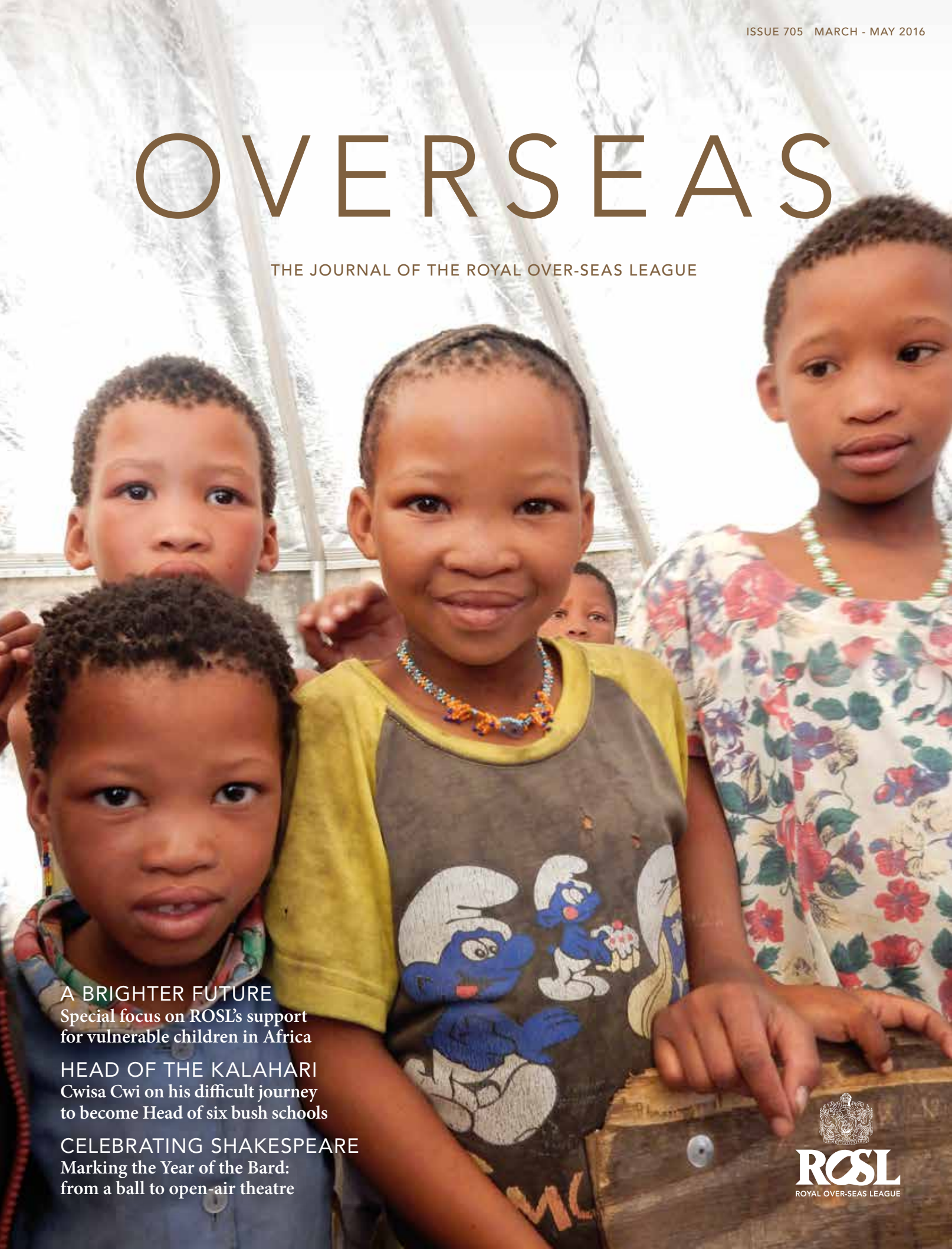


OVERSEAS

THE JOURNAL OF THE ROYAL OVER-SEAS LEAGUE



A BRIGHTER FUTURE
Special focus on ROSL's support
for vulnerable children in Africa

HEAD OF THE KALAHARI
Cwisa Cwi on his difficult journey
to become Head of six bush schools

CELEBRATING SHAKESPEARE
Marking the Year of the Bard:
from a ball to open-air theatre



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

Front Cover Pupils at Bencamp village school in the Nyae Nyae Conservancy
© Margaret Adrian-Vallance/ROSL

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“We are encouraged that the direction of ROSL remains in capable hands”



2016 is off to a damp but hectic start here in London, with a great deal of building work in the clubhouse. The refurbishment of the second floor bedrooms in Vernon House is well underway, as is the complete rebuilding of the Brabourne kitchen. We have also embarked on work to renovate the Westminster Wing entrance and improve disabled access to the clubhouse through it. In Edinburgh, the new reception desk has been well received and the new glazed entrance should be completed in the coming months.

The second half of 2015 was mired in sorrow and, following hard on the heels of Roderick Lakin's tragic death came the awfulness of the death of our much-loved and newly-appointed Chairman, Simon Ward. Sir Roger Carrick and I pay tribute to Simon and his many years of selfless and dedicated work for ROSL on page 6. Simon was a great friend to ROSL and our members; I am extremely grateful to so many of you who wrote with condolences and this has been of huge comfort both to his wife Raye and their children, and to the staff for whom Simon had so much time. Thank you also to those who so generously gave, as his family wished, to the Golden Jubilee Trust for humanitarian work. Simon's funeral in December was a most fitting send-off for a man who had done so much, in so many ways, for so many people.

In this edition we are taking time to review ROSL's humanitarian work in Africa. Simon, Raye, Marianne and I were privileged to visit many of the projects you support in Kenya, Namibia and Botswana in October. The tireless Margaret Adrian-Vallance and I bring you up to date on how those projects have fared on pages 22-25, and how the Golden Jubilee Trustees may be taking the work forward into the future.

Finally, I am most grateful to Roger Carrick, who has nobly taken on the role of Acting Chairman, and to Maureen Howley, who has stepped up to act as Deputy Chairman, while the Central Council identifies a new Chairman. We are all very encouraged that the overall direction of ROSL remains in capable and experienced hands.

Roddy Porter
DIRECTOR-GENERAL

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"In the Nyae Nyae, rural poverty is of an order difficult to imagine, but attitudes are enormously positive and cohesion strong"



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From the
EDITOR

Arranging interviews with people in remote communities in southern Africa for our focus on ROSL's humanitarian and educational projects, was always going to be tricky. But the willingness of the people involved to participate has enabled us to bring together a fascinating series of articles exploring the many challenges they face: from barriers to accessing education in Namibia (page 26) to projects supporting vulnerable children in Botswana (page 28).

The former ROSL bursary student Cwisa Cwi was as difficult to get hold of as expected: he has to travel long distances across the Kalahari along dirt tracks to reach the six primary schools he now runs and has only intermittent internet access. It is a privilege to be able to tell his story: as the first San Bushman to qualify as a teacher he continues to give back to his community by educating the next generation (page 18).

ROSL Director-General Roddy Porter introduces these articles with an insightful account of his recent visit to some of the projects in Namibia, Botswana and Kenya with his wife Marianne, Director of Humanitarian Projects Margaret Adrian-Vallance, our late Chairman Simon Ward and his wife Raye (page 22). I hope you will find the pieces as inspiring as I did; although I have worked with ROSL for more than 15 years there is always more to discover about the wonderful work it does overseas.

Sadly, Simon died shortly after this trip and we mark his dedicated service to ROSL, good humour and the many friendships he made at the club on page 6. This tragedy followed the terrible loss of Roderick Lakin, Director of Arts, in August, and on page 13 Eleanor Rucker Thompson writes about the beautiful memorial concert for him at St Marylebone Parish Church in November. Among the carefully selected music, played by the ROSL prizewinning musicians who owed Roderick so much, was a moving piece for clarinet, *Tribute to Roderick Lakin MBE*, composed by the 1978 ROSL Gold Medallist Mark Walton OAM.

Miranda Moore
editor@rosl.org.uk

Obituary

Simon Ward

Following his sudden death on 17 November 2015, the ROSL Chairman is remembered, with great sadness, for his wisdom, humour, aspirations, concern for others and dedication to the League

Members of the Royal Over-Seas League responded to the horrid news of our Chairman Simon Ward's so sudden and so untimely death with shock, deep sadness and grief, and with much sincere tribute. Many have written with those thoughts in mind and with the most understanding and concerned sympathy for his widow, Raye. By the time you read this obituary, Raye will have read many of those

words; and we know she will find real comfort in them.

Simon had been our Chairman since only May 2015. He had already made his mark in that role, with his characteristic good humour, concern and care for the League and its aspirations, and wisdom. We knew him well, of course, from his decade as Honorary Treasurer, a decade of work that was complex, changing, and subject to unexpected and sometimes heavy demands.

Leading the Finance Subcommittee from 2013, Simon structured ROSL's finances with expertise, foresight and care, and did so always with that remarkable sense of humour. Members of the Central Council have noted how such an accomplished and expert accountant was able to look at all the figures, presented in different and sometimes complex ways, and tell Council, vividly and clearly, the story they implied. He had a wonderfully light touch for weighty matters.

Simon worked as a chartered accountant in Africa and the Middle East, and a few members may know that he also established a successful accountancy firm in Hampshire. He and Raye met and married in Kenya, and their sons, Matthew and Robert, were born there, while their daughter Jessica was born in Kuwait. The family have enjoyed many holidays in their home in Kenya, and the four grandsons were the fourth generation of Raye's family to be born there.

The sense of humour, indeed sense of happiness, was evident in all Simon did. Yet he cared deeply, too, not only and obviously about his family but also about the League, its

members, its aims and objectives. He was devoted to ROSL's work in music and the arts, and its international humanitarian projects.

His work as Chairman of the Golden Jubilee Trust reflected this. His wise stewardship of its growing resources, through the dedicated work of, among others, Roderick Lakin and Margaret Adrian-Vallance, was aimed, successfully, at ensuring that real benefit, at minimal administrative cost, could be delivered to aspiring musicians and the young in need of an education. Simon was justly proud of all ROSL's endeavours; and was determined to advance them.

With his customary wisdom and fine sense of judgement he had worked out specific new ambitions and objectives for his term of office, most notably in building up the Trust's Humanitarian Education Fund and in assisting, where he could, in encouraging the next generation of Younger Members to join ROSL. It now falls to the Central Council, as well as to our branches and, indeed, any individual members who wish to become involved (especially as volunteers) to help realise Simon's objectives.

Simon's innate compassion also manifested itself in the care he took with people. He was genuinely interested in people and in understanding their stories. He took inordinate time to get to know others, members and staff, and was always concerned for their welfare. He knew how hard the staff worked and was determined to ensure that their efforts were correctly focused and that, as far as ROSL's resources allowed, people were well rewarded for their efforts.

After Simon's first experience as Chairman, speaking from the stage at the Annual Music Competition Final at Queen Elizabeth Hall in June 2015, he remarked to us quietly, quizzically and with that customary smile, how different it appeared from the other side of the footlights. That happy smile was more than evident during and after his first Chairman's lunch on the day he died.

His moving funeral, extraordinarily well attended, included music provided by ROSL: we like to think Simon would have especially appreciated that, as his family did. We all grieve, but let us also think and act positively, as Simon would have wished us to do: let us cherish the memory of that smile; and of all the good this so admirable and dedicated man did over those 10 and more fruitful years of service to ROSL; and let us resolve to make that memory shine among us always.

Sir Roger Carrick,
Acting Chairman;
Major General Roddy Porter,
Director-General



“The sense of humour, indeed sense of happiness, was evident in all Simon did. Yet he cared deeply, too, not only about his family but also about the League

Below: Competition winner Juliette Poggi researches in her studio

Long-standing relationship

ROSL HAS BEEN COMMISSIONING RCA STUDENTS FOR VARIOUS PROJECTS SINCE 1985, INCLUDING THE AMC OVERSEAS AWARD

Beneath THE COVER

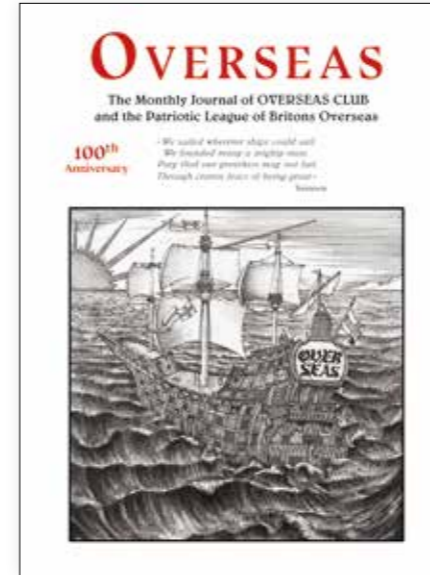
How the special centenary edition cover was selected from competition entries by students from the Royal College of Art

WORDS CHRISTINE WILDE

In our last issue, we celebrated the centenary of the journal with a special edition cover, which aimed to reflect ROSL's heritage while looking to the future. The Editorial Team decided to commission this new artwork via a competition for students of the Royal College of Art (RCA) Visual Communication Department, with which ROSL has worked in the past. The brief was to create a contemporary image based on – or inspired by – the ship motif designed by Macdonald Gill for the first

edition in December 1915. Embodying the club motto Ubique Navigavimus, “we sail everywhere”, and often paired with Tennyson’s lines, “We sailed wherever ship could sail”, this design became synonymous with the club’s aims and ideals, and continued to feature on the cover in various forms until the 1980s.

We were pleased to receive a number of imaginative entries. Some based their ideas on the original illustration and added their own embellishments; others



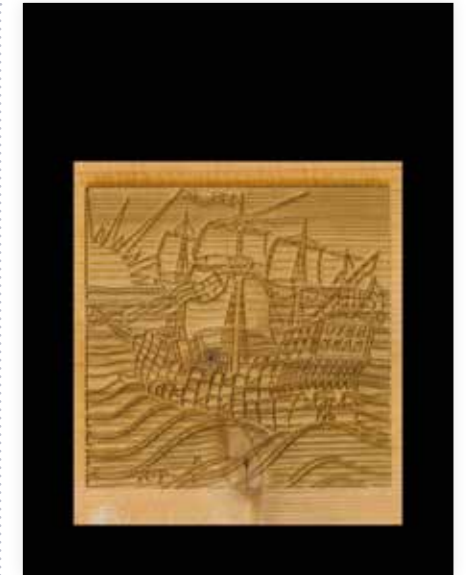
OCTAVE MARSAL

Specialising in intricate drawings and etchings, the French artist presented a detailed, classic work of art with a contemporary feel.



KAREN JIYUN SUNG

An illustrator from South Korea, Karen used Gill's bold colours to rework the ship, waves and fish motifs in various designs.



JAIONE CERRATO

Mixing modern techniques with classic crafts, Jaione created pieces on the computer that seemed to be carved in wood.



played with elements of the original in order to create arresting variations. The judges were impressed with the quality of the artwork, and appreciated the time and consideration that entrants had put into their designs.

