figure that is once again dependant on what is found once the surface is scratched.

Unfortunately, ROSL is unable to spend this vast sum on the art we have, particularly while the building is also in need of other maintenance



work, so we would like to ask you, our ROSL members for some help. We are welcoming any donations to support the ROSL restoration project and Eilidh is very happy to discuss the sponsoring of individual works with anyone who would be interested. Our history is intertwined with these works of art and the support you can offer will help ensure that the art, and ROSL's creative history, is preserved for future generations.

Find out more about this art conservation programme by visiting www.rosl.org.uk/rosl-arts

To donate or sponsor a specific artwork, please contact the arts team on roslarts@rosl.org.uk.

Thank you.

Report from the Honorary Treasurer

2018 was an extremely busy year at the Royal Over-Seas League, with the organisation enjoying several successes and dealing with difficult challenges in equal measure.

Highlights of the year included another fantastic ROSL Annual Music Competition, the continued development of the arts and events programme, the ongoing promotion of ROSL around the world through varied branch activities, and the continuous work in conjunction with the ROSL Golden Jubilee Trust on overseas education and humanitarian projects.

Throughout the year, new programmes for staff were introduced - an informative and well received induction programme for new starters, team activities and welfare initiatives for all, and a leadership development training programme for the Senior Leadership Team.

The new management structure has lacked a key role since the departure of Operations Director in June and as such, most of the operational tasks have been dealt with by the Director-General's office, in conjunction with appointed professional advisors Troup Bywaters and Anders. A new role of Head of Estates and Projects has been developed to focus on overseeing the repair and refurbishment of Over-Seas House as well as ensuring the extensive compliance works

and planned preventative maintenance programmes are conducted efficiently and to a high standard. We have now welcomed Tomasz Sikorski into this role.

As a result of the difficult decision to sell the Edinburgh clubhouse, the London clubhouse remains the only high-value fixed-asset of the organisation. It has become very clear how vital it is that the organisation acts on the results of the professional reports commissioned - to protect this asset and to ensure the future of the organisation's headquarters. With only two main income streams - bedroom income and membership income - the London clubhouse base is a fundamental part of ROSL's operations, and the importance of sustaining and developing it must be considered a top priority.

At the AGM and throughout the year, there have been various personnel changes to those who have given their time to both Central Council and its various subcommittees, and these are highlighted in the accounts. The Royal Over-Seas League is immensely grateful to those who volunteer their time and energies to help ensure the smooth running of the organisation, and in particular, I would like to extend my thanks to my predecessor in the role of Honorary Treasurer, Phil Nicklin, for all the hard work he put in to managing ROSL's finances while in post.

Looking back, moving forwards

Figure 1 shows that over the past ten years, ROSL has made an overall operating surplus of nearly £1m (£2m in London offset by a £1m loss in Edinburgh). In the same period, over £3.5m of capital expenditure has been invested (£0.5m in Edinburgh and £3m in London), the financing for which has mostly come from bank loans. In order to finance the further investment needed in London, ROSL's only remaining clubhouse, there is need to recalibrate the model which exists currently so as to not need to be reliant on external funding. The model as it stands today comprises revenues and costs as show in Figures 2 and 3. The small surplus of £230k budgeted for 2019 is insufficient to generate enough funds to reinvest in the organisation. As such, two majors reviews on the organisation - governance and

strategic - will be the focus in 2019, to try to ensure the right decisions are made in order to put ROSL on a strong financial footing for the future.

2018 in numbers

Within the accounts, which can be found behind the members portal (members.rosl.org.uk), reserves of ROSL at the end of 2018 total £6.1m. This, in fact, comprises fixed assets of £8.4m and accumulated losses of £2.3m. Within these reserves, only £0.7m is cash and ROSL still has loans repayable to the value of £1.1m.

The situation we see ourselves in is clearly not sustainable nor desirable. Inadequate investment in the London clubhouse has meant that an extended programme of capital expenditure works has had to be urgently implemented. There has been no build-up of reserves to support this programme due

“ Investing in the future also means improving the benefits and services available to our international member network; to create an organisation members can be proud

to accumulated losses. It is, therefore, vital that ROSL must act to both increase revenues and control costs to begin to build up such surpluses within which we can both service our loans and reinvest in the organisation, while continuing to mitigate against risks which ROSL is exposed to.

