

# OVERSEAS

Quarterly journal of the ROSL

Issue 4, December 2012 - February 2013



**A glittering celebration**  
Stunning pictures of Princess Alexandra at the Music Competition's Jubilee concert

**The power of music**  
From reconciliation in Iraq to the rehabilitation of child soldiers, music can have a big impact

**Private view**  
The ROSL art scholars talk about what inspires them, with images from their recent exhibition

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See page 23



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**OVERSEAS**

ISSUE 4 December 2012 - February 2013

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.

**Overseas editorial team**

**Editor** Ms Miranda Moore  
**Deputy Editor** Ms Claire Simon:  
 +44 (0)20 7408 0214 x205; csimon@rosl.org.uk  
**Design** Ms Hannah Talmage  
**Display advertisements** Mr David Jeffries:  
 +44 (0)20 8674 9444; djeffries@onlymedia.co.uk

**Royal Over-Seas League**

**Incorporated by** Royal Charter  
**Patron** Her Majesty The Queen  
**Vice-Patron** Her Royal Highness Princess Alexandra KG GCVO  
**President** The Rt Hon the Lord Luce KG GCVO DL  
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**Vice-Chairman** Sir Roger Carrick KCMG LVO\*  
**Hon Treasurer** Mr Simon Ward FCA\*

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

Over-Seas House, 100 Princes Street, Edinburgh EH2 3AB; +44 (0)131 225 1501; www.rosl-edinburgh.org; reception@rosl-edinburgh.org; Fax +44 (0)131 226 3936

**Central Council**

Mr Graham Archer CMG\*, Mrs Shirley Barr\*, Mr Ralph Bauer, Mr Clive Carpenter\*, Mr William Chalmers, Prof Monojit Chatterji, Mr Sohail Choudry, Nik Raof Daud, Mr John Edwards CMG, Mr David Fall CMG, Mrs Patricia Farrant\*, Mr Simon Gimson LVO, Mr Peter Hamlyn, Mr John Harbor FCA, Miss Maureen Howley MBE\*, Mr David Jamieson, Mrs Frances King, Miss Sheila MacTaggart LVO, Dr Edmund Marshall, Mr David Newman, Mr Ian Partridge CBE, Mrs Doreen Regan\*, Ms Lindsay Ross, Mrs Judith Steiner, Mr Geoffrey Thompson OBE  
 \*Executive Committee

**Director-General** Maj Gen Roddy Porter MBE:  
 +44 (0)20 7408 0214 x201

**Director of Admin and Finance** Mr Shakil Tayub:  
 +44 (0)20 7408 0214 x209

**Director of Marketing** Ms Gemma Matthews:  
 +44 (0)20 7408 0214 x204; gmatthews@rosl.org.uk

**Director of Education & Development Projects**  
 Ms Margaret Adrian-Vallance MBE:  
 mvallance@rosl.org.uk

**Director of Arts** Mr Roderick Lakin MBE:  
 +44 (0)20 7408 0214 x325; culture@rosl.org.uk

**Asst. to DG** Ms Arabella Beresford-Mitchell:  
 +44 (0)20 7408 0214 x201;  
 aberesford-mitchell@rosl.org.uk

**Membership Secretary** Mrs Angela Farago:  
 +44 (0)20 7408 0214 x214; afarago@rosl.org.uk

**Catering Director** Mr David Laurance:  
 +44 (0)20 7408 0214 x331;  
 davidlaurance@convexleisure.com

**Edinburgh House Manager** Mr Daniel Campbell:  
 reception@rosl-edinburgh.org

**Scottish Development Officer** Mr James Wilkie:  
 james@rosl-edinburgh.org

**Print** Hastings Printing Company:  
 +44 (0)1424 720 477

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**FRONT COVER:** HRH Princess Alexandra meets members of the Cavaleri Quartet at the St James's gala concert in October © Matt Leete, www.mlevent.com

## From the Director-General



David Hamilton

**CHARM & GAIETY:** The Director-General at Government House, Wellington, where a concert was held in honour of the Diamond Jubilees of HM The Queen and the ROSL Annual Music Competition

I would like to explain the different approach we are adopting this year to our membership renewal process. We will not send out renewal letters for 2013, but you will find a renewal form on page 23 and we shall repeat this notice in the next edition. The page includes a tear-off section to return with your subscription renewal and, of course, you are encouraged to renew your membership via our website ([www.rosl.org.uk](http://www.rosl.org.uk)). This should save both time and cost, and enable staff to focus additional resources on delivering benefits directly to you.

We are trying out the concept of a Members' Table in the Restaurant at the London clubhouse. This provides the opportunity for unaccompanied members to eat together, if they choose. I and other members of the staff would be pleased to meet members over lunch on occasions, so if you would like to try the Members' Table, it is now available for lunch and dinner. We have also developed a Business Lunch Menu to parallel the fine-dining menu, in case you are pressed for time. As usual, please let us know what you think about this idea.

I wish to close with a tribute to Margaret Adrian-Vallance, who retires as Director of Public Relations this autumn. We will introduce her successor, who will fulfil a revised role as Director of Marketing, in the next issue. Margaret has been a remarkable employee of ROSL for 19 years, and has overseen an events programme and a magazine of great quality. She has worked immensely hard to promote ROSL, sustain membership and maintain vibrant relationships with many associated organisations.

Her work with education, especially the projects in Africa, has been tireless and has delivered great benefit to many recipients. Margaret will remain working with ROSL on educational development, in a consultancy role, for some while yet. But for everything she has given over many years, I know I speak for all when I say 'thank you and well done' for so much quality work, consistently delivered. You deserve some time and space for yourself now, Margaret!

**Roddy Porter**

## Editor's Letter

I will admit to finding it difficult to write about the National Youth Orchestra of Iraq (NYOI) for this issue's Focus on music as a tool for change

(page 6). Or rather, I found it hard to stick to the word count. It is astonishing that the orchestra even exists. In the first year, young musicians spent days trying to upload audition videos to YouTube, as slow internet speeds and frequent power cuts made it an almost impossible task – yet easier and safer than travelling to auditions.

Reconciliation was a key aim, and the NYOI continues to bring together Kurds and Arabs, and to change the perception of Iraqis abroad. It was hard for our contributor to write about the role of music in the rehabilitation of child soldiers, for quite different reasons. Music is a means for them to come to terms with the terrible things they have had to do at such a young age. The article makes for difficult but inspiring reading (page 8).

ROSL is known for supporting talented young artists from across the Commonwealth and, this year, celebrated the Diamond Jubilee of its Annual Music Competition with a gala concert at St James's Palace. You can read about this very special event, held in the presence of ROSL Vice-Patron, HRH Princess Alexandra, and see stunning photographs from the evening on page 18.

This is just one of the many exciting events that have taken place in and around the clubhouse in recent months. For pictures of other activities, see our News & Views section (page 14) and the revamped Younger Members' page, which is brimming with images of popular events for the under 35s (page 27). You can meet this year's visual arts scholars and view their work (page 16).

There are lots more events to come. Our winter issue is always bursting with popular festive activities. Among my favourites is Burns Night at the Edinburgh clubhouse, which our Deputy Editor, Claire Simon, was lucky enough to attend last year (pages 26 and 30).

**Miranda Moore**



**M**usic,' according to Plato, 'gives soul to the universe, wings to the mind, flight to the imagination, and charm and gaiety to life and to everything'. This unique gift was presented at Government House in Wellington, New Zealand, in September. I was privileged to join a packed hall for a Gala Concert in honour of The Queen's Diamond Jubilee, performed by a stellar line-up of our New Zealand prize-winning musicians. The music, the setting and the enthusiasm of our New Zealand members and their guests generated 'charm and gaiety' in abundance. ROSL is very grateful to The Rt Hon Sir Jerry Mateparae, the Governor General, and Lady Janine Mateparae, for so generously hosting the concert and the lively reception afterwards.

The concert was the centrepiece of a short visit, during which I met many ROSL NZ members at receptions in Christchurch (Parau), Wellington and Auckland, kindly hosted by Lyn and Keith Milne, and Jan and Gary Langford. We were sad to see the devastation in Christchurch and continue to wish our members – and all their compatriots affected by the earthquake – well, as they rebuild their lives.

I had the opportunity to speak about ROSL's history and music on Radio New Zealand ([http://podcast.radionz.co.nz/upbt/upbt-20120918-1230-roderick\\_porter-048.mp3](http://podcast.radionz.co.nz/upbt/upbt-20120918-1230-roderick_porter-048.mp3), if you would like to listen) and address the British New Zealand Business Association, where some useful contacts were made. I found our membership in very good heart and keen to take ROSL NZ forward.

I am very grateful for the warm welcome Marianne and I received from our members during the visit. I am particularly indebted to Lyn Milne, not only for her sterling service as a very effective ROSL NZ Director, but also for her hard work in planning the visit and for her wonderful hospitality.

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## FOCUS

# Bringing harmony to conflict

**Miranda Moore** meets the National Youth Orchestra of Iraq and discovers how music is bringing Kurds and Arabs together

**W**hen Dua'a Majid was nine years old, her dad took her to her first oboe lesson. That was in late 2002. Within six months, her world had been turned upside down as bombs fell on Baghdad and her neighbourhood became a war zone. The Iraq War had started. Musicians began to flee the country. Yet remarkably, as their music teachers left, young people across the country continued to study, downloading sheet music and fingering from the internet, and watching masterclasses on YouTube.

Pianist Zuhail Sultan began to teach herself and the younger students in her class. Communicating with other young musicians via Facebook, she dreamt of the day when her country would have a youth orchestra. That day came in 2009 when, at the age of 17, she established the National Youth Orchestra of Iraq (NYOI), with support from the British Council.

Sultan posted an invitation to audition online, and was amazed when flautists and violinists, cellists and bassoonists, trumpeters and percussionists emerged from across the length and breadth of Iraq. Aside from the lack of teachers, there were other obstacles to learning: poor quality instruments, and a lack of repair shops, replacement parts and specialist tools.

In addition, there was a pervasive suspicion of Western classical music. Many played in secret; some despite fear of reprisals from their neighbours. In Sadr City, Ali Mahdi Khassaf stuffs a towel into the end of his horn to muffle the sound. Tuka Saad Dschafar takes taxis to rehearsals so she's not seen carrying her cello on the streets.

"Between 2006 and 2009, particularly, there was a period when it was very dangerous to carry an instrument-shaped case. It could be because people thought there was a bomb inside – or because they thought there was a Western instrument inside," says Paul MacAlindin, NYOI Musical Director and Conductor. "In some districts it is getting better, and in others there will always be a hardline, anti-Western and anti-music thing."

So why do so many youngsters keep playing? "Some tell me that they use classical music simply to shut the world

out, to become a forcefield to shut out the chaos and all the other things they've lived through," says MacAlindin.

"Every creative artist knows that it's the chaos, the dirt and the uncertainty – the improvisation, and the trial and error – that creates a creative platform. But never have I felt that so acutely as in this project, where all factors are chaotic, there's a huge amount of uncertainty and there's a lot of intercultural factors that have a tension between them. You take that energy and you make something."

The situation is especially difficult for women, who make up about a quarter of the orchestra. "I'm a girl and I play music, and some people think it's not really appropriate for our culture. And some think it's a religious thing," says Majid. "There was a time when I couldn't tell people I'm a musician. I still have to talk to the person and find how open-minded he or she is, so I can say 'I play music, I play in an orchestra.'" Many of the NYOI leads are filled by female musicians, which may be because they have to work so much harder. "The women are 10 times more motivated than the guys, because they have to be in order to get noticed, to get respected," says MacAlindin.

Ironically, the war opened opportunities – for those living in Baghdad, at least. MacAlindin likens it to the First World War, when women found themselves doing 'men's work'. As musicians left the country, the Iraqi National Symphony Orchestra (INSO) – the oldest in the Middle East – survived by inviting anyone who could play an instrument to join them. That was how, at the age of 12, Majid came to play second oboe for a national symphony orchestra and Dschafar came to sit on the front desk.

Sultan took her inspiration from the INSO, which she joined in 2005:

"They kept going through the most difficult times. They were united in their



© Tahir Hassan, 2012

**'BIG LOVE':**  
Paul MacAlindin calls composer Sir Peter Maxwell Davies to take a bow at the Queen Elizabeth Hall in August (above)

**BOOT CAMP:**  
The NYOI rehearses Fauré's *Elegy* with Julian Lloyd Webber (below)

*'There's a myth that we don't do arts in Iraq, so it's good to show people we do'*





passion for music and courageous, too, because, by playing, they put their lives at risk."

### Changing attitudes

Members of the NYOI often consider themselves to be ambassadors, presenting an alternative view of Iraq. This year's summer school was in Edinburgh, with performances in Glasgow, London and on the Festival Fringe. They played works by Schubert and Fauré, but also by the Kurdish-Iraqi composer Karzan Mamood and Arab-Iraqi composer Osama Abdulasool, with cellist Julian Lloyd Webber and soloist Khyam Allami on the oud, a symbol of Iraqi civilisation.

"We're representing our country," says Majid. "Sometimes the media – in Europe, in the US – only transports the violence here and the horror, they don't show the good things. There is a myth that we don't do any kind of arts in Iraq, so it's really good that we can show people that there is music in Iraq."

In 2009, the players, aged 14-29, set out the NYOI's core values: love, commitment and respect. "Bringing Kurds and Arabs together to understand each other is one of the reasons Zuhaila wanted this," says MacAlindin. "You cannot form a full-size orchestra from just Kurds or Arabs. You have to bring them together."

Like other youth orchestras, the NYOI is run through residential summer schools, which MacAlindin refers to as "boot camp" because the young Iraqis come with so little formal training and so many "bad habits". In this intense environment of "hard, hard work", they have to come together and get to know each other as human beings, he says. Although there have been occasions when individuals have displayed racism towards the other group, by the end there has been "a huge transformation". As Majid puts it: "It brings everyone together with only one language: music."

