

OVERSEAS

Quarterly journal of the ROSL

Issue 1, March-May 2013



NGOs revealed

From new technology-driven organisations to a local arts charity, and calls for an NGO Day

Winning performance

Why the standard was higher than ever at the NZ scholarship auditions this year

Tribute to a Master

With his solo show at the Tate, we take a closer look at experimental painter Frank Bowling

Membership renewal
forms now inside
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ISSUE 1 March-May 2013

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FRONT COVER: MASK student Benson Kinyanjui's painting of a Sipili street © MASK

From the Director-General



WINNING SMILES:
Director-General Roddy Porter was on the winning team at the ROSL Quiz in November

Christmas and New Year are long behind us but the festivities we enjoyed were as wonderful as ever, and the trees and decorations in the clubhouses looked incredible. Attendance at the Christmas and New Year functions in London and Edinburgh was high, making for a fine atmosphere in both locations. Thank you to our hard-working staff for their efforts over the festive period; and very many thanks to all our members, who again gave so generously to the staff Christmas fund. The ROSL staff really appreciate your kindness.

As this issue of *Overseas* takes shape, weather systems around the world continue to surprise and endanger. Green Park is white and, from a snow-bound UK, we extend our sympathies to our brethren in New South Wales, Victoria and Tasmania, who have been coping with extreme temperatures and widespread destructive bushfires, and to those in Queensland dealing with yet more floods. We hope that the weather returns to normal soon.

This time of year usually brings tidings of both joy and sadness, and 2013 is no exception. We were delighted to read that Fatima Vanicek has been appointed MBE for her many years of dedicated service to ROSL, and our Chairman celebrates this news further on page 18.

Sadly, we also learned of the death of Dame Elisabeth Murdoch AC DBE. An Honorary Life Member of ROSL, she always took an interest in our activities and attended them when she could. Jason Ronald, our Australia Chairman, pays a fitting tribute on page 21. Peggy Ellerton, wife of Sir Geoffrey Ellerton (ROSL Chairman 1995-2000), also passed away over the holiday period, and Stanley Martin and Robert Newell provide some

recollections. To the family and friends of these wonderful ladies, we extend our deep sympathy and our appreciation for their lives well lived.

I am delighted to welcome Gemma Matthews and Anton Cole to the ROSL staff. Gemma arrived in November to take over from Margaret Adrian-Vallance as our new Marketing Director, and Anton to replace Emmerson Wood as Guest Relations Officer in December. They are now settled and Gemma is developing strategies for improving our communication with you (including through the website), recruiting new members, clarifying the benefits of membership, developing our networks of contacts internationally, and leading on improvements to membership administration. This work is a high priority for me this year.

What else have we in train? Refurbishment work in the Wrench Room finishes soon and already looks stunning. We have completed a survey to install wi-fi throughout Over-Seas House London and hope to have that in place soon. Our plans for a battlefield tour to Ypres in May have matured (please contact us if you have not yet expressed an interest), and many other exciting events are planned, including a tour of the Royal Navy Submarine Museum in April and the Inter-Club Great Gatsby Ball in June (see pages 27 and 32). I hope to visit as many branches and members as possible, and am working hard on a plan to visit the branches in Australia later this year.

Finally, we had a good financial year in 2012 and hope for the same in 2013. Please come and use the facilities, especially the bedrooms, and join in with the many events this year. Enjoy your membership!

Roddy Porter

Editor's letter

When I was house-hunting

in East London, one enthusiastic Estate Agent took me on a tour of the Arts and Crafts terraces that characterise the area. Rather unjustly, Walthamstow is better known for crime, poverty – and the unfortunate boy band East 17. Yet this is William Morris country and there are many reminders of this heritage, if you know where to look. The William Morris Gallery reopened last year after a two-year renovation, and I was excited to check out the improved museum (page 25).

Thanks largely to my work with ROSL and as a volunteer on development projects overseas, I have a healthy interest in the work of NGOs. So many are doing important work, yet there are also well-documented problems with getting resources to those who need them and making sure funds are used in ways that are truly beneficial – themes that are central to J M Shaw's *10 Weeks in Africa* (page 29). In this context, ROSL's achievements in this area are particularly gratifying, with members raising more than £9,000 last year so that young people in Namibia and Kenya could continue their studies (page 12). Our Focus on NGOs looks at some of the new technology-driven organisations (page 8) and calls for a World NGO Day, which would celebrate the good they do and provide an opportunity to share best practice (page 5).

With such a buzz surrounding the new Hollywood take on *Les Misérables*, I'm sure members will be as fascinated as I was to discover the hidden story of Montreuil, where the early part of that story is set. Surrounded by medieval ramparts, the small town in Pas-de-Calais became the nerve centre of the British war effort during the First World War (page 11).

It is always inspiring to read about the tremendous achievements of ROSL scholars and prizewinners. The Pettman/ROSL ARTS scholarship is going from strength to strength, with the highest standard ever reported this year (page 16). With the Annual Music Competition to come, we can expect more musical highlights this spring (page 28).



Miranda Moore

RESOLUTION:
The Unesco
headquarters in
Paris, France

FOCUS

Celebration time

An international day to commemorate NGOs, discuss best practice and open opportunities for collaboration is long overdue, says **Marcis Skadmanis**

Did you know that, to date, there is no dedicated international day celebrating the work of all non-governmental organisations (NGOs)? Global societies do not tend to foster an interest in the work of NGOs at a young age; you don't often hear of children aspiring to work for an NGO, although it is just as valid a goal as any other career choice. While large and international NGOs attract the attention of the public, many small and medium-sized organisations that make a huge difference to society are rarely acknowledged and celebrated. The public and the media can overlook their day-to-day activities, which may not appear to be significant but can have a great effect on the lives of others.