Historical evidence has shown that both membership and bedroom rates have not increased in line with inflation over the years, and whilst costs continue to increase, ROSL must start to look at how to close this widening gap. As such, the 2019 Budget shows a significant increase in revenues, which will be used to support investment in members' experience, as well as members' services and facilities within the London clubhouse. Costs must and will be incurred in the short to medium term to implement an urgent maintenance, repair, and rectification works programme, to achieve satisfactory statutory compliance.

Capital expenditure in the year will also include investment in a new membership database, which will allow ROSL to more effectively manage the high

volume of complex data held within our organisation.

There will be a challenge in managing costs and expenditure carefully to generate a surplus, while simultaneously working to create a safe and comfortable environment for members to work, socialise, and relax in; implementing a refocussed arts and education programme consistent with ROSL's objectives, brand and values; and increasing satisfaction levels and retention of staff.

2019 and beyond

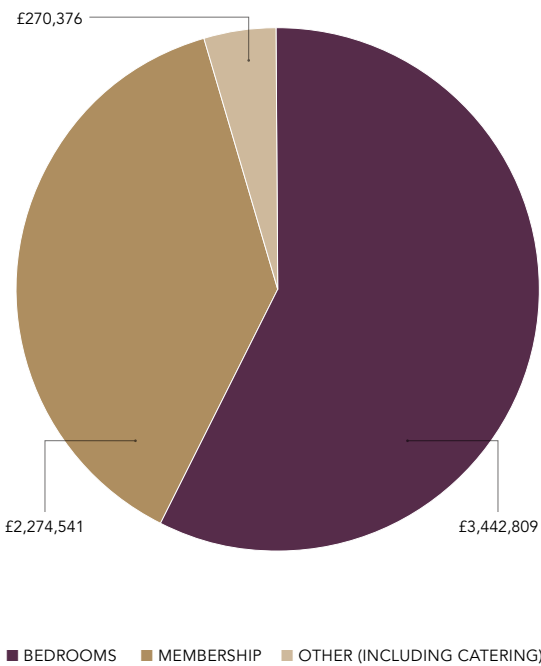
Ultimately, 2019 marks the start of a more balanced financial model that not only allows ROSL to spend in vital areas, but also to start making surpluses to invest in the future of the organisation and our good works.

Energies will be invested in ensuring our governance structure is fit for purpose and exploring how best we can make use of our assets through the formulation and execution of a long-term strategic plan.

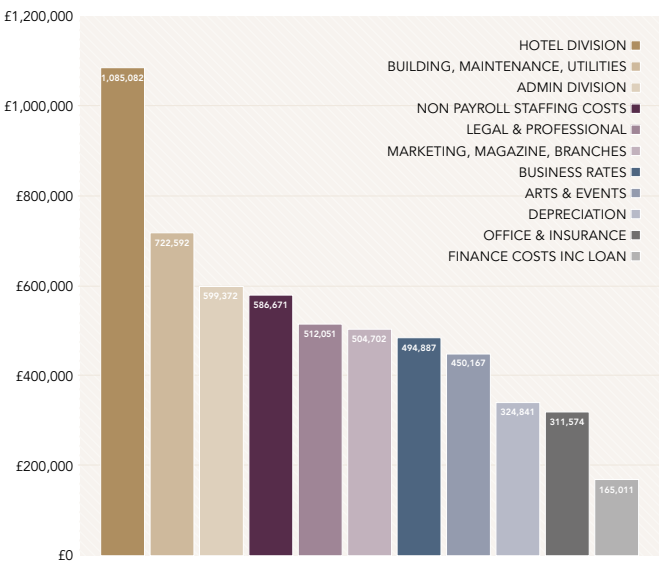
Investing in the future also means improving the benefits and services available to our international member network; to create an organisation members can be proud to be a part of now and that future generations can be certain to enjoy.

We hope that our members continue to refer their friends, family, and business associates into membership - bringing new sources of energy and enthusiasm for ROSL events, branch networks, and fundraising work.

ROSL 2019 Budgeted Revenue = £5.98m (Fig. 2)



ROSL 2019 Budgeted Costs = £5.78m (Fig. 3)



ROSL

PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION

The Royal-Over Seas League is excited to launch the ROSL Photography Competition

This competition is designed to highlight the diversity of the many nations that make up the Commonwealth and allow artists to present the different cultures that reside in this community.