**HOPE AND GLORY:** German-Syrian flautist Daniel Agi teaches Waleed Achmed Assi during summer school (below)

Comparisons with the West-Eastern Divan Orchestra, which unites musicians from Israel and Palestine, are inevitable. Founded by Edward Saïd and Daniel Barenboim in 1999, the Divan uses music to break down barriers and build bridges between opposing groups. "I'm trying to create a platform where the two sides can disagree and not resort to knives," Barenboim has said. On the orchestra's website, he writes: "Harmony in personal or international relations can also only exist by listening. Each party opening their ears to the other's narrative or point of view."

MacAlindin echoes these words: "If you're talking about the reconciliation aspect of this project, then it's entirely compatible with being a musician, because the first responsibility of every musician is to listen and the first step in any reconciliation is to listen. The ability to open yourself up to what someone else is doing and to respond to them in harmony is a musical way of creating a reconciliation."

Here was a country at war; a nation divided along geographical, religious, cultural and linguistic lines. There was no infrastructure, travel was dangerous; the logistical challenges to setting up a national orchestra seemed insurmountable. Yet, somehow, 53 young people applied in the first year. By the second year, this had nearly doubled to 96 applications, as word spread.

In 2011, 16 members of the National Youth Orchestra of Germany joined the Iraqis for Beethovenfest in Bonn, to make a 61-strong orchestra. "We thought that there would be a huge difference between us and them, but we found that they struggle sometimes, as we do, because that's how musicians are," Majid confides. As well as boosting their confidence, the overseas trips have revealed a buzzing international arts scene, to which the young musicians belong. In the UK, they received five-star reviews.

The hope is that it might now become a nationally funded orchestra. But even if the funding dries up, the NYOI will have made a lasting impact. "The orchestra gives you a tiny piece of hope, and some of them, like Waleed – our first flute – takes that little piece of hope and creates a chamber orchestra, or somebody else takes that hope and creates a Kurdistan string quartet or a piano trio in Baghdad," says MacAlindin. "They *do* stuff that they wouldn't normally have done, and this is really where the sustainability comes in."

*The next NYOI summer school will be in Aix-en-Provence. For details, or to support the NYOI, see [www.nyoiiraq.com](http://www.nyoiiraq.com).*





FOCUS

# Soldiers of peace

Music can be key to the rehabilitation of child soldiers, says **Jessica Moore**. And it can deliver a simple, life-changing message: come home

**B**efore Emmanuel Jal reached his eighth birthday, he had seen his village in South Sudan burnt down, his aunty raped and his mother killed. "I was raised in violence, and that made me a war child," Jal says. He spent five years as a child soldier for the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA), living in appalling conditions and killing with a gun he could barely lift.

Worldwide, there are an estimated 250,000 child soldiers. Some are sent into battle as scouts or decoys, or to draw enemy fire. Others work as porters, cooks and spies. About 40% are girls, taken to be 'wives' of the male combatants, treated as sex slaves. Africa has the largest number, with children used in armed conflict in countries including the Central African Republic, Chad, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and Uganda.

Jal was one of the lucky ones: he escaped and survived a three-month trek to safety. Today, he is a successful hip-hop musician who has performed with the likes of Bono, Peter Gabriel and Moby. "Music has been my therapy. It's where I see heaven, where I can be happy," he has said.

Today, a number of organisations use music to engage and rehabilitate child soldiers, and as a tool to raise awareness of their struggle. The Voice Project is one such charity, working with women's groups in Uganda and Congo to record songs for children who have been abducted by Joseph Kony's Lord's Revolutionary Army (LRA). "The women in the villages sing traditional African songs, but they change the words to give a personal message," explains Anna Gabriel, co-founder of the New York-based charity. "They tell child soldiers from the villages to come home, that they will be forgiven for everything that they've done, and that their family is still alive."

Together with the United Nations, the Voice Project has built FM radio stations and helped with production and recordings. "Sometimes children hear these songs in the army camps," says Gabriel. "Other kids have

escaped and are hiding in the bush because they don't feel they are able to come home." Many children are abducted, but some sign themselves up, wooed by the promise of drink, drugs, the pick of the girls and the power of a gun, as well as food and shelter. Others are handed over by their village in return for protection from attack. Some are forced to kill a family member to ensure the bonds with their community are broken.

The Voice Project's success rate is astounding. "About 80% of child soldiers that come home or defect say they have done so because they've heard these songs, either on the radio or through word of mouth." The Voice Project started when Gabriel's partner, Hunter Heaney, was working in Sudan. He met a group of women who taught him a song about their abducted children, who were fighting as child soldiers. A musical exchange began that culminated in a series of short videos, shared online. "It was about passing a message through music," she explains.

It is an aim shared by War Child. Founded in 1993 in response to the conflict in Bosnia, the charity shot to notoriety with *Help*, an album recorded in a week by artists including Radiohead, Blur, Paul Weller and Paul McCartney. "It was an amazing album," says Ben Knowles, Director of Fundraising. The album set out to raise £200,000. It realised £1.25 million. "It enabled us to open a music therapy centre in Mostar, which worked directly with children who'd been injured and traumatised by the conflict. The results were absolutely amazing, not only in bringing a spark back into their lives, but also in bringing Christian and Muslim children together."

Today, War Child works in six war-torn countries, and music therapy is embedded in all of its projects. In DRC, "there are vast numbers of street children, many of whom are ex-child soldiers. They are really difficult to reach and, for obvious reasons, have huge trust issues with authority. We engage local hip-hop musicians to come out on the streets to run rap battles. The street children listen to the music, then they come up with their own lyrics."

**FUN AND GAMES:** Children enjoy the hip-hop competition in Ndjili, Kinshasa (above)

**LYRICAL MESSAGE:** Women in Kitgum, Uganda, work with the Voice Project to bring child soldiers home (below right)





Knowles says these 'battles' are incredibly popular. "We research the music that speaks to children in the locations we work, and the kids in Kinshasa are obsessed with hip-hop," he explains. "These children are learning to express their feelings and share their experiences, where many of them haven't had the opportunity to before. That enables us to talk to them on their level. It's a significant referrer, leading to children coming in voluntarily to our drop-in centres to get healthcare and support, or to get into the education system. Music is an incredibly powerful way of breaking through barriers," Knowles adds. "It's a universal language and a unifying force."

Sadly, that force can also be harnessed by combatant groups. A study by the German social anthropologist Cornelia Nuxoll shows that music is used to spread racial hatred and organised violence among child soldiers, and to justify the atrocities of warfare. In Sierra Leone's Revolutionary United Front (RUF) and in the LRA, war songs and prayer songs are sung before military operations. In the RUF, child soldiers sing an anthem twice a day: 'Go and tell the President, Sierra Leone is my home. Go tell my parents, they may see me no more. When fighting in the battlefield, I'm fighting forever. Every Sierra Leonean is fighting for his land'.

Pulling children out of these situations is an uphill battle – and the few who are released or manage to escape face uncertainty and fear. "The effects of being a child soldier are felt long after their physical scars have healed and their drug dependencies overcome," states Knowles. But, "Music is one thing that everyone can get excited or emotional about," says Gabriel.

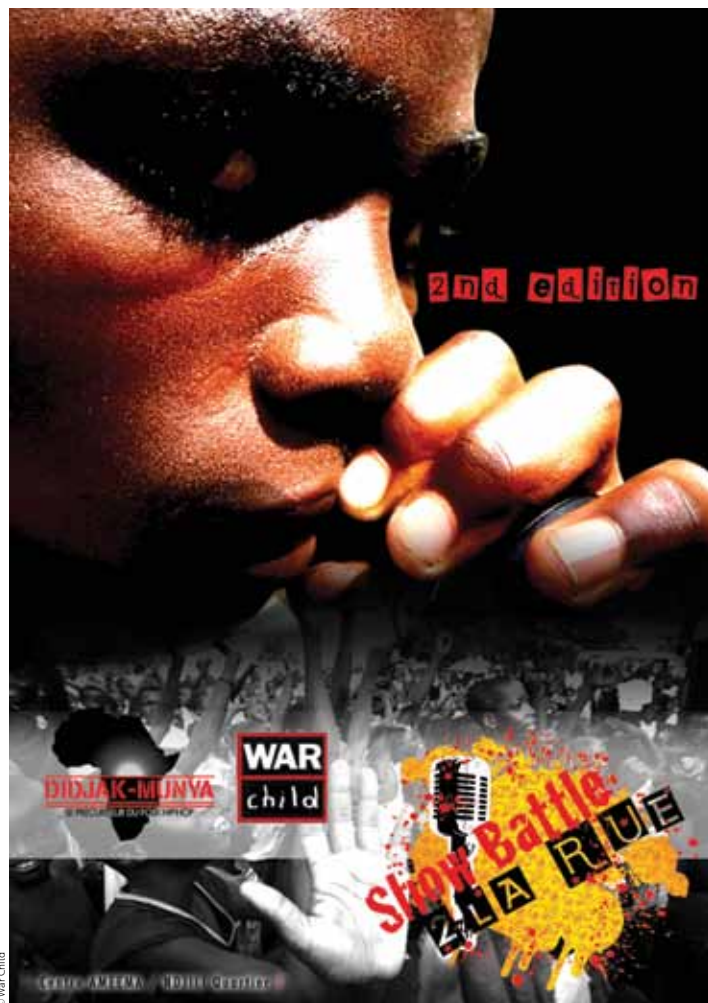
Having worked with women's groups in Uganda, she is convinced of the power of the Voice Project. "When the children hear the songs, it works – and when the kids get home, we've started working on music therapy projects to help them too. We've been giving instruments and helping teachers in Gulu, Uganda. They are using music as a healing tool. It really does make a difference."

To donate to War Child's Syria Appeal, visit [www.warchild.org.uk/syria](http://www.warchild.org.uk/syria). To donate to the Voice Project, visit [www.voiceproject.org](http://www.voiceproject.org).

Jessica Moore is a former Acting Editor of Overseas and co-founder of WM Editorial, [www.wmeditorial.com](http://www.wmeditorial.com).

**FINDING A VOICE:**  
Rap battle winner, Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of Congo (above)

**BATTLE ZONE:**  
Poster for the second rap contest organised by War Child in Kinshasa (right)



*'These children are learning to express their feelings, share their experiences'*





## FOCUS

# Raising the bar

When children grow up surrounded by violence and poverty, teaching them music can have a dramatic impact. **Nick Davis** reports from Kingston

For Jamaican teenagers Gabeana and Gabrielle Campbell the trip to school starts earlier than for most other pupils. Their parents are farmers in the Blue Mountains that overlook Kingston, so they're up at 4.30am every day to make the two-and-a-half hour journey to get to class. "Education is important, so you have to make sacrifices and we're in a good school," says 15-year-old Gabeana. They take a combination of taxis and minibuses, laden with goods for the markets in the capital.

In rural Jamaica, poverty is a growing problem; more than half of those living in poor conditions on the island are children, and low educational attainment is a major issue. But the sisters are part of an education scheme that is based on El Sistema, a music and social education programme in Venezuela that was developed to offer vulnerable children new skills, a way out of poverty, and a distraction from drugs, violence and crime.

It sounds too good to be true: teach kids from poorer backgrounds how to play classical instruments and it'll help them escape poverty. But the Simón Bolívar Music Foundation – the official name of El Sistema – has helped thousands of children around the world.

In 1975, José Antonio Abreu, economist, musician and social activist, started his first class in a garage with 11 children in Caracas. It has grown into a nationwide organisation of 102 youth orchestras in 270 locations,



**TOP BRASS:**  
A teacher on the music programme in Kingston

**AIMING HIGHER:**  
Sisters Gabeana and Gabrielle both aspire to music-related careers

and nearly 250,000 musicians, many of them living below the poverty line.

His work has now spread, with music education projects based on the model running in more than 25 countries around the globe. "Parents first saw this as a way of taking their kids off the streets, like free childcare, but over time they realised that making music in their community is much more important," says Rodrigo Guerrero, El Sistema's Officer of International Affairs.

In Jamaica, the programme has been running at two schools in Kingston; St Andrews Technical High School and Kingston College are music centres that also recruit

from other nearby schools in the downtown area. The communities that surround them suffer from high levels of crime and unemployment, and the hope is that the project can offer a different view of life to the youngsters.

"We were really inspired by El Sistema, we wanted to do something similar to them. Classical music is so different from anything they've heard, it's a new challenge for them to look at life through the core values to be a musician," says Michelle Braham, Program Coordinator of the National Youth Orchestra of Jamaica (NYOJ).

### Expanding horizons

At Kingston College, the dusty football field is full of players practising for an all-important inter-schools match, but the strains of a Southern African folk song can be heard floating across the pitch. Today is choral practice and around 20 students are repeating phrases from *Shosholoz* over and over again. As they sing the words in the Ndebele language, their vocal coach stops them and tells them not to hold the note.

A song based on the experience of Zimbabwean workers, leaving home for new opportunities in South Africa, seems oddly appropriate. "We use positive pressure, so we organise an event every month or two to keep them focused and working as a team," says Darren Young, NYOJ Music Coordinator. "We give them short-term goals as well as long-term. So the short-term is 'I will learn this skill today', but we're constantly expanding their horizons to say 'I want to be in that orchestra, or I want to live in that part of the world'. It allows them to decide what kind of person they want to be."

Jamaica is a very musical country. From rocksteady to reggae and dub to dancehall, music is in the cultural DNA, but classical music is something many of the children have not been exposed to. When asked what instrument they want to play, many say 'keyboard'. They don't mean an electronic piano but computer software, because so much of what they know is based on bass-driven Jamaican contemporary music. "I always wanted to be a musician but we could never afford the lessons. Now I want to be a professional," says 14-year-old flautist Adrian Gordon.

The Venezuelan programme has produced gifted international musicians, including Gustavo Dudamel, the Music Director of the Los Angeles Philharmonic, and the double bass player Edicson Ruiz, who at 17 became the youngest musician ever to join the Berlin Philharmonic.

Educationally, the scheme has also been a success. A pilot programme in Liverpool saw primary school pupils given seven hours a week of music. At the time, around 20% of students at the school were doing better than expected academically; that jumped to 78% after the

## 'There's a knee-jerk reaction: if people are poor, give them money not a violin'

music lessons. The pilot is now being rolled out to other parts of England, with schools in Newcastle, Gateshead and Leeds being selected for the three-year project. But many believe it should be nationwide.