And so the World NGO Day Initiative was born in 2009. The initial idea came to me when I was studying an MA in International Law and NGO Legislation, and has developed into a global initiative aiming to secure a UN General Assembly resolution to establish an international day for the commemoration and celebration of all NGOs (including non-profit and civil society organisations, and other bodies within the third sector), with the proposed date of 18 November. This would be an opportunity for organisations to come together and collaborate, to discuss the importance of effective NGOs, and to champion best practice. An initiative to

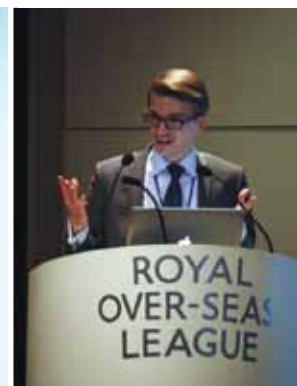
educate individuals worldwide about what NGOs do for society – locally, nationally and internationally – and about the people behind the NGOs, could inspire our young people to have a positive impact on society.

Last April, the World NGO Day Initiative was accepted and recognised by the Council of the Baltic Sea States (CBSS) NGO Forum Committee, which includes 12 countries, under the German CBSS Presidency in Berlin. This was followed by a key milestone, on 16 November, when ROSL hosted the first World NGO Day Summit at Over-Seas House London. Maj Gen Roddy Porter, ROSL Director-General, became an Honorary Ambassador of the initiative soon after, and ROSL joined other NGOs in calling for official recognition of World NGO Day.

There seems to be an abundance of international days for a whole range of issues, from social justice to volunteers, blood donation, charity and books. As well as providing important learning and collaborative opportunities, the establishment of a World NGO Day would be a symbol of the value, effort and achievements of NGOs from all sectors.

Marcis Liors Skadmanis has established several NGOs, including a Chamber of Commerce in the UK.

MILESTONE: The first NGO Day Summit, at Over-Seas House London, with speakers Marcis Skadmanis (right) and Maj Gen Roddy Porter (centre)



FOCUS



NGO: what's that?

Peter Willetts looks at the meaning of NGO and the controversy that can surround decisions over which organisations to accredit

What is a non-governmental organisation? Such a simple question, but one that does not have a generally accepted answer. The obvious logical response – an NGO is any organisation that is not part of a government – does not help, because nobody expects to include private companies.

Before 1945, the term did not exist; it was created by the diplomats who wrote the United Nations Charter because they wanted to distinguish how they would relate to two types of international organisation: global intergovernmental organisations (eg, Unesco and the World Health Organisation), and private international associations that had cooperated informally with the League of Nations. The latter were renamed 'international non-governmental organisations' and, under Article 71, they would have 'suitable arrangements for consultation' with the UN's Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). Over the years, the label NGO has spread into general use.

Given this history, the best definition of an NGO is any organisation that has, or is eligible to have, consultative status with the Council. Currently, more than 3,500 NGOs are accredited and have the right to attend the sessions of ECOSOC, its commissions and special conferences convened by the UN. They can distribute their statements, lobby the delegates in the corridors and speak in debates. They operate like pressure groups in British or American politics, except that they have greater participation rights in the UN than in the House of Commons or Congress.

Most people will, then, think of NGOs as the most prominent organisations that relate to ECOSOC's work on development, human rights, women's issues and environmental questions. These are, indeed, very important NGOs and they have had an immense impact. Development NGOs have changed how we think of development, from achieving industrial modernisation and economic growth in the 1960s, to meeting 'basic needs' in the 1970s and expanding to sustainable

development since the 1990s. Human rights NGOs have been the foundation of all the UN's work on human rights and the development of all the treaties. Without them, governments would have remained unwilling to 'interfere in the internal affairs of states'.

Women's rights NGOs have also had remarkable influence in building gender questions into development policy, integrating gender into human rights debates and expanding international humanitarian law to cover violence against women. Environmental NGOs have been crucial in policy debates, treaty drafting, and especially in monitoring policy implementation. Despite the link to ECOSOC, which has no direct involvement with security questions, peace NGOs also have consultative status. They too have achieved spectacular successes, notably in bringing into effect treaties to ban landmines and cluster munitions, against sustained opposition from the governments of the larger countries. The next big drama is in March, when NGOs will attempt to overcome opposition from the Obama administration to the strict regulation of small arms, at the final session of the UN Conference on the Arms Trade Treaty.

However, the world of NGOs is much more diverse than these well-known campaigning groups. Despite the UN's refusal to accredit any profit-making bodies, trade associations whose members are commercial companies do gain consultative status. They are often referred to as business international NGOs (BINGOs). Similarly, individual political parties cannot be accredited, but their international bodies, such as Socialist International and Liberal International, are accepted. The global federations of trade unions, global religious bodies, including the World Council of Churches, and

WIDER INFLUENCE: Greenpeace campaign at Shell's Kulluk Platform in Kiliuda Bay, Alaska (above). NGOs have been crucial in monitoring environment policy implementation

SAVING LIVES: Technicians from the Mines Advisory Group safely destroy devices near Juba, South Sudan (right). The International Campaign to Ban Landmines has had spectacular success

HELPING HAND: Beneficiaries of the Oxfam cash distribution scheme during the ongoing Yemen food crisis (far right). The UK-based charity is one of the largest NGOs in the world

NGOs have been the foundation of all the UN's work on human rights

indigenous peoples' organisations are NGOs at the UN, although none consider themselves to be NGOs. There are also many professional associations, and scientific and technical bodies.