Open to photographers of all ages, the ROSL Photography Competition is free to enter and has two categories, *Camera* and *Mobile Phone*. Entrants can submit up to five images, which all must relate to the chosen theme of 'Style' and have a link to current or former countries of the Commonwealth. This theme is not only an exploration of fashion in the Commonwealth,

but also attitude, confidence, personality, expression, tradition, and freedom, and is certain to draw a wealth of entries that are hugely different for our judges to consider.

The competition judges are both London and Commonwealth-based:

- Farah Mahbub, photographer and professor in Pakistan
- Rakesh Mohindra, Co-Founder of pic.london
- Germaine Walker, Director, Agent, and Producer
- Renée Mussai, Senior Curator and Head of Curatorial Archive and Research, Autograph Gallery

The top 20 photographs will be selected by this expert panel of judges to be printed, framed and exhibited at ROSL London. The judges will also select an overall *Camera* winner to be presented with £2,000, a trip to the clubhouse exhibition opening and the image published in a future publication of this magazine. In addition, the best *Mobile Phone* photograph will be awarded £1,000, and we are also awarding 'The Madiha Aijaz Prize for a Young Photographer of Promise', a prize of £500 given in memory of ROSL alumni Madiha Aijaz, with the help of her friends and

colleagues at The Indus Valley School of Art and Architecture. in Karachi, Pakistan.

- The rules for entry and submission form can be found at www.rosl.org.uk/roslphotographycompetition
- The deadline for entries is 5pm GMT on Monday 2 September 2019
- The 20 images selected for exhibition and overall prize-winners will be announced on Friday 27 September.
- The exhibition of final images will open at Over-Seas House on Tuesday 10 December.

AMC Round-up

Another stellar line-up for ROSL

The AMC remains an annual highlight and the 2019 competition, whose Section Finals took place in February and March, proved to be another exceptional year.

With four solo categories; Wind & Brass, Strings, Singers & Keyboard; as well as two ensemble categories; String Ensembles and Mixed Ensembles, this year produced some excellent Section Final concerts that ROSL members as well as the general public could enjoy. Each given just 20 minutes to perform, it is crucial for the musicians to choose repertoire they think best shows off their abilities, both in terms of technique, and also the expression and colour they bring to the music.

The Wind & Brass Section Final was as difficult a choice for the judging panel,

but in the end it was trombonist Kris Garfitt who took home the £5,000 prize, thanks to his programme of Jongen, Weber, and Rabe.

The Singers Section Final saw a capacity crowd squeeze into the Princess Alexandra Hall. Four talented finalists, competing for a place in the Gold Medal Final, showed off their abilities with hugely varied repertoire. It was the last performance of the evening from bass William Thomas that emerged victorious, and was enthusiastically greeted by rapturous applause.

The Strings Final saw a very impressive line-up competing for the £5,000 prize; in the end it was violinist Roberto Ruisi who impressed the panel with his technical and emotive playing. All the finalists delivered such expressive and varied performances that the panel thought the capable young musicians all deserved a prize, each in turn receiving £1,000.

The Keyboard Final saw Australian pianist Joseph Havlat take home the £5,000 prize with a brilliant and self-assured performance of Byrd, Poulenc, and Grainger.

These four soloists each went on to perform at the Gold Medal Final on 30 May, where the £15,000 first prize was up for grabs. Look out for an interview with the winner in the next edition of *Overseas*.

The two ensemble prizes were awarded to the Mithras Trio, a piano trio who delivered a performance which showcased exemplary teamwork; and The Hermes Experiment, who took home the mixed ensembles prize, winning over the panel with their contemporary programme.

Rounding off the clubhouse-based finals for 2019 saw the return of audience favourites, baritone Benson Wilson and pianists Kathy Chow and Joseph Havlat for the Overseas Final, with Benson taking home the specially-commissioned trophy.

ROSL ON THE ROAD

As well as our branch activities listed overleaf, ROSL is also taking its musicians on the road this summer

ROSL at Buxton International Festival

Saturday 13 June 2019, 12pm,

Buxton International Festival

ROSL 2018 Gold Medal winner, saxophonist Jonathan Radford performs a one-hour recital with our 2011 keyboard prizewinner Ashley Fripp. The concert features a new work from composer Cheryl Frances-Hoad, commissioned by Jonathan and ROSL and will culminate with a unique arrangement of Gershwin's ever-popular Rhapsody in Blue. This concert is kindly sponsored by Ian and Susan Pettman and features a reception following the concert.

