

# OVERSEAS

THE JOURNAL OF THE ROYAL OVER-SEAS LEAGUE

## PAINTING EMOTION

Di Bresciani on her approach to art and music

## MALTA AND THE QUEEN

Exploring the nation's place in the Commonwealth

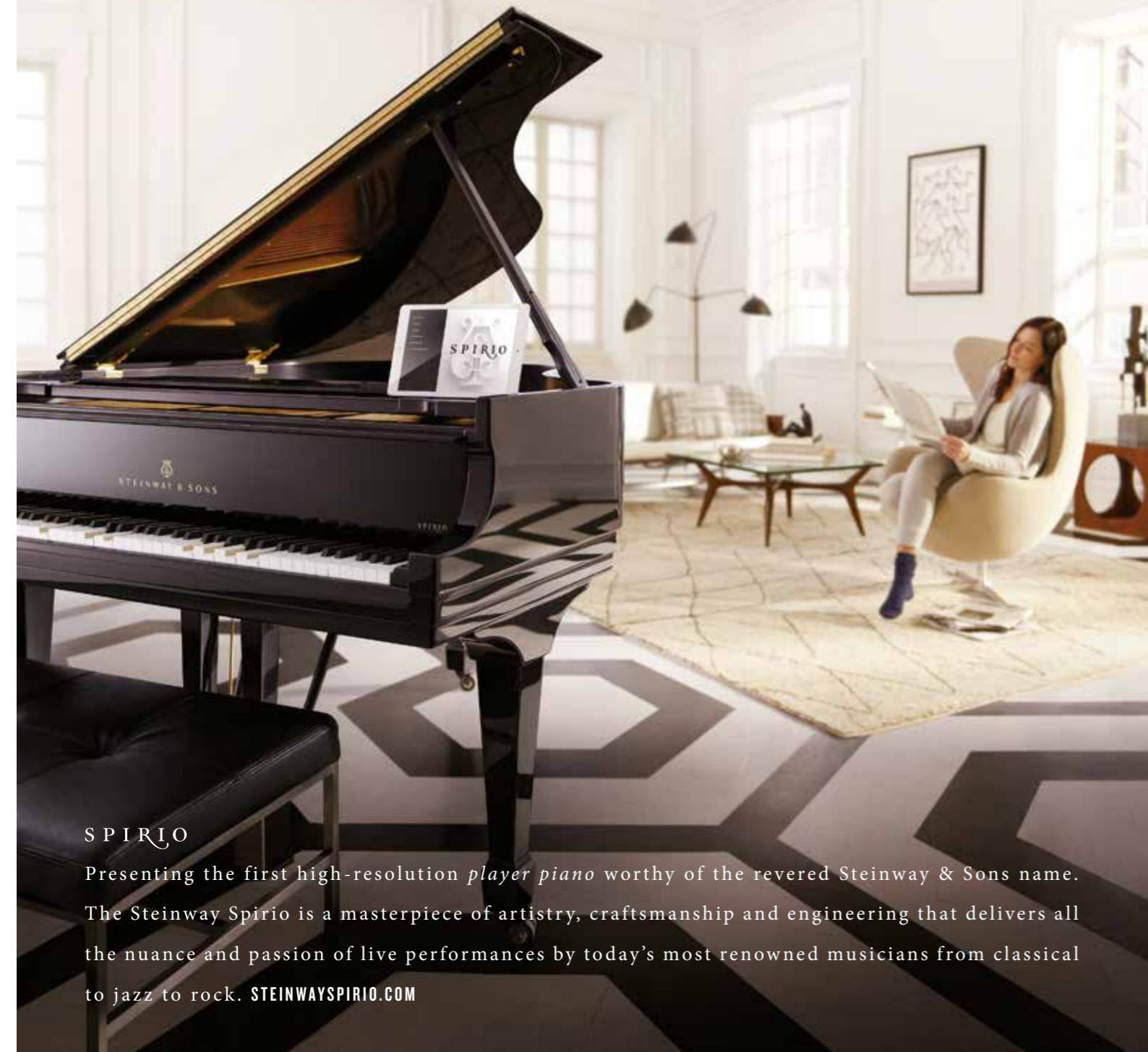
## DRAMATIC NOTES

A tense Annual Music Competition Final



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Front Cover Di Bresciani's 'Last Light',  
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WELCOME

“Our run-up to the centenary begins in this edition with a new look and feel”



It is quite something to anticipate 100 years of *Overseas*, which we will celebrate in the next issue. Our run-up to the centenary begins in this edition with a new look and feel for the journal, which I trust you will enjoy. We have taken a great deal of time and courted much opinion on how we might develop the style and we are delighted with the outcome (see page 8 for further details); we hope you will be too.

We have received two very significant legacies in recent months. I would like publicly to recognise Dr Donald Valentine, a long-time ROSL member, who has left a wonderful legacy for ROSL's Humanitarian Projects in Namibia. I would also like to recognise Mr Khurshed Bhumgara, who has been extraordinarily generous with his legacy in memory of his late mother, Mrs Mani Bhumgara; the objective of this is to enhance and endow the ROSL Annual Music Competition First Prize. We are deeply grateful to these two deceased ROSL members and their families for their significant support of ROSL's programmes (see pages 20-21). Please remember that you can leave a gift or legacy to ROSL's charitable works in your will; we can advise you further if you wish.

Many members have remarked on how much they appreciate the refurbishment and developments at Over-Seas House London, and I am extremely grateful to you for your encouragement to me and the whole staff; it means a great deal to all of us. We have not stood still in Edinburgh and, before the Festival Fringe, we removed the old Reception desk and located a new one in a much more logical and accessible position. Cobbs are also planning to refurbish the bathrooms, starting in the winter.

If you have joined us in the last 12 months or would like to introduce family or friends to ROSL, come and join us at our autumn New Members' Reception in London (Thursday 8 October; see page 45 for details) or the Chairman's Reception in Edinburgh (Wednesday 28 October; new members will receive an invitation), and see our developing facilities.

**Roddy Porter**

DIRECTOR-GENERAL

## 22

"I am enamoured with colour and beautiful effects that can suggest something marvellous and timeless. It transports you to another plane."



## From the EDITOR

Malta and the Commonwealth take centre stage in this issue, as the biennial Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting returns to the archipelago after 10 years. Our centre spread offers stunning photographs of The Queen in Malta, her home for several years (pages 26-27); while ROSL President Lord Luce provides an insight into Her Majesty's relationship with the island nation, and explores the position and relevance of the Commonwealth today, on pages 28-29.

Such are ROSL's links with Malta that it was difficult to select just two stories from the *Overseas* archives that reflect this long relationship (page 9).

Lord Mountbatten, ROSL Grand President for 20 years, thought of the country as his 'second home', and there have been many articles discussing Maltese current affairs over the years.

As we launch an elegant new design, it has been interesting to look back at the last time *Overseas* was redesigned, when it was divided into the easy-to-follow sections that remain today. The addition of a new 'ROSL People' section will enable us to explore the fascinating people who make up the ROSL community, and the amazing work they do in supporting young talent in the arts, music and education.

In this issue, we feature acclaimed artist and pianist Di Bresciani who, now in her 70s, continues to support talented Australian musicians at the start of their careers (pages 22-24).

The pinnacle of ROSL's own music programmes is undoubtedly the Annual Music Competition. The standard this year was so high that the judges were divided, and it seems likely that we will hear more from these young finalists in future (pages 6-7). As ever, there will be a chance for members to hear our prizewinning musicians this autumn: see our extended Events section for details (pages 40-50).

**Miranda Moore**  
editor@rosl.org.uk

### WELCOME

**4. From the Director-General**  
Roddy Porter on improvements to the journal and clubhouses

### ROSL NEWS

**6. The keys to a winning performance**  
Insights into the 2015 music competition final

**8. Elegant by design**  
Your new-look journal

**9. From the archive**  
Stories of yesteryear

**10. A right royal send-off**  
Why there were a few surprises at Sir Anthony Figgis's farewell dinner

**11. Bright young things**  
A Garter Day treat for our Younger Members

**12. News and views**  
Pictures of our top summer events

**16. ROSL branches**  
Forthcoming ROSL events around the world

**20. A musical legacy**  
A boost for the music competition First Prize

**21. A big thank you to ROSL members**  
How your generous donations are making a huge difference

### ROSL PEOPLE

**22. The colour of sound**  
Di Bresciani opens up about her relationship with music, art and everything in between

**25. Q&A: Christine Lee**  
Insights into the writer's relationship with her sister, *Call the Midwife* author Jennifer Worth

### WORLD

**26. A lasting friendship**  
Stunning photos of The Queen in Malta over six decades

**28. For the common good**  
Lord Luce on the future of the Commonwealth

**30. Young hope**  
Why young people are the Commonwealth's strongest asset

**32. A cultural evolution**  
Transforming Valletta

**34. Inspiration resounds**  
A global music project

**35. Cynthia Turner's Sliema**  
A guide to the ROSL member's home town

### IN THE UK

**36. Diamond Jubilee**  
Hidden gems along the Jubilee Line

**38. Coach of treasures**  
Why the new royal carriage is a work of art

**39. London & Edinburgh highlights**  
Our pick of art, theatre and events close to the clubhouses this autumn

### EVENTS

**40. Christmas and New Year at the club**  
Enjoy our special packages over the festive period

**41. Highlights from our exciting autumn programme**  
From a trip to the Royal Mews to a Moveable Feast

**43. ROSL calendar**  
Don't miss out on all our fantastic events

**50. Contact details and booking information**

1. **Winning performance:** Pianist Alexander Soares becomes ROSL Gold Medallist 2015. 2. **Masterful:** Trombonist Michael Buchanan. 3. **High praise:** Director-General Roddy Porter can be seen in the audience, applauding the talented musicians. 4. **A tense wait:** Roderick Lakin introduces Gavin

Henderson, who sits (far right) on stage with the panel of judges, before he announces the winner. 5. **Gifted:** Harpist Juliana Myslov, the youngest finalist. 6. **Flawless:** Flautist Charlotte Ashton. 7. **Spectacular:** Soraya Mafi performs with accompanist prizewinner Ian Tindale.

## The keys to a winning performance

Following a Final that divided the judges with five stand-out performances, Tait Becke offers a unique perspective of the ROSL Annual Music Competition from the opening rounds to the dramatic Final at Queen Elizabeth Hall

I joined the ROSL ARTS team in October after completing my undergraduate course as a violinist at the Royal Academy of Music. One of the first tasks was organising auditions and timetables for the 63rd ROSL Annual Music Competition (AMC). From the first auditions in January until the last section final in March, my main responsibility was page turning.

If you page turn for one accompanist, the next one usually decides they too want a page turner. This is how I ended up page turning for the entire Singers and Strings

finals. This provides a unique perspective, and I especially enjoyed the section final performance by baritone Timothy Nelson, who skilfully handled 'Der Rattenfänger' from the *Goethe-Lieder* by Hugo Wolf, and violinist Savitri Grier's incredible version of the very difficult *Ballade* for solo violin by Eugène Ysaÿe.

For the first time since 2004, there were five competitors at the Final on 1 June in Queen Elizabeth Hall: Charlotte Ashton *flute*, Michael Buchanan *trombone*, Soraya Mafi *soprano*, Juliana Myslov *harp* and Alexander Soares *piano*.

“The judges were divided but in the end they rewarded Alexander Soares' compelling performance of a complicated and technical programme as he became the 63rd ROSL Gold Medallist

This year's accompanist prizewinner, Ian Tindale, was an absolute pleasure to work with. He was very clear what he wanted musically. The performances he and Soraya gave were the highlights for me. It was spectacular when she sang 'Glitter and be Gay' from Bernstein's operetta *Candide*. She brought the audience into the performance more than any other competitor.

Alexander's programme of d'Anglebert, Boulez and Dutilleux was more intimate but no less entertaining. Charlotte was technically flawless in her

performance of *Tango Fantasy* by Jacob Gade. Michael was masterful and mature during his programme of Ropartz, Bernstein and Schnyder. Juliana, the youngest finalist, is an extraordinarily gifted young harpist, who combined imagination and technical brilliance in her performance of Paul Patterson's *Spiders*. They are all names to look out for in the future.

While the judges deliberated, the Jackson/Beilby Duo (with replacement violist Simone van der Giessen) and the Ferio Saxophone Quartet gave

engaging performances, including *Passacaglia* by Handel/Halvorsen and *Ciudades* by Guillermo Lago. The performances really showcased the chemistry and flair that led to them being selected as the AMC Ensemble winners.

Overall the quality and musicianship were of such an exceptionally high standard that it was hard to guess who would be chosen as winner. The judges were divided but in the end they rewarded Alexander Soares' compelling performance of a complicated and technical programme as

he became the 63rd ROSL Gold Medallist. I am very much looking forward to doing it all again next year.

### PANEL OF JUDGES

Gavin Henderson (Chair)  
John Anderson  
Martin Cousin  
Sue Dent  
Linda Esther Gray  
Stuart King  
Dennis Lee  
Gina McCormack  
Melissa Phelps  
Rodney Slatford  
Christopher Underwood  
Janice Watson  
Frank Wibaut

### SIR RICHARD STILGOE OBE

As Richard Stilgoe, lyricist, songwriter and musician, presented the prizes at the Annual Music Competition, he offered this advice:

'There were five stand-out performances in the contestants; it was almost unfair to pick a winner. Choice of repertoire makes a huge difference and you can tell, by our reaction, how much the repertoire changed our views. The hands work for every one of those young players; what we are interested in is finding out about your heart: how big it is and how much it communicates to the rest of us.

If I had to give any advice it would be play, play, play – in all senses of the word. Enjoy it and never be a silent player sitting at home in your room. The higher percentage of your life that you spend on stage, the easier you get with it. If nobody is offering you work, go out and get some. Offer yourself to your local authority to go into schools, to go into old people's homes. Work for music in hospitals. Every time you play everywhere, anywhere you learn something about the music.'



## ELEGANT BY DESIGN

Gemma Matthews introduces your new-look magazine

December 2015 marks the 100th anniversary of *Overseas*. To celebrate, we decided the time was right to update the look and feel of the magazine, bringing a fresh approach to the presentation of the much-loved articles.

*Overseas* has a long and proud tradition of featuring contributions by a range of diplomats, authors and artists. However the design and layout, last changed in 2007, had limitations which meant that content was not always presented in the most compelling way. Working with Zed, our design agency, we have created a fresh and engaging new look

The changing face of *Overseas*: June-August 2007, September-November 2007 and September-November 2015.

for the journal, bringing it in line with the refreshed ROSL brand.

As we worked on the redesign, we consulted groups of members representing all aspects of the membership community in the UK and around the world. We have been grateful for all the feedback we've received. The main differences you'll see are:

- An increase in the number of pages to allow us more flexibility to be bolder with our use of images.

- A reduction in the size of the magazine to a slightly under A4 format to make it easier to pick up, take away and read.
- Clarity in the sections that divide the magazine. The D-G's welcome introduces news (and views) from the clubhouses and branches, which we know from past research and feedback members rank as their favourite part of the magazine.
- A new section called 'ROSL People' focusing on the people at the heart of everything ROSL is and does.
- The refreshed 'Events' listings pages are still at the back of the journal, so they remain easy to find, and the layout has been changed so it is clearer and easier to navigate.

Members who have seen the designs throughout the development process have not been shy about sharing their views, giving us a lot of useful feedback, which we have used to shape the initial designs into what you now see before you. However, this is not the end of the process; we are interested to hear from you so that we can continue to develop your magazine in the future. Please email [editor@rosl.org.uk](mailto:editor@rosl.org.uk) to let us know your thoughts.



### Overseas THE FACTS

In his Monthly Letter for the November 1916 edition, Evelyn Wrench described his vision for *Overseas* as 'the magazine of the whole empire... which will be read in every home over-seas from Dawson City to Invercargill'. With the club's rapidly increasing global membership community, the magazine quickly became its foremost method of communication and was instrumental in publicising our war efforts.

During the 1920s, *Overseas* regularly ran to more than 120 pages as it strived to keep members up to date with news from all parts of the Empire. Regular features included Evelyn Wrench's Monthly Letter, focusing on current affairs in the UK, 'Sport at Home and Over-Seas' and 'From a Woman's Standpoint'.

*Overseas* was published monthly until 1953 when it became bi-monthly. From the early 1960s it was quarterly and has remained so ever since.

In 1963, *Overseas* changed from the 'pocket-sized', roughly A5 format it had more or less followed since its inception, to a compact newspaper layout (roughly A3). This continued until about 1983, when it was refreshed as an A4 magazine.

## From the ARCHIVE

We mark the journal's centenary with a series of extracts from back issues, this time reflecting how *Overseas* has changed over the years, as well as the post-war challenges for Malta

### Malta in the Limelight DECEMBER 1949

The Maltese people are proud to be housing Lord and Lady Mountbatten, who hold a very special place in their affection, and declare this is their 'second home'; equally proud that the Duke of Edinburgh is now among their naval friends, and proudest of all that Princess Elizabeth herself has paid them a visit. They eagerly hope that one good outcome from Devaluation and its depressing effect on European travel, may be an increasing number of visitors from home... The sunshine, the hilly country-side, the sparkling beaches, the mediæval cities and the prehistoric monuments are free of charge.

