

# OVERSEAS

Quarterly journal of the ROSL

Issue 2, June-August 2013



## **A League of our own**

A closer look at ROSL's values, humanitarian projects and skilled restoration work

## **London from above**

Discover the best views in the city, from the new cable car over the Thames to The Shard

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# OVERSEAS

ISSUE 2 June-August 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.

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16

## From the Director-General; Editor's letter . . . . . 4

## Chairman's report . . . . . 5

Sir Anthony Figgis reviews ROSL's year

## World

## Anne Thomson's Cape Town . 6

Recommendations for a trip to South Africa's second city from a resident member

## The cup that cheers . . . . . 7

Member Georgina Gordon-Ham revisits Assam and discovers what life is like on a tea plantation

## ROSL news

## News and views . . . . . 8

Pictures from the clubhouses, plus recent trips to Skye and the Guildhall Gallery

## ROSL world . . . . . 10

The latest news from the global branches

## Books . . . . . 11

Reviews of recent publications by members

## Members' benefits . . . . . 13

Learn more about what your membership can offer you in this new regular feature

## ROSL Focus

## Our vision and values . . . . . 15

Director-General Roddy Porter offers his thoughts on ROSL's ethos and aspirations

## The global Samaritan . . . . . 16

How our humanitarian projects have developed and how you can support them into the future



24

## Historic restoration . . . . . 18

A fascinating overview of the extensive and skilled renovation works at ROSL Edinburgh

## Home improvements . . . . . 20

'Before and after' pictures of refurbishments at the London clubhouse, plus a candid interview with long-time Head of Maintenance Paul Streat

## Celebrating the past, investing in the future . . . . . 21

Why donations and legacies are essential to ROSL ARTS' support for talented young musicians and artists across the Commonwealth

## In the UK

## A brush with genius . . . . . 22

Edinburgh artist Lucy MacKay and the Higgs boson meet at Scotland's revamped Portrait Gallery

## What's on: Coronation . . . . . 22

Anniversary events in London

## Capital views . . . . . 24

From the newest iconic skyscraper to a climb over the Millennium Dome, discover some of the best ways to see London from above

## Events

## ROSL ARTS . . . . . 26

## Younger Members . . . . . 28

## Members' events . . . . . 30

## What's on: Edinburgh . . . . . 33

## Food and drink: London . . . 33

## Discussion Group and London Group . . . . . 34

FRONT COVER: Refurbishments to the Wrench Room at Over-Seas House © Paul Grundy

## From the Director-General



**CELEBRATIONS:**  
Director-General Roddy  
Porter at the Australia Day  
and Waitangi Day reception

I am not usually arrested by my children's musical tastes, but one line of a song caught my attention recently. Whoever penned the line 'The snow fall coming down in June; impossible but it could be true' ought to take up a career as a meteorologist. Actually, it is April as I write, but the snow is still much in evidence – which, I fervently hope, presages a fine summer and the chance to enjoy the garden at Over-Seas House London. The very cold start to the year has deterred many from travelling in the UK, but I am pleased to say that members are beginning to arrive at the clubhouses in good numbers, and we look forward to seeing you this summer.

Thank you to the many members who replied so enthusiastically to our survey about the magazine. Your responses were overwhelmingly positive and very helpful in enabling us to develop *Overseas* to your liking. We shall publish the summary findings soon. Many members have commented that they would like to see a greater focus on ROSL's own programme and on matters close to home, so this issue is dedicated to reflecting on our activities, facilities and people. I hope you enjoy these articles (in particular the 'ROSL Focus' on pages 15-21).

I confess that the decision to send out subscription renewal notices in *Overseas*, rather than by letter, was not universally successful and I apologise to members who were confused by this method of notification. I encourage you to renew and have signed a letter to those members who have so far not done so; we value your membership greatly and we have an exciting events programme in the months

ahead for you to enjoy. Please see pages 26-34 and the website for details.

The semi-finals of the ROSL Annual Music Competition showcased extraordinary talent. The standard has been very high this year, which bodes well for an exciting Final in Queen Elizabeth Hall on 3 June. Please come and enjoy a wonderful evening of music-making. A new collaboration with the Art Fund will start with an excellent lecture on Marc Chagall, also in June.

Much needed restoration work continues in both clubhouses. In Edinburgh, the work on the chimneys, roofs and elevations is progressing well and to budget; our Project Manager, Ian Henderson, has produced a fascinating overview of the project on pages 18-19. We should soon have a brand new lift at 100 Princes Street, allowing members much easier access to the facilities, many of which have recently received a facelift. As usual, I am very grateful to our partners, Cobbs, in Scotland for their work on improvements to the Edinburgh clubhouse.

In London, we are part-way through replastering the walls and ceiling of the Gibbs Staircase, which should soon look as good as the recently-finished Wrench Room. We continue to make small improvements, especially to furniture and soft furnishings, around the clubhouses. We are also making a concerted effort to update the website, making it more intuitive to use and broadening the functions available to members.

I hope you have a wonderful summer and I look forward to welcoming many members to Over-Seas House in the months ahead.

**Roddy Porter**

## Editor's letter

Architecture is a real passion of mine, so I was fascinated to find out more about the extensive restoration work at Over-Seas House Edinburgh, a historic, grade I listed building. The detailed account on page 18, written by Project Manager Ian Henderson, describes the key features of the building and the incredibly skilled work that has gone into restoring it.



The refurbishments in London are no less impressive. On page 20, our charismatic Head of Maintenance, Paul Streat, who has been keeping the building running for 23 years, reveals the impact of those works for the staff behind-the-scenes and for members using the facilities.

Both articles are part of our Focus, which we have kept close to home in this issue, with a look at what makes ROSL unique in clubland (pages 15-21). Our core values and aspirations drive our commitment to art and music, and to supporting talented young people around the world. We also launch a new regular feature that will keep you up-to-date with all the benefits your membership offers – including some you might not be aware of (page 13).

The Deputy Editor, Claire Simon, and I have had fun on your behalf, researching our 'London from above' feature for this issue (page 24). With so many great view-points in the capital, it was hard to select just a few – but with new attractions, such as the cable car over the Thames and the iconic new Shard, we have been able to try out some fantastic sights that most people have yet to experience.

As I write, we have finally had our first glimpse of spring, after a long cold winter. When the sun shines, London is a glorious place to be and it's no surprise that the summer Events programme is brimming with exciting activities (pages 26-34), including your own chance to experience The Shard and a day at the Coronation Festival (for more coronation events, see page 22). The events team have even organised a potted performance of *As You Like It* in the ROSL Garden! Come rain or shine, it's shaping up to be a fantastic summer.

**Miranda Moore**

# Chairman's report

Sir Anthony Figgis looks back at a marvellous year for ROSL



**OLYMPICS FEVER:**  
(Left) Sir Anthony (centre) speaking at the Team Kenya reception with Roddy Porter (l) and John Edwards (r)

**UNVEILING:**  
(Right) Sir Anthony (r) with his new portrait by artist Michael Gaskell (l), which was recently unveiled at Over-Seas House



In most ways, 2012 was a marvellous year. Above all, Her Majesty's Diamond Jubilee was celebrated with admiration throughout the Commonwealth. ROSL branches around the world marked the occasion in their different ways. Here in London, the centrepiece was our participation in the pageant on the Thames in June, on a venerable river cruiser called, yes, the Queen Elizabeth. The weather was terrible. But some 150 members from around the world braved the conditions. We will never forget the sight of that colourful cavalcade – wave after wave of every kind of craft that ever breasted the waters, with the royal barge serenely processing in the midst.

We had an anniversary of our own to celebrate, too – the 60th birthday of the ROSL Annual Music Competition. HRH Princess Alexandra was once again our Guest of Honour at the Finals, and distributed the prizes, now worth more than £60,000. Her support throughout almost the entire life of the competition has been wonderful.

And then there were the London Olympics. We marked these, too, in various ways, including a reception for the Kenyan athletes. The British team did well (as did many others). The sun shone (some of the time). Everyone loved it.

So, why did I say 2012 was marvellous 'in most ways'? To paraphrase Harold Macmillan, the reason was 'money, dear boy, money'. We discovered early in the year that nearly £500,000 needed to be spent urgently to keep our splendid building in Edinburgh in good repair (see page 18). As members will know, ROSL has not traditionally carried central reserves to meet this kind of ambush

(we are putting that right for the future). Luckily, since we own the freehold of 100 Princes Street, we had no difficulty in borrowing the money. But, of course, it hurts – though I'm glad to say that, as the Hon. Treasurer's report shows, our financial situation overall remains very sound.

ROSL continues to flourish in other ways. Our branches remain active, strong and imaginatively led. As always, I am hugely grateful to those who give their time and experience to running our affairs around the world. New members have continued to join us in large numbers. The new arrangements for the day-to-day management of our operation in Edinburgh have bedded down well. And, under Maj-Gen Roddy Porter's whirlwind direction, we have made good progress in implementing his Strategic Review. In particular, sub-committees of the Central Council have been formed, with responsibility for financial strategy and for the longer term management of our buildings.

Sadly, the year was also marked by the deaths of Dame Elisabeth Murdoch in Melbourne, and of Lady (Peggy) Ellerton, the widow of our former Chairman, Sir Geoffrey. Both had given enormous support to ROSL over many years. We remember them with gratitude.

Looking back, despite these sadnesses, 2012 was a year of celebration, but also of consolidation. Thanks to our loyal membership and staff, I feel confident that 2013 will be another very good year.

*The 2012 Financial Statements are available in the members' profile section of the website. Log in at [www.rosl.org.uk](http://www.rosl.org.uk).*



**DIAMOND JUBILEE:** Sir Anthony Figgis (r) on the Queen Elizabeth boat for HM The Queen's Diamond Jubilee flotilla, with Shanaz Newell (l) and Lady Figgis

**SPECIAL OCCASION:** Sir Anthony with Younger Member Edwin Wong at the Australia Day and Waitangi Day celebrations





# ANNE THOMSON'S Cape Town

**UNMISSABLE:**  
View of the vineyards in Stellenbosch



## How long have you lived in Cape Town?

I was born and educated in Cape Town, but have been travelling between the UK and South Africa since I was five.

## When is the best time to visit?

I would suggest April, as it is cooler than the blazing summer (December to March), when temperatures are often above 30 degrees, and spring (September to November). Springtime gives visitors a chance to see the carpets of colourful indigenous flowers in the greater Namaqualand area, two hours north of the city.

## Can you name three unmissable things to do in the city?

Walk the beaches, visit the winelands and use the cable car to the top of Table Mountain to see the breathtaking panoramas. For avid gardeners, the world-renowned Kirstenbosch is also superb.

## What's a good scenic walk?

You can hike up through Kirstenbosch Gardens, equivalent to Kew Gardens, or walk up Table Mountain or Lion's Head. Take care with security and walk in groups. Sunblock and hats are essential.

## Do you have a favourite national dish?

Best dishes are based around locally caught fish – Yellowtail and Cape Salmon. We tend to have a

catch-of-the-day at restaurants, which means the fish is fresh. Constantia Uitsig is my firm favourite restaurant. It looks out onto the vineyards, with peaceful surrounds framed by Constantia hills. It's a scenic 25 minutes from the city centre.

## South Africa is famous for its wines. Which vineyards do you recommend?

Constantia Uitsig, Buitenverwachting and Groot/Klein Constantia. En route to Franschhoek (about an hour from the city centre), there are vineyards too numerous to mention but fun to discover, nestled in the Franschhoek Valley with the towering mountains as a backdrop.

## Cape Town is great for surfing and diving. Do you have a favourite beach?

Camps Bay for walking, and surfing off the neighbouring Glen Beach. But the water is chilly; 12-14 degrees on average. Cape Town is on a peninsula and flanked by two oceans: the cold water Atlantic and the warmer Indian Ocean. Take care with currents and shark warnings.