ROSL Recitals: 20 Years of Music at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe

Thursday 8 August 2019, 7pm,

Royal Scots Club

Enjoy Schubert's String Quintet in C performed by the Marmen Quartet with cellist John Myerscough, as well as performances from guitarist Sean Shibe, soprano Jennifer Witton and pianist Simon Lepper. Tickets include a glass of sparkling wine and canapés.

£10. Book at www.rosl.org.uk/events

Ruskin and Music: Lake District Summer Music

Sunday 4 August, 7.30pm,

St Thomas's Church, Kendal

Centring on Ruskin's little-known interest in music, this concert will quote extensively from his own writings and those of his contemporaries, and illustrate with music. Presented by Michael Berkeley, the programme includes work by William Marshall setting Ruskin's poetry to music, and music by Ruskin himself, performed by ROSL alumni Jennifer Witton soprano, Jess Dandy contralto, Kieran Rayner baritone, Emily Sun violin, and Ashley Fripp piano.

£24. Book at www.ldsm.org.uk from 10 June

News & views

EDUCATION UPDATE

The tertiary connection

Margaret Adrian-Vallance takes a look at ROSL's university connections and how an advertisement in an alumni magazine of 1997 helped change the breadth of ROSL membership

ROSL's long standing connections with universities and higher education have produced many benefits – from new members and ROSL bursary alumni, to interesting party venues, and an incident that helped change ROSL membership and joining requirements for good.

Since its foundation, ROSL has welcomed academics as members and speakers at events held in its clubhouses and branches, which have all at some time in their history entertained visiting groups from other countries including cricket teams, universities, and colleges.

The far-flung nature of alumni and details of ROSL membership in university publications, meant that new and potential members came from many parts of the world.

In the mid 1990s, one of these was a German lawyer who had studied in Oxford, and when he saw ROSL's advertisement in the alumni magazine *Oxford Today*, he applied to join.

In those days, ROSL membership was open only to citizens of Commonwealth countries and former British protectorates – so for him ROSL Membership was not possible and he was advised accordingly.

Understandably indignant that the ROSL bye laws at the time ruled out membership for most of Europe, he wrote to let ROSL know that he would be taking legal action through the European courts to address this seeming discrimination.

The letter – which concentrated minds and required immediate action – was a great asset to those who were keen to widen membership to those from non-Commonwealth countries and the rest is ROSL history.

Membership became open to all nationalities, as confirmed in the amended bye laws of 1998.

University connections around the world also led to groups of academics choosing to stay at ROSL for conferences held in London.

Tuesday Evening Receptions for those staying in the clubhouse could be awash with marine biologists one week, criminology professors or malaria experts the next.

If you needed to meet an expert in pretty much anything, this was the place to be. "Do you know who the world expert on filariae is?" someone once asked.

"Yes; he has just walked into the room; come and meet him", came the reply.

Africa has an estimated 1,650 higher education institutions and many require the intervention of various stakeholders,

governments, and development partners to achieve their aims as do the young people from remote or marginalised areas who seek admission.

Today, largely due to a generous legacy, ROSL supports 34 students from remote areas who are studying Education at university there. One reason is that it is often easier to get funding to build a school or classroom, than it is to ensure that there are enough teachers to fill them, especially in Maths and Science. Investing in teacher training takes time; a building can be put up much more quickly. ROSL bursaries (which includes a fourth year Maths and Science student) range from £200 to £500 per annum and appreciation is heartfelt.

The University of Namibia's logo includes the words 'Education; Service; Development' – not unlike ROSL's own relationship with universities since its foundation in 1910.



NAMGONGO
VAINO NELONG

"I would like to thank ROSL for the generous monetary grant. I am honoured in my selection for this award and by your confidence in my abilities. I am proud to be a member of the community at Khomasdal campus, value the education it provides and look forward to completing my program in education".

Where you are

ROSL NEWS

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

South Australia

2019 Annual Dinner

Friday 19 July, Pavilion on the

Park, South Terrace, Adelaide

Annual dinner for South Australian members with guest speaker Dr Stephen Codrington, former principal of Prince Alfred College.

Price tba.

Tasmania

Queen's birthday lunch

Wednesday 12 June, 12.30pm,

Riverside Motel, Rosetta

Combining with the Council of United Commonwealth Societies (CUCS), we will celebrate HM The Queen's birthday over lunch.

Price tba.