Sometimes there are fierce debates about whether to accredit a particular NGO. When they deal with human rights, the practice has become that the candidate NGO must have a general interest in human rights and not focus on rights within a single country. But even more controversial is sexual politics. The International Planned Parenthood Federation, formed in 1953, was denied accreditation until 1965. The International Lesbian and Gay Association was accepted in July 1993, but suspended a year later by an ECOSOC special session convened solely for this purpose, because it had a member that promoted paedophilia. It was not accepted back until 2011. In 1996, the UN rules changed to allow 'national NGOs' from a single country to be accredited. The NGO community at the UN was horrified to find that the US National Rifle Association had joined them. Other controversies have arisen about individuals not behaving with diplomatic decorum.

The UN rules and UN practice may be summarised to define NGOs as any organised group of people that are not direct agents of individual governments, not pursuing criminal activities, not engaged in violent activities and not primarily established for profit-making purposes.

Many people like to imagine that NGOs have a moral superiority to governments and some argue for a global Peoples' Assembly to be created as part of the UN. However, NGOs do not have greater political legitimacy than democratically-elected governments and most governments now are elected (even if the elections are not totally free and fair). An NGO can only represent its own supporters and, however large the number may be, they are only a self-selecting, partial representation of the people as a whole.

Because NGOs are so diverse, nobody can support all NGOs. They compete against each other, not just for resources, but also over their moral values. Some NGOs promote transnational corporations as contributing to development, while some see them as exploitative organisations that must be regulated. Most women's rights groups are in opposition to Catholic NGOs over population policy. There is no general agreement on how to balance economic growth with environmental conservation. Some NGOs support radical change, some are reformers, and others are content with the status quo. There is no such thing as a 'true' NGO nor a typical NGO.

Peter Willetts is Emeritus Professor of Global Politics at City University, London. His book, Non-Governmental Organizations in World Politics (Routledge, 2011), discusses the issues covered by this article in greater detail.



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Power to the people

Emerging technologies have given birth to new NGOs. **Jessica Moore** finds out how they can create communities, empower individuals and tackle injustice

Digital technology has changed the world in unpredicted and unprecedented ways. Consider the web – unimaginable just 22 years ago, today a daily staple for millions.

Meanwhile, we do our banking on mobile phones, update friends via Twitter, and post videos on Facebook, documenting everything from a political rally to a sneezing panda. And, as a number of NGOs prove, emerging technology can also bring entirely new business models, strengthening communities and even saving lives.

"We're aiming to share the sum total of all human knowledge with anyone, anywhere, for free," explains Stevie Benton casually. Benton is Communications Organiser for Wikimedia UK, the British arm of Wikimedia, whose projects include the online encyclopedia Wikipedia. This project enlists around 85,000 voluntary 'editors' worldwide to add and update entries on any subject, and currently operates in 285 languages. Content is constantly being added, reviewed and updated. "People might read an article and think 'I can make this better', so they do," notes Benton, highlighting the emotional attraction of a digital phenomenon. "Those people are part of a huge, global community with a common aim." Huge is no understatement. Wikimedia – which includes Wiktionary and Wikibooks, among other projects – attracts around 500 million users a month, making it one of the biggest websites in the world, and the only charity in the top ten.

This spirit of sharing was also the basis for Creative Commons (CC), another non-profit organisation that

GROWING NETWORK:

A shop in Kenya selling airtime (below left), critical for the work of Medic Mobile

VIRTUAL DOCTOR:

A sick child in Mali gets medical attention via mobile phone (below)

enables people all over the world to work collaboratively – this time by offering copyright licences free of charge. "The internet gave birth to wonderful new ways to use and reuse creative work," explains Communications Manager, Elliot Harmon. "That might be by remixing music, editing copy, translating someone's work, building databases, cataloguing content. All these possibilities opened because of new technology, but we are left with an old system of copyright where the default is 'all rights reserved'. That means, when you create anything, it is assumed that you want to hold on to every possible right of its reuse." Instead, CC offers six different licences that stipulate varying conditions of reuse, enabling people to share and improve each other's work online.

This can bring exciting opportunities. Take 19-year-old Gage Skidmore, a politically curious amateur photographer, who followed the recent US election campaign trail and made his photos available on the image-hosting website Flickr under a CC licence. Skidmore's images found their way into some of America's most well-known news outlets, including *The Atlantic* and MSNBC. The journos got the snaps for free, while young Skidmore's reputation grew and enabled him to pick up paid work – it was a win-win situation. "Smart creators aren't worried about having their work 'stolen' any more," says Harmon. "They're more worried about their work being irrelevant because nobody's using it."

CC licenses aren't just for individual creators; they can also be used by governments and institutions – often for the greater good. "We do a lot of work with governments, giving out grants for Open Educational Resources. The aim is to make these easy to use and to create them with CC licenses so they can be reused all over the world, regardless of economic privilege."

Ditto Wikimedia. "One of the ways we extend access to education is by installing what we call 'Wikipedians in Residence'," Benton explains. "We build relationships with institutions and arrange for a Wikipedia editor to spend a few months there. We have a guy at the British Library at the moment called Andrew. He runs 'learn to edit Wikipedia' sessions, he's helping with the library's



In six months, the hospital doubled the number of patients it helped



digitisation projects, and he's gaining access to their archives – all of which can be put on Wikipedia." Then there's Wikiversity, an online forum for learning resources, projects and research. And, in the developing world, "we've negotiated deals with mobile content providers to make Wikipedia available for free via mobile devices," says Benton. "That's happening throughout Africa and we're looking to extend it."