## Could you suggest a good day trip?

Stellenbosch, a university town famous for its oak trees, old buildings and surrounding winelands, which produce wines and brandies; and Arniston, a picturesque fishing village a two-hour drive through the wheatlands on the south-east coast. It's a wonderful drive that goes through villages and towns, many with art galleries.

## How long have you been a ROSL member?

My family association with ROSL is approaching 70 years: my parents had been members since 1947, and brought me to the clubhouse as a child in the 1960s. My mother was a ROSL Corresponding Secretary in Cape Town and I initiated the reciprocity link with Kelvin Grove Club.

*Anne has her own consultancy, Kilpatrick Thomson International, specialising in business development, project management and strategic marketing, both in Southern Africa and the UK.*

**Interview by Claire Simon.**



**TABLE MOUNTAIN:**  
A cable car takes visitors to the top, which is said to offer the 'most epic' view in Africa (above). The view across the Atlantic to the flat-topped mountain (below)

# The cup that cheers

ROSL member **Georgina Gordon-Ham** returns to India and discovers what it's like to live and work on a tea plantation in Assam today

**M**ost people associate India with Delhi, Jaipur, Kashmir, Mumbai and Bangalore but forget the expansive Northeast. It is here that tea is produced, from Darjeeling down to Assam, one of the world's largest tea-growing regions. Home to Kaziranga National Park, which was declared a Unesco world heritage site in 1985 and now hosts 60% of the world's rhino population, the state of Assam covers more than 78,000 sq km.

With Bengal and Bangladesh to the west and Burma to the east, Assam is a bit off the beaten track. Sharing its borders in the north with the Kingdom of Bhutan and Arunachal Pradesh, it lies on either side of the Brahmaputra river, which flows 2,900 km from Tibet through the Himalayas to the Indian Ocean.

I recently visited the area with my husband. It had been a wish for many years to retrace my steps back to my extraordinary childhood on the tea plantations of Northeast India. The last time I had been to Assam was as a teenager, visiting my parents during the summer holidays, and I was keen for my husband, who had never been to India, to see the places I had known.

Having the opportunity to live on a tea plantation, even just for a few days, brings to life the whole process. Taking part in a tea ceremony is a highlight for connoisseurs, but for me the entire experience of staying in a Burra Sahib's bungalow (the tea plantation Head Manager's residence) is fascinating. You get to see what a tea bush looks like and follow the sequence of how tea is produced – from the people plucking those 'two leaves and a bud' to processing at the tea factory.

This begins with withering (the first drying phase, when the leaves lose about 60% of their moisture) and rolling (to release more liquids, and trigger fermentation and oxidisation). This is followed by crushing, tearing and curling (known as CTC), fermenting and firing, when the fermented leaf is carried to the driers or firing machines. There the tea is spread out on a chain of wire trays, which are circulated over a continual current of hot air.



#### HISTORIC SITE:

Built by the Ahom king Suklenmung in 1540, Gargaon Palace (main image) is 13km east of Sivasagar, Assam

#### PLANTATION LIFE:

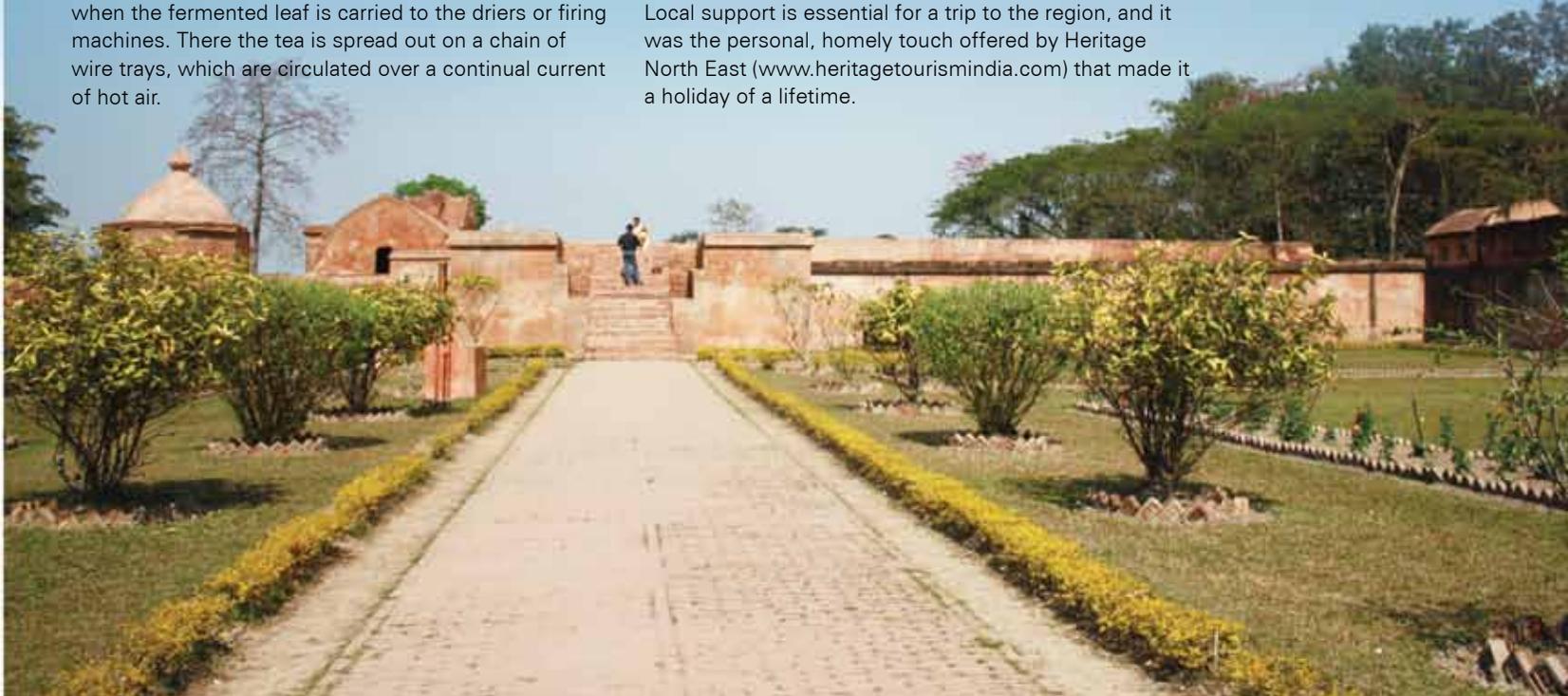
Workers at the Sangsua Tea Estate (left)

Firing reduces the moisture content to about 3%, after which the tea is ready for the tasters, who determine its quality. It is then sorted into grades, packed and shipped to the auction markets, where buyers choose samples they wish to blend before final packaging for the end consumer. Assam is a black tea with a strong flavour and often sold as a 'breakfast tea'.

We were touched by the hospitality, warmth and kindness of the Assamese people wherever we went. There is something special about Assam, its varied landscapes with rice fields, blue hills, grassland, forests and tea plantations.

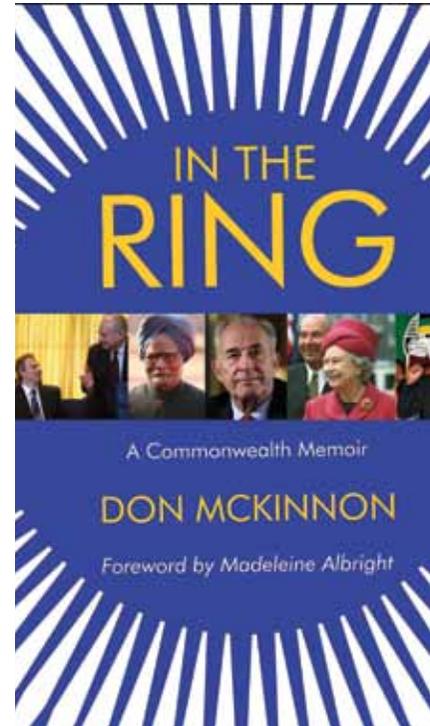
Another high point of our stay was the day visit to Kaziranga, including an elephant ride at dawn and safari ride at the IORA retreat. What was amazing was the way so many different species of animals moved about together: elephants, buffalo, wild boar, deer, birds and rhino. Only the leopards, tigers and snakes hide themselves in the bushes and high grass.

Not to be forgotten were the visits to historical sites, including the Sibsagar temples, the 16th-century Gargaon Palace, built in 1540 by king Sukhlenmung, and Thengal Manor, the ancestral home of Mr H P Barooah. Local support is essential for a trip to the region, and it was the personal, homely touch offered by Heritage North East ([www.heritagetourismindia.com](http://www.heritagetourismindia.com)) that made it a holiday of a lifetime.



# News and views

The latest from the clubhouses in London and Edinburgh



## ▲ Central Council and portrait unveiling

At the end of March, the Central Council welcomed Sir Stephen Lamport KCVO DL, Receiver General of Westminster Abbey, as Guest Speaker at their lunch. His talk was entitled 'Westminster Abbey, a National Institution?'. Sir Stephen is pictured (centre) with (l-r) ROSL Chairman Sir Anthony Figgis, Lady Figgis and Director-General Roddy Porter. The striking portrait of Sir Anthony was also unveiled (above left). Painted by artist Michael Gaskell, a former ROSL ARTS Visual Scholar, it will hang outside the Mountbatten Room.

## ► Members' and Younger Members' events

This quarter has been brimming with exciting members' events. The members' Dinner in the Tower of London at the end of January was again a resounding success. This was followed by a trip to the Courtauld Collection in Somerset House, where members were treated to viewings of works by Van Gogh, Cezanne and Manet, among others. In February, there were tours of the Guildhall Gallery (pictured), where members saw the preserved remains of a Roman Amphitheatre and the City art collection, as well as a tour of Spencer House, one of London's most ambitious aristocratic town houses. Meanwhile, ROSL Younger Members celebrated International Women's Day with their March drinks night, before heading off to the hugely popular Light Show exhibition later in the month. See our Facebook page for more photos from these events (search 'ros!').



## ▲ Don McKinnon

In March, ROSL was delighted to welcome back Sir Don McKinnon ONZ GCMG, a former Secretary-General of the Commonwealth. At the ROSL ARTS event, he spoke passionately about the Commonwealth, based on his new book *In the Ring: A Commonwealth memoir*.



## ◀ Over the sea to Skye

At the end of March, members in Scotland visited the Isle of Skye during a three-day visit to the Highlands. The scenic trip took in the Forth Bridge (left), the Cairngorms mountain range, Loch Carron (far left), Eilean Donan Castle – one of the most filmed castles in Scotland – and a warming dram or two at the Ben Nevis Distillery. More trips in Scotland will be planned in the future, and the more members the merrier.



◀ **A taste of Sri Lanka**

In February, ROSL played host to 'Going Beyond Sri Lanka', an event organised by Experience Travel Group. The vibrant schedule included cooking demonstrations, tea tastings, performances of traditional Sri Lankan dancing and special guest speaker Herman Gunaratne, renowned plantation owner and author. The evening was such a success that ROSL and Experience Travel Group are considering future collaborations.

▶ **A gift of vases**

Rajeev Shah, former Deputy Chairman of the Hong Kong Branch, presented ROSL London with a pair of Chinese vases in March. Funded through the branch's activities, they will be displayed in the drawing room for the enjoyment of all members. Director-General Roddy Porter (l) thanked Rajeev (r) on behalf of ROSL.



▼ **ROSL ARTS scholar**

In February, ROSL Visual Arts Scholar Leilah Babirye, from Uganda, arrived in London before travelling to Arbroath, Scotland to start her one-month residency at Hospitalfield House.



▶ **Australia Day and Waitangi Day**

With the Australia and New Zealand Society of the London School of Economics, ROSL co-hosted an Australia Day and Waitangi Day reception in the Hall of India and Pakistan in February. Dame Judith Mayhew Jonas DBE, a former Chairman of the Royal Opera House and a good friend of ROSL, and Michael Lawrence, CEO of Asia House, were guests of honour. Those present enjoyed drinks and canapés, as well as a special performance of the Maori ancestral dance, the *haka* (pictured).





