

OVERSEAS

Quarterly journal of the ROSL

Issue 2, June-August 2014



In remembrance

Special issue to commemorate WWI, including ROSL's remarkable war effort

Better every time

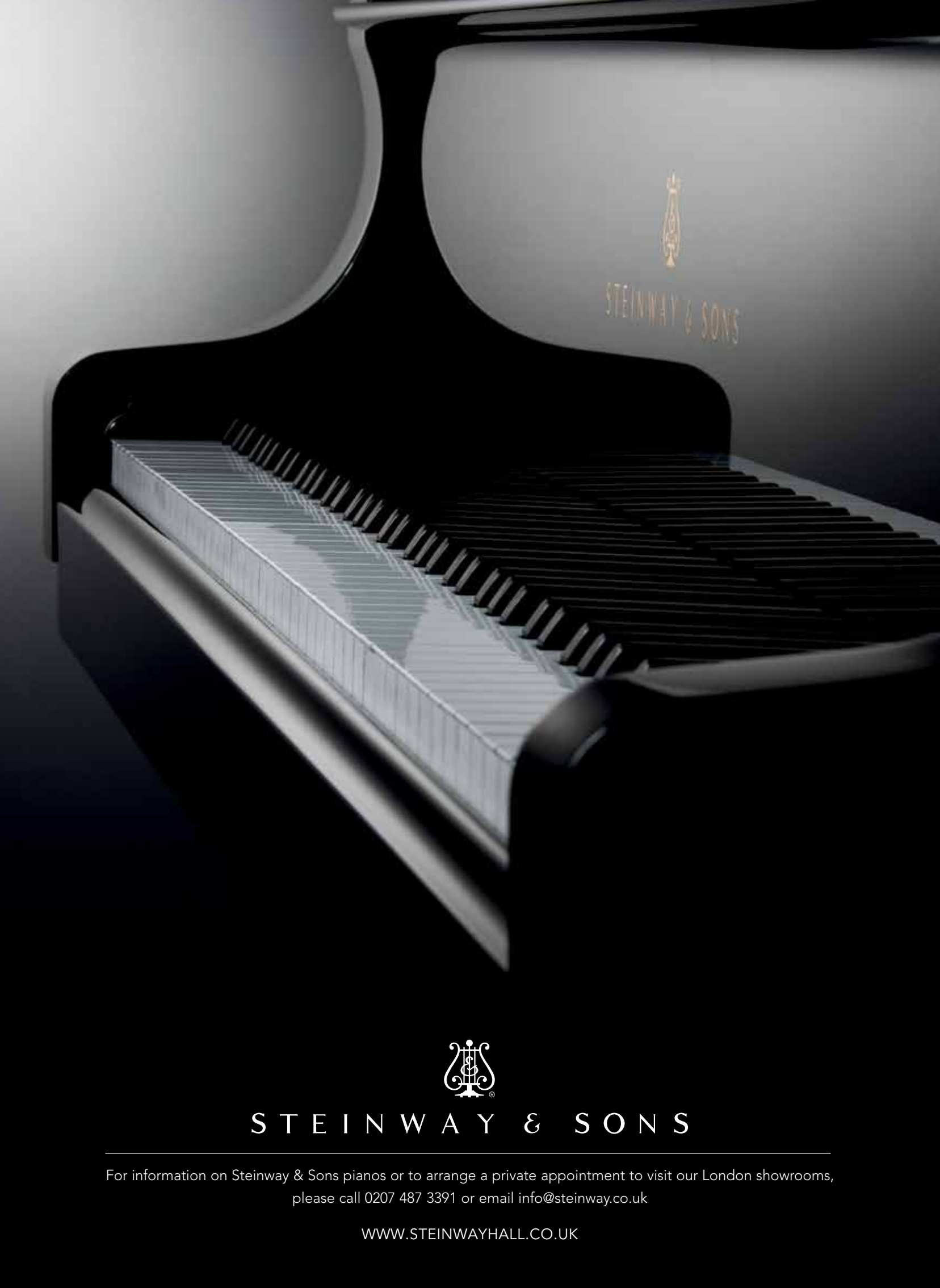
Guide to improvements at ROSL, from top wines to the newly renovated Brabourne Room

All aboard

Revealing the Victoria Line's best-kept secrets, with theatre, art, magic and more

String extravaganza

Don't miss ROSL's unique collaboration with the Edinburgh International Festival



STEINWAY & SONS

For information on Steinway & Sons pianos or to arrange a private appointment to visit our London showrooms, please call 0207 487 3391 or email info@steinway.co.uk

WWW.STEINWAYHALL.CO.UK



OVERSEAS

ISSUE 2 June-August 2014

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

Overseas editorial team

Editor Ms Miranda Moore

Deputy Editor Ms Christine Wilde:

+44 (0)20 7408 0214 x205; cwilde@rosl.org.uk

Design Ms Hannah Talmage

Display advertisements Mr David Jeffries:

+44 (0)20 8674 9444; djeffries@onlymedia.co.uk

Royal Over-Seas League

Incorporated by Royal Charter

Patron Her Majesty The Queen

Vice-Patron Her Royal Highness

Princess Alexandra KG GCVO

President The Rt Hon the Lord Luce KG GCVO DL

Chairman Sir Anthony Figgis KCVO CMG*

Vice-Chairman Sir Roger Carrick KCMG LVO*

Hon Treasurer Mr Simon Ward FCA*

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

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

Central Council

Miss Farah Amin, Mr Graham Archer CMG*,
Mrs Mae Barr MBE, Prof Monojit Chatterji, Mr Sohail
Choudhry, Nik Raof Daud, Mr John Edwards CMG,
Mr David Fall CMG*, Mrs Patricia Farrant*, Mr Simon
Gimson LVO, Mr Peter Hamlyn*, Mr John Harbor FCA*,
Miss Maureen Howley MBE*, Mr David Jamieson,
Mrs Frances King, Miss Sheila MacTaggart LVO,
Dr Edmund Marshall, Mr David Nicholson,
Miss Caroline Roddis, Ms Lindsay Ross, Mrs Judith
Steiner, Mr Geoffrey Thompson OBE, Mr Frank Wibaut
*Executive Committee

Director-General Maj Gen Roddy Porter MBE:

+44 (0)20 7408 0214 x201

Director of Admin and Finance Mr Shakil Tayub:

+44 (0)20 7408 0214 x209

Director of Marketing Ms Gemma Matthews:

+44 (0)20 7408 0214 x204; gmatthews@rosl.org.uk

Director of Humanitarian and Education Projects

Ms Margaret Adrian-Vallance MBE:

+44 (0)20 7408 0214 x307; mvallance@rosl.org.uk

Director of Arts Mr Roderick Lakin MBE:

+44 (0)20 7408 0214 x325; culture@rosl.org.uk

Asst. to D-G Ms Arabella Beresford-Mitchell:

+44 (0)20 7408 0214 x201;

aberesford-mitchell@rosl.org.uk

Membership Secretary Mrs Angela Farago:

+44 (0)20 7408 0214 x214; afarago@rosl.org.uk

Catering Operations Director

Ms Louise Leighton-Rees: +44 (0)7809 322 591;

louise.leighton-rees@graysonsrestaurants.com

Edinburgh House Manager Mr Daniel Campbell:

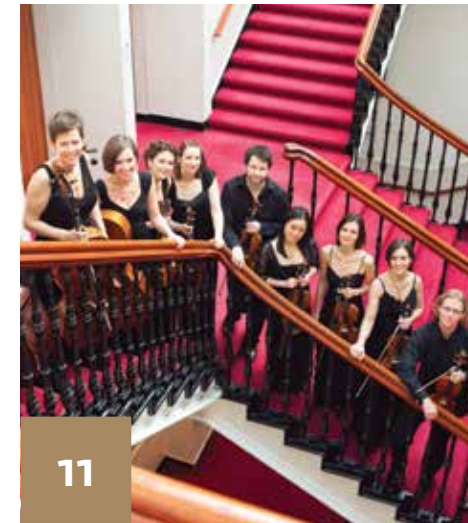
reception@rosl-edinburgh.org

Print Hastings Printing Company:

+44 (0)1424 720 477



The journal is published by the Royal Over-Seas League, Over-Seas
House, Park Place, St James's Street, London SW1A 1LR. Any views
expressed in editorial and any advertisements included are not
necessarily endorsed by the Central Council. ISSN 00307424



11

From the Director-General; Editor's letter 4

World

A Legion of support 5

Peter Wilkinson, National President of the
British Legion, explains why it's vital to include
young people in the remembrance programme

ROSL in the Great War 6

We look at ROSL's remarkable war effort, from
fundraising to the donation of 172 military planes,
in our special Focus commemorating the outbreak
of WWI; with a timeline of the main events in 1914

United in memory 8

How the Imperial War Museum is leading the
First World War Centenary Partnership

My Darjeeling 9

ROSL member Deepali Gaskell's tips for a
trip to India's famous tea-growing region

ROSL news

Chairman's report 10

Sir Anthony Figgis looks back at 2013 and
reports on the key happenings at ROSL

Commonwealth Strings 11

A unique collaboration uniting Commonwealth
and Scottish musicians that should not be missed

For the future 12

Support in Edinburgh for two charities working
with children in Scotland, Malawi and beyond

ROSL support in Botswana . . 13

Overview of our humanitarian projects in Africa

Bright young things 13

Younger Members celebrate Women's Day

OVERSEAS



25

Members' benefits 14

Find out more about improvements at the
London clubhouse, including the Brabourne
Room, and meet Catering Manager Gosia Struska

Prize support for writing talent 17

How the Caine Prize fosters emerging talent;
with reviews of recent books by ROSL members

News and views 18

Pictures of recent activities at the clubhouses

Branches: what's on? 20

Details of forthcoming events in your area;
plus 'Meet the South Australia Branch'

In the UK

Victoria's secrets 22

From local theatre to magic, discover some of the
lesser-known attractions along the Victoria Line

Secret arts this summer . . . 24

Our art critic's choice of the most exciting
exhibitions near to the clubhouses

London and Edinburgh Top 10 24

Our recommendations for the summer

War stories 25

Step inside the award-winning Imperial War
Museum North on Manchester Ship Canal

Events

ROSL calendar 28-34

All of ROSL's fantastic events, one handy calendar

Full booking information and contact details 34

Still unsure how to book? Find out here

FRONT COVER: Pilots recuperating at the RFC hospital supported by the Over-Seas Club

From the Director-General

As I write, I can reflect on a wonderful early and post-diluvial spring, which has seen the London parks and our garden flourish. London in spring is a picture and we have not only enjoyed clement weather but also a very busy time in the clubhouses. It seems that ROSL members are out and about in larger numbers than usual, and it has been a pleasure to welcome many people to our events in recent days. The Music Competition has been spectacular, with a rousing final in May.

This issue focuses on our events to commemorate the start of the First World War. We do so without seeking to glamorise these events; rather we will try to understand better what happened through our Discussion Group programme, and reflect with pride and thanks on the sacrifice and service of people from across the Commonwealth of Nations, and on the remarkable contribution that ROSL itself made to support soldiers at the front and the developing Royal Flying Corps (see page 6).

In addition to our programme of lectures, two events stand out: our Battlefield Tour to Champagne, where we will examine some of the significant events of 1914 with renowned military historian Michael Orr (see page 31); and our Act of Remembrance at Over-Seas House, which will take place on Tuesday 4 November (see page 34). I can announce that the Dean of Westminster, a ROSL Vice-President, will be participating.

Other events on the horizon include a plan to take a small party of members to Rioja, where we will visit three *bodegas* over a long autumn weekend and experience the finest that Rioja has to offer (see page 34).

MAKING IMPROVEMENTS: The Director-General cuts a cake to celebrate the reopening of the Brabourne Room following the refurbishment



I would be grateful for expressions of interest now. We are also planning our first ROSL Summer Ball for some years (see page 29), and we hope you will be excited about joining fellow members for this memorable evening on 28 June.

The Buttery has been renamed the Brabourne Room in recognition of Doreen, the Lady Brabourne, who was a long-standing member of the Central Council. The refurbishments to the Brabourne Room and the Bar are part of a long-term programme to lift both clubhouses, and provide comfortable and relaxing facilities without detracting from the buildings' architectural glory. The programme, which includes all the public rooms and the bedrooms, will take some time to complete because we cannot do everything at once, and each project is expensive.

As our Chairman explains on page 10, we are meeting these costs through modest increases to the subscription rate and an effort to generate a surplus in our operation. I am focused on ensuring that you receive real value from your membership and that each visit to the clubhouses is a pleasure. I am also concentrating on making sure that the revenue we receive works hard to increase the benefits you receive through improved facilities.

There is a great deal to enjoy this summer, so I encourage you to read the Events pages with care (see pages 28-34). And please sample our new Garden menu, including – for the first time – some hot food options; and the fruit of our new agreement with the champagne house Château Gardet.

Roddy Porter

Editor's letter

Waltham Forest has proved a surprisingly cultured place to live – something that is reflected in the current soaring house prices. Every June, local artists open their doors for the two-week E17 Art Trail (www.e17arttrail.co.uk), while the award-winning William Morris Gallery has had exhibitions by world-renowned artists Jeremy Deller, David Bailey and Grayson Perry since it reopened in 2012. Coming from the north, Walthamstow Central is the first stop on the Victoria Line, which travels west to Green Park and on to Brixton in the south. It is therefore pleasing to be able to showcase some of the line's best-kept secrets in this issue (page 22).

In 2001, as a young Deputy Editor of *Overseas*, I went to Manchester to write a review of some of the highlights of the regenerating city. I was fortunate enough to be given a tour of Daniel Libeskind's striking aluminium-clad building for the Imperial War Museum (IWM) North prior to its opening – and even before the exhibits had arrived. Its optical illusions, which make straight walls appear to slope and turn visitors into 'giants' as they go down shrinking passageways, have stayed with me. Our current Deputy Editor, Christine Wilde, takes us back with a review on page 25, while Gina Koutsika, IWM Head of National and International Programmes, explains why the museum is leading an international partnership to commemorate the First World War (page 8).