In Scotland, Big Noise runs a similar scheme. "In the UK, because we're quite a negative culture and it was quite a wacky idea to use a symphony orchestra to fight social exclusion and poverty, it's the greatest gift the Venezuelans could have given us," says George Anderson, their Media Officer. They have nearly 500 kids from a socially deprived neighbourhood on the outskirts of Sterling, all playing instruments, where before there were none. Kids now ask newcomers what instrument they play, because they assume that everybody plays something.

"There's a knee-jerk reaction that if people are poor, give them money not a violin, but that misses the point. After you get past hunger and shelter issues, if people don't have something to challenge them and to work towards, it's very damaging; you can't underestimate the role of what the orchestra can do worldwide."

Back at choir practice in Kingston, Gabrielle and Gabeana are plotting their international careers. "I want to run a hotel with lots of live music," says Gabby. Her younger sister shrugs: "After High School, I'll get my MA in Performing Arts. I guess I'll have to pass my exams first, but nothing will stop us."

*Based in Kingston Jamaica, Nick Davis is the Caribbean Reporter for BBC News.*

### POSITIVE PRESSURE:

Pupils at Kingston College sing under the guidance of a vocal coach (below)

### ALL TO PLAY FOR:

Big Noise gives children in Sterling their chance to shine (below left)





# PETER WALLS' Wellington



## What three things would you recommend to someone visiting the city for the first time?

Walk along the wild south coast to the seal colony at Red Rocks. Climb the hill at Makara to see the views out over Cook Strait to the South Island. Hear the New Zealand Symphony Orchestra (NZSO) in concert – truly a world-class orchestra.

## Tell me about music and arts in Wellington...

Wellington's cultural life is quite extraordinary for a city of only 400,000. It is home to the NZSO and the Royal New Zealand Ballet. NBR New Zealand Opera perform here in a beautifully-restored century-old opera house. There is a vibrant theatre scene, too. Moreover, audiences in Wellington are great. Te Papa, the national museum and art gallery, is on the waterfront.

## Do you have a favourite concert venue?

We have two wonderful concert halls side-by-side: the Michael Fowler Centre (built in the 1980s) and the Wellington Town Hall (which opened in 1904). The MFC is at its best for Mahler and the Town Hall for Mozart.

Photo by Peter Walls

## Where would you suggest for a day-trip?

The three-hour ferry trip to Picton, in the Marlborough Sounds (at the top of the South Island), is spectacular on a nice day. From Picton it is a short drive to some of New Zealand's best vineyards. Sleep on the ferry back or take a short flight from Picton or Blenheim airports.

## Describe Wellington in three words...

Beautiful, windy, walkable.

## Which are your favourite restaurants?

Nikau (in the City Gallery Building) is a great lunch place; Ambelli in Majoribanks Street has been my favourite place for taking visiting artists out at night.

*ROSL member Peter Walls has adjudicated for the Pettman/ROSL ARTS Scholarship in New Zealand, was CEO of the NZSO, and is a conductor, consultant and musicologist.*

*In September, a concert was held in Government House, Wellington to celebrate the Diamond Jubilee of HM The Queen and the ROSL ARTS Annual Music Competition. This very successful concert was organised by Lyn Milne, ROSL NZ Director. For details, see page 24.*

**Interview by Claire Simon.**



## Credit Card Surcharge

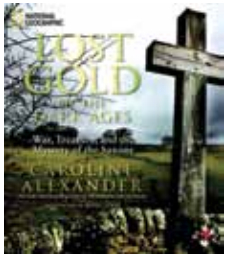
I would like to inform members that the Central Council has determined that, in common with many institutions and organisations, and with effect from 1 January 2013, it will be necessary to apply a 3% surcharge to transactions using credit cards in the London clubhouse. This will help cover the significant cost to ROSL of credit card usage. The surcharge does not apply to transactions using a debit card. This

surcharge will apply to all credit card transactions on the website, at Reception (including for bedroom charges), in the Shop and for event payments. It will not apply, for the time being, in the Restaurant, Buttery or Bar.

Thank you for your understanding,  
Roddy Porter, Director-General

# Books

Reviews of recent works by ROSL members



## Lost Gold of the Dark Ages: War, treasure, and the mystery of the Saxons

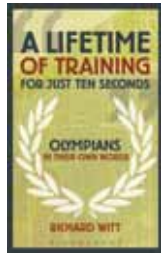
Caroline Alexander  
National Geographic Society, 2011. ISBN: 978-1-4262-0814-0, US\$35

Using the treasure trove of the Staffordshire Hoard as its starting point, *Lost Gold* aims to shed light on the mysterious Dark Ages of British history. Through illustrations, photos, maps and a dynamic narrative, the book presents a vivid account of the rise of the Saxons, from the Roman withdrawal in AD476 to the Battle of Hastings in 1066. It was these historic events, so often shrouded in myth, that gave rise to the English nation.  
**Claire Simon**

## A Lifetime of Training for Just Ten Seconds: Olympians in their own words

Richard Witt  
Bloomsbury, 2012.  
ISBN: 978-1-4081-6403-7, £10

This collection of inspiring and often hilarious quotations from Olympic athletes, eyewitnesses and commentators through the ages gives a fascinating insight into the Games and everyone involved. Richard Witt was Head



of English Translations for the Olympic Organising Committee, 2001-2004, and he provides notes on context, as well as dividing the book into thematic chapters that range from 'Ambition and Being the Best' to 'Triumph and Disaster'. **CS**

## Homecoming: Sixty years of Egyptian short stories

Selected and translated by Denys Johnson-Davies  
The American University in Cairo Press, 2012. ISBN: 978-977-416-447-7. US\$27.95. Available from Amazon or <http://aucpress.com/t-individuals.aspx>

This engaging anthology of Egyptian short stories covers a 60-year period of translation. Fifty stories, written between the 1940s and the present day, uncover Egyptian culture, mores, social attitudes and superstitions down the generations. Joy, fear, suspicion, puzzlement, intrigue, hope (confounded and realised) are discovered in the sun-baked streets, souks and fields.

Denys Johnson-Davies, one of the world's foremost Arabic translators and a long-time ROSL member, has produced a work that will stimulate and provoke readers as they are introduced to stories of life on the Arab street.

**Roddy Porter**



## Calling all ROSL authors

If you are a ROSL member and would like your book to be reviewed in *Overseas*, please send a copy along with contact details to: Deputy Editor, Over-Seas House, Park Place, St James's Street, London SW1A 1LR.

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# News and views

During a summer of excitement in London, ROSL members were treated to a number of events both in and outside of the clubhouse



## Scenic day-trip

In August, ROSL members enjoyed a day-trip to Frogmore House and The Savill Garden in Windsor. A favourite royal retreat for more than 300 years, the house (main image) is renowned for its stunning landscaped garden and 18th-century lake. Members were then taken to the beautiful Savill Garden and treated to a Jubilee tea in their own private tent (inset).

## ▼ New Members' Reception

The annual New Members' Reception was hosted, in October, by the Director-General. It provided those new to ROSL with the opportunity to find out more about what membership has to offer, with information tables about our development projects, ROSL ARTS, the London and Discussion Groups, *Overseas* magazine, ROSL events, the ROSL Shop and Convex banqueting.



## ◀ Olympic fever

Over-Seas House was caught up in the excitement of the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games, hosting several Olympic-themed events. On 24 July, in a joint venture with the Kenya Society, we welcomed the Kenyan Olympic Team with drinks, canapés and music provided by Afrika Jambo Band in the garden (right).

Three days later, we celebrated the Opening Ceremony in style with a cocktail reception in the garden, a hot buffet in the Hall of India and Pakistan (left), and big screens throughout the clubhouse to view the extravaganza.





◀ **A Castle and a Palace**

The end-of-summer trips to Windsor Castle and Kensington Palace were extremely popular. Members toured Windsor Castle's Great Kitchen, State Apartments, and temporary exhibition, 'The Queen: Sixty Photographs for Sixty Years'. Pictured (l-r) are ROSL members Gordon Hunt, Sarah Richardson, John Hocking and Helen Murphy.



▲ **Champagne Garden Parties**

In July and September, Friends of ROSL ARTS enjoyed the Annual Champagne Garden Parties in the ROSL garden. At each event there was an hour-long concert, and this was given, in July, by the Estrella Quartet, from Auckland, New Zealand. The ensemble of four pianists at two pianos won the 2011 ROSL/Pettman scholarship, and the event was attended by scholarship benefactors Barrie and Maureen Pettman. Pictured (l-r) are Judy Lee, Gemma Lee, Prof Barrie Pettman, Maureen Pettman, Cindy Tsaoi and Somi Kim.



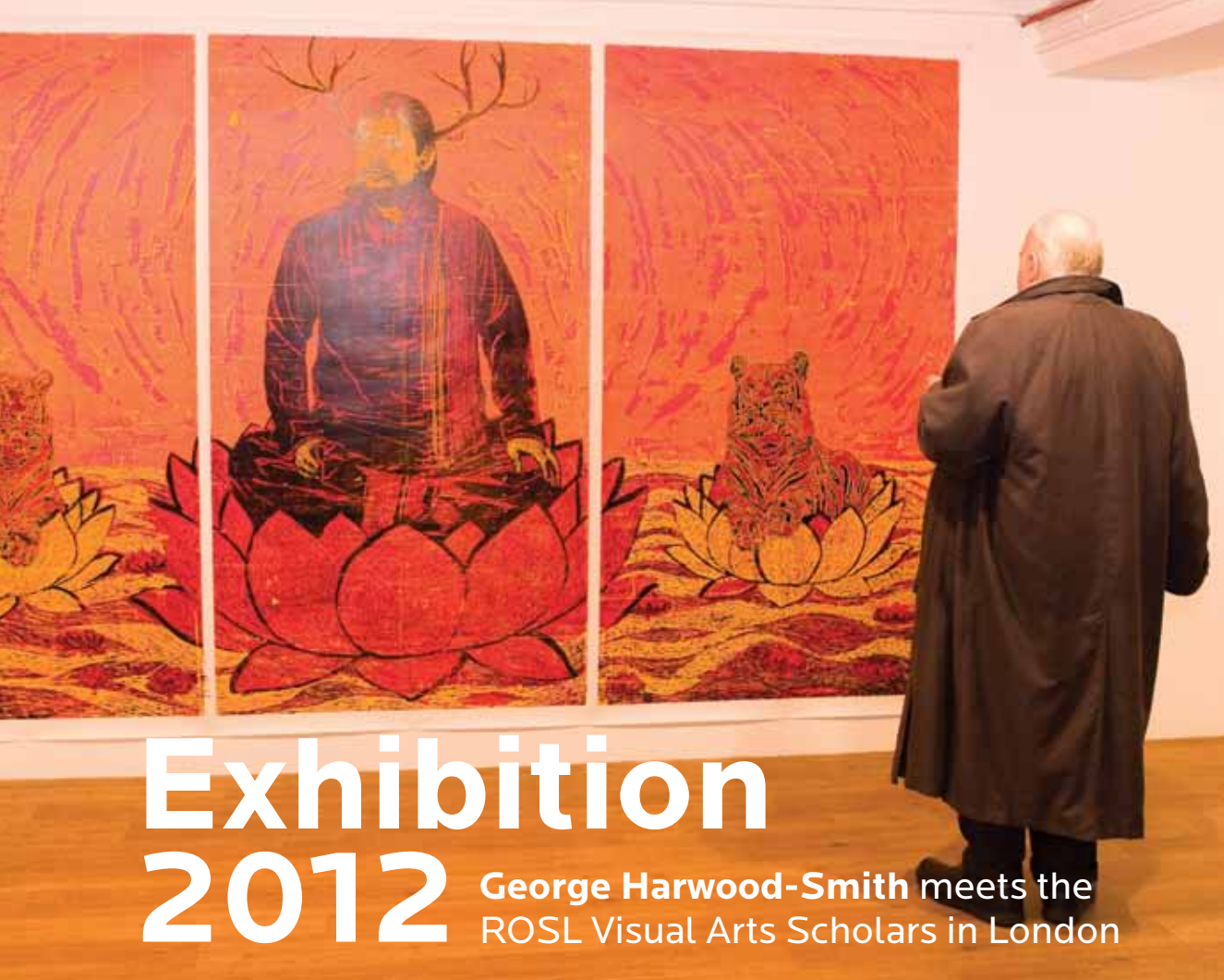
▲ **Dinner in the Tower**

At the most sought-after event of the late summer, ROSL members gained unparalleled access to the Tower of London. ROSL Director-General, Roddy Porter, hosted a three-course black-tie dinner in the Royal Fusiliers Officers' Mess, and guests then saw the Ceremony of the Keys, guided by a Yeoman Warder. The evening was so popular that it will be repeated in January (see page 32 for details).

▶ **Central Council**

In September, the Central Council welcomed Peter Kyle OBE, Director of the English Speaking Union, as guest of honour and speaker. He is pictured (centre) with ROSL Chairman Sir Anthony Figgis (left) and Director-General, Roddy Porter.





All photos © Jules Lawrence



**STRIKING:** Prathap Modi's vibrant self-portrait, 'I Want to Give Something to the People' (above left)



# Exhibition 2012

## George Harwood-Smith meets the ROSL Visual Arts Scholars in London

In October, the ROSL Annual Scholars Exhibition returned to gallery@oxo, set against the London skyline on the Southbank. This year's exhibition displayed paintings, prints, glasswork and mixed-media installation by artists Nick Olsen (Australia), Holly Parotti (The Bahamas), Prathap Modi (India) and Sunil Sigdel (Nepal). The scholars were joined by British RCA (Royal College of Art) glass-maker Samantha McDonald, who was commissioned by ROSL ARTS to design the trophy for the 60th Annual Music Competition and had a recent sell-out show at the RCA.

During the exhibition installation, I had the opportunity to speak with each artist about their influences, concepts and how the ROSL Travel Scholarship to Hospitalfield in Arbroath, Scotland, influenced their way of working.

### Nick Olsen

Nick Olsen describes his paintings and drawings as a documentation of day-to-day life – a 'visual diary' to make sense of his environment. His representational paintings are interrupted by cut and spliced strips from previous work, and simultaneously act as a reportage of a range of experiences in one overall image, and depict the colour, light and tone of a particular place at a particular time.