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# ROSL WORLD

## The latest from the global branches



### Australia

In March, members of the **New South Wales** Branch attended the Commonwealth Day Lunch at the Parliament of New South Wales. Newly appointed British Consul General, Nick McInnes, was guest speaker, and the Governor of NSW was also present. Due to hot weather there have been just two **South Australia** Branch lunches this year, with Robert George speaking on 'Medical Imaging' and Lydia Laube on 'Travelling and Writing Books'. The branch also held an informal New Members' evening in February.

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

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



### Hong Kong

In March, the branch organised a charity event at the Canadian Consul General's Official Residence in aid of The Nesbitt Centre, an NGO that supports young adults with disabilities. Thanks to generous donations, a coffee shop will open at St John's Cathedral, providing work experience for Nesbitt Centre members.

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



### New Zealand

Both the **Auckland** and **Manawatu** branches donated scholarships to the NZ Singing School this year. The Auckland Branch sadly announces the death of Val Sullivan, dedicated

Branch President and ROSL member for more than 30 years. For Commonwealth Day, the **Southland** Branch enjoyed a talk by the Deputy Mayor on 'The Changing Face of the Media' and, at the **South Canterbury** Branch, ROSL NZ Director, Lyn Milne, updated members on ROSL affairs in NZ and London.

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



### Switzerland

The branch's annual dinner will be at the Ecole Hôtelière de Lausanne on 27 September.

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



### Thailand

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



### UK

The **Bath** Branch holds a coffee morning on the second Wednesday of every month at Pratt's Hotel. The **Bournemouth** Branch enjoyed a New Year lunch in February, while its AGM in April was attended by Roddy and Marianne Porter. Coffee mornings at the Marriott Highcliffe Hotel continue each Thursday. In **Cheltenham**, there were illustrated talks on 'The Seychelles', 'Across Canada by Rail' and 'Russian Kaleidoscope', and a Commonwealth Day lunch at Everyman Theatre.

Commonwealth Day was also celebrated at Over-Seas House Edinburgh, with guest speaker Prof Kevin Dunion, formerly Scottish Information Commissioner. At the Arts lunches in April and May, Prof. Robin MacPherson of Edinburgh Napier University spoke on 'Scotland in Film' and the author Julie Davidson spoke about Mary Livingstone, wife of David Livingstone. Other events included a performance by Jayson Gillham (piano) in March, the branch's AGM in May, and a Soirée of Lieder and Melodies by students at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland.

In February, the **Exeter** Branch learnt about the Gurkha Welfare Trust from Col. Mike Allen and, in March, ROSL member Brian Wood spoke about his experience of plantation farming. The **Glasgow** Branch enjoyed an illustrated talk about Jane Austen and her



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family, by Maureen Kelly, of the Jane Austen Society. In March, long-standing member Marion Smith spoke about the history of Glasgow Royal Infirmary, and Scotland Development Officer James Wilkie addressed the branch AGM in May.

The **Taunton** Branch learnt about the history of Clarks shoes in February and the Arab-Israeli conflict in March, with a talk by former Ambassador to Israel, Francis Cornish. The branch runs a coffee morning at the Castle Green Inn and its last three lunches were sold out, with more than 60 members attending.

The **West Cornwall** Branch enjoyed a talk about a trek to the South Pole and a film of a safari through Rwanda, Uganda and Kenya. In March, the branch welcomed Roddy and Marianne Porter to its Annual Lunch. The **West Sussex** Branch's March event was cancelled due to heavy snow.

**Bath, Exeter, Taunton, Torbay:**

Sally Roberts, +44 (0)1823 661148, rosl.west@googlemail.com

**Bournemouth:** Gordon Irving, +44 (0)1258 480887, westoverirving@aol.com

**Cheltenham:** Kathleen Northage, +44 (0)1242 515540

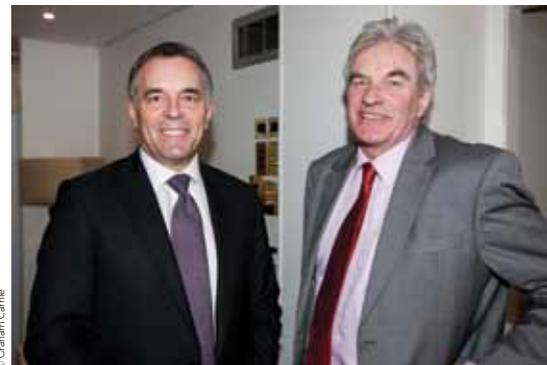
**Edinburgh:** Bill Chalmers, +44 (0)131 5572754

**Glasgow:** Bill Agnew, +44 (0)141 4230012

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

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

**COMMONWEALTH DAY:** Prof Kevin Dunion (l) with James Wilkie at the Edinburgh clubhouse



© Graham Carnie



**FLYING THE FLAG:** At the South Canterbury Branch's Commonwealth Day lunch in Seven Oaks are (l-r) Phyl Hyndman (Branch Secretary), Nessie Home, Lyn Milne (Director ROSL NZ), Len Home QSM (Branch President) and Keith Milne

# Books

Reviews of recent works by ROSL members



**So Many Everests: From cerebral palsy to casualty consultant**

Diana and Victoria Webster  
*Lion Books, 2012*

ISBN: 978-0-7459-5595-7, £8.99

This touching autobiography is a collaboration between mother Diana and daughter Victoria, who was born in 1965 with cerebral palsy. *So Many Everests* is the heart-warming story of Victoria's struggle to fulfil her childhood dream of becoming a doctor, considered impossible by many.

**The Book of Alexander The Great: A life of the conqueror**

Richard Stoneman

*I B Tauris, 2012*

ISBN: 978-1-84885-293-8,

£12.99

The *Phyllada*, or *The Book of Alexander the Great*, is the best-known text in modern Greece about the conqueror's life and career. First published in 1680 in Venice, the hugely popular *Phyllada* is full of colourful tales. With a detailed introduction, Richard Stoneman's translation makes them available in English for the first time.

**Making an Exit: From the magnificent to the macabre – How we dignify the dead**

Sarah Murray

*Coptic, 2011*

ISBN: 978-0955877131, £9.99.

[www.makinganexit.net](http://www.makinganexit.net)

Death may seem a morbid subject for a book, but *Making an Exit* is fascinating, touching and often funny. Following the death of her father and his special request for the disposal of his

'organic matter', Murray set out to explore the ways in which the dead are dignified around the world. Beginning in Iran, she takes the reader on an informative trip through traditions in different countries and continents.

**Shaken Not Stirred: A celebration of the martini**

Anistatia R Miller & Jared M Brown

*William Morrow, 2013, 2nd edition*

ISBN: 978-0-06-213026-6, £8.99

This revised version of Miller and Brown's 1997 guide to the martini brings their celebration of the classic cocktail up-to-date. The renowned cocktail historians share discoveries about the martini, interweaved with recipes from some of the world's greatest mixologists, tips, jokes and anecdotes.

**Vedder Crossing Ahead: Modern stories from the West Coast of America**

Stuart Newton

*emp3books, 2012*

ISBN: 978-1-907140-63-1, £6.95

*Vedder Crossing Ahead* is a collection of short stories about life on the West Coast of America and Canada in the 1960s and 1970s. Following no chronological order, the stories offer snippets of life on the coast.

**Reviews by Claire Simon.**

**Correction**

In our review of *The Greatest Crash*, David Kauders' name was spelt incorrectly. We sincerely apologise to Mr Kauders for this error.



**WELCOME:** At the West Cornwall Branch Annual Lunch in March, Director-General Roddy Porter meets (l-r) Betty Bell (Vice-Chairman) and Margaret Knighton (Chairman)

## Anna Dean

15 July 1943 - 2 March 2013

Anna Dean, the much-loved Honorary Secretary of the Western Australia Branch, passed away in March after a long illness, bravely borne. The branch was revived in the late 1980s and Anna was elected soon after, contributing so much in the following years. She commanded huge respect and had a gift for talking to people of all ages and walks of life.

Not long ago, she undertook a sponsored cycle ride and raised more than AU\$500 for the ROSL-Namibia Project.

Anna was always ready to assist others and was active in fundraising for Wheelchair for Kids. She made a major contribution to the successful progress of the branch at local and international levels. Her bright smile and ready wit will be sadly missed by all members.

Jeff Turner

**ANNA DEAN:** With former ROSL Chairman Sir Colin Imray





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# Members' benefits

ROSL Director of Marketing, **Gemma Matthews**, introduces the new ROSL Marketing Department, its aims and vision

Since I joined the ROSL team in November, there's been a whirl of activity. From meeting members and attending events, to understanding the membership processes and overseeing the office refurbishment, I've learnt that no two days are the same.

In January, the Membership and Marketing teams joined forces in one office and we are now better positioned to serve the membership, and identify and act on opportunities. Our team has a wide remit. Claire, as Deputy Editor of *Overseas*, manages the content and production of our flagship communication. Sara runs the busy members' events calendar and is establishing a successful Younger Members' programme. Anton, the Guest Relations Officer, is on hand to provide clubhouse show-rounds and manage the ROSL Shop. Angela and Raymond continue to be your first point of contact for membership inquiries and renewals. If you've not popped in to say hello, we'd be pleased to see you.

Everyone has been so welcoming and happy to share their thoughts and ideas on membership and what makes ROSL so special. My aims for the Marketing team include communicating the overwhelming passion members have for the club and all it stands for in order to help recruit new members to the ROSL family (and retain existing ones).

To help achieve these aims we will be looking at how to strengthen the ROSL brand – making sure all our communications are clear and consistent, so whether you are in Chelsea or Colombo, Aberdeen or Auckland, information from ROSL will be instantly recognisable. Over the next few months we will revamp the website, making it easier to navigate, and look at how we can integrate social media more effectively to reach all audiences. We will also be looking at new ways to let members know about events, special offers and additional benefits that might be of interest throughout the year.

This new 'Members' benefits' page will be a regular feature in *Overseas*, providing information on benefits you may not be familiar with, including offers from our preferred partners, as well as members' feedback. With regular member surveys, we hope you will continue to share your views on how you value your membership, and what additional benefits and services would make a difference to you.

## Highlands home from home

Our Edinburgh clubhouse gives members the chance to visit another part of the UK, knowing they will receive the same comfort and service as they do at ROSL London. This offer extends to the Highlands as Cobbs, who manage Over-Seas House Edinburgh, run two fantastic hotels near Loch Ness, where ROSL members get a 25% discount on accommodation. **Clansman Hotel:** +44 (0)1463 230512, [www.lochnessview.com](http://www.lochnessview.com). **Country House Hotel:** +44 (0)1463 230512, [www.lochnesscontryhousehotel.co.uk](http://www.lochnesscontryhousehotel.co.uk).



### THE TEAM:

(L-r) Angela Farago, Membership Secretary; Anton Cole, Guest Relations Officer; Claire Simon, Deputy Editor *Overseas*; Raymond Farago, Membership Executive; Sara Brouwer, Events Coordinator; and Gemma Matthews, Director of Marketing



## Overseas survey

We would like to thank everyone who completed the magazine survey on the reverse of the carrier sheet. The response has been fantastic and has enabled us to understand what you – our members – want to see more (and less) of in the magazine, as well as what your thoughts are on ROSL membership.

We are pleased that the overwhelming majority of members reads every issue and that, for many, it is an 'important' or 'very important' benefit of membership. The comments about what you would like to see in the magazine are extremely useful. Some asked for more details about the clubhouses and the history of ROSL, and for articles about staff and members, such as member profiles and diaries of visits to reciprocal clubs. We hope that this edition is a step in the right direction. With the restoration work in Edinburgh now almost complete, we will be providing more information about going on in the Scottish clubhouse.

It is important that we not only reach but exceed your expectations in every aspect of your membership, and hearing what you think is imperative to us getting it right. If you didn't get the chance to return your *Overseas* survey, don't worry: there is an online version on our website (click on 'Overseas magazine' at [www.rosl.org.uk](http://www.rosl.org.uk)).