Although I have read much about ROSL's war effort in Adele Smith's excellent *History* of the club, I never fail to be inspired by the generosity, energy and dedication of members in supporting the troops. Such was ROSL's involvement that our timeline of the club's contribution is too long for just one issue. Instead, we will include a timeline for each year (2014-2018) over four issues.

The spirit of charity that has always been part of ROSL is as strong as ever, and it is warming to hear how your support is helping young people around the world. This time, we focus on our projects in Botswana (page 13), as well as work by Cobbs, who run the Edinburgh clubhouse, to support children's charities in Scotland and beyond (page 12).

Miranda Moore



FAMILY LIFE: A serviceman returns from a tour of duty



FOCUS

A Legion of support

Peter Wilkinson, National President of the British Legion, on the charity's remembrance programme, and why it is so important to include young people

This year is an important one for the Royal British Legion and for the nation as a whole. August marks the centenary of Britain's entry into the conflict that would lead to the founding of our charity in 1921. The Legion was started by veterans of the First World War who were changed mentally and physically by the conflict, but had little State help to support them. They adopted the poppy as their symbol of remembrance and hope, and on 4 August the Legion will be at the forefront of centenary commemorations.

As the UK's Custodian of Remembrance, the Legion will be leading the nation in respecting the sacrifices of the First World War and remembering all those who served from British, Dominion and Imperial forces from countries including the UK, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, India and South Africa. We especially want to involve young people, ensuring that they understand the importance of remembering those who went before them and the relevance of the conflict to their lives today.

The Legion has Heritage Lottery funding to send a free pack of poppy seeds and remembrance heritage



SYMBOL OF HOPE: Students pin poppies to their uniforms to mark D-Day

information to schools throughout the UK, highlighting the events to a modern audience. The campaign has the backing of Prime Minister David Cameron, as well the Department for Culture, Media and Sport, and will see swathes of red poppies blooming in gardens across the country. This grant has also enabled us to appoint a full-time Ambassador Training Coordinator for a year. This new role, focused on remembrance, will support training activities for more than 500 volunteer ambassadors, who will represent the charity to a wide range of communities across the UK, including schools and youth groups, bringing remembrance to people nationwide.

We will also be sending out our award-winning free Learning Pack to 50,000 schools and educational institutions in the UK and overseas. The pack features an essay on the First World War by world-leading historian Professor Sir Hew Strachan, as well as a wide range of resources, such as assembly outlines, poems, activities and video content to support many subjects of the National Curriculum and highlight the events to a modern audience.

As we come together to remember the events of a century ago, we are reminded that the problems facing veterans when they returned to the UK after the First World War continue to affect serving personnel and veterans today. Whether they are living with bereavement or disability, finding employment, or coping with financial stress, the Legion is still here for the whole Armed Forces family.

IN MEMORY:

The children of Dunbarton Primary School remember lives lost, using material from the Legion's free Learning Pack (above); and a recruitment poster from the 1920s (below)



Swathes of red poppies will bloom in gardens across the country

ROSL in the Great War

Christine Wilde looks at how the war shaped the club's ethos, as members donated £1 million and 172 planes

ROSL, then known as the Over-Seas Club, was approaching its fourth anniversary when the First World War was declared in 1914. This event, which had a seismic impact on the world at large, was instrumental in shaping the development and ethos of Evelyn Wrench's fledgling organisation. Since founding the club in 1910, Wrench had been committed to uniting his global membership. The advent of war only reinforced his belief in the need for solidarity between the peoples of the British Empire, which became manifest in the Over-Seas Club's war effort.

In September 1914, the Over-Seas Tobacco and Comforts Fund became the first of many such funds established by the club in response to the 'urgent needs of the troops in the coming winter'. The aim was to ensure 'contact between the soldiers at the front and the residents overseas', and the scheme was a huge success.

In his memoir, *Struggle*, Wrench recalled how the 'dirty bank notes, parcels of silver coins, postal orders and money orders from every country... came in a steady flow through my office. Subscribers sent in jewellery and trinkets to be sold. A farmer in Rhodesia put up an ox for auction and sent us the proceeds'. By the end of September 1918, thousands of hampers and more than 300 million cigarettes had been distributed to Allied forces serving on all fronts.

Soon after, the Soldiers' and Sailors' Fund and the Belgian Soldiers' Fund were launched, raising £7,000 (equivalent to £503,000 today) in their first year. As well as providing essentials for troops and prisoners of war, this money was used to satisfy individual requests, ranging

from socks and shaving kits to footballs and gramophones. Many recipients sent letters of gratitude, which were regularly published in the monthly editions of *Overseas*.

Launched in December 1915, the journal was the main form of communication with 'friends overseas', promoting the fundraising efforts of both the Over-Seas Club and its sister organisation, the Patriotic League of Britons Overseas. It also helped to consolidate international ties by acknowledging the vital contributions and sacrifices made by the soldiers of the British Empire.

Early in 1915, Wrench received permission from the Army Council to organise an Over-Seas Aircraft Fund. Members were encouraged to raise money to purchase aeroplanes for the Royal Flying Corps (RFC), which would then be named after their district. In May, Evelyn Wrench visited the Royal Aircraft Factory at Farnborough to see the first plane donated by the club. Lady Des Voeux (whom he later married) was taken for a flight in the newly christened 'Overseas No 1', becoming one of the first women in England to fly in a military aircraft.

By July 1915, four more planes had been presented to the RFC; they were named by Queen Alexandra, who became an active Patron of the fund. The scheme gained momentum, and the following year 54 planes – with names such as Montreal, Yangtse Valley, Jamaica, British

ROYAL PATRONAGE:

Queen Alexandra names four of the planes donated by the Over-Seas Club, with Founder Evelyn Wrench and Chairman Sir Ernest Birch, on 3 July 1915 (below)



CLUB SUPPORT: One of the Over-Seas Club planes (above); and E A Adams, the club's Junior Hall Porter, pictured in the December 1916 issue of *Overseas* (top)



GLOBAL CONFLICT: Troops pass into Trafalgar Square through the Admiralty Arch on Anzac Day 1916

Guiana and Pretoria – were put into action. In 1917, Wrench himself was commissioned into the RFC, reaching the rank of Major during his service.

As the war continued and the lists of casualties lengthened, Wrench did all he could to ensure that the Over-Seas Club responded to the plight of the soldiers, sailors and airmen on the frontline. Funds were raised for the Red Cross and the RFC Convalescent Home, while money was set aside for the distribution of 5 million leaflets in neutral countries, presenting the Allied point of view with the aim of counteracting German propaganda.

Overwhelmed by the continued generosity of members, Wrench expressed his gratitude in the August 1917 issue of *Overseas*: 'Every contributor took the splendid cause of our brave airmen to his or her own heart. How can we thank you, our generous friends over-seas? How can we make you realise the amount of pain and suffering you are easing?'

Another triumph was the Children's Pennies Scheme. In the lead up to Empire Day 1915, the Over-Seas Club presented a certificate to all school children in Britain who brought in a penny to help buy comforts for the troops. The appeal was met with an enthusiastic response. According to *The Daily Mail* (21 May, 1915), the club received 'over two thousand letters and telegrams' in a day, and a total of £10,000 (equivalent to £719,000 today) in pennies was raised. The scheme was repeated the following year, with nearly 3 million children taking part.

Throughout the war, the Over-Seas Club and Patriotic League of Britons Overseas received recognition for their philanthropic efforts from King George V, Queen Alexandra the Queen Mother, Prime Ministers Asquith and Lloyd George, and Field Marshal Douglas Haig. Wrench was personally thanked for his loyal service to the war effort and appointed CMG. By the end of the war, the Over-Seas League (as the newly amalgamated Over-Seas Club and Patriotic League of Britons Overseas was known) had raised more than £1 million (equivalent to £40 million today) for the troops, and contributed 172 aeroplanes and seaplanes to the RFC.

In 1921, the League purchased Vernon House using the Over-Seas War Memorial Fund, which had been set up in 1916. The building was 'dedicated to the memory of the men of the Old Country and from Overseas who made the great sacrifice'. It serves as a permanent War Memorial and a tribute to the 'bonds of friendship' and 'service to others' that Evelyn Wrench hoped to achieve.

To find out more, read Adele Smith's *History of ROSL's first 100 years*.

1914

WWI timeline



Archduke Franz Ferdinand assassinated in Sarajevo, Bosnia

Austria-Hungary declares war on Serbia; Germany declares war on Russia, France and Belgium; Britain declares war on Germany.

First British Expeditionary Forces land in France

Togoland campaign begins: France & Britain invade German colony

First Battle of Marne

First Battle of Aisne

First Indian Army troops arrive on the Western Front

First Battle of Ypres

Trenches established along the entire Western Front



Unofficial Christmas truce on Western Front



ROSL timeline

25 May (Empire Day)

First Over-Seas Club premises in Aldwych opened by Lord Mayor of London



28 June

28 July - 4 August

7 August

9 August



Over-Seas Club Tobacco Fund founded

14 September

26 September



19 October

22 November

Evelyn Wrench receives proofs of first edition of *Overseas*

24 November

Evelyn Wrench registers under 'Lord Derby Scheme'

25 December

Over-Seas Red Cross Fund established towards the end of 1914 (exact date unknown)



United in memory

As 2,500 organisations unite to commemorate WWI, Gina Koutsika outlines the Imperial War Museum's role in supporting this partnership programme

At the Imperial War Museum (IWM), we have been planning the First World War centenary commemorations for more than three years. Our history is inseparable from that of the Great War. We were founded in March 1917 and began collecting before the fighting had ended. Our intention then, as it is now, was to collect and display material as a record of people's experiences during the war – civilian and military – and to commemorate the sacrifices of all sections of society. With WWI now outside living memory, our collections are the voice of those veterans and eye witnesses whose stories they tell. It is our responsibility to share them with the public.

Our research into the public's perceptions of WWI and its centenary showed that audiences are interested in understanding the war and participating in remembrance. IWM's history, collections and expertise in engaging the public mean we are best placed to lead the cultural commemorations. However, we are not alone. There is a wealth of experience around the world, and the most sensible and effective way to respond to the centenary was for us to work in partnership. Together we are stronger, more visible and better able to reach, inspire and engage a much wider audience.

With that in mind, we developed the First World War Centenary Partnership, adopting a model that is both inclusive and democratic. Membership is free, everyone has an equal voice and any not-for-profit organisation can join. Through the partnership, we bring together communities and organisations of different sizes across the world.

We currently have around 2,500 local, regional, national and international organisations from 45 countries, including Australia, Canada, Germany, Namibia and South Africa, reflecting the global nature of the war. Members vary from museums, galleries, libraries and archives to universities and colleges; from embassies and governmental bodies to local community groups; from performing arts to specialist societies. ROSL joined in March 2013.

As the months go by, we hope that all the countries involved in the conflict will join and have the possibility to connect with each other.

Together, we can provide a vibrant global programme of cultural events and activities, and a digital platform for a wide audience, creating a legacy for future generations.

You can recognise the partnership programme by our brand mark, which is available for our members to use in their cultural and educational



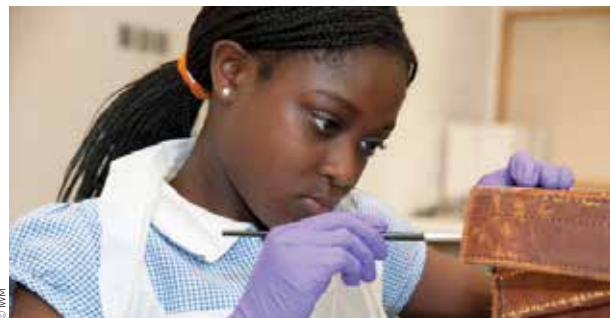
initiatives, alongside their own logos. We have selected and curated a number of resources for members to use: the broad sweep of WWI history is covered by 100 labelled digital assets from the IWM collections, including photographs, images of objects, documents and sound archives; historic timelines highlight all the major wartime events; and DIY exhibitions can be downloaded and displayed chronologically or thematically. We have also brought together a range of useful guides to help organisations with their centenary planning, including advice on collecting, research, communications and sharing key information.

See www.1914.org for more information.

Gina Koutsika heads IWM's National and International Programmes and Projects Department. Her remit includes projects such as the First World War Centenary and Film Festival, as well as evaluation, digital learning and corporate learning.

REACHING OUT: The Heritage Lottery Fund learning project 'Young Reporters', part of Transforming IWM London, engages school children (above and below left); and (below) IWM encourages the public to participate in a collective act of remembrance

Together we are stronger and better able to inspire a much wider audience



DEEPA LI GASKELL'S Darjeeling



GARDEN VISIT: Deepali looks at China bushes

What do you love most about Darjeeling?

It is a fabulously beautiful place. The imposing panoramic presence of the Kangchenjunga range is mesmerising. The smells wafting from the stables and the whiff of *chhang* (a local rice wine) add to its charm. Its character is a melange of Nepalese and Tibetan cultural influences.

What activities would you recommend to someone visiting for the first time?

Wandering along the Mall, soaking in the atmosphere and browsing in the little shops selling tea and handicrafts. Visiting the iconic tea gardens and seeing the tea being picked by the colourfully clad women is very worthwhile.

The colourful Buddhist monasteries are a must-see; the stupendous Kangchenjunga range (the third-highest in the world) and the ice-capped peaks dominating the northern horizon; a ride on the Toy Train – the small-gauge Darjeeling Himalayan Railway – is an experience to treasure; or a dawn trip to the Tiger Hill peak for a view of Mount Everest. For the more energetic, the Himalayan Mountaineering Institute organises treks.

The area is famous for its teas. What are your favourite local delicacies?

Darjeeling tea is unique – the champagne of teas. When I was developing Heritage Teas UK, I selected teas particularly from the higher slopes of the tea-growing Himalayan Darjeeling region, which produces the exquisitely delicate Darjeeling tea, so naturally this is my favourite. The Makaibari

garden is where the world's very first tea factory was set up.