The capability is there. According to Josh Nesbit, CEO of Medic Mobile, 90% of the world's population already has access to a mobile signal – even in very remote areas. This is pivotal for his charity, which increases access to healthcare using SMS (text) messaging.

"I was an undergraduate, working at an HIV clinic in rural Malawi," Nesbit explains. "There was one doctor providing care for around 250,000 people. Patients were travelling up to 100 miles to visit him. The community health workers – regular people who volunteered their time – were walking 40 miles every week to give updates on patients. I realised there was an infrastructure that we could harness." So Nesbit established a system whereby minimally trained community health workers could communicate with hospitals using nothing more sophisticated than a US\$10 mobile phone. The outcomes were astounding. In six months, the hospital doubled the number of patients it helped and saved thousands of hours of travel time. More than 100 patients started TB treatment after their symptoms were reported by text message, and the SMS network delivered home care to 130 patients who would not have received it otherwise.

That was in 2009. Since then, Medic Mobile has rolled out in 16 countries, with 7,500 health workers using SMS to help more than 750,000 patients annually. The charity is also developing new products. "Any phone can run apps which help with things like disease surveillance and coordinating intermittent care," says Nesbit. "Blood samples can even be analysed using camera phones, diagnosing anything from HIV to meningitis."

Another NGO, Ushahidi, pulls many of these technologies together to gather research 'from the bottom up', which means it starts with the feedback, evidence and observations of ordinary people on the ground. Created in the aftermath of Kenya's disputed presidential election in 2007, the charity collected eyewitness reports of violence and placed them on a Google map. Since then, Ushahidi – a Swahili word meaning 'testimony' – has developed software to track and monitor all sorts of global events and trends, gathering SMS messages, videos, photos and reports from mobile phones and emails. The technology is free to access, and available for anyone to use and tailor (known as 'open-source'). It has been used in the Democratic Republic of Congo to monitor unrest, by Al Jazeera to track violence in Gaza, to help monitor the 2009 Indian elections, and to gather reports about the Swine Flu outbreak. It's about sharing information. It's about 'harnessing the power of the crowd for good'.

What all of these NGOs share is their youth – Wikipedia and Creative Commons, both founded in 2001, are the oldest; Medic Mobile, conceived just three years ago, is the baby of the bunch – and the nature of their birth, which has been in response to technological advancements. Creating new business models and evolving with emerging capabilities, these organisations are all being regularly reviewed, extended and updated as technologies progress. Perhaps most interestingly, however, is their shared ethos in bringing people together for common purpose, revealing a very human heart that belies their digital roots.

These NGOs are supported by charitable donations. To pledge support, visit: donate.wikimedia.org; creativecommons.net/donate; rally.org/medic/donate; and ushahidi.com/get-involved.



TRAINING:
An antenatal care education session run by Medic Mobile in Kilifi, Kenya (top)

CREATIVE THINKING:
Rick Santorum on the campaign trail. One of the photos that made Gage Skidmore's name as a photographer, after he licenced it through Creative Commons (above)



Art for development's sake

Claire Simon talks to Alla Tkachuk, founder of the Mobile Art School in Kenya, about giving children the creative skills to become future leaders

I didn't know I could do it!" exclaimed Joel Gatua when he looked down at his first ever painting. Joel is one of many young people to have attended workshops set up and run by the Mobile Art School in Kenya (MASK). Founded in 2006 by London-based artist Alla Tkachuk, the charity is dedicated to fostering creativity among Kenyan school children and providing informal creative learning where it is absent. At its heart is the belief that creative and innovative young people can contribute to social and economic development. "Art is a lifeline, especially for young people trying to perceive and understand the world. It helps to develop the imagination and creative thinking," Alla explains.

MASK has helped at least 25,000 young Kenyans in more than 20 schools so far. The charity runs intensive creative workshops in schools, following which children and teachers continue the work themselves by setting up extracurricular art clubs. During the workshops in his school, Joel soon emerged as a natural leader, later running the art club himself. Now aged 21, he is a professional painter, commissioned by restaurants in Nairobi and Mombasa, and signed to one of Kenya's top advertising agencies. He also runs a non-profit business that grows vegetables, sells them to a school for use in their lunches, and uses the funds to pay for school trips. "Nurturing and developing creativity allows the children to think for themselves and create their own ideas. This develops into entrepreneurialism and encourages them to think how they can better their situation," says Alla.

One of the most beneficial MASK programmes is Art for Peace-Building. The charity works in areas where conflict is rife and children are directly affected. "There are already so many peace-building charities and organisations in Kenya," says Alla. "But none of them

were working with school children – the future generation, the future leaders. No one was asking them how they felt, no one gave them the ways to communicate." For many of the children, painting has enabled them to express their fears in a visual way. "The Peace-Building workshops are our most important ones. Art, more than anything else, can develop empathy – the basis of education for peace."

During the violence following the 2007 Kenyan elections, MASK worked with child refugees to help them express their feelings about violence and peace through art. Their work was subsequently shown in Nairobi, and a Kenyan radio station broadcast their peace messages to the nation. They were being heard at last.

"For me the success is shown not in how good at painting the students are, or how much money they make selling their work. It's the fact that they are thinking for themselves about how to use the resources around them and the talents they have to develop and look after themselves," says Alla. Jane Enyen, who joined a MASK club near Lake Naivasha two years ago, now makes a living from her paintings of wildlife and teaches other children how to paint.

In 2013, MASK is launching a national art competition that will be open to all 30 million young people in Kenya. Work will be judged by a world-renowned panel of artists and writers, and the winning pieces will be exhibited at the Kenyan National Museum in June, and London's Saatchi Gallery in October.