### What members said:

**'I so look forward to each issue, to keep up-to-date and informed, as I cannot visit the clubhouse anymore.'**

Dame Mary Bridges DBE, England

**'The magazine is very important in generating a sense of the organisation for distant members.'**

Robyn Stone, Australia



Our 2013 programme of Ancient, Medieval, Napoleonic and 20th Century tours include the anniversary tours of Gettysburg 1863, Kursk 1943, Leipzig 1813, Sicily 1943 and the Dambusters 1943. We will also be looking at Alfred the Great, Scapa Flow, Berlin 1945, Chatham, the Civil Service Rifles in WW1 and many more.

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# Our vision and values

Some thoughts from ROSL  
Director-General **Roddy Porter**



**S**ir Evelyn Wrench founded The Overseas Club, which later became ROSL, to be a '...far flung brotherhood of individual men and women of diverse creeds and races living widely apart under differing conditions in different latitudes'. This ideal still animates ROSL's ethos and inspires our service to a worldwide membership, focused on the Commonwealth; our enthusiastic support of the arts in its many forms; and our contribution to humanitarian relief worldwide. ROSL's motto, Ubique Navigavimus ('Voyaging Everywhere'), might be interpreted today as the aspiration to strengthen international friendship and understanding while providing first-class clubhouse hospitality in London and Edinburgh.

Sustaining this ethos in the 21st century, and refreshing our vision for the future, was at the heart of the Strategic Review I conducted last year. The vision the Central Council approved enjoins us to:

- Establish ROSL as the worldwide private members' club of choice in London and Edinburgh. Not that we should compete with other clubs but that ROSL should be a byword for value and quality in every way.
- Deliver an inspirational arts programme of world renown.
- Strengthen international friendship and understanding in the Commonwealth and worldwide, through our network of members, our partnerships, and our intent to benefit humanity at large.

This vision inspires us to action. ROSL's enduring values, affirmed by my conversations with members around the world, Adele Smith's fine telling of ROSL's history and Sir Evelyn's own writings, explain who we are and provide a clear pathway along which to realise the vision. These values speak of:

- Cherishing our rich history and our Royal patronage and Charter. I believe that this heritage provides an incentive to deliver quality to those we serve.

- Supporting members – our most valuable asset – in every way, and especially by ensuring that every visit to our clubhouses is a pleasure for members and guests alike.
- Nurturing and improving cultural and social links in a world riven by strife and mistrust, and making a unique contribution to support some of the most vulnerable people in the Commonwealth.
- Showcasing artistic talent throughout the Commonwealth through our music and arts programmes, enabling young musicians and artists to fulfil their potential, and thereby to give pleasure to many.
- Prizing excellence in all we do. We believe that quality is delivered primarily through commitment and a desire to serve others.

I am keen that the service we provide to our members, and to the wider Commonwealth community, is measured against these values; they are at the heart of all we do. This is what our founder and our patrons through the ages would expect.

Our Royal Charter (granted by HM King George V in 1922) is not a laurel on which to rest; it is the basis for daily motivation. Conscious that we conduct ourselves under Royal patronage, we seek to achieve the highest standards in everything we do. In times when international bonds are weakening through political and social upheaval, ROSL should aim to nurture the links of understanding and friendship that help bind people together.

#### **INSPIRATION:**

ROSL founder, Sir Evelyn Wrench, at his desk

#### **SIGNS OF THE TIMES:**

The ROSL crest, created by the College of Arms in 1960 (inset left), and a logo with the letter O enclosing the S – a design feature used from the earliest days (inset right)

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*Our Royal Charter is not a laurel on which to rest but a basis for motivation*

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# The global Samaritan

Is ROSL a club, arts centre or humanitarian organisation? Or is it all of these? **Margaret Adrian-Vallance** looks at our education and humanitarian projects

**R**OSL has always been more than a club. Its aim in 1910 was to link in friendship the diverse communities of what is now the Commonwealth, and especially those from what ROSL's founder, Sir Evelyn Wrench, called 'the far flung corners'. Articles in *Overseas* under his editorship suggest that members took a strong interest in these remote areas. Back copies also testify to the generosity of members over the years, from fundraising events held by the clubhouses and branches, to the £1 million raised for food and cigarette parcels during the Second World War, and support for the wounded.

In the 1990s, ROSL's remit 'to give service to the Commonwealth and humanity at large' focused mainly on the clubhouses, branches, and the art and classical music competitions. But fine wine and dining, and the study of music, require a certain affluence. Where were the Commonwealth's poorer, remoter communities in all of this? Was there a way of harnessing the club's long history of friendship, fundraising and generosity so that some of the Commonwealth's remoter areas could be very much part of ROSL?

ROSL's small humanitarian projects came into being in 1994. Although I initiated them, the real reason for their development was the interest and generous spirit of members, branches, staff and Central Council, which has always been such a hallmark of ROSL.

The first project supported travelling eye-care camps for Sri Lanka's tea plantation workers. Many lived in



**TOP STUDENT:** Ellie Velskoen, one of three ROSL recipients who became head girl or boy at secondary schools in Gobabis

**THANKSGIVING:** ROSL bursary recipients Cwisa Cwi and Elias Araeb meet The Queen at ROSL's Centenary Reception at St James's Palace (below), with Margaret Adrian-Vallance (centre) and Clive Carpenter (r)

'lines' – rows of small rooms sometimes housing up to 15 people each. At the request of the Colombo Eye Bank and the Aziz Foundation, ROSL members collected thousands of spectacles for grading and fitting by Eye Bank teams, with Air Lanka donating the freight costs. The ROSL PR Department soon started to look like an optician's, as kind members brought in glasses. A national appeal was launched in Singapore and additional specs were free-freighted from there.

The second project also began with a request for specific items. Members responded with their usual generosity, in one case donating an entire library from Canberra, which was crated on a ship bound for Walvis Bay in Africa. This was the start of

the ROSL-Namibia project, at the request of Clara Bohitile and other members of the country's newly independent government. "We have schools without books, paper or pencils; the marginalised with no history of schooling, no shoes, sometimes no clothes," she said at the time.

Members went to work and, over a two year period, Air Namibia took out around 400 boxes of requested items for free. At the Otjivero settlement, books were so rare in those days that they were put high up on the walls as display items.

In 1995 came the request for ROSL school bursaries for San (Bushmen) and other marginalised youngsters. "Not all Bushmen want to remain hunter gatherers," says Cwisa Cwi, a ROSL bursary recipient who is now a school principal in the Kalahari. "There will always be ways of combining tradition with modern life." ROSL has supported more than 100 youngsters from Himba, San and other remote areas at primary, secondary and tertiary level, as well as six schools.

In Kenya, ROSL supports school bursaries in the Gilgil area, in liaison with the Langalanga Trust. In Botswana, we are providing funds for food at the Anne Stine Centre for the Disabled, and a water tank and other essentials at St Peter's Day Care Centre, Mogoditshane. Articles in



*In Africa, £10 goes a long way. £200 can fund a youngster's education requirements for a year*



**TAKING CARE:** Children at St Peter's Day Care Centre in Botswana



**REMOTE SUPPORT:** ROSL has supported students from Himba communities at Windhoek College of Education and the University of Namibia since 2001

*Overseas*, a major player in facilitating this work, have ensured that members can follow the progress of projects and people from year to year.

ROSL's humanitarian/education projects have been entirely funded by ROSL branches around the world, organisations such as Fondation Espace Afrique and members such as Anna Dean (see page 11), who undertook a fundraising cycle marathon in Western Australia. No funds have been drawn from the Golden Jubilee Trust, which supports ROSL ARTS.

It was a close call in 2012 to meet the required £16,000 for educational bursaries, and marvellous to have £1,000 donated for the projects' first leaflet by a couple who had held their wedding reception at ROSL in the 1990s. The value of donations since 1994 is estimated to be around £200,000.

### How you can help

So how can members continue to make an impact in the far-flung corners of the Commonwealth and support such projects in the future? ROSL has helped to disprove the view that isolated tribes, such as the San and Himba, don't want to be educated to university level and won't stick with their studies. Yet there are still areas in Namibia where literacy is only 20%, despite the government's monumental achievements since independence.

In Kenya there is a queue of young people needing ROSL-Langalanga bursaries. In Botswana, apart from essentials such as school food and a water tank, youth enterprise and cultural ventures near the Okavango

desperately need support. In Canada, a ROSL branch is interested in supporting a remote counselling project with isolated First Nation communities in the far north.

Funding requirements to meet ROSL's essential and present commitments are modest – around £17,000 a year – but future development or extension depends on the amount of additional funding raised from grant-giving trusts and supportive members.

In Africa, £10 goes a long way. A pair of shoes can help poor youngsters feel at ease with their peers, and at some state schools with hostel accommodation, £200 can fund a youngster's food, accommodation and education requirements for a year.

### Making a difference

Securing a capital sum should mean that ROSL is more able to continue its partnerships with those in the far-flung corners of the Commonwealth or, indeed, in any other area where ROSL generosity and friendship can make a difference.

Members can make donations or leave a legacy in their wills. For further information or to make a donation, watch the short film at [www.rosl.org.uk](http://www.rosl.org.uk) under 'Development Projects' or email [mvallance@rosl.org.uk](mailto:mvallance@rosl.org.uk).



**AIMING HIGHER:** ROSL bursary recipient Kobus Kaiseb attended Huigub Primary and Otjikoto Secondary and is now at the University of Namibia



**A GOOD START:** Katora Primary School pupils watch the short film about ROSL's humanitarian projects in Namibia on our website

# Historic restoration

**Ian Henderson** describes the extensive works at Over-Seas House Edinburgh, a listed building of special architectural interest



**O**ver-Seas House Edinburgh is located in the heart of Scotland's historic capital. Built as The Windsor Hotel and designed by Robert Paterson in 1879, it is one of several grand Victorian developments constructed along Princes Street in the latter 19th-century. The street itself was set out about 150 years earlier, on the south side of the New Town of Edinburgh, with a single aspect to give magnificent views over the Old Nor' Loch (now Princes Street Gardens) towards Edinburgh Castle, perched high on the Castle Rock.

Robert Louis Stevenson's *Edinburgh*, published in 1905, describes the views of the New Town from the gardens as 'how Paris ought to be'. Paterson was influenced by French architecture and had already departed from Edinburgh's neoclassical, Italianate tradition. This is reflected in the clubhouse's steeply-pitched mansard roof pitches and towered roofs, finished in grey slate and topped with elaborate cast-iron railings.

Constructed in cream sandstone, the four-storey building has fluted Corinthian columns and broad outer bays, housing large Victorian sash windows. The front elevation of polished stone extends to a stone parapet with a balustrade, pedimented and curved dormers and ornate stone features. At first-floor level, there is even a stone sculptured cartouche of Windsor Castle. It is no wonder that I relished the opportunity to act as Project Manager in the restoration and conservation of such an important building.

It was 15 December 2011 when I first met Maj-Gen Roddy Porter and his colleagues for an initial look round the building. The years of neglect were evident; the ravages of nature and time had taken their toll. Stonework was heavily eroded and cracked, and some sections had fallen off completely. Previous pointing and

repairs had been carried out in hard cement, increasing the rate of stone deterioration. Broken gutters had resulted in long-term dampness and corrosion of the stonework. The extensive lead and zinc detailing on the roof had also suffered badly, exhibiting splits, pin-holing and heavy oxidation.

Urgent action was required, as there was a distinct risk of stone falling into the street below. An emergency works contractor arrived at 4am, one dark winter morning, with a large hoist to remove loose and precarious stone. The City of Edinburgh Council prohibits the use of such hoists after 8am.

My appointment was confirmed following a competitive tendering exercise. I set about inspecting, assessing, measuring, quantifying, specifying and detailing the considerable works of repair and restoration, with an emphasis on ensuring best conservation practice. The original stone was analysed by the British Geological Survey in order to identify its key characteristics, which enabled us to select the Witton Fell fine grit – a blonde sandstone with good structural capabilities.