All submissions were judged by the Editorial, Arts and design teams, and there

was much debate over the favourite. The challenge was to decide which entry best captured the history, personality and evolution of the journal, would work as a cover image when overlaid with the title, text and logo, and, most importantly, would appeal to and interest members.

After much deliberation, Juliette Poggi's clever design was selected. Her playful concept folds Gill's classic ship into a paper boat, creating an elegant composition that takes the journal's spirit and history as a foundation for its vibrant future.

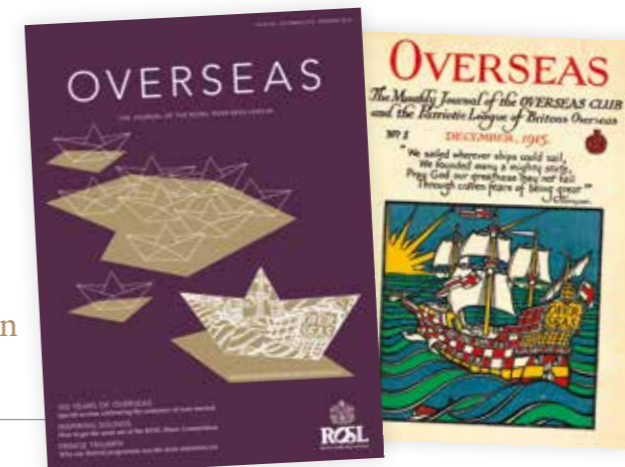
The judges felt that the fleet of smaller paper boats

neatly represented the League's global reach. In consultation with Juliette, ROSL's brand colours, Regal Purple and Antique Gold, were chosen to represent the significant role Overseas has played in the development of the organisation.

Juliette, who is currently studying for an Information Experience Design MA, received the £1,500 prize, as well as the privilege of having her design featured on the front cover of the anniversary edition and included in the centenary exhibition at Over-Seas House London.

Visit juliettepoggi.com to find out more about Juliette and see examples of her work.

“ Her playful concept folds Gill's classic ship into a paper boat, creating an elegant composition that takes the journal's spirit and history as a foundation for its vibrant future





QUIZ MASTERS

Our club quiz has gone from strength to strength, with the Christmas quiz after clubhouse carols receiving our highest ever turnout. October's winners were team Braindead, who were beaten in November by stalwarts Consistently Inconsistent (top left). However, it was newcomers The Pontificators (left) who took first-place in December and won our very special Christmas hamper. Do you think your team could beat the current champions? Come along to the next quiz on 9 March to find out. See page 36 for details.



SNAPPED READING

ROSL member Suzan Matkin poses with her copy of *Overseas* as she prepares to board the Shinkansen Bullet Train in Japan. Send your 'snapped reading *Overseas*' pictures to editor@rosl.org.uk.

FROM MAYFAIR WITH LOVE

On our James Bond Mayfair walking tour, members visited the exclusive haunts of the world's greatest spy author, Ian Fleming. At Dukes Hotel, whose bar Fleming frequented for his daily half-bottle of gin, we uncovered the origin of Bond's love of martinis. From there, we visited the places where Fleming gambled and shopped; the spot where Sean Connery



auditioned for the role of Bond in 1962; and the US Embassy. It was then a short walk back to St James's, where some members headed for a cheeky martini – shaken not stirred, naturally!



CHAIRMAN'S LUNCH

The excellent combination of fine food, amiable company and an engaging speaker made this popular staple of our events programme a wonderful success. During his fascinating address, Lord Howell of Guildford, President of the Royal Commonwealth Society, gave an insight into Britain's relationship with Europe and the Commonwealth, staying as long as he could afterwards to answer members' questions.

OVERSEAS CENTENARY

At the opening of our exhibition celebrating 100 years of *Overseas*, members enjoyed a glass of wine while exploring a century of social and club history through displays taken from the archives. The private view was also attended by our cover competition winner Juliette Poggi, whose winning design was included in the exhibition (see page 8 for details).



EDINBURGH NEW MEMBERS

In October, the Edinburgh Branch Committee hosted a reception for new members. ROSL representatives, including Acting Chairman Sir Roger Carrick and Edinburgh Branch Chairman Mae Barr (pictured), were on hand to show members round the clubhouse and explain the benefits of ROSL membership. The convivial atmosphere was heightened by the pleasant strains of the clàrsach (harp), played beautifully by Mary Fleming.



For all
upcoming
events see
PAGE 36

MUSIC FOR CHOQM

Som Howie *clarinet*, Edward King *cello* and Carson Becke *piano* previewed their repertoire at Over-Seas House London before heading to Malta to perform during the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting. The ROSL prizewinners were joined by students from the Purcell School and Chetham's School of Music, who performed pieces including *Alonzo*, which was composed especially for the CHOQM tour by Purcell composition student Joe Parks.



ARTS LUNCHES

The Edinburgh clubhouse welcomed a succession of excellent speakers to their lecture and lunch series. In October, broadcaster and Scientific Director at Dynamic Earth, Dr Hermione Cockburn, gave an entertaining talk on 'James Hutton, Plate Tectonics and Dynamic Earth'. Ian Nimmo, former Chair of the Robert Louis Stevenson Club, spoke eloquently about *Treasure Island* before the lunch in November; and December's speaker, Rev Ian Gilmour (left), Minister of St Andrew's and St George's West Church, generated much mirth during his presentation on 'Laughter'. The December lunch was followed by an enjoyable afternoon of mince pies, mulled wine and carol singing, led by the church's excellent choir (above left).



CHRISTMAS HIGHLIGHTS

The London Group's splendid Christmas lunch marked the beginning of an eventful festive season at the clubhouse.

Mulled wine and mince pies flowed at the Younger Members' Christmas drinks and during the clubhouse carols, where members were guided through Christmas classics by pianist Peter Foggitt.

The Festival of Carols and Readings at St James's Church, Piccadilly was both joyful and moving, with beautiful performances by Huw Wiggins saxophone, Somi Kim piano and the ROSL choir. The service was conducted by Associate Rector

Lindsay Meader, whose heartfelt welcome included a touching tribute to absent friends.

The Edinburgh clubhouse also had a lively festive period. Christmas Day lunch was well attended, with Father Christmas dropping in at the end of a very busy day. Hogmanay was celebrated with an evening meal and the chance to watch the castle's fireworks at midnight on the clubhouse roof.



More images online

Visit our Facebook and Flickr pages to see more photos of ROSL events, including the black-tie dinner and ceilidh.

TWOFOLD TALENT

The London clubhouse's latest exhibition, Twofold, featuring ceramics and paintings by artist and designer Lydia Hardwick (left) and painter Freya Douglas-Morris (right), was well received at the private view in January. The Royal College of Art graduates have both exhibited nationally and internationally, and Hardwick's work was featured at the 2015 Turner Prize, as her products were commissioned by the winners, Assemble. Twofold will be on display in the Central Lounge until Sunday 24 April (see page 36 for details).



WINE-TASTING AND FOOD FEAST

In November, members were treated to a six-course tasting menu, each course complemented by wine chosen by expert Lee Claridge from the Clos de Gat winery, located in the foothills of the Judean Mountains of Israel. The menu delighted and challenged: a fish course

of octopus was followed by charred goat loin; the exceptional main course of a 48-hour New York Strip (beef cooked at a very low heat for two days) was accompanied by a 2009 Cabernet Merlot; and the pudding and cheese courses were served with Syra Muscat and Syrah wines.



YOUNGER MEMBER GHAZI AFTAB RAHMAN ATTENDS HIS FIRST ROSL EVENT:

A dynamic candlelit feast

The Moveable Feast began in the ROSL Bar just after 7pm. I was warmly greeted by Tara, ROSL's Events Coordinator, who introduced me to the other guests, which was very helpful because most of us were not acquainted. At dinner, we swapped places for each delicious course in order to converse with other members and their guests.

A wide variety of people attended, from university students to young graduates working in corporate London. The intimate, candlelit setting was beautiful and created the perfect ambience; the

service was faultless; there was always enough wine to keep us merry; and Younger Member Samantha Pickett was a great host. Overall the event made me feel very welcome in this esteemed establishment.

The highlight of the two-and-a-half hour feast was the beef main – it was melt-in-the-mouth tender and succulent, and married perfectly with the red wine. I could have wished for the evening to continue for longer, as I would wish for more Younger Member events at ROSL in future.

UPCOMING EVENTS

The Younger Members' programme goes from strength to strength as we introduce more extensive and exciting events for 2016. Offering a combination of dynamic, speaker-based and social and musical activities, our calendar has something for everyone. Experience ROSL fine dining at our Jazz Brunch and Spring Dinner Party, and celebrate International Women's Day with our dazzling array of speakers and performances. The YM programme wouldn't be complete without our annual Inter-Club Ball, which this year will be at Christmas. Look out for further details in the Events section (pages 36-42), and on our website and Facebook page.



MEMORIAL CONCERT

With superlative music from his protégés and moving tributes from his friends and colleagues, the memorial for ROSL Director of Arts Roderick Lakin was inspiring, celebratory and cathartic

WORDS ELEANOR RUCKER THOMPSON

When the time came to pay tribute to Roderick, remembering him with a concert was the most natural thing to do. The concert, held on 16 November at St Marylebone Parish Church in London, was both celebratory and cathartic. The tragic circumstances of his death seemed to weigh less heavily on this particular occasion; all that was felt was the great fondness that he inspired in so many people, as memories of his humour, many talents and incomparable whimsy were shared.

The musical tributes had been hand-picked by Thorben Dittes and Simon Lepper, two of Roderick's friends and colleagues, and the musicians were all friends and protégés from his long tenure as Director of ROSL ARTS. Together the

pieces reflected Roderick's particular musical loves, from chamber music to opera, oratorio and song: Schubert, Handel, Rossini and Mozart, Strauss, Debussy and Rachmaninov. A programme of which any concert hall would be proud was here played simply and superlatively for one extraordinary man who had shaped so much of these musicians' lives.

Tributes were also given by Lord Luce, Chris de Souza, John Myerscough, Thorben Dittes and Elaine Mitchener, all with a delightfully different perspective of their experiences with Roderick, be it working, travelling, laughing, debating, eating, drinking or making music. His signature quirks and quotes were affectionately relived, riotous anecdotes were told, and the memory of Roderick's talent in

supporting and connecting with musicians was always present. John Myerscough remembered uproarious evenings in Edinburgh, Chris de Souza, Roderick's fierce devotion to his work, and Elaine Mitchener, Roderick persuading her to buy a red wig in Brighton.

The most moving moment of the evening was Margaret Lakin's tribute to her husband. The reaction to her incredible bravery and touching words about her family, friends and all who have helped her was a unanimous standing ovation, which will be long remembered by all who were there.

Thank you to all who have donated to the Roderick Lakin Memorial Appeal. To make a donation, please call +44 (0)20 7408 0214 ext 219.



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

AGM
Tuesday 5 April, 12.30pm,
Public Schools Club,
East Terrace, Adelaide
Two-course lunch with talk by
Australian Paralympic swimmer
Lyn Lillecrapp OAM.
Guests welcome. Email
ros1.sa@mac.com to
attend. \$25.

CANADA

British Columbia

The Queen's 90th
birthday celebration
April tbc
The branch is planning a
celebratory event. Information
will be sent to members when
the details are finalised.
Contact evmurray@telus.net
to register interest or to join
the mailing list.

NEW ZEALAND

For further details and event
listings, see www.roslnz.org.nz or
contact ros14nz@gmail.com. All
members and guests welcome.

Christchurch

Morning tea
Wednesday 9 March, 10am,
Café ILEX at Botanical Gardens
Social meet-up.
Members and guests welcome.

Morning tea and talk
Wednesday 13 April, 10am,
Holly Lea Retirement Village
Speaker tba.

Morning tea and talk
Wednesday 11 May, 10am,
Holly Lea Retirement Village
Speaker tba.

South Canterbury

**Commonwealth
Day lunch**
Monday 14 March, 12pm,
Seven Oaks Reception Centre,
Timaru
Two-course lunch with coffee.
\$32.

Morning tea and talk
Friday 15 April, 10am, Caroline
Bay Community Lounge, Timaru
Speaker tba.

Morning tea and talk
Friday 20 May, 10am, Caroline
Bay Community Lounge, Timaru
Speaker tba.

Southland

Commonwealth Day lunch
Monday 14 March, Club
Southland, Invercargill
Two-course lunch with talk
on ANZAC by the author
and poet Lynley Dear.

Morning tea and talk
Wednesday 6 April, 10am,
Club Southland, Invercargill
Social event with speaker
Sheree Shelton, Musical
Director at First Church.

Morning tea and talk
Wednesday 4 May, 10am,
Club Southland, Invercargill
With speaker Graham
Sycamore, City Councillor.

1. **War stories:** Catherine Walker spoke
about Craiglockhart Hospital and the
English WWI poets at the Edinburgh
coffee morning in November;
2. **At lunch:** (L-r) West Sussex Branch
members Shelia MacNicol, Charlotte
Murgatroyd and Chris Holmes-Smith,

Chairman Marliyn Archbold, Head
of Membership Stephen Darlington,
Central Council member Pam Voice and
Michael Voice; 3. **High notes:** A British
Columbia Branch recital in Vancouver;
4. **Festive fun:** The Bournemouth
Branch's Christmas fundraising lunch

UNITED KINGDOM

Bath

Monthly coffee morning
Wednesday 9 March, 13 April,
11 May, 10.30am, The Abbey Hotel,
North Parade, BA1 1LF
Informal meet-up on the
second Wednesday of every
month. Please note the
new venue; pay for your
own refreshments.
**New and potential members
and their guests welcome.**

London weekend
Friday 1 – Monday 4 April
See 'ROSL West' listing on
page 16 for details.

Spring lunch
Thursday 21 April, 11.30am,
Bath and County Club,
Queen's Parade, BA1 2NJ
The second part of Sally
Roberts' 'Waterloo Miscellany'
presentation, exploring events
in England, the tourists in
Belgium, the Battle itself and
its aftermath. The talk will be
followed by a two-course lunch
and coffee.
Guests welcome. Price tba.

Bournemouth

Weekly coffee morning
3, 10, 17, 24, 31 March
7, 21, 28 April
5, 12, 19, 26 May, 10.30am,
Marriott Highcliff Hotel
These regular meet-ups remain
an important part of the
branch's events calendar.
**ROSL and ESU members and
their guests welcome. £3.**

London weekend
Friday 1 – Monday 4 April
See 'ROSL West' listing on
page 16 for details.

AGM and lunch
Wednesday 13 April, 11am,
Marriott Highcliff Hotel
Two-course lunch with guests of
honour Director-General Roddy
Porter and Marianne Porter.
£24.

**The Queen's 90th
birthday celebration
concert**
Thursday 9 June, 6.30pm,
St Peter's Church
Special concert to mark The
Queen's birthday, followed by a
drinks and canapés reception.
Free (donations accepted).