### The Queen in Malta JULY 1954

The people of the George Cross island hold a world reputation for producing the

most joyous deafening 'jeux de joie' on their festive occasions. On the morning of May 3rd, 1954, they certainly achieved a new record. The bells of all the churches (whose number must also constitute a record for an island of just 100 square miles) were pealing, Royal salutes firing from every one of HM Ships in the Harbour, and from short bases, to say nothing of petards roaring, Chinese crackers jumping on every roof, and all the people of the island shouting as only they know how to shout...

Below us, and on every roof-top around, was a dazzling kleidoscope of colour and waving flags. We could see Her Majesty very clearly on the platform, excitedly pointing out many familiar landmarks to the children, so happily reunited with their parents once again.

Thus started two days of non-stop activity for the Royal couple... Her Majesty knows, and what a tremendous

knowledge it must be, that it is through her personality alone that the unflinching loyalty of millions of her subjects is made manifest.

### Now – A New Overseas OCTOBER 1963

Issue No. 497, which will be published on New Year's Day, 1964 will be a twelve-page newspaper, 16 inches deep and 12 inches wide. The heading will be shown above, with the name *Overseas* in blue and with a dash of blue in the ship panel.

This, after forty-eight years in magazine form, is a mighty change!... The new format allows of economies in production which will enable us to send one free copy to the address of every overseas member... a great advantage, as one of the most important functions of the League is to provide a link between World Headquarters and Branches and individual members in Commonwealth countries.

### Editor's letter SEPTEMBER-NOVEMBER 2007

Welcome to the all-new *Overseas*. We hope you find it not only more attractive, but also easier to navigate. The magazine is now split into four colour-coded sections to help you find exactly what you need.

Starting opposite you'll find our World section, drawing together old favourites such as the Focus, Commonwealth News and members' tales from across the world.

Next follows *Club News*, which will enable the League to report back on all the happenings in the last quarter...

Finally we've brought together all the League-organised events into one, easy-to-read back section. So whether you're planning ahead for Discussion Group meets, clubhouse events or an external visit, all the dates are here.

### Maltese lace

A fascination with lace from Malta, shared by the Royal family, is evident on the pages of *Overseas*. In August 1951, we hear that 'lace making is so common in this island that one often comes across batches of young women... their faces turned towards the walls holding pillows on their laps and at the same time manipulating the several bobbins used in lace making'.



# A RIGHT ROYAL SEND-OFF

ROSL Vice-Chairman Sir Roger Carrick looks back at a splendid tribute to retiring Chairman Sir Anthony Figgis

What a splendid evening! More than 100 members and guests paid warm tribute, in right royal style, to retiring ROSL Chairman Sir Anthony Figgis. We began with a wonderful concert: a favourite pianist of Sir Anthony's, Ben Schoeman, played Mozart and Chopin to rapturous acclaim. It was a secret, closely and carefully guarded from Sir Anthony and Lady Figgis, that ROSL Vice-Patron HRH Princess Alexandra would honour them by attending both the concert and the excellent dinner that followed.

That the Figgises were surprised is a gross understatement. That they

were more than delighted is a shining truth. Princess Alexandra so enjoyed the evening that HRH stayed a good deal later than is customary, and happily spoke to members and staff.

Head Chef Kevin Casizzi and his team, and the waiting staff, exceeded their normal high standards: everyone ate deliciously well, and the D-G's caring selection of wines delighted all. Our President, Lord Luce, spoke eloquently in praise of Sir Anthony. Former Vice-Chairman Sir Kenneth Scott, visiting especially from Edinburgh, spoke with deep knowledge, much feeling, elegant lucidity and fine humour.

Our retiring Chairman then entertained us, including with what he modestly described as doggerel (see opposite), and warmly thanked staff and members for their support over the five years of his distinguished tenure.

The Chairman's Dinner (or Lunch), twice a year, is always well supported and enjoyed. This evening, with its sparkling entertainment,

1. Royal presence: HRH Princess Alexandra talks with Sir Anthony Figgis. 2. Tribute: Ken Scott's speech. 3. A farewell surprise: Ben Schoeman, one of Sir Anthony's favourite ROSL

musicians, performs. 4. Sparkling conversation: Members enjoy the Champagne reception. 5. A joyous occasion: The Princess, pictured with Sir Anthony and Lady Figgis, stayed later than is customary.



“It was a secret, closely and carefully guarded from Sir Anthony and Lady Figgis, that Princess Alexandra would honour them by attending both the concert and the excellent dinner

its culinary excellence, its words of wisdom and wit, and its especially gracious and deeply appreciated royal presence, must rank as among the best of such ROSL events for many years.

Sir Anthony and Lady Figgis will be missed, mightily. Yet serious help is at hand: Simon and Raye Ward stepped into those impressive shoes at the end of a night to remember. Au revoir and thank you Mayella and Anthony; a warm welcome Raye and Simon.



## Scandal in the Order

A number of knights have been 'degraded' from the most senior British order of chivalry, founded in 1348. Lord Scrope of Masham, a Knight of the Garter and childhood friend of Henry V, was executed in 1415 for his involvement in the Southampton Plot to replace the monarch. The last formal degradation was in 1716, when the Duke of Ormonde went into exile after being accused of treason.



## BRIGHT YOUNG THINGS

### ANJOLA-OLUWA ADENIYI SHARES HIS EXPERIENCE OF THE YOUNGER MEMBERS' GARTER DAY VISIT

I became a ROSL member in January and it has already become part of my social life – great for entertaining friends and colleagues. Outside ROSL, I work in information security and I am passionate about board-level volunteering.

It was a special opportunity to watch the knights and ladies of the highest order of chivalry process through the grounds of Windsor Castle for the annual Order of the Garter service at St George's Chapel. The atmosphere was bright, the weather lovely and the procession colourful. The route was lined by soldiers from the 1st Battalion Grenadier Guards and the Household Cavalry (the Blues and Royals in blue tunics and red plumes, the Life Guards in red tunics and white plumes). The bands of the Household Cavalry and Irish Guards brought music as the soldiers took their positions.

Two new members of the Order had been announced and invested with the insignia: the former Governor of the Bank of England

Mervyn King, and former Director General of MI5 Eliza Manningham-Buller. The Order then processed down the hill, including The Queen, members of the Royal Family and ROSL President Lord Luce, who had generously organised the YM tickets to this prestigious event.

Wearing their blue velvet robes and black velvet hats, with plumes of heron and ostrich feathers, the knights and ladies of the Order paraded past more than 7,000 spectators gathered in the castle grounds. And with great delight, we watched this age-old tradition of pomp and ceremony.



## FAREWELL DOGGEREL

### An extract from Sir Anthony's poem

Why yes, dear friends, you've guessed:  
There'll be some doggerel lest  
You leave here disappointed.  
So, now that Simon's been anointed  
I feel more free to speak my thoughts  
On ROSL, its 'ought nots' and 'oughts'

First of the ought nots, so I think,  
Is that we all ought not to wink  
At those who break our strict dress code.  
A member recently, the toad,  
Was breakfasting without a tie.  
Well, one can only say "fie, fie".

So then, you ask, what are our oughts?  
Well, here then are my parting thoughts.  
We ought to be extremely proud  
Of all those members (quite a crowd)  
Who sit on voluntary committees.  
And then another thing: the cities  
Wherein our memberships reside  
Are situated far and wide:  
From sunny Melbourne to Dumfries  
We've members right across the piece.

Another thing of which I say  
We should be proud (if boast we may)  
Is our fantastic music comp  
Which every year's a jolly romp  
Through Schubert, Mozart and Beethoven  
With other tunes all interwoven.

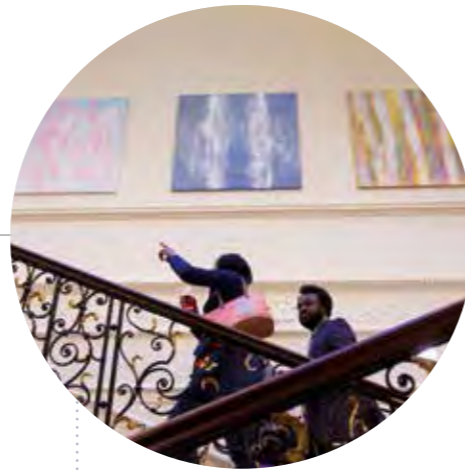
And yet another thing which I  
Ought certainly to mention: my  
Enormous thanks and gratitude  
For such a generous attitude  
On all your parts to me as Chair.  
It certainly would not be fair  
To mention anyone by name  
But I will do, all the same:  
Without young Bob, and then young Roddy  
I'd have been lost, a useless body:  
Also that youngster Hanmer (Tony)  
Whose cheerful welcome's never phoney.

Last but not least to all of you  
The membership. A splendid crew,  
And loyal, generous, friendly too,  
To Commonwealth and Charter true.  
To you I say a fond goodbye  
With thanks to all, and tear in eye.



### SNAPPED READING

Newly appointed Central Council member Tony Lavender reads *Overseas* outside Seville Cathedral, while Susi Luss takes her copy on the *elevador* to the Santa Luzia Basilica in Viana do Castelo, Portugal. More 'Snapped reading' photos will be posted on our Facebook page ([www.facebook.com/rosl1910/photos](http://www.facebook.com/rosl1910/photos)), including Ann McMillan reading the journal on the lower slopes of the Blue Mountains, and Tasmania Branch member Hugh Garnham on Australia's Derwent River. Send your 'Snapped Reading' pictures to [editor@rosl.org.uk](mailto:editor@rosl.org.uk).



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### ART INSPIRED BY MUSIC

Australian artist and musician Di Bresciani unveiled her latest exhibition, 'New Compositions in Colour', at the London clubhouse. The private view was also attended by Australian High Commissioner Alexander Downer and pianist Piers Lane. Find out more about Di and her work in our exclusive interview on page 22.

### CAINE PRIZE

In July, ROSL hosted the five writers shortlisted for the 2015 Caine Prize for African Writing. Now in its 16th year, the £10,000 literary prize is awarded for the best original short story by an African writer published in English. Masande Ntshanga (South Africa), Namwali Serpell (Zambia), Elnathan John (Nigeria), F T Kola (South Africa) and Nigerian Segun Afolabi (pictured l-r) enthralled the audience in Princess Alexandra Hall with their tales. A week later, Namwali was announced as the winner, for her short story *The Sack*, at a dinner at the Bodleian Library in Oxford. Visit [caineprize.blogspot.co.uk](http://caineprize.blogspot.co.uk) to read this year's shortlisted stories.



### NEW MEMBERS' RECEPTION

New and prospective members sampled some of the benefits of ROSL membership at an informal reception at Over-Seas House London in May. As well as regular tours of the building, there was an opportunity to meet representatives from ROSL's partner organisations, including Davy's wines, Buchanan's Cheesemonger, Jermyn Street Theatre and HMCA medical insurers.



© Bill Barr

### EDINBURGH GALA OPERA

Members were treated to a superb evening of operatic arias and duets at the Edinburgh clubhouse in June. Singers from the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland (RCS), Christopher Nairne *baritone*, Hazel McBain *soprano*, Eirlys Davies *mezzo soprano* and Luperci de Souza *tenor* (pictured l-r), performed works by Handel, Mozart, Rossini and Puccini, accompanied by Timothy Dean *piano*, Artistic Director of the RCS Song Studio.

## STREET ACCESS TO THE CLUBHOUSE

THE STAIRCASE BETWEEN ARLINGTON STREET AND PARK PLACE IS CLOSED WHILE RENOVATIONS ARE CARRIED OUT ON 4 AND 5 PARK PLACE. IT IS DUE TO REOPEN IN AUTUMN 2016. IN THE MEANTIME, THE LONDON CLUBHOUSE CONTINUES TO BE ACCESSIBLE VIA ST JAMES'S STREET.

### SCOTTISH MEMBERS' DINNER

Members and their guests enjoyed a delicious three-course meal at the Edinburgh clubhouse in May. After dinner, speaker and guest of honour Willie Cameron, Business Development Director for the Cobbs Group, spoke about 'Loch Ness from Day One to Day Two'. The talk covered the history of the area, the phenomenon of the Loch Ness monster, and the industry that has developed around it, from a tourism and international perspective – a fascinating subject which enthralled all those present.



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### HAVING A BALL

The London clubhouse held a series of events in June to mark the bicentenary of the Battle of Waterloo, and set the foundation for our four-day Battlefield Tour to Waterloo in July. Michael Orr's informative talk focused on the debate surrounding the turning points of the battle, while the London Group welcomed Lady Jane Wellesley, sister of the ninth Duke of Wellington, who spoke about her family history at a special dinner.

The highlight of the season was the Summer Ball. The clubhouse's Regency rooms were transformed back to their original function, with parlour music in the Wrench Room by ROSL prizewinner Charlotte Ashton and harpist Elizabeth Bass, and a lady's dressing room



in the Rutland Room. A band and caller led members in quadrilles, while historical reenactors set the context of the Battle of Waterloo by delivering missives from the battlefield through the night. The victory message was delivered by the Duke of Wellington himself, acted by ROSL Director-General Roddy Porter. The buzz of excited guests in beautiful ball gowns and Regency dress lit up the clubhouse until the early hours.



### CENTRAL COUNCIL LUNCH

Gavin Henderson CBE, Chair of the ROSL Annual Music Competition Panel of Judges, was the guest of honour and speaker at the lunch in July. Pictured (l-r) are ROSL Chairman Simon Ward, new Central Council members Tony Lavender, Tony Roestenburg and Eve Mitleton-Kelly, who were welcomed to their first lunch, and the Director-General Roddy Porter.

For all upcoming events see PAGE 40

### QUIZ NIGHT

ROSL's quiz nights have continued to grow in popularity, with new teams emerging each month to rival the regulars. In May, it was the ROSL staff team, the Quizzimodos, who emerged triumphant, narrowly pushing April's winners, the Pirates of Penzance, into second place. In June, however, the Short Planks unseated the staff team, who unceremoniously dropped from reigning champions to recipients of the wooden spoon. Second place went to the Younger Members' team, Quizzie Rascal.



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## More images online

Visit our Facebook and Flickr pages to see photos of ROSL's successful Waterloo Battlefield Tour and all our summer events



## WAVE GOODBYE, SAY HELLO

It has been a summer of change for the Marketing and ARTS departments, as Events Coordinator Sara Brouwer, and Visual Arts and Events Coordinator George Harwood Smith left to pursue new

challenges. We were also sad to say goodbye to our long-serving Membership team, Raymond Farago, who left after nine years at ROSL, and Angela Farago, who had given 21 years of dedicated service. We wish Angela all the best in her new position at the

Hurlingham Club. Mark Porter, ROSL Guest Relations Officer, left to further his teaching studies. ROSL thanks them all for their hard work, and wishes them luck in their new endeavours.

Though it is sad to say goodbye, we are delighted to welcome our new Head of Membership Stephen Darlington, Events Coordinator and Marketing Executive Tara Cooper, Membership Executive Veryan Higman and ARTS Administrator Eleanor Rucker Thompson, who will work alongside Tait Becke, who was recently promoted to Communications Officer.

Raymond, Sara, Mark, Angela and George are pictured (l-r).

## News & views ROSL NEWS



## VIOLIN VIRTUOSO

World-renowned violinist Nicola Benedetti, with acclaimed musicians Leonard Elschenbroich *cello* and Alexei Grynyuk *piano*, wowed the audience at a sold-out concert held in association with the Medical Music Society. The trio performed Schubert, Sierra and Brahms in Princess Alexandra Hall to rapturous applause from members.

## BEHIND THE SCENES

Members were given an insight into two special buildings last quarter. The Canadian High Commission gave us an exclusive peek at Canada House's breathtaking refurbishments, while the Royal Festival Hall allowed us a behind-the-scenes tour of its concert hall, members' lounge and back-stage areas.



## NEW EXHIBITION SPACE IN THE BAR

In April, Scottish painter Leo du Feu became the first artist to exhibit his work in the recently refurbished Duke of York Bar. His collection of watercolours included works from his ROSL ARTS scholarship trip to Canada in 2010. This was followed by Louise Truslow's 'Meeting of the Waters' exhibition, which opened in July and continues until 25 September. See page 43 for details.



## OLD EUROPE, NEW ASIA

To mark the launch of their new book, *Europe in Emerging Asia*, ROSL member and former Commonwealth Deputy Secretary-General Krishnan Srinivasan, and Founder-Director of the European Centre for International Political Economy, Fredrik Erixon, took part in a panel discussion with Sir Roger Hervey and Professor James Mayall. Chaired by Dame Veronica Sutherland, this insightful event explored the concepts of Old Europe and New Asia, and the challenges influencing their relationship today.



1. Chairman's reception: At the Edinburgh Branch AGM. 2. Talking therapy: James Robertson following his talk on music therapy to the Edinburgh Branch in June. 3. Exeter: Branch members enjoy lunch and a talk by member Brian Wood on his days of National Service. 4. Celebration: Victoria Branch President Jason Ronald reads the Lesson at The

Queen's Birthday Church Service at St George's Malvern, organised by the Council of British and Commonwealth Societies in Victoria. 5. Special visit: Simon and Raye Ward are guests of honour at the Bournemouth Branch's annual Queen's Birthday Lunch on 17 June, his first branch visit as ROSL Chairman.



# 1,820km

THE BOURNEMOUTH BRANCH CLOCKS UP THE MILES WITH A FOUR-NIGHT TRIP TO SCOTLAND AND A LONDON VISIT WITH ROSL WEST (SEE BELOW).