It was clear that the flue bridges in the chimneys had failed, causing the chimneys to bow. This, coupled with extensive erosion and cracking, meant that the two gable chimney stacks had to be completely rebuilt – the single greatest cost of the restoration project.

Lead is a key traditional material in Scottish construction. As Over-Seas House is a listed building of special architectural and historic interest, it was important to use thicker applications of lead to ensure greater durability and longevity. With so many intersections and abutments, the new leadwork for the roof had to be specified carefully and to the highest standards. The use of traditional, good-quality Scots

**CRAFTSMANSHIP:** New leadwork being installed over front dormer roof projections (left and centre)

**SKILLED MASONRY:** Scrolled stone dentils above Princes Street, where some of the stone has fallen off (above right)



**VITAL WORK:**

(Left) Project Manager Ian Henderson (l) and Restorex Managing Director Brian Leslie (r) show Director-General Roddy Porter the newly rebuilt West Gable chimney

**ARCHITECTURAL INTEGRITY:**

(Below) The front of Over-Seas House Edinburgh prior to restoration work

Photos © Ian Henderson

*The use of traditional, good-quality Scots slate is a key characteristic*



slate is another key characteristic. The indigenous grey-blue slate causes sunlight to cast irregular shadows, creating a rugged finish common in Scottish architecture.

Quotes for the work were submitted by four experienced masonry contractors in April 2012 but work did not begin until after the Edinburgh Festival, which is a particularly busy period for the clubhouse. Scaffolding was erected from the end of September and the restoration works began.

Stonework was carefully measured, templated and individually numbered before being ordered. Once supplied from the quarry, the stone is cut, sized and dressed to achieve the correct finish for its location. These range from polished ashlar (squared units) at the front to rough-faced ashlar on the chimney stacks.

Experienced and skilled craftsmen have been employed by the principal contractor, Restorex Ltd. Both the west and larger east gable chimneys have been completely rebuilt to a very high standard. The quality of leadwork is exceptional and progressing well.

During the 26-week contract period, there have been fortnightly progress meetings and monthly cost reports. The works have been valued monthly, and retention monies will be withheld for a year to cover any snagging works. As I write, we are on budget at around £350,000 and are heading for completion, as planned, in May.

It is an honour to be involved in restoring the condition of such a prestigious building, for the pleasure of ROSL members and to ensure the integrity of the structure for another 100 years or more.

*Ian Henderson is Project Manager of the Over-Seas House Edinburgh renovation, and Managing Director of Henderson Surveying Ltd.*

# Home improvements

Head of Maintenance Paul Streat tells **Claire Simon** about the day-to-day upkeep of the clubhouse and how it has changed during his 23 years with ROSL

## How would you describe your job?

I'd say that the Director-General and office staff steer the ROSL ship but the maintenance team keep it afloat; we're the behind-the-scenes team responsible for keeping everything running, which is not a small job. There are four of us: me, Steve, Craig and Scott. We work 7am to 3pm, so we get much of the work done before members start using the facilities.

## What are the biggest projects you've worked on at Over-Seas House?

That's a difficult question: there have been so many. Putting in the 6th floor of the Westminster Wing about nine years ago was one. We had to build eight new bedrooms where before there was just a roof. We work with contractors for the big jobs but the team and I are always heavily involved. We've done a lot of in-house refurbishment projects too and I often project manage.

## There have been several major projects recently. Why is that?

Rooms begin to look worn and out-dated. That was the case with the Drawing Room and the Wrench Room – they needed to be brightened up, given a bit of care. In the past, gold paint instead of gold leaf paint has been used, which makes a big difference in the long run. In the garden, there was a lot of dead ground. I thought the space could be put to a lot better use, hence the decking area, which can be used by more members and for events as well. In the Gibbs staircase area, the plaster was coming away from the brick with age, and we needed to re-cast the mouldings on the wall. The work had to be carried out right to the top of the light well, which required the area to be cordoned off.

## What are the biggest challenges when working in a listed building and have you encountered many problems?

The building is listed from the first floor down, so any work, down to the smallest little change, needs Listed

**WRENCH ROOM:** Named after ROSL's founder, the room has a beautiful ceiling and was refurbished in early 2013 to make it a brighter and more attractive room



THE TEAM: (L-r) Paul, Craig, Steve and Scott

Buildings Consent. This can take time, and things may not be approved. The bedrooms we can change because they are not listed. There are problems on every project – that's the nature of the job and undertaking work on an old building. Asbestos and burst pipes are always issues.

## You're on call 24/7. What has been the most urgent call out?

One of the worst was when the sub-station up the road blew up and there was no electricity, hot water, heating or anything in this building. I was here for three days solid. I've also been called out the past two Christmases in a row.

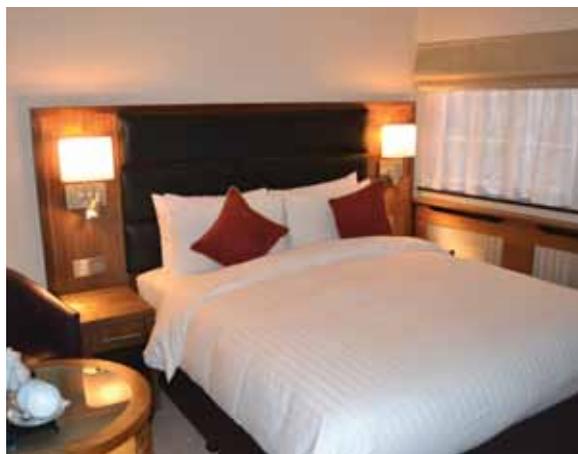
## What's the biggest change you've seen at Over-Seas House and have there been any fascinating finds?

The Reception was completely different in my first few years and none of the bedrooms on the park side of the building had bathrooms. I'm still looking for the ROSL treasure but no luck so far! I know this building better than anyone though, so we'll see...

**WELCOMING:** Many bedrooms have been refurbished over the years. Bedroom 20 (below) was recently updated with furnishings chosen by Paul Streat and Head Housekeeper Emma Kovacs



**STUNNING FEATURE:** (Above) The Georgian staircase in the Central Lounge was designed by James Gibbs in the mid 18th century and is made of stone with a wrought iron balustrade. This historical feature is one of the most stunning parts of Rutland House, so its upkeep is essential. In spring, the staircase was cordoned off so that refurbishment work could be carried out



# Celebrating the past, investing in the future

**AN ENDURING LEGACY:** Donations and bequests enabled ROSL to buy Rutland House in 1934; build the 'Empire' Centre in 1937; and refurbish Princess Alexandra Hall (pictured) in 2006

## Director of Arts **Roderick Lakin** reflects on a legacy of more than 60 years of members' support for the ROSL Annual Music Competition

**R**OSL has a distinguished history of support for outstanding young musicians from the UK and Commonwealth. Donations and legacies from members have played a crucial role in sustaining the vitality of the ROSL Annual Music Competition, now in its 61st year. In the 21st century alone, donations and legacies have enabled ROSL ARTS to transform the concert room at Over-Seas House London into a first-class chamber music venue; purchase a new Steinway concert grand piano; and secure endowment for the main awards in the ROSL Annual Music Competition.

In 1937, the Empire Centre (now less grandly named the Westminster Wing) was opened at Over-Seas House, following a successful three-year fundraising campaign, spearheaded by ROSL's founder, Sir Evelyn Wrench. Of the £40,000 raised, £3,000 came from the Scottish membership for the St Andrew's Lecture Hall. After the Second World War, the hall became the main venue for ROSL concerts and music competition auditions. Between 2002 and 2005, more than £300,000 was raised for its refurbishment – again in three years and largely from ROSL members – and it was renamed Princess Alexandra Hall, in honour of our Vice-Patron.

To mark our centenary in 2010, we launched the ROSL Centenary Appeal to secure the future of the ROSL Annual Music Competition, endowing annual awards in excess of £60,000. After three years, around £800,000 is held within the ROSL Golden Jubilee Trust (GJT; registered charity 306095) and legacies already pledged to the Centenary Appeal will take this fund to more than £1,000,000.

*Making a bequest is a wonderful way to continue this tradition of support*

**A GREAT TRADITION:** Over 60 years, the ROSL Annual Music Competition has established an enviable reputation as a discerning platform for discovering and nurturing gifted young Commonwealth musicians. Pictured are three great Australian pianists and ROSL Gold Medallists from the 1950s to the present day: (top to bottom) Geoffrey Parsons (winner 1953); Piers Lane (winner 1982) and Jayson Gillham (winner 2012)

### Making a bequest

Making a bequest to the ROSL Centenary Appeal (GJT) is a wonderful way for ROSL members to continue this tradition of support, and ensure that future generations can experience the inspiration and enjoyment that gifted young musicians, at the outset of their careers, can give.

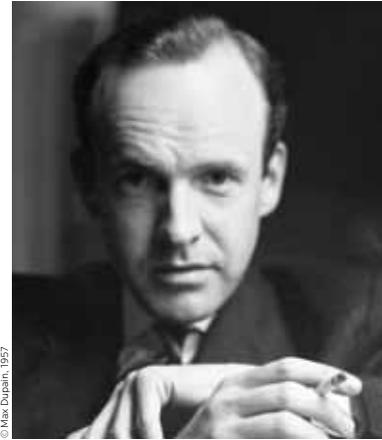
It is very simple to include a legacy to ROSL in your will. Gifts can be made as a specified sum of money, a proportion of your residual estate, or more specific items of property. Making a bequest to a charity such as the ROSL Golden Jubilee Trust can be an effective way to reduce your inheritance tax, and the charity, in its turn, is exempt from the tax. If you already have a will, you can easily add a codicil making an addition or change.

### Gifts in memoriam

Some members have given money or made a bequest in memory of a family member or close friend, for a music competition prize or scholarship dedicated to a particular instrumental or vocal discipline, or for a musician from a specific Commonwealth country.

Inspired by the vision and example of our founder, Sir Evelyn Wrench, members' generosity in the past gives ROSL ARTS optimism and a strong sense of purpose for the future of the ROSL Annual Music Competition. As Director of Arts, I would be delighted to discuss prize and scholarship options, and also to offer advice on how to remember ROSL ARTS in your will.

Call Roderick Lakin on + 44 (0)20 7408 0214 x 325 or email [rlakin@rosl.org.uk](mailto:rlakin@rosl.org.uk).



# A brush with genius

**James Wilkie** discovers Lucinda MacKay's painting of Edinburgh scientist Peter Higgs at the newly renovated Scottish Portrait Gallery

Edinburgh enjoys an enviable reputation in both the arts and sciences, and these were presciently brought together by the Edinburgh artist Lady Lucinda MacKay when, in 1980, she painted a portrait of the physicist Peter Higgs. The work of the Edinburgh University professor has, of course, recently received global recognition, with evidence for his postulated Higgs boson coming from the Large Hadron Collider experiments in Geneva. However, he was considerably less well-known when Lucy began her work, which can now be seen at the recently-refurbished Scottish National Portrait Gallery in Edinburgh.

Lucinda MacKay has been a staunch supporter of ROSL for at least two decades – principally in Edinburgh, but she also values the London clubhouse and its proximity to the Royal Academy and other galleries. Although her family originated in the Arbroath area (her father was the Earl of Inchcape), she grew up in Ayrshire and Switzerland. She first came to prominence as an artist in the early 1960s, when, as a student of Edinburgh Art College, she won third prize in a *Daily Mail* competition to celebrate the opening of the Forth Road Bridge; the second prize went to the modernist painter John Bellamy.

Lucy was introduced to the work of Peter Higgs, "a very modest man", by a friend and demonstrated her own textural technique in her now famous portrait, which was bought by the Scottish Arts Council. "I am basically a figurative painter," she says. "But I am also exploratory in my work. I decided to use sand to represent particles whirling around in space."