Cheltenham

Branch events are held
on a quarterly basis.

**Commonwealth
Day lunch**
Monday 14 March, 12pm,
Matchams Restaurant,
Everyman Theatre
Choose from a delicious two-
or three-course set menu.
**Members and guests welcome.
Contact Kathleen Northage on
+44 (0)1242 515540 to book.
Price tba.**

Edinburgh

'The Ethiopian
adventure'
Saturday 5 March, 10am,
Over-Seas House Edinburgh
Coffee morning with talk by
Margaret Allan.
£3.

'Royal Scottish Academy'
Saturday 2 April, 10am,
Over-Seas House Edinburgh
Coffee morning with talk by
Dr Joanna Soden.
£3.

'Carpet design'
Saturday 7 May, 10am,
Over-Seas House Edinburgh
Coffee and talk by Bill King.
£3.

AGM
Wednesday 18 May, 6pm,
Over-Seas House Edinburgh
Formal meeting.
Members only.

Coffee morning
Saturday 4 June, 10am,
Over-Seas House Edinburgh
Speaker tba.
£3.

Exeter

'ROSL overseas
branches'
Friday 18 March, 11.30,
City Gate Hotel, EX4 3RB
Talk by ROSL Director-General
Roddy Porter, preceded by
one-course lunch with coffee.
**Members, prospective
members and their guests
welcome. £13.**

London weekend
Friday 1 – Monday 4 April
See 'ROSL West' listing
on page 16 for details.

Lunch and AGM
Friday 29 April, 11.30,
City Gate Hotel, EX4 3RB
One-course lunch with coffee
followed by the formal meeting
at about 1.30pm.
Members only. £13.

'Freewheelers'
Friday 27 May, 11.30,
City Gate Hotel, EX4 3RB
Speakers from the charity
Freewheelers give a talk about
their lifesaving service, which
uses volunteer motorbike riders



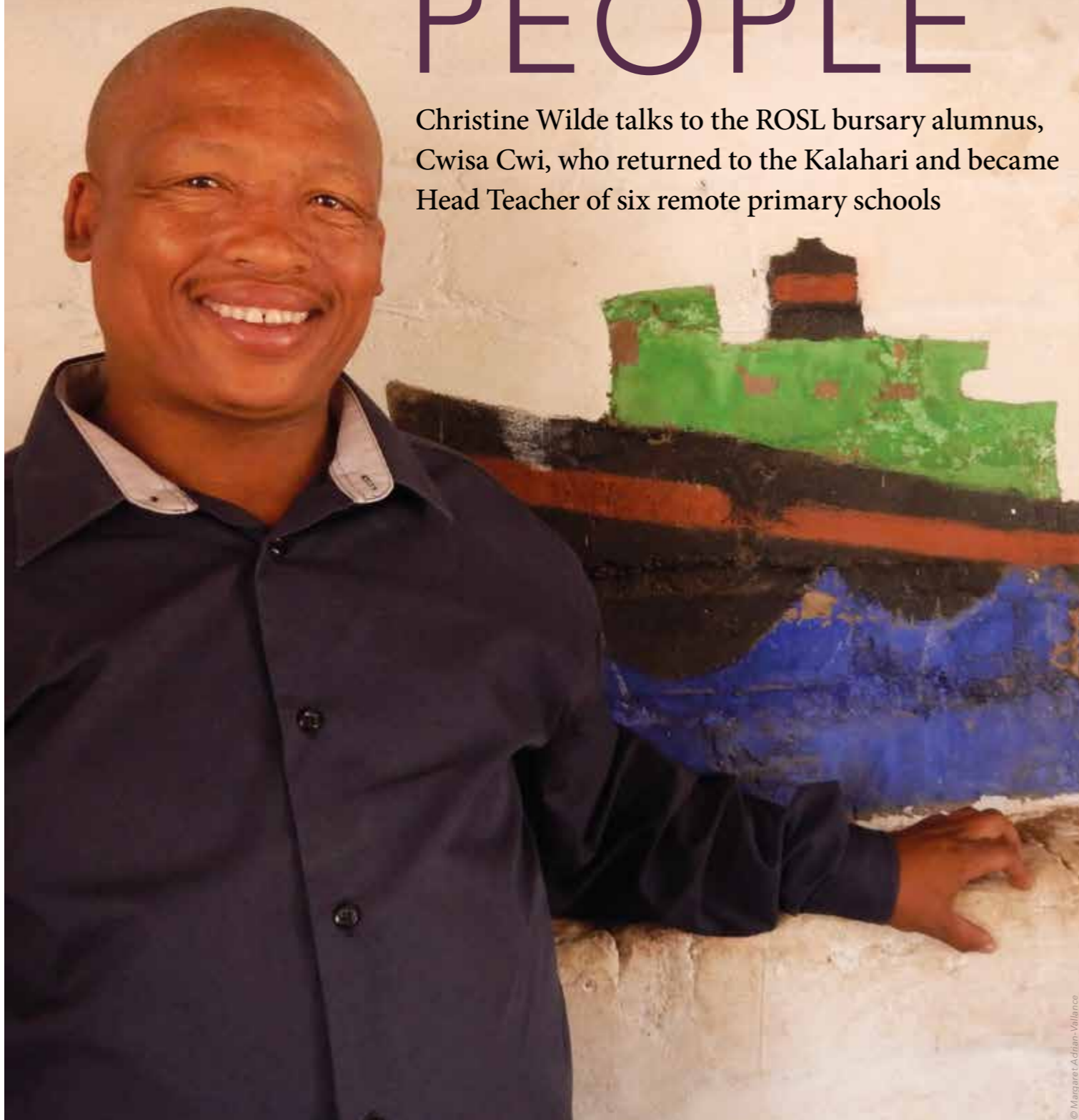
Royal birthday

Join the Bournemouth
Branch for a special
celebration concert to
mark the 90th birthday
of ROSL's Patron,
HM The Queen. Some
of the Commonwealth's
best young musicians,
including ROSL
prizewinners from
different categories,
will perform a carefully
selected programme of
pieces. The celebrations
will continue afterwards
with a drinks and
canapés reception. This
free event will be held
at St Peter's Church,
Bournemouth on
Thursday 9 June at
6.30pm; donations
towards the Roderick
Lakin Memorial Fund
will be welcomed.

Other ROSL branches
are also planning to mark
this special occasion.
The West Sussex Branch
will host a lunch on
8 June, while the British
Columbia Branch will
mark The Queen's actual
birthday with an event in
April (see listings for
details). To join in the
celebrations at your local
branch, contact your
branch representative
(see page 16 for contact
information). For details
of events planned at
the clubhouses, see
pages 41-42.

MAN *of the* PEOPLE

Christine Wilde talks to the ROSL bursary alumnus, Cwisa Cwi, who returned to the Kalahari and became Head Teacher of six remote primary schools



© Margaret A. Graham-Vollance

The start of a new term can be a hectic time for many teachers, but for former ROSL bursary recipient Cwisa Cwi, it presents some unique challenges. “I’ve been very busy running around the villages picking up the children in grade 4 at Tsumkwe Primary School,” he reports when I eventually catch up with him via email. “Now this week I have to open the village schools.”

This is no mean feat here in the western reaches of the Kalahari basin. Cwisa’s schools are located in some of the region’s most hard-to-access areas. The last asphalt highway ends about 220km from Tsumkwe, a small outpost that serves as the administrative, as well as geographic, centre of the Nyae Nyae Conservancy (NNC). From there, gravel roads and dirt tracks, navigable only by four-wheel-drive, comprise the main transport routes to the 36 San villages dotted throughout this 9,000km² semi-desert wilderness.

Cwisa, the first person from the San community to qualify as a teacher, is now the Head of six lower primary schools in the NNC, the ancestral home of the Ju/’hoansi (San) people in north-eastern Namibia. As well as providing lifts to school, Cwisa – with the help of his team of nine local teachers – works hard to provide, sustain and promote educational opportunities in this isolated region.

“The Nyae Nyae village schools began in 1993 as a private initiative to provide education opportunities to Ju/’hoansi children of the Tsumkwe district, giving them access to education in their own language, close to their own communities, for the first three years of education,” he explains. In 2004, the Ministry of Education took over responsibility for the schools. Since then, what Cwisa describes as the “progressive and flexible” educational policies of the Namibian government have enabled Ju/’hoansi youth to be employed as teachers, even if they are not formally qualified, and to obtain their qualifications through in-service training.



Clockwise from top left: Cwisa with the librarian at Tsumkwe Community Centre Library; the midday meal provides an added incentive for children to attend; pupils in the marquee classroom at Benschamp Primary; and Cwisa talks to Roddy and Marianne Porter and Raye Ward



NYAE NYAE FACTS

1960s

The Ju/’hoansi are pushed out of their ancestral lands

1981

A rural development programme is launched at grassroots level

1998

The Nyae Nyae Conservancy is officially established. The first in Namibia, it is joined to the N#a-Jaqua Conservancy in 2003. Together they cover 22,000km²

However, despite these forward-thinking initiatives, accessing education in such a remote area remains a significant challenge. There are just ten primary schools in the NNC, each supporting an extensive catchment area. A lack of transport means children often have to walk for hours to attend lessons through areas that are prone to floods in the rainy season and reach temperatures above 40 degrees. As a result, absenteeism and drop-out rates are high. School attendance in the NNC is half the national average and the literacy rate in the area remains at about 20%.

Cwisa believes that involving parents in their children’s education is a vital way to encourage better attendance. “It’s difficult when parents are sick, looking for jobs, visiting other family members or harvesting devil’s claw [a medicinal herb] and have to take their kids with them,” he says. “We are developing informal hostels and also have meetings with the parents to let them know that whenever they have to travel, they can leave their children in school – and it’s working.”

Although many San children now have access to some form of primary teaching, secondary and tertiary education opportunities are still few and far between. “Only a few of the children go on to further studies” comments Cwisa. “We’ve had only five.” There is just one secondary school in the NNC, located in Tsumkwe. With government support some San do board at secondary schools beyond the NNC. However, living so far from your community can present its own challenges, as Cwisa knows from personal experience.

Cwisa grew up in Nhoma, about 90km north-west of Twumkwe, and attended the local primary. “I was too young to start,” he recalls. “At that time our parents didn’t know our ages, so our white teachers told us that when we could put our hand over our head and touch our ear we were ready to start grade 1. But I couldn’t do it! I cried so much, because all my friends could go to school, that the teachers took pity on me and allowed me to join my friends.”

The local primary only took children up to grade 3, so to continue his studies

Cwisa travelled first to Tsumkwe, boarding at a student hostel, and then 600km further away to secondary school. "I had to go so far away because the schools close by were full," he explains. "I felt homesick living such a distance from my community."

He went on to study at Windhoek College of Education. "When I was young I admired the way my teachers worked; they were so respected. That's why I wanted to become a teacher," he says. "However, my first year at the college was difficult. I had no money for clothes, toiletries or transport home from Windhoek for the holidays. My mother also passed away that same year. Then, in 2000, ROSL started helping me. Their support enabled me to finish my education diploma." Cwisa graduated in March 2001 and has been teaching ever since. "I made sure I passed and completed those three years so I could come back to my community to plough back what I had learned."

The Ju/'hoansi have lived in the area now designated the NNC for around 40,000 years. Considered the most traditional of Bushmen groups, due to their isolation until 1951, they are still allowed to hunt and forage in the traditional way. When ROSL first began supporting schools in remote Namibian communities, some expressed concerns that international education structures would destroy the Bushman way of life. But Cwisa disagrees: "A lot of people think we just want to remain hunter-gatherers. This isn't true and there are always ways of combining tradition with modern life."

Cwisa has been helping to achieve this balance by supporting the development of new learning resources for his community. "My role was to advise the Ju/'hoansi Curriculum Committee," he says. That involved helping to create new textbooks written in Ju/'hoansi, which make it easier

for children to learn to read and write in their own language, as well as in English (Namibia's official language).

Alongside their official curriculum, Cwisa's schools enlist the help of parent-teachers to teach traditional stories and skills such as identifying animal footprints. "We teach them modern life and also our culture because we don't want them to forget where they come from."

Cwisa is clear about his aims for the future: "I want to build flushing toilets and showers for the pupils, as well as a fence around some schools," he says. With ROSL's help he can continue to improve his schools' resources and facilities, and perhaps in doing so, inspire the next generation of Ju/'hoansi teachers.

For information about how to donate to ROSL's educational projects in Namibia, contact Margaret Adrian-Vallance at mvallance@rosl.org.uk.

“WHEN WE COULD PUT OUR HAND OVER OUR HEAD AND TOUCH OUR EAR WE WERE READY TO START GRADE 1. BUT I COULDN'T DO IT! I CRIED SO MUCH



Top class: Teacher and pupils at Benschamp Primary pose with (l-r) Roddy Porter, Cwisa Cwi, Paul Oosthuizen, Simon Ward and Margaret Adrian-Vallance

Q&A Sir Roger Carrick

FROM COLD WAR ERA BULGARIA TO INDONESIA UNDER THE CORRUPT SOEHARTO PRESIDENCY, THE ACTING CHAIRMAN LOOKS BACK AT HIS ECLECTIC INTERNATIONAL CAREER – AND AHEAD TO HIS PLANS AND ASPIRATIONS FOR ROSL

Q. Tell us about your career in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

A. I joined in the Fifties and held posts in Bulgaria, Paris, Singapore, Berkeley, Washington, Chicago, Indonesia and Australia. I've also had five postings in London at various levels. Hilary and I have never been able to say which we enjoyed most; they're so different you can't compare. For example, Bulgaria was our honeymoon post, so we had lots of adventures even though it was the height of the Cold War. Paris – well who wouldn't enjoy four years in Paris? But I also had to work through De Gaulle's *Grand Non* to our entry into the European communities. Singapore was a marvellous place to bring up two boys, and organising a state visit by The Queen was memorable.

As a Visiting Fellow at UC Berkeley, I wrote a book, lectured eager undergraduates and learned the hard way to appreciate Californian wine. You can imagine how tough that was! We had a super time in Washington, a self-conscious hot-house of a city that thinks it's the centre of the world – and in many ways is right. I was Consul-General in Chicago: very tough politics but some fine politicians. I became Ambassador to Indonesia when Soeharto was president: a fascinating, complex job in a beautiful archipelago. Hilary and I then fell down the map to Australia. That is a joy of the foreign service: people say we're butterflies flitting from place to place; I prefer to call it versatility.

Q. When did you join ROSL?

A. A friend encouraged me to join in the Eighties. We've always liked this club: it's friendly, there is a family feel

about the clubhouses, and what the club does around the world is important to Hilary and me. I've been a member of the Central Council and the Executive Council, Chairman of the Building Sub Committee and Vice-Chairman. Now, to my deep sadness, I find myself Acting Chairman following Simon's terribly unexpected and tragic death. He would have been a very fine Chairman.