Local Tibetan food, such as *momos* (pork dumplings), and *thukpa* soup have become a delicacy throughout India.

Darjeeling is known as a retreat from the heat of the cities. When is the best time to visit?

May was traditionally the preferred time. Monsoon months (mid-

June to September) are best avoided. Even during the winter (December to March), the clear skies and crisp, cold weather have a special appeal for holidaymakers from the plains.

Founder of Heritage Teas UK, Deepali Gaskell has been a ROSL member for more than 10 years. Visit www.heritageteasuk.com to purchase her specialist range. Interview by Christine Wilde.



NATURAL BEAUTY: A tea picker at work (top); and the ice-capped peaks of the Kangchenjunga range (above)

HERITAGE SITE: Darjeeling Toy Train



Call: 01653 916303
www.operatoursitaly.com
info@operatoursitaly.com

Features of our tours:

- Very best seats at iconic opera venues
- Unique pre-opera talks by Andrew Wright
- No single supplement charged
- Hand picked, high quality hotels
- Fully escorted by Opera Tours Italy representative
- Walking tours of local area
- Lunch at local vineyard
- Fully bonded

Testimonials

"Great value and great fun for a group tour. It felt a really personal experience and everything was of an extremely high quality" - John L.

"Everyone was so helpful and friendly. As a solo traveler I enjoyed the whole time of being looked after and feeling one of the family. I can't wait for the next adventure" - Amanda H.

"Pre-opera talks excellent and we very much appreciated the effort put into helping us with our trips. We should get wider credit for it" - Sophie C.

Opera Tours 2014

- **Verona 17-21st July**
Carmen & Aida
- **Lucca 23rd-27th July**
Puccini Festival
Madame Butterfly & La Bohème

Chairman's report

Sir Anthony Figgis looks back at a year of refurbishments and consolidation

After the excitements of the last three years (with ROSL's centenary, The Queen's Jubilee and the Olympics), the Council might have felt justified in trotting into a sunlit meadow, to crop the grasses of idleness. But instead, new challenges arose in 2013, especially from our splendid buildings in London and Edinburgh.

We are lucky to have these buildings. Together with our arts and educational activities, they are the heart and soul of ROSL. But they need constant and costly care. And, as detailed in the accounts, we have had to spend large sums on the maintenance of 100 Princes Street in Edinburgh. After careful consideration and consultation, we also embarked on an extensive programme of refurbishment at Over-Seas House London.

In Edinburgh, the costs have been met mainly by a new bank loan, and partly by LNCC (Cobbs), our contract partners, who manage the clubhouse on our behalf. In London, we have drawn on the Capital Reserve instituted during the year, and on bank facilities, and have been glad to share some of the costs with Graysons, our contract caterers.

This quick summary may make things look straightforward. But behind it lies a mass of detailed work, not only by the Director-General and our dedicated staff, but also by the Council and others around the world, who give their time and experience on a voluntary basis. I make

no apology for repeating in this report what I have said in earlier years: without their voluntary contribution, ROSL would simply fade away. We owe them sincere thanks.

Two bodies in particular deserve our gratitude this year: the Council Sub-Committee on Finance and the Sub-Committee on Buildings, chaired respectively by our Hon Treasurer, Simon Ward, and our Vice-Chairman, Sir Roger Carrick. We are truly grateful to them, and to all members of these sub-committees, as well as to the staff who have supported them so well. The Director-General is always pleased to hear from members who would be willing to serve on the Central Council or its subsidiary bodies.

Even after the new commitments we took on in 2013, our borrowings are modest – and that is as it should be. The Council took a hard decision in 2013 to increase the subscription for 2014 above the rate of inflation. I explained the background to that decision in a letter to members at the time: far from being a sign that ROSL is in any kind of difficulty, it was done with strong confidence in the future. I am delighted to say that membership renewals and new memberships so far in 2014 fully justify that confidence.

What about ROSL worldwide in 2013, our role in Commonwealth civil society, and our 'heart and soul' of the arts and education? The branches continue to flourish, with a wealth of local activities, including in music and the visual arts. We now support humanitarian projects in Namibia, Botswana and Kenya. The Director of Arts, Roderick Lakin, arranged a significant musical presence for us at CHOGM in Sri Lanka, the Music Competition in London attracted a record entry, and our series of concerts at the Edinburgh Festival was over-subscribed. So I can report that all is well, with heartfelt thanks and congratulations to all those members around the world who contribute to these growing successes.

Altogether, 2013 was a year of successful consolidation, rather than of spectacular celebration. But I think I speak for all members of the Council in saying that we look back on 2013 with pleasure, with some pride, and with gratitude towards our staff. We look forward to 2014 with every confidence.

Visit www.rosl.org.uk to download the Annual Report 2013 or email gmatthews@rosl.org to request a hard copy.

WARM WELCOME:

Sir Anthony Figgis (r) with the High Commissioner of New Zealand, guest speaker at the Central Council lunch on 31 March 2014



Beautiful Photography



Zuza Jungowska

professional photographer

tel: 0771 774 2960

www.beautifulphotography.biz

info@beautifulphotography.biz

Commonwealth Strings

Jonathan Mills, Edinburgh International Festival Director, and **Thorben Dittes**, Scottish Ensemble CEO, on a unique collaboration with ROSL ARTS

Jonathan Mills

The Edinburgh Festival is turning its attention to the relationship between culture and conflict this year, acknowledging the centenary of the outbreak of the First World War. Artists have a very important role to play in overcoming moments of conflict and returning to a more civilised state of mind and existence. The programme is filled with works that in some way defy the circumstances in which they were created. Shostakovich's *Leningrad* symphony was smuggled out of Leningrad, which was under siege at the time, performed on radio in Moscow and broadcast back into Leningrad.

The other dimension is the close ties between Scotland with the Commonwealth, and so we are featuring artists from Australia, Canada, New Zealand and South Africa, which is celebrating the 20th anniversary of its first truly democratic elections. Those countries have very strong cultural, social, political and strategic ties with the UK, and were part of the War due to a sense of shared sacrifice.

Among the projects from South Africa is *Inala*, a Zulu word meaning 'abundance of goodwill', which is a big dance piece with music from Ladysmith Black Mambazo. From Australia, we've got Back to Back Theatre's innovative and radical piece *Ganesh versus the Third Reich*, about the Hindu god going forward in time to accuse the leaders of the Third Reich of stealing the swastika, an ancient Hindu symbol of goodwill.

In collaboration with ROSL, we are creating Commonwealth Strings – an ensemble of great young instrumentalists, drawn from the various parts of the Commonwealth, several of whom have been supported at the beginning of their careers by ROSL. We included the *Double Concerto* by Michael Tippett because we felt it was important to present the various facets of artists' relationships with culture and conflict. To have a pacifist there along with freedom cries for war was crucial.

Thorben Dittes

To mark the Commonwealth Games in Glasgow, ROSL ARTS, the Scottish Ensemble (SE) and the Edinburgh International Festival (EIF) are collaborating on Commonwealth Strings, a project celebrating the wealth of talented young musicians from Commonwealth countries. The centrepiece is a Festival concert on 26 August in the Queen's Hall, Edinburgh, which will be broadcast live on BBC Radio 3, and will be followed by performances in Inverness (27 August), Dundee (28 August) and Snape Maltings, Aldeburgh (30 August).

The conversation started two years ago, when EIF were discussing how to weave the Games – which focus on young people – into their programming. There are many European outfits that showcase young classical talent at the highest level, but not so for Commonwealth musicians. For me, ROSL was the natural partner and Roderick Lakin, Director of Arts, has been indefatigable in leveraging ROSL's exceptional international connections to source the best young musicians from across the Commonwealth.

Our Artistic Director, Jonathan Morton, loves British music for strings, and this led to the idea of a mixed British/Commonwealth programme. This gave us the framework of doubling SE from 14 to 28 musicians, enabling us to perform Elgar's *Introduction and Allegro*, and Vaughan Williams' *Tallis Fantasia*. The Commonwealth is represented by Australian composer Peter Sculthorpe and a new EIF commission from the preeminent New Zealand composer Gareth Farr.

ROSL ARTS is proud to be supporting the participation of three ROSL Scholarship and Prize winners: Edward King cello (New Zealand), Ruben Palma cello (Australia) and Catherine Gray viola (Canada). See www.scottishensemble.co.uk/4,2144/news/commonwealth_strings/ for details, or visit www.edinburghfestivals.co.uk to find out more about events in Edinburgh.

IMPRESSIVE PERFORMANCE:
ROSL/Pettman scholars Edward King cello and John Paul Muir piano rehearse for the Australian Cello Awards auditions, held in October at Over-Seas House. King's audition DVD earned him a place in the final and so impressed Jonathan Morton, Scottish Ensemble Artistic Director, that he was offered a place in the Commonwealth Strings project

For the future

Willie Cameron on Cobbs' new commitment to support two children's charities at home and abroad

Cobbs' involvement with Glasgow 2014 made us think more deeply about our position within the Commonwealth. Taking the Games as our inspiration, we decided to work with two children's charities – one supporting sick children in Scotland and the other working with some of the world's poorest young people in Africa, Asia and beyond.

Based at the Royal Aberdeen Children's Hospital, the ARCHIE Foundation helps more than 100,000 sick children and their families every year in more than 20 hospitals across Scotland. 'We provide the extras that make such a difference for children when they are ill: highly skilled specialist staff, advanced medical equipment, emergency grants, family support and, of course, many, many toys,' says Chief Executive David Cunningham.

They also fund research into illnesses affecting Scottish children and, in partnership with Cobbs, have set up two cafés in the

Highlands to promote healthy eating. Profits are split equally between the two organisations.

Mary's Meals sets up school feeding programmes in areas where hunger and poverty prevent many children from gaining an education. 'By providing one daily meal in a place of education, Mary's Meals attracts chronically poor children into a classroom where they receive an education that can set them free from poverty later in life,' says Media and Communications Officer Jane Hamilton.

The charity began in a Malawian school in 2002 and now reaches more than 868,000 children in countries as diverse as Kenya, India, Uganda and Ecuador. It costs just £12.20 to feed a child for a whole school year.

Cobbs Director and ROSL Edinburgh House Manager Daniel Campbell held a successful charity dinner at the Edinburgh clubhouse in February, at which ROSL members raised more than £700 for Mary's Meals. 'We are extremely grateful to the Royal Over-Seas League for



REACHING OUT: One of Mary's Meals' feeding programmes at a primary school in Malawi (above); and the ARCHIE Foundation supports a child in pain (left)

helping us reach more children,' says Daniel Adams, Head of Fundraising for UK and Ireland. 'Our work would not be possible without the generosity of our supporters.'

What unites these two charities is the important work they do to make a difference to the lives of children in the Commonwealth. At Cobbs, we are proud that ROSL members in Scotland have been supporting our fundraising activities.

Email willie.cameron@cobbs.info for further details or to donate.

ROSL support in Botswana

Margaret Adrian-Vallance charts our work with three pioneering centres



SHOWCASE: Enterprise projects in the Okavango

The first centre ROSL began to support in Botswana grew out of a similarity with and proximity to our projects in the Namibian part of the Kalahari desert, where we have funded education bursaries, laptops, books and other resources. In 2011, the Botswana Training Authority (BOTA) asked ROSL to help fund public computers for remote communities near the Kalahari. Although this proved to be too expensive, we now support the work of TOCADI (Trust for Okavango Cultural and Development Initiatives), which works with BOTA to develop short-term courses on income generation and ecotourism.

TOCADI's other projects include a craft centre to showcase the work of villagers in the upper Okavango; an Okavango Heritage Trail, with each community offering a different cultural experience for tourists; a complex Shaikarawe Forestry Reserve project to help San (Bushmen) suffering high levels of poverty and food insecurity; new boreholes with walls to prevent elephant damage; and a TOCADI website and online shop to market local crafts.

We learnt about our second centre of support from ROSL member Sarah Ward. The pioneering Anne Stine's School in Molepolole has 24 pupils with a wide range of disabilities. The government pays teachers' salaries but other needs are met by donations, and sponsored uniforms and food are priorities. 'I also dream that we find a university to second us an educational psychiatrist as we do not have such a person in Botswana,' says Principal Nankie Kgosiemang.

The stunningly well organised St Peter's Pre-School Day Centre, near Gaborone, is our third centre of support. With its spotless classrooms, good discipline, vegetable garden and chapel, it prepares children from very poor backgrounds for entry into the state school system. Its challenges include irrigation, water charges and adequate food supplies.

ROSL projects are often in challenging and difficult areas and members' friendship, interest and support are always greatly valued and appreciated.

Email mvallance@rosl.org.uk for details or to support our humanitarian projects.



CRAFT CENTRE: Sustainable income



PROGRESS: YMs mark International Women's Day at First Thursdays drinks

Bright young things

YM Sohail Choudhry on International Women's Day and volunteer opportunities

I have been a ROSL member for more than five years and a member of the Central Council since 2011, and in that time I have met some wonderful people and made some great friends. Outside ROSL, I work in the gruelling banking sector and my hobbies include martial arts and the guitar.

The International Women's Day celebration at Over-Seas House London on 6 March, held in conjunction with Younger Members First Thursdays drinks, showcased the club's founding vision of being a 'brotherhood of individual men and women of diverse creeds and races'. The evening included guest speakers, discussions, and the sharing of ideas and thoughts. More than a hundred years ago, the suffragettes went to great lengths to fight for women's rights and gender equality, and although we have come a long way since those times, the evening reminded us that there is still much to do across the world.

First Thursdays are still going strong and there was much anticipation surrounding the refurbishment of the Bar. As well as the popular Inter-Club events, there are ROSL's own Younger Members events to look out for (see pages 28-34). Finally, I would encourage Younger Members to get involved in the life of the club by taking up volunteering opportunities – after all, this is your club and you really can make a difference.