## 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

**ANZAC commemorations**  
7 September, 12pm, Army Museum of South Australia, Anzac Highway, Keswick  
Talk by Maj Christopher Roe, Manager of the Army Museum, about the Commonwealth units deployed at Gallipoli and the role of Australia's nurses during the campaign, with a two-course lunch and guided tour of the museum.  
To register your interest, email fashoda@ozemail.com.au. \$25.

### Annual dinner

22 October, 6.30pm, Naval, Army and Airforce Club, Adelaide  
Special dinner with guest of honour and speaker Dr John Bannon AO, former premier of South Australia.  
To register your interest, email rosl.sa@mac.com. \$75.

### Christmas dinner

1 December, 6.30pm, Public Schools Club, East Terrace, Adelaide  
Talk by Rev Peter Balabanski on 'Where Christmas Began', with three-course festive dinner.  
To attend, email rosl.sa@mac.com. Guests welcome. \$35.

### NEW ZEALAND

For further details and a list of events, see [www.roslnz.org.nz](http://www.roslnz.org.nz) or contact [royalo-s@xtra.co.nz](mailto:royalo-s@xtra.co.nz). All ROSL members and their guests welcome.

### Pettman/ROSL ARTS prizewinners' tour

2-21 November  
The Egmont Ensemble (Ben Baker violin, Jonathan Bloxham cello and James Sherlock piano) tour NZ.  
For details, see [www.roslnz.org.nz](http://www.roslnz.org.nz).

### Southland

**Morning tea**  
2 September, 10am, Club Southland  
With a talk by Rosemary Johns on Argentina.

**Morning tea**  
7 October, 10am, Club Southland  
With a talk on Invercargill's food bank.

### WWI remembrance

4 November, 10am, Club Southland  
Special commemoration with a talk by Lynley Dear, author of *Poppy Boys*.

### Christmas lunch

2 December, 12pm, The Braemar  
Christmas celebration.  
Guests welcome.

### Christchurch

**Morning tea**  
9 September, 10am, Holly Lea Retirement Village  
With a talk on the local Brittan brothers, who died at Gallipoli.

### Morning tea

14 October, 10am, Holly Lea Retirement Village  
With a talk by Michael Mellon on the woollen industry.

### WWI remembrance

11 November, 10am, Holly Lea Retirement Village  
Talk by John Gray CBE, former Town Clerk of Christchurch City Council, on New Zealand's role on the Western Front.

### Christmas lunch

9 December, 12pm, Chateau on the Park  
Festive three-course lunch.

### UNITED KINGDOM

#### ROSL West

**London visit**  
4-7 September, Over-Seas House London  
Long weekend for Bath, Bournemouth, Exeter and Taunton Branch members, with a variety of outings including a chance to see *The Play that Goes Wrong*. Price includes half-board and a jazz lunch

cruise; excludes outings and travel to/from London.  
**ROSL West members only. £385/£395.**

### Bath

**Monthly coffee mornings**  
9 September, 14 October, 11 November, 9 December, 10.30am, Pratt's Hotel, South Parade, BA2 4AB  
Friendly meeting every second Wednesday of the month (participants pay for their own refreshments).  
**All ROSL members and guests welcome.**

### Autumn lunch

22 October, 11.30am, Bath and County Club, Queen's Parade  
Talk by Sally Roberts on the Napoleonic Wars and the Battle of Waterloo, with two-course lunch and coffee.  
For details, email [roslnz@gmail.com](mailto:roslnz@gmail.com).  
Guests welcome.

### Bournemouth

**Weekly coffee morning**  
3, 10, 17, 24 September, 1, 8, 15, 29 October, 5, 12, 19, 26 November, 3, 17 December, 10.30am, Marriott Highcliff Hotel  
Regular meet-up.  
**ROSL and ESU members and guests welcome. £3.**

### Chris Bladen Memorial Lunch

21 October, 12.30pm, Marriott Highcliff Hotel  
Talk by Tony Coutts-Britton, a Fellow of the Guild of Battlefield Guides, on the Gallipoli campaign, with two-course lunch.  
To attend, call +44 (0)1258 480887. Guests welcome. £24.

### Scotland visit

28 October - 1 November  
Four-day trip to the Edinburgh clubhouse and Clansman Hotel on Loch Ness. Price includes return flights from Southampton, coach to Loch Ness, board, breakfast and dinner.  
**£621pp (single supplement may apply).**

### Christmas lunch and raffle

9 December, 12.30pm, Marriott Highcliff Hotel  
Two-course dinner and fundraising raffle for a local hospice.  
For details, call +44 (0)1258 480887. £24.

### Cheltenham

**'Nepal'**  
16 September, 2.30pm, Church House, Grafton Road  
Illustrated talk by Bob Price exploring the enigmatic country Nepal. £2.

### 'The battle of the Atlantic'

21 October, 2.30pm, Church House, Grafton Road  
Illustrated talk by Robert Skelt. £2.

### 'Sahara Marathon'

18 November, 2.30pm, Church House, Grafton Road  
Illustrated talk by Celia Hargrave. £2.

### Christmas lunch

16 December, 12pm, Matchams Restaurant, Everyman Theatre  
Delicious meal of two or three courses.  
Price tba. Guests welcome.



### Victoria Branch update

Two long-serving members retired from the Victoria Branch Council at the AGM on 25 May: Ned Mahoney and Jane Teasdale. Jane, who has been a ROSL member since 1959, is

pictured receiving a certificate from Branch Chairman Jason Ronald OAM.  
Branch members also attended The Queen's Birthday Church Service at St George's

Malvern on 7 June, at which Jason Ronald read the Lesson. At the AGM, the guest speaker, Dr Ron Webster, spoke very eloquently about the ANZAC centenary.

## WWI POET

'REMEMBER ME AND SMILE, AS SMILING TOO, I HAVE REMEMBERED THINGS THAT WENT THEIR WAY.' FROM CHARLOTTE MEW'S POEM 'A FAREWELL'. (SEE TAUNTON).



### Edinburgh

**Frank Sinatra: Man, Music and the Mafia**  
5 September, 10am, Over-Seas House  
Coffee morning and talk by John Ramsay.  
£3.

**Scottish Caribbean history**  
3 October, 10am, Over-Seas House  
Talk by Prof Geoffrey Palmer.  
£3.

**History of Craiglockhart Hospital during WWI**  
7 November, 10am, Over-Seas House  
With Catherine Walker, Curator at Napier War Poets' Collection.  
£3.

### Exeter

**Lecture and lunch**  
25 September, 11.30am, City Gate Hotel, EX4  
Talk by Gemma Matthews, ROSL Director of Marketing, with two-course lunch.  
Email [rosl.west@gmail.com](mailto:rosl.west@gmail.com) for details. Members, guests and those interested in joining are welcome.

**A Waterloo miscellany**  
30 October, 11.30am, City Gate Hotel, EX4  
Talk by Sally Roberts exploring the impact of the Battle of Waterloo and the personalities involved, with two-course lunch and coffee.  
Email [rosl.west@gmail.com](mailto:rosl.west@gmail.com) for details. Guests welcome.

**Lecture and lunch**  
27 November, City Gate Hotel, EX4 3RB  
Two-course lunch with talk.  
Email [rosl.west@gmail.com](mailto:rosl.west@gmail.com) for details. Guests welcome.

### Glasgow

**'Trials and tribulations of a tour guide'**  
16 October, 2pm, The Western Club  
Jean Tait shares the amusing experiences of her career.  
For details, call +44 (0)141 884 6342. All ROSL members and guests welcome. Free.

**Christmas lunch**  
11 December, 12.30pm, The Western Club  
Guest speaker tba.

Call +44 (0)141 884 6342 for details. All ROSL members and guests welcome.

### Taunton

**Weekly coffee morning**  
2, 9, 16, 23, 30 September  
14, 21, 28 October  
11, 18, 25 November, 10.30am, Miles at The Riverside  
Informal gathering. Buy your own refreshments and then find the group upstairs.  
Members, guests and those interested in joining welcome.

**'Women Poets of WWI'**  
7 October, 11.30am, Somerset College  
Talk by Audrey Ardern-Jones, Chair of the Arts Forum at the Royal Marsden, with two-course lunch.  
Guests welcome. £14.50.

**Lecture and lunch**  
4 November, 11.30am, Somerset College  
Talk on the Beacon Centre at Musgrove Park Hospital, with two-course lunch.  
Guests welcome. £14.50.

**'Order, Order!'**  
2 December, 11.30am, Somerset College  
Talk by George Jones, former Political Editor of *The Telegraph*, with two-course lunch.  
Guests welcome. £14.50.

### West Cornwall

**Musical social evening**  
24 September, 7.15pm, Trevethoe House, Lelant  
Music from Djazz Celtica with a light, finger buffet and drinks.  
Call +44 (0)1736 333460 to attend. Guests welcome. £6.

**'The Gambia'**  
15 October, 2.45pm, Carbis Bay Hotel  
Talk by Margaret Mackintosh with Cornish cream tea.  
Call +44 (0)1736 333460 to attend. Guests welcome. £6.

**'Iraq'**  
19 November, 2.45pm, Carbis Bay Hotel  
Talk by Maj Gen Roddy Porter with Cornish cream tea.  
Call +44 (0)1736 333460 to attend. Guests welcome. £6.

**'Tales of Kenya'**  
17 December, 2.45pm, Carbis Bay Hotel  
Talk by Bob and Sue Harrison with Cornish cream tea.  
Call +44 (0)1736 333460 by 15 December to attend. Guests welcome. £6.

### West Sussex

**Branch lunch**  
7 October, 12.30pm, Windsor Hotel, Windsor Road, Worthing  
Two-course lunch with coffee.  
Call +44 (0)1444 458 853 for details. Members £18.50; guests £19.50.

**Branch lunch**  
4 November, 12.30pm, Windsor Hotel, Windsor Road, Worthing  
Meeting including two-course lunch with coffee.  
Call +44 (0)1444 458 853 for details. Members £18.50; guests £19.50.

**Christmas Lunch**  
2 December, 12.30pm, Windsor Hotel, Windsor Road, Worthing  
Three-course Christmas lunch and fundraising raffle.  
Call +44 (0)1444 458 853 for details. Guests welcome. Price tba.

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## A DIFFERENT KIND OF MEMBERS' CLUB

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## Meet Neil Milne

### ROSL TAUNTON'S NEW BRANCH SECRETARY

'My neighbour, June Herbert, suggested I join ROSL as she knew I had an interest in arts and music and visited London regularly. Last autumn, I spotted a notice in *Overseas* that the Taunton Branch was looking for a new secretary and I formally took on the role at the AGM in April.

My background is in governance both in the civil service and local government, providing advice with, I hope, a common-sense approach to ensure things get done.

Since joining ROSL, I have been struck by how friendly and supportive everyone has been. The Taunton Branch's success was demonstrated at The Queen's Birthday lunch, when the Chairman presented a £1,000 cheque to this year's chosen charity. The branch has a good variety of options for members: coffee mornings, outings, an annual trip to London, and lunches with an interesting range of guest speakers.



Neil Milne (right) with June Herbert and Branch Chairman Maurice Powell.

I am very keen to increase our membership, keep the branch active, and ensure that everyone continues to enjoy being a ROSL member in Taunton.'

1. Prize position: Alexander Soares's winning performance at the 2015 ROSL Annual Music Competition Final. 2. Supporting talent: 2015 finalist Michael Buchanan performs.

£3,371

THE AMOUNT RAISED FOR ROSL HUMANITARIAN PROJECTS IN THE FIRST FIVE MONTHS OF THE YEAR VIA VOLUNTARY £1 ADD-ONS TO BEDROOM BILLS.

## A MUSICAL LEGACY

How a generous legacy from ROSL member Khurshed Bhumgara will enable ROSL to give more support than ever to its prizewinners

The ROSL Annual Music Competition traces its origins to a series of concerts inaugurated in 1947, featuring outstanding young musicians from the UK and the Commonwealth. Since then, the generous support of ROSL members has enabled it to grow steadily in scope and prestige.

Since the turn of the century, donations and legacies have enabled ROSL ARTS to transform the concert room at Over-Seas House London and purchase a Steinway concert grand piano. Thanks to the Centenary

Appeal, launched in 2010, the endowment fund for ROSL music awards and scholarships has grown sixfold, and now supports musicians with more than £70,000 annually.

The Centenary Appeal funds are held within the ROSL Golden Jubilee Trust (GJT), which has now been further enhanced by a substantial legacy from ROSL member Khurshed Bhumgara with the wish that it be used to endow the First Prize of the Annual Music Competition. This is to be given in memory of his mother Mani Bhumgara, who lived in London and also greatly enjoyed ROSL membership.

Mr Bhumgara was born and educated in London where he trained as a concert pianist. He subsequently graduated with a business degree from Rutgers University and a law degree from Columbia University, and became an attorney. He retired in 2002 from a successful career in capital



Pictures © James McCormick

and real estate development, and was a discerning patron of music and the arts.

This legacy will enable ROSL ARTS to raise the First Prize and the two main Ensemble Awards from £10,000 to £15,000 in 2016, and will support a Wigmore Hall concert. This increase in prize money will consolidate the competition's position as one of the most valuable in the UK, comparable with many major international competitions.

### MAKING A BEQUEST

Making a bequest to the ROSL Centenary Appeal (GJT) is a wonderful way to ensure that future generations can experience the inspiration and enjoyment provided by gifted young musicians at the outset of their musical careers. Bequests can be made in memory of a family member or close friend, for an Annual Music Competition prize or scholarship dedicated to a particular instrumental or vocal discipline, or for a musician from a specific Commonwealth country.

It is simple to include a legacy to ROSL in your will, and gifts can be made as a specified sum of money, a proportion of your residual estate, or more specific items of property. If you already have a will, you can easily add a codicil making a change.

“ This will consolidate the competition's position as one of the most valuable in the UK



## Mairi Radcliff AN APPRECIATION

We are sad to report the recent death of long-serving Life Member Mairi Radcliff, who joined ROSL in 1953 and was a member of the Twentieth Century Group, which

was formed in the 1940s for younger members. In 1985, Mairi was elected to the Central Council and served for various terms until 2001. Her service to the League didn't

end there, as she was also a very active and innovative chair of the London Group during the 1990s.

I will remember Mairi with affection and admiration, and I am sure this will be true for many ROSL members.  
**Robert Newell CVO**



## A big thank you to ROSL members

DONATIONS FROM MEMBERS HAVE REACHED AN ALL TIME HIGH, REPORTS MARGARET ADRIAN-VALLANCE

Due to the generosity of members, more than £15,000 was raised for ROSL Humanitarian Projects between January and May: £12,164 from member donations and £3,371 from the voluntary £1 add-on to bedroom bills. Additional income has come from Gift Aid and interest earned on the wonderful legacy from Dr Donald Valentine which, at his request, is to be used for the ROSL-Namibia Project alone.

At the June Central Council meeting, ROSL Chairman Simon Ward said that he hoped to see further development of the club's humanitarian work. It was agreed that this had been organised in a most cost effective way since 1993. Funds raised each year from thousands of generous

members had gone directly to projects and there had been no salary costs for the first 20 years. No member donations had been used for monitoring visits or travel costs.

Donors will be pleased to know how much their educational support is appreciated. In May, Maria Kiliana, a fourth year Education student at Namibia University wrote: 'From all of us we pledge to work hard and be competent teachers, and also help Namibian children unleash their dreams by giving them the best education... No semantic phrase can express the joy that has filled us, thus we say thank you a billion times, Royal Over-Seas League.'

In October, the Chairman and Director-General hope to visit Kenya, Namibia and northern Botswana to get a closer understanding of ROSL projects there. They will meet our long-standing Namibian partners, and alumni in the Omaheke, Windhoek and Tsumkwe bush schools that ROSL supports. We then plan to cross the border to meet representatives from the Trust for Okavango Cultural and Development Initiatives, and see nearby wells and other social enterprise projects that we support.

Travel in these remote areas is a challenge and I am grateful to Paul

Oosthuizen, former Principal of Grootfontein Secondary School, for his advice.

In July, it was good to see ROSL members Mark Bensberg, Ambassador to the Ivory Coast and former High Commissioner to Namibia, and his wife Jackie, while they stayed at ROSL. Mark helped facilitate travel arrangements for two alumni to visit the UK for the ROSL centenary celebrations in 2010, and we look forward to catching up with them in October.

### FURTHER DETAILS

For information about leaving a legacy, email [mvallance@rosl.gov.uk](mailto:mvallance@rosl.gov.uk).

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# The colour OF SOUND

Acclaimed visual artist and concert pianist Di Bresciani discusses her life's work and continuing support for emerging talent at her first exhibition at Over-Seas House

WORDS CHRISTINE WILDE  
PICTURES JAMES MCCORMICK

**M**eeting talented, global artists and musicians is one of the perks of writing for *Overseas*.

However, they rarely embody ROSL's ethos to the same extent as Di Bresciani. A professional concert pianist with a doctorate in music and psychology, as well as a celebrated artist, teacher and founder of the Youth Music Foundation of Australia (YMF), Di has dedicated herself to art, music and helping others excel in these areas.