Western Australia

Black tie dinner

Saturday 8 June, Venue tba, Perth

A dinner to celebrate HM The Queen's Birthday with fellow members from the Western Australia branch.

Price tba.

Victoria

Tudors to Windsors

Tuesday 18 June, 12pm,

Bendigo Gallery

An exhibition organised in collaboration with The National

1. Shannon Rhodes, winner of the ROSL London Travel Award from the UWA, with Western Australia Chairman Nigel Rogers.
2. ROSL NZ Director Lyn Milne joins the Christchurch Branch AGM in February.

3. Wessex Branch with Spring Concert performers Elliot Grest clarinet, Jennifer Witton soprano, and William Vann piano.
4. Scotland branch members listen to a talk from Lord Abernethy.



Gallery, London, explore five royal dynasties: the Tudors, the Stuarts, the Georgians, the Victorians, and the Windsors.

\$75. Includes tea/coffee, exhibition entry and lunch at the Sandhurst Club with a glass of sparkling wine.

NEW ZEALAND

Christchurch

Coffee morning

Wednesday 12 June, 10am,

Holly Lea Retirement Village

With speaker Anna Purchase discussing the New Zealand Opera Company.

\$5. Members and friends welcome.

Mid-winter lunch

Wednesday 10 July, 12pm,

Double Tree

Join your fellow Christchurch branch members and friends for lunch.

\$32. Booking required.

Choral afternoon

Wednesday 14 August, 2pm,

Holly Lea Retirement Village

Enjoy this musical afternoon with pupils from Rangī Ruru College at Holly Lea Retirement Village.

\$10. Members and friends welcome.

Southland

Morning tea

Wednesday 5 June, 10am,

Southland Club

With speaker Alana Burgess, on the topic of 'Heart Transplant'.

\$8. Members and friends welcome.

Morning tea

Wednesday 3 July, 10am,

Southland Club

Speaker Andrew Leys discusses Southland Hospice.

\$8. Members and friends welcome.

Morning tea

Wednesday 7 August, 10am,

Southland Club

Speaker Helen Walker discusses Ronald McDonald House.

\$8. Members and friends welcome.

Oamaru

Mid-winter lunch

Wednesday 26 June,

time and venue tba

Contact Bruce Albiston
(admin@burnsidehomestead.co.nz) to register your interest.
Price tba.

UNITED KINGDOM

Taunton

Queen's birthday lunch

Wednesday 5 June,

Oake Manor Golf Club

Two-course lunch with Taunton branch members, followed by coffee, to celebrate the birthday of ROSL's patron.

£22.

Wessex

Lunch party

Saturday 22 June, 12pm,

Manor Farm, Droop,

DT10 2ED

Join fellow members in the garden of Jeremy and Lady Arabella Moger for a summertime lunch.

£15. Includes two-course buffet lunch and wine.

LONDON GROUP

Fishmongers Hall

Monday 17 June, 2pm,
Fishmongers Hall, London
Bridge EC4R 9EL

We will visit the hall of one of the most ancient of City Guilds.

The Company is one of the Great Twelve Livery Companies of the City of London and the Fishmongers have had an unbroken existence for more than 700 years. The Company still retains strong links with fisheries and fishing. The Hall is situated on the north bank of the Thames at London Bridge. Coffee and tea available will be available on arrival before the tour at 1.45pm.

If you are bringing a guest, please give their full name. Nearest Underground: Monument, London Bridge £16 London Group members. £18 Guests.

Marlborough House

Tuesday 16 July, 2pm,
Marlborough House, Pall Mall,
London, SW1Y 5HX

Marlborough House, designed by Sir Christopher Wren, is almost 300 years old and has the status of a Royal Palace. It was built for Sarah Churchill, the Duchess of Marlborough, and stayed in the family until 1817 when it became Crown property. The last member of Royalty to live there was Queen Mary in 1936.

HM The Queen made the house available to the



Commonwealth Secretariat in 1965 and it has been the venue for a number of independence negotiations and Commonwealth conferences.

The House was extensively renovated between 1989 and 1993. We will be given a tour of the Fine Rooms which contain exquisite murals, tapestries, paintings and sculptures and see the wall painting of the Battle of Blenheim and the Duke's battles. It is a great chance to learn the history of the building and get an insight to the Commonwealth Secretariat's work.

If you are bringing a guest, please give their full name. Nearest Underground stations: Green Park and Charing Cross £12 London Group members, £14 Guests.