INSPIRING: Sara Brouwer with speaker Hayfa Matar, from the Bahrain Embassy, who is a member of the Arab International Women's Forum



Discover the world's amazing wildlife with

WILD TRAVEL MAGAZINE

Try a subscription to Wild Travel today and enjoy 5 issues for just £5 - saving 75%

Wild Travel is your essential guide to the world's most amazing wildlife watching experiences. The magazine has everything you need to inspire your travels with wildlife news, kit reviews, trip reports, wildlife destination guides, conservation reports and field guides to individual species. Whether you've always wanted to see grizzly bears in Alaska, a pride of lions on the African plains or basking sharks off the Isle of Man then you've come to the right place!

Try Wild Travel today:

Visit www.subscriptionsave.co.uk/ROSL
 Call 0844 848 8874 and quote NWTRSL14

Lines are open Mon-Thurs and Fri-Sun, except Public Holidays. Call cost up to 3p/min plus setup fee from 3p/min. T&Cs: Wild Travel is published 12 times a year. Full cover price is £6.99. After your introductory period your print subscription will continue at a 35% saving on the cover price. Your digital subscription will continue at £3.99 by annual Direct Debit. Digital subscription starts straight away, your print subscription will start with the next available issue 10th March 2014.

Members' benefits

Meet Gosia

Why ROSL is a second home for Catering Services Manager **Gosia Struska**



How long have you worked at ROSL?

I love this place so I've stopped counting the time... It's been six years! I started as a Buttery Supervisor, then I

was made Buttery Manager. Now I am the Catering Services Manager, which puts me in charge of the service in the Restaurant, Brabourne Room (formerly the Buttery), Bar and Drawing Room, as well as room service and the summer service in the Garden.

Tell us about your day...

When I come to work I check to see how the morning service is going, and help out with breakfast. This gives me the opportunity to meet and greet members, to make sure that my team knows what to do, and to see what training they need. Then I pick up my office work and try to catch up with all my emails or go to any meetings I have to attend. I have been spending a lot of time working with Louise Leighton-Rees, Catering Operations Director, to help her with the refurbishment projects, which is great as I am learning a lot.

I normally try to be around for the lunch service, especially between 12 and 2pm,

which is the busiest time and the best time to see members. After lunch, I talk to the team and see if they need anything, or catch up with office work, including tasks to do with managing the staff and ordering stock. I am currently doing a part-time degree in Hospitality and Business Management, so when I get home I focus on my studies.

What do you enjoy most about working for ROSL?

It's like my second home. I enjoy talking to people and I think it's great that members know me by name and I know them. They treat me as part of the family.

How have the redevelopments changed the way you work?

We now have more space and the new table layout has helped us to create work divisions in the Brabourne Room for each team member to focus on. This enables us to be more efficient and it is a nicer environment to work in. It is important to create a friendly atmosphere for members.

What is your favourite dish?

The smoked haddock kedgerree. I come from Poland and we don't have this kind of dish, so the first time I'd tried it was at ROSL and I love it.



BEHIND-THE-SCENES:
Preparing the floors in the new Brabourne Room



WELCOMING:
The reopened Brabourne Room

Dining at ROSL just gets better

Catering Operations Director **Louise Leighton-Rees** explains the story behind the changes to the Brabourne Room and the Bar

Before we began our refurbishment of the Brabourne Room, as the Buttery is now known, we spoke with many members about the new menu and design, and it really hit home what a treasured place it is, with a high volume of regular visitors. The changes were set in motion in October, when I realised that we had the opportunity to do something very special to improve members' experience of the club.

The staff were asked for a wish list of equipment and the one item they all agreed on was an ice machine – so there will be plenty of ice through the summer period. The dumbwaiters, which carry food from the basement kitchen, have been refurbished, allowing a greater speed of service; the automated coffee machine has been replaced with a barista-style machine, offering a greater choice; and the sink area has been converted into a service station, enabling waiting staff to cut bread and prepare for service. We have also removed place settings to provide more space around each table, and the banquette seating will allow us to accommodate larger parties.

The menu continues to focus on British food, with club classics and favourites. There are many new dishes on the menu but no price increase to current dishes, and I have even lowered the cost of some favourites, such as fish and chips and ice-cream. Following some informative feedback, we have balanced the choice of meat, fish and vegetarian dishes;

there is a wider choice of light bites and gluten-free options; and we are trialling recipe suggestions from members. All items are now available from 8.30am to 9.30pm, allowing greater flexibility, particularly for those who are travelling from overseas. Overnight visitors will now be served breakfast in the Restaurant.

Following a week of intensive staff service training, covering wine and food knowledge, the Brabourne Room opened on 9 April, and I was pleased to be able to welcome many members personally in the first two weeks.

That same week, refurbishments began in the Bar. We thought long and hard about the offering in this area, but we are now able to serve hot food, and the new menu includes a wider choice than the previous option of sandwiches. The dumbwaiters have also

been refurbished and extended into the banqueting office, enabling us to service the Wrench and Bennett Clark rooms far more efficiently.

The marquee kitchen opened in the Garden for Easter weekend, and we have been trialling our new equipment for cooking hot food outside since early April – so you may have seen us shivering outside during those colder first weeks. The menu contains a shellfish platter, as well as afternoon teas and sundaes. Opening hours have been extended into the early evening and members can now enjoy table service in the Garden.

Email brabourneroom@rosl.org.uk to let us know what you think of the new-look Brabourne Room and menu, and the changes to the Bar.



LIGHT TOUCH:
Finishing the Brabourne Room's beautiful wooden floor



Summer in the Garden

This summer we are shaking things up with a newly designed menu: enjoy traditional English specials with a modern twist, including warm and cold dishes, light bites and platters.

We recommend our new squid and Pimms salad washed down with a glass of peach iced tea, while soaking up the sun on our beautiful decking area. The garden is open for lunch and service runs through to early evening.

The ROSL wine experience

One lesser-known but attractive benefit of ROSL membership is access to our fine wine cellar. We make sure that the wine list in the Restaurant, Brabourne Room and Cocktail Bar provides an excellent choice from around the globe, particularly the Commonwealth, as well as from France. Some of the wine, such as our fast-selling Château La Tour de Cholle 2009, has a fun family story behind it (be sure to ask the producer and ROSL member Laurie Edmans when you meet him at the club).

Available on the Restaurant wine list are some of the loveliest middle-to-top range Bordeaux vintages from the vineyards of the Left and Right Bank. Choose from the most famous château names – the premier cru Lafite, Latour, Haut Brion, Mouton Rothschild; deuxième cru Rauzan-Gassies, Léoville Barton and

Ducru-Beaucaillou, and many more. We offer these wines at prices many times lower than any restaurant would offer. Why? Because we believe our members should be able to sample the best wines at ridiculously affordable prices.

Look out also for the newly arrived and beautifully seductive 2010 white burgundies (wines from Mersault, Montrachet and St Aubin are all featured), as well as a growing range of lovely Riojas and our 'Little Beauties', from the winery of Fleur McCree, a friend of ROSL, in Marlborough, New Zealand.

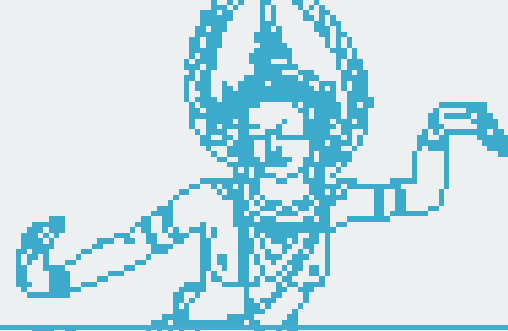
We are also launching our own ROSL label club wines (red, white and rosé) this year, so be sure to sample these and tell us what you think (see page 31 for details of our summer wine tasting event). I strongly encourage you to take the time to seek out the perfect wine to drink on its own or to accompany your

food. We would be delighted to help you find an unforgettable wine to match your meal or a family celebration.

Roddy Porter



CLUB WINES: ROSL's own label



LUXURY, TAILOR-MADE AND PRIVATELY GUIDED HOLIDAYS TO SOUTHEAST ASIA, MALDIVES AND SRI LANKA FOR ROSL MEMBERS

At Expectations Travel Group we combine old-fashioned values of first class service with modern, original experiences to create tailor-made private luxury with modern, luxury and style.

Whether you are looking for a relaxing holiday, a romantic getaway, a cultural immersion, a family holiday or a business trip, we can help you plan the perfect holiday to suit you, tailor-made with unique experiences.

Our aim is to get you closer to the heart of Asia, Africa, the Caribbean and beyond, part of the world.



READY TO START PLANNING?

We would be delighted to help you plan your next holiday by visiting us in person or online. Call one of our knowledgeable consultants today or visit www.expectationstravelgroup.com

Visit us at: www.expectationstravelgroup.com



SRI LANKA | MALDIVES | THAILAND | VIETNAM | CAMBODIA | LAOS | BURMA | SINGAPORE | HONG KONG

Prize support for writing talent

Lizzy Attree, Caine Prize Director, on their important outreach work with emerging African writers

In April 2013, the Caine Prize assembled 12 talented writers at the Garuga Beach Resort Hotel on the shores of Lake Victoria, where we were surrounded by spiders, fat on lake flies, whose webs cocooned the surrounding foliage. This was the eleventh such workshop and the first to be held in Uganda. In addition to its annual award for African writers, the Caine Prize holds an annual workshop, which, since it began in 2003, has taken place in South Africa, Kenya, Ghana and Cameroon.

The workshop is a retreat during which each participant completes a short story with the help of two more experienced writers. Over 10 days, they write, read their work to each other, and discuss and critique each story.

In Uganda, the 2012 Caine Prize winner, Rotimi Babatunde, was reunited with three of the 2012 shortlisted writers (Melissa Myambo, Billy Kahora and Stanley Kenani) and joined by four Ugandan writers (Lillian Ajuo, Hellen Nyana, Harriet Anena and Davina Kawuma). The other participants hailed from Nigeria (Elnathan John and Abubakar Ibrahim), Malawi (Michael Phoya) and Botswana (Wazha Lopang). They were guided by Veronique Tadjo (Ivory Coast) and Pam Nichols (South Africa) from the University of the Witwatersrand in South Africa.

The only break was a visit to St Mary's High School in Kisubi, where the writers spoke to 150 students about the workshop and read from their work in progress. Later that evening, we launched the *African Violet* anthology at the Barn Steakhouse in Kampala



with our co-publishers FEMRITE, and the help of the British High Commissioner Alison Blackburne and the British Council Country Director Peter Brown.

The product of this intensive workshop is a high-quality collection of short stories, anthologised as *A Memory This Size and Other Stories*, which is co-published in seven African countries. The 2014 workshop in Zimbabwe will produce another 13 short stories, which will be published with the five stories shortlisted for the 2014 award as the next Caine Prize anthology.

The Caine Prize of £10,000 has been awarded annually since 2000 for a short story by an African writer published in English, and is widely recognised as Africa's leading literary award. It is named after Sir Michael Caine, former Chairman of Booker Plc and Chairman of the Booker Prize Management Committee for nearly 25 years.

The judges for the 2014 Prize will be chaired by award-winning author Jackie Kay MBE, who will be joined by the distinguished novelist and playwright Gillian Slovo, Zimbabwean journalist Percy Zvomuya, Assistant Professor of English at the University of Georgetown Dr Nicole Rizzuto, and the 2001 Caine Prize winner Helon Habila. This is the second time that a past winner will take part in the judging.

This year, a record 140 qualifying stories have been submitted from 17 African countries. To commemorate 15 years of the Caine Prize, £500 will be awarded to each shortlisted writer. The winning story will be announced at a dinner on 14 July at the Bodleian Library in Oxford.

Each year, the Caine Prize nominees hold a reading at Over-Seas House London. For details of the event on 10 July, see page 31.



Books

Reviews of recent works by ROSL members



Women in War: From Home Front to Front Line

Edited by Celia Lee and Paul Edward Strong

Pen & Sword Military, 2012

ISBN: 978-1-84884-669-2, £19.99

2014 is not only the centenary of the start of the First World War, it is also the 70th anniversary of the D-Day landings in Normandy. As part of ROSL's commemoration of both events, it is pleasing to highlight this excellent anthology, which focuses on the changing role of women in war. The period from the 19th century to the Second World War is covered by noted academics, including ROSL member Georgina Natzi, as well as participants in some of the events.

This helpful and well researched book traces women's expanding role at home and abroad, as they were increasingly mobilised with each successive conflict. *Women in War* graphically illustrates an important leg in the journey of fighting women – from 'home fire tenders' to 'comrades in arms'.

Roddy Porter

ROSL Book Group

All members are welcome to join the ROSL Book Group for their monthly discussion. Meetings for the coming quarter will take place at 6.30pm on Thursday 26 June and Wednesday 16 July, 20 August and 24 September in the Bennet-Clark Room, Over-Seas House London. Contact the group coordinator, Eve Mitleton-Kelly, on e.mitleton-kelly@mitleton-kelly.org.uk or +44 (0)7887 514 522 for details.

News and views

The latest from the clubhouses in London and Edinburgh



◀ **Murder, Margaret and Me**
The ROSL Drawing Room provided the perfect period setting for Members' Events to put on the innovative one-woman show *Murder, Margaret and Me*. Embodying the personas of Agatha Christie, Miss Marple and Margaret Rutherford (the actress who played her), Janet Prince explored the complex friendship between actress and author, uncovering Rutherford's tragic past through the character that brought them together. Both humorous and poignant, this intimate play was the perfect way to spend Valentine's Day.



© Steve Ullathorne

V&A and FCO tours ▶
Having sold out in less than 48 hours, ROSL's behind-the-scenes tour of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office did not disappoint. Taking full advantage of this rare opportunity to explore one of Whitehall's grandest buildings, members were treated to anecdotes of the great political happenings that took place there, and explored the many changes and threats the building has weathered over the years (top right). The chance to delve into the history of the V&A also proved popular. Led by knowledgeable guide Annika, the tour introduced the museum's multitude of treasures, including the Bed of Ware (right) and Tipu's Tiger in the South Asia galleries, as well as the story of the museum's birth from the Great Exhibition in 1851.