We were first introduced at the private view of her latest exhibition, 'New Compositions in Colour'. The Central Lounge hummed with conversation as members and guests took their first opportunity to absorb the bright paintings beaming from the white walls. During the evening, Di welcomed new acquaintances and loved ones with the same effortless

warmth, introducing them to the works she had selected and revelling in their reactions. "It's a lovely club to be a member of and I meet interesting people here too," she says when I meet her a few days later in the Duke of York Bar. "My husband Lino and I have been made to feel very welcome."

Having achieved success as both an artist and a musician, how does Di see herself today? "I have played the piano for more than 70 years, so I view myself as a musician, but I have always been an artist as well. My formal training is in music, and I adore music, but I always wanted to draw and paint."

As a young child, she would hear her brother, who was 14 years older, play the piano as she went to bed every night and woke up every morning. "Later, I knew how Mozart, Beethoven and Chopin should sound because I had been hearing them since I was little." She went on to

attend the Methodist Ladies College in Melbourne on a music scholarship. She took art lessons after school and developed her technique by copying famous paintings.

Even after establishing herself as a prodigious pianist, Di was keen to follow her interest in visual arts. In the 1980s, she decided to help a young artist who was mentally ill by organising an exhibition in Melbourne, capitalising on the name she had made for herself as a pianist by including her own paintings in the show. "It was very happy and successful for each of us, and I haven't stopped since," she explains.

"I trained constantly, reading, studying. I worked briefly with a few well-known masters who taught me not to be afraid of the edges of the canvas and how to achieve a glow by putting similar colours together to create movement. I spent some time in Paris and was fortunate enough



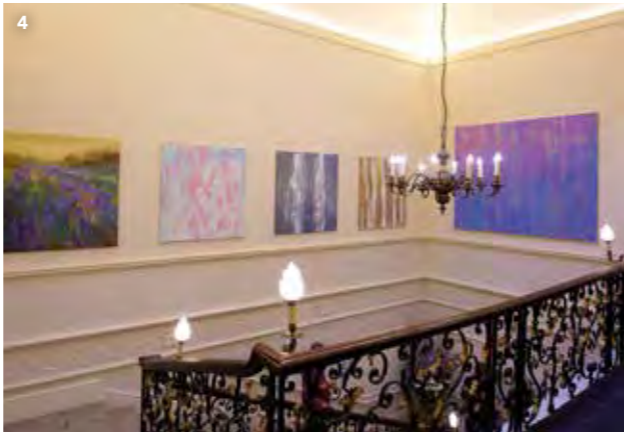
to go to a print room in Notre Dame where Matisse and Picasso had worked and learnt some of the processes that Degas used for pastelling.”

Although she loves working with pastels, Di is known for her work with oils on fine linen. “I have gradually discovered that, by using linen, I can add layers to create a thin mist that looks like it is floating in front of the canvas. I became very inspired by these effects. ‘Pink Haze’ is like that. The front is ghostly; it starts to move. I am enamoured with colour and beautiful effects that can suggest something marvellous and timeless. It’s not portraying anything particular, but it takes you to a mental state and transports you to another plane.”

I tell her how ‘Last Light’ (pictured on our cover), a large canvas depicting a sunset at sea, with burnt oranges, reds and yellows holding back the encroaching twilight, reminds me of gazing out at the English Channel at dusk in my hometown, Plymouth. She smiles: “I paint from memory, photos and experience. Works such as ‘Last Light’ are based on moments I have experienced many times in Australia and New Zealand. With those scenes I recall suddenly feeling very comforted, because I was surrounded by nature.”

So how did her background in music inform her painting? “I have a favourite quote from Van Gogh: ‘I want to paint the way music makes me feel.’ I want to give you the same kind of elation I feel when listening to a wonderful sonata. However, I’m not interested in transcribing sounds, pitches and chords onto canvas, as I think the effect of an overall work is different from the notes and scales that make it up. Paul Klee was obsessed with transcribing elements of music into paint but, to me, they don’t have the uplifting power of a work that is *for itself*, rather than trying to imitate music,” she says. “I’m highly analytical: when I’m listening to music, I really listen and if I’m listening I can’t paint. Musical elements come into my painting unconsciously.”

ROSL members for more than 25 years, Di and Lino have collaborated



1. Private view: Members admire Di’s artwork at Over-Seas House. 2. Speech: Alexander Downer, Australian High Commissioner. 3. Talking point: D-G Roddy Porter speaks to Younger Members Anjola and Funke Adeniyi. 4. Timeless: Di’s works at the top of the Gibbs staircase.



with ROSL in the past, often hosting performances by visiting musicians at their Melbourne home. However, this was her first exhibition at the London clubhouse. “It has been extraordinary to see my work in a building that is more than 200 years old. They’re very modern pieces but they look like they’re meant to be here. It is great to go up the Gibbs staircase and see ‘The Eternal Choir’ – thousands of androgynous people moving towards a glorious white light,” she says. “It’s very rewarding to be showing here because ROSL promotes and fosters music and arts internationally. Part of the income from the sale of my work will go towards ROSL visual arts scholarships encouraging emerging artists in Commonwealth countries, which is what my life is about.”

Di established YMF to facilitate performance opportunities and overseas study for young Australians. “My brother was a pianist but when he went to study in Melbourne he felt highly displaced. It’s a common issue: artists and musicians who are recognised and supported in a small

place travel overseas and often struggle to adjust. I know how psychologically harmful this can be, so I set up the YMF to help young people find a place to practise and live, meet teachers and build networks.” That was more than 30 years ago and it still supports numerous young musicians every year.

As our interview draws to a close, I wonder what advantages Di feels the Commonwealth element of ROSL offers to young musicians. “I think the arts and music are a tremendous way to enjoy the universal language between people from different countries. Connecting musicians and showcasing artists here and around the world is something ROSL does wonderfully. It gives them an opportunity that they might not have otherwise had. I feel very grateful to have a wonderfully interesting and fulfilling life. Music and art are something very beautiful to share.”

**FURTHER READING**

*Di Bresciani: Compositions in colour* (2013) is published by MacMillan Art.

**HONOUR & SUPPORT**

**1988**  
Di established the Youth Music Foundation of Australia. 1982 ROSL prizewinner Piers Lane is its International Patron (see [www.ymfaustralia.com](http://www.ymfaustralia.com)).

**2013**  
She was awarded OAM for her contributions to music, the visual arts and the community.

**2014**  
Ji Won Kim violin, Michael Dahlenburg cello and Hoang Pham piano formed Trio Bresciani in her honour.

Q&A

# Christine Lee

CHRISTINE WILDE MEETS THE SCULPTOR, WRITER AND ROSL MEMBER, WHOSE AUTOBIOGRAPHY FOCUSES ON THE RELATIONSHIP SHE HAD WITH HER SISTER JENNIFER WORTH, AUTHOR OF *CALL THE MIDWIFE*

**WHAT INSPIRED YOU TO WRITE YOUR MEMOIRS?**

I was very upset when my sister (Jennifer Worth) died, so I started to make sculpture about us as children, trying to understand why we weren’t closer as adults. They looked just like us but I couldn’t think why they seemed wrong. After a few weeks I realised and jammed them together: suddenly there was my sister with her arms around me looking out into the world and me with my head down, being protected. I carried on thinking about our early lives and slowly started to understand our relationship.

I have written all my life, especially when anything great or terrible happened, so I started going back through my writing, trying to fit it together like a mosaic. The television

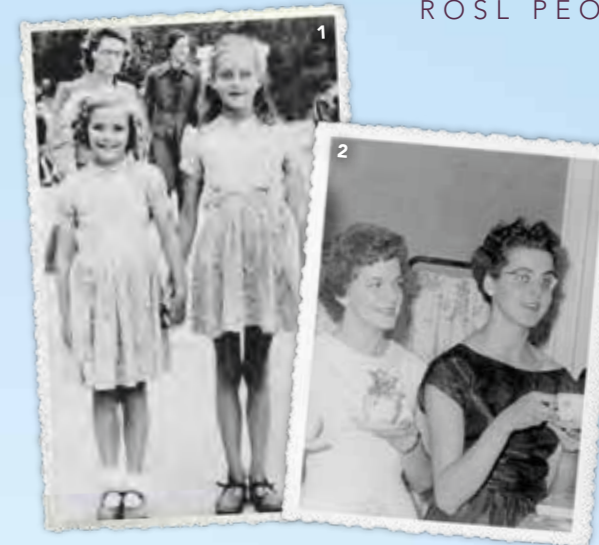
show *Call the Midwife* was not projecting my sister as she really was, so I contacted Jennifer’s first publisher who was very interested in what I’d written and encouraged me to continue.

**DID YOU HAVE TO DO MUCH RESEARCH FOR THE BOOK?**

I had lots of photograph albums and could mentally walk around the houses I’d lived in to remember what had happened there. I spoke to my mother’s old friends, my children and Jennifer’s youngest daughter. She thought it was wonderful that I was writing the truth; an honest appraisal of our lives.

**WHAT IMPACT DID REVISITING THE PAST HAVE ON YOU?**

I hadn’t realised how much my parents splitting up had affected me.



Writing about the period of my childhood from when they re-married up until I was 21 was particularly difficult and often painful. It made me wish that I had been able to talk about it with my sister.

**YOU AND JENNIFER WERE VERY DIFFERENT. WHY DO YOU THINK THAT WAS?**

She was the eldest and always in charge. We went through a lot of unpleasantness when our parents divorced and she thought it was her duty to protect me. However, we were both courageous, honest and creative. We were influenced by our father, who became successful after leaving home at 14, and our maternal grandmother,

who had a very modern outlook on life for her generation.

**WHAT DO YOU THINK JENNIFER WOULD HAVE MADE OF THE SUCCESS OF *CALL THE MIDWIFE*?**

I think she would have been pleased with the beginning of it. When it first came out it felt very true to the period and was very clever. The later series are too modern for my taste.

**WHAT IS NEXT FOR YOU?**

There were a lot of stories that I had to leave out, so I’ve continued writing and hope to publish a second book. I have also recently completed another piece of sculpture.



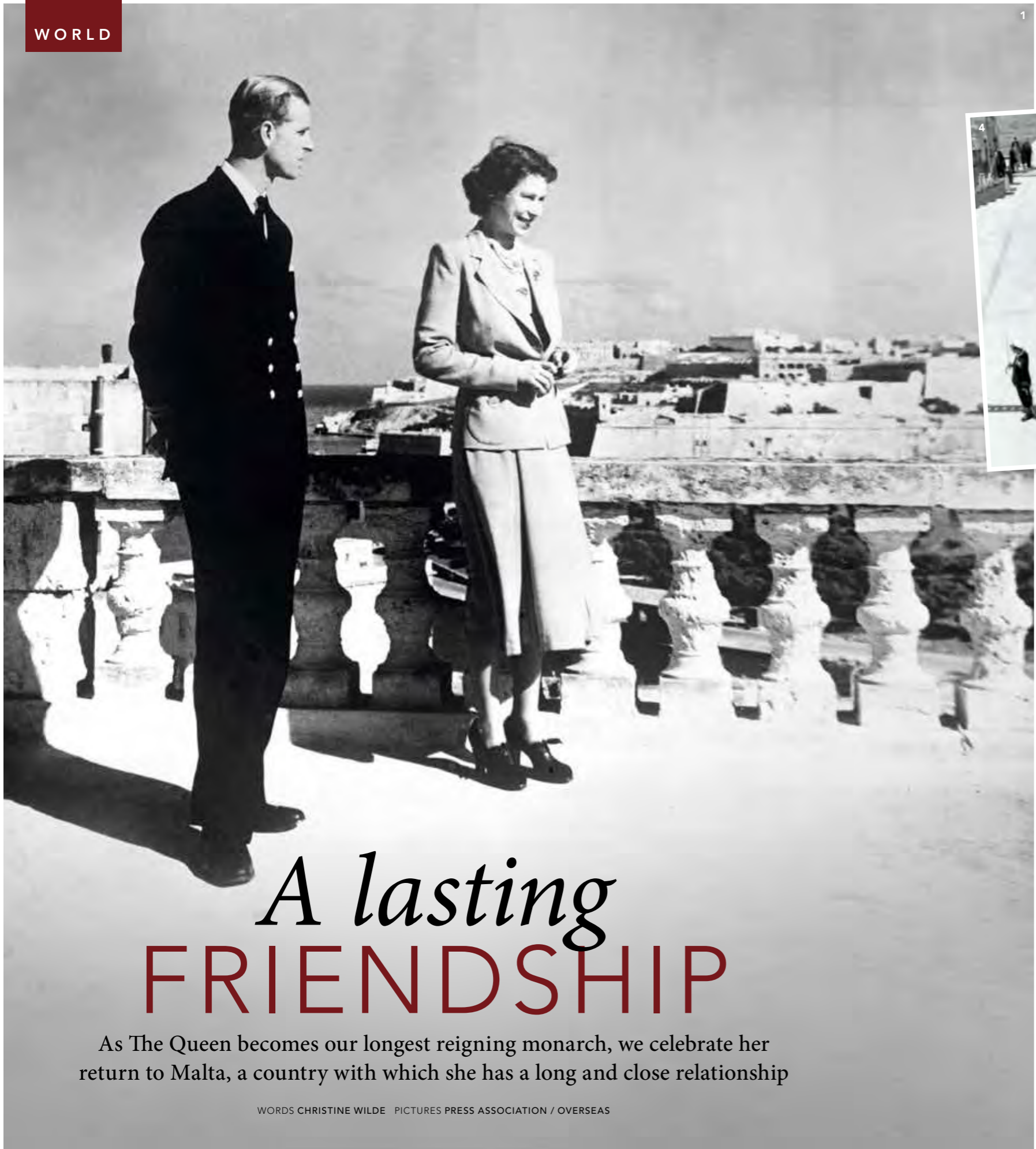
1. Christine and Jennifer at Clacton-on-Sea in 1943. 2. The sisters at a hospital dance in 1959. 3. Christine (r) with her friend Valerie Fursey at ROSL’s Lords afternoon tea in July 2014.

Pictures © Christine Lee



**MEET THE AUTHOR**

Christine Lee will speak about her book, *The Midwife’s Sister*, at Over-Seas House London on 22 September. See page 45.



# A lasting FRIENDSHIP

As The Queen becomes our longest reigning monarch, we celebrate her return to Malta, a country with which she has a long and close relationship

WORDS CHRISTINE WILDE PICTURES PRESS ASSOCIATION / OVERSEAS



ROYAL VISIT TO GOZO.  
H.R.H. Princess Elizabeth visited the island of Gozo, during her most recent stay in Malta. She is seen watching a Gozitan woman manipulating the bobbin used in the making of pillow-type lace. H.R.H. The Duke of Edinburgh is on the left, and next to him may be seen the Rt. Hon. G. Borg Olivier, Prime Minister of Malta.  
(Photo: "The Times of Malta.")

In November, Queen Elizabeth II and Prince Philip will attend the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) in Malta, with Prince Charles, Prince William and Prince George. It will be the first time that Her Majesty and her three heirs have travelled abroad together.

The Queen has a close relationship with the Maltese people, to whom her father, King George VI, awarded the George Cross in 1942 for their heroism during WWII. From 1949 to 1952, Prince Philip was stationed on the archipelago as a serving Royal Naval officer with the Mediterranean Fleet.

The Queen, then Princess Elizabeth, visited him regularly and spent several months in Villa Guardamangia. Here in Pietà, on the outskirts of Valletta, the newlywed couple were able to lead a comparatively 'normal' life, away from the spotlight of the British media. It was during this time that Prince Philip developed his passion for polo.

Her Majesty became Malta's Head of State when she inherited the throne in

1952 and remained so until 1974, when Malta became a republic within the Commonwealth. She has visited on multiple occasions.

The young Prince Charles and Princess Anne accompanied their mother in May 1954 on her first official visit following her coronation. HM The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh returned in 1967, three years after Maltese independence, and were met with an ecstatic welcome from crowds lining the streets of Valletta. Their visit in May 1992 was also met with great enthusiasm.

The Queen's fondness for the island nation was typified in her speech before CHOGM 2005 in Malta, when she expressed her affection for the "outgoing, generous Maltese people who have always offered us the hand of friendship". It was fitting that on 20 November 2007, The Queen and Prince Philip flew back to their former home for their diamond wedding anniversary, joining other celebrating couples in the Upper Barrakka Gardens.

## THE STORY IN PICTURES

**25 November 1949**  
1. Princess Elizabeth looks over Valletta from the roof of Villa Guardamangia with the Duke of Edinburgh, who was serving as First Lieutenant aboard HMS Chequers.

**April 1951**  
2. Princess Elizabeth and the Duke of Edinburgh watch a local craftswoman make lace during a visit to the island of Gozo. The Prime Minister of Malta, Giorgio Borg Olivier, stands between them.

**5 May 1954**  
3. Queen Elizabeth holds Princess Anne by the hand, while Countess Mountbatten holds Prince Charles, as they walk to the saddling enclosure at the Marsa polo grounds where Prince Philip was playing for the Navy against the Army in the Rundle Cup.

**May 1954**  
4. The Queen inspects the naval Guard of Honour at the Royal Navy Station at Hal Far during a tour of the Commonwealth.

**28 May 1992**  
5. Queen Elizabeth II smiles at the crowd during a walkabout in the centre of Valletta.

**20 November 2007**  
6. The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh talk to other couples celebrating their diamond wedding anniversary during a visit to the Upper Barrakka Gardens in Valletta.