Q. Which of ROSL's achievements are you most proud of?

A. Repairing the chimneys and roof in Edinburgh, of which the architects, too, are justly proud. My favourite change in London so far is the new goods lift down to the basement. It sounds mundane but is vital to the health and safety of the staff. The Bar Terrace is good. There are so many excellent events, but the Roderick Lakin Memorial Concert was one of the finest concerts I've ever been to.



Top: Sir Roger and Lady Carrick enjoy the garden at their home in Exmoor
Left: En route to Roger's first posting, in 1962, in Sofia, Bulgaria, he stops to take a picture of his wife Hilary in the Balkan mountains
Below: Outside the British High Commission Building in Canberra in 1997

Q. What are the priorities for 2016?

A. Continuing the building programme, and increasing and supporting the membership. We've turned the membership around after a bit of a dip, but we need to do more. This is a membership organisation; we have to ensure we know what members need. I hope we'll appoint a Chairman to succeed the redoubtable and hugely missed Simon Ward, and pursue his ambitions, including focusing on humanitarian and education projects. Other early appointments are of Arts Director and Operations Director.

Q. How do you relax?

A. I listen to music – one of the joys of ROSL. Mozart, Beethoven and Liszt are favourites and Elgar's *Cello Concerto* is one of the finest gifts to man. I dabble with carpentry – an antidote to diplomacy because you work with your hands as well as your head.

Interview by Christine Wilde

Sir Roger Carrick's latest book, *Diplomatic Anecdote: Around the world in 40 years*, is available from the ROSL Shop and on Amazon.



to deliver blood and other vital medical supplies for the NHS out of hours. Preceded by a one-course lunch with coffee.
Guests welcome. £13.

Budleigh Music Festival concert and lunch

Saturday 16 July, 12pm,
Temple Methodist Church,
Budleigh Salterton
ROSL/Pettman scholars, the Tasman Duo (violin and piano), perform at ROSL's annual concert at the festival. There will be a chance to have lunch with the musicians afterwards.
Guests welcome. Concert free; price of lunch tba.

Glasgow

For information about branch events, call Bill Agnew on +44 (0)141 884 6342.

AGM

Friday 13 May
Formal meeting.
Members only. £2 donation for refreshments.

ROSL West

London weekend
Friday 1 - Monday 4 April,
Over-Seas House London
Enjoy a long weekend away with the opportunity to see a West End performance and visit places of interest, including the Courtauld Gallery, Strawberry Hill and Ham House. Includes half-board at Over-Seas House; excludes outings and travel to/from London.
For Bath, Bournemouth, Exeter and Taunton Branch members only. Email rosl.west@gmail.com or call +44 (0)1823 661148 to register your interest. £350 half board, excludes outings.

Taunton

'Routes of the River Tone'
Wednesday 2 March, 11.30am,
Somerset College
Illustrated talk by Nick Tomlinson of Somerset Wildlife, with two-course lunch.
Guests welcome. £15.

Weekly coffee morning
Wednesday 9, 16, 23, 30 March
6, 13, 20, 27 April
4, 11, 18, 25 May, 10.30am,
Miles at The Riverside
Friendly gathering. Buy your own refreshments and find the group upstairs.
Members, guests and those interested in joining welcome.

London weekend

Friday 1 - Monday 4 April
See 'ROSL West' listing, below left, for details.

AGM

Wednesday 6 April, 10.30am,
Taunton Library Meeting Room
Formal meeting.
Members only.

'The Queen's bodyguard of the Yeoman of the Guard'

Wednesday 4 May, 11.30am,
Somerset College
Illustrated talk by Yeoman Shaun McCormack with two-course lunch.
Guests welcome. £15.

West Cornwall

Annual lunch
Thursday 17 March, 12.30pm,
Carbis Bay Hotel
Three-course lunch with guest of honour ROSL Acting Chairman, Sir Roger Carrick.
Guests welcome. To attend call +44 (0)1736 333460 by 15 March. £21.95.

AGM and talk

Thursday 21 April, 2.45pm,
Carbis Bay Hotel
Meeting followed by a talk by Pat Cowan on her career in telecommunications. Cornish cream tea served afterwards.
Guests welcome. To attend call +44 (0)1736 333460 by 19 April. £6.

West Sussex

AGM and lunch
Wednesday 9 March, 12.30pm,
Windsor Hotel, Windsor Road, Worthing
Two-course lunch and coffee, with Director-General Roddy Porter, followed by the AGM.
Guests welcome to lunch only.

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Call +44 (0)1444 458 853
for details. **Members £19;**
guests £20.

Brighton Festival

May tbc, 1pm, Brighton Dome
Lunch-time concert featuring ROSL's prizewinning musicians, followed by lunch at a café.
Call +44 (0)1444 458 853 to register your interest.

The Queen's birthday lunch

Wednesday 8 June, 12.30pm,
Windsor Hotel, Windsor Road, Worthing
Two-course lunch with coffee.
Speaker tba.
Guests welcome. Call +44 (0)1444 458 853 for details.

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A VALUABLE OPPORTUNITY

Lyn Milne announces the winners of the Pettman/ROSL ARTS Scholarship

In its 10th year, the Pettman/ROSL ARTS Chamber Music Scholarship weekend attracted 35 students in 11 ensembles, with harp and guitar participating for the first time. Four finalists were chosen following a full day of auditions and individual interviews.

Those who were not selected enjoyed masterclasses with the adjudicators and past ROSL prizewinners Ben Baker, Jonathan Bloxham, Ellen Deverall and Sam Armstrong. Then all the participants came together to perform Handel's *Hercules* overture, conducted by Peter Walls, Chairman of the scholarship and Chief Executive of Chamber Music New Zealand. Describing the day as a special event, Peter added: "I was impressed by the talent of both individual contestants and ensembles, but what made this weekend so special was the sense of camaraderie among young musicians that prevailed, despite the fact that they were competing against each other for a very valuable opportunity."

The winners were the Tasman Duo: 18-year-old Lauren Bennett violin and 21-year-old Bradley Wood piano (pictured above) from the University of Auckland. Their scholarship begins in July 2016 in the UK, including concerts, masterclasses, summer schools and performances in the London and Edinburgh clubhouses.

The annual Finalists' Concert was this time preceded by a reception to commemorate Roderick Lakin, ROSL Director of Arts, whose vision and passion for this scholarship has broadened its horizons and inspired its many winners.

Ensembles assemble

TAIT BECKE PREDICTS THE UNPREDICTABLE AT THE ROSL ANNUAL MUSIC COMPETITION SECTION FINALS IN MARCH

After the last of our four individual section finals in February, we turn our eyes, and most importantly our ears, to the two ensemble awards. These section finals, which take place this year on 1 and 8 March, are unique because they represent the end of the competition component for the winners. While the winners of the solo sections must go on to compete against each other at the Final on 1 June in Cadogan Hall, the ensemble winners can enjoy performing at that event, free from the tyranny of being judged.

The Ensembles A section final is a showcase of string and keyboard ensembles, with a strong representation of string quartets, piano trios, and various unique duos.

Since the ensembles section was split into two categories in 2004, the string quartets have had the upper hand, with seven out of the eleven winners being quartets. However, lately the duos have been snapping up the awards, with the Françoise-Green Piano Duo winning in 2013, and the Jackson Beilby Duo of violin and viola picking up the prize last year.

The Ensembles B final is always one of the absolute highlights of the competition because of its unpredictable nature. In the last four years alone, the section has been won by a marimba duo, a recorder quartet, a flute trio and a saxophone quartet. So be ready for anything, and some fantastic performances.

The section finals will be held at 7pm in Princess Alexandra Hall, Over-Seas House London: Ensembles A on 1 March and Ensemble B on 8 March. See page 36 for details.



THE GOOD OF HUMANITY

As he travels across Africa, Director-General Roddy Porter meets the dedicated, passionate and determined people supported by ROSL projects

“If it was not for the Royal-Over Seas League bursary, I would not be studying to be a teacher.” Listening to a young women student at the University of Namibia (UNAM) explaining, with tears running down her cheeks, that a ROSL bursary had given her a unique opportunity to qualify as a teacher was not only moving but it was also a direct validation of everything our humanitarian programme stands for. Seeking “to do good to humanity at large”, as our founder said, is finding tangible expression in three countries in Africa, and the generosity of our members is having real effect on the ground.

A visit to Namibia, Botswana and Kenya in October 2015 afforded our late Chairman Simon Ward, his wife Raye, ROSL Director of Humanitarian Projects Margaret Adrian-Vallance, my wife Marianne, and me the opportunity to see how your donations to the Golden Jubilee Trust (GJT) are being used to benefit the disadvantaged. We wanted to meet our partners, helpers, ROSL bursary recipients and alumni, and to review in-country governance for the projects.

Inspiration in Namibia

Our work in Namibia was established in 1994, when Margaret teamed up with Clara Bohitile, then Deputy Minister of Basic Education and Culture. There are two foci: teacher training at UNAM, and support to the education of the San children in the Nyae Nyae (“rocky place without mountains”) Conservancy, at the heart of the San culture in Namibia. 22 years on, the work is still valued by beneficiaries and by senior politicians in Namibia. 37 trainee teachers – delightful young folk from poor backgrounds – currently receive ROSL bursaries, which enable them to train. It was heart-warming to listen to their stories and their determination to make a difference for the next generation. They are learning to teach in English, Afrikaans and their own tribal language, of which there are around 17 in Namibia.

In the Nyae Nyae, rural poverty is of an order difficult to imagine, but attitudes are enormously positive, and cohesion within tribes and families is strong. We met Cwisa Cwi, a San who benefitted as a young student from ROSL’s support and who now, uniquely, oversees six bush schools. Cwisa is an inspiration and something of a celebrity in his own community (see our interview with him on page 18).

His problems, however, are significant. The schools are in remote locations and the teachers’ lives complex; in term time they live in basic two-man tents in 40 degrees of bush heat, and have to make a weekly three-hour journey to the bank in Grootfontein to be paid. At Bencamp School, near the border with Botswana, the children are educated in a tattered white marquee, the only facility available. Cwisa must bid to the regional education



Main: Children at Bencamp Village School near Tsumkwe. Left: Pupils at Talitha Kumi Christian Academy in Arandis, near Swakopmund

authorities for funding for salaries, books, stationery and food for the midday meal of maize and soya stew (a real incentive for children to attend).

In discussion with ROSL member and Speaker of the National Assembly, the Hon Peter Katjavivi, who generously hosted our party at the Assembly, and Dr Becky Ndjoze-Ojo, Deputy Minister for Higher Education, it was clear that ROSL's work was much valued. Namibia has a declared ambition to eradicate – not just alleviate – poverty, and education is one of the engines of this high ideal. Early-years education is a major problem and, as UNAM were also keen to point out, they do not yet possess the means to train the teachers in the skills required for nursery and infant education. They are therefore keen to enlist professional support; are there any ROSL members out there who might have the skills, time and vision to help?

Our time in Namibia was exceedingly valuable. There was much encouragement to continue and we are convinced that our support of teacher training is a significant contribution. Cwisa still needs support, some of which we can provide. There are other opportunities too; one memorable visit to a primary school in the mining town of Arandis challenged us to consider sponsoring specific building projects to enable full primary education of very needy children there.



Clockwise from top left: Mondesa Youth Opportunity in Namibia; in Kenya Langalanga Primary; Loldia Primary; and Woodard Langalanga Secondary; and Pupils at Talitha Kumi Primary in Namibia

Advice in Botswana

Sadly, success in Botswana was more elusive. One of our main contacts was in London during our one-night stop-over, and another was unable to reach us after his vehicle broke down. We will need to return to review our projects there at a future date.

Not all was lost, however, and a flying visit to Gaborone enabled us to meet ROSL members Reg Richardson and Susan and Marshall Huntingford before we flew on to Nairobi. They provided us with some sound advice in just a few hours and I am very grateful to them, and also to ROSL member Sarah Ward, for all their help in enabling us better to understand the needs in Botswana and how we might put ROSL's small resources to best effect.

Opening doors in Kenya

The Nairobi rush-hour traffic after an overnight flight is not the most auspicious start to a visit but our time in Kenya proved very fruitful, thanks to meticulous planning by Simon Ward. We hosted a dinner

for a number of patrons of the arts in Nairobi, which enabled us to tell ROSL's story, and we hope to follow up in the near future with firm ideas about support for the arts in Kenya.

In beautiful, dynamic and overcrowded Kenya, the educational needs seemed as significant as in the lovely, vast and under-populated Namibia. ROSL supports two teenage children in an amazingly successful educational charity, the Langalanga Foundation based in Gilgil, a three-hour drive north of the capital. Run by Harry and Alison Vialou Clark, it has overseen the building of some 20 schools and enabled the education of some of the country's poorest children. We met some deeply committed head teachers and staff, who struggle desperately to find the necessary resources, especially qualified teachers; yet a good number of the Langalanga children qualify for university education.

Several of the secondary schools we visited had benefitted from sponsorship from overseas, for example in the provision of science laboratories.

GET INVOLVED

In response to members' queries as to how they can get more involved in ROSL's humanitarian projects, the Australian artist Michael Johnson and George Harwood Smith, Acting Director of ROSL ARTS, have suggested a charity auction of donated paintings – possibly in December. So if you are an arts exhibitor, professional or hobby artist, or simply know someone who could donate a picture, please get in touch.

Although ROSL does not arrange voluntary work overseas, our partners at the University of Namibia are in need of volunteer vets and early-years teachers.

Donating or making a legacy to the Golden Jubilee Trust (charity number 306095) is still one of best ways to support ROSL humanitarian, arts and education projects.

To find out more, contact Margaret Adrian-Vallance on +44 (0)20 7408 0214 ext 307 or mvallance@rosl.org.uk.

One notable example was Woodard Langalanga Secondary School in Gilgil, a fine and growing day school benefitting greatly from sponsorship through the Woodard Academies Trust, some of whose officers are ROSL members. The Head Teacher, Paul Mbogua, visited ROSL Headquarters in January en route to his first Headmasters' and Headmistresses' Conference (HMC) meeting.

Our visit confirmed that your donations are being well spent. Not one penny of those donations is spent on administration, which is covered by ROSL's annual budget; 100% goes to the recipient. Trainee teachers and children in Namibia and Kenya are benefitting directly from your support. Without those donations, they would not be in the education system; on their behalf, thank you. What we can do, of course, only scratches the surface of the educational need but it is welcomed for all that, and we will "keep on keeping on" in the pursuit of our goal to support those in need wherever we can.



A future vision

WHY HIGHER EDUCATION MUST BE A DRIVING FORCE BEHIND NAMIBIA'S AMBITIOUS DEVELOPMENT GOALS

In 2013, Bloomberg named Namibia the top emerging market economy in Africa and the 13th in the world. It was a sign that the country's long-term development agenda, Vision 2030, was on track. The government identifies Higher Education as a "driving force" behind this agenda, so continued investment in tertiary education is not only planned but seen as vital to the health of the nation.