MASK is a UK registered charity. To get involved or to donate, see www.mobileartschoolinkenya.org or email contact@mobileartschoolinkenya.org.

PAINTING PEACE: Artwork by a pupil from Lariak Day Secondary School (above right), painted during the conflict following the Kenyan elections in 2007

PRIDE AND JOY: One of the abandoned children at Safe House in Naivasha town holds up his hand-painting (above left)

STROKE OF GENIUS: MASK student Benson Kinyanjui (below) has gone on to sell his work to Nairobi Club and collectors in London and Washington

"Art, more than anything, can develop empathy: the basis of education for peace"



IN MEMORIAM:
Statue of Field
Marshal Haig in
Montreuil-sur-Mer

WWI: untold story

Terence Hughes reveals the little-known story of Montreuil, a small French town that was key to the British war effort

The film of *Les Misérables* is now being screened around the world. 60 million people have seen the stage show, telling the heart-rending story of Jean Valjean, Mayor of Montreuil-sur-Mer in Pas-de-Calais. But there is another, far bigger story to be told about what happened in this small town almost a century ago. From April 1916 until early 1919, it was the nerve-centre of the largest army Britain ever put into the field. Montreuil's towering ramparts and cobbled streets were occupied by the General Headquarters (GHQ) of Field Marshal Sir Douglas Haig, the Commander-in-Chief of the British Expeditionary Force (BEF) on the Western Front.

As the centenary of the Great War approaches, the Expeditionary Trust is working in partnership with the Ville de Montreuil-sur-Mer to tell the story of how the GHQ supplied the battlefield and sustained the morale of millions of fighting men, drawn from all corners of the British Empire. We are developing a Heritage Centre in Montreuil, which will bring to life the vast logistic and communications system that stretched far beyond the battlefields. In the words of an anonymous staff officer, the little walled town "was the focus of a spider's web of wires, at one end of which were the soldiers in their trenches, at the other the workers of the world at their benches".

The officers and men of GHQ, working in requisitioned school rooms, faced a gargantuan task. Five armies had to be fed, armed and supplied around the clock, with a just-in-time system that would daunt a modern supermarket chain – the lessons learnt in the Great War pioneered the modern distribution industry. Half a million mules and horses had to be fed and cared for, fuel provided for tanks and aircraft, and wire, timber and engineering stores shipped to the trenches. Thousands of troops had to be moved to and from the Lines, casualties evacuated and the army's morale sustained with well-stocked canteens and mail deliveries from home.

"Can you imagine what it is to feed, administer, move about and look after the medical and spiritual

requirements of a million men, even when they are not engaged in fighting, and not in a foreign country?" asked Brigadier General Charteris at the time. GHQ's administrative and logistic achievements would have been impossible without the technical and commercial know-how of civilian experts. Their business skills helped GHQ to reconstruct the railway system of Northern France and cope with the demands of a multinational, multi-ethnic army. The BEF's fighting divisions comprised men from all parts of Britain, Canada, Australia, New Zealand and India. They were supported by a non-combatant labour force, including thousands of South Africans, Egyptians and Chinese, who toiled behind the Lines.

Illuminating the relationship between the citizens of Pas-de-Calais and the 'friendly invasion' by a multi-ethnic force, the Heritage Centre pays tribute to Montreuil's importance during the war. As the hub of a vast military effort, it was a key political location, where major decisions were made. It was the site of top-level meetings, attended by the Entente's senior commanders and Allied leaders, including Lloyd George and Clemenceau. King George V was among the VIPs, politicians and journalists who came to Montreuil, and Winston Churchill was a frequent visitor.

The aim of the Heritage Centre is to show how the final outcome of the war depended as much on the resilience and dependability of the 'back office' as the courage and weaponry of the men in the trenches.

The Trust is seeking funding and support in the UK and the Commonwealth. Contact: The Expeditionary Trust, PO Box 68519, London SW15 9EJ; info@expeditionarytrust.org.

ROSL is running a members' tour to the battlefields of the Western Front in May. For more information contact Sara Brouwer: sbrouwer@rosl.org.uk.



Courtesy of the Imperial War Museum

WORLD HERITAGE:
Archive image of the
École Militaire (top)

NERVE CENTRE:
Royal Engineers
manning the GHQ
telephone exchange
in the Citadel
(above)



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£1 add-ons raise £9,000

ROSL development projects continue thanks to the generosity of members, says **Margaret Adrian-Vallance**

If you stayed at ROSL last year and took part in the voluntary £1 add-on to your bedroom bill when you left, you may like to know that you helped raise £9,246 for ROSL's school and college bursaries in Namibia and Kenya. In Kenya there are two students at secondary school in the Gilgil area, and many more hoping for help. ROSL has pledged a four-year commitment here.

In Namibia, the £1 add-ons formed a large part of the bursaries for 10 young people studying education and teacher training at the University of Namibia. Six come from the remote Himba areas in the north and want to return to their communities as teachers. Others are from the edge of the Kalahari area around Gobabis and Mokaleng, and also want to become teachers.

They are following in the footsteps of several ROSL bursary alumni, including Melissa Uses, who is now teaching in the remote Kunene area, Ellie Velskoen in remoter Mokaleng, Elias Araeb near Gobabis and Cwisa Cwi in the Nyae Nyae Conservancy. Cwisa recently graduated in Leadership and Management from the University of Johannesburg.