# FOR THE COMMON GOOD

As our leaders prepare for the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in Malta, ROSL President Lord Luce discusses the future of the organisation, its continuing importance today and The Queen's devotion to it



Membership of the Royal Over-Seas League gives us all a common – and special – link with our friends in the Commonwealth. We have branches around the world, as well as exciting educational projects. The Commonwealth Secretary-General and all Commonwealth High Commissioners are honorary members. It is therefore highly appropriate that I have been able to meet a small group of parliamentarians and experts at Over-Seas House in the last year to think outside the box about the future of the Commonwealth.

Above all, The Queen is our Patron. She has of course been Head of the Commonwealth for more than 60 years, and becomes the longest reigning monarch this autumn.

As Lord Chamberlain of Her Majesty's Household, I was able to witness at first hand just how devoted she has been to this exciting concept. She has made more than 150 visits to Commonwealth countries and attended almost

every Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM). I can testify to the immense commitment she shows to the people of the Commonwealth, as she promised in her speech in Cape Town, aged 21. I was often present when she met citizens of the Commonwealth, old and young, and saw her interest and warmth shine through.

Her memory of Commonwealth visits is phenomenal. And she has always been supported in this task by the Duke of Edinburgh and other members of the royal family. The Prince of Wales ably represented The Queen at CHOGM 2013 in Sri Lanka and will join her again in Malta.

### Shared values

Yet what does the Commonwealth mean to us as individuals? All Commonwealth countries have signed the Charter, which enshrines commitments to a common language and aspirations for good governance, the rule of law, freedom of the media, respect for human rights and economic growth.

1. **Mobile support:** A woman in Tamil Nadu learns about goat rearing via the Commonwealth of Learning.
2. **High notes:** The Commonwealth Youth Orchestra.
3. **Launch event:** The Queen's Young Leaders (QYL) programme.
4. **Royal support:** QYL participants arrive at Buckingham Palace.
5. **Hero's welcome:** David Beckham talks to young people at the QYL launch.
6. **Commonwealth Class:** Children learn about the Commonwealth.
7. **Aspirational:** Young leaders.
8. **Growth:** The Commonwealth of Learning's Lifelong Learning for Farmers initiative.

Our membership covers one fifth of the land of this world and includes more than 2 billion people. It embraces a cross section from the Pacific to Africa to the Caribbean, big states and small, rich and poor, following many beliefs and religions. We could not invent the Commonwealth now if it did not exist already. It is a family of nations with a common history. It sits there as an opportunity. It is up to us in all Commonwealth countries to decide whether we take advantage of our family links. As the Charter states, it is all about the people.

But we cannot take that opportunity if we are ignorant of what the Commonwealth offers. So we, as grandparents and parents, must urge schools to introduce our Commonwealth history to students. And we now have an exciting chance to make this practical through something called Commonwealth Class. The British Council, BBC and Commonwealth Secretariat have launched this initiative to promote understanding of Commonwealth

citizenship among 7-14 year olds, reaching more than 100,000 schools. Modern technology has given us this new chance to strengthen the link between peoples of the Commonwealth. Imagine the networking that we can do between schools, for example providing personal contact between a British and a Zambian school via Skype.

### For the people

There are around 90 professional Commonwealth bodies and masses of other civil society organisations that give us a chance to explore our expertise with our friends in the 53 Commonwealth countries. The Association of Commonwealth Universities gives academics and students an opportunity to link up with Commonwealth universities. The new Commonwealth Enterprise and Investment Council was recently launched to encourage business and trade. The Commonwealth Press Union meets to exchange views about how to maintain and build a free press. The Commonwealth

### FUTURE LEADERS

240 leaders of the future will be created over four years through the Queen Elizabeth Diamond Jubilee Trust's new programme for 18-29 year olds.



Youth Orchestra, of which I was the first president, gives musicians a chance to play and work together. Judges and lawyers can compare notes and experiences through the Commonwealth Magistrates' and Judges' Association. And so it goes on through every facet of life from architects, dentists and the Rotary to novelists and pharmacists.

New technology provides us with the means to link together as people. For example, the Commonwealth of Learning, financed largely by governments, use distance learning to promote education and training. They have a Lifelong Learning for Farmers programme and a Virtual University for Small States.

All this shows that the Commonwealth can flourish through people-to-people contact. It does not depend on governments. But it is essential that political leaders of the Commonwealth give a lead and provide the framework for cooperation between people.

That is why CHOGM in Malta this November is so important.

It is an opportunity for the leaders to recommit themselves to the Commonwealth Charter and to inspire greater dialogue among all of us in a very vulnerable world. The Prime Minister of Malta, Joseph Muscat, is committed to this and we wish him well. ROSL Chairman Simon Ward and Director-General Roddy Porter will participate in the Commonwealth People's Forum, which runs alongside CHOGM. As the great Jawaharlal Nehru, the first Prime Minister of India, once said, the Commonwealth can deal with problems with a "touch of healing".

I would be particularly interested to hear the views of ROSL members and how you feel that we can contribute to the contact between all of us in the Commonwealth.

*ROSL President Lord Luce KG GCVO is High Steward of Westminster Abbey. During his distinguished career, he has been a Government Minister, Governor of Gibraltar and Lord Chamberlain to The Queen.*



# YOUNG HOPE

A young population may be the Commonwealth's greatest asset, says Katherine Ellis, which is why it needs to empower and invest in its 1.3 billion young people

Young people aged 29 or under make up more than 60% of the Commonwealth's population of 2.2 billion – that's around 1.3 billion young people. In some of the 53 member countries, particularly in Africa, this proportion rises to more than 70%.

This significant demographic can be an enormous advantage – or 'demographic dividend' – to countries that invest in their young people's development and empowerment, or conversely can pose a huge risk where young people are ignored or marginalised.

In 2015, we celebrate the theme 'A Young Commonwealth' in recognition of the capacity, contribution and potential of young people.

The Commonwealth Youth Programme (CYP), focused on the social, political and economic empowerment of young people, has been delivering support to member countries since it was established in 1973.

In my work as Head of the Commonwealth Secretariat's Youth Division, I regularly meet young people who are passionate about strengthening their societies, driving development and championing democracy. Many of them are already leading from the front, such as the heroic young health workers in Sierra Leone who put their lives on the line in the struggle to contain the Ebola epidemic. Yet far too often young people are excluded from participating

Main image: World Conference on Youth. Inset: Young people discuss obstacles to empowerment at the 2015 Commonwealth Youth Awards

in the decisions that determine not just their own fate but that of the world they will soon inherit.

### Watershed year

This year is a watershed year for young people. The new Sustainable Development Goals will be agreed and adopted by the United Nations in September, defining how the world approaches global development for the next 15 years and mobilises multilateral, governmental and private sector resources. For the past two years, the Commonwealth has



advocated for a stronger recognition of young people in this important framework.

We have also led the development of the ground-breaking Youth Development Index, launched in 2013, to track the development of young people in 170 countries around the world. This information is key to instigating effective long-term policies to unleash young people's potential and contribution to national development.

On a practical level, we engage and empower young leaders and promote their participation in government processes – for example, setting up opportunities to interact with ministers and heads of government so that they can relay their experiences and advocate for policy decisions that affect their lives and livelihoods. We will see this in action when the Commonwealth Youth Forum takes place on the eve of the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in November.



PEOPLE AGED 15-24 ARE ALMOST THREE TIMES MORE LIKELY THAN THEIR ELDERLY TO BE UNEMPLOYED, WITH ALMOST 74 MILLION LOOKING FOR WORK IN 2014.

The CYP also supports many youth networks and platforms that allow young people to have a voice. The Commonwealth Youth Council, the Commonwealth Youth Climate Change Network, and the Commonwealth Youth Sport for Development and Peace Working Group (CYSDP) are all driven by young experts in their fields, who contribute to policy on an international stage.

We unite and amplify young voices through networks and meetings, as well as through the blog [YourCommonwealth.org](http://YourCommonwealth.org), where aspiring writers and journalists can share their opinions and ideas about local, regional and international events or issues. Investing in these networks is imperative to gain a youth perspective.

### Challenges ahead

Make no mistake, challenges to global youth development are many and multifaceted. According to the International Labour Organisation (ILO), people aged 15-24 are almost three times more likely than their elders to be unemployed, with almost 74 million looking for work in 2014.

We are firm about creating opportunities for young people to gain meaningful employment, which is why we encourage youth entrepreneurship throughout the Commonwealth. Entrepreneurs are job creators, a catalyst for lifting many people out of a life of poverty, and a vital key to future national prosperity.

We have supported the creation of Commonwealth youth entrepreneur networks across Asia, the Caribbean and Africa. The first Asian chapter of the Commonwealth Alliance of Young Entrepreneurs was launched in 2011. Since then it has facilitated trade among its membership worth more than US\$1 million; advocated to youth and education ministers about entrepreneurship systems and education; and partnered with the ILO and World Bank to mentor young entrepreneurs.

It is a sad truth that young people are more likely to be pushed out of their communities due to economic and political factors. If marginalised or

disenfranchised, and searching for a sense of identity and belonging, they are also more vulnerable to extremism.

The good news is that there is hope, personified by the brilliant young people making positive, sustainable change in our Commonwealth family. We celebrate these young change-makers and shine a light on their inspiring development work through our annual Commonwealth Youth Awards, showcasing their capabilities to government leaders and inspiring other young people to act.

The winner for 2015, 25-year-old Julius Shirima from Tanzania, founded a micro-venture capital fund and network to help young businesspeople turn enterprising concepts into profitable ventures. Thousands of young people in Tanzania have been empowered as a result of his efforts.

At the age of 16, Gulalai Ismail, Asia Region Commonwealth Youth Winner 2015, established a women-led organisation in Pakistan to educate girls about human rights and political participation, and to empower them to challenge domestic abuse and child marriage. These outstanding young people are proof of the capacity and contribution of this new generation.

Young people know they have a key role to play in resolving many of the world's most complex problems, but only through consistent engagement and support can we help to create a better space for innovative thinking and sustainable practices.

### FURTHER DETAILS

See [thecommonwealth.org/our-work/youth](http://thecommonwealth.org/our-work/youth) for more information about the Commonwealth Youth Programme, or email [youth@commonwealth.int](mailto:youth@commonwealth.int) if you are interested in supporting youth development efforts.



© K Ellis



# A cultural EVOLUTION

Annaliza Borg looks at how Valletta is being transformed as it prepares to become the European Capital of Culture in 2018, and the wider implications for the arts in Malta

Since its foundation, Valletta has always served as Malta's artery for the arts and culture. Shortly after the Great Siege of 1565, the Knights of St John built the city from scratch, filling it with beautiful palaces and churches. Apart from bestowing it with rich baroque architecture, the knights also supplied works of art, such as Caravaggio's 'The Beheading of St John', found in St John's Co-Cathedral. They also introduced traditions such as carnival that are still celebrated to day.

The Maltese capital houses one of the oldest functioning theatres in Europe, and several art spaces and museums, but its status as a cultural hub has improved since 2012, when it was named the European Capital of Culture 2018.

Numerous steps have been taken to ensure that our culture and heritage are not only safeguarded but also developed further as Valletta gets ready for 2018. To make way for this cultural evolution, the Valletta 2018 Foundation has devised a cultural programme that is as diverse and interdisciplinary as possible, and aims to bring different communities together to celebrate the essence of Maltese art and culture.

### Regenerating 'The Gut'

A number of regeneration projects are transforming once disused or neglected areas of the city into vibrant creative hubs. One such area is Strait Street. Known as 'The Gut', the street was once infamous for its seedy music halls and

bordellos, but the life drained out of it after World War II when the sailors, who had been its primary clientele, left Malta.

As part of the run-up to 2018, Strait Street has been given a new breath of life, with the opening of wine bars and restaurants. This has led to a revival in the local culture scene, with a number of events and activities organised regularly.

“STEPS HAVE BEEN TAKEN TO ENSURE OUR CULTURE AND HERITAGE ARE NOT ONLY SAFEGUARDED BUT ALSO DEVELOPED FURTHER

Another site that is being revamped is the old civil abattoir il-Biċċerija. This will be the base for the Valletta Design Cluster, an initiative that will facilitate discussion for business development, legal support, collaboration and capacity building. The covered market is-Suq tal-Belt will also be getting the star treatment, with restoration works to the beautiful wrought iron structure. The building will have a number of food stalls as well as an area dedicated to cultural activities.

MUŻA, Malta's new National Museum of Fine Arts, will be located in Auberge d'Italie, one of the city's finest auberges (knights' houses). Built for the Order of Saint John in the 16th century, the building will be sympathetically renovated to become self-sustainable, relying solely on renewable energy.

### Why wait until 2018?

This autumn, residents and visitors to Valletta will be given a taste of the programmes to come, as Valletta 2018 showcases a number of exciting projects. VIVA (the Valletta International Visual Arts festival) will bring



a programme of exhibitions in September, while the Curatorial School will run a series of lectures aimed at cultural practitioners and students. Every October, the city is filled with people attending the cultural events of the Notte Bianca festival, organised by Arts Council Malta. This year, they will be invited to create traditional Maltese recipes with a modern twist for the L-Ikla t-Tajba (bon appétit) project.

### Developments nationwide

Although Valletta 2018 focuses on the capital, it does not restrict its reach solely to Valletta: the title of European Capital of Culture is

shared throughout Malta and Gozo. Among the cultural events that have been organised outside the capital is Qatt Ma Ninsa, a collective memory project in Gozo in which individuals are invited to tell their story by bringing relics, heirlooms or objects.



Valletta and the entire archipelago are gearing up for a memorable year in 2018, but the cultural revolution has already begun, and those interested in arts, culture and Malta's rich heritage are already reaping the benefits.

### FURTHER DETAILS

For more information about upcoming events, visit the official website of Valletta 2018: [www.valletta2018.org](http://www.valletta2018.org).

## THE CENTRE FOR CREATIVITY

Based in the 16th-century St James Cavalier, which forms part of the city walls of Valletta, Malta's National Centre for Creativity includes an intimate theatre, music rooms and multi-use spaces. Opened in 2000 following restoration work to the building, part of Malta's millennium programme, it aims to preserve an intangible cultural heritage that is not necessarily widely recognised as 'art'.

In the wake of several rapid developments, propelled by the prospect of Valletta becoming the European Capital of Culture in 2018, cultural awareness in Malta is growing and becoming more global in its outlook. The exchange of ideas between nations, which will happen at the much-anticipated World Summit on Arts and Culture 2016 in Valletta, enriches both the global and the Maltese community.

The national mindset swings between a desire to associate with the international community and a need to meet the challenges of Malta's own heritage and location. Maltese culture has developed according to its specific geographical, political, economic and religious concerns, including immigration, language and the limitations of resources and space. The Centre for Creativity seeks to address and promote a creative response to this context through a process of renewal and development, aided by collaborations with institutions and organisations from all sectors of society.

For more information about the Centre for Creativity, visit [www.sjcav.org](http://www.sjcav.org).

1. Future developments: A meeting to discuss St James Cavalier's strategic vision at the centre's theatre-in-the-round. 2. Celebration: The children's parade during the 2014 Ziguzajg festival, organised by St James Cavalier Centre for Creativity. 3. Cultural hub: The regenerated Strait Street, once known as 'The Gut' thanks to its seedy reputation. 4. Heritage trail: A local man relates his story as part of the Qatt Ma Ninsa initiative in Gozo.

# INSPIRATION RESOUNDS

*Alison Cox looks at 10 successful years of The Commonwealth Resounds! – a programme supporting young musicians and musical initiatives*

What goes around, comes around they say, and that is certainly true of The Commonwealth Resounds! (TCR). The organisation, which supports outstanding musical initiatives and musicians, was launched at the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) 2005 in Malta, and is celebrating its 10th anniversary back in Malta for CHOGM 2015.

What amazing memories we have already, particularly of our biennial international projects, which coincide with CHOGM. In 2005, the Commonwealth High Commissioners and Ministers sent us the Cyprus Symphony Orchestra, a steel ensemble from Trinidad, Ghanaian singer-songwriters, Maori musicians, Indian tablas and sitars, and a trio of young string players, enabling us to present spectacular cross-cultural gala concerts in Maltese theatres, hotels and schools.

Two years later, a Commonwealth Foundation Grant allowed us to run eight exciting partnership projects in Uganda with orphanages, childrens' choirs, flute and adungu-makers and local musicians, plus an orchestral/



choral performance in Namirembe Cathedral. Members of our team return to Uganda regularly to continue our work there, creating true resonance.

In 2009, four young Guyanese drummers joined us in Trinidad and Tobago, and then went on to set up a new drumming school for children in Guyana, inspired by our musical programme. We also created a unique 'Pianorama', for which 53 short piano pieces were composed – one from every Commonwealth country. There were follow-up performances in London and Edinburgh, thanks to ROSL support.

During the 2011 meeting in Perth, our young musicians were excited to meet contemporary didgeridoo players and to try the instrument for themselves. The Symphony Orchestra of Sri Lanka hosted our Commonwealth Festival Orchestra in 2013, alongside a special programme



## PANORPHEUS

One composer from each of the 53 Commonwealth countries is writing a short piece featuring either flutes or harps. These pieces will come together in one performance at the St James Cavalier Centre for Creativity for CHOGM 2015 in Malta.

of masterclasses and school outreach work, and a moving visit to an orphanage. Choirs were created in Sri Lanka as a result of our collaboration with Songbound.