I wondered how the artist's residency at Hospitalfield had affected his approach to his work. "The residency and travel involved has been pivotal in my development as an artist, giving me renewed confidence, as well as helping me to develop relationships with other artists around the world," he says. "I enjoy architecture and I focused upon the buildings of Scotland and London, as they clearly evoke the rich history of the UK."

### Holly Parotti

Holly Parotti's work examines the cultural make-up of the Bahamian population. In her installation 'Passing Ports', she has replicated Bahamian passports with original, loyalist names, exploring the notion of 'Bahamianess' and questioning the definition a 'true Bahamian'.

She recently told the *Nassau Guardian*: "I struggle with my Bahamian identity... I think labels make it more comfortable for people to understand you and I am uncomfortable with that because labels are often so misconstrued." Holly makes it clear that she wants to be seen as an international artist; although her work is made in The Bahamas, it is concerned with change and the constant rapid evolution of our living and social environments. She valued the peaceful surroundings of Hospitalfield, but the thing that most impressed her was the printing facilities at the DCA (Dundee Contemporary Arts).

### Sunil Sigdel

Sunil Sigdel's paintings feature distorted figures, mutated by their environment, as he explores the social and economic issues that face Nepal in the 21st century. In 2011, he met with Nepali immigrants from the Gurkha Regiment, and this strongly influenced his work, which evokes dystopian representations of the human form in the future.

"Nepalese Gurkha soldiers were an integral part of the British Army; their motto is 'Better to die than to be a coward'," he says. "I find it very ironic: my country's illiteracy, unemployment problem and lack of caring leadership force young people to risk their life in a foreign land. I decided to focus the rest of my work to try to represent their suffocation."

Sunil valued the opportunity to work alongside his fellow scholars, observing printmakers Holly and





**GROUP SHOW:**  
The 2011 scholars outside the gallery@oxo: (l-r) Prathap Modi, Sunil Sigdel, Nick Olsen and Holly Parotti



*'To see other artists' work was a huge learning curve for me'*



**PRIVATE VIEW:**  
Guests enjoy the show

Prathap: "To see other artists' work, thinking processes, and learn of their experiences from their respective countries, was a huge learning curve for me and was a very important part of the residency."

**Prathap Modi**

Prathap Modi's large self-portraits were a dominating feature of the 2012 exhibition. In their scale and vibrancy, the woodblock prints possess a raw beauty that is indicative of the process in which they are made. Prathap painstakingly carves his compositions on to large wooden blocks before coating them in layers of ink/paint in order to build up each layer of the artwork. The results are strikingly colourful, original and humorous compositions, bordering upon the absurd.

"My recent work reveals several human-social phenomena, visualised through observation. It is a proposition of unity and the importance of peace. Worthless greed, corruption and excessive power are so uncontrollably overwhelming to our human nature that we succumb to it, losing ourselves. We should not forget the importance of togetherness and what this can bring us."

**TALKING ART:**

(Top) Prathap Modi (r) talks to ROSL Chairman Sir Anthony Figgis (l) and the Director-General

**ARTISTS:**

(Above) Bahamian artist Holly Parotti (centre), with British artist Sonia Boyce MBE (r) and her daughters

# A musical celebration

Director of Arts, **Roderick Lakin**, describes a glittering celebration of the ROSL Annual Music Competition's Diamond Jubilee at St James's Palace

The historic State Apartments of St James's Palace, dating from the reign of Henry VIII, provided the sumptuous backdrop for a Musical Evening celebrating the 60th anniversary of the ROSL Annual Music Competition. ROSL is greatly indebted to our Vice-Patron, HRH Princess Alexandra, for hosting the evening on 10 October, and for her sustained interest in and support of the competition.

Princess Alexandra became Vice-Patron in 1979, but her association with the ROSL Annual Music Competition goes back much further. In 1964, she attended a similar gala concert for the competition, also at St James's Palace, and most recently presented the prizes at the Final of the competition at the Queen Elizabeth Hall in May.

On arrival at the palace, guests ascended the grand staircase for a champagne reception in the magnificent Queen Anne Room, part of a suite of rooms enlarged by Sir Christopher Wren, and also the Tapestry Room and Armoury, redecorated by William Morris. A supper was held in the Entree and Queen Anne Rooms after the musical performances. During the course of the evening there was ample opportunity to appreciate the magnificent collection

*They amply demonstrated the quality and seriousness of the music that the ROSL competition showcases*



**ROYAL WELCOME:** HRH Princess Alexandra is greeted by (l-r) ROSL Director-General Major-General Roddy Porter, Chairman Sir Anthony Figgis and President Lord Luce

**WINNING SMILES:** 2012 Gold Medallist, Australian pianist Jayson Gillham, presents a posy to the Princess



All photos © Matt Leele, www.roslevent.com



of art works housed at the palace, including paintings by Gainsborough, Sir Peter Lely and Sir Joshua Reynolds, and tapestries reputedly commissioned by Charles I.

The centrepiece of the evening was the concert held in the Picture Gallery, featuring major prizewinners from the competition's last three years: Jonathan McGovern (baritone), with Timothy End (piano), Sean Shibe (guitar), Jayson Gillham (piano), the Rose Trio (oboe, clarinet, bassoon), and the Cavaleri Quartet (string quartet). Between them they represented all the key elements of the competition: singers, strings, keyboard, wind, accompanists and chamber ensembles. In a programme of music ranging from Bach to Barber, they amply demonstrated the quality and seriousness of the music and musicians that the

ROSL competition is privileged to showcase.

The concert was given in aid of the ROSL Centenary Appeal to endow awards in the Annual Music Competition, which has already raised more than £800,000 towards an initial target of £1 million. Over the past 60 years, the ROSL Annual Music Competition has acquired an enviable track record as a discerning platform for musical excellence. The success of the appeal reinforces ROSL's future commitment to support the finest young UK and Commonwealth musicians studying or working in the UK, as they enter the music profession.

*Images from the evening can be purchased from [www.mlevent.zenfolio.com](http://www.mlevent.zenfolio.com).*

**GRAND OCCASION:**  
ROSL President Lord Luce introduces the concert (below left)

**SHOWCASE:**  
Princess Alexandra Calvert of the Cavaleri Quartet (below)



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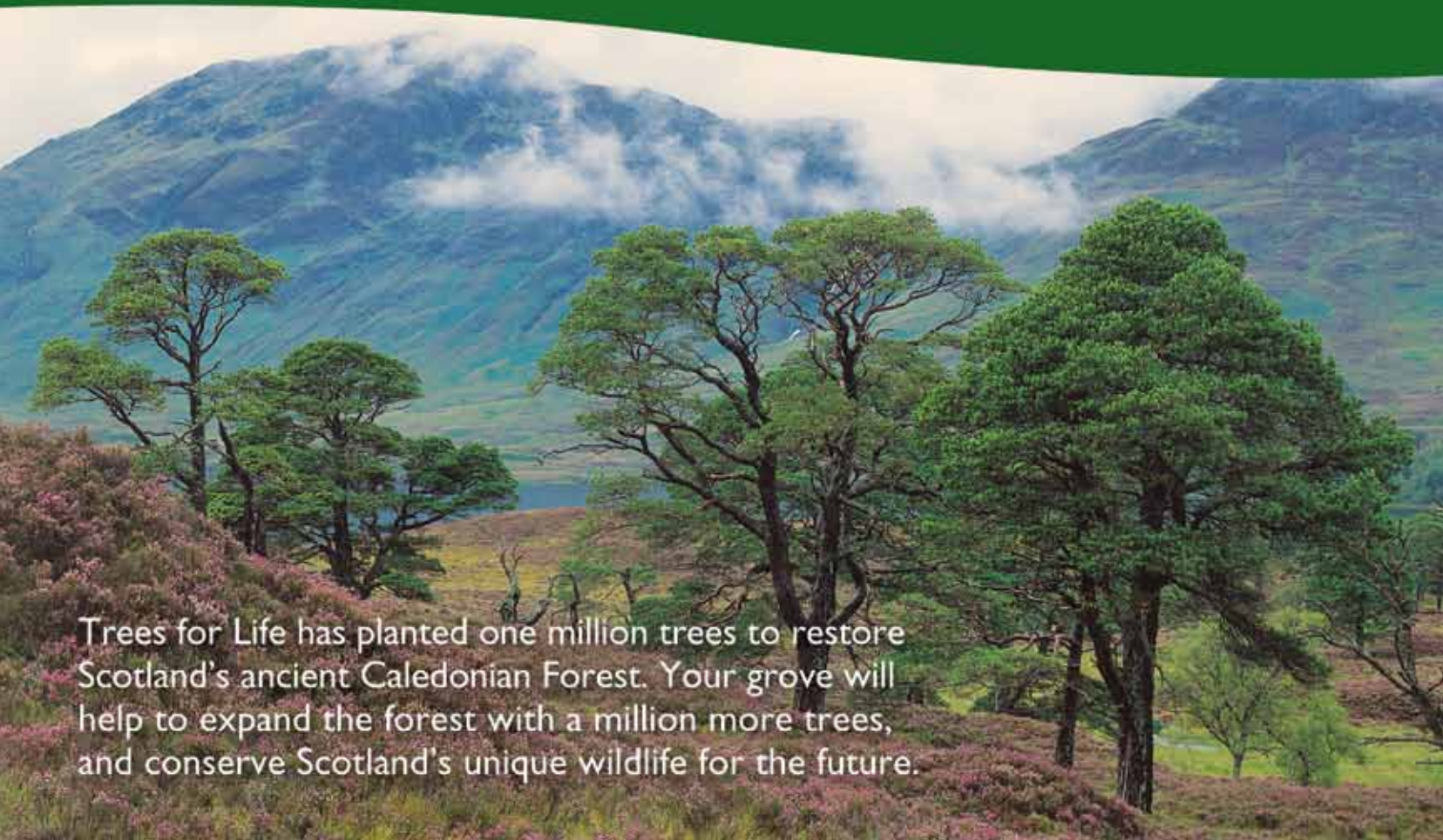
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SPECIAL LINKS

# Global Student Forum

Why the energy and enthusiasm of this new organisational membership group compliments the experience of ROSL and its members so well

In 2008, while serving in the army, Major General Roddy Porter spoke at the annual Global Student Forum (GSF) in Westminster. Struck by the enthusiasm and energy of these sixth-form students – and their passion to see a more just and sustainable world for everyone – he stayed in touch. Now he has drawn on this contact to set up an organisational partnership between ROSL and GSF, saying: “It is marvellous to combine the energy and enthusiasm of young people from the Global Student Forum with the wisdom and experience of ROSL members.”

GSF was founded in 2005 by ROSL members and social entrepreneurs Nick and Carol Pollard, and has been funded by the Department for International Development. Each year, it gathers sixth-form students from schools across the country to explore an issue related to international development – and inspires them to go back to their schools as peer educators, to teach others what they have learned.

More than 4,000 sixth-formers have attended GSF forums in London, Liverpool, Newcastle, Hull and Edinburgh, returning to their schools to educate an estimated 350,000 fellow students about key global issues raised during the day. This has a profound and positive impact on both the sixth-formers and the younger students they teach. Emily Storer, from De Lisle Science College in Loughborough, said of her experience: “It was a really valuable time, which I will take with me for the rest of my life. I will no longer sit back and read about how poverty affects people but will do my part in combating it.”

“It is the active engagement of these young people that makes all the difference,” says Nick Pollard. “That is why all of the evaluation reports demonstrate that GSF has a lasting impact for good in the lives of these students and those they reach.” Those reports are available at [www.globalstudentforum.org](http://www.globalstudentforum.org).

Carol Pollard adds: “And now, with help from organisations such as ROSL and the Foreign Office, we are beginning to see how GSF can serve young people in many other countries too.” To that end, GSF 2012 was attended by sixth-formers from schools in China, Hungary, Poland, Slovakia and Switzerland. Before and after the event they spent time at Over-Seas House, London, talking with ROSL members and Director-General Roddy Porter, and considering how to take the impact of GSF back to their countries.



Judy Schildehouse



Stuart Beaman

**GOING GLOBAL:** Nick and Carol Pollard at Over-Seas House, London, with some of the overseas students who attended GSF 2012 (top)

**INSPIRING:** Major-General Roddy Porter speaking at GSF 2008 (above)

**Scheme benefits**  
Individual members of certain organisations can obtain a 25% joining fee discount when applying for ROSL membership and do not need a proposer or seconder. The full list can be found at [www.rosl.org.uk](http://www.rosl.org.uk).

## Four reasons to renew your ROSL membership

The Royal Over-Seas League values every member and, as the time approaches for annual subscription renewals, we'd like to take this opportunity to remind you of some of the best reasons to continue your membership.

### Arts, music and welfare projects

ROSL is unique. For more than 60 years, ROSL ARTS has helped the career development of talented young professional artists and musicians from the UK and the Commonwealth, through the Annual Music Competition, Commonwealth Music Scholarships and Visual Arts Scholarships.

Similarly, the ROSL joint welfare projects form an important part of ROSL's identity. Initiated in 1994 in Sri Lanka, and today existing in Namibia, Botswana and Kenya, the projects bring ROSL closer to its aim of giving 'service to the Commonwealth and humanity at large'. Being a not-for-profit organisation, we enable our members to enjoy and actively support the talent that young musicians and artists are developing.

### A vibrant events calendar

ROSL prides itself on the busy social and events calendar it runs throughout the year. Whether wine tastings or outside trips, the aim is to enable ROSL members to try something new, or simply to enjoy something they already love.

### Comfortable clubhouses

Both the London and Edinburgh clubhouses are in prime locations in the city centres and provide a homely environment for all members, with reasonably-priced accommodation, restaurants and bars.

### Organisational and reciprocal partnerships

With reciprocal clubs in more than 20 countries, and partnerships and discounts with organisations such as The Grange Hotels and the Royal Academy, ROSL ensures its members receive the benefits of ROSL membership outside the clubhouse.

### SUPPORTING TALENT:

ROSL Gold Medallist Jayson Gillham



© Jules Lawrence

# 2013 annual subscription renewal

Dear ROSL Member,

Your annual membership subscription will be due for renewal on 1 January 2013. Previously we have sent these reminders by way of letter. This year we are introducing renewal letters through *Overseas* magazine to improve efficiency and reduce paper waste and postage costs.