It is concerning, then, that nearly halfway into the 26-year plan, just 9.3% of young people are accessing Higher Education. However, considering that Namibia's only university is just 23 years old, that figure is also cause for hope. Since 1992, when the University of Namibia (UNAM) was founded (two years after independence), student numbers have leapt from 2,800 to 17,000. And the range of provision continues to grow, with the establishment of a Faculty of Engineering

and IT in 2009 and a School of Medicine in 2010.

In order to fulfil its mandate to "transform lives through education", there are a number of barriers that the university has to overcome – from obstacles to children accessing good-quality schooling to gaps in Higher Education provision. Having one of the most dispersed populations in the world is also problematic, and UNAM now has six campuses spread across the country so that young people don't have to travel so far from home to study.

To address the issues of access to education at all levels, teacher training is a key priority. With 5,284 students, the Faculty of Education is the largest of UNAM's eight faculties, and teacher training is offered at all six campuses.

In a country in which 55% of people are living in poverty, funding is another major challenge, and UNAM has relied on private finance from the outset. Civil society, multinational corporations and other funding sources offer a range of support, including a Student Hardship Fund, bursary schemes, a book fund, and infrastructure such as laboratories and student accommodation.

ROSL is currently supporting 37 teaching students (pictured at UNAM's Khomasdal campus). As the teachers of the future, it is hoped they will inspire a new generation to continue their studies to university level.



An education for EVERY CHILD

SAMANTHA WHITAKER INVESTIGATES THE WORK BEING DONE IN NAMIBIA TO OVERCOME OBSTACLES TO UNIVERSAL FREE SCHOOLING

As part of a vigorous reform to give every Namibian child the chance to go to school, the Ministry of Education established a taskforce in 1995 specifically to target children living in remote areas. The idea was to provide them not only with an education, but also with food, clothing and basic healthcare.

“That’s where ROSL came in and very timely indeed,” explains Clara Bohitile, who was Deputy Minister of Basic Education and Culture at the time. “The ROSL-Namibia project focused on the children of the Himba, the San and the farm workers, for whom the doors of learning were previously shut.” Over the last 20 years, the project has helped hundreds of Namibian children, with some of those students returning to their schools as qualified teachers.

At the same time, the Government of the Republic of Namibia (GRN) has maintained an impeccable record of allocating the largest share of its national budget to the education sector – 18% in 2015/16 – while the introduction of free pre-school and primary education in 2013 has increased learner enrolment by 3% each year. Now a high number of Namibian children attend primary school, the learner/textbook ratio at primary level is 1:1 for core subjects in most schools, and the government says it is close

to achieving its target of full literacy among the country’s youth.

However, according to a report by Namibia’s Minister of Education, Arts and Culture, Hon Katrina Hanse-Himarwa, since the introduction of free schooling, 75% of the education budget has been absorbed by teachers’ salaries, leaving very little for much-needed classrooms, renovations and learning materials. As a result, the ministry is working hard to iron out inefficiencies and ensure that teachers use the most effective teaching and learning methods.

Since 2005, there has been a strong emphasis on pre-school education, which, according to ministry research, can improve children’s health, emotional, cognitive and social outcomes, and help to reduce the number of children repeating grades, dropping out of school or being placed in special education.

Jacky Konjore, Principal of Help the Helpless Kindergarten in Tsumeb,



Above: Roddy Porter with pupils at Xatoba Primary School
Below: A lesson at Mondesa Youth Opportunity



agrees that compulsory pre-school education is hugely beneficial. “When it was introduced, as a teacher, I could see and feel the difference in my classroom,” she says. “It gives children a certain confidence when they move into primary school, which is particularly important for rural children as they can find it challenging to enter a school environment for the first time and mix with children from urban areas.”

However, despite the budget allocation for the pre-primary education programme, it seems that funds are not yet reaching all of Namibia’s schools. Zirk Vermeulen is Principal of Hippo Primary School in Omaheke, one of three schools that continues to receive support from the ROSL-Namibia project. “For me, it

seems that the means to implement some policies are not fully planned,” he says. “For example, to introduce pre-primary, I have to provide a classroom, housing for a teacher and hostel facilities for 30-40 boarders. Universal Primary Education (UPE) money cannot cater for such needs.” The will is clearly there, though the means may lag behind.

A lack of resources

The ministry is also keen to boost the quality of Namibia’s teachers. Although SAT scores (the national tests for primary-school children) are improving year by year, it has been suggested that poor results point to insufficient teacher training and a lack of knowledge of effective methods. These shortcomings are



VISION 2030
The government launched its development agenda in 2004.

It aims to “transform Namibia into a healthy and food-secure nation”.

High standards of living and quality education are among the key aspirations.

“CHILDREN MAY HAVE TO WALK 5KM OR MORE JUST TO GET TO SCHOOL. BY THE TIME THEY ARRIVE, THEY ARE EXHAUSTED. ‘LET THEM SLEEP LATER’ HAS BECOME THE MOTTO

being addressed with a programme of training workshops on a range of subjects, from washing hands to road safety.

However, this can have the knock-on effect of leaving children without a teacher for up to three days, according to Zirk. “There’s absolutely nothing wrong with training, but most schools in rural areas cannot provide a relief teacher, so learning does not take place,” he explains. Schools are now able to appoint non-qualified teachers, which has helped to ease the burden, but this comes with its own challenges says Jacky, who is sometimes forced to employ grade 12 students as teachers.

In a country with 28 languages, another issue facing primary schools

is what languages to use in the classroom. The ministry encourages schools to use the native languages of their children in grades 1-3, and then to switch to English. But at Hippo Primary, Zirk struggled to find teachers to cover the six languages represented at the school and, after two years of searching, he decided to implement English as the first language. The school’s results have since improved considerably. “I understand that mother tongue is by far the best tool for any learner to master concepts, but conditions in this country can make this impossible to implement,” he says.

Most schools also suffer from an ongoing shortage of classroom equipment. More government money is spent on feeding school children than on learning resources, and if there is a drought the Ministry of Education is required to provide even more assistance, without a budget increase.

In addition, many rural areas have insufficient internet and mobile connectivity, schools suffer from a lack of parental involvement, while children may have to walk 5km or more just to get to school. “By the time they arrive, they are exhausted,” says Jacky. “Let them sleep later’ has become the motto.”

Despite these challenges, both Zirk and Jacky recognise that the ministry, with assistance from NGOs and stakeholders, is doing its best to meet demands. Continued investment in education is one of the cornerstones to achieving Vision 2030, Namibia’s long-term goal of improving the lives of its people and moving the nation significantly up the scale of human development. Its children of today are its human resources of tomorrow: a healthy, skilled workforce that it is hoped will help transform Namibia into a strong, sustainable, knowledge-based economy.

Samantha Whitaker is a freelance journalist and a former Deputy Editor of Overseas. samanthawhitaker.com

OUT OF TRAGEDY

Sarah Ward visits two centres for vulnerable children in Botswana to see how ROSL funds are providing vital support

The Anne-Stine Centre for Children with Disabilities in Molepolole, Botswana, was initiated by a Norwegian couple in 1985 and officially opened in March 1993. Dr Sandberg was the regional Medical Officer for the Kweneng District and his wife, Professor Ingstad, was evaluating the community-based rehabilitation programme for the World Health Organisation. There was a clear need for a rehabilitation centre for children with disabilities, and a committee was formed to raise 20% of the funds needed to construct the centre.

On their way back to Norway, the couple's youngest child, Anne-Stine, was tragically killed and they decided to donate the entire 20% funding with the request

that the centre be named in their daughter's memory. The Norwegian Development Association funded the rest of the construction.

The centre is committed to helping children living in Molepolole with mental and physical disabilities from birth up to 12. The ultimate aim is to improve the quality of life of the children and to encourage social integration in all aspects of society. At present, the centre has 60 outpatients, with 40 children visiting the centre every day for therapy and stimulation. Donations from ROSL go a long way towards supporting this work.

On the other side of Gaborone, in Mogoditshane, ROSL gives vital support to another centre for vulnerable children. St Peter's Day Care Centre first opened its doors

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to seven orphans in June 2003. It now cares for 80 children aged 2-5, as well as 30 school children who come for lunch, homework supervision and after-school activities. The purpose is to promote an environment in which orphans and other vulnerable children are adequately cared for and given age-appropriate, enriching educational activities by qualified staff. The centre is solely run on donations by the Manager Gladys Mudereri and her husband, Father Andrew.

Sarah Ward is a long-standing ROSL member who lives in Gaborone.



Taking care: Some of the 110 orphaned and vulnerable children who are cared for at St Peter's Day Care Centre near Gaborone. Sarah Ward's mother and aunt hand-knit teddies and clothing to keep the children warm in the winter months



At a Glance

ROSL HUMANITARIAN PROJECTS

WHY?

The humanitarian projects play an important role in securing ROSL's aim of "promoting an enduring multi-racial fellowship pledged to the support of the Commonwealth and to the service of others and humanity at large". This is in accordance with the ROSL bye-law of "sponsoring and encouraging projects designed to assist those who are in need", which was added by the Privy Council in 1998.

WHERE?

Ongoing projects are in Botswana, Kenya and Namibia, with occasional support in Zambia at the discretion of the ROSL Golden Jubilee Trustees (GJT).

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

Forming and maintaining partnerships with national/local groups to help those from marginalised communities to get an education. Helping to increase literacy in remote areas of the Commonwealth. Working with local organisations to support communities facing food and water insecurity. Raising awareness and visibility in Overseas and on the ROSL website, as requested by our partner organisations.

FUNDING

Projects have been funded by individual donations, outside organisations, the voluntary £1 add-on to bedroom bills at the London clubhouse and, more recently, the interest from a generous legacy of £93,000 from Dr Donald Valentine. This legacy is restricted, at his request, to ROSL's projects in Namibia. Donations and legacies are sheltered in the GJT (for details, see opposite).



Trust in us

BY SUPPORTING YOUNG PEOPLE AROUND THE WORLD, AND WITH NO ADMINISTRATIVE OR SALARY COSTS, ROSL'S CHARITABLE TRUST IS IMMENSELY ATTRACTIVE TO DONORS, SAYS MARGARET ADRIAN-VALLANCE

Most organisations have a single status – commercial, charitable, non-profit. ROSL, however, is a Commonwealth not-for-profit organisation operating under Royal Charter with a charitable 'attachment': the ROSL Golden Jubilee Trust (GJT).

This arrangement ensures a well-managed, tax-efficient home for donations in a trust which has no administrative costs, as these are borne by ROSL. This situation makes it particularly attractive to donors. The GJT has its own Trustees and Chairman, to which the Director of ROSL ARTS and Director of ROSL Humanitarian Projects are required to apply for project funding approval each year.

The trust was established on 1 January 1960 to mark the club's Golden Jubilee and "to extend ROSL's work of furthering and encouraging good relations, friendship, mutual knowledge and understanding amongst the peoples of the Commonwealth". By the Nineties, the focus was on support for ROSL ARTS. This was partly due to the accumulation of generous legacies over the years which, at the donors' requests, were restricted to music awards.

It was not until 1998 that ROSL's amended Royal Charter included humanitarian projects. Funds for these had to be found each year. The generous legacy from Dr Donald Valentine in 2014, restricted at his request to humanitarian projects in Namibia, was the first of its kind.

In April 2015, the GJT fund stood at £1,413,021 (only £151,196 is unrestricted). During the last financial year, £113,000 was used to fund ROSL music awards and scholarships, and £16,000 to support humanitarian and education projects. The Trust has dispersed around £2 million to ROSL ARTS prizes since 1960 and £150,000 to humanitarian/education projects since they were introduced in 1995.

Our members are incredibly generous. Their support has enhanced the lives of musicians, artists, students, schools and marginalised communities around the world. One aim is now to increase funds for humanitarian projects.

To find out more about the GJT (charity no. 306095), making a donation or leaving a legacy, contact ROSL Director of Humanitarian Projects Margaret Adrian-Vallance at mvallance@rosl.org.uk or ROSL ARTS at roslarts@rosl.org.uk.



© Shane P. Watts Photography

ADDING VALUE

Simon Gimson on the initiatives and agreements formed at the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting

A Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) is the headline occasion every two years when the 53 leaders take the pulse of world events and give fresh direction to the Commonwealth. This responsibility to push the ‘refresh’ button, with both vision and practical outcomes in mind, is a defining feature of CHOGM; and it is how and why the modern Commonwealth continues to evolve and be relevant to its times.

The Malta meeting on 27-29 November did all this, and more. The leaders discussed today’s global challenges: climate change, violent extremism, migration, and the new UN Sustainable Development Goals. Their discussions were guided by the theme ‘Adding Global Value’, showcasing concrete examples of how the Commonwealth has made a world-shifting contribution in the past and can do so in future, from reducing national debt to improving the conditions for trade, from

strengthening multi-party democracy to championing the interests of the vulnerable.

It is a measure of the organisation’s convening power, potential and added global value that this CHOGM featured a special session attended by UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, President Hollande of France, the European Commissioner for the Environment, and Prince Charles.

Almost half of the leaders had been appointed since the last CHOGM; they came with fresh intent and left with a new commitment to the Commonwealth. The new Chairperson-in-Office, Prime Minister Joseph Muscat of Malta, set out to secure the Commonwealth’s place on the global map. He addressed the COP21 climate change summit in Paris just hours after the meeting in Malta ended and tabled the Commonwealth Leaders’ Statement on Climate Action – a declaration of shared political ambition that brought Commonwealth members’ positions

closer together than ever before. That statement included practical proposals – notably innovative funding solutions, such as an online finance access hub for climate-vulnerable states, a debt-swap-for-climate-finance proposal, and a ‘green finance’ facility.

The new Secretary-General, Rt Hon Patricia Scotland, will assume office on 1 April. She has already spoken of her commitment to empowering Commonwealth governments and protecting their citizens, and of generating more fresh thinking, innovation and energy from the Commonwealth Secretariat.

The Malta meeting also decided to establish a High Level Review Group to consider the direction of the Secretariat’s work and how to ensure that all accredited organisations are

fit for purpose and well governed. The group is also expected to explore how the three intergovernmental organisations (Secretariat, Foundation, Commonwealth of Learning) can be brought together in more effective and practical partnerships with accredited organisations, such as ROSL.

A number of practical initiatives were approved, including a counter-extremism unit, while an endorsement to develop a ‘Commonwealth Advantage’ addressed concerns that Commonwealth citizens should be able to move more easily across its borders for short-term visits.

Malta showed leadership by doubling the time dedicated by foreign ministers to meetings with representatives of civil society and the accredited Commonwealth organisations. Even then, the allotted time over-ran but only because many ministers found the meetings to be so thought-provoking and worthwhile.

The Malta CHOGM set new trends and directions with new levels of energy. With the ‘refresh’ button firmly pushed, much can be expected before the 2018 CHOGM in the UK.

Simon Gimson is Director of the Commonwealth Secretariat’s Political Division and was the Malta CHOGM Conference Secretary. He represents the Commonwealth Secretary-General on ROSL Central Council.