It was a magnificent idea. In the portrait, Higgs' body and clothes appear to be drifting out into the universe. It is a painting that you really want to touch. Lucy has exhibited in several Scottish galleries, as well as in Shoreditch, and ROSL Scotland bought some of her Edinburgh ink and watercolours. Lucy continues to paint and to support younger artists. "I particularly like the art of Sarah Cameron. She is currently doing post-grad work at The Slade."

*Scottish National Portrait Gallery, Queen Street, Edinburgh. Admission free. See [www.nationalgalleries.org](http://www.nationalgalleries.org) for details.*

**REFURBISHED:** 'Pioneers of Science' at the Scottish National Portrait Gallery



**ACCLAIM:** Lucinda MacKay with her painting of Professor Higgs



## CORONATION

# What's on...

### Coronation Festival

Buckingham Palace

**11-14 July**

In celebration of the 60th anniversary of the coronation, Buckingham Palace gardens will open to the public for four days this summer, with stalls and entertainment from more than 200 companies with the Royal Warrant. On 12 and 13 July, there will also be evening performances by some of the finest young talent in the UK and the Commonwealth. *Day tickets for 12-13 July are available through ROSL. See page 30 for details. For other days, contact [www.coronationfestival.com](http://www.coronationfestival.com).*



**UNIQUE ACCESS:** Buckingham Palace

### The Queen's Coronation 1953

Buckingham Palace

**27 July - 29 September**

This special exhibition brings together a spectacular array of dress, uniforms and robes worn by the royal party, as well as works of art, paintings and objects.

*Tickets: £19 Contact: [www.royalcollection.org.uk](http://www.royalcollection.org.uk).*



### SPECIAL EVENT:

The Diamond Diadem, created by Rundell, Bridge & Rundell in 1820 (above right); and Sir Herbert James Gunn's 1954 portrait of Queen Elizabeth II in Coronation Robes (right)



### Coronation concert and exhibition

Westminster Abbey

**Exhibition ends 7 September; concert 13 June, 7pm**

A concert of coronation music, given by the Choir of Westminster Abbey and St James's Baroque, is one of a series of special events at the Abbey, including an exhibition of archive pictures of the coronation and the extensive preparation work to the building. *Tickets £20-£65; exhibition free.*

*Contact [www.westminster-abbey.org](http://www.westminster-abbey.org).*



  
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IN THE UK

# Capital views

From eating at the panoramic Paramount restaurant, 32 floors up, to climbing the Millennium Dome, we find the best ways to see London from above

## Dinner with a view

Opinions are divided as to whether the views from the top of Centre Point are better by day or night, so we hedge our bets and head to the iconic skyscraper above Tottenham Court Road station for sunset. From the viewing gallery and champagne bar on the 33rd floor you can see the entire panorama of London from the viewpoint of the bustling West End. At night, the urban sprawl is lit up in technicolour.

One level down, Paramount restaurant offers the same impressive views. Tom Dixon's designs soften the 1960s concrete-and-glass architecture, with low lighting, polished wood and statement furniture hinting at its origins as a members' club (both bar and restaurant opened to the public in 2010).

For starters we choose the succulent Cornish crab with lobster bisque, complemented perfectly by a fresh Braeburn jelly and apple slices, and the cured gravlax salmon with oyster tempura and mustard dressing. To

follow, the tender sirloin steak proves to be a knock-out dish, accompanied by thick hand-cut chips and pepper sauce, while the juicy roast turbot is cooked to perfection and served with creamy celeriac purée and dauphinoise potatoes.

We've read complaints of small portions but the management seems to have listened to its critics, as the prospect of pudding after two good-sized courses is daunting. The dessert menu soon changes our minds, and we opt for a comforting rice pudding spiced with star anise and poached apple, and a honey crème brûlée.

The fantastic selection of teas helps to aid digestion. Served in elegant glass tumblers and jug, the 'flowering Osmanthus' green tea has aromatic orange notes. The staff are welcoming and attentive, and don't seem to mind us lingering to enjoy the views.

*Three-course meal with wine approx. £60pp.  
Reservations: [www.paramount.uk.net](http://www.paramount.uk.net).*

**SPECTACULAR:**  
Unparalleled views of the West End from Paramount restaurant

**SPIRIT OF THE GAMES:**  
View of the Orbit and the Olympics development (below left)

## Olympic insights

Anish Kapoor's controversial sculpture-cum-building has won over many critics to become an icon of the London Olympic development. The snaking red form of the ArcelorMittal Orbit rises to a height of 114.5m. At 80m, the viewing platform currently houses Kapoor's Hall of Mirrors-style installation, affording upside-down views of the skyline. You can see for 20 miles, but of greater interest is the work going on under your nose, as the Olympic venues are transformed. The South Park opens to the public in July 2014, with ticketed access to the Orbit. Until 23 June, Park in Progress tours provide access. *Park in Progress tickets £7. Information and bookings: [noordinarypark.co.uk](http://noordinarypark.co.uk).*



## Dizzy heights

The View From The Shard, the visitor attraction found on the upper floors of Western Europe's tallest building, is not for acrophobics. But anyone willing to travel 244m upwards will be rewarded with truly magnificent, 360-degree views of the city and its surrounds (on a clear day visitors can see for 40 miles). The attraction begins at ground level with a gallery and information points. The sense of excitement in the lift is contagious, encouraged by the super-fast speed; the floor level display ascends by the second and popping ears alert you to the height.

Levels 68 and 69 are enclosed, while level 72 is an open-air observation deck, surrounded by the glass shards for which the building is known. The feeling of being on top of the world is undeniable – we visit in winter and the chilly air at this height only intensifies the feeling of being in the clouds. We could spend hours up here, picking out landmarks, both public and private.

*Tickets from £24.95.*

*Bookings: [www.theviewfromtheshard.com](http://www.theviewfromtheshard.com).*



© Claire Simon

**ICONIC:** Claire Simon on the top viewing platform of The Shard (above) and the views over the river (below)



© Claire Simon

## Also nearby

A stone's throw from The Shard, Heron Tower is worth a visit. Ascending the 230m skyscraper in an external glass elevator certainly tests our confidence, yet the high-speed panoramic lifts are the main draw. To access the two restaurants that occupy the top three levels, visitors climb a dizzying 39 levels in 30 seconds. The outdoor dining terraces of SushiSamba are Europe's highest, while the 24/7 Duck and Waffle is one floor up. *Reservations: [sushisamba.com](http://sushisamba.com) and [duckandwaffle.com](http://duckandwaffle.com).*

**DUCK AND WAFFLE:** Modern British and European food



## A STEEP CLIMB:

Editor Miranda Moore at the O2; and (below) a wheelchair ascent



© Rolando Gómez Aguilár

## Urban mountaineering

We start at 'base camp' on a rainy morning in April, just as the skies begin to clear. Miraculously, the fabric roof of the Millennium Dome – renamed the O2 Centre in 2005 – seems dry, and our borrowed non-slip shoes a mere precaution. Kitted out in O2-issue climbing suits and harnesses during a 45-minute preparatory session, our group of 15 lines up for a final equipment check before beginning the ascent.

With a gradient of 30 degrees in parts and a trampoline-like surface, it might sound like a climb for the young and intrepid. Yet our group ranges in age from 10-year-old Luke to his grandma Sarah, aged 69. In fact, there is no upper age limit, but participants must sign a waiver declaring their fitness to climb. There are even wheelchair climbs, making the summit surprisingly accessible.

The climb itself is great fun. The steep incline and sheer drop on to the surface of the iconic tent-like roof creates a sense of adventure and makes me hold a little tighter to the handrail. Yet when our no-frills instructor tells us not to bounce, it puts a spring in my step.

At the summit, 52m up, we detach ourselves from the safety cord and walk freely around the viewing platform. Almost entirely encircled by the river and its docks, the Dome offers a unique view of the capital, with the Thames Barrier and cable car to the east, Canary Wharf a short leap to the south and a beach under construction below. It gives a real insight into the developments in the South East – both realised and ongoing.

*Tickets from £22. Information and bookings: [www.theo2.co.uk/upattheo2](http://www.theo2.co.uk/upattheo2).*



© Thomas Haefele

## FUN RIDE:

The cable car with the Millennium Dome behind



© Transport for London

## While you're there...

Why not take a ride on the Emirates Air Line, which crosses the Thames between the Royal Docks and the O2 Centre in five or ten minutes, depending on the time of day? Part of the London transport network and priced accordingly, the cable car was launched in June 2012, in time for the Olympics. It's an exciting experience with impressive views. *£4.30 one-way; £3.20 with Oyster Card. Information: [www.tfl.gov.uk](http://www.tfl.gov.uk).*



# ROSL ARTS

An overview of the summer events  
from Director of Arts, **Roderick Lakin**

## MUSIC EVENTS

### Queen Elizabeth Hall, Southbank Centre 61st Annual Music Competition Grand Final

**Monday 3 June, 7pm**  
The Final of the 2013 ROSL Annual Music Competition showcases performances by winners of the solo wind, singers, strings and keyboard sections, as they compete for the Gold Medal and First Prize of £10,000. This year's finalists are Peter Moore trombone, Morgan Pearse baritone, Michael Foyle violin and Sophia Dee piano. Chaired by Gavin Henderson CBE, the judges

will decide while the prizewinning ensembles – the Francoise-Green Piano Duo and Tempest flute trio – perform. The prize-giver and guest of honour is pianist Melvyn Tan (ROSL Gold Medallist 1976).  
*Tickets: £15-£20 (www.southbank-centre.co.uk); £12 Friends of ROSL ARTS (only available from ROSL ARTS).*

### Princess Alexandra Hall, Over-Seas House Aquinas Trio

Ruth Rogers violin  
Katherine Jenkinson cello  
Martin Cousin piano  
**Wednesday 19 June, 7pm**  
The Aquinas Trio perform three of

**OUTSTANDING:**  
Tempest flute trio, one of the two ensemble prizewinners performing at the 61st ROSL Annual Music Competition Final Concert on 3 June

the greatest piano trios: Haydn's *Gypsy Rondo*, Mendelssohn's *D Minor* and Beethoven's *Archduke*. In association with the Medical Music Society of London.  
*Concert with interval glass of wine: £28; £22 Friends of ROSL ARTS. Concert with interval glass of wine and post-concert two course buffet supper with wine and tea/coffee: £56; £48 Friends of ROSL ARTS.*

## Wigmore Hall The Monday Platform: Cries of London and Busch Ensemble

Matthew Van Bellen violin  
Jonathan Bloxham cello  
Omri Epstein piano

**Monday 8 July, 7.30pm**

A concert showcasing two very different types of chamber ensemble. Recent ROSL Annual Music Competition winners the Busch Ensemble (piano trio) and Cries of London (a cappella nonet) present a programme of music from Byrd to Berio, by way of Mendelssohn, Brahms and Ravel.  
*Tickets: £15 (from www.wigmore-hall.org.uk); £12 Friends of ROSL ARTS (only available from ROSL ARTS).*

## FRIENDS' EVENTS

### Over-Seas House Friends of ROSL ARTS Champagne Garden Parties

**Wednesday 24 July, 6pm**

**Wednesday 4 September, 6pm**

Exclusive to Friends of ROSL ARTS, the Annual Champagne Garden Parties are the highlight of the summer calendar. A champagne reception in the clubhouse garden is followed by an hour-long concert by ROSL prizewinners. Commonwealth wines and sweet pastries are served afterwards.

*In June, Friends will receive an invitation to attend one of the Garden Parties. Joining the Friends costs just £30 for ROSL members or £35 for non-members. Benefits include discounted tickets to all ROSL ARTS events, invitations to private views of exhibitions and regular mailings. To become a Friend of ROSL ARTS, call +44 (0)20 7408 0214 x 219 or email culture@rosl.org.uk.*

## BOOK EVENTS

### Princess Alexandra Hall, Over-Seas House 'Perilous Question: The drama of the Great Reform Bill' with Antonia Fraser

**Monday 24 June, 7pm**

Against a background of riots in Bristol, Manchester and Nottingham, and wider themes

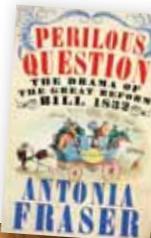


of Irish and 'negro' emancipation, Antonia Fraser's authoritative new book brilliantly evokes a two-year revolution, culminating in the passing of the Great Reform Act of 1832, which radically changed how Britain was governed.