Talk: David Nicholson

Thursday 18 July, 6pm,
Over-Seas House

David is a historian and a former Member of Parliament for Taunton, serving for ten years. He is also a member of ROSL and a Central Council member and will discuss his

parliamentary travels and post-retirement writing.
Free.

Canada House

Friday 6 September, 2pm,
Canadian High Commission,
Trafalgar Square,
London, SW1Y 5BJ

Canada House was officially opened by HM The Queen on 19 February 2015 following the sale of their property on Grosvenor Square. We will tour the newly-renovated building which now shows the talents of Canadian artists, custom furniture and lighting designers, and meeting rooms named after each of Canada's provinces, territories and oceans. This has transformed the building back to its original Neo-Classical form, described as a jewel for Canada in the heart of the UK.

If you are bringing a guest, please give their full name and photo ID will be required for entry. Nearest Underground: Charing Cross, Leicester Square and Embankment £10 London Group members, £12 Guests.

LONDON GROUP BOOKING INFORMATION

London Group events are for London Group members, their guests, and ROSL members staying at Over-Seas House. 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 'ROSL' 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 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.

Where you are

ROSL NEWS

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Mayfair Art Weekend
Thursday 27 to Sunday 30 June

You may have seen this fabulous fluorescent frog on our events guide with the previous issue of Overseas magazine. This creature will be featured in our summer exhibition 'Louise McNaught; Consume' with Liberty Gallery at Over-Seas House. Louise is a British artist whose work celebrates the glory of nature and animals. She uses blazing neon colours and mixed media to give her subjects a godlike, heavenly quality. Louise's gentle touch highlights the delicate relationship we humans have with nature. 'Consume' will present a new body of work by the artist, exploring the materiality of the modern world in her signature style



of stunning detail and bold colours. Launching on Thursday 27 June, the exhibition will open just in time for the exciting Mayfair Art Weekend (MAW). This is the third time ROSL will be involved in this creative sharing weekend with our neighbours and we invite you to make the most of it. On Friday 28 June the MAW Gallery Hop! takes place and galleries across Mayfair, including ROSL, welcome visitors to special

late-night openings. Most exhibitions will host a drinks reception to welcome those hopping around the local area. On Saturday 29 June at 10.30 am, ROSL hosts the main event of the weekend, as Louise live paints at our Artist's Brunch and invites visitors to come and have a coffee, croissant, and a chat while she works. On our doorstep, the art filled weekend has something for everyone, all directed from the Royal Academy, where maps and schedules can be picked up. There are gallery tours, talks, musical performances, creative workshops and more, with events that cater for all ages, abilities, and tastes. This is a great way to get to know not only the creative work we do at ROSL but to enjoy the local creative community too. Free.

Evelyn Wrench Lecture: The Relevance of the Commonwealth in the 21st Century
Wednesday 3 July

HE Ms. Yamina Karitanyi, High Commissioner for Rwanda to the United Kingdom, discusses Rwanda as a modern Commonwealth nation, the challenges of reconciliation after conflict, and the opportunities presented by being the host of CHOGM 2020. Prior to her posting in London, from April 2014, Amb. Yamina Karitanyi was at the helm of the tourism and conservation portfolios

at the Rwanda Development Board (RDB), High Commissioner to Kenya, and various senior positions over ten years at GoodWorks International, a strategic consulting and advisory firm that services multinational corporations and governments. She has also served as non-resident Ambassador to Ireland since September 2015. The event will begin at 6.30pm with a drinks reception and the

discussion will start promptly at 7pm. The discussion will be initiated by some key questions posed by the mediator, and will incorporate an open floor question and answer session. We are expecting the event to end at 9pm, and it will be followed by an informal dinner for speakers and audience members. Price tbc.



ROSL Summer Garden Parties
Monday 24 July and Wednesday 4 September

The annual ROSL garden parties are a highlight of our summer, and this year ROSL members as well as Friends of ROSL ARTS are invited. Enjoy a sparkling wine and canapé reception in the garden, accompanied by live music before an hour-long concert in the Princess Alexandra Hall, given by ROSL prizewinners and scholars. Commonwealth wines and sweet pastries

will be served afterwards. This is both a great social event and a true showcase of ROSL's renowned arts programme, which supports young classical musicians. Friends of ROSL ARTS are entitled to a free ticket for one of the two ROSL Garden Parties. Free Friends of ROSL ARTS. £30 Members. £40 General Admission.