There are several options for payments, but the simplest, and the one we recommend, is via the Member's Profile section of our website, [www.rosl.org.uk](http://www.rosl.org.uk), where you can pay your membership renewal using a debit or credit card.

**Please note that a surcharge of 3% will apply to all credit card transactions after 1 January 2013.** No surcharge applies for renewals using a debit card. If you have set up a member's profile account on our website, you will also receive a renewal reminder by email.

Cheques can be sent with the form (below) for the attention of the Membership Department. Overseas members are reminded that **we can only accept sterling cheques or bank drafts drawn on a UK bank account.** We cannot accept payments in other currencies. To make a payment by phone please contact the Membership Department on: +44 (0)20 7408 0214 ext 214/216.

If you are **currently** paying by direct debit you need do nothing, as the amount applicable will be taken from your bank account in January. If you wish to cancel your ROSL membership, please let us know before 31 December 2012.

Membership rates differ depending on your place of residence. Please use the rates listed (right) for guidance. If you have been a member for more than 30 years, please contact the Membership Department directly.

## Annual subscription rates 2013

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**Local Branch** **£18**

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**Local Branch** **£18**



**INNER-CITY HAVEN:**  
The ROSL garden (above)



**HOME FROM HOME:** The London clubhouse (above right)

**Please return the tear-off slip with your payment (made payable to ROSL), marked for the attention of the Membership Department to: Membership Department, Royal Over-Seas League, Over-Seas House, Park Place, St James's Street, London, SW1A 1LR.**



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# ROSL WORLD

## The latest from the global branches



**CELEBRATION:** The Diamond Jubilee concert in Wellington was held at Government House

David Hamilton

### **Australia**

In November, members of the New South Wales Branch attended a Remembrance Day service. The South Australia Branch reports a steady recruitment of new members. Its Annual Dinner in October celebrated the Diamond Jubilee of HM The Queen, while its monthly lunches included talks on 'Snake and Spider Venom' and 'The History of Jazz'. The branch regrets the deaths of a number of members, including Daphne Duval, a former Branch Secretary/Treasurer, and Brian Redpath, a former Branch Chairman/President.

The Final of the Western Australia Branch's Annual Singing Competition was held in August, and Deputy Branch Chairman, Jeff Turner, presented the first prize of AUS\$500 to Paull-Anthony Keightley (baritone). The branch sadly reports the loss of two long-standing members, Bohdan Generowicz and Amy Simmons.

**New South Wales:** Lily Murray, murraylily@hotmail.com

**Queensland:** Sharon Morgan, sllmorgan@hotmail.com

**South Australia:** Michael Kent, rosl.sa@mac.com

**Tasmania:** Robert Dick, gradick1@gmail.com

**Victoria:** Coral Strahan, +61 (0)3 9654 8338, rosl@alphalink.com.au

**Western Australia:** Anthony Abbott, +61 (0)8 9368 0379, losabbotts@hotmail.com

**HIGH NOTES:** (L-r) Adjudicator Marilyn Phillips, prizewinner Paull-Anthony Keightley and WA Branch Deputy Chairman Jeff Turner



### **Canada**

**Alberta:** Cynthia Cordery, +1 780 477 0001, ccordery@shaw.ca

**British Columbia:** Liz Murray, evmurray@telus.net

**Nova Scotia:** Liz Stern, +1 902 678 1975, lizstern317@gmail.com

**Ontario:** Ishrani Jaikaran, +1 416 760 0309, rosl.ont@sympatico.ca

### **Hong Kong**

The Guest of Honour and speaker at the branch's September lunch was Carrie Lam, Chief Secretary for Administration for the Hong Kong SAR Government, who spoke on 'No Livelihood Issue is Too Trivial'.

**Hong Kong:** Perveen Crawford, www.rosl.org.hk

### **New Zealand**

A concert was held, in September, to celebrate the Diamond Jubilees of The Queen and the ROSL Annual Music Competition. Organised by NZ Director Lyn Milne, it was held at Government House, Wellington, and hosted by ROSL NZ Patron and Governor General of New Zealand HE Sir Jerry Mateparae and Lady Janine Mateparae. Major General Roddy Porter and his wife Marianne attended the concert, along with more than 200 ROSL members and their guests. Music was performed by past ROSL prizewinners, and His Excellency praised the continuing work of ROSL in supporting young NZ musicians and artists, words endorsed by clarinettist Gretchen La Roche.

Receptions were also held in Christchurch and Auckland, giving members an opportunity to meet General Porter and Marianne Porter.

**New Zealand:** Lyn Milne, royalo-s@xtra.co.nz, www.roslnz.org.nz

### **Switzerland**

**Switzerland:** Jo Brown, +334 5040 6631

### **Thailand**

**Thailand:** Roger Willbourn, + 66 2649 2690, info@roslthailand.com

### **UK**

In September, 35 members from Bath, Bournemouth, Exeter and Taunton stayed at Over-Seas House, London for their annual weekend, which began with a reception hosted by Central Council member Clive Carpenter. Activities included a trip to Handel House Museum, tours of Chiswick House and Fulham Palace, and the musical *Top Hat*.

The Bournemouth Branch sadly reports the loss of its Chairman, Chris Bladen, in July. David Lange, the Deputy Chairman, took over as Acting Chairman. The branch held a Garden Party in July. Its Thursday coffee mornings are always well attended.

In August, the Cheltenham Branch had its annual 'do-your-own-thing' weekend in London. Its monthly meetings continue. The annual programme of Arts Lunches at the Edinburgh clubhouse concluded with a talk by Sandy Richardson on the proposed V&A at Dundee. In August, ROSL ARTS ran its popular programme of chamber music at the clubhouse during the Edinburgh Festival Fringe.

In July, members of the Exeter Branch entertained the Estrella Piano Quartet, winners of the 2011 ROSL/Pettman scholarship, after their concert at the Budleigh Salterton Music Festival. Prof Ruth Hawker was speaker at the September lunch. At the Taunton Branch Chairman's coffee morning in August, a cheque for



Graham Christie



## Chris Bladen, 1945-2012



Chris Bladen, Chairman of the Bournemouth Branch since 2009, died on 6 July. During a

career with NATO lasting 33 years, latterly as Chief of Air Command and Control Systems, Chris proved himself to be a master tactician, chairing meetings of 15 different nations and obtaining agreement on policy matters; a skill requiring determination and diplomacy.

On retirement, he joined ROSL and was a strong advocate of the club and its goals, contributing hugely to the branch's success and to the recent review of ROSL's future. He is survived by his wife Jill, and children Sarah and John.

## Susan Ward, 1944-2012

ROSL member Susan Ward died peacefully at home in June. The founder of the Budleigh Salterton Literary Festival, she began her work in the arts world in Stirling, in the 1980s, fundraising for arts events. Susan moved to Budleigh in 2005 and the inaugural 'Words by the Sea' festival took place in 2009, with the aim of being the best small literary festival in the country.

Susan secured celebrated authors such as Michael Morpurgo and fellow ROSL member Hilary Mantel, and the festival's great success is a testament to her enthusiasm and determination. She leaves her husband Charles, three children, Charlotte, Rebecca and Thomas, and seven grandchildren.

£680, raised through raffles and donations, was given to the disaster emergency charity Shelterbox, and a further £420 was given to Tossing a Starfish Madagascar. The branch holds weekly coffee mornings.

The West Cornwall Branch began its winter programme with a social evening at Trevethoe House, Lelant. Its afternoon talks with cream tea continue.

### Bath, Exeter, Taunton, Torbay:

Sally Roberts, +44 (0)1823 661 148, rosl.west@googlemail.com

**Bournemouth:** Gordon Irving, +44 (0)1258 480 887, westoverirving@aol.com

**Cheltenham:** Kathleen Northage, +44 (0)1242 515 540

**Edinburgh:** Bill Chalmers, +44 (0)131 557 2754

**Glasgow:** Bill Agnew, +44 (0)141 423 0012

**West Cornwall:** Ian Wood, +44 (0)1736 333460

**West Sussex:** Marilyn Archbold, +44 (0)1444 458853.

### ARTS LUNCH:

Members hear about the new V&A at the Edinburgh clubhouse



## Reciprocal Istanbul

The new ROSL reciprocal club in Istanbul offers a range of facilities for visiting ROSL members, including a ballroom, restaurants and bars, swimming pools with a floating sun deck (summer only), a tennis court, live entertainment, and an open-air cinema in the summer.

Founded in 1935, the Moda Yacht Club is located in a quiet, cosmopolitan neighbourhood. Kadikoy District is famous for its waterside restaurants, marinas, beaches, laid-back living, and shopping on the swanky Baghdad Street. There are many local attractions, and the club is a short ferry ride from the historic peninsula on the European side of Istanbul. Although there is no accommodation, the club will happily recommend nearby places to stay.

**Contact:** Gamze Gedik, Moda Yacht Club, Moda Cad. Ferit Tek sk. No:1 34710 Moda, Kadikoy, Istanbul. **Email:** ggedik@modadenizkulubu.org.tr; **Tel:** +90 (216) 346 9072 ext 56; **Web:** www.modadenizkulubu.org.tr.

### WATERSIDE LUXURY:

Aerial view of the Moda Yacht Club



© Moda Yacht Club



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# Haggis, neeps and tatties

Try something different this festive season.  
**Claire Simon celebrates Burns Night**

Anyone looking for a slice of traditional festive cheer in these winter months should look no further than Scotland. Every year, on 25 January, Scots come together to toast the life and poetry of their national bard, Robert Burns, on the day he was born in 1759. I went to the Edinburgh clubhouse for the annual Burns Supper last year and, stepping into the building, I was greeted by a sea of tartan, bagpipes and whisky. Held in Restaurant 100, the event followed a traditional format, beginning with the haggis being ceremonially piped into the room and a dramatic rendition of *Address to a Haggis* – an ode written by Robert Burns – with the cutting of the haggis signifying the start of the supper.

We dined on traditional fare: cock-a-leekie soup (made from leek and chicken stock), haggis, neeps (turnips) and tatties (potatoes), and cranachan, (a desert of cream, oats, whisky and raspberries). The evening was full of amusement, with traditional speeches given throughout by ROSL members and staff. The Immortal Memory recognises Burns' life and achievements in both hilarious and serious ways; the Toast to the Lassies, a humorous speech given by a male member of the party praising women, is followed by the Reply to the Toast to the Lassies, given by female guests. Attending the event on my own was not a problem; the atmosphere was welcoming and Scottish members enjoyed teaching me about their national traditions.

As I toasted the Immortal Memory of Rabbin Burns and the 'great chieftain o' the puddin'-race' (the haggis), with the magnificent view of Edinburgh Castle from the clubhouse, it was impossible not to get swept up in the sense of pride the guests had for their national poet. The Burns Supper is a tradition not to be missed, and one celebrated so well at the Edinburgh clubhouse.

*This popular event will be held again at Over-Seas House, Edinburgh on 25 January 2013. It is advisable to book early. For details, see page 32.*



VisitScotland/Scottish Whisky. www.visitScotland.com/culture



Paul Tomkins/VisitScotland/Scottish Whisky. www.visitScotland.com/culture

**CEREMONY:**  
 The centrepiece of the meal on Burns Night, the haggis (above) is played into the room by pipers (top)

## Celebrate the New Year, Scottish style

Hogmanay is considered by many Scots to be the most important event of the year, with the biggest celebrations seen in Edinburgh, Glasgow and Stirling. Festivities begin early on the evening of 31 December, with street parties, concerts and fireworks, and lead up to the chiming of the bells at midnight. In Stonehaven, Aberdeenshire, there is a spectacular fire ceremony and giant fireballs are carried down the street. At the Edinburgh clubhouse, the New Year is welcomed with whisky, shortbread and black bun, and there is roof access to view the fireworks over Edinburgh Castle. *For details see page 32.*

## LONDON

# What's on...

### Ice at the Palace

Hampton Court Palace

**1 December 2012 - 13 January 2013, 10am-10pm**

On the banks of the River Thames, Hampton Court is a picturesque location for festive skating, and in the evenings it is beautifully illuminated. Advance bookings are recommended.

*Tickets: from £8.50/£11 (child/adult).*

*Contact: www.hamptoncourtpalaceicerink.com.*

**PICTURESQUE:**  
 Ice at the Palace



PMR Events

### Cinderella: A Fairytale

St James Theatre

**12 December 2012 -**

**26 January 2013**

This original take on one of the best-loved fairy-tales of all time is quirky and imaginative. When Ella's devoted father re-marries, her life is turned upside down and it appears that her only allies are the feathered friends who roost in the trees. But these are no ordinary birds...

*Tickets: £17.50-£40*

*Contact: +44 (0)844 264 2140.*



**IMAGINATIVE:**  
 A quirky re-telling of the famous fairy-tale

### Ansel Adams: Photography from the mountains to the sea

National Maritime Museum

**Ends 28 April 2013**



© The Ansel Adams Publishing Rights Trust

Exploring the unique approach of America's most influential photographer, this exhibition displays images of water in all its forms, from clouds to seascapes, geysers to waterfalls, and ice to rapids.

*Tickets: £7/£6*

*Contact: +44 (0)20 8312 6565 or bookings@rmg.co.uk.*

**UNIQUE:** 'Waterfall Northern Cascades', Washington 1960

# Younger Members

December 2012 - March 2013

## DECEMBER

### Younger Members' Christmas party & First Thursdays

Thursday 6 December, from 6pm

ROSL is excited to announce an unprecedented Christmas party, with a buffet, and music, mulled wine and mince pies in the ROSL bar, before moving on to an exclusive club in the area.

For more details, contact Sara.

### Annual Inter-Club Christmas Ball

Saturday 8 December

Hit the Inter-Club website now, because tickets to the Christmas Ball will run out within hours! The stately Savile Club promises to bring a touch of class and a whole lot of atmosphere to the event.

An Inter-Club event.\*

## JANUARY

### First Thursdays

Thursday 3 January, from 6pm

Monthly Younger Members' drinks night in the ROSL bar.