Above: The opening ceremony attended by HM The Queen, the Duke of Edinburgh, The Prince of Wales and the Duchess of Cornwall
Below: The arrival of The Queen



Paul Oosthuizen’s Swakopmund

How long have you lived in Swakopmund?
My wife and I moved here in 2007 and have since enjoyed the salubrious, varied climate. Swakopmund is a coastal town that offers cooler weather compared to the rest of Namibia, good food and some action-packed desert adventures. It is not unusual to experience all four seasons in one day!

What local dishes and delicacies would you recommend to visitors?

Wining and dining in Swakopmund is an absolute pleasure. Seafood is the obvious favourite: oysters are a local speciality and steenbra a rare but delicious delicacy. The city is also famous for its German confectionaries, which can be found at the popular Café Anton.

What sort of activities does the city offer?
Swakopmund combines the tranquillity of a West Coast fishing town with trendy and adventurous desert activities, such as 4x4 excursions, quad bike rides and desert sky diving. Among the ‘must-sees’ are the Moon Valley and famous Welwitschia plants in the Namib Desert; the Kristall Galerie’s gemstone collection, including the world’s largest quartz cluster; and the Dome, one of the top sports venues in southern Africa.

What are your favourite architectural features in Swakopmund?

Its German heritage is integral to its atmosphere, and traditional buildings, such as the Woermann Haus and Tower (pictured below), have been kept in their original condition. However, the town has also developed a cosmopolitan character with impressive modern additions, such as Jetty 1905 oyster bar (main picture) and the Dome.

Paul Oosthuizen was Principal of the Grootfontein Secondary School in northern Namibia, attended by Cwisa Cwi (see pages 18-20). He has been a consultant and co-monitor for ROSL-Namibia projects, and continues to offer advice on an ad-hoc basis.



Patrick Giraud, Flickr, (CC BY 2.5)



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The art of THE FESTIVAL

Acting Director of ROSL ARTS George Harwood Smith's pick of the best contemporary arts events across the UK in 2016



© Tessa Lynch; Raising, Generation 25, 2014; Installation View, Jupiter Artland, Edinburgh; Courtesy of the artist

In 2016, the UK is set for a profusion of world-class contemporary art, with international biennials and local festivals showcasing artists and makers at the forefront of visual arts, design and critical thinking. With so many exhibitions to see only a short train ride from the ROSL clubhouses, here are just a few of the highlights.



© Bianca Baldi

AV FESTIVAL

Until 27 March
Focusing on film, AV Festival was established in 2003 to capture the burgeoning digital arts industry in the North East, and has grown to become one of the UK's biggest biennials. Inspired by George Orwell's polemic *The Road to Wigan Pier*, the 2016 event will explore historic and contemporary political strife, and respond to the recent surge in political alternatives.

Among many interesting events,

the South African artist Bianca Baldi will present a talk based on research undertaken as a ROSL Visual Arts Scholar in 2015. This event will be held at Seaton Delaval Hall on Wednesday 23 March at 4.30-6pm. www.avfestival.co.uk

GLASGOW INTERNATIONAL 8 - 25 April

The seventh instalment of Glasgow International (GI; pictured above) will affirm the city's reputation as one of Britain's primary destinations for contemporary visual arts. More than 40 group shows and 36 solo exhibitions by UK and international artists will be held in 57 venues and spaces across the city. Similar to AV Festival, GI's 2016 dialogue will focus on post-industrial developments but it will also consider the value of 'making', reflecting Glasgow's industrious past and its future as an international centre for creativity.

Among the new works, site-specific commissions, events and exhibitions, Tamara Henderson will showcase a new installation conceived during a ROSL Visual Arts residency at Hospitalfield. www.glasgowinternational.org

AROUND THE UK

LIVERPOOL BIENNIAL

9 July - 16 October, Liverpool
14-week free festival of newly commissioned work. www.biennial.com

EDINBURGH ART FESTIVAL

28 July - 28 August, Edinburgh
Scotland's leading visual arts festival, with a diverse programme of exhibitions and events. www.edinburghartfestival.com

FRIEZE ART FAIR

6-9 October, Regent's Park, London
160 galleries showcase works from more than 25 countries at one of the world's leading art fairs. www.frieze.london.com



© 'Your Views', Gillian Weaving, 2016

HOUSE 2016 20 April - 5 June

A series of curated arts events during the Brighton Festival, House was established in 2008 as a response to the lack of public exhibition space in the city. It aims to investigate contemporary visual art within private and public space, hosting exhibitions in a range of domestic, public and un-conventional venues across the city.

As well as commissioning work by international artists, it draws artists from all over South East England. Previous artists include the internationally renowned Yinka Shonibare MBE and David Wightman, who exhibited work at Over-Seas House London in 2015. Keep an eye on the website for details of this year's exhibitions. www.housefestival.org

LONDON & EDINBURGH highlights

LONDON

SOCIAL FABRIC: AFRICAN TEXTILES TODAY

Until 29 May, Wednesday - Sunday, William Morris Gallery
Discover how textiles have influenced the region's foremost artists.
Free; www.wmgallery.org.uk/whats-on



© ChiChi



© Maureen Murray

LONDON

ON THEIR OWN: BRITAIN'S CHILD MIGRANTS

Until 12 June, V&A Museum of Childhood
Photographs, personal items and specially commissioned songs tell the heart-breaking stories of children sent to Commonwealth countries between 1869 and 1970.
Free; www.vam.ac.uk/moc

EDINBURGH

MODERN SCOTTISH WOMEN

Until 26 June, Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art
Revelatory exhibition of paintings and sculptures covering 1885-1965.
£9; www.nationalgalleries.org

LONDON

THE MENUHIN COMPETITION 2016

7-17 April, various venues
Festival of competition rounds, concerts and events to mark Yehudi Menuhin's 100th birthday.
Prices vary; menuhincompetition.org/events

LONDON

THE COMPLETE WALK

23-24 April; venues between Westminster and Tower Bridge
Along a 2.5-mile route, 37 screens will play a series of specially-made films of scenes from Shakespeare's plays.
Free. www.shakespearesglobe.com

EDINBURGH

RSNO: THE STRAVINSKY PROJECT

29 April and 6 May, Usher Hall
A two-part celebration of Stravinsky's works, including *Rite of Spring* and *Symphony in C*.
£12-£38; www.rsno.org.uk/live/concert-listing



© Chris Scott

EDINBURGH

HIDDEN DOOR

27 May - 4 June, King's Stables Road
Volunteer-run arts festival featuring live music, visual and performing arts, film, seminars, discussions and readings.
Free until 6pm, 6-11pm prices vary; hiddendoorblog.org

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Summer Drinks & Canapés

ROSL CONFERENCE AND BANQUETING

Summer is on the way. Join us and celebrate with a summer get-together at the clubhouse. Unwind with your guests in the sunshine, on the lawn overlooking Green Park, while enjoying our summer drinks and canapés package.

Your guests will enjoy two glasses of Pimms, prosecco or Bucks Fizz per person, a four-canapé selection, nuts and crisps, and mineral water for £45 ex VAT per person.

The ideal opportunity to make the most of our perfect park-side location with friends and family for summer.

To book your summer event call +44 (0) 207 408 0214 (ext 303) or email rosldining@graysonsrestaurants.com and quote 'Summer Canapé Package'.

T&Cs apply. Not valid with any other offers or discounts. Wet weather room option included in package.



Shakespeare season

Mark the 400th anniversary of the bard's death with a series of literary, musical, dramatic and celebratory events at the London clubhouse

*"All the world's a stage,
And all the men and
women merely players;
They have their exits
and their entrances,
And one man in his
time plays many parts,
His acts being seven ages."*

AS YOU LIKE IT
ACT II, SCENE VII

Shakespeare's words resound throughout the world, cut across cultures and national borders, and touch the core of human emotions and angst. If all men and women are "merely players", then Shakespeare's exit in 1616 has not stopped his act continuing. Indeed, the celebrations for the 400th anniversary of his death prove, undeniably, that women, men and children are still fascinated by the Shakespeare canon and how it affects our collective imagination.

Shakespeare400 is a diverse consortium of cultural, academic and creative partners that are spearheading events in 2016 to celebrate the bard and his legacy. Highlights include special Royal Shakespeare Company productions at the Barbican, and various exhibitions and lectures by lead coordinator King's College London. Visit

www.shakespeare400.org for event listings.

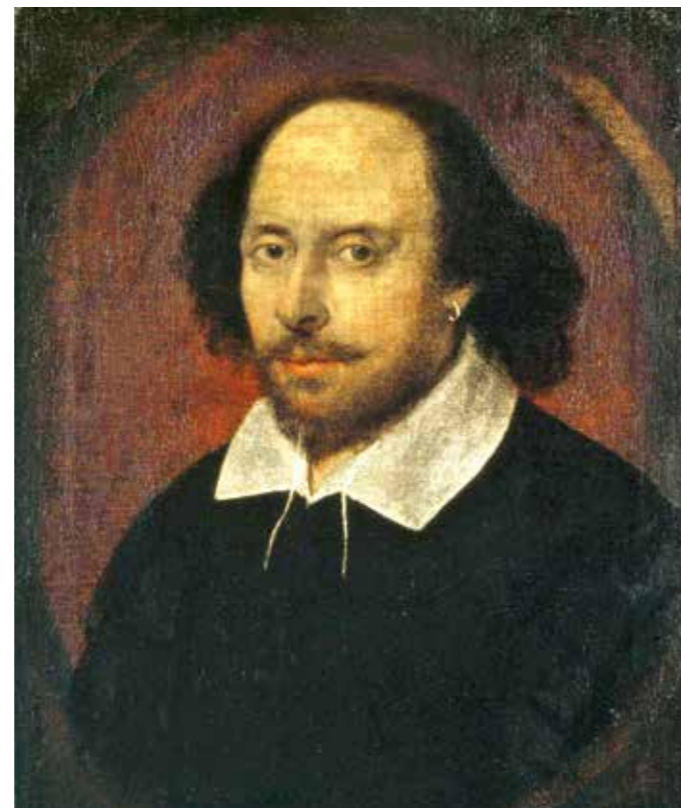
Inspired by these events and by the great playwright himself, ROSL is running a series of events that explore Shakespeare musically, historically and dramatically. Enjoy battling with historical representations of famous kings in our literary panel discussion, toast Shakespeare's angst-ridden lovers at the *Midsummer Night's Dream* Ball, be amazed by ROSL's Shakespeare Orchestra, and laugh at the genius of the plays themselves at our Shakespeare in the Garden performance.

BATTLING SHAKESPEARE

Wednesday 4 May, 7pm,
Princess Alexandra Hall,
Over-Seas House London

The first event in our new Literary Series focuses on the great English playwright and his complicated relationship with history. A panel of academics and actors will discuss how Shakespeare informs our impressions of famous English kings, and why we still indulge his version of events. The evening will include readings from *Henry V* and *Richard II*.

£12; £10 Friends of ROSL ARTS.
Includes a wine reception.



A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM BALL

Saturday 18 June, 6pm,
Over-Seas House London

"That merry wanderer of the night", the mischievous Puck, invites you and your guests to the enchanting Faerie Court of Oberon and Titania for an evening of decadence, drama and merriment. With first-class dining, Tudor-inspired court dancing and extracts from the popular comedy play, this Shakespeare-inspired summer

ball promises to be the zenith of the ROSL event calendar. £110. Guests welcome.

SHAKESPEARE ORCHESTRA

Friday 29 July, time tba,
Over-Seas House London

Our very first ROSL ARTS orchestra will take to the stage to play Shakespeare-inspired works such as Mendelssohn's *A Midsummer Night's Dream Overture*.

Price tba. Guests welcome.

Look ahead

SHAKESPEARE IN THE GARDEN:
A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM
September, Over-Seas House London

An abridged performance of the much-loved comedy in our beautiful Garden will round off a year of wonderful Shakespeare-inspired events.

Price tba. Guests welcome.

Musical HIGHLIGHTS

RA

ROSL ANNUAL MUSIC COMPETITION GRAND FINAL

Wednesday 1 June, 7pm,
Cadogan Hall

The Grand Final promises to be a thrilling climax to the Annual Music Competition. The winners of the four individual sections (wind and percussion, vocal, strings, and keyboard) will compete for the Gold Medal and £10,000 prize. The two award-winning ensembles will perform while the judges

deliberate, and the evening will end with the announcement of our 64th winner.

For the first time since 2006, the Final will not be held in Queen Elizabeth Hall, which is undergoing much-needed renovation works for two years. Our new location is a Grade II-listed building. Formerly a church, it was converted into an impressive 950-seat concert hall in 2004 at the cost of £7.5 million.

£20; £15 Friends of ROSL ARTS;
£10 students.



Member-led events

Member Eve Mitleton-Kelly has been working with ROSL to organise activities for fellow members, in addition to our events programmes



CEILIDH DANCE CLASSES
Monday 4 April; Thursday
12 May; Monday 20 June, 6-8pm,
Over-Seas House London

From the Cumberland Reel to the Dashing White Sergeant, learn a variety of dances with a professional caller. Attendees are invited to an optional

dinner in The Restaurant afterwards. Bring suitable footwear, such as trainers or ballet pumps.

£10; £12 guests. Three classes advance booking £24; £30 guests. Book via guestrelations@rosl.org.uk or +44 (0)20 7408 0214 ext 215.

BRIDGE CLUB COURSES
Mondays 4 April - 9 May,
improvers 10.30am-12.30pm;
beginners 2-4pm and
6.30-8.30pm, Over-Seas
House London

Learn to play or improve your bridge skills with our six-week courses led by professional bridge player and tutor Ingar Hansen, who won the National Pairs Championship in 2013. We are also running bridge practice sessions on Mondays at 4.15-6pm and Sundays 3-5pm. £110; £125 guests. Book via guestrelations@rosl.org.uk or +44 (0)20 7408 0214 ext 215.



BOOK GROUP

The group continues to thrive, hosting discussions about classical and contemporary novels, poems and short stories. This year's books include *My Brilliant Friend* by Elena Ferrante and *Sweet Caress* by William Boyd.

Free. To attend or for more information contact E.Mitleton-Kelly@mitleton-kelly.org.uk or +44 (0)20 7635 5553.

CHESS CLUB

ROSL members are looking into setting up a chess club with tuition.

For more information contact E.Mitleton-Kelly@mitleton-kelly.org.uk or +44 (0)20 7635 5553.

For further details about these and other forthcoming classes and clubs, contact the Marketing Department.

MARCH

RA
EXHIBITION: TWOFOLD
Until Sunday 24 April, daily, Central Lounge, Over-Seas House London
 Exhibition of ceramics and paintings by artist and designer Lydia Hardwick and painter Freya Douglas-Morris. See page 12 for details.
Free. Guests welcome.



James McCormick

RA
ANNUAL MUSIC COMPETITION SECTION FINAL: ENSEMBLES A
Tuesday 1 March, 7pm, Princess Alexandra Hall, Over-Seas House London
 Chemistry and teamwork are essential for the strings and piano ensembles section, as the contestants compete for the £10,000 prize and the chance to perform at the Grand Final on 1 June. For more information, see page 17.
£15; Friends of ROSL ARTS £12. Includes wine.