▶ **Introducing Ellie**
ROSL welcomes Ellie Locke, our new Guest Relations Officer, who joined the Marketing team in February. Ellie studied English Language, Literacy and Communications at university and has recently returned from two years working and travelling in Australia. She is your first port of call for information on membership and clubhouse facilities. To book a showaround with Ellie, email guestrelations@rosl.org.uk or call +44 (0)20 7408 0214 ext 215.

▶ **Rising stars**
Talented young musicians from Yehudi Menuhin School in Surrey returned to the Edinburgh clubhouse for their annual concert in February. Violinist William Dutton, cellist Tamaki Sugimoto and pianists Sohyun Park, Menachem Rozin, Ursula Perks and Leyla Cemiloglu (pictured) delighted members with an exceptional programme of music by Prokofiev, Chopin, Strauss, Schubert, Liszt and Zimbalist.



◀ **Fine dining**
On a chilly night in January, members donned their dinner jackets and cocktail dresses to attend ROSL's winter dinner in the Tower of London. After a champagne reception in the Fusilier Museum and a delicious meal in the Officers' Mess, members were escorted to the Ceremony of the Keys – a tradition that has taken place every night for the last 700 years.



▶ **The view from Canterbury**
The London Group welcomed Lord Williams of Oystermouth to Over-Seas House in March. Providing a personal insight into his time as Archbishop of Canterbury, he reflected on the themes of development, democracy and devotion. Following a short Q&A, there was a drinks reception at which members had the opportunity to meet Lord Williams, who is pictured with London Group Chairman Dr Edmund Marshall.

Freedom Street ▶
At the end of January, guests were invited to the Private View of 'Freedom Street: New and Recent Paintings by David Webb'. These paintings consist of observations from his time studying at the Cyprus College of Art. The busy event was attended by professionals from the art industry. Some of his work is currently on display in the Brabourne Room.



◀ **Commonwealth connections**
In February, the Edinburgh clubhouse held a fundraising evening in support of Mary's Meals (see page 12). Members and guests enjoyed a variety of entertainment and an African-themed dinner, followed by a presentation by Mary's Meals volunteer John Helliwell. In March, members celebrated Commonwealth Day with speaker and Guest of Honour the Rt Hon Donald Wilson, Lord Lieutenant and Lord Provost of the City of Edinburgh, pictured with Edinburgh Branch Chairman Mae Barr.

Branches: what's on?

Details of forthcoming events

ROSL branches provide an opportunity for members in all parts of the world and across the UK to enjoy a range of social events close to home. To find out more about getting involved, simply contact your local representative.

Australia

Tuesday 3 June

South Australia Branch lunch
The Public Schools Club, Adelaide; 12pm

Two-course lunch followed by a talk by clinical nurse Rose Morris entitled 'My Life in the Kimberley'.
Email rosl.sa@mac.com by 29 May to attend. \$30.

Tuesday 1 July

South Australia Branch lunch
The Public Schools Club, Adelaide; 12pm

Talk entitled 'Craniofacial' by Guest Speaker Andrea Ogier.
Email rosl.sa@mac.com by 26 June to attend. \$30.

Tuesday 5 August

South Australia Branch lunch
The Public Schools Club, Adelaide; 12pm

Talk by David Linn, volunteer extraordinaire, on 'Lesotho: The country and its people'.
Email rosl.sa@mac.com by 31 July to attend. \$30.

Canada

July

Alberta Chapter summer barbeque

Date and venue tba

Email ccordery@shaw.ca for details.

New Zealand

For details of NZ events, email royalo-s@xtra.co.nz.

June-August

Manawatu Branch meetings

Regular casual meetings.
All members welcome.

Wednesday 4 June, 2 July and 6 August

Southland Branch morning tea
Club Southland; 10am
Guest speakers tba. All members welcome.

Wednesday 11 June

Christchurch Branch afternoon tea

HollyLea Retirement Village; 2pm
Guest speaker tba. All members welcome. *NZ\$7.*

Friday 20 June, 18 July and 15 August

South Canterbury Branch morning tea

Bay Harbour Lounge; 10am
Guest speakers tba. All members welcome.

Wednesday 25 June and 27 August

Oamaru Branch evening meetings

St Paul's Church; 7.45pm
All members welcome.

Wednesday 9 July

Christchurch Branch mid-winter lunch

Chateau on the Park; 12pm
Guest speaker tba. All members welcome.

Wednesday 13 August

Christchurch Branch morning tea

HollyLea Retirement Village; 10am
Guest speaker tba. All members welcome. *NZ\$27.*

Wednesday 30 July

Oamaru Branch mid-winter lunch

Brydone Hotel; 12pm
All members welcome.



© Lyn Milne

London visit for ROSL West

Friday 29 August - Monday 1 September; Over-Seas House London

Enjoy a long weekend at the London clubhouse, with the opportunity to see *Jeeves and Wooster in Perfect Nonsense*, and visit the Imperial War Museum, Ham House and Marlborough House. For Bath, Bournemouth, Exeter and Taunton Branch members only.
£330, includes half-board at Over-Seas House; excludes outings and travel to/from London.

Switzerland

Thursday 3 July

Switzerland Branch annual dinner

Ecole Hôtelière, Lausanne; 6pm
With Guest of Honour Roddy Porter. Branch members will be notified by letter but other ROSL members are welcome.
Call +334 5040 6631 for details.

UK

Bath

Wednesday 11 June, 9 July and 13 August

Monthly coffee morning

Pratt's Hotel; 10.30am
Meet-up every second Wednesday of the month. Guests welcome.

Bournemouth

Thursday 5, 12, 26 June, 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 July and 7, 14, 21, 28 August

Weekly coffee morning
Marriott Highcliff Hotel; 10.30am
Guests welcome. *£2.90.*

Wednesday 18 June

The Queen's Birthday lunch

Marriott Highcliff Hotel; 12.30pm
Two-course lunch including coffee and mints, with music by ROSL Young Musicians. *£23.*

Saturday 6 July

Summer garden party

50 Chessell Avenue, Bournemouth; 12.30pm
Join fellow members for wine and a delicious buffet.
Guests welcome. *£9.50*

Cheltenham

Wednesday 18 June Summer lunch

Red Pepper, Cheltenham; 12pm
Join fellow ROSL members and guests for a summer get-together at this new bistro and coffee lounge.
Call +44 (0)1452 813373 for details.

Friday 25 - Monday 28 July Cheltenham Branch London visit

Enjoy a weekend away at Over-Seas House, including breakfast and dinner. Cheltenham Branch members only. *Price tba. Call +44 (0)1452 813373 for details.*

Edinburgh

Saturday 7 June

Coffee morning

Over-Seas House Edinburgh; 10.30am
Talk by Jack Aitken on 'Patrick Geddes'. *£3.*



© David Jamison

Friday 18 - Monday 21 July Scottish members' London visit

Over-Seas House London
Weekend away for Edinburgh and Glasgow Branch members, including welcome drinks reception, breakfast and dinner.
Price tba. Contact maebarr@tiscali.co.uk for details.

Friday 5 September Bridge lunch

Over-Seas House Edinburgh; 12pm
For Bridge Club members. *£12.*

Exeter

Saturday 19 July Budleigh Festival concert and lunch

Temple Methodist Church, Budleigh Salterton; 12pm
Performance by ROSL/Pettman Scholars Trinity Trio, followed by lunch with the musicians. No reservations; arrive in good time.

Guests welcome. *Concert free; price for two-course lunch tba.*

Glasgow

Friday 18 - Monday 21 July Scottish members' London visit

Over-Seas House London
See Edinburgh listing for details.

Taunton

Wednesday 11, 18, 25 June, 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 July and 6, 13, 20, 27 August

Weekly coffee morning
Upstairs at Miles @ Riverside; 10.30am
Guests welcome.

Wednesday 4 June Chairman's coffee morning and charity fundraiser

Catholic Centre, Mount Street, Taunton; 10.30am
The new Taunton Branch Chairman welcomes members to this annual get-together and

CONTACT DETAILS

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

Bath, Exeter, Taunton, Torbay: Sally Roberts,
rosl.west@googlemail.com,
+44 (0)1823 661148

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

British Columbia: Liz Murray,
evmurray@telus.net,
+1 604 922 1564

Cheltenham: Barbara Snell,
+44 (0)1452 813373

Edinburgh: Mae Barr,
maebarr@tiscali.co.uk,
+44 (0)131 334 3005

Glasgow: Bill Agnew,
+44 (0)141 884 6342

Hong Kong: Kate Yau,
www.rosl.org.hk,
roslsecretary@rosl.org.hk

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

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

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

Ontario: Ishrani Jaikaran,
www.rosl-ontario-canada.ca,
rosl.ont@sympatico.ca,
+1 416 760 0309

Queensland: Sharon Morgan,
sllmorgan@hotmail.com

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

Switzerland: Jo Brown,
+334 5040 6631

Tasmania: Robert Dick,
gradick1@gmail.com

Thailand: Vincent Swift,
www.roslthailand.com,
info@roslthailand.com

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

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

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

Western Australia:

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

charity fundraiser. Guests welcome. *£5.50, includes a donation to the branch's overseas charity for 2014.*

West Cornwall

No summer events; programme resumes in autumn.

West Sussex

Wednesday 4 June

The Queen's Birthday lunch
Windsor Hotel, Worthing; 1pm
Lunch with Guests of Honour Sir Anthony Figgis and Lady Figgis.
Call +44 (0)1444 458 853 for details.

Meet the South Australia Branch

It was on 19 December 1911 that a 'well attended meeting was held to form a branch of the Overseas Club' in South Australia. At this meeting, a letter was read out from 'the chief organiser, Mr Evelyn Wrench'. This was about 18 months after the founding of the club in London. The great days of the branch were from the late 1950s to the mid 1980s, when it had its own premises and membership peaked at about 1,750 members. Currently it is about 320.

My wife and I had been ROSL members in the UK for many years before we moved to South Australia in 2003. The welcome we received from the local branch was typical of the spirit of the League, and was the start of many close friendships. I became Secretary a year later.

The branch has a monthly lunch meeting, mostly with a speaker, at the Public Schools Club in Adelaide – with the exception of January (too hot) and October, when we hold our Annual Dinner. The November meeting is probably the most popular as it coincides with the Melbourne Cup: posh hats for the



ladies and a 'punt' for all of us. There is good take up for our social events and outings, and we also publish a quarterly newsletter.

My wife and I went to London for the ROSL Centenary, and being presented to HM The Queen was the highlight of our ROSL membership. My motivation as Secretary is to make the South Australia Branch count within a great worldwide organisation.
Michael Kent, South Australia Branch Hon Secretary

Victoria's secrets

Walthamstow Central

Explore the history of the East End at **Vestry House Museum**. Including a replica of the building's old police cell, the first British-built petrol car and exhibitions by local artists, this former parish workhouse, constructed in 1730, offers a fascinating insight into the local area.

Free. www.walthamforest.gov.uk/pages/services/vhm/; Vestry Road, E17 9NH.



Tottenham Hale

Covering 10,000 acres from Stratford to Ware, **Lee Valley Regional Park** follows 26 miles of London waterways. There are countless entry points, with activities ranging from horse riding to canoeing, but from Tottenham you can walk along the canal to the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park in Stratford, admiring the house boats and wildlife along the way. Free. www.visitleevalley.org.uk/; Ferry Lane, N17.

Finsbury Park

The neighbourhood **Park Theatre** has barely been open a year and has already garnered support from the likes of Sir Ian McKellen and Maureen Lipman, who starred in one of its first productions, to rave reviews. A charity supported by a team of volunteers, it offers inclusive 'pay what you can' nights, while its June programme explores social media in *Little Pieces of Gold* and brings soulful music to a funny and poignant story in *Klook's Last Stand*. With comfy leather sofas, exposed brickwork and well-thumbed books hanging from the ceiling, the café bar provides comfort food in a relaxed and welcoming space. Prices vary. parktheatre.co.uk/; Clifton Terrace, N4 3JP.

King's Cross St Pancras

Nestled between Regent's Canal and St Pancras Station, **Camley Street Natural Park** is an unexpected rural oasis, providing grassland, woodland and wetland habitats that attract wildlife you wouldn't normally find in the city. It's a great place to escape the noise of the capital – or you might even have a go at pond-dipping. Free. www.wildlondon.org.uk/reserves/camley-street-natural-park/; 12 Camley Street, NW1 0PW.



Join our whistle-stop tour of the Victoria Line and discover some of the lesser known attractions en route

Warren Street

Since a major renovation to the striking Michael Hopkins-designed building was completed in May, the **Wellcome Collection** has expanded to include 30% more gallery space and a dramatic glass and steel spiral staircase. The museum for 'the incurably curious' explores the connections between medicine, life and art through medical artefacts and original artworks. Many of the objects Sir Henry Wellcome collected during his life are on display in the permanent 'Medicine Man' exhibition, while 'Medicine Now' traces developments in science since his death in 1936. This summer's main show asks visitors to mummify objects in copper. Free. www.wellcomecollection.org/; 183 Euston Road, NW1 2BE.

Green Park

Originally built in 1756-66 for John, first Earl Spencer, **Spencer House** has been beautifully restored. This magnificent town house is open to the public on Sundays (excluding January and August). £12. www.spencerhouse.co.uk/; 27 St James's Place, SW1A 1NR.



Pimlico

An interdisciplinary platform for art, design and popular culture, **Chelsea Space** focuses on experimental curatorial projects. Part of the Chelsea College of Arts, it makes an interesting addition to a trip to the adjacent Tate Britain. Free. www.chelseaspace.org/; 16 John Islip Street, SW1P 4JU.



Stockwell

Home to the eponymous youth theatre company, **LOST Theatre** hosts a vibrant programme of shows and festivals by emerging and established performers, as well as drama workshops and dance classes. An exhibition by artist-in-residence David Taborn is open 1-3pm and to visitors attending events. Prices vary. www.losttheatre.co.uk/; 208 Wandsworth Road, SW8 2JU.