With income from ROSL's Golden Jubilee Trust investments committed to our splendid and extensive Arts programme, development projects have to be self-funded by members and outside organisations, such as Fondation Espace Afrique, which was sadly unable to make a donation in 2012. The kindness of members from as far afield as the Cayman Islands and Texas, as well as the £1 add-ons, therefore helped to save the day in 2012. There are several young people in Kenya and Namibia who are most grateful for this generosity of spirit. *To make a donation, see page 23.*

CHANGING LIVES:

£1 add-ons support pupils at Da Palm Senior Secondary, such as Magte Doeses, pictured with her family (right)

CONGRATULATIONS:

(Below) ROSL bursary alumnus Cwisa Cwi (r) recently graduated from the University of Johannesburg





JIM NAPIER'S Bangkok

INNER CALM:
A temple in
Ayutthaya

What are the 'must-sees' on a short trip to Bangkok?

The Grand Palace, a temple where you can see the Emerald Buddha, and the adjoining Wat Po, the Temple of the Reclining Buddha. I would also recommend a trip on the Chao Phya river, either using the river bus from the Taksin Bridge to Pakkret, or a day excursion on the Shangri-La Hotel boat.

What time of year is best for a visit?

Late October, the end of the rainy season, to March, when the temperature gradually rises from the high 20s to the low 30s.

It's a huge metropolis with around 12 million residents. What advice would you give a first-time visitor?

Collect a map on arrival at the airport; this will save you a lot of dithering and help you to plan your day. Movement in the city is easy, either using the overhead or underground railway systems, or by taxi or tuk-tuk taxi. Fares are cheap: with taxis, simply insist that the meter is switched on, and with tuk-tuks, don't be tempted by the city tour they offer – drivers will take you to jewellery emporiums, and silk and souvenir shops, where you will be hassled to buy.

Describe Bangkok in three words...

Chaotic, compelling, exciting.

What do you love about the city?

The hustle and bustle, and the lack of planning restrictions: mansions sit cheek by jowl with slums. The city never sleeps and there is always an eating house or stall available to serve up delicious food. The Thai citizens are friendly and will readily return a smile.

What's a good short trip outside the capital?

Chiang Mai, in the north of the country. It's a city full of temples, markets, craftsmen and, again, friendly citizens. It is also cooler than Bangkok and has a less hectic way of life. Alternatively, visit the coast and enjoy the wonderful beaches. Many tourists travel to Pattaya, but I would recommend Cha-am or Hua Hin, both about a two-hour drive away.

Jim Napier is Chairman of ROSL Thailand. He has lived in Bangkok for 20 years.

Interview by Claire Simon.

METROPOLIS: The busy streets of a city inhabited by 12 million people

A RARE EVENT: The Royal Barge Procession passes the Temple of the Dawn



Photos © Jim Napier



ON THE BEACH:
In Barcelona you're
never far from
interesting architecture



Festival spirit

Claire Simon visits Barcelona for the Night of Fire, a festival of fire, water... and healing herbs

Spain is synonymous with good food, wine and weather. But it is also the country of choice for many, thanks to its traditions and fiestas. One city in particular is renowned for its festivities: Barcelona. Some of the best months to visit the Catalan capital are during late spring and early summer, when the heat is bearable and there are celebrations aplenty.

Midsummer's Eve, on 23 June, is commemorated in most European countries, and Spain is no exception. In Cataluña, the longest day of the year is known as the festival of Sant Joan, or the Nit del Foc (Night of Fire). Marking the official start of summer, the celebrations in Barcelona kick off in the early evening, with bonfires, firecrackers and lots of music.

Fire, water and herbs are all used symbolically. As legend goes, fire cleanses the soul of sins, bathing during the festival heals illnesses, and herbs picked or eaten on the day have enhanced healing powers. These elements are evident all over the city, and the sense of excitement about the approaching summer fuels the electric atmosphere. Concerts and performances occur in plazas and on the beach, and every nook and cranny buzzes, with festival-goers of different ages celebrating from dusk until dawn.

The following day, the Feast of Sant Joan, is a public holiday and the traditional coca de Sant Joan (St John's cake) is eaten. The Nit del Foc represents Barcelona at its most vivid and exciting, and is a great way to experience the spirit of the city.



CITY CENTRE:
Barcelona's Plaça Reial

Another reason to visit

Since the 12th century, many countries throughout the world have honoured the legend of Saint George, as a narrative extolling heroism and chivalry. He is the Patron Saint not only of England but also of Catalonia, where he is known as Sant Jordi.

The celebrations in Barcelona on 23 April fuse Saint George's Day, Shakespeare's Birthday and Valentine's Day. The tradition is for gentlemen to present a red rose to their favourite lady, while ladies buy a book for their favoured gentleman. Stalls selling roses and books fill the streets and squares of the city, including the historic Plaça Sant Jaume. The Cloister Fountain in the cathedral, which is known for its statue of Sant Jordi, is adorned with roses.

The City Council and the seat of the Catalan government are based opposite one another on the Plaça – the latter in the Palau de la Generalitat, which also has a statue of Saint George and a dragon above the entrance. On Sant Jordi's Day the queue to that entrance winds round the building and into the Gothic Quarter.

In the afternoon and evening, the stalls give way to live music and people dancing the *sardana*, a circle dance typical of the region. These charming festivities are a glorious celebration of Saint George – Catalan style!

By ROSL member Cyril Sullivan



ROMANTIC: Cyril presents his wife Glenda with her Sant Jordi rose (above)

FLORAL COLOURS: Flowers for sale on La Rambla (below)



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It just gets better and better

Roderick Lakin reports on the 7th Annual Pettman/ROSL ARTS scholarship auditions in New Zealand

Now in its seventh year, the Pettman/ROSL ARTS scholarship for an outstanding young New Zealand chamber ensemble has firmly established itself as one of New Zealand's most prestigious and hotly-contested musical awards. The award, valued in excess of NZ\$60,000, offers a unique, month-long study visit to the UK for the winning ensemble, and also gives UK-based past ROSL prizewinners the opportunity to perform in New Zealand and to act as scholarship jury members.