Malta 2015 promises to be an important milestone. There will be a gala concert in collaboration with the Malta Philharmonic Orchestra, 53 new flute/harp pieces for our project 'Panorpheus', workshops, choral events and masterclasses in schools. We will welcome three brilliant ROSL musicians and the Commonwealth Festival Choir, who performed with us in Westminster Abbey at the Commonwealth Day Observance in March. So come and resound with us in Malta.

*Alison Cox OBE FRSA is Founder and Co-Director of The Commonwealth Resounds! [www.commonwealthresounds.com](http://www.commonwealthresounds.com)*



# Cynthia Turner's SLIEMA

## AS A CONCERT PIANIST, WHAT IS YOUR FAVOURITE VENUE IN MALTA?

Teatru Manoel in Valletta, where I performed regularly. The theatre was built by the Portuguese Grand Master of the Knights of Malta, António Manoel de Vilhena, and inaugurated in 1732.

It was in this theatre that the royal performance for Queen Elizabeth II took place in 1967. I performed the piano concerto by Francis Poulenc, which he had given to me personally in Paris and taught me some interesting

interpretations. Walking out on stage with my conductor, maestro Joseph Sammut, and seeing the blue diamond tiara worn by Her Majesty in the royal box, was a moment I will never forget. Malta is the island of happy memories for The Queen.

## CAN YOU TELL US A BIT ABOUT THE THREE PALACES FESTIVAL AND YOUR INVOLVEMENT WITH IT?

In 2013, the Parliamentary Secretary for Culture and Local

Government decided to open up Malta's three splendid and historical presidential palaces to audiences for a week of concerts. I was asked to establish this festival, which has given me great satisfaction ever since.

Our third festival starts in November and will include performances by Joaquin Achúcarro, the Nash Ensemble and Alexei Grynyuk, among others. Last year, we were pleased to welcome ROSL prizewinners [pianists] John Lenehan, Barry Douglas, Omri Epstein and [cellist] Jonathan Bloxham.

## WHAT IS YOUR FAVOURITE FEATURE OF MALTA'S RICH ARCHITECTURAL HERITAGE?

Our bastions in Valletta, which can be seen from Sliema, are a

favourite. The ancient walled city of Mdina is a gem, as is St John's Co-Cathedral, home to Caravaggio's 'The Beheading of St John the Baptist'.

## WHAT DO YOU ENJOY MOST ABOUT LIVING IN SLIEMA?

I have always lived here. It is a perfect swimming resort: Malta has wonderful mild winters and long warm summers, enabling us to swim in pristine waters for almost the entire year. We have a promenade along the sea which is quite special.

During the summer months, we have several *festas* with fireworks, let off from barges anchored in the bay. There are several good restaurants and cafes offering a wide variety of cuisines: my favourites are Chez Philip and Jerry's.

INTERVIEW BY CHRISTINE WILDE

*ROSL member Cynthia Turner is one of Malta's best-known pianists and sits on the Artistic Committee of the Three Palaces Festival.*



Main. Top attraction: Mdina. 1. A royal visit: Cynthia is presented to The Queen in 1967 after performing at Manoel Theatre. 2. Heritage: The medieval city of Mdina. 3. Concert space: Manoel Theatre. 4. Faith: St John's Co-Cathedral. 5. Memories: Cynthia and her husband Anthony Caruana on her 80th birthday.

# Diamond JUBILEE

Travel along the Jubilee Line from the clubhouse and discover some of the lesser-known attractions en route



Stanmore

Dollis Hill

Kilburn

Finchley Road

Swiss Cottage

St John's Wood

Baker Street

Green Park

Westminster

Bermondsey

Canary Wharf

North Greenwich

Canning Town

Stratford



STANMORE

Explore the story of the Battle of Britain at **Bentley Priory Museum** – the Grade II listed mansion that became the Headquarters of the Fighter Command during the Second World War.  
[bentleypriorymuseum.org.uk](http://bentleypriorymuseum.org.uk)  
Mansion House Drive, HA7 3HT; £9.



DOLLIS HILL

Buried below a sleepy suburb, **Churchill's Bunker** provided a top secret, bombproof alternative to Whitehall's War Rooms. Tours of this sparse but fascinating hideaway run twice a year and on demand.  
[bit.ly/1KTZnBj](http://bit.ly/1KTZnBj)  
Brook Road, NW2 7DZ; Free.



KILBURN

The intimate **Tricycle Theatre** is known for putting on thought-provoking and critically acclaimed works that reflect the cultural diversity of the local inner-city community.  
[www.tricycle.co.uk](http://www.tricycle.co.uk)  
Kilburn High Road, NW6 7JR; Prices vary.



FINCHLEY ROAD

Exhibitions at the dynamic **Camden Arts Centre** showcase emerging talent through artists' residencies and off-site projects, as well as internationally renowned contemporary artists.  
[www.camdenartscentre.org](http://www.camdenartscentre.org)  
Arkwright Road, NW3 6DG; Free.



SWISS COTTAGE

With a programme of ambitious performances, the intimate theatre at the **Royal Central School of Speech and Drama** offers a fantastic opportunity to watch up-and-coming actors hone their craft.  
[www.cssd.ac.uk/events](http://www.cssd.ac.uk/events)  
Eton Avenue, NW3 3HY; Prices vary.

## GREEN PARK

We have selected five attractions close to Green Park, the nearest stop to the clubhouse. But with so much to see nearby, it was no easy task.

1. Workshops and talks at the **Royal Institution of Great Britain** explore a range of scientific themes, while its (free) Faraday Museum examines world-changing discoveries over three floors ([www.rigb.org/visit-us](http://www.rigb.org/visit-us)).
2. **St James's Piccadilly** will be familiar to many members but did you know about its free lunchtime recitals every Monday, Wednesday and Friday ([www.sjp.org.uk/lunchtime-recitals](http://www.sjp.org.uk/lunchtime-recitals))?
3. **Apsley House**, home to the first Duke of Wellington, offers exquisite Georgian interiors and an exceptional art collection with works by Rubens and Velazquez ([www.english-heritage.org.uk/Apsleyhouse](http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/Apsleyhouse)).
4. **White Cube Mason's Yard** has an exciting exhibition programme across two galleries ([whitecube.com](http://whitecube.com)).
5. At **Churchill War Rooms** and interactive museum, find out more about the incredible war effort during WWII ([www.iwm.org.uk/visits/churchill-war-rooms](http://www.iwm.org.uk/visits/churchill-war-rooms)).

Stanmore: Bentley Priory; Dollis Hill: David Jones; St John's Wood: Clare Skinner/MCC; Swiss Cottage: Patrick Baldwin; Baker Street: Hana Zushi-Rhodes, Royal Academy of Music; Green Park: Apsley House, English Heritage; Green Park: Apsley House, English Heritage; Westminster: Historic Royal Palaces; Bermondsey: Alexander Bakevanis; North Greenwich: Siemens; Canary Wharf: Museum of London.



ST JOHN'S WOOD

Go behind the scenes at **Lord's Cricket Ground** and see the sports field from the iconic media centre; the honours boards in the players' dressing rooms; and the famous Ashes Urn in the MCC Museum.  
[www.lords.org](http://www.lords.org)  
St John's Wood, NW8 8QN; £18.



BAKER STREET

From Gilbert and Sullivan's original score for *The Mikado* to a trench gramophone from WWI, the **Royal Academy of Music Museum** explores important musical artefacts as well as its own 200-year history.  
[www.ram.ac.uk/museum](http://www.ram.ac.uk/museum)  
Marylebone Road, NW1 5HT; Free.



WESTMINSTER

Designed by Inigo Jones, **Banqueting House** is the only surviving building of Whitehall Palace and the site of Charles I's execution. The magnificent ceilings, painted by Rubens, are not to be missed.  
[www.hrp.org.uk](http://www.hrp.org.uk)  
Whitehall, SW1A 2ER; £6.60.



BERMONDSEY

Cheerful bunting waves visitors into the tiny alleyway of **Maltby Street Market**. Tantalising smells spill from stalls laden with artisan foods, micro brewery beers and London's best doughnuts.  
[www.maltby.st](http://www.maltby.st)  
Maltby Street, SE1 3PA; Free.



CANARY WHARF

In 2003, as the docklands were being redeveloped, the **Museum of London Docklands** was established in a grade I listed sugar warehouse, telling the fascinating story of the area.  
[www.museumoflondon.org.uk](http://www.museumoflondon.org.uk)  
No.1 Warehouse, West India Quay, E14 4AL; Free.



STRATFORD

Created for London 2012, **Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park** is an impressive addition to the cityscape, with sweeping pathways along the river, clever planting, imaginative play areas and permanent works of art on display.  
[www.queenelizabetholympicpark.co.uk](http://www.queenelizabetholympicpark.co.uk)  
London E20 2ST; Free.



CANNING TOWN

**Trinity Buoy Wharf** is home to a thriving arts community, with creative spaces, art installations and a cafe in repurposed shipping containers and a lighthouse, as well as the Victorian buildings.  
[www.trinitybuoywharf.com](http://www.trinitybuoywharf.com)  
64 Orchard Place, E14 0JY; Free.



NORTH GREENWICH

Take the Emirates cable car across the river to **The Crystal** – an exhibition exploring urban development, housed in one of the most sustainable buildings in the world.  
[www.thecrystal.org](http://www.thecrystal.org)  
One Siemens Brothers Way, Royal Victoria Docks, E16 1GB; £8-£10.



# Coach of treasures

HOW JIM FRECKLINGTON CRAFTED A STUNNING NEW STATE COACH AS A TIME CAPSULE OF 1,000 YEARS OF BRITISH HISTORY

In 2004, I received approval to create a new royal carriage, which later became officially known as the Diamond Jubilee State Coach. I wanted to make this special coach a time capsule of British history – a visual embodiment of its heritage dating back more than 1,000 years.

More than a hundred treasured items (all authenticated with supporting documentation) have been incorporated into every aspect of the coach, from the interior door panels to the detailing on the roof. In this way, it is a monument not only to current British endeavours, but also to many of the outstanding achievements of bygone eras.

Adorning the roof is the Imperial Crown, carved from original timber taken from HMS Victory. It is supported by four lions, derived from the Royal Lions on the front gates of Buckingham Palace. The arm rests, made from timber taken from the former Royal Yacht Britannia, conceal the controls for the electric windows, lighting and heating, and hydraulic suspension.

## A piece of history

The scope and diversity of the historic items incorporated into the design is vast. Elements are taken from palaces, castles and stately homes, such as Holyrood, Glamis and Kensington; battlefields as far afield as Gallipoli and Waterloo; cathedrals including Canterbury, Lincoln and York Minster; sporting grounds such as Lord's and Wimbledon; 10 Downing Street, Westminster and other halls of power; and ships including the Cutty Sark, Endeavour and the c.3,800-year-old Ferriby Boat.

Parts were taken from items recalling great writers, explorers, inventors and scientists: William Shakespeare's mulberry tree; a clock created in 1726 by John Harrison, inventor of the chronometer; Sir Robert Scott's sledge from his 1912 South Pole expedition; an apple tree from Sir Isaac Newton's home; and a barrel from Sir John Franklin's ill-fated 1845 Northwest Passage Expedition. Artefacts of great significance are also represented, such as a Micro card of the Magna Carta



## MASTER COACH BUILDER

ROSL member Jim Frecklington built the Australia State Coach and the Diamond Jubilee State Coach. An Australian, he previously worked at the Royal Mews, looking after The Queen's ceremonial horses.

and the Domesday Book; a Spitfire from the time of the D-Day raids; and the Stone of Scone (also referred to as the 'Coronation Stone').

## Finest craftsmanship

The steel cee springs were made from the richest ore mined in Australia and were individually cut to size and curved using hand tools and forges. The body is made of aluminium, similar to that used in prestige cars, and has been designed so that the coach can be taken to any country in the world without the risk of the body work cracking under varying climatic conditions. The Royal Coat of Arms has been emblazoned by hand four times onto the body of the coach, along with other historic symbols, by accomplished Irish-born Sydney artist Paula Church, making each a unique work of art in its own right.

The four coach lamps were spun in brass and then plated with 22 carat gold. They incorporate the finest crystal panels, hand-blown by Edinburgh Crystal and individually etched with the rose, flax, thistle and leek, representing England, Ireland, Scotland and Wales. These heraldic



Elements are taken from battlefields as far afield as Gallipoli and Waterloo; sporting grounds such as Lord's and Wimbledon; and ships including the Cutty Sark, Endeavour and c.3,800-year-old Ferriby Boat

symbols were also woven into the gold silk brocade, which lines the interiors, by master silk weavers in England.

Weighing 2.65 tones, and measuring 18ft long by 10ft 6in high, the Diamond Jubilee State Coach was air-freighted on a Jumbo Jet from Sydney to London in 2014, and taken initially to Windsor Castle. In May 2014, it was transported to the Royal Mews at Buckingham Palace for The Queen to use for the State Opening of Parliament. It was again used for the State visits of the presidents of Singapore and Mexico. Her Majesty also used the coach for the 2015 State Opening of Parliament.

## A vanishing art?

As a Master Coach Builder, I strive to preserve the vanishing art of coach building. I built my first horse-drawn vehicle when I was eight: a two-wheel cart pulled by a Shetland pony. In 1987, I designed and built a State Coach – the first such vehicle to be built for the British Royal Household since 1902 – which became Australia's bicentennial gift to Queen Elizabeth II in 1988.

In 2014, I was awarded the Royal Victorian Order for my coach building services to The Queen. Great processions involving royal carriages have been so much a part of British tradition and I hope to see that tradition continue for a long time to come.

## MEWS TOUR

On 25 September, members can enjoy a tour of the Royal Mews at Buckingham Palace ([www.royalcollection.org.uk/visit/royalmews](http://www.royalcollection.org.uk/visit/royalmews)), where the Diamond Jubilee State Coach is on permanent display. See page 41 for details.

## LONDON & EDINBURGH highlights

LONDON

### A ROYAL WELCOME

Until 27 September, Buckingham Palace

For the first time, enter the palace's lavish state rooms through the Grand Entrance and find out what goes on behind the scenes of an official visit.

£20.50; [www.royalcollection.org.uk/exhibitions](http://www.royalcollection.org.uk/exhibitions)



LONDON

### RICHARD II

Until 18 October, Shakespeare's Globe

An electrifying take on one of the Bard's most powerful works.

£5-£43; [www.shakespearesglobe.com](http://www.shakespearesglobe.com)



EDINBURGH

### SCOTTISH ARTISTS 1750-1900: FROM CALEDONIA TO THE CONTINENT

Until 7 February 2016, The Queen's Gallery, Palace of Holyroodhouse

Exhibition devoted to Scottish art in the Royal Collection, including works by Alexander Nasmyth and James Giles. £6.60; [www.royalcollection.org.uk/exhibitions](http://www.royalcollection.org.uk/exhibitions)



LONDON

### KENSINGTON PALACE GARDEN TOURS

Every Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday at 12pm and 2pm, Kensington

Explore the diverse history and recent developments of these beautiful gardens.

Free (palace ticket not required); [www.hrp.org.uk/kensingtonpalace/whatson/kpgardentours](http://www.hrp.org.uk/kensingtonpalace/whatson/kpgardentours)



LONDON

### LEST WE FORGET

8-12 September, Sadler's Wells

English National Ballet performs three works exploring experiences at home and on the battlefield during WWI.

£12-£45; [www.sadlerswells.com/whats-on/list](http://www.sadlerswells.com/whats-on/list)

LONDON

### AI WEIWEI

19 September - 13 December, Royal Academy of Arts

The UK's first significant exhibition of work by the Chinese artist and activist, including a number of new large-scale installations created for the gallery.

£17.60; [www.royalacademy.org.uk](http://www.royalacademy.org.uk)

EDINBURGH

### EDINBURGH DOORS OPEN DAY

26-27 September, various venues

An opportunity to explore some of the city's most culturally, socially and architecturally significant buildings.

Free; [www.cockburnassociation.org.uk/edinburgh-doors-open-day](http://www.cockburnassociation.org.uk/edinburgh-doors-open-day)

EDINBURGH

### REBECCA

19-24 October, King's Theatre

A spellbinding new production of Daphne du Maurier's masterpiece exploring the dark realms of obsession and jealousy.

£15-£30.50; [www.edtheatres.com/rebecca](http://www.edtheatres.com/rebecca)

EDINBURGH

### RSNO SAINT-SAËNS' ORGAN SYMPHONY

20 November, Usher Hall

French organist Thierry Escaich and guest conductor Jun Märkl join the Royal Scottish National Orchestra to perform works by Liszt, Poulenc and Saint-Saëns.

£12-£38; [www.rsno.org.uk/live/concert-listing](http://www.rsno.org.uk/live/concert-listing)



## Christmas and New Year at the club

Celebrate at your home-away-from-home with our special festive packages in London and Edinburgh. Let us worry about the turkey and washing-up while you enjoy delicious dinners, winter walks and sparkling drinks receptions



### London

#### CHRISTMAS EVE

Get into the festive spirit with mulled wine and mince pies at our drinks reception (5-6pm), followed by a screening of a classic Christmas movie. The Bar will be open and an optional supper will be served in The Restaurant. Ask at Reception for information on local church services.



the afternoon exploring London on our special winter walking tour with an expert guide.