*Tickets: £7; £5 Friends of ROSL ARTS. Includes wine, served after the event.*

#### REVOLUTION:

Antonia Fraser will present her new book on the Great Reform Bill



#### Caine Prize for African Writing

**Thursday 4 July, 7pm**

Readings by five shortlisted African writers. Founded in 2000, the Caine Prize of £10,000 is named after Sir Michael Caine, former Chairman of Booker Plc. Chaired by Lizzie Attree, Caine Prize Administrator.

*Tickets: £7; £5 Friends of ROSL ARTS. Includes wine, served after the event.*

#### EXHIBITIONS

##### Over-Seas House Louise Truslow

**Wednesday 24 July - Saturday 31 August; private view, Tuesday 23 July, 6pm.**

Paintings and glass work by ROSL Thailand Visual Arts Consultant, Louise Truslow. In association with the Anglo Thai Society. *Admission free.*

#### GARDEN PARTY:

Friends of ROSL ARTS will be invited to an exclusive Champagne Garden Party in the ROSL Garden this summer

#### Over-Seas House, Edinburgh ROSL ARTS @ Edinburgh Festival Fringe 2013

**Monday 12 - Friday 23 August**

ROSL ARTS heads to Scotland for the 14th Annual Series of the Edinburgh Festival Fringe. With 30 concerts in two weeks, the series has become a priority for discerning festival goers. For details, see page 33.

*Tickets: £12; £10 Friends of ROSL ARTS and concessions. To book call +44 (0)131 225 1501 or email reception@rosl-edinburgh.org.*

#### 'Chagall and the Supremacy of Blue' with Hilary Guise

Princess Alexandra Hall, Over-Seas House

**Friday 21 June, 7pm**

ROSL ARTS is delighted to host a lecture on Marc Chagall, given by Hilary Guise, to tie in with the current major exhibition at Tate Liverpool. Chagall often uses the colour blue to unite his floating figures. His dreamers, brides and lovers exist in a rootless universe where gravity seems to have no pull. As the quintessential alien in exile, survivor of a revolution and two World Wars, Chagall had no recourse but to trust in the narratives of his people, and draw on the strength of his God.

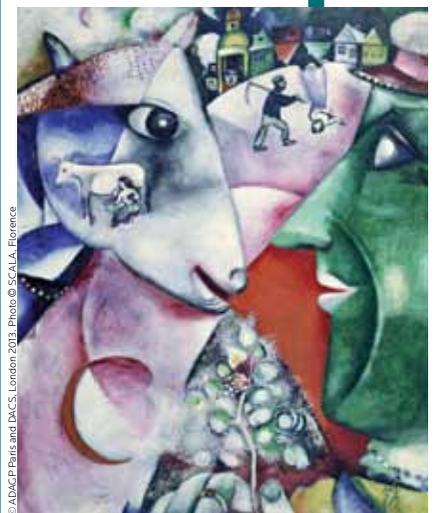
Hilary Guise is a painter and NADFAS lecturer at Florida State University. Presented in Association with the Art Fund.

*Tickets £15 (+44 (0)844 415 4100 not from ROSL ARTS). Also available on the door from 6.30pm. Includes wine and nibbles, served after the lecture.*

#### DREAMLIKE:

Marc Chagall's 'I and the Village' (1911)

**ArtFund**



© ADACFP Paris and DACS, London 2013. Photo © SCA/ A. Fiference

Tickets for ROSL ARTS events

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

# Younger Members

## June-September

### JUNE

There will be no First Thursdays drinks in June because of the ROSL Inter-Club event the following day.

### Inter-Club Great Gatsby Ball

Friday 7 June

Oh yes, it's ROSL's glamorous Inter-Club event! Think prohibition-era cocktails in the garden, and cheeky Charlestons and quickstep on the dance floor. Dress to impress, 1920s style.

### Inter-Club jazz and Manhattan cocktails

June (date tbc)

Want to go for a mini-break, courtesy of clubland? Let the Travellers Club whisk you away on an American-style staycation.



**TASTE CREATION:**  
Learn to mix cocktails in July

### JULY

#### First Thursdays

Thursday 4 July, from 6pm

Monthly YM's half-priced drinks night in the ROSL bar.

#### Mixology masterclass

Thursday 18 July, 7pm, £25

A dedicated mixologist will teach YMs cocktail-making through five different creations, each one taste-tested and accompanied by a selection of nibbles. What's more, if you eat at Dane's Yard

Kitchen before or after the class, you'll receive 30% off dinner.

### Inter-Club Summer Garden Party

July (date tbc)

You know it's truly summer when the Inter-Club Summer Garden Party arrives. Hosted this year by the In-and-Out.

### AUGUST

#### First Thursdays

Thursday 1 August, from 6pm

Monthly YM's half-priced drinks night in the ROSL bar.

### Inter-Club 5th Annual Tennis Tournament

Sunday 18 August

The Queen's Club is again hosting the Inter-Club tennis tournament. Test your racket skills or come to

cheer on your club's players.

### SEPTEMBER First Thursdays

Thursday 5 September, from 6pm

Monthly YM's half-priced drinks night in the ROSL bar.

### Inter-Club Crawl September (date tbc)

The main meal will be hosted at the Farmer's Club, with other stops at the Landsdowne, Carlton and Savage.

Email Sara Brouwer

([sbrouwer@rosl.org.uk](mailto:sbrouwer@rosl.org.uk)) or Ross Lima ([ross.lima@gmail.com](mailto:ross.lima@gmail.com))

for information on ROSL YMs and Inter-Club activities. Join the YM Facebook group: [www.facebook.com/groups/roslym](http://www.facebook.com/groups/roslym)

## Bright young things

Ross Lima launches our new column, where Younger Members will share their experiences

Hi fellow YMs. I'm the ROSL Inter-Club Representative and part of the ROSL Younger Members' (YM) Committee. When I'm not enjoying a fine Inter-Club banquet or planning the next great ROSL YM event, you can often find me in the ROSL bar on the first Thursday of the month.

The ROSL YM programme has grown tremendously, both in terms of numbers and events. We kicked off the winter programme with food, wine and dancing at our Christmas party, which one YM described as 'epic'.

This spring, there was an Australia Day and Waitangi Day First Thursday drinks night and a guided evening view of Light Show – one of London's most popular exhibitions this year. But the biggest event of the 2013 YM calendar will certainly be the ROSL Inter-Club Great Gatsby Ball on 7 June. It will be visually spectacular, gastronomically

exceptional and feature music and dancing into the early hours.

Outside of ROSL, my life has been dominated recently by helping my better half to organise our wedding (which mainly involves nodding in agreement at the right time). I will return from my honeymoon just in time for the Great Gatsby party, where I hope to see you all.

**LIGHT SHOW:** Samantha and Jade view 'Chromosaturat' at the Haywood Gallery



#### DRINKS NIGHT:

Celebrating Australia Day and Waitangi Day are Younger Members (top, l-r) Sohail, Carrie, Sara and Catherine, and (bottom, l-r) Jackie and Blake, with a representative from Fragomen LPP

TREES FOR LIFE APPEAL



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[www.treesforlife.org.uk](http://www.treesforlife.org.uk)



TREES FOR LIFE  
Restoring the Caledonian Forest

# Members' events

## June-August

**JUNE**

**Mottisfont visit**

**Wednesday 12 June, 9am, £40, G**

Enjoy a glorious day-trip to the rural estate of Mottisfont, home to the National Collection of old roses. We will be met with refreshments and a garden talk, after which members will explore the idyllic grounds that run alongside the fast-flowing River Test and include the remains of a 13th-century gothic priory.

A specially sourced lunch will be served in a private garden marquee. The house itself, formerly home to artists' muse and society hostess Maud Russell, can be explored in the afternoon. The new art gallery includes a collection of early 20th-century art donated by society portrait painter Derek Hill. *Tickets include entry, travel and food.*

**Tea at the House of Lords**

**Monday 24 June, 3.30pm, £35, G**

Our favourite Members' Events staple, hosted by ROSL President Lord Luce. Afternoon tea will be announced by the official toastmaster and served in the Cholmondeley Room and Terrace at the Palace of Westminster, with stunning views over the River Thames.

**JULY**

**Literary London: Bloomsbury and the British Library**

**Tuesday 2 July, 11.30am, £15, G**

This London tour complements the impressive range of literary activity at ROSL, in the week that Over-Seas House hosts the Caine Prize for African Writing (see page 27). Stroll through the Georgian squares of Bloomsbury,



where famous writers such as Virginia Woolf, T S Eliot, Charles Dickens and W B Yeats lived, worked and loved. The tour finishes at the British Library, which houses a wealth of written documents, from medieval manuscripts to lyrics by The Beatles.

**LITERARY TOUR: British Library Piazza**

Elizabeth II, ROSL is pleased to offer members tickets to the Coronation Festival – a one-off event in Buckingham Palace Gardens. More than 200 exhibitors will be showcasing their goods and services at the Festival, so you can spend the day experiencing the best of British food and drink, design and technology, homes and gardens, shopping, pursuits and pastimes.

**Coronation Festival at Buckingham Palace**

**Friday 12 July & Saturday 13 July, 9.30am, £35, R**

Marking the 60th anniversary of the Coronation of HM Queen



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 .....

Tick this box to receive booking letters by email

### Members' events application form

Please complete this form (or a photocopy) and send to: Sara Brouwer, Marketing 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 at www.rosl.org.uk.

EVENT	DATE	PRICE	TICKETS
Mottisfont visit	Wed 12 June	£40	..... £.....
Tea at the House of Lords	Mon 24 June	£35	..... £.....
Literary London tour	Tue 2 July	£15	..... £.....
Coronation Festival	Fri 12/Sat 13 July	£35	..... £.....
National Gallery tour	Wed 24 July	£10	..... £.....
Shakespeare in the garden	Fri 26 July	£27.50	..... £.....
Historic Bermondsey and The Shard	Fri 2 Aug	£37.50	..... £.....
Dinner in the Tower	Wed 21 Aug	£70	..... £.....
Dinner in the Tower and Crown Jewels	Wed 28 Aug	£130	..... £.....
Chairman's Lunch	Tue 12 Nov	£58	..... £.....

**Payment** – please send a SEPARATE CHEQUE (sterling) for each event payable to ROSL. For Credit/Debit Card Payments call +44 (0)20 7016 6906. Please note that a surcharge of 3% now applies to all credit card payments.

**AS YOU LIKE IT:**

Enjoy Shakespeare in the ROSL garden in July

### The National Gallery: An introduction to art history

**Wednesday 24 July, 11.30am, £10, G**

Enjoy a guided tour of one of the world's greatest public art collections and see some of its most familiar masterpieces in a new light. Led by Francesca Herrick, the tour will focus on Renaissance and Baroque paintings, encompassing works by Botticelli, Michelangelo, Titian and Velázquez, and provide general tips on how to analyse artworks.

### Shakespeare in the garden

**Friday 26 July, 7pm, £27.50, G**

A wonderful opportunity to see the Bard's work performed in your own home-away-from-home. The acclaimed Shakespeare

Aloud troupe will be enacting a shortened version of *As You Like It*, using the ROSL Garden as their stage – sometimes in unexpected ways! The performance will last roughly an hour and a half, including the interval, and will be preceded by drinks.

### AUGUST Historic Bermondsey and The Shard

**Friday 2 August, 2pm, £37.50, G**

Hear about Bermondsey's renaissance on this walking tour, which takes in the site of an ancient abbey and Leathermarket Street – one of London's most atmospheric roads. We will find out about the area's social history and new stylish elements, such as the Fashion and Textiles Museum, before heading to the top of London's new iconic skyscraper: The Shard (see page 25 for a review). ROSL suggests visiting Bermondsey's famous antiques market in the morning, independently, for a full day out.