**EXCLUSIVE ACCESS:** Yeoman Warder at the Tower of London



## Burns Night

January date tbc

The Caledonian Club brings Scottish spirit to the 2013 Inter-Club calendar. Be prepared to eat haggis and drink the Toast to the Lassies, Inter-Club style.

An Inter-Club event.\*

### ROSL Younger Members' Dinner in the Tower

Wednesday 30 January, 7pm, £65

A one-off black-tie event with a champagne reception and three-course buffet dinner, culminating with the Ceremony of the Keys.

## FEBRUARY

### First Thursdays

Thursday 7 February, from 6pm

Monthly Younger Members' drinks night in the ROSL bar.

## MARCH

### First Thursdays

Thursday 7 March, from 6pm

Monthly Younger Members' drinks night in the ROSL bar.

### Private evening view of the Queen's Gallery

Thursday 21 March, 6.30pm, £30

An exclusive viewing of the new 'Dürer to Holbein' exhibition at Buckingham Palace, with an introductory talk. Followed by wine in the Queen's Gallery and drinks in a bar nearby.

To book ROSL Younger Members' events, contact Sara Brouwer ([sbrouwer@rosl.org.uk](mailto:sbrouwer@rosl.org.uk)). \*For further information on ROSL Younger Members and the Inter-Club Group, email Sara Brouwer or Ross Lima ([ross.lima@gmail.com](mailto:ross.lima@gmail.com)).



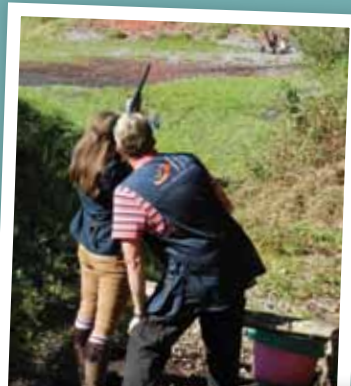
**HIGH SPIRITS:** Jackie takes aim at the shooting ground

# Oh what a night!

After shooting splendour in the autumn, ROSL gears up for winter with a new regular Younger Members' drinks night, says Sara Brouwer

In October, intrepid ROSL Younger Members headed to Kent for a morning of bacon rolls and clay pigeons, amid the natural surroundings of JJ's Shooting Ground. Competitive spirits rose as the ROSLites were taught to shoot, but in the end Kate Mead was named ROSL's top shot. The group went on to the lake-side Wharf pub for drinks and sandwiches – firing a gun for the first time sure makes you hungry!

This autumn marked an exciting development in the Younger Members' programme: a special drinks night in the ROSL bar. Every first Thursday of the month, the Cocktail Lounge will be reserved and re-styled for Younger Members, with half-price drinks, 6-9pm. The inaugural evening saw the bar lit by candles and transformed by the presence of more than 40 Younger Members. As 'First Thursdays' continue, we hope to see more ROSLites using the bars. If you have ideas for great future drinks nights, do let us know.



**TOP SHOTS:** Liza and Chris (above) and Hannah (top) with one of the experts

**ATMOSPHERIC:** First Thursdays drinks



# ROSL ARTS

Director of Arts, **Roderick Lakin**, previews the winter events

## MUSIC EVENTS

### Princess Alexandra Hall, Over-Seas House Prizewinners concert

Wednesday 5 December, 7pm

Our last concert in 2012 showcases the Gold Medal and First Prize winner of this year's ROSL Annual Music Competition, Australian pianist Jayson Gillham (see box, below). Jayson is joined by other prizewinning young Australian musicians, supported by ROSL and the Tait Memorial Trust.

*Tickets £15; £12 Friends of ROSL ARTS. Includes post-concert wine and canapés.*

### ROSL Annual Music Competition 2013 Section Finals

Tuesday 5 February, 7pm

Wind and percussion

Tuesday 12 February, 7pm

Singers

Tuesday 19 February, 7pm

Strings

Tuesday 26 February, 7pm

Keyboard

Tuesday 5 March, 7pm

Ensembles A (strings; strings and piano; piano duo/duet)

Tuesday 12 March, 7pm

Ensembles B (wind; percussion; vocal; mixed ensembles)

Tuesday 19 March, 7pm

Overseas awards

Musicians from the UK and the Commonwealth will compete for the competition's four solo section awards of £5,000 each (singers, wind and percussion, strings, and keyboard), and two ensemble awards of £10,000 each, plus prizes for musicians from overseas and the accompanist award of £5,000.

The section finals are an ideal way to hear some of the most gifted young classical musicians at the outset of their careers.

*Tickets £15; Friends of ROSL ARTS £12. Includes wine, served after the announcement of the winner.*

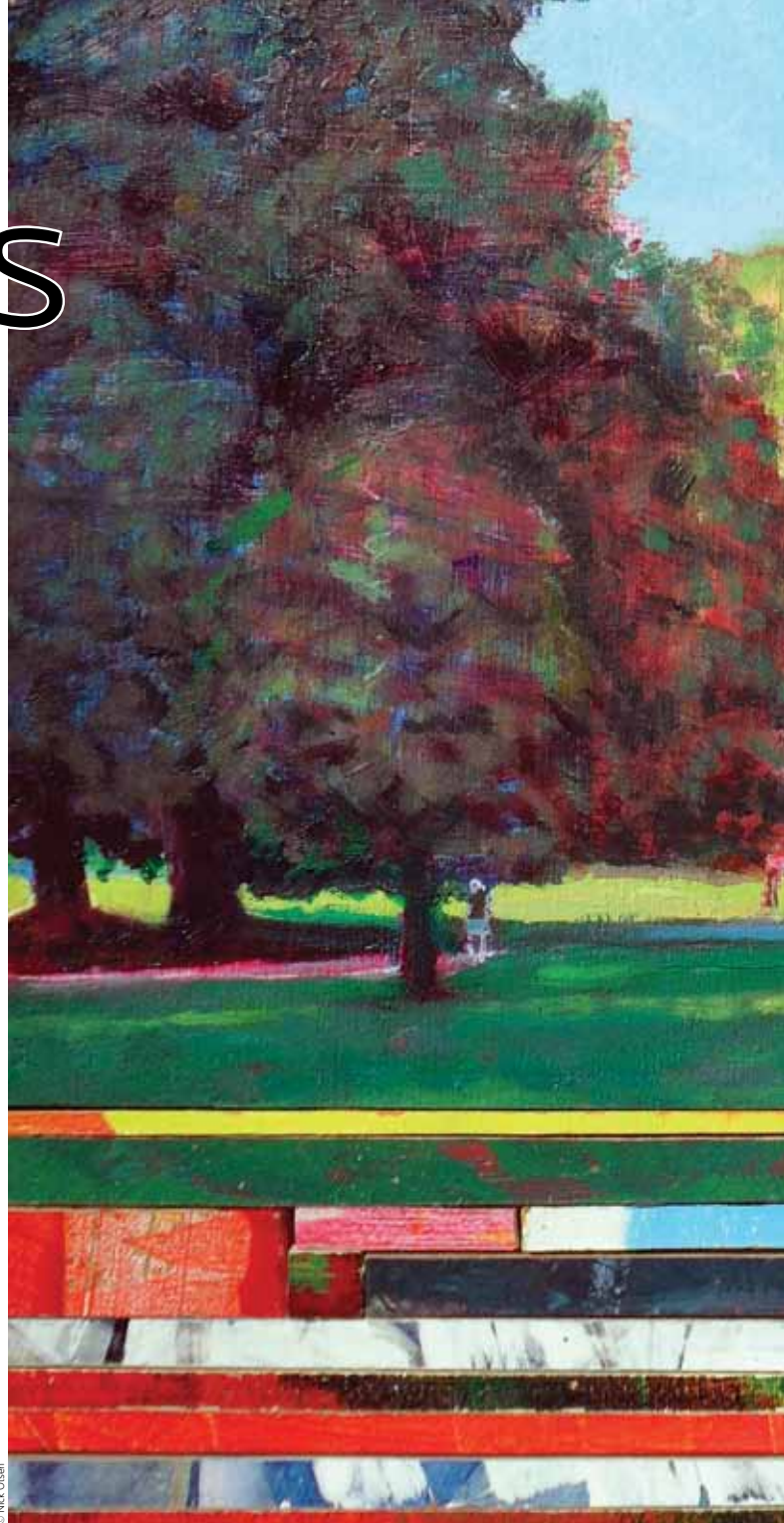
### A date for your diary

Monday 3 June, 7pm

Grand Final of 61st Annual Music Competition at the Queen Elizabeth Hall on the South Bank. *Booking opens April 2013.*

### AT THE CLUBHOUSE:

Nick Olsen's painting 'Green Park Procession' (right) is exhibited at Over-Seas House; and ROSL Gold Medallist Jayson Gillham (below) performs in December



© Nick Olsen

## Success for ROSL prizewinners in Leeds and Hamburg

ROSL Chairman Sir Anthony Figgis, who attended the Leeds International Piano Competition finals in September, writes: 'Imagine my delight, as well as pride, in seeing that one of the six finalists was the winner of our Music Competition this year, Jayson Gillham. He played Beethoven's Fifth Piano Concerto with the Halle Orchestra, under the baton of Sir Mark Elder. In the end he wasn't the overall winner, but he played with power and sensitivity, won golden opinions, and has given another huge boost to his career. Congratulations, Jayson!'

Also in September, the Cavaleri Quartet (ROSL prizewinners 2011) triumphed in the 2nd Annual International Chamber Music Competition for String Quartets and Piano Trios in Hamburg. In addition to offering €30,000 prize-money, the competition sponsors a concert tour of Germany and a CD recording. The quartet now have an agent and manager in Germany.

These successes enhance the already enviable reputation of the ROSL Annual Music Competition as a discerning platform for musicians of exceptional accomplishment.





**VISUAL ARTS**  
**Central Lounge,**  
**Over-Seas House**  
**Nick Olsen &**  
**Holly Parotti**

5 December 2012 -  
 25 January 2013

Paintings and photography by ROSL Visual Arts Scholars, Nick Olsen from Queensland, Australia, and Holly Parotti from The Bahamas. Supported by ROSL ARTS, the artists undertook a month-long residency in 2011 at the Patrick Alan Fraser Foundation, Hospitalfield in Arbroath, Scotland ([www.hospitalfield.org.uk](http://www.hospitalfield.org.uk)). For details, see page 16.

**Charlotte McDonald**

30 January - 22 March

In her landscapes, Scottish painter Charlotte McDonald explores the magical, private and ominous elements of a family-owned forest in Scotland. Through careful observation work, the recent graduate of Edinburgh College of Art documents our constantly changing natural environment and the persistence of nature.

The paintings in this exhibition, entitled 'Converging Beauty', draw the viewer into an almost child-like perception of the wood.

## Edinburgh Fringe: House full

ROSL ARTS' 13th annual sell-out season of Music @ 100 Princes Street consolidates its position as the premier classical music series of the Edinburgh Festival Fringe. Thirty concerts in twelve days is a daunting but rewarding schedule for ROSL ARTS and some of the best recent ROSL music competition and international music scholarship winners. With its central location, relaxed ambience, and refreshments included in the ticket price, Music @ 100 Princes Street offers one of the most civilised experiences on the Fringe.

According to *The Herald*, 'The best place to spot future International Festival talent is undoubtedly the Royal Over-Seas League music series.' *The Scotsman* said: 'The ROSL's record for supporting prodigious young artists bears enormous fruit... it attracts the cream of the young musical crop.'

Starting the day at 9.30am, there are daily concerts of Bach for Breakfast and Beethoven for Breakfast, followed by Brahms, Chopin, Mendelssohn or Mozart at 2pm and 4pm. Our late-night concerts at 10.30pm – Shostakovich Late, Steve Reich Late, Fitkin Late and Piazzolla Late – attract Fringe enthusiasts in search of a stimulating musical nightcap.

Featured in the series were ROSL/Pettman scholarship winners the Estrella Quartet (four pianists at two pianos), from Auckland, New Zealand. For these musicians, the Edinburgh Fringe series was the climax of an intensive six-week UK study and concert tour, before they returned to continue their studies in New Zealand (see page 15).

"My highlight of the tour was definitely the Edinburgh Fringe Festival in Scotland, the atmosphere buzzing," said Somi Kim, Estrella Quartet. "We performed concerts every day at some crazy times. Each day consisted of waking up early, rehearsal, concert, shopping, late-night shows. Imagine doing this for a whole week!"

**FRINGE BENEFITS:** For the Cavaleri Quartet, appearing in the ROSL ARTS Fringe series was the ideal preparation for the prestigious Hamburg Chamber Music Competition in September, in which they carried off the first prize (see opposite): (l-r) Anna Harphan, Ciaran McCabe, Ann Beilby and Rowena Calvert



© Jules Lawrence

For tickets and details, call +44 (0)20 7408 0214 ext 219  
 or email [culture@rosl.org.uk](mailto:culture@rosl.org.uk).

## EDINBURGH

## What's on...

December 2012 - February 2013

**DECEMBER****Coffee morning****Saturday 1 December, 10.30am***Price: £2.50.***Bridge Club  
Christmas lunch****Friday 7 December, 12.30 for 1pm**

For Bridge Club members only.

*Tickets: £12. Includes sherry.***The Robert Louis  
Stevenson arts lunch****Wednesday 12 December,  
midday for 12.30pm**Professor Linda Dryden, Director of Literature and Writing at Napier University, will talk on 'The RLS Website' at this annual celebration of Robert Louis Stevenson. Includes two-course lunch, coffee and a glass of wine. *Tickets: £18; £20 non-members.***Carol singing****Wednesday 12 December, 3pm**

With tea/coffee and mince pies.

*Tickets: £7.50.***Christmas Day lunch****Tuesday 25 December,  
12 for 12.30pm**

Canapés and Kir Royale on arrival, three-course lunch with coffee and mince pies, and gifts for all the family.

*Tickets: £55.***Hogmanay dinner  
and dance****Monday 31 December,  
7 for 7.30pm**

Reception cocktails, a three-course meal with wine, and champagne, black bun and shortbread at midnight, plus roof access to view the fireworks.