#### CHRISTMAS DAY

The celebrations begin at midday with a sparkling drinks reception and a traditional three-course lunch, including half a bottle of wine, coffee and mince pies. There will then be a visit from Father Christmas with gifts for everyone, family board games in the Drawing Room, along with complimentary tea, coffee and biscuits, and an opportunity to watch the Queen's Speech. **£85pp.**

#### BOXING DAY

After a delicious Boxing Day breakfast (8.30-11am), spend

	DOUBLE/TWIN	SINGLE
24-27 December	From £360pp	From £420pp
24-26 December	From £256pp	From £300pp
25-27 December	From £264pp	From £310pp

### Edinburgh

#### TWO-NIGHT CHRISTMAS SHOPPING BREAK

Situated on Princes Street, right in the heart of Edinburgh, Over-Seas House is just minutes away from the lively German Christmas market and outdoor ice rink, and within walking distance of all the major retailers, including Harvey Nichols, Jenners and John Lewis. Breakfast is included in the package, with 20% off food and drink. Sunday - Thursday double/twin £139 (for two people); single £119. Friday - Saturday double/twin £199; single £139.

#### THREE-NIGHT CHRISTMAS PACKAGE

Stay at the Edinburgh clubhouse from Christmas Eve until Boxing Day and enjoy a tasty cooked breakfast each morning. On Christmas Day, start your celebrations in style with a glass of Kir Royal and canapés, before sitting down to a scrumptious three-course meal with coffee. Father Christmas will then drop by with gifts for all the family. A cold buffet will be served in the bar at 7pm. Double/twin £445; single £290.

#### THREE-NIGHT STAY AT NEW YEAR

Stay at the clubhouse from 30 December to 1 January and enjoy a traditional Hogmanay celebration. Breakfast is included, as well as our New Year dinner and dance, where you will be treated to a Kir Royal on arrival, a four-course dinner with three glasses of wine and coffee, and a ceilidh disco. Champagne, black bun and shortbread will be served just before midnight, in time for members to go up to the roof-top terrace to watch the spectacular fireworks display from the best vantage point in the city. Superior double room/suite £1,005; standard double room £905; single £505.

#### HOGMANAY DINNER AND DANCE

Treat yourself to a four-course dinner, ceilidh disco, and champagne, black bun and shortbread on the roof-top terrace (see details above). Members £105pp; guests £129pp; children £85pp.

#### BOOKING INFORMATION

To book, contact reception@rosl-edinburgh.org or +44 (0)131 225 1501.

## HIGHLIGHTS from our exciting autumn programme

### ME

**PANEL DISCUSSION 'ADDING GLOBAL VALUE': WOMEN'S VIEWS ON CHOGM**  
 Thursday 1 October, from 6pm,  
 Hall of India and Pakistan,  
 Over-Seas House London  
 The Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) is just around the corner and, together with the Royal Commonwealth Society (RCS), ROSL will host an insightful panel discussion exploring this year's Commonwealth theme: Adding

Global Value. The discussion will focus particularly on gender equality and women's rights to celebrate CHOGM's first Women's Forum. We have invited four distinguished panellists, representing business, civil society and government, to debate how CHOGM and the Women's Forum can work together to further the empowerment of women within the Commonwealth. The event ends with a networking drinks reception. **£10; Younger Members £5.**



### ME

#### ROYAL MEWS VISIT AND TOUR

Friday 25 September, 11am, Buckingham Palace

The Royal Mews is home to the royal collection of historic carriages, including the Gold State Coach, which has been used at every coronation since that of George IV in 1821. Considered to be one of the finest working stables in the world, the mews is responsible for all road travel arrangements for The Queen and members of the royal family. As part of this visit with a Blue Badge guide, members and guests will be able to see the Diamond Jubilee State Coach (for the story of this unique royal carriage see page 38). **£22.50. Guests welcome.**



Royal Collection Trust / © Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II 2014

### YM

#### A MOVEABLE FEAST

Thursday 5 November, 7pm,  
 Over-Seas House London

Enjoy a sumptuous sit-down dinner with a twist that helps you to meet fellow Younger Members. Think of the Mad Hatter's Tea Party but without the mayhem, riddles and top hats, and you'll have an idea of how the evening will run.

By changing seats at every course, you will be able to savour three delicious dishes and excellent conversation in equal measure. This promises to be a great event for new YMs looking to meet their peers while enjoying ROSL's fine hospitality. Price includes three-course meal and wine. **£30; guests £35. One guest per member.**



# Battlefield Tour of Gallipoli

6 Days / 5 Nights from £1,099 – 23-28 May 2016 with military historian Simon Jones



For booking information see page 50.

ROSL calendar  
EVENTS

With more than 500,000 Allied and Turkish casualties, Gallipoli was one of the bloodiest campaigns of the First World War, and is the focus of the fourth ROSL Battlefield Tour. Travel around the Gallipoli peninsula with expert battlefields guide Simon Jones and ROSL Director-General Roddy Porter, visiting the sites which still bear the scars of the Anzac invasions.

## TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- Accompanied by a battlefields expert throughout
- Boat trip around the tip of the peninsula to view the landing beaches
- Visits to Dardanos battery, Anzac Cove, the battlefields of Lone Pine, Dead Man's Ridge and the Nek

## WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Economy class international flights
- Accommodation, itinerary & meal basis as described
- Local transfers in an air-conditioned vehicle
- Services of an expert lecturer and experienced tour manager
- Entrance fees

**Ticket cost:** £1,099 per person (Based on 2 people sharing a twin room)

**Single supplement:** £115 per person

**Land only reduction:** £260 per person (No international flights or airport transfers included)

**Deposit:** £250 per person

**Notes:** Supplements may apply for certain regional airports. Please contact Cox & Kings for full terms and conditions.



Anzac WWI Memorial Site, Gallipoli

### Day 1 – To Istanbul:

Flight from London Heathrow with Turkish Airlines to Istanbul. Transfer to the Amethyst Hotel, Istanbul (or similar) for 1 night.

### Day 2 – To Çanakkale:

Morning drive to the Gallipoli peninsula. Continue by ferry across the Narrows to the Dardanos battery to understand the failed naval attempt of 18 March 1915. Continue to Çanakkale and stay at the Hotel Tusan for 4 nights. (B, L, D)

### Day 3 – Gallipoli peninsula and Cape Helles:

Morning boat trip around the tip of the peninsula (weather permitting) to view the landing beaches from the sea. This afternoon explore the British landings on the southern tip of the peninsula including "W" Beach (Lancashire Landing), where six Victoria Crosses were won 'before breakfast', and "V" Beach where troops landed from the SS River Clyde. Visit the poignant Cape Helles Memorial to the Missing. (B, L, D)

### Day 4 – Anzac Cove:

Visit the area of the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps landings of 25 April 1915, named Anzac in their honour, and the battlefields further inland. Highlights include Plugge's Plateau, inland battlefields of Lone Pine, Dead Man's Ridge and the Nek. (B, L, D)

### Day 5 – Suvla Bay:

Morning drive to Suvla Bay. This afternoon, learn about the epic battle by Anzac forces to capture the heights of Chunuk Bair. (B, L, D)

### Day 6 – To London:

Morning transfer to Istanbul airport and fly to London Heathrow with Turkish Airlines. (B)

**Meal basis:** As per itinerary – B: Breakfast, L: Lunch, D: Dinner. Beverages are not included during lunches and dinners.

## SEPTEMBER

RA

### LOUISE TRUSLOW: MEETING OF THE WATERS

*Until Friday 25 September, daily, Duke of York Bar, Over-Seas House London*  
Exhibition of aqueous-inspired watercolours and glass works by the ROSL Thailand Visual Arts Consultant.  
**Free.**

RS

### LEO DU FEU AND SUSAN SMITH

*Until Friday 25 September, daily, Over-Seas House Edinburgh*  
Watercolours, oils and prints of Scottish landscapes and wildlife by mother and son artists Susan Smith and ROSL Visual Arts Scholar Leo du Feu.  
**Free.**



© Leo du Feu

RA

### FRIENDS OF ROSL ARTS CHAMPAGNE GARDEN PARTY

*Wednesday 2 September, 6pm, Over-Seas House London*  
Exclusive to Friends of ROSL ARTS, the annual Champagne Garden Parties are the highlight of the ROSL ARTS summer calendar.

A champagne reception in the ROSL Garden is followed by an hour-long concert by ROSL

prizewinners. Commonwealth wines and sweet pastries are served afterwards.

Joining the Friends costs just £30 for ROSL members or £35 for non-members. Benefits include discounted tickets to all ROSL ARTS events, invitations to private views of exhibitions and regular mailings. To become a Friend, contact [rosarlarts@rosl.org.uk](mailto:rosarlarts@rosl.org.uk) or +44 (0)20 7408 0214 ext 219.

YM

### FIRST THURSDAYS DRINKS

*Thursday 3 September, from 6pm, Duke of York Bar, Over-Seas House London*  
Monthly social drinks. We want all our Younger Members to feel at home in our clubhouses and to use them as spaces to relax, bring friends, engage in culture and form new connections. So with an array of free musical

performances, the Duke of York Bar is the place to be every first Thursday of the month. See you there!

**Free.**

RS

### EDINBURGH FILM NIGHT

*Tuesday 8 September, 5pm, Over-Seas House Edinburgh*  
Three performers grapple with the transition from silent films to 'talkies' in this classic musical comedy set in 1920s Hollywood. With coffee, popcorn and ice-cream.  
**Tickets for entry and refreshments £7.50.**

LG

### VISIT TO THE APOTHECARIES' HALL

*Wednesday 9 September, 11am, Black Friars Lane EC4V 6EJ*  
This 90-minute London Group tour explores the



© Wellcome Library, London

home of the Worshipful Society of Apothecaries. The building was part of the Dominican priory of Black Friars before the society bought it in 1632. Although it was destroyed in the Great Fire of London, the structure and arrangement of the Great Hall, Court Room and parlour remain as they were when they were rebuilt in 1668-1670, making it the oldest surviving livery hall in the City of London.  
**£14; LG members £12.**



This tour runs in partnership with Cox & Kings travel. For more information or to book, please contact one of their Europe specialists on 020 7873 5000 or email [sales@coxandkings.co.uk](mailto:sales@coxandkings.co.uk)



## A MODERN WONDER

THE DIAMOND JUBILEE COACH INCLUDES TIMBER FROM HMS VICTORY, A COUNTERWEIGHT FROM BIG BEN AND HUNDREDS OF OTHER TREASURED BRITISH HERITAGE ITEMS. (SEE 25 SEPTEMBER & PAGE 38)



ME

### CLUB QUIZ

Wednesday 9 September, 7.30pm, Over-Seas House London

Our experienced quiz master will put your team through its paces. Tickets include a glass of wine, with the chance to order food and drinks from the bar. Maximum team size of six; individuals will be placed in teams.

£5. Guests welcome.

YM

### INTER-CLUB JAMES BOND BALL

Friday 11 September, 7.30pm, Over-Seas House London

The clubhouse has been let to Her Majesty's Secret Service and, at the request of Royal Naval Commander James Bond, Inter-Club members are invited to an opulent black-tie ball. Tickets include drinks reception, three-course meal with wine, DJ, dancing and espionage-related entertainment. Contact membersevents@rosl.org.uk.

£75.

RS

### ARTS LUNCH

Wednesday 16 September, 12pm, Over-Seas House Edinburgh

Two-course lunch and coffee with a talk about the Pitlochry Festival Theatre by its Chief Executive and Artistic Director John Durnin. Known as the Theatre in the Hills for its location in Highland Perthshire, the venue puts on a different show every night of the week.

£15; guests £20.



Picture courtesy of photographer Philippe Petit of Paris Match.

LG

### SECRETS BEHIND CHURCHILL'S ARMY OF THE SHADOWS

Thursday 17 September, 6pm, Over-Seas House London

Noreen Riols (pictured below) will speak about her experiences in the Special Operations Executive, aka Winston Churchill's 'secret army', during WWII. Noreen joined at 18 and worked with her fellow operatives to support the French Resistance. She spent much of her time helping to train undercover agents and meeting those returning from behind enemy lines.

Free. London Group members and guests at Over-Seas House only.



© Noreen Riols



Jules Lawrence

RA

### MONDAY PLATFORM: EGMONT ENSEMBLE AND SEAN SHIBE

Monday 14 September, 7.30pm, Wigmore Hall

Since winning the Gold Medal and First Prize in the 2011 Annual Music Competition, Sean Shibe has garnered many other prestigious awards and accolades as a guitarist of exceptional musicality. The Egmont Ensemble – recent ROSL prizewinners Ben Baker violin, Jonathan Bloxham cello and James Sherlock piano – formed especially for the 2015 Pettman/ROSL ARTS tour of New Zealand. The programme includes music by Bach, Brahms and Schubert, and a new work by leading New Zealand composer Gareth Farr. Tickets include post-concert reception with wine for Friends only.

£10-£20 from www.wigmore-hall.org.uk; Friends of ROSL ARTS £12, only from ROSL ARTS.

ME

### BURGUNDY WINE TOUR

Wednesday 23 - Sunday 27 September, Burgundy, France

ROSL's third custom-made wine tour, led by Roddy Porter, takes advantage of the club's unique connections with wine producers and vineyards, and includes a guided visit to Beaune, as well as tastings galore. For details, contact Jenna at Grape Escapes: +44 (0)1763 273 373 or jenna@grapeescapes.net. £899pp; single supplement £198.



ME

### ROYAL MEWS VISIT AND TOUR

Friday 25 September, 11am, Buckingham Palace

Let a Blue Badge guide acquaint you with the royal collection of historic carriages, including the Diamond Jubilee State Coach. For insights into its construction from the Master Coach Builder, see page 38.

£22.50. Guests welcome.

RA

### THE MIDWIFE'S SISTER BY CHRISTINE LEE

Tuesday 22 September, 7pm, Princess Alexandra Hall, Over-Seas House London

The Midwife's Sister is an absorbing and insightful memoir focusing on Christine Lee's relationship with her sister Jennifer Worth, author of Call the Midwife, which was turned into the popular BBC television series. It is the story of two siblings indelibly scarred by the break up of their parents' marriage. Tickets include wine, served afterwards. For a candid interview with Christine Lee, see page 25.

£7; Friends of ROSL ARTS £5.



## OCTOBER

YM

### FIRST THURSDAY DRINKS

Thursday 1 October, from 6pm, Duke of York Bar, Over-Seas House London

Monthly social with a free musical performance.

Free.

ME

### PANEL DISCUSSION 'ADDING GLOBAL VALUE': WOMEN'S VIEWS ON CHOGM

Thursday 1 October, from 6pm, Hall of India and Pakistan, Over-Seas House London

An exciting panel discussion and networking reception in collaboration with the Royal Commonwealth Society. This year's Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) in November will include a Women's Forum for the first time. Four distinguished panellists, representing business, civil society and government, will discuss what they want and expect to see implemented at CHOGM, with a particular focus on women's rights.

£10; Younger Members £5.

RS

### EDINBURGH FILM NIGHT

Tuesday 6 October, 5pm, Over-Seas House Edinburgh

Drama about a young man from the slums of Mumbai who competes in a popular game show. With coffee, popcorn and ice-cream.

Tickets for entry and refreshments £7.50.

ME

### CLUB QUIZ

Wednesday 7 October, 7.30pm, Over-Seas House London

Join ROSL's regular quiz night. Tickets include a glass of wine.

£5. Guests welcome

ME

### NEW MEMBERS' RECEPTION

Thursday 8 October, 6.30pm, Over-Seas House London

Are you aware of the superb ROSL wine cellar? Have you seen the club's new sun terrace? Did you know we have reciprocal clubs in Chile and Japan? Whether you're a new member, a long-standing member or a member-to-be, come and learn about the many unique benefits our members enjoy.

Contact +44 (0)20 7408 0214 ext 215 or guestrelations@rosl.org.uk to be sent an event invitation.

Free. Guests welcome.