RS
EDINBURGH FILM NIGHT
Tuesday 8 March, 5pm, Over-Seas House Edinburgh
 A middle-aged butcher and a school teacher who have given up on the idea of love find romance when they meet

YM
'IN THE SPOTLIGHT': INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY CELEBRATION
Tuesday 8 March, 7pm, Over-Seas House London
 Fame. Success. Notoriety... When a woman's pursuits lead her directly into the limelight, what unique challenges does she face? How do women traverse the difficult terrain of standing out – or rather standing up for their individualism, creativity and identity? Celebrate International Women's Day with ROSL and our inspirational guest speakers, who will delve into the complex and delicate question of working and living 'In the Spotlight'. Confirmed speakers include soprano Gillian Keith and Sarah Lamb, Principal of the Royal Ballet.
£10. Members and guests of all ages welcome.



Bill Cooper, 2009

at a dance. With coffee, popcorn and ice-cream.
Tickets for entry and refreshments £7.50.

RA
ANNUAL MUSIC COMPETITION SECTION FINAL: ENSEMBLES B
Tuesday 8 March, 7pm, Princess Alexandra Hall, Over-Seas House London
 The wind and mixed ensembles section final is one of our most interesting and entertaining events, as you never know what you will encounter: from small brass bands to recorder quartets. For more information, see page 17.
£15; Friends of ROSL ARTS £12. Includes wine.

ME
CLUB QUIZ
Wednesday 9 March, 7.30pm, Over-Seas House London
 Get your thinking caps on for ROSL's monthly club quiz.
£5. Guests welcome. Includes glass of wine.

RS
COMMONWEALTH DAY LUNCH
Monday 14 March, 12pm, Over-Seas House Edinburgh
 Guest speaker Commodore Anthony Morrow CVO RN, the last captain to serve on the Britannia, joins us for this celebration in Edinburgh.
£20; guests £25. Includes wine.



Commodore Morrow

ME
COMMONWEALTH DAY SERVICE
Monday 14 March, 2.45pm, Westminster Abbey
 Celebrating a remarkable association of 53 countries and 2.2 billion citizens, the Commonwealth Day service is customarily attended by the Head of the Commonwealth, HM The Queen. Tickets are limited.
£10. One ticket per member.

Foreign and Commonwealth Office



ME
COMMONWEALTH DAY RECEPTION
Monday 14 March, 5pm, Over-Seas House London
 After the service at Westminster Abbey, the festivities will continue at the clubhouse in one of our beautiful function rooms. The wine reception, buffet and musical performance is open to members, guests and those who attended the service, providing a wonderfully unique opportunity to meet people working and living all over the Commonwealth.
£15. Guests welcome.

RA
ANNUAL MUSIC COMPETITION: OVERSEAS AWARD
Tuesday 15 March, 7pm, Princess Alexandra Hall, Over-Seas House London
 Listen to the finest non-UK musicians from all the section finals as they compete for the prestigious Overseas Award, as well as several other cash prizes. As musicians from all categories of the competition qualify for this award, you're assured a wide range of enthralling performances.
£15; Friends of ROSL ARTS £12. Includes wine.



LG
THE STORY OF PANAMA
Thursday 17 March, 6pm, Over-Seas House London
 Richard Thomas gives a talk on the background to and creation of the Panama Canal.
Free. London Group members and guests at Over-Seas House only.

ME
BEHIND-THE-SCENES TOUR OF THE ROYAL OPERA HOUSE
Wednesday 30 March, 12.30pm, Royal Opera House, London
 The magnificent classical portico of the Royal Opera House dominates Bow Street, offering passers-by a glimpse into the extraordinary world and rich history of opera, ballet and the performing arts. During this special tour, ROSL members will learn about the history of the theatre, the companies that have graced its halls and the recent building renovations.
£15. Members only.



Norio Nakayama, Flickr, (CC BY-SA 2.0)

APRIL

RA
EXHIBITION: TWOFOLD
Until Sunday 24 April, daily, Central Lounge, Over-Seas House London
 See March listing for details.
Free. Guests welcome.

RA
THE ARTS AND CRAFTS MOVEMENT IN BRITAIN: BEAUTY, POLITICS AND PRAGMATISM
Monday 4 April, 3pm, Princess Alexandra Hall, Over-Seas House London
 The Arts and Crafts movement was one of the most influential and enduring phenomena in British art, architecture and design. Speaker Ayla Lepine will explore key organisations and figures, including W R Lethaby, C R Ashbee and Philip Webb, and the themes of religion, urban life and brotherhood. Covering both famous and less well-known examples – from houses and churches to furnishings and jewellery – this lecture will shed new light on this often misunderstood period. In association with the ArtFund.
£14. Includes tea/coffee and biscuits. Book via artfund.org/London or +44 (0)844 415 4151.



YM
AN INCLUSIVE COMMONWEALTH: THE POWER OF YOUTH NETWORKS
Wednesday 6 April, 6.30pm, Over-Seas House London
 With more than 60% of the Commonwealth's 2.2 billion citizens aged under 30, this panel discussion, hosted in conjunction with the RCS, seeks to explore how the Commonwealth can ensure young people meaningfully participate in social, economic and political decision making. The discussion will be followed by a Q&A and networking reception with young professionals working and living in the Commonwealth, and staff from various Commonwealth organisations.
£5. Guests welcome. Tickets can be bought on the door, subject to availability.

Commonwealth Secretariat, Flickr, (CC BY NC 2.0)

RA

SOPHIE ROSA AND BENJAMIN POWELL RECITAL
Thursday 7 April, 7pm, Princess Alexandra Hall, Over-Seas House London
Sophie Rosa and Benjamin Powell perform a powerful programme of Delius, Debussy, and Franck sonatas, finishing with Saint-Saëns's *Rondo Capriccioso*. Don't miss this opportunity to hear some of the best violin and piano duo repertoire. In association with the Medical Music Society of London. An optional two-course buffet dinner in the Hall of India and Pakistan will follow.
£28; £22 Friends of ROSL ARTS. Concert and dinner £56; £48 Friends of ROSL ARTS. All tickets include wine, tea and coffee.



Sebastian Siwko Photography

RA

EXHIBITION: TAMARA HENDERSON
Friday 8 April - Monday 25 April, 10am-6pm, Glasgow International Festival
Canadian artist Tamara Henderson returns to the UK with a new installation conceived during a residency at Hospitalfield as a ROSL ARTS scholar. Tamara will also debut a film, *Seasons End*, which she worked on during a recent stay in Istanbul. See page 32 or visit www.glasgowinternational.org for details of Tamara's work and Glasgow International.

RA

ART NOUVEAU 1900
Tuesday 12 April, 3pm, Princess Alexandra Hall, Over-Seas House London
In 1900, Art Nouveau was at its apogee. This lecture by Dr Anne Anderson focuses on the designers working in France and Belgium, who adopted the 'whiplash' line and took 'woman', as the embodiment of nature, to create a style for the new century. Curving, undulating forms fashioned figurines, furniture, ceramics, glass and jewellery, and embellished entire interiors. Rejected by the English as hedonistic, decadent and even morally corrupting, Art Nouveau embraced modernity using the latest technologies, especially electric light. In association with the ArtFund.
£14. Ticket includes tea/coffee and biscuits. Book via artfund.org/London or +44 (0)844 415 4151.

RS

EDINBURGH FILM NIGHT
Tuesday 12 April, 5pm, Over-Seas House Edinburgh
Passion and tragedy collide in the days preceding the attack on Pearl Harbor in this star-studded 1953 classic. With coffee, popcorn and ice-cream.
Tickets for entry and refreshments £7.50.

ME

CLUB QUIZ
Wednesday 13 April, 7.30pm, Over-Seas House London
Our quizmasters run one of the toughest quizzes in London, so this night is not to be missed. To be in with a chance of winning some fantastic prizes, come along, either as an individual or as part of a team (maximum size six people).
£5. Guests welcome. Includes glass of wine.

RS

ROYAL CONSERVATOIRE OF SCOTLAND SONG CLASS CONCERT
Saturday 16 April, 6.30pm, Over-Seas House Edinburgh
Postgraduate students of the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland return to the Edinburgh clubhouse for this fantastic concert, introduced by Director of the RCS song class, Professor Chris Underwood. For the summer concert by RCS students at the clubhouse, see 13 June.
£12; Friends of ROSL ARTS £10. Includes wine and canapés.



RA

RUSSIA'S MUSICAL SOUL
Wednesday 20 April, 7pm, Princess Alexandra Hall, Over-Seas House London
In tandem with the National Portrait Gallery exhibition 'Russia and the Arts: The age of Tolstoy and Tchaikovsky', writer and broadcaster Gavin Plumley surveys Russian music, painting and literature to highlight some of the extraordinary developments that took place in the Russian arts from 1870 to 1917.
While Tchaikovsky emulated Western models, figures such as Mussorgsky and Rimsky-Korsakov sought an inherently Slavic style. Featuring songs of the period, this talk looks at how Russian composers relayed the country's cultural identity in musical form. In association with the ArtFund.
£30. Includes wine and canapés. Book via artfund.org/London or +44 (0)844 415 4151.

LG

LONDON GROUP AGM
Thursday 21 April, 6pm, Over-Seas House London
The 68th London Group AGM will be followed by refreshments. Please bring your LG membership card in order to register your attendance.
Free. LG members only.

MAY

ME

CHAIRMAN'S LUNCH & AGM
Tuesday 3 May, 12pm, Over-Seas House London
Dr Rita Gardner CBE, Director of the Royal Geographical Society, will give a talk following a drinks reception and a three-course lunch with wine. The AGM will follow at 3.30pm, with drinks afterwards. Members are welcome to join us just for the AGM.
£60; guests £65. Guests welcome. AGM free.

RA

BATTLING SHAKESPEARE
Wednesday 4 May, 7pm, Princess Alexandra Hall, Over-Seas House London
Marking the 400th anniversary of Shakespeare's death, the first event in our new Literary Series focuses on the English playwright and his complicated relationship with history. See page 34 for details.
£12 members; £10 Friends of ROSL ARTS. Includes wine.

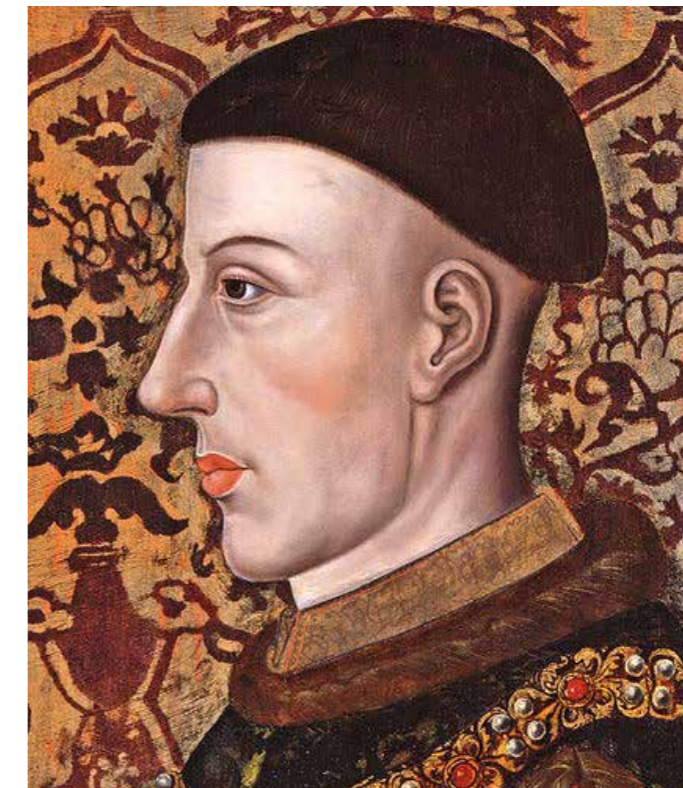
RA

EXHIBITION: HILARY HOPE GUISE
Wednesday 4 May - Sunday 28 August, daily, Central Lounge, Over-Seas House London
An exhibition of artworks by British artist Hilary Hope Guise. 'Blue' will comprise paintings, collages, drawings and the artist's books, made

with pure pigments on heavy paper. They reflect a mythic and imaginative response to her early childhood in the Cape Province, South Africa, and to the ancient Hebrew poetry of the Old Testament.
To attend the private view on Tuesday 3 May, 6-8pm, which includes a wine reception, contact rsvp@rosl.org.uk or +44 (0)20 7408 0214 ext 219. Free.

YM

SPRING DINNER PARTY
Thursday 5 May, 7pm, Over-Seas House London
Celebrate the warmer weather and longer days with a decadent three-course meal with wine, followed by an after-party further afield.
£25. Guests welcome.



RA

ART DECO
Monday 9 May, 3pm, Princess Alexandra Hall, Over-Seas House London
Margaret Knight explores the eclectic visual language that became Art Deco, as French designers absorbed a rich mixture of ideas and techniques from Japanese, African, Egyptian and pre-Columbian art, 18th-century French design, the Ballets Russes and Cubism. By the late 1920s, artists were transforming the new materials of the machine age from utility into a glamorous international style. In association with the ArtFund.
£14. Includes tea/coffee and biscuits. Book via artfund.org/London or +44 (0)844 415 4151.

RS

FILM NIGHT
Tuesday 10 May, 5pm, Over-Seas House Edinburgh
Film noir charting the rise and fall of an ambitious and often ruthless politician. With coffee, popcorn and ice-cream.
Tickets for entry and refreshments £7.50.

RS

ARTS LUNCH
Wednesday 11 May, 12pm, Over-Seas House Edinburgh
John Macleod, President of A Comunn Gàidhealach, gives a talk on 'Scottish Gaelic: Minority language making an international impact', followed by a two-course lunch with coffee.
£20; guests £25.

ME

CLUB QUIZ
Wednesday 11 May, 7.30pm, Over-Seas House London
Test your trivia at ROSL's monthly club quiz. Max team size six people; individuals can be placed in teams.
£5. Includes glass of wine. Guests welcome.

ME

PALACES AND GALLERIES TOUR OF ST PETERSBURG
Thursday 12 - Wednesday 18 May, St Petersburg, Russia
This six-night, exclusive ROSL members' tour will take in eight palaces, including the Mikhailovsky, Winter Palace and Hermitage Museum, and the glittering palace at Peterhof. We will visit key sites such as

the Church of the Saviour on Spilled Blood and the Peter and Paul Fortress, and there will be a free day to explore this fascinating city, the recently opened Fabergé Museum and some of the greatest collections of fine arts in the world.

£2,492pp; single supplement £357.



www.traveljunction.com, Flickr (CC BY-SA 2.0)

LG
VISIT TO ROYAL HOSPITAL CHELSEA

Tuesday 17 May, 1.30pm, Royal Hospital Road, SW3 4SR
A two-hour tour of the hospital, inspired by Les Invalides in Paris and founded in 1682 by King Charles II to house veteran soldiers. The Grade I building was designed by Sir Christopher Wren. There will be an opportunity to visit the museum, shop and infirmary café afterwards.
£14; LG members £12. Apply by 14 April.