*Tickets: £105.***JANUARY  
New Year's Day lunch****Tuesday 1 January**Glass of sparkling wine on arrival and two or three courses, with wine and coffee. *Tickets: £21.95 (2 courses); £24.95 (3 courses).**For reservations, contact  
Restaurant 100.***Coffee morning****Saturday 5 January, 10.30am**'The Greatest Scotsman of the 20th Century', with speaker Rev Ian Gilmour. *Price: £2.50.***Burns Supper****Friday 25 January, 7pm**Three-course meal, wine and a glass of whisky, with the Immortal Memory given by Rev Dr James Simpson. *Tickets: £32.***ROSL Young Artist  
of Thailand****25 January - 17 March**

The exhibition of work by the

2012 finalists comes to the Edinburgh clubhouse.

**FEBRUARY  
Coffee morning****Saturday 2 February, 10.30am***Price: £2.50.***Arts Lunch****Wednesday 6 February,  
12 for 12.30pm**Talk on 'The Smith Art Gallery and Museum, Stirling', by David Smith, Education Officer, with two-course lunch, coffee and a glass of wine. *Tickets: £18; £20 non-members.***Yehudi Menuhin  
School Concert****Friday 8 February, 6.30pm**

Pupils of the school make a

**The Force and  
Form of Memory**An Exhibition curated by Compass Gallery Glasgow. Ends 20 January  
100 Princes Street will host 'The Force and Form of Memory' as part of the exhibition's tour of Scotland. Among the artists participating are established Scottish Royal Academicians, senior lecturers and full-time painters and sculptors. *Compass Gallery supports Alzheimer Scotland.*welcome, annual visit to the Edinburgh clubhouse, performing works for violin, cello and piano. *Tickets: £12; Friends of ROSL ARTS £10. Includes post-concert wine and canapés.***For events programme updates see [www.rosl-edinburgh.org/events.htm](http://www.rosl-edinburgh.org/events.htm).****ROOFTOP VIEW:**

The New Year's fireworks over Edinburgh Castle

**FESTIVE CHEER:**

The traditional German Christmas market comes to Edinburgh (below)



P. TONKINS/VEIS/SCOTLAND/SCOTTISH VIEWPOINT www.visit-scotland.com/

**Cobbs' Christmas package**

Edinburgh is one of the world's most magical places at Christmas, so come for a three-night stay (24-26 December) at the Edinburgh clubhouse from £275pp and enjoy a 20% discount on meals. The Christmas Day lunch menu includes a Kir Royale, seasonal canapés, three delicious courses, a glass of wine, coffee and mince pies. In the evening, a cold buffet and wine will be available. On Christmas Eve, afternoon tea will be served in the Observation Bar, with sparkling wine.

**Traditional German  
Christmas market**

Provided by stall holders from Frankfurt, this popular Christmas market runs until 5 January, selling a mix of classic and contemporary gifts, as well as a range of German food and drink. Bed and breakfast for two will be just £75, Sunday-Thursday, at this time (excluding Christmas and New Year periods).

*Bookings: [reception@rosl-edinburgh.org](mailto:reception@rosl-edinburgh.org)  
or +44 (0)131 225 1501.*

Marketing Edinburgh

# Food & drink: London

## Christmas Day lunch

Join the ROSL festivities this Christmas with a sparkling drinks reception, followed by a traditional four-course feast with wine. The day begins at midday and will feature The Queen's Speech. Members are welcome to bring guests on a private table, or to join a shared table where you can celebrate with fellow ROSL members. **£81.75 pp. Reservations: +44 (0)20 7491 3644.**

## New Year's Eve

See in the New Year in style. On 31 December, ROSL is holding a candlelit dinner dance in The Restaurant, with a three-course meal and entertainment. Book a private table for your party, or a space on our ROSL shared table. Dinner starts at 8.30pm. **£60pp. Reservations: +44 (0)20 7491 3644.**

## Members' Table

The Members' Table is a new feature of The Restaurant and provides ROSL members with a chance to meet fellow members and management staff through shared tables. Food can be ordered from the lunch or dinner menu. Come alone or bring a friend. **Reservations: +44 (0)20 7408 0214 ext 220.**

## New business lunch menu

This new, two-course option in The Restaurant offers good food and is organised to have you on your way in 45 minutes. **£18.95. Reservations: +44 (0)20 7408 0214 ext 220.**

**FINE DINING:** The ROSL restaurant (right and below)



## Presenting Shoes and Shandals designed to empower Oldies.

Most manufactured shoes disempower you because they are pointy; even men's shoes are pointy.

Pointy shoes, combined with heels, socks or stockings, damage your feet over the years, they cause corns, hammered, misshapen squashed toes, bunions and unhealthy skin.

You end up with painful, cold, shoe-shaped-feet, dodgy knees and hips. But more importantly they impede your stability and balance, which can lead to a fall.

Pointy shoes prematurely age your feet and eventually disempower you.

Put your weight onto your hands and you naturally spread your fingers out to distribute your weight. This is how our toes were born to be - free.

The Shoes and Shandals I make are the shape of normal, healthy, undamaged feet. They have a straight inside edge, are broad across the toe box and have a low repairable heel.

The Big Toe Thong of Shandals guides the big toe straighter and relieves the pressure on the second and little toes.

The Lace-up design holds the heels of the feet firmly back into the

heels of both the shoes and Shandals, leaving the toes liberated and free to spread into the wide toe box.

Weakened under-used muscles are exercised, so strengthen.

Tendons and muscles stretch, so your feet rejuvenate and your natural balance, stability, vitality, grace, dignity and élan is restored.

My Shoes and Shandals have profound healing properties for those with damaged feet.

Hammer toes have a chance to straighten. Corned, squashed little toes heal. The circulation improves, so cold feet warm.

Those that walk, skip and dance in my Shoes and Shandals, do so with great strength and agility.

This strength is reflected in strong ankles and legs.

All these qualities bring wonderful relief to tired, sore feet.

The 6-12mm leather soles are soft, so your unique footprints imbed into them. You end up with feet-shaped shoes, instead of shoe-shaped feet.

The Uppers are fully lined in Suede or leather making them superbly sensual, comfortable and luxurious.

The older they get, the more comfortable they become.

Plus you can choose from over 50 colours for the Uppers and in many leathers, from soft Italian leather to Nubuck, Suede, Patent Leather, Glacé Kid and more.

My Shoes and Shandals come in size 2-14, in half sizes and even quarter sizes. And, unlike most cheap manufactured shoes, my Shoes and Shandals are designed to be repaired, so last years.

They are not cheap, but with every pair, made especially for you, comes your own personal Shoemaker, whose intent is to heal, strengthen and empower you. An original, personal Shoemaker, you can ring anytime.

You will not get that kind of attention, service or intent from a Shoe Shop Assistant, selling cheap manufactured shoes made by the million.

What price do you value your mobility or the true costs of a fall?

Invest in your future mobility. Empower yourself and commission a pair of hand made Shoes or Shandals. Your health is your greatest wealth.

So ring me Alan James Raddon - Designer : Shoemaker now on 01545 570 904 and ask for my Information Pack.

# Members' events

December 2012 - March 2013

**DECEMBER**  
**Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols**  
**Sunday 9 December, 3pm, £20, G**

The annual ROSL Christmas service at St James's Church, Piccadilly, will be followed by a delicious festive tea and a visit from Father Christmas.

**JANUARY**  
**Dinner in the Tower**  
**Wednesday 23 January, 7pm, £65, R**

A repeat of the most popular event of the late summer. This black-tie event starts with a champagne reception in the Fusiliers' Museum at the Tower of London, followed by a three-course buffet with wine and port in the Fusiliers' Mess. Afterwards, the Yeoman Warder will escort us to the Ceremony of the Keys, against the dramatic backdrop of the Tower.

**Highlights of the Courtauld Collection**  
**Thursday 31 January, 11am, £10, R**

Where can you view works by Modigliani, Van Gogh, Rubens, Goya, Gainsborough and Bellini in

an intimate setting, right in the middle of London? Discover the astonishing gems of the Courtauld Gallery in Somerset House. The tour will be led by RA lecturer and graduate of the Courtauld Institute, Francesca Herring.

**FEBRUARY**  
**The Guildhall, City Ceremony and Roman London**  
**Tuesday 5 February, 11am, £12, G**

Take a tour of the Guildhall Gallery where, as well as the preserved remains of a Roman

Amphitheatre, there is the City art collection, which focuses on ceremony and tradition in the City of London. Led by our excellent Blue Badge guides, Val and Diane, the tour will finish with a walk to St Paul's to see One New Change, a stunning new building at the rear of the cathedral.

**Tour of Spencer House**  
**Monday 18 February, 10.30am, £15, G**

Recognised as one of the most ambitious aristocratic town houses ever built in London, this

18th-century private palace is only a two-minute walk from Over-Seas House. We suggest ending the tour with a well-deserved drink in the Buttery.

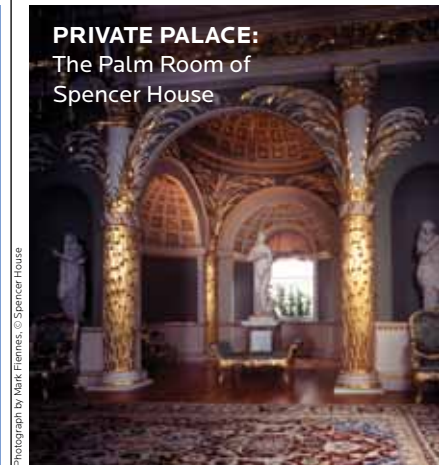
**MARCH**  
**Commonwealth Day Service**  
**Monday 11 March, time tbc, £6, G**

A multi-faith service, customarily attended by HM The Queen, held annually to celebrate the Commonwealth of Nations at Westminster Abbey. *A £6 administration charge applies.*

**Battlefield Tour of the Western Front**

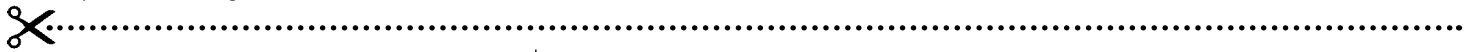
**Saturday 25 - Monday 27 May 2013, R, details tbc**  
 ROSL is planning a weekend trip to the Western Front battlefields, covering the Battles of Ypres. ROSL Director-General, Roddy Porter, will coordinate the group, which will be led by Michael Orr, a military historian formerly on the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst staff. The tour will include the Last Post Ceremony at the Menin Gate, and visits to battle sites, military cemeteries and Toc H at Poperinge. Hotel accommodation will be in Ypres and we will travel by coach.

For more details or to attend, please get in touch by 31 January. Places are limited and will be given on a first come, first served basis. Details will be finalised at the beginning of January.



**PRIVATE PALACE:**  
 The Palm Room of Spencer House

Photograph by Mark Frimmes, © Spencer House



Membership no.....  
 Title ..... First name .....  
 Surname .....  
 Guest(s) and trip they are attending  
 (please include title and first name):  
 .....  
 .....  
 .....  
 Address to which tickets should be sent:  
 .....  
 .....  
 .....  
 Tel no .....  
 Email .....

**Members' events application form (see key opposite)**

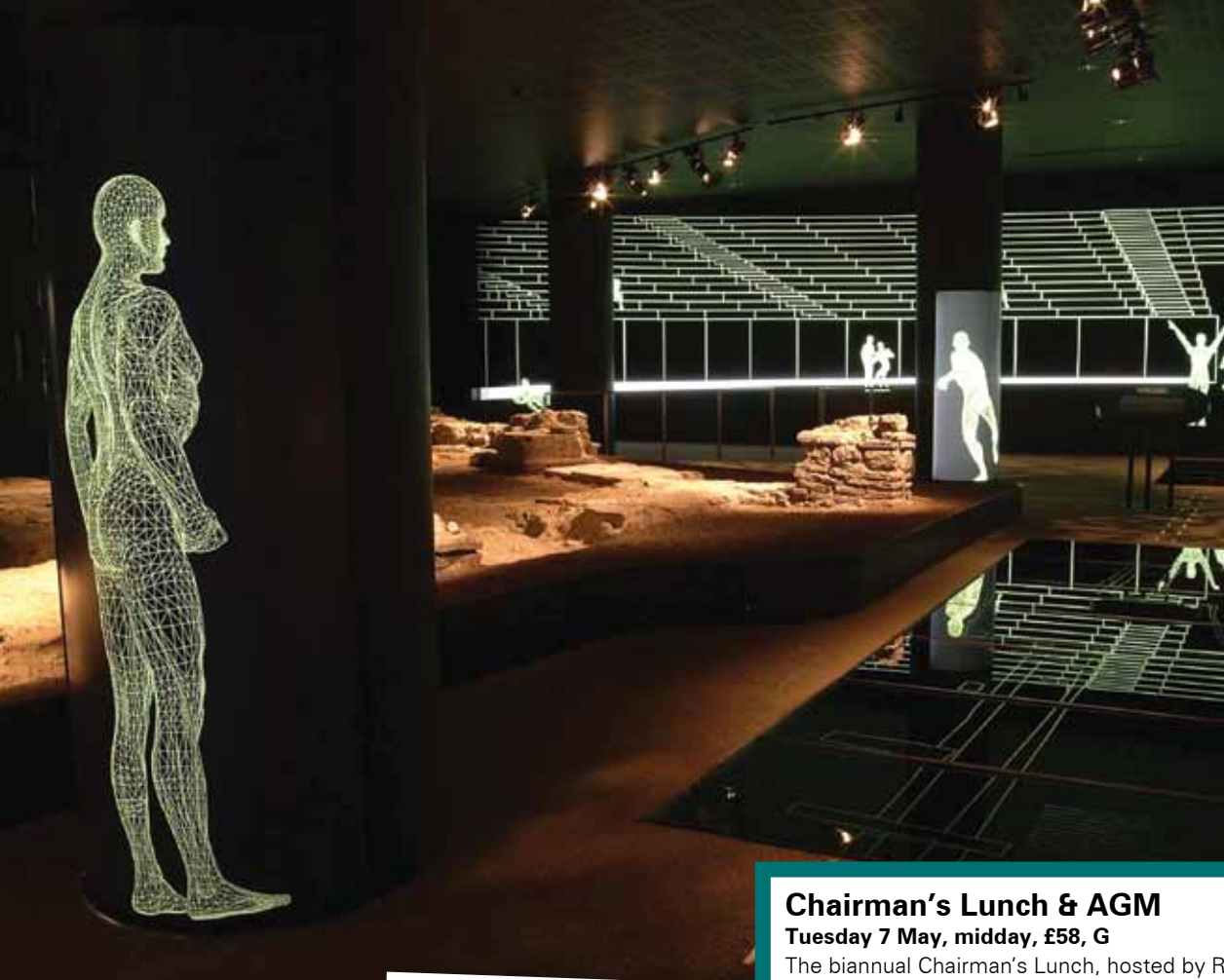
**Please complete this form (or a photocopy) and send to:**

Sara Brouwer, PR Department (Members Events), Over-Seas House, Park Place, St James's Street, London SW1A 1LR. **Email:** sbrouwer@rosl.org.uk.  
**Tel:** +44 (0)20 7016 6906. It is advisable to call in advance to reserve a ticket. Alternatively you can now book online. Visit [www.rosl.org.uk](http://www.rosl.org.uk) for more details.