## 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.*

### ROSL Bordeaux wine tour

**Thursday 10 - Saturday 12 October, £730, R**

This fantastic, tailor-made wine tour is a collaboration between ROSL, its wine provider Davy's Wine Merchants, and the specialist travel company Grape Escapes. Director-General Roddy Porter will join the trip to France, where members will visit a selection of Bordeaux's finest vineyards and have an exclusive tour of Château Palmer. Members will stay in a luxury hotel and immerse themselves in the region's gastronomy, with dining experiences in Angludet and other illustrious chateau settings.

*For bookings contact Sara Brouwer (+44 (0)20 7016 6906), who will pass you on to Grape Escapes.*

**ROMANTIC:** A plaza in historic Bordeaux (top right); and the view of a chateau and vineyards nearby (right)



### Dinner in the Tower

**Wednesday 21 August, 7pm, £70, R**

The ever-popular Dinner in the Tower starts with a champagne reception in the Fusiliers' Museum, followed by a three-course dinner with wine in the Fusiliers' Mess. Afterwards the Yeoman Warder will escort us to the Ceremony of the Keys, set against the backdrop of the Tower.

### Dinner in the Tower & Private Viewing of the Crown Jewels

**Wednesday 28 August, 6pm, £130, R**

A second Dinner in the Tower, this time starting in the Jewel House with an exclusive viewing of the most famous gems in the world. The evening continues in the Fusiliers' Headquarters with champagne and a three-course dinner, and concludes with the Ceremony of the Keys.

### DATE FOR THE DIARY Chairman's Lunch

**Tuesday 12 November, midday, £58, G**

ROSL Chairman Sir Anthony Figgis will host the Chairman's Lunch in November. The Guest of Honour and speaker will be Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe

QPM, Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis since July 2011 and previously Chief Constable of Merseyside Police. The event includes reception drinks and a three-course lunch at Over-Seas House London.



**TREASURE TROVE:** Learn about art history at the National Gallery (above)

**CORONATION:** Celebrate at Buckingham Palace (below)



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## EDINBURGH

# What's on...

## June-August

**JUNE****Coronation lunch****Tuesday 4 June, time tbc**

Live screening of the Service of Thanksgiving, with three-course lunch and glass of wine.

*Tickets: £29; non-members £37.*

**Bridge Club lunch****Friday 7 June, 12 for 12.30pm**

Introduce a guest at this one-course lunch with sherry.

*Tickets: £12.*

**Gala opera evening****Monday 10 June, 6.30pm**

Students of the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland perform a programme inspired by Shakespeare, with a cocktail reception and two-course dinner with wine. *Tickets: £30. Priority booking for Friends of ROSL ARTS.*

**Scottish members' dinner****Friday 14 June, 7 for 7.30pm**

Ken MacIntosh MSP will be the

speaker at this three-course dinner, with wine, coffee and a reception drink. *Tickets: £31.*

**Arts lunch****Wednesday 26 June, 12 for 12.30pm**

Two-course lunch with coffee and a glass of wine, with a talk on 'The Sistema Music Project in Scotland' by Francis Cummings, Sistema Scotland Music Director. *Tickets: £18; non-members £20.*

**JULY****Scottish members' London visit****Friday 19 - Monday 22 July**

For details, see notice boards at Over-Seas House Edinburgh.

**AUGUST****Festival lunch****Wednesday 7 August, 12 for 12.30pm**

Distinguished actor John Cairney returns to present his Burns paintings, exhibited in the

Observation Bar. With a two-course lunch and a glass of wine. *Tickets: £20; non-members £22.*

**Edinburgh International Festival Fringe 2013****Monday 12 - Friday 23 August**

Now in its 14th year, Music @ 100 Princes Street returns for its critically acclaimed sell-out series, presenting 30 concerts in two weeks, including the popular Bach for Breakfast and Mozart at Teatime. The 2013 series includes performances by Ashley Fripp piano, Ben Schoeman piano, Yelian He cello, Yasmin Rowe piano, the Rothko Quartet, Busch Ensemble, Kausikan Rajeshkumar piano, and Benjamin Baker violin.

*Tickets: £12; Friends of ROSL ARTS and concessions £10.*

For a full programme see [www.roslarts.org.uk](http://www.roslarts.org.uk) or contact ROSL ARTS from July. To book call +44 (0)131 225 1501 or email [reception@rosl-edinburgh.org](mailto:reception@rosl-edinburgh.org).

**Dress code: smart/casual for events; lounge suit for lunch or dinner.**

**SCREENPRINT:**  
'Rocks' by Laura Gressani of Edinburgh Printmakers

**Exhibition at Over-Seas House****Friday 19 July - Sunday 8 September. Private View, Thursday 18 July, 6pm.**

An exciting selection of contemporary art by Edinburgh Printmakers, showcasing printmaking in all its forms. Enjoy beautiful lithographs and etchings, bold screenprints and intricate relief prints by artists including Shelagh Atkinson, Roberta Buchan, Robert Crozier, Laura Gressani and Ana Speedie. *Admission free.*



© Laura Gressani



# Food & drink: London

**Henley Royal Regatta**  
**3-7 July**

Enjoy this quintessentially English event with a special ROSL members' discount package at the seafood restaurant in the Regatta enclosure. Watch the races while sipping champagne and tucking into our delicious seafood platter on this beautiful stretch of the Thames.

*Tickets: £145. Special members' price includes a Regatta Enclosure badge; exclusive table reservation all day; a glass of champagne on arrival; three-course lunch; Henley afternoon tea; and drinks (Pimm's, house wine, beer and soft drinks) from midday to 7pm.*

*Travel to and from London not included. Reservations: [jessica.taube@graysonsrestaurants.com](mailto:jessica.taube@graysonsrestaurants.com); +44 (0)20 7629 0406.*

**EXCLUSIVE ACCESS:**  
Henley Royal Regatta (right)

**SUMMER SUN:** The stunning ROSL Garden (below)



© iStock

**ROSL Garden**  
**Full garden menu available from 20 May**

Unwind in the sunshine this summer in our peaceful, decked garden. This year, in response to requests for lighter dishes, we are introducing a new à la carte menu. Members now have the choice of a light snack or dishes from our two- and three-course menus. *One course from £7.25; two courses £18.95; three courses £24.95.*

# 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.

The Discussion Group does not meet in August and September.

## Winning the war, winning the peace

10 June

How can we reconcile the warring parties involved in modern-day conflicts? ROSL Director-General Roddy Porter will talk about his experiences of reconciling militias and communities at war in Bosnia and Iraq. This talk, originally given in February, is repeated for the benefit of members who were disappointed to miss it.

## The future of Muslim/non-Muslim relations in Britain

15 July

With Dr Matthew Wilkinson, Director of Curriculum for Cohesion, which aims to develop humanities education in the UK.

**PICTURESQUE:** Hever Castle and Gardens (below and right)

## LONDON GROUP

Meetings and outside visits are open to currently subscribed London Group members and their occasional guests. ROSL members staying overnight at Over-Seas House London are also welcome. To become a member of the London Group, ask for an application form from the London Group Executive Vice-Chairman c/o Porters' Desk at Over-Seas House.

## Meetings

Held monthly on Thursdays, 6-7pm, in the Mountbatten Room, Over-Seas House London. *Meetings coincide with the members' monthly half-price drinks night in the ROSL bar.*

## Education goes global

20 June

With Frances King, Headmistress of Roedean School in Brighton, one of the leading independent girls' schools in the country.

## A century at the centre: Methodist Central Hall and its ministers

18 July

With Rev Martin Turner, Superintendent Minister at

Westminster Central Hall, who grew up in Essex and had few links with the church until he attended a 'tent crusade' as a young man.

## The mutiny on The Bounty

15 August

Journalist, critic and broadcaster Richard Fitzwilliams is an expert on The Bounty and has a family connection with Captain Bligh. His talk will reveal the truth behind the most famous mutiny of all time.

## Outside visits

For information and to apply for events, write to Doreen Regan, London Group, c/o Porters' Desk, Over-Seas House, London SW1A 1LR. Please send a cheque for the appropriate amount (payable to London Group, Royal Over-Seas League) and a stamped, addressed envelope. Tickets will be sent out 10 days in advance.

## Coach visit to Hever Castle & Gardens

Wednesday 4 September, 10am-6pm

Explore more than 700 years of history at this 13th-century castle, which was the childhood home of Anne Boleyn. The building has a double moat and drawbridge, splendid panelled rooms containing fine furniture and tapestries, and an important collection of Tudor portraits, among other treasures.

*Tickets: LG members £44; guests £46. Lunch and tea are provided but are not included in the price.*

## Tour of the new Broadcasting & TV Studios at the BBC

Tuesday 15 October

Further details tba.

**WESTMINSTER:** Methodist Central Hall (bottom)

## Contact details

**Discussion Group:** John Edwards, +44 (0)1732 883556, johncoatedward@aol.com

**London Group:** Clive Carpenter, +44 (0)7798 824193, clivedavidcarpenter@compuserve.com



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\*\*\*\* Deluxe**

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Its 102 rooms are all furnished in the Louis XV style. Original furniture, paintings and antiques adorn the bedrooms, elegant lounge and Michelin-star restaurant.

*3 nights for the price of 2 from 1 July to 29 August - price from £622, saving £180*

*Includes 48 hr Paris museum pass, Seine river cruise & metro tickets*

### LAKE MAGGIORE

**Grand Hotel Majestic, Pallanza \*\*\*\* Deluxe**

The town of Pallanza, an hour's drive from Milan Malpensa airport has one of the most beautiful locations on Lake Maggiore. Built in 1870 as one of the private residences of the noble Borromeo family and still privately-owned, the Grand Majestic is five minutes' walk from the town in an idyllic setting on a private promontory and is a real haven of tranquillity. It is set in beautiful formal gardens with wonderful views of the mountains and the picturesque island of San Giovanni from many of the rooms. There is an indoor swimming pool, a tennis court and a small private beach.



*5 nights for the price of 4 to 11 July and from 30 August to 5 October - price from £894, saving £100*

*7 nights for the price of 6 from 12 July to 29 August - price from £1,360, saving £125*

### LISBON

**Lapa Palace \*\*\*\*\* Deluxe**

Built in the 19th Century for a noble Portuguese family, this is Lisbon's most luxurious and sumptuously furnished hotel. Set in beautiful landscaped gardens, the hotel has indoor and outdoor heated swimming pools (open all year), health spa, a gastronomic restaurant, a bar and 109 individually decorated rooms (many with balcony). Located to the west of the city centre (10 minutes by taxi).

*4 nights for the price of 3 in July & August - price from £994, saving £200*



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

### TUSCANY

**Castello Banfi \*\*\*\*\* Deluxe**

Castello Banfi is set in 7,000 hectares of land in the Montalcino region and, thanks to its famous brunello vintages is one of the country's most important wine producers. The hotel is formed from a restored 17th Century village and has just 14 beautiful bedrooms. There is a fabulous infinity swimming pool, a wonderful restaurant and an enoteca serving Tuscan delicacies. The beautiful hill town of Montalcino is 16 kilometres away.

*4 nights for the price of 3 in August - price from £1,132, saving £214. Includes a complimentary 5-course welcome dinner with wine tasting.*



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**8 MARCH 2014**

*Wozzeck by Berg  
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with Jonas Kaufmann in the title role  
Price from £2,678 per person*

**23 MARCH 2014**

*Andrea Chénier by Giordano  
La Sonnambula by Bellini  
La Bohème by Puccini  
Price from £2,678 per person*

**26 APRIL 2014**

*La Cenerentola by Rossini  
I Puritani by Bellini  
Così fan tutte by Mozart  
Price from £2,820 per person*

*Prices are per person including BA flights, transfers, five nights' accommodation, three operas and two dinners, one at The Met's own Grand Tier restaurant. Single supplement on request.*

*We are also planning a New York Opera holiday for this Autumn - please ask for details. If you prefer, we can also arrange a tailor-made independent holiday on a date of your choice.*

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