LG
THE HISTORY OF CARTOONS
Thursday 19 May, 6pm, Over-Seas House London
Talk by Anita O'Brien, Curator of the Cartoon Museum, which contains more than 1,700

original cartoons and prints, and is dedicated to preserving the best of British caricatures, comics and animation.

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

RA
DAME GWYNETH JONES: MASTERCLASS
Thursday 19 May, 7pm, Princess Alexandra Hall, Over-Seas House
Enjoy a feast of vocal talent as Welsh soprano Dame Gwyneth Jones gives a masterclass with two students from the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama. Wine and canapés will be served afterwards.

Price tba.

RA
BEST OF THE FEST
Friday 20 May, 6.30pm; Saturday 21 May 10am and 2pm; Sunday 22 May, 11am, Over-Seas House Edinburgh
ROSL ARTS visits Edinburgh for its first Best of the Fest weekend. This four-concert bonanza features favourite repertoire, concert concepts and performers from ROSL's award-winning Music and More concert series. Artists include the 2014 ROSL Gold Medallist Huw Wiggin saxophone, Somi Kim piano and other recent ROSL prizewinners.
Friday £25; Saturday £10; Sunday £20. Weekend pass £50. Book via RSVP@rosl.org.uk or +44 (0)20 7408 0214 ext 219.



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ME
BATTLEFIELD TOUR OF GALLIPOLI
Monday 23 - Saturday 28 May, Turkey
Our tour will visit the Anzac Cove, Lone Pine and the Nek. At Cape Helles we will see V and W beaches and the British memorial, and tour the landing areas by boat to gain an insight into the difficulties of the terrain from the perspective of the assaulting troops. Finally, we will explore the Suvla Bay landings and the struggle for the heights of Sari Bair by Anzac and Gurkha forces.
£1,099; single supplement £115.



ME
NEW MEMBERS' RECEPTION
Thursday 26 May, 6.30pm, Over-Seas House London
Did you know about our reciprocal clubs in India and Hong Kong; or that ROSL's humanitarian and educational projects support San communities in the Kalahari? Find out about these and other members' benefits, meet ROSL staff, and hear about the work of our different departments at this reception for new, prospective and current members.
Free. Includes wine reception. Guests welcome. Booking essential via membersevents@rosl.org.uk.

ME
RHS CHELSEA FLOWER SHOW
Thursday 26 - Saturday 28 May, 8am-8pm, Royal Hospital, SW3 4SL
This year's show promises an inspirational line-up of gardens by world-class designers, including Cleve West and Diarmuid Gavin. The Great Pavilion will feature an Orient Express-style glamour and more than 100 exhibits from the world's best nurseries and florists. Tickets will be balloted and drawn on 1 April; limited number available. Please select dates in order of preference; choice of dates will be allocated on a first drawn, first served basis.
£65.

ME
TROOPING THE COLOUR: MAJOR GENERAL'S REVIEW
Saturday 28 May, 10am, Horse Guards Parade
In celebration of HM The Queen's Official Birthday, members are invited to join

this impressive display of pageantry. Tickets, including all three dates (see 4 June and 11 June for the Colonel's Review and the Queen's Birthday Parade), will be balloted and drawn on 8 April. Please select dates in order of preference; choice of dates will be allocated on a first drawn, first served basis.
£6. Guests welcome.

JUNE

RA
ANNUAL MUSIC COMPETITION GRAND FINAL
Wednesday 1 June, 7pm, Cadogan Hall, London
The winners of the 64th section finals compete for the Gold Medal and First Prize of £10,000. For more on the prestigious competition, see page 17.
£20; £15 Friends of ROSL ARTS; £10 students.

ME
TROOPING THE COLOUR: THE COLONEL'S REVIEW
Saturday 4 June, 10am, Horse Guards Parade
Celebrate HM The Queen's Official Birthday with this historical ceremony. Tickets, including all three dates (see also 28 May and 11 June for the Major General's Review and the Queen's Birthday Parade), will be balloted and drawn on 8 April. Please select dates in order of preference; choice of dates will be allocated on a first drawn, first served basis.
£20. Guests welcome.

RS
EDINBURGH FILM NIGHT
Tuesday 7 June, 5pm, Over-Seas House Edinburgh
Oscar-winning drama about British athletes training for the 1924 Olympics. With coffee, popcorn and ice-cream.
Tickets for entry and refreshments £7.50.

ME
TROOPING THE COLOUR: THE QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY PARADE
Saturday 11 June 2016, 10am, Horse Guards Parade
This impressive parade, attended by The Queen and other members of the Royal Family, includes more than 1,000 officers and men, 200 horses, multiple military bands, and usually an RAF flypast. Tickets, including all three dates (see also

28 May and 4 June for the Major General's Review and the Colonels' Review), will be balloted and drawn on 8 April. Please select dates in order of preference; choice of dates will be allocated on a first drawn, first served basis.
£40.

ME
THE QUEEN'S 90TH BIRTHDAY GARDEN PARTY
Sunday 12 June, time tba, Over-Seas House London
ROSL will host its own celebrations at the same time as The Patron's Lunch on The Mall. Join us for a wonderfully British Garden Party with picnic-style finger food, Pimms and live music. Soak in the atmosphere across the Royal Parks while watching the official event on our screens.
£30. Guests welcome.



Jon Bennett, Flickr, (CC BY 2.0)



RS
THE QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY LUNCH
Sunday 12 June, Edinburgh
This celebration will also raise funds for the Roderick Lakin Memorial Fund.
Price tba.

RS
GALA OPERA EVENING
Monday 13 June, 6.30pm,
Over-Seas House Edinburgh
Annual concert by RCS opera students with a delicious two-course dinner and a cocktail reception.
£35.

LG
LONDON GROUP DINNER
Wednesday 15 June, 7pm,
Over-Seas House London
Painter Professor Ken Howard OBE RA, a former president of the New English Art Club, will give a talk entitled 'From Belfast to Sennen Cove'.
£50; LG members £45.
Guests welcome.

ME
A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM BALL
Saturday 18 June, 6pm,
Over-Seas House, London
Our Shakespeare-inspired summer ball includes first-class dining, Tudor-inspired court dancing and extracts from the play. See page 34 for details.
£110. Guests welcome.

LG
VISIT TO TRINITY HOUSE
Monday 20 June, 3pm,
Tower Hill, EC3N 4DH
One-hour guided tour of Trinity House, built in 1796.
£14; LG members £12.
Includes refreshments.

RS
SCOTTISH MEMBERS' DINNER
Friday 24 June, 7pm,
Over-Seas House Edinburgh
Delicious three-course dinner with wine, coffee and a guest speaker.
£29.

CONTACT DETAILS AND BOOKING INFORMATION

Visit www.rosl.org.uk/events for more information on the full programme of events

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

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

MEMBERS' EVENTS
Book online at 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. Inter-Club events must be booked independently via www.inter-club.co.uk. For information about the ROSL YM programme join the Facebook group [facebook.com/groups/roslym](https://www.facebook.com/groups/roslym) or contact 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. 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. Confirmation is 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. To attend London Group events you must be a London Group member. To join, speak to the Membership Team on +44 (0)20 7408 0214 ext 214/216 or email membership@rosl.org.uk.

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FLORENCE

Grand Hotel Villa Cora
***** Superior

A relaxing escape within walking distance of the city centre, this elegant villa has 44 beautifully furnished rooms overlooking a heated swimming pool and gardens.

3 nights for the price of 2 until
16 April - price from £728,
saving £135
3 night price from £1,098
from 1 - 30 June

Includes entrance tickets to the Uffizi Gallery, Accademia or Bargello

MADRID

Orfila ***** Superior

The elegant Orfila is located in a quiet, residential area, five minutes from the Plaza de Colon. Converted from a 19th century palace, it is a delightful boutique hotel with 32 bedrooms, an excellent restaurant and a charming courtyard garden.

4 nights for the price of 3 all year
- price from £869, saving £139

Includes entrance tickets to the Prado, Thyssen or Reina Sofia museums

PARIS

Le Bristol ***** Deluxe

One of the finest 'palace' hotels in the city, Le Bristol's 162 rooms are decorated with original artwork and crystal chandeliers, the elegant restaurant has three Michelin stars and the brasserie has one star. The rooftop spa and indoor swimming pool has a panoramic sun terrace with spectacular views over the Paris rooftops.

Receive a complimentary room upgrade, welcome cocktail and an €85 spa voucher per room between 2 - 18 January, 1 - 27 February & 10 March - 20 May - 3 night price from £1,677, saving £166
Eurostar upgrade: If you book by 29 February for travel before 25 May you will receive a complimentary upgrade to Standard Premier class.



Includes a 48hr museum pass, Seine cruise and Metro tickets

VENICE

Gritti Palace ***** Deluxe

This 15th century landmark overlooks the Grand Canal and is 10 minutes' walk from St. Mark's Square. The gastronomic restaurant and bar, with their Grand Canal terraces, are decorated in the Grand Venetian style. The 61 bedrooms and 21 suites are the most sumptuous in the city, and Kirker clients will benefit from excellent spring offers.

3 nights for the price of 2
until 31 March
- price from £878,
saving £208
3 nights for the price of 2 for
Sunday - Tuesday arrivals in
April - price from £989,
saving £263
3 night price from £1,342
from 1 May - 16 July



Includes Doge's Palace, Accademia or Guggenheim tickets and water taxi transfers

LISBON

Four Seasons The Ritz
***** Deluxe

One of Europe's most charming capitals, Lisbon is also home to the exceptional collection of art and objects at the Gulbenkian Foundation. The city's finest hotel, the Four Seasons The Ritz offers 284 spacious bedrooms, many with balconies overlooking Eduardo VII Park, and an excellent restaurant.

3 nights for the price of 2 until
30 April - price from £795,
saving £207
3 night price from £1,115 in
May & June

Includes 48 hour Lisboa card

VIENNA

Ritz Carlton ***** Deluxe

Four 19th Century Palais have been renovated to create this luxurious, contemporary hotel in the city centre. The 202 rooms and suites are spacious and modern. Austrian steak is available at 'Dstrikt' whilst the lobby lounge is ideal for a traditional Austrian coffee. There is an indoor swimming pool and an extensive spa.

3 nights for the price of 2 until
30 April - price from £679,
saving £152
3 night price from £958 in
May & June

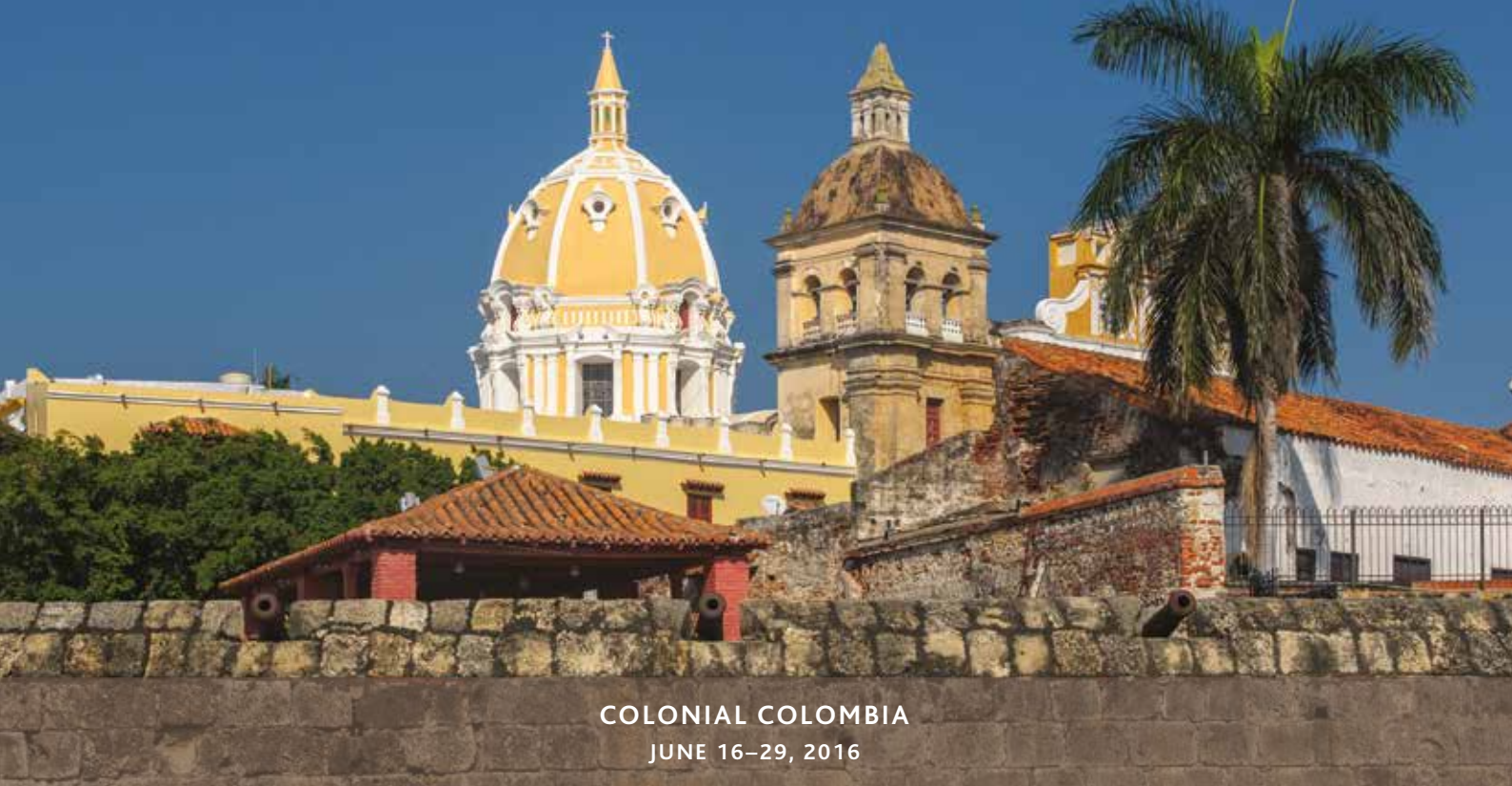
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Dresden Music Festival

May 19–24, 2016

Join the festival in its 39th year for a superb programme of big repertoire with world-class performances.



Pre-Raphaelites in Tuscany

June 21–27, 2016

Discover the Victorian love affair with Tuscany through the artists and writers who were inspired by the Italian Renaissance.



Kraków & Auschwitz

June 22–26, 2016

Join a specialist in 20th century conflict to explore Poland's mediaeval capital from its Old Town to its challenging recent history.



Iceland: Forces of Nature

July 31 – August 10, 2016

Travel around Iceland's famous Ring Road to uncover this volcanic island, alive with geysers, waterfalls, and wildlife.

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