EVENT	DATE	PRICE	TICKETS
Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols	Sun 9 Dec	£20	..... £...
Dinner in the Tower	Wed 23 Jan	£65	..... £...
Highlights of the Courtauld Collection	Thu 31 Jan	£10	..... £...
Guildhall tour	Tue 5 Feb	£12	..... £...
Tour of Spencer House	Mon 18 Feb	£15	..... £...
Commonwealth Day Service	Mon 11 Mar	£6	..... £...
Chairman's Lunch & AGM	Tue 7 May	£58	..... £...

**Payment** – please send a **SEPARATE CHEQUE** for each event. Cheques (sterling) payable to ROSL. For Credit/Debit Card Payments call +44 (0)20 7016 6906.  
 Tick box to receive booking information by email





**HISTORIC:**  
The Roman  
Amphitheatre at  
the Guildhall

### Chairman's Lunch & AGM

**Tuesday 7 May, midday, £58, G**

The biannual Chairman's Lunch, hosted by ROSL Chairman, Sir Anthony Figgis, with reception drinks and a three-course lunch at Over-Seas House. Guest of honour and speaker to be announced. The AGM and ensuing reception will take place at 3.30pm.

### IMPRESSIVE:

The famous staircase in the Courtauld Gallery (inset) at the stately Somerset House



© The Courtauld Gallery

## Application form key

These codes identify availability:

**M** Members only

**G** Tickets available for members and their guests

**R** Restricted number of tickets available

**B** Tickets to be allocated by ballot. Payment for balloted tickets is not needed until tickets are allocated. Maximum two tickets per member. Only successful applicants will be notified.

*Please note: A booking confirmation will be sent within 10 working days of receiving the application. Refunds can only be given if cancellations are made at least 15 days in advance. Tickets for all events are limited and members should apply early to avoid disappointment. Tickets may be restricted to two per member for popular events.*



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**Mobile: +44 (0) 797 362 5118**

**Email: [info@djcareynotaries.co.uk](mailto:info@djcareynotaries.co.uk)**

[www.djcareynotaries.co.uk](http://www.djcareynotaries.co.uk)

# Discussion Group & London Group

## DISCUSSION GROUP

Meetings are held monthly on Mondays, 7-8.30pm, at Over-Seas House, London. There is no charge, no need to book and all ROSL members and guests are welcome. *Contact John Edwards, +44 (0)1732 883556 or johncoatesedward@aol.com.*

## 2012: ROSL/ Goodenough Diamond Jubilee series

Discussion Group meetings in 2012 are organised in association with Goodenough College. Founded in 1931, the college provides residential accommodation in the heart of Bloomsbury for postgraduate students from all over the world. It is justifiably proud of its rich extracurricular life, which draws on the intellectual and cultural interests and strengths of its student body. See [www.goodenough.ac.uk](http://www.goodenough.ac.uk).

## 'Christopher Wren's designs for the 52 new City Churches'

10 December

Hilary Williams, Art History Education Officer at the British

Museum, explores Wren's London churches, which replaced half of those lost in the Great Fire of 1666.

## Iconic architecture of London past and present

14 January

With architect Jonathan Fenner, who is also a qualified City of London guide and works as an independent Blue Badge guide in the South-East of England.

## 'Reconciliation and just outcomes in modern conflict'

13 February

With ROSL Director-General, Major-General Roddy Porter, who will draw on his experiences in Iraq, Bosnia and Northern Ireland.

## LONDON GROUP

Meetings and outside visits are open to currently subscribed London Group members and their occasional guests. ROSL members staying at Over-Seas House, London are also welcome. For an application form, contact the PR Department or the London Group Executive Vice-Chairman c/o Porters' Desk at Over-Seas

House, London. *Contact Clive Carpenter, +44 (0)7798 824 193 or clivedavidcarpenter@compuserve.com.*

## Meetings

Held once a month on a Thursday, 6-7pm, in the Mountbatten Room, Over-Seas House, London.

## London Group Christmas lunch

Thursday 6 December, 12.30pm for 1pm, Princess Alexandra Hall

A wine and soft drinks reception, followed by a three-course Christmas lunch with wine and coffee. There will be musical entertainment, courtesy of ROSL ARTS, and a free prize draw with some excellent prizes.

*Tickets: London Group members £40; guests £45. Apply to Emmerson Wood, Guest Relations Officer, Over-Seas House, London; +44 (0)20 7408 0214 ext 215. Please advise of dietary requirements and seating requests when making your booking.*

## Ringling the changes

17 January

ROSL President, the Rt Hon The Lord Luce, was Lord



© Museum of London

## HIGHLIGHTS TOUR: Museum of London Docklands

Chamberlain to HM The Queen from 2000 to 2006, and is currently High Steward of Westminster Abbey and Chair of the Crown Nominations Commission. He will share experiences from his memorable life in this fascinating talk.

## Rebuilding Parliament 21 February

With Robert Rogers, whose role as Clerk of the House of Commons and Chief Executive is to advise the Speaker and MPs on procedure and privilege in the Commons. The Clerk has no political affiliations and is not a civil servant.

## Outside visits

To apply for events, write to Doreen Regan, London Group, c/o Porters' Desk, Over-Seas House, London, SW1A 1LR. Please enclose separate cheques for each visit (payable to London Group, Royal Over-Seas League) and a **stamped addressed envelope**. *Contact Doreen Regan, +44 (0)20 7584 5879.*

## Museum of London Docklands

Wednesday 30 January, 2pm

Focusing on key exhibits and displays, this guided tour offers a fascinating overview of London's river, port and people.

*Tickets: LG members £12; guests £14. Meet 1.45pm at Museum of Docklands, No. 1 Warehouse, West India Quay, Hertsmere Road, London E14 4AL. Nearest Tube: Canary Wharf. Docklands Light Railway: West India Quay.*

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## INSIDE VIEW: Talk on 'Rebuilding Parliament'



**H**istorical Trips was founded with the aim of bringing you much more than just battlefield tours. Our historians outline the cultural and political contexts of events as well as the military, and our tours share many of the following characteristics:

- Original themes that are unique to Historical Trips
- Tours that are supported with detailed lectures
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- Tours that tell complete and coherent stories

In 2013 we are offering eight unique tours covering various aspects of the First and Second World Wars, as well as the Spanish Civil War. These journeys range across Britain, France, Belgium, Germany, Spain and Poland.

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### ANDALUCIAN ADVENTURE

Culture and Conflict in Southern Spain  
Tues 26th March to Tues 3rd April, 2013  
Guided by Marc Rattray and Jason Webster

This tour takes us to the passionate heart of Southern Spain, Andalucia, where conflict has shaped both culture and history. We focus on the Moors, who ruled the region between the 8th and 15th Centuries and the Spanish Civil War of the 1930s, whose legacy still casts a bloody shadow.

from  
€1750



### THE GREAT WAR

An Introduction to the Western Front  
Fri 30th August to Mon 2nd September, 2013  
Guided by Nigel Jones

To set the scene a year ahead of the 100th anniversary of the First World War, Historical Trips director Nigel Jones has devised a tour of the Western Front in Flanders and France - the old trench lines along which Europe's youth sacrificed themselves for the four years that the devastating conflict lasted.

from  
€745



### THE ROAD OF RESISTANCE

Maquis, SOE and SAS in Occupied France  
Friday 7th to Friday 14th June, 2013  
Guided by Nigel Jones

As a German SS Panzer Division attempted to race north to repel the D-Day landings, they were harassed at every turn by the French Resistance, aided by the saboteurs of Britain's SOE and SAS. In this moving tour, we tell the story of how a series of Allied actions led to appalling reprisals, but also ultimately victory.

from  
€1650



### THE LONGEST DAY

The D-Day Landings  
Thurs 12th to Mon 16th September, 2013  
Guided by James Holland

The D-Day landings in Normandy in June 1944 remain one of the most pivotal moments of the Second World War. We will follow the experiences of Allied and German combatants, while also bringing new perspectives to the planning, conduct and personalities of this crucial operation.

from  
€975



### THE FACE OF EVIL

The Rise and Fall of the Third Reich  
Saturday 22nd to Sunday 30th June, 2013  
Guided by Nigel Jones and Roger Moorhouse

Our ground-breaking nine-day tour covers the complete story of Nazi Germany, exploring Munich, city of the Party's birth and Berchtesgaden, Hitler's mountaintop retreat. We travel to Nuremberg, centre of both the rallies and postwar trials, and end in Berlin, scene of the Third Reich's demise in 1945.

from  
€1950



### BERLIN AT WAR

Life and Death in Hitler's Capital  
Friday 20th to Monday 23rd September, 2013  
Guided by Roger Moorhouse

Our 'Berlin at War' tour concentrates on the experiences of Berlin's civilians in World War Two. Led by Roger Moorhouse, and based on his acclaimed book 'Berlin at War', this tour includes visits to a number of highly evocative locations, deepening your understanding of this complex period.

from  
€975



### GREAT ESCAPES

Breaking Out of Colditz and Stalag Luft III  
Wednesday 3rd to Sunday 7th July, 2013  
Guided by Guy Walters

This year, we are offering our first Great Escapes tour, which features two of the most iconic POW camps of all - Colditz Castle, and Stalag Luft III, the location of the legendary Great Escape. This tour brings to life the incredible tales of derring-do immortalised in many books, films and television programmes.

from  
€1195



### BOMBER BOYS

Bomber Command in World War Two  
Friday 27th to Sunday 29th September, 2013  
Guided by Patrick Bishop

The strategic bombing campaign against Germany was a grim affair. This tour takes you from the heart of the capital to the Lincolnshire farmland, from where the Bomber Boys launched their nightly attacks. It provides a valuable insight into the campaign and a rich portrait of the men who fought it.

from  
€595

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*Our team of expert consultants will advise and create the perfect short break in your chosen destination - please call 020 7593 2283.*

*Prices are per person and include flights (Eurostar for Paris), return transfers or car hire, accommodation with breakfast and Kirker Guide Notes to restaurants, museums and sightseeing.*

## FLORENCE

### Antica Torre

**- A boutique private residence**  
Considered to be one of Medieval Florence's most historic 'tower houses', this beautiful hotel dates from the 13th Century and has two spectacular roof terraces. The Antica Torre offers exceptional personal service, a home from home atmosphere and the rooms are amongst the most stylish and comfortable in Florence.

*3 nights for the price of 2 from 1 Nov to 28 Mar - price from £499, saving £109*

*Includes Uffizi Gallery, Accademia or Bargello tickets*

## PROVENCE

### Couvent des Minimes \*\*\*\* Deluxe

A member of Relais & Châteaux, this beautifully restored 17th Century convent is located on a hillside amongst lavender fields and orchards in the heart of the peaceful Luberon region of South West France. Facilities include a superb restaurant, a small but delightful L'Occitane spa, terraced gardens, an indoor pool and a tennis court. Plenty of activities can be arranged including mountain biking, horse riding and golf.

*3 nights for the price of 2 from 1 Nov to 31 Mar - price from £538, saving £136*



## VENICE

### Liassidi Palace \*\*\*\* Superior

A handsome 15th century Gothic palace that has been imaginatively restored to create one of Venice's most stylish boutique hotels. Just a short walk from St. Mark's Square and the lagoon, each of the 26 bedrooms combines traditional Venetian style with some modern twists.

*3 nights for the price of 2 from 4 Nov to 28 Mar - price from £449, saving £60*

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

## BARCELONA

### Grand Hotel Central \*\*\*\* Superior

This striking, contemporary hotel is located near the Cathedral and the fashionable 'Born' district of Barcelona with its many bars and restaurants. Large windows provide bedrooms with plenty of natural light to complement the stylish modern decoration. There is a small rooftop terrace with superb views over the city and a popular restaurant.

*4 nights for the price of 3 for Sun night stays all year - price from £639, saving £93*

## LISBON

### Tivoli Jardim \*\*\*\* Superior

Located close to the Botanical Gardens on a quiet side street off the Avenida de Liberdade, this comfortable and contemporary hotel is excellent value for money and a great base from which to explore the city.

*3 nights for the price of 2 for Sun night stays from 1 Nov to 31 Mar - price from £499, saving £69.*



*Includes 48 hour 'Lisboacard' for entrance to the best museums and monuments, and free public transport.*

## PARIS - Canaletto and Guardi: the Two Masters of Venice AT MUSÉE JACQUEMART-ANDRÉ UNTIL 14 JAN 2013

*For the first time in France, the opulent Jacquemart-André Museum is now devoting an exhibition to the Veduta, a genre of painting epitomised by Canaletto and Guardi. The exhibition gives centre stage to Canaletto, showcasing more than 25 of his essential works - on loan from multiple prestigious museums and collections. To celebrate we are offering special short breaks to Paris with guaranteed entrance tickets.*



Canaletto, St. Mark's Square © Museo Thyssen-Bornemisza, Madrid

### Victor Hugo \*\*\*

A very good quality, well maintained, family-run hotel located some 10 minutes' walk from the Arc de Triomphe.

*4 nights for the price of 3 for stays including a Sunday night - price from £539, saving £79*

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*Includes exhibition tickets (until 14 Jan), 48 hour museum pass - including entrance to the Musée d'Orsay & the Louvre, plus Seine cruise & Metro tickets.*

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