This year's winners, the Rothko Quartet (Olivia Francis, Emily Bouwhuis violins, Alex Macdonald viola, Cameron Stuart cello), although a recently formed group, are no strangers to playing together – all its members have been section leaders in the Auckland Youth Orchestra and University of Auckland Orchestra. As part of a wider musical scene, they have encountered each other many times as sub-principals of the National Youth Orchestra, DSCH Quartet, ARCO String Orchestra and university chamber groups. For Cameron, their victory was particularly gratifying as he had been a participant and finalist with different ensembles on a number of previous Pettman/ROSL ARTS scholarship auditions.

Eleven ensembles nominated by the universities of Auckland, Otago, Victoria and Waikato took part in auditions held at the Academy of Performing Arts at the University of Waikato, Hamilton, on 14-16 November. Three ensembles were selected for the final concert in the Dr John Gallagher Concert Chamber at the Academy of Performing Arts Centre on Friday 16 November: the Rothko Quartet; ETACETI (Abigail Sperling flute, Robert Drage cello) both from the University of Auckland; and Taiaha Quartet (Jin Kim, Ngaruaroha Martin violins, Adam Maha viola, Tamsin Kreymborg cello) from the University of Waikato. The final concert was recorded and will be broadcast on Radio New Zealand Concert.

I was joined on the adjudicating panel by the Leonore Trio (Benjamin Nabarro violin, Gemma Rosefield cello and Timothy Horton piano); Euan Murdoch (Chamber Music New Zealand CEO and New Zealand clarinettist and saxophonist); and Mark Walton OAM (clarinet/saxophone and former Head of Wind/Performance Outreach at the Sydney Conservatorium). Benjamin, Gemma and Mark are all distinguished past prizewinners of the ROSL ARTS Annual Music Competition, the latter having won the Gold Medal more than 30 years ago, in 1978.

The judges were impressed with the high quality of preparation and music-making demonstrated by all of the participating groups, not just the finalists. Euan Murdoch, who has served on all but one of the seven competition juries, agreed with my assessment that the 2012 competition was by far the highest overall standard so far, reflecting the seriousness and high regard in which the competition is now held by young musicians

The Rothko Quartet impressed the jury with the intelligence and musicality of their playing



© David Hamilton

and educational institutions alike. The class of 2012 have certainly set the bar very high.

The Rothko Quartet impressed the jury with the intelligence and musicality of their playing, notably in Schittke's emotionally and technically demanding *String Quartet No.3*. Individually and collectively they are at an ideal point in their professional development to take full advantage of the intensive performance and coaching opportunities that the scholarship offers.

The quartet can look forward to a packed schedule during their stay in the UK this summer, including appearances at concerts in London at St Martin-in-the-Fields, St James's Piccadilly, St Barnabas Church and Over-Seas House. They will also perform in the Budleigh Salterton Festival, spend a week at Dartington International Summer School, and travel to Edinburgh to take part in ROSL ARTS' Edinburgh Festival Fringe series.

In addition to their own performances, they will have coaching and masterclasses from leading UK teachers, and will be given tickets for a wide variety of cultural events, including concerts by international orchestras, chamber groups and soloists at the BBC Proms, Wigmore Hall and Edinburgh International Festival.



ON TOUR:

The Leonore Trio performs in the Grand Hall of the Legislative Council Chamber in the New Zealand Parliament, in aid of Sistema Aotearoa (above left)

PROUD MOMENT:

The Rothko Quartet, (l-r) Cameron Stuart, Emily Bouwhuis, Olivia Francis and Alex Macdonald (above)



RAISING THE BAR:
Jury member, New Zealand clarinetist/saxophonist Mark Walton, announces the winner



During the Scholarship weekend in Hamilton, the Leonore Trio gave a concert of music by Haydn, Ravel, Rowland Jones and Dvorak on 14 November. All participants had the opportunity for mentoring and coaching from the Leonore Trio and the scholarship judges, as well as receiving career development advice.

In addition to the Hamilton weekend, the Leonore Trio concert tour included Waiheke Island, Auckland, Hastings, Graytown, Waikanae, the opening of the Gisborne International Music Competition (20-21 November), and a concert at the parliament building in Wellington, hosted by the Hon Chris Finlayson, the Minister for Culture. Each concert was given in aid of a different charity, including Sistema Aotearoa and Save the Children.

The auditions and the tour have greatly enhanced the profile of ROSL in New Zealand. This is due primarily to the commitment and inspirational leadership of ROSL NZ Director Lyn Milne, with considerable support from her husband Keith. ROSL ARTS is indebted to Professor Barrie and Maureen Pettman for their sustained support of this unique opportunity for New Zealand and UK-based musicians, which continues to go from strength to strength.



Our 2013 programme of Ancient, Medieval, Napoleonic and 20th Century tours include the anniversary tours of Gettysburg 1863, Kursk 1943, Leipzig 1813, Sicily 1943, and the Dambusters 1943. We will also be looking at Budapest in WW2 and after, Alfred the Great, Scapa Flow, Berlin 1945, Chatham, and the Civil Service Rifles in WW1 and many more.

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OVERSEAS

News and views

The latest from the clubhouses in London and Edinburgh



▼ Thursday fun

A regular fixture in the events calendar is the new monthly half-price drinks evening for members in general and Younger Members in particular. On the first Thursday of the month, the Cocktail Lounge is set up with candles and music for a social evening for ROSL Younger Members. On the third Thursday, the promotion runs again, this time for all ROSL members. Already proving to be a popular staple, these Thursdays will continue throughout 2013.