Victoria Line



Blackhorse Road

Part of the Barbican Arts Group Trust, **ArtWorks'** new purpose-built studios offer a changing programme of exhibitions by local artists. In June, ArtWorks Open presents prizewinning work; July brings Nicola McCartney's 'Fugue'; and in August there is Charlotte Mortenson's 'My Mouth is Soft'. Free. www.barbicanartsgrouptrust.co.uk/; 114 Blackhorse Lane, E17 6AA.



Seven Sisters

Designed by architect David Adjaye, the **Bernie Grant Arts Centre** opened in 2007 with a remit to celebrate the creativity of a culturally diverse population. A platform for theatre, dance, visual arts and creative workshops, it also offers delicious Caribbean food in its Blooming Scents Café. Prices vary. www.berniegrantcentre.co.uk/; Town Hall Approach Road, N15 4RX.

Highbury & Islington

Acquired by renowned art dealer Eric Estorick, the **Estorick Collection** of Modern Italian Art includes works by Futurist artists Boccioni and Russolo, as well as De Chirico and Morandi. Visitors can attend regular talks or pre-book tours to gain a greater insight into the sculptures, prints and paintings on display. £5. www.estorickcollection.com/; 39a Canonbury Square, N1 2AN.



Euston

Delve into the secrets of the **Magic Circle** at the regular Monday morning 'Experience' at its headquarters, or be amazed by one of their intimate shows, with the chance to explore the Magic Circle Museum during the interval. Prices vary. www.themagiccircle.co.uk/; 12 Stephenson Way, NW1 2HD.

Oxford Circus

Home to George Frideric Handel from 1723 until his death in 1759, **Handel House Museum** has been carefully restored. It celebrates the composer's life and work through a programme of exhibitions, talks and weekly concerts, held in the music room where he composed many famous works, including *Messiah*. There is also a small tribute to Jimi Hendrix, who lived next door in the 1960s. £6.50. www.handelhouse.org/; 25 Brook Street, W1K 4HB.



Victoria

Situated in the grounds of Buckingham Palace, the **Royal Mews** houses a historic collection of coaches, carriages and cars used for royal and State occasions, including the Gold State Coach that has been used for every coronation since that of George IV in 1821. Keep an eye out for the Cleveland Bay and Windsor Grey horses that are trained to pull the royal carriages in the riding school at these stables. £8.75. www.royalcollection.org.uk/visit/royalmews/; Buckingham Palace, SW1W 1QH.



Vauxhall

Set in the abandoned church where Britain's 'first great gardener' was buried, the **Garden Museum** has a traditional knot garden at its heart. The permanent displays provide a window into the history of gardening in Britain, with a fascinating collection of artefacts, but it is in the temporary exhibitions that contemporary approaches are best explored. £5-£7.50. www.gardenmuseum.org.uk/; Lambeth Palace Road, SE1.



Brixton

Photofusion showcases the work of up-and-coming photographers whose innovative and often experimental approaches to the medium explore a variety of contemporary themes. This summer, 'Select/14' features projects by four of Photofusion's rising stars. Free. www.photofusion.org/; 17A Electric Lane, SW9 8LA.

Secret arts this summer

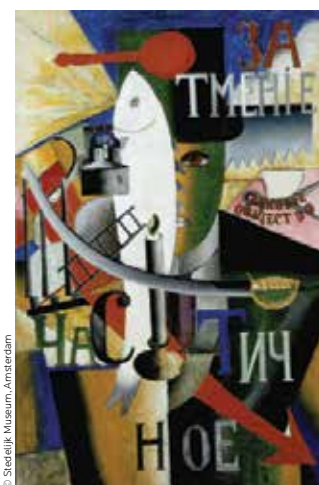
Art critic **Heather Waddell**'s pick of exhibitions in London and Edinburgh

It is unfortunate that the UK-Russia Year of Culture, aimed at easing relations between the two countries, has clashed with confrontations between Ukraine and Russia, as the programme involves 200 events in both countries. In the UK, there is Russian opera, ballet and music, 'Cosmonauts' at London's Science Museum, and Kazimir Malevich at Tate Modern (16 July - 26 October). During the fervent revolutionary period in early 20th-century Russia, new ideas in art flourished, with Malevich exploring colour in his abstract Suprematist paintings, which have had a huge influence on modern art, architecture, design and theatre.

Arts events related to Glasgow 2014 (23 July - 3 August) will take place across Scotland (see www.creativescotland.com), with the 'Glasgow International' exhibition presenting the city's many architectural gems in a new light through commissions in off-site locations. A temporary Empire Café in the Briggait will explore Scotland's involvement in the North Atlantic Slave Trade through sales of coffee, tea, sugar and cotton. Twenty artists from Australia, Canada, India and Pakistan will show work in various Scottish cities, with Toby Paterson creating a visual exploration of Glasgow's changing environment.

The Edinburgh Art Festival (31 July - 31 August) offers major and minor shows, including commissions across the city by Callum Innes, Martin Creed, Alison Watt and Richard Wright (see www.edinburghartfestival.com). John Byrne's work can be seen at Bourne Fine Art and Leon Morocco's at Open Eye Gallery. 'Where Do I End and You Begin?' shows Commonwealth artists, including Amar Kanwar and Shilpa Gupta, across all floors at the City Art Centre near Waverley station, while New Media Scotland reveals newly-commissioned work at Lauriston Castle and Edinburgh Art School.

Heather Waddell is author and photographer of London Art and Artist's Guide.



INFLUENTIAL:

'Woman Suprematist Composition: Airplane Flying 1915' (below); and 'An Englishman in Moscow 1914' (bottom), both by Kazimir Malevich (1878-1935)

Top 10 London and Edinburgh

Arthur's Secrets

Guided walk exploring Arthur's Seat, its history and the rare wildlife that lives there.

Tuesdays until 29 July.

Free; booking essential.

www.historic-scotland.gov.uk



Summer Astronomy Evenings

Observe the skies through the Royal Observatory Edinburgh's telescopes and learn about key astronomical objects and events.

Until 5 September. Tickets: £4. www.roe.ac.uk/vc/public-events/astronomy-evenings

Serpentine Pavilion

Following Sou Fujimoto's cloud-like structure in 2013, Chilean architect Smiljan Radic will design the 14th pavilion in Kensington Gardens.

June-October. Free.

www.serpentinegalleries.org

Opera Holland Park

An exciting variety of performances, including Rossini's *Il Barbiere di Siviglia* and Britten's *The Turn of the Screw* at this annual opera festival.

3 June - 9 August. Tickets: tba. www.rbkc.gov.uk/opera/hollandpark



Open Garden Squares

London's most impressive private gardens and green spaces open to the public for one weekend only. **14-15 June. Tickets: £10-£12.** www.opensquares.org

Taste of London

Festival in Regent's Park offering quality food and cooking demonstrations from some of London's top chefs. **19-22 June. Tickets: from £25.80.**

london.tastefestivals.com



Edinburgh International Magic Festival

The only event of its kind in the UK, with some of the finest magic acts at venues throughout Edinburgh. **27 June - 5 July.**

Prices vary. www.magicfest.co.uk



Hampton Court Palace Flower Show

Show gardens and floral displays at the world's largest annual flower show. **8-13 July.**

Tickets: £15-£35. www.rhs.org.uk



Common Cause: Commonwealth Scots and the Great War

National Museum of Scotland exhibition exploring the relationship between Scottish identity and the emerging national identities of the former British Empire. **11 July - 12 October. Free.** www.nms.ac.uk

Celebration of Summer

Artwork highlighting the beauty and unpredictability of the Scottish summer at the new Velvet Easel Gallery in Portobello, Edinburgh. **2-31 August. Free.** velveteasel.co.uk

War stories

Christine Wilde explores the Imperial War Museum in Manchester

Located on the banks of the Manchester Ship Canal, Imperial War Museum North (IWMN) focuses on the impact of war on ordinary people. The engaging and poignant exhibitions put personal stories at the heart of the visitor's journey through the conflicts of the 20th and 21st centuries.

Designed by internationally acclaimed architect Daniel Libeskind, the building is made up of three 'shards' of a shattered globe, symbolising the impact of war and representing combat on land, water and in the air. The structure is deliberately disorientating: the narrow entrance gives the impression you are walking into a bunker while subtle changes in temperature throughout the museum accentuate the cold realities of war.

Within the main exhibition space, a timeline runs around the perimeter, enabling visitors to consider events chronologically from the start of the First World War to the present day. Six smaller rooms investigate common themes uniting past and present conflicts. Regular tours, object handling sessions and interactive exhibits help visitors to delve deeper into some of the stories and subjects the gallery explores.

Larger objects are interspersed throughout the space, each with their own tale to tell. The



SURROUND SOUND:
Big Picture Show

field gun that fired the British Army's first shell on the Western Front stands a short distance from a piece of salvaged wreckage from the World Trade Center. The juxtaposition provides a stark reminder of the human cost of conflict. Art and poetry are used to highlight the experience of 'ordinary people in extraordinary times', portraying the emotional impact of war more accurately than any facts or figures.



IN TRIBUTE:

Archive photo of women helping the war effort at Trafford Park (above); and Daniel Libeskind's stunning aluminium-clad building, representing the shards of a world shattered by war (below)



Self-publish
Your Memoirs, Family History, Novel
or Non-fiction book with

authors
online

Authors OnLine have been helping authors to self-publish since 1997 and are one of only four companies recommended by 'The Artists and Writers Yearbook', the 'bible' of the publishing industry.

If you have a manuscript you want to bring to the market place, or just print a few copies privately for family and friends, talk to our friendly staff today:

Free phone 0800 107 2423 (from UK only)
+44 1767 652005 (from overseas)
submissions@authorsonline.co.uk
www.authorsonline.co.uk

Quote 'OS2013' and receive 10% discount off any of our publishing packages.

ROSL CALENDAR

JUNE

Tuesday 3 June

Njabulo Madlala baritone with William Vann piano



Princess Alexandra Hall, Over-Seas House London, 7pm
ROSL 2012 prizewinners Njabulo Madlala (baritone) and William Vann (piano) will perform music by Schubert, Schumann and Strauss, as well as traditional South African songs from their debut album *Songs of Home*.
Tickets £20; Friends of ROSL ARTS £15. Includes sparkling wine on arrival and South African wine and canapés afterwards.

Wednesday 4 June

C20th Scandinavian design tour



V&A and Skandium, 4pm
Scandinavian design has been described as the most important design movement since the Second World War. This Blue Badge tour will look at iconic pieces and makers through the lens of the encyclopaedic V&A collection. Afterwards, the group will head to Skandium, a British company that aims to be the best retailer of Scandinavian design and furniture in the world, where we will glean exclusive industry insights from the shop team and indulge in refreshments.
Tickets £17.50. Guests welcome.

Thursday 5 June

First Thursdays

Cocktail Bar, Over-Seas House London, from 6pm
Monthly Younger Members drinks in the revamped Cocktail Lounge. Come and inaugurate the Bar, try the new cocktail menu and enjoy live music.
Free. Guests welcome.

Monday 9 June

Visit to Shakespeare's Globe Theatre



21 New Globe Walk, Southwark, 1.45pm
This London Group visit will begin with a guided tour giving an insight into the 1997 reconstruction of the Elizabethan theatre and the working life of The Globe. We will then explore Shakespeare's world in an exhibition. Limited number of places available; early booking recommended.
Tickets £18; LG members £16. Refreshments available but not included.

Monday 9 June

Gala opera evening



Over-Seas House Edinburgh, 6.30pm
Annual concert by students of the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland Opera School.
Tickets £35. Includes cocktail reception and two-course dinner with wine.

Monday 9 June

The Hanoverian Tercentenary through Royal Portraiture



Over-Seas House London, 7-8.30pm
Discussion Group talk with Wolf Burchard, Exhibition Curatorial Assistant at the Royal Collection Trust, who helped prepare the exhibition commemorating the 300th anniversary of the Hanoverian Succession at Buckingham Palace in April.
Free.

Tuesday 17 June

Edinburgh film night

Over-Seas House Edinburgh, 5pm
Enjoy a classic thriller with coffee, popcorn and ice-cream. See clubhouse poster for details.
Tickets for entry and refreshments £7.50.

Thursday 19 June

The First Georgians exhibition visit and talk



The Queen's Gallery, Buckingham Palace, 11am
It's the tercentenary of the Hanoverian accession to the throne, and to mark the occasion we invite members to explore a fascinating new exhibition at Buckingham Palace. Through more than 300 works from the Royal Collection, 'The First Georgians: Art and monarchy 1714-1760' explores the reigns of

George I and his son, George II, shedding light on the role of this new dynasty in transforming British political, intellectual and cultural life.
The visit will begin with a talk by one of the exhibition curators or a Royal Collection Trust expert, after which members can view the exhibition with an audio guide.
Tickets £22.50. Guests welcome.

Thursday 19 June

The Lewis Chessmen



Over-Seas House London, 6pm
London Group talk by Dr Hugh Doherty, Lecturer in Medieval History, University of East Anglia, about these Norwegian chess pieces, carved in the 12th century from walrus ivory and whale tooth.
Free. LG members and overnight guests at Over-Seas House only.

Friday 20 June

Scottish members' dinner

Over-Seas House Edinburgh, 7 for 7.30pm
Three-course meal and a welcome drink with fellow ROSL Scotland members. National or formal dress.
Tickets £29.

Monday 23 June

Tea at the House of Lords

House of Lords, 3.30pm
Our favourite Members' Events staple, hosted by ROSL President Lord Luce. Afternoon tea will be announced by an official toastmaster and served in the Cholmondeley Room and Terrace overlooking the River Thames.
Tickets £36.50. Guests welcome.

James Naughtie: The Madness of July

Monday 30 June; Princess Alexandra Hall, 7pm
Jim Naughtie is one of the best-known broadcasters in the UK; more than 7 million people wake up to the sound of his voice on BBC Radio 4's *Today* programme. He talks about his debut novel, a sophisticated thriller about loyalty, survival and family rivalries in the Cold War. *The Madness of July* draws on decades of experience as a political insider at Westminster.
Tickets £7; Friends of ROSL ARTS £5. Includes wine.