Member-led events

BRIDGE GROUP
The Bridge Group is open to all ROSL Members. Social Bridge at all levels, takes place every Monday 2 to 4pm (except on Bank Holidays) in the Bennet-Clark Room.

BOOK GROUP
The Book Group is open to all members. It meets once a month to discuss novels, short stories, and occasionally a non-fiction book. Meetings are usually held in the Bennet-Clark Room from 6.30 to 8.30pm. Members meet in the Duke of York Bar beforehand and have dinner afterwards (optional). Contact Eve Mitleton-Kelly on e.mitletonkelly@lse.ac.uk with any further Group queries.



Shakespeare For Summer:
A Midsummer Night's Dream
Wednesday 5 July

You may have seen a performance of A Midsummer Night's Dream multiple times, you may have never heard of it, but don't miss this day devoted to exploring and appreciating one of the Bard's greatest comedies. Consisting of a programme of talks, workshops, and moments of performance, participants will be invited to think about and experience the play as poetry as well as theatre. Led by Shakespeare expert Dr Paul Edmondson and featuring actors from The Shakespeare Birthplace Trust. Tickets include tea/coffee and biscuits in the morning and the afternoon, buffet sandwich lunch with fruit, and a glass of prosecco in the garden at the end of the day. £70 Members and Friends of ROSL ARTS. £95 General Admission.

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 a Blue Badge guide. Price tba.



Come for the event, stay for the night!

We have a range of enticing room offers to encourage you to extend your visit to London and enjoy the clubhouse over the summer months.

- **The ROSL House of Lords Afternoon Tea 25 June:** Book a deluxe room and receive a 25% discount on the room rate.
- **Mayfair Art Weekend 27,28,29 June – make the clubhouse your base for a weekend of gallery exploring:** Book a deluxe room for one night and get the second night free of charge.
- **Summer Garden Parties 24 July, 4 September:** ROSL members attending the Garden Party receive a 25% discount on room rates.

Bank Holiday offer – £100 per room, per night!
Contact the Reception team today to book your Bank Holiday stay. Rates apply to 24-27 May and 23-26 August.

ROSL calendar

EVENTS

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY...

MIDSUMMERS DAY WINE TASTING
Friday 21 June

MAYFAIR ART WEEKEND
Friday 28 – Sunday 30 June

SHAKESPEARE FOR SUMMER
Friday 5 July

ROSL GARDEN PARTY
Wednesday 24 July

TROOPING THE COLOUR
Saturday 1 June

ROSL RUSH HOUR: KABANTU
Tuesday 25 June

ROSL RUSH HOUR: PEGASUS CHAMBER CHOIR
Tuesday 9 July

ROSL RECITALS: EDINBURGH FESTIVAL FRINGE
Monday 5 – Friday 16 August

ADMISSION: ONE SHILLING – PIERS LANE AND DAME PATRICIA ROUTLEDGE
Tuesday 11 June

HOUSE OF LORDS AFTERNOON TEA
Tuesday 25 June

EVERLYN WRENCH LECTURE: THE RELEVANCE OF COMMONWEALTH IN THE 21ST CENTURY
Wednesday 3 July

AN EVENING OF WORDS AND MUSIC WITH THE CAINE PRIZE WRITERS AND ROSL MUSICIANS
Thursday 4 July

LOUISE MCNAUGHT: CONSUME – EXHIBITION OPENING
Thursday 27 June

LOUISE MCNAUGHT: CONSUME – EXHIBITION OPENING
Thursday 27 June

LOUISE MCNAUGHT: CONSUME – EXHIBITION OPENING
Thursday 27 June

LOUISE MCNAUGHT: CONSUME – EXHIBITION OPENING
Thursday 27 June

DRAWING CLASS
Wednesday 17 July

ROSL GARDEN PARTY
Wednesday 4 September

SUPPER CLUB
Friday 25 October

OPEN HOUSE WEEKEND
Saturday 21 September



For further information on all ROSL events, visit www.rosl.org.uk/events or call +44 (0)20 7408 0214



SPRING ESCAPES

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Prices are per person and include flights, return transfers, accommodation with breakfast, Kirker Guide Notes to restaurants, museums and sightseeing and the services of the Kirker Concierge to book expert local guides, exhibition or concert tickets or reserve a table for a delicious dinner.