POETIC VISION

COMBINING WORD AND IMAGE IN ABSTRACT PATTERNS, DAVID JONES'S 'PAINTED INSCRIPTIONS' MAY BE THE PAINTER-POET'S GREATEST CONTRIBUTION TO VISUAL ART. (SEE 4 NOVEMBER)



**RS**  
**ARTS LUNCH**  
*Wednesday 14 October, 12pm, Over-Seas House Edinburgh*  
 Earth scientist and TV and radio presenter, Dr Hermonie Cockborn, talks about her role as Scientific Director of Dynamic Earth in Edinburgh, the only visitor centre in the UK dedicated to telling the story of planet Earth. With a two-course lunch and coffee. **£15; guests £20.**



**LG**  
**VISIT TO CHARTERHOUSE**  
*Thursday 29 October, 2.15pm, Charterhouse Square EC1M 6AN*  
 This historic complex in Smithfield was originally a Carthusian priory and became an almshouse and school in 1611. This 75-minute tour will be conducted by one of the

40 male pensioners who live there, known as 'Brothers'. **£14; LG members £12.**

**RA**  
**MARTIN JONES PIANO RECITAL**  
*Friday 30 October, 7pm, Princess Alexandra Hall, Over-Seas House London*  
 The renowned pianist's 75th birthday recital will include

works by Mendelssohn, Ravel and Strauss. Martin Jones has been one of Britain's most highly regarded solo pianists since he received the Dame Myra Hess Award in 1968. In association with the Medical Music Society of London. All tickets include wine, tea and coffee. **£28; Friends of ROSL ARTS £22. Tickets with two-course buffet, wine and tea/coffee £56; Friends of ROSL ARTS £48.**



**RA**  
**SCREENING. DAVID JONES: INNOVATION AND CONSOLIDATION**  
*Wednesday 4 November, 7pm, Princess Alexandra Hall, Over-Seas House London*  
 The final part of a trilogy of documentaries by director Derek Shiel, this film focuses on the end of the painter and poet's life, from WWII to his death in 1974 at Calvary Nursing Home in Harrow. Commissioned by the David Jones Society, it includes interviews with the former Archbishop of Canterbury and critics Paul Hills and Frances Spalding. In association with the War Poets Association and the Temenos Academy. Tickets include wine, served afterwards. **£7; Friends of ROSL ARTS £5.**

**ME**  
**CLUB QUIZ**  
*Wednesday 4 November, 7.30pm, Over-Seas House London*  
 Test your mental mettle and meet fellow members at ROSL's regular quiz night. Tickets include a glass of wine on arrival, with opportunities to order food and drinks from the bar. Maximum team size of six people; individuals will be placed in teams. **£5. Guests welcome.**

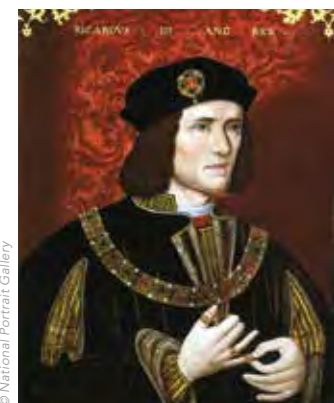
**YM**  
**FIRST THURSDAY DRINKS**  
*Thursday 5 November, from 6pm, Duke of York Bar, Over-Seas House London*  
 Monthly Younger Members' social. Come along and enjoy a free musical performance in the bar. **Free.**

**YM**  
**A MOVEABLE FEAST**  
*Thursday 5 November, 7pm, Over-Seas House London*  
 A sumptuous three-course meal with a twist. Changing seats for every delicious dish allows you to meet fellow Younger Members, and enjoy fantastic conversation and delicious food in equal measure. Tickets include dinner with wine. Advance booking required. **£30; guests £35. One guest per member.**

**ME**  
**JAMES BOND'S MAYFAIR TOUR**  
*Tuesday 10 November, 2pm, Mayfair, London*  
 Walking tour of Fleming's London. For details, see box (below). **£15. Guests welcome.**

**RA**  
**DIGGING FOR RICHARD III**  
*Monday 12 October, 7pm, Princess Alexandra Hall, Over-Seas House London*  
 Richard III reigned for little more than two years; it took five months longer for his excavated bones to be reburied, a period that was also packed with controversy, disputes and achievements. What have we learnt from this extraordinary episode? In *Digging for Richard III: How archaeology found the King*, Mike Pitts gives an overview of the dramatic discovery. The archaeologist and award-winning journalist had access to all parties involved in the dig. In association with Art Fund. Tickets include wine reception and book-signing. **Book online at [artfund.org/](http://artfund.org/) London or call +44 (0)844 415 4151. £20.**

**LG**  
**ST PAUL'S CATHEDRAL**  
*Thursday 15 October, 6pm, Over-Seas House London*  
 Peter Crawshaw gives a talk about the history of the iconic Anglican cathedral, built in the late 17th century and designed by Sir Christopher Wren. **Free. LG members and guests at Over-Seas House only.**



NOVEMBER

**RS**  
**EDINBURGH FILM NIGHT**  
*Tuesday 3 November, 5pm, Over-Seas House Edinburgh*  
 Oscar-winning drama about a journalist who pretends to be Jewish while researching an exposé on anti-Semitism. With coffee, popcorn and ice-cream. **Tickets for entry and refreshments £7.50.**

**ME**  
**JAMES BOND'S MAYFAIR TOUR**  
*Tuesday 10 November, 2pm, Mayfair, London*  
 This espionage-flavoured walking tour of Mayfair and St James's covers Fleming's place of birth, wartime club, luxury car dealer and more: a world of handmade shoes and hats, and exclusive gentlemen's clubs, which continues today. Mayfair wears its wealth quietly, featuring tranquil public spaces and delightful mews-side pubs. The tour ends by the Dukes Hotel, where Sean Connery reputedly came in 1962, and Pierce Brosnan in 1995, to celebrate getting the Bond role with a dry Martini – shaken not stirred. Once you've had a taste of Bond, why not indulge in one yourself? **£15. Guests welcome.**







ME

WINE TASTING AND FOOD FEAST  
Thursday 12 November,  
ROSL Restaurant,  
Over-Seas House London

Back by popular demand, our talented kitchen team and trusted wine merchant host a magnificent four-course tasting evening matched by choice vintages. Head Chef Kevin Cazzizi and his team craft a menu showcasing the quality produce of ROSL's carefully selected suppliers. Each course will be complemented by specially chosen wines from Clos de Gat in the foothills of the Judean Mountains, Israel, explained by the winery's Gideon White. If you love fine dining, love your club and want an expert insight into our food production, this is an event not to be missed. To book please contact [rosldining@graysonsrestaurants.com](mailto:rosldining@graysonsrestaurants.com) or +44 (0)20 7629 0406. **£55. Guests welcome.**

RA

MUSIC FOR CHOGLM  
Sunday 15 November, 3pm,  
Princess Alexandra Hall,  
Over-Seas House London

ROSL prizewinners Som Howie *clarinet*, Edward King *cello* and Carson Becke *piano* from Australia, New Zealand and Canada, come together with musicians from the Purcell School and Chethams School of Music for a concert previewing the music they will perform during the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in November. Tickets include tea with scones, clotted cream and jam after the concert.

For more about The Commonwealth Resounds! programme, see page 34. **£20; Friends of ROSL ARTS £15.**



ME

CULTURAL HIGHLIGHTS OF HOLLAND TOUR  
Monday 16 – Saturday 21 November, Amsterdam, The Hague and Arnhem

Tickets include return flights with BA; five nights' accommodation with breakfast; three dinners; all

sightseeing entrance fees, gratuities and the services of a Kirker Tour lecturer. Travellers must arrange their own insurance prior to travel.

Contact Lucy Ayling on +44(0)20 7593 2284 or [lucy.ayling@kirkerholidays.com](mailto:lucy.ayling@kirkerholidays.com) to reserve your place. **£1,423pp; single supplement £245.**

ME

CHAIRMAN'S LUNCH  
Tuesday 17 November, 12pm,  
Over-Seas House London

For details, see box (right). **£55; guests £65.**

RS

ARTS LUNCH  
Wednesday 18 November, 12pm,  
Over-Seas House Edinburgh

Ian Nimmo, former Chair of the Robert Louis Stevenson Club, explores the life and works of the Scottish author. Followed by a two-course lunch with coffee. **£15; guests £20.**

LG

THE HISTORY OF RUSSIAN CHORAL MUSIC  
Thursday 19 November, 6pm,  
Over-Seas House London

Choral and orchestral conductor, composer and musicologist Peter Leech explores the origins of Russian Orthodox choral music from its early Greek and Slavic roots, to the incorporation of Western harmonic influences during the reign of Tsar Mikhail Romanov. **Free. LG members and guests at Over-Seas House London only.**

RA

ELIZABETH WATTS, MARCUS FARNSWORTH, AND AUDREY HYLAND  
Friday 20 November, 7pm,  
Princess Alexandra Hall,  
Over-Seas House London



Past ROSL Music Competition prizewinner Elizabeth Watts *soprano* is joined by Marcus Farnsworth *baritone* and Audrey Hyland *piano* for an evening of songs by Brahms, Schubert, Duparc, Kurt Weill and De Falla. In association with the Medical Music Society of London. All tickets include wine, tea and coffee. **£28; Friends of ROSL ARTS £22. Tickets with two-course buffet £56; Friends of ROSL ARTS £48.**



RA

GIACOMETTI: PURE PRESENCE  
Monday 23 November, 7pm,  
Princess Alexandra Hall,  
Over-Seas House London

Alberto Giacometti (1901-1966) is one of the most important and distinctive artists of the 20th century. A restless innovator, he explored a range of styles and subjects in his lifetime, but portraiture remained a continuous preoccupation. The National Portrait Gallery's exhibition, explored in this talk by its curator Paul Moorhouse, is the first to focus on Giacometti's portraits and covers his entire career. In association with Art Fund. Tickets include wine reception and nibbles following the talk. **Book online at [artfund.org/London](http://artfund.org/London) or call +44 (0)844 415 4151. £18.**

ME

CHAIRMAN'S LUNCH  
Tuesday 17 November, 12pm,  
Hall of India and Pakistan,  
Over-Seas House London

Black Rod will be the speaker at the first lunch hosted by the new ROSL Chairman Simon Ward, and we have assured him that no doors in the clubhouse will be slammed in his face! A seasonal three-course lunch selected by our Head Chef, with wine, will follow reception drinks in the Willingdon Drawing Room. **£55; guests £65.**



RS

ST ANDREW'S NIGHT DINNER  
Saturday 28 November, 7pm,  
Over-Seas House Edinburgh

Drinks reception followed by a three-course dinner with wine and tea or coffee, and a talk by author, journalist and broadcaster Roddie Martine. **£25; guests £30.**



House London, enclosing a stamped addressed envelope and noting dietary and seating requests. For further details, call +44 (0)20 8567 1525. **£55; LG members £50.**

exhibition in the Central Lounge to celebrate the centenary of *Overseas* magazine will add to the convivial atmosphere. **Free.**

YM

FIRST THURSDAY CHRISTMAS DRINKS  
Thursday 3 December,  
Duke of York Bar,  
Over-Seas House London

The last First Thursday of the year brings mince pies, mulled wine and obligatory Christmas jumpers, with a live performance of Christmas classics. The opening of an

ME

FESTIVAL OF CAROLS AND READINGS  
Sunday 6 December, 3.30pm,  
St James's Church and  
Over-Seas House London

The annual ROSL Christmas service followed by a delicious afternoon tea in the Hall of India and Pakistan, with a visit from Father Christmas. **£20; guests £22.50.**



DECEMBER

LG

CHRISTMAS LUNCH  
Wednesday 2 December,  
12.30pm, Princess Alexandra  
Hall, Over-Seas House London

This ever popular celebration includes a drinks reception and three-course festive meal with wine, accompanied by live music and followed by a free prize draw. To attend, write to Celia Goh, London Group, c/o Porter's Desk, Over-Seas

RS

**ARTS LUNCH AND CHRISTMAS CAROLS**  
Wednesday 9 December, 12pm,  
Over-Seas House Edinburgh  
Talk by Ian Gilmour,  
Minister of St Andrew's  
and St George's West,  
followed by carol singing  
led by choirmaster Brigitte  
Harris, and tea, coffee  
and mince pies.  
£8.



into the festive spirit,  
with mulled wine and a  
feast of home-baked mince  
pies. So start dusting off  
those vocal chords. No  
booking required.  
Free. Guests welcome.

## LOOK AHEAD

ME

**BLACK-TIE DINNER AND CEILIDH**  
Friday 29 January 2016, 7pm,  
Over-Seas House London  
Our lively Burns Night event  
begins with a drinks  
reception followed by a  
sumptuous three-course  
meal with haggis and whisky.  
A folk band and an expert  
caller will then lead the  
crowd in a ceilidh.  
£75; table of ten £675.

ME

**CLUBHOUSE CAROLS**  
Tuesday 15 December,  
6.30pm, Central Lounge,  
Over-Seas House London  
The whole club community  
comes together and gets



## CONTACT DETAILS AND BOOKING INFORMATION

Visit [www.rosl.org.uk/events](http://www.rosl.org.uk/events) for more information on the full programme of events.

### ROSL ARTS

+44 (0)20 7408 0214 ext 219;  
roslarts@rosl.org.uk

### ROSL SCOTLAND

+44 (0)131 225 1501;  
reception@rosl-edinburgh.org

### MEMBERS' EVENTS

Book online at [www.rosl.org.uk](http://www.rosl.org.uk)  
Booking confirmations will  
be sent within 14 days of  
payment. To reserve a ticket  
for popular events or if you  
have trouble booking online,  
contact Tara Cooper:  
membersevents@rosl.org.uk;  
+44 (0)20 7016 6906.

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

### YOUNGER MEMBERS

For members aged 35  
and under. Book online at  
[www.rosl.org.uk/events](http://www.rosl.org.uk/events).  
Inter-Club events must  
be booked independently  
via [www.inter-club.co.uk](http://www.inter-club.co.uk).  
For information about  
the ROSL YM programme  
join the Facebook  
group [facebook.com/  
groups/roslym](https://www.facebook.com/groups/roslym) or  
contact Tara Cooper:  
membersevents@rosl.org.uk  
or Ross Lima:  
ross.lima@gmail.com.

### LONDON GROUP

For London Group members,  
their guests and ROSL  
members staying at  
Over-Seas House London.  
To join, contact  
clivedavidcarpenter@  
compuserve.com;  
+44 (0)7798 824193.

No booking is required  
for talks. To book outside  
visits, send a cheque  
payable to 'London Group,  
Royal Over-Seas League'  
and a stamped, addressed  
envelope to Maureen  
Howley, London Group,  
c/o Porters' Desk, Over-Seas  
House, Park Place, St James's  
Street, London SW1A 1LR.  
The London Group is a  
voluntary organisation  
and unfortunately cannot  
take bookings by email  
or telephone.

Tickets are sent  
approximately 10 days in  
advance. Cancellations and  
refund requests must be  
made at least two weeks  
before the event. Contact  
howleymaureen@hotmail.  
com; +44 (0)20 8789 8506.

### DISCUSSION GROUP

No booking is required.  
All ROSL members and  
guests are welcome at  
Discussion Group events.  
Meetings are held at  
Over-Seas House London  
on Monday evenings. For  
details see [www.rosl.org.uk](http://www.rosl.org.uk).

# KIRKER HOLIDAYS FOR DISCERNING TRAVELLERS



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We have selected some of our favourite destinations below for late summer and autumn sunshine, but please speak to one of our experts for a tailor-made quotation.

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

## MALLORCA Son Brull \*\*\*\*\*

A lovingly restored 18th century monastery located in 30 hectares of landscaped grounds in the foothills of the Tramuntana mountains. There are 23 bedrooms, a wooden decked terrace with a summer swimming pool and a spa with a heated indoor/outdoor pool. Son Brull is less than 10 minutes' drive from the thriving market town of Pollensa.

5 nights for the price of 4 until  
3 October - price from £1,296,  
saving £205

## ANDALUCIA Duque de Najera \*\*\*\* Superior

In the heart of Rota's walled old town, the Duque de Najera is a charming, traditional hotel with 92 comfortable rooms. The restaurant specialises in seafood and Mediterranean cuisine which can be enjoyed on the outside terrace in fine weather and in summer the hotel has a tapas bar as well as a bar beside the outdoor swimming pool.

3 night price from £533

## MADEIRA

### Quinta Da Bela Vista \*\*\*\*\*

One mile from the centre of Funchal, this tranquil haven sits in beautiful gardens, surrounded by trees. There are 89 bedrooms with garden, bay, ocean or mountain views. The gastronomic restaurant serves delicious local produce and the 'Avista Navios' offers more casual dining. There is a heated outdoor swimming pool, a tennis court, fitness centre, jacuzzi and sauna, and a large sun terrace.



Complimentary room upgrade  
for stays in September  
- 3 night price from £684

7 nights for the price of 6 in  
October - price from £845,  
saving £55

## SICILY

### Verdura Resort \*\*\*\*\* Deluxe

This Rocco Forte property is situated on the sea, 30 kilometres from the ancient Greek temples at Agrigento. It has 203 bedrooms, two 18 hole golf courses and a 9 hole course. There are several restaurants, a Health Club with five Thalassotherapy pools and there is also a large outdoor swimming pool. All guests have access to the private pebble beach.



3 night price in August from  
£1,548

4 nights for the price of 3 from  
5 September onwards  
- price from £1,140,  
saving £195

## TURKEY

### Alavya \*\*\*\* Deluxe

Located in the centre of Alaçati, the Alavya is a collection of six stone houses surrounding a courtyard garden. Its 25 bedrooms are a blend of original artworks and exposed stone walls. The hotel has two restaurants, an outdoor swimming pool and a spa with sauna and hammam.

3 night price from £698 until  
30 September

3 night price from £648 from  
1 October

## MALTA

### Xara Palace \*\*\*\* Deluxe

In the ancient capital city of Mdina the 17th century Xara Palace has been meticulously restored. A member of Relais & Châteaux, it has just 17 bedrooms, some with outstanding panoramic views over the city and countryside. The 'De Mondion' rooftop restaurant (closed Sundays) is regarded by many as one of the best on the island and is a must for anyone travelling to Malta.

3 night price from £849

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March 7–11, 2016  
September 5–9, 2016



**Art on the Côte d’Azur**  
March 14–21, 2016  
October 24–31, 2016



**Roman & Byzantine Ravenna**  
March 14–18, 2016  
September 12–16, 2016



**Isles of Scilly**  
May 9–16, 2016  
September 5–12, 2016

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