Monday 23 June - Sunday 6 July

Wimbledon Viewing Room

Park Room, Over-Seas House London, daily
Enjoy full coverage of the championship with fellow members in the Park Room. During this time we will be offering a Wimbledon afternoon tea, Pimms and, of course, strawberries and cream. Full service will also be available in the Brabourne Room.

Wednesday 25 June

Edinburgh Arts Lunch

Over-Seas House Edinburgh, 12 for 12.30pm
Talk by writer and story-teller Millie Gray on 'Using Life's Experiences to Advantage', followed by a delicious two-course lunch.
Tickets £20; guests £25. Includes glass of wine and coffee.

Wednesday 25 June

Cavaleri Quartet and Olga Jegunova piano



Princess Alexandra Hall, Over-Seas House London, 7pm
2011 ROSL prizewinners, the Cavaleri Quartet, and Latvian pianist Olga Jegunova perform works by Mozart, Janacek and Schumann. In association with the

Medical Music Society of London.
Tickets £28; Friends of ROSL ARTS £22. Tickets with two-course buffet, wine and tea/coffee £56; Friends of ROSL ARTS £48. All tickets include wine.

Saturday 28 June

ROSL Summer Ball



Over-Seas House London, 6pm
Join us at this spectacular occasion for the whole ROSL community. Dressed in black-tie, members will enjoy a memorable mid-summer themed evening of dining, dancing and entertainment. A drinks reception with live music in the ROSL Garden will be followed by a superb three-course meal. After dinner, there will be a variety of performances and activities, including ROSL ARTS musicians, eye-catching entertainers, tastings and a casino room. Accompanied by a live band, members will be able to enjoy a dance tutorial before dancing the night away.
Tickets £115. Includes reception drinks, three-course dinner with wine and entertainment throughout the night. Table price £1,000 for ten places. Contact Reservations for details of a special clubhouse accomodation offer for those attending. Guests welcome.

Sunday 29 June

Mark Walton clarinet, Ann Beilby viola, David Miller piano



Princess Alexandra Hall, Over-Seas House London, 3pm
New Zealand musician Mark Walton (ROSL Music Competition 1978 Gold Medallist) launches his new double CD, *Clarinet Hidden Treasures from England*, including the premiere of Christopher Norton's *Clarinet Sonata*. All seven living composers represented on the album will be present to introduce their works.
Ticket £15; Friends of ROSL ARTS £12. Includes tea/coffee, scones and clotted cream after concert.

Monday 30 June

James Naughtie: The Madness of July
Princess Alexandra Hall, Over-Seas House London, 7pm
See box, left, for details.

JULY

Until Sunday 6 July

Wimbledon Viewing Room

Park Room, Over-Seas House London, daily
See June listing for details.

Wednesday 2 July - Sunday 7 September



Over-Seas House London, daily
Following a successful show at Over-Seas House Edinburgh in 2012, Scottish painter and textile designer Hatti Pattison exhibits her latest collection, focusing on landscapes around Fife. Email gharwoodsmith@rosl.org.uk to attend the **Private View on Tuesday 1 July**, 6-8pm. Wine will be served during the event. Free.

Thursday 3 July

YM croquet & champagne in Edinburgh
Edinburgh Croquet Club, time tba
ROSL is planning an exciting event as part of its newly formed Edinburgh Younger Members programme, with champagne and croquet tuition at the fantastic Edinburgh Croquet Club. Register your interest at membersevents@rosl.org.uk to be kept up to speed with Edinburgh YM events.
Tickets tba. Includes champagne and croquet equipment hire. Guests welcome.

QUICK BOOKING INFORMATION

For full booking and contact details, see page 34

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

ROSL Scotland
+44 (0)131 225 1501;
www.rosl-edinburgh.org.uk

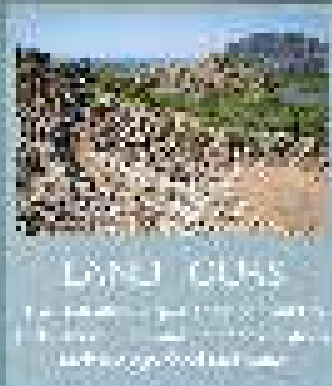
Members' Events
Book online at www.rosl.org.uk;
membersevents@rosl.org.uk

London Group
Clive Carpenter;
+44 (0)7798 824193; clivedavidcarpenter@compuserve.com.
For outside visits: Doreen Regan
c/o Over-Seas House London

Younger Members
Book online at www.rosl.org.uk;
membersevents@rosl.org.uk

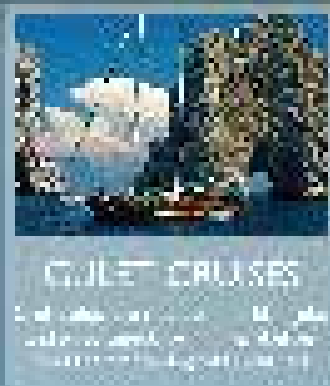
Discussion Group
No advanced booking required.

Our expert-led tours in Turkey, Greece and Italy will take you to some of the world's best preserved ancient sites. We offer a range of guided archaeological and historical walking holidays and gulet cruise tours all in the company of an expert archaeologist or historian.



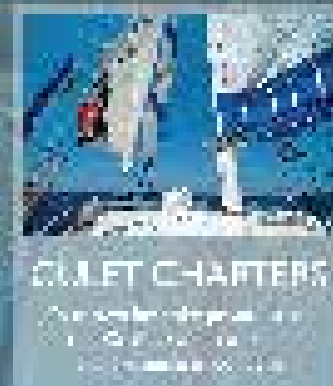
LAND TOURS

For a full range of archaeological and historical walking holidays, contact Peter Sommer at peter@petersommertravels.com



GULET CRUISES

For a full range of archaeological and historical walking holidays, contact Peter Sommer at peter@petersommertravels.com



GULET CHARTERS

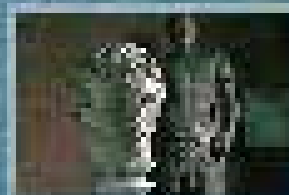
For a full range of archaeological and historical walking holidays, contact Peter Sommer at peter@petersommertravels.com

TURKEY

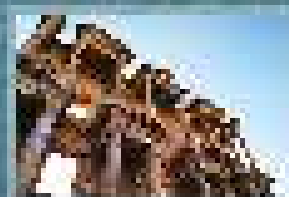


BOLDING VODKA

For a full range of archaeological and historical walking holidays, contact Peter Sommer at peter@petersommertravels.com

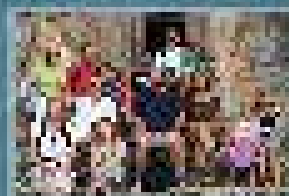


For a full range of archaeological and historical walking holidays, contact Peter Sommer at peter@petersommertravels.com



CHALK MOUNTAINS

For a full range of archaeological and historical walking holidays, contact Peter Sommer at peter@petersommertravels.com



TRADITIONAL TURKISH CUISINE

For a full range of archaeological and historical walking holidays, contact Peter Sommer at peter@petersommertravels.com

GREECE



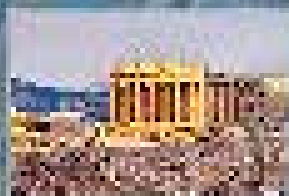
PAKISTANI PRINCE

For a full range of archaeological and historical walking holidays, contact Peter Sommer at peter@petersommertravels.com



THE TROOPERS' WIVES

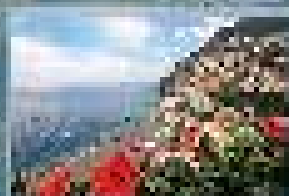
For a full range of archaeological and historical walking holidays, contact Peter Sommer at peter@petersommertravels.com



THE TROOPERS' WIVES

For a full range of archaeological and historical walking holidays, contact Peter Sommer at peter@petersommertravels.com

ITALY



TRADITIONAL ITALIAN CUISINE

For a full range of archaeological and historical walking holidays, contact Peter Sommer at peter@petersommertravels.com

Commonwealth Games at the clubhouses

Wednesday 23 July - Sunday 3 August

Enjoy a summer of sport from the comfort of your clubhouses. Celebrations in London begin on 23 July with a vibrant Opening Ceremony reception in the ROSL Garden (see listing, page 32) and continue with television coverage in the Wrench Room. Refreshments, including a taster of our new cocktail bar menu, will be available. Contact rosl@graysonsrestaurants.com for further information about catering offers in London.

In Edinburgh, there will be Commonwealth Games dinners to mark both the Opening and Closing ceremonies (see listings, pages 32-33) and, throughout the Games, members visiting Restaurant 100 can enjoy themed lunch, afternoon tea, dinner and cocktail menus. Or why not watch the televised live events from the newly refurbished Balmoral Room, a perfect place to relax and meet other members? Contact reception@rosl-Edinburgh.org for details or to book the Opening and Closing Ceremony dinners.

Thursday 3 July

First Thursdays Canada Day

Cocktail Bar, Over-Seas House
London, from 6pm

Monthly Younger Members drinks celebrate Canada Day. Free. Guests welcome.

Thursday 3 July

Sophia Lisovskaya piano:
Tchaikovsky Seasons

Princess Alexandra Hall, Over-Seas House London, 7pm
Sophia Lisovskaya performs Tchaikovsky's *Seasons*, interspersed with Russian poetry, as well as music by Scarlatti, Mozart and Chopin. In association with Woodhouse Music. Tickets £25; Friends of ROSL ARTS and Woodhouse Music £20. Includes vodka-based cocktail on arrival and post-concert wine and canapés.

Thursday 10 July

Caine Prize for
African Writing



Princess Alexandra Hall, Over-Seas House London, 7pm
The five shortlisted writers will read from their work and take part in a short Q&A, chaired by Caine

Prize Administrator Lizzy Attree. For more information about this award showcasing African writing, see Lizzy's article on page 17. Tickets £7; Friends of ROSL ARTS £5. Includes glass of wine on arrival, plus wine and canapés after the readings.

Friday 11 July

Inter-Club ball

Lansdowne Club, time tba
It's party time at the Lansdowne, so enjoy this most beautiful of clubs for sumptuous food and drinks, and dazzling dancing. Visit www.inter-club.co.uk for details and booking information.

Friday 11 July– Monday 14 July

Battlefield Tour of the
Aisne and the Marne



The ROSL Battlefield Tour is back by popular demand. We may still have tickets: check the ROSL website for availability or contact the Members Events programme. All inclusive except for lunch on day 1 and dinner on day 3. Tickets £595; single room supplement £100. Guests welcome.

Monday 14 July

The Monday Platform:
ROSL 2013 prizewinners



Wigmore Hall, 7.30pm
2013 ROSL Annual Music Competition Gold Medallist Morgan Pearse baritone, with pianist James Baillieu, and ROSL Ensemble prizewinners Françoise-Green Piano Duo, perform music by Bach, Schumann and Kurtag. Tickets £15 from www.wigmore-hall.org.uk; Friends of ROSL ARTS £12 only from ROSL ARTS.

Tuesday 15 July

Edinburgh film night



Over-Seas House Edinburgh, 5pm
Sing along to tonight's rousing musical with coffee, popcorn and ice-cream. Tickets for entry and refreshments £7.50.

Thursday 17 July

Summer wine in the
ROSL garden

Garden, Over-Seas House
London, 6.30pm

ROSL boasts a lovingly compiled club wine list and, after a glass of bubbly, members will explore five fantastic summer wines, guided by Martin Everett, Master of Wine and our resident wine expert. The event will feature live music and a post-tasting offer in the Restaurant. Also, see page 34 for details of ROSL's latest wine tour. Tickets £25. One guest per member. Includes aperitif and wine tasting samples.

Thursday 17 July

London Group talk

Over-Seas House London, 6pm

Speaker to be announced. Free. LG members and overnight guests at Over-Seas House only.

Friday 18 July - Sunday 28 September

Edinburgh Printmakers
exhibition

Over-Seas House Edinburgh,
daily

Edinburgh Printmakers returns to the Edinburgh clubhouse with prints by some of Scotland's best-known printmakers. Email reception@rosl-edinburgh.org or call +44 (0)131 225 1501 to attend the Private View on Thursday 17 July, 6-8pm. Free.

QUICK BOOKING INFORMATION

For full booking and
contact details, see page 34

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

ROSL Scotland
+44 (0)131 225 1501;
www.rosl-edinburgh.org.uk

Members' Events
Book online at www.rosl.org.uk;
membersevents@rosl.org.uk

London Group
Clive Carpenter;
+44 (0)7798 824193; clivedavidcarpenter@compuserve.com.
For outside visits: Doreen Regan
c/o Over-Seas House London

Younger Members
Book online at www.rosl.org.uk;
membersevents@rosl.org.uk

Discussion Group
No advanced booking required.

When booking online, use all your club information and request a copy of our brochure. For more information, contact peter@petersommertravels.com



Monday 21 July

The Historical Roots of Thailand’s Political Divide
Over-Seas House London, 7-8.30pm

ROSL Council Member and British Ambassador to Thailand (2003-07) David Fall on the current unrest in Thailand. In conjunction with the Anglo-Thai Society. Free.

Wednesday 23 July

Commonwealth Games Opening Ceremony reception



Garden, Over-Seas House London, 6pm

Join us for live music, whisky cocktails and Commonwealth-themed foods at a dynamic outdoor reception in the ROSL Garden. The Royal Commonwealth Society will be co-hosting the event and we will be joined in our celebrations by other associated Commonwealth organisations. Afterwards, enjoy the ceremony in the lap of luxury in a choice of TV rooms at the clubhouse. For details, see box on page 31. Tickets £20. Guests welcome.

Wednesday 23 July

Commonwealth Games Opening Ceremony dinner
Over-Seas House Edinburgh, 6pm

Watch the ceremony live on the big screen and enjoy a buffet menu inspired by cuisine from the Commonwealth. For details, see box on page 31. Tickets £34; ROSL members £29.