COSTA BRAVA

Mas de Torrent *** Deluxe**

Located in the Emporda region of the Costa Brava, about 2 hours from Barcelona, this is one of Spain's most beautiful countryside hotels. A member of Relais & Châteaux, it is made up of a restored 18th century farmhouse and five further buildings. There are 39 bedrooms, a gastronomic restaurant and an additional informal restaurant on the terrace by the swimming pool.



4 nights for the price of 3 from Sunday - Thursday until 31 May - price from £889, saving £167

SEVILLE

Casa Romana ** Superior**

The warmest city in Europe, Seville is perfect for a spring city break. This charming boutique hotel is located in the heart of the city, 15 minutes' walk from the Giralda and cathedral. A traditional townhouse with its original central patio, Casa Romana has 26 rooms, decorated with great taste using original antiques and traditional furnishings.

4 for 3 all year excluding Easter and April Ferie - price from £568, saving £77

Includes entrance to the Cathedral, Giralda and the Alcazar Palace

CAPRI

Caesar Augustus *** Deluxe**

One of the most famous islands in the Mediterranean, Capri is at its spectacular best in spring, before the summer crowds arrive. Perched on the cliff, 300 metres above the sea in Anacapri, this privately-owned property is a member of Relais & Châteaux and is now one of the best small hotels in Capri. There are 45 rooms in the main hotel, plus 10 suites in the villa, as well as an excellent restaurant with an al fresco terrace and a stylish infinity swimming pool.

4 for 3 for Sunday & Monday arrivals until 18 May - price from £1,478, saving £298

ST. PAUL-DE-VENCE

Le Mas de Pierre ** Deluxe**

Just outside the mediaeval town of St Paul-de-Vence, this elegant retreat is 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. Take the hotel's shuttle to the town's galleries including the exceptional Fondation Maeght.

4 nights for the price of 3 until 30 June - price from £1,196, saving £290

PARIS

Castille ** Deluxe**

Located on Rue Cambon, with interiors inspired by Coco Chanel, the Castille is a stylish boutique hotel with 108 bedrooms, restaurant 'L'Assaggio', a popular bar and an elegant Salon de Thé. This is the perfect base to explore the heart of Paris; the prestigious Rue St. Honoré, the Place Vendôme and the Tuileries Gardens are on your doorstep.

3 nights for the price of 2 for stays including a Sunday until 14 May and 17 July - 3 September - price from £658, saving £155

Includes 48hr museum pass and carnet of Métro tickets

BORDEAUX

Le Saint James *** Superior**

Located in the pretty village of Bouliac overlooking Bordeaux, this hotel combines an 18th century farmhouse with 18 strikingly modern rooms, which enjoy sublime views. There is a small vineyard, a state-of-the-art cooking school and a Michelin-starred restaurant with spectacular views of the city and river below. Ask the Kirker Concierge about wine-tasting at the nearby châteaux.

4 nights for the price of 3 until 2 June - price from £985, saving £215



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WAGNER'S *RING CYCLE* IN CHICAGO 19–26 APRIL 2020 WITH SPEIGHT JENKINS

OPERA, MUSIC & ART IN PORTUGAL & SPAIN 5–18 JUNE 2020 WITH TARYN FIEBIG & JUD ARTHUR

OPERA IN THE ENGLISH COUNTRYSIDE 6–19 JUNE 2020 WITH ELIZABETH HAYLLAR

OPERA & ART IN NORTHERN ITALY 10–23 JUNE 2020 WITH FIONA CAMPBELL

OPERA, MUSIC & ART IN SCANDINAVIA & ST PETERSBURG 7–19 JULY 2020 WITH ELIZABETH HAYLLAR

OPERA & MUSIC FESTIVALS IN SALZBURG, MUNICH, BREGENZ & VERONA 21 JULY–2 AUGUST 2020 WITH ANNA GOLDSWORTHY

HAYLLAR WILDERNESS MUSIC FESTIVAL 8–13 SEPTEMBER 2020

OPERA, MUSIC & ART IN CENTRAL EUROPE 9–21 SEPTEMBER 2020 WITH GRAHAM ABBOTT

AUTUMN IN NEW YORK - MUSIC, THEATRE & ART 28 OCTOBER–7 NOVEMBER 2020 WITH TARYN FIEBIG & JUD ARTHUR

WAGNER'S *RING CYCLE* IN PARIS 22–29 NOVEMBER 2020 WITH PROFESSOR HEATH LEES

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