Thursday 24 July

Friends of ROSL ARTS Champagne Garden Party
Over-Seas House, 6pm
Exclusive to Friends of ROSL ARTS. See box, below, for details.

Sunday 27 July

Caribbean summer garden party



Army & Navy Club, time tba
Whether you’re stuck in London and desperate to get away or just keen to get into the holiday spirit, the Rag’s Carribbean garden party is here to save the day. Now all we need is a Johnny Depp cameo as Captain Jack Sparrow. Visit www.inter-club.co.uk for details and booking information.

AUGUST

Until Sunday 7 September

Hatti Pattisson exhibition

See July listing for details.

Until Sunday 28 September

Edinburgh Printmakers exhibition

See July listing for details.

Sunday 3 August

Commonwealth Games Closing Ceremony dinner



Over-Seas House Edinburgh, 7pm

As the Commonwealth Games draw to a close, ROSL pays tribute to the next host by complementing its contemporary Scottish menu with sumptuous Australian wines. During the meal, a speaker will talk you through the intricacies of each wine pairing. Then watch the ceremony with fellow members. Tickets £40; ROSL members £35. Includes four-course meal and wine.

Thursday 7 August

First Thursdays



Cocktail Bar & Garden, Over-Seas House London, from 6pm
Get in the mood for your holiday or staycation at the monthly Younger Members drinks. Free. Guests welcome.

Monday 11 August - Friday 22 August

ROSL ARTS @ Edinburgh Festival Fringe 2014

Over-Seas House Edinburgh
See box, right, for details.

Thursday 14 August

Clubland BBQ



In & Out Club, time tba
Holy smokes! This barbecue is likely to run with military

precision at the In & Out. Visit www.inter-club.co.uk for details and booking information.

Saturday 16 August - Sunday 17 August

Art weekend at Over-Seas House



Over-Seas House London, all day

Artist and Director of the London School of Painting and Drawing, Tom Davies, leads this creative escape. The two-day programme centres around the theme ‘colour in art’ and focuses on painting lessons with a life model as well as a guided visit to the Matisse exhibition at Tate Modern, alongside quality dining and, optionally, accommodation at the London clubhouse. Tickets £175. Tickets with accomodation on Saturday £245/£250/£265. All inclusive except evening drinks, dinner on Saturday and travel to the Tate.

Thursday 21 August

London Group talk

Over-Seas House London, 6pm

Speaker to be confirmed. Free. LG members and overnight guests at Over-Seas House only.

Tuesday 26 August

Edinburgh International Festival: Scottish Ensemble



Thirteen outstanding young Commonwealth musicians are twinned with the players of the Scottish Ensemble. For details, see article on page 11. Tickets tba. Visit www.eif.co.uk or call +44 (0)131 473 2000.

SEPTEMBER

Until Sunday 7 September

Hatti Pattisson exhibition

See July listing for details.

Until Sunday 28 September

Edinburgh Printmakers exhibition

See July listing for details.

Tuesday 2 September

Black-tie Dinner in the Tower



Tower of London, 7pm

The ever-popular Dinner in the Tower returns with a reception in the Fusiliers’ Museum, followed by a three-course dinner with wine in the Fusiliers’ Mess. The Yeoman Warder will then escort us to the Ceremony of the Keys, against the stunning backdrop of the Tower of London. Tickets £79. Guests welcome.

Wednesday 3 September

Friends of ROSL ARTS Champagne Garden Party



Over-Seas House, 6pm

Exclusive to Friends of ROSL ARTS. See box on page 32 for details.

Thursday 4 September

First Thursdays

Cocktail Bar, Over-Seas House London, from 6pm

Monthly Younger Members drinks. Free. Guests welcome.

ROSL ARTS @ Edinburgh Festival Fringe

Monday 11 August - Friday 22 August

Now in its 15th year, Music @ 100 Princes Street returns to Scotland for its critically acclaimed series at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe. Presenting 30 concerts in two weeks, with titles such as the popular early morning Bach for Breakfast and Mozart at Teatime, the series is a priority for discerning festival goers.

The musicians appearing in these concerts are all ROSL ARTS prizewinners or ROSL Commonwealth scholars, and the club has an enviable track record as a platform for outstanding young musicians who go on to rise to the forefront of the music profession.

Tickets £12; £10 Friends of ROSL ARTS and concessions. Includes refreshments. Email reception@rosl-edinburgh.org or call +44 (0)131 225 1501 to book. Tickets and information are also available at www.edfringe.com or +44 (0)131 226 0000.



Wednesday 10 September

Black-tie Dinner in the Tower with MSJA

Tower of London, 7pm

A second Dinner in the Tower, this time in collaboration with the Mayfair and St James Association. See Tuesday 2 September listing for details. Tickets £79. Guests welcome.

Tuesday 16 September

Edinburgh film night

Over-Seas House Edinburgh, 5pm

Prepare for an evening of classic American drama, with coffee, popcorn and ice-cream. Tickets for entry and refreshments £7.50.

QUICK BOOKING INFORMATION

For full booking and contact details, see page 34

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

ROSL Scotland
+44 (0)131 225 1501;
www.rosl-edinburgh.org.uk

Members’ Events
Book online at www.rosl.org.uk;
membersevents@rosl.org.uk

London Group
Clive Carpenter;
+44 (0)7798 824193; clivedavidcarpenter@compuserve.com.
For outside visits: Doreen Regan
c/o Over-Seas House London

Younger Members
Book online at www.rosl.org.uk;
membersevents@rosl.org.uk

Discussion Group
No advanced booking required.



The perfect time to become a Friend of ROSL ARTS

Exclusive to Friends of ROSL ARTS, the Annual Champagne Garden Parties are among the highlights of the ROSL ARTS summer calendar. A champagne reception in the clubhouse garden is followed by an hour-long concert given by ROSL prizewinners in Princess Alexandra Hall. Commonwealth wines and sweet pastries are served afterwards. Existing Friends in June will receive an invitation to attend one of the Garden Parties, held on Thursday 24 July and Wednesday 3 September from 6pm, so now is the perfect time to join. Friends of ROSL ARTS was established in 1999 to foster the involvement of existing sponsors and donors, and to encourage new supporters of the ROSL Annual Music Competition. Since 2010, all income generated has been devoted to the ROSL Centenary Appeal to endow awards in excess of £60,000 to the Music Competition. Joining costs the Friends 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. Email culture@rosl.org.uk or call +44 (0)207 408 0214 x 219 to become a Friend of ROSL ARTS.

LOOKING AHEAD

Preview of events later in the year

Rioja wine tour

Thursday 18 - Sunday 21 September; Spain
Rioja is a source of some of the world's top reds, and ROSL is pleased to present another exquisite, tailor-made wine tour for members during the aromatic and temperate autumn of the Mediterranean. Director-General Roddy Porter will join the trip to Spain, where members will enjoy a four-star hotel with spa facilities, guided visits to some of Rioja's finest vineyards, and regional gastronomy including a six-course matched gala dinner, as well as other dining experiences in illustrious settings. The trip will be rounded off with a private tour of the world-famous Guggenheim Museum in Bilbao. *Tickets £948 incl flights. For bookings contact Members' Events, who will pass you on to Grape Escapes.*

Vernon House WWI Memorial Service

Tuesday 4 November; Over-Seas House London, 10.30am
Led by ROSL President Lord Luce, Chairman Sir Anthony Figgis and the Very Reverend John Hall, Dean of Westminster, this act of remembrance is central to the ROSL WWI Centenary programme and signals the start of the club's commemoration of the First World War. The service will be followed by a short coffee reception. *Free. Guests welcome.*



Chairman's Lunch

Tuesday 18 November; Hall of India and Pakistan, Over-Seas House London, 12pm
The biannual Chairman's Lunch, hosted by ROSL Chairman Sir Anthony Figgis, with reception drinks at midday and a three-course lunch at 12.30pm. Guest of honour and speaker tba. *Tickets £58. Guests welcome.*

Christmas offers

Over-Seas House London
Celebrate Christmas at your home-away-from-home with our exciting festive packages. Enjoy special rates for accommodation at the London clubhouse, including scrumptious dinners and a programme of seasonal events to keep you entertained. More details about our Christmas and New Year offers will follow in the next issue and online. *For details, see our website event calendar. Call Reservations on +44 (0)20 7408 0214 or email reservations@rosl.org.uk for package bookings.*

FULL BOOKING INFORMATION & CONTACT DETAILS

■ ROSL ARTS

For bookings contact:
+44 (0)20 7408 0214 ext 219;
culture@rosl.org.uk

■ ROSL Scotland

For bookings contact:
Over-Seas House Edinburgh;
+44 (0)131 225 1501;
reception@rosl-edinburgh.org

■ Members' Events

Book online at www.rosl.org.uk/ events
Booking confirmations will be sent within 14 days of payment. To reserve a ticket for popular events or if you have trouble booking online, contact Sara Brouwer. To pay by cheque, please send separate cheques (sterling) for each event, payable to 'ROSL', to Members' events, Marketing Department, Over-Seas House, Park Place, St James's Street, London SW1A 1LR.
Contact: Sara Brouwer,
membersevents@rosl.org.uk;
+44 (0)20 7016 6906.

■ Younger Members

For members aged 35 and under.
Book online at www.rosl.org.uk/ events
Inter-Club events must be booked independently; visit www.inter-club.co.uk for details.
For information about the ROSL YM programme join the YM Facebook page at facebook.com/groups/roslym or contact: Sara Brouwer,
membersevents@rosl.org.uk; or Ross Lima, ross.lima@gmail.com

■ London Group

Talks and outside visits are open to London Group members, their guests and ROSL members staying at Over-Seas House London. To become a member, request an application form from Clive Carpenter (details below).
Talks are drop-in and held once a month at Over-Seas

House London on Thursday evenings at 6pm.
Outside visits can be booked by sending a cheque payable to 'London Group, Royal Over-Seas League' and a stamped, addressed envelope to Doreen Regan (details below). Cancellations and refund requests must be made at least two weeks before the event.
Please note that the London Group is a voluntary organisation and cannot take outside visit inquiries and bookings by email or telephone, only by post. Tickets are sent approximately 10 days in advance.
Contact: Clive Carpenter,
+44 (0)7798 824193;
clivedavidcarpenter@compuserve.com.
Outside visits contact: Doreen Regan, London Group, c/o Porters' Desk, Over-Seas House, Park Place, St James's Street, London SW1A 1LR.

■ Discussion Group

Meetings are held at Over-Seas House London on Monday evenings. There is no charge, no need to book and all ROSL members and guests are welcome.
Contact: John Edwards,
+44 (0)1732 883556;
johncoatesedward@aol.com

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



FLORENCE

Villa La Massa *** Deluxe**

This noble 16th Century residence is set within extensive gardens on the banks of the River Arno. There is an excellent riverside restaurant, a summer swimming pool and bicycles for exploring the beautiful surroundings, whilst a hotel shuttle transports guests to the heart of Florence in just 15 minutes. The three Tuscan villas contain 37 carefully restored bedrooms furnished with antiques and local Florentine fabrics.

3 nights for the price of 2 until 30 April & 3 - 31 August - price from £858, saving £212



Includes Uffizi Gallery tickets

VENICE

Mosconi & Grand Canal *** Deluxe**

The Mosconi is one of Venice's most famous hotels. Located just 50 yards from St. Mark's Square and almost opposite Harry's Bar, it combines traditional Venetian elegance with modern design. Breakfast and dinner are served in the hotel's canal-side restaurant or on the terrace in fine weather.

4 nights for the price of 3 - price from £779, saving £135.



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

PARIS

Royal *****

The Royal is housed in an attractive building dating from the 19th Century and has a wonderful location a stones' throw from the Arc de Triomphe and the Champs Elysees. The 58 bedrooms are all prettily furnished in a classical style.

3 nights for the price of 2 until 11 May (incl. 16-29 April) - price from £489, saving £129

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

BUDAPEST

Art'otel *** Superior**

This boutique hotel is a virtual art gallery dedicated to artist D. Soltan, whose paintings are shown throughout. The 165 designer bedrooms and suites combine modern architecture and facilities with Hungarian baroque traditions. It has an excellent location in Buda on the banks of the Danube opposite the spectacular Houses of Parliament.

4 nights for the price of 3 until 30 April & 1 - 24 July - price from £510, saving £51



SEVILLE

Cam No.7 - A boutique private hotel

Built in 1847 and owned by the charming Gonzalo del Rio (a member of the Gonzalez-Gordon literary family), Cam No.7 is a delightful town house with just six beautifully furnished bedrooms, and a fine collection of antiques and works of art. This is a real Spanish home located in the heart of the old town.

4 nights for the price of 3 all year (incl. Fri & Sat night stays) - price from £669, saving £94



LAKE MAGGIORE

Grand Hotel Majestic *** Deluxe**

With its formal gardens and fine old villa, Pallanza is the most beautiful town on Lake Maggiore. This delightful, privately owned hotel has a majestic setting on the shores of the lake with wonderful views of the mountains and the picturesque island of San Giovanni. Recently renovated, it has an indoor swimming pool, a tennis court and a small private beach. The town is a short walk away and from there you can explore the famous Borromean Islands by ferry.

5 nights for the price of 4 until 29 May and 24 Aug - 4 Oct - price from £969, saving £148



SHORT BREAK HOLIDAYS

FOR DISCERNING TRAVELLERS

Kirker Holidays provides carefully crafted tailor-made holidays to over 140 destinations in 40 countries - including 70 classic cities and over 250 relaxing rural locations throughout Europe, North Africa, Southern Africa and India.

The Kirker Concierge will arrange opera and ballet tickets, pre-book museums, galleries and private guided tours, and reserve a table for a delicious dinner at a recommended restaurant.

Prices are per person and include flights (Easter for Paris), return transfers or car hire, accommodation with breakfast, Kirker Concierge to restaurants, museums and sightseeing and the services of the Kirker Concierge.

Speak to an expert or request a brochure:

020 7593 2283 quote code GRO

www.kirkerholidays.com



Kirker
FOR DISCERNING TRAVELLERS