▲ Top scorers

November was the month the Big General Knowledge Quiz came to ROSL. Eight teams battled it out in Princess Alexandra Hall, competing to answer the questions set by our experienced quiz master, Andy Regan. The winning team, MAD(ge), received half-price tickets for the ROSL members' Dinner in the Tower of London.



▲ Chairman's Lunch

ROSL welcomed Sir Andrew Green KCMG as guest speaker at the November Chairman's Lunch. The former HM Ambassador to Syria and Saudi Arabia spoke about the conflict in Syria, its future and the wider prospects for the region.



Fatima Vanicek MBE

Members around the world will be delighted to hear that Fatima Vanicek was appointed MBE in the New Year Honours – a fitting tribute to her 32 years of service with ROSL until her retirement in 2011. Fatima now lives in Scotland and we know she would love to hear from her friends. Her email is fatimavanicek@yahoo.co.uk. Warmest congratulations, Fatima!

Sir Anthony Figgis

◀ Young Artist of Thailand

The ROSL Young Artist of Thailand 2012 competition winner, Hataiwan Thepmalee (centre right), with (l-r) Director of ROSL ARTS Roderick Lakin, Hataiwan's teacher Narongchai Saelee and ROSL Director-General Roddy Porter. They are pictured in front of Hataiwan's painting, 'Private World', at the Young Artist of Thailand Private View in October.





◀ Tastings galore

ROSL members were treated to two tutored tastings. In October, winemaker Fleur McCree guided us through a tasting of six of her award-winning Little Beauty wines from the Waihopai Valley in New Zealand (below centre and right). The wines were accompanied by a delicious tasting menu, devised by Fleur and Graysons Restaurants. Then, in November, a representative from the Scotch Malt Whisky Society helped members to explore some of the very best single cask, single malt whiskies available, preceded by an array of Scottish-themed canapés (left and below left).



◀ Tech savvy

Over-Seas House London now has a new computer area to allow members to access the internet in a quiet and comfortable place. Three computers have been set up just outside the Mountbatten Room, and are at members' disposal 24/7.

Central Council ▶

Central Council was delighted to welcome HE Mr Abhimanu Mahendra Kundasamy (centre right), the High Commissioner for Mauritius, as their Guest of Honour at the lunch on 26 November. He was accompanied by his wife, Mahalutchmee Kundasamy (centre left), and spoke of the emerging business opportunities in Mauritius and East Africa. They are pictured with ROSL Chairman Sir Anthony Figgis (left) and Director-General Roddy Porter.



◀ Festive farewells and warm welcomes

The ever-smiling Guest Relations Officer, Emmerson Wood (far left), left ROSL in December to begin his Army career at Sandhurst. Although we were sad to wave goodbye, his replacement, Anton Cole (centre left), has taken up the role with great energy and enthusiasm. Another new face at ROSL is Gemma Matthews (centre right), the new Director of Marketing. Gemma began in November and is bringing her knowledge and experience to the newly named Marketing Department (formerly the PR Department). Gemma replaces Margaret Adrian-Vallance (right) who, after 19 years at ROSL, is now working as Director of Education and Development Projects. To book a show-round with Anton call +44 (0)20 7408 0214 ext 215.

ROSL WORLD

The latest from the global branches



Australia

In December, members of the **New South Wales** Branch were invited to the Beaded Links exhibition at Parliament, featuring beaded clothes and jewellery from across the Commonwealth. The **South Australia** Branch began a 'Musical Chair' sponsorship of the Adelaide Symphony Orchestra's clarinet section leader, Dean Newcomb. At the branch's Annual Dinner in October, Dean gave a recital with four ASO colleagues. The Melbourne Cup and Christmas lunches were as popular as ever, and the branch continues to flourish and attract new members. A new gift membership scheme is already proving successful.

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

Queensland: Sharon Morgan, sllmorgan@hotmail.com

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

Tasmania: Robert Dick, gradick1@gmail.com

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

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



Canada

Despite the temperature dropping below -20 degrees, 22 members of the **Alberta** Branch met in December at the Royal Glenora Club in Edmonton for their Christmas brunch. Soprano saxophonist, Eric Tooms, who was awarded the branch's Jubilee Music Award in 2012, entertained the group. The **British Columbia** Branch shared seasonal festivities with the Royal Commonwealth Society Chapter in British Columbia, and several members joined in the lunch party at the Vancouver Lawn Tennis Club. The branch will consider other opportunities to share events in the coming year.

The **Nova Scotia** Branch celebrated The Queen's Diamond Jubilee in December with other local Commonwealth societies, at a Reception hosted by the St George's Society in Halifax, and organised by its President, Alan Williams. It was the first time the societies had come together.

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

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

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

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



Hong Kong

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



New Zealand

Christmas lunches and dinners for members and friends were enjoyed by **Auckland**, **Manawatu**, **Christchurch**, **Oamaru**, **South Canterbury** and **Southland** branches. New Zealand members have responded to the suggestion that they encourage friends and family to join ROSL. Trips to the UK remain a principal reason for joining and the branch's website continues to make it easy for new members to sign up.

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



Switzerland

Switzerland: Jo Brown, +334 5040 6631



Thailand

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



UK

The Director-General and his wife, Marianne Porter, paid their first visit to the **Bath** Branch for its October lunch, with General Porter giving a lively talk on his first year in office, and on the future of ROSL. The branch said a reluctant farewell to June Jessop, who retired as Chairman. She is succeeded by long-time member Peggy Walters. The branch coffee morning is held at Pratt's Hotel on the second Wednesday of the month.

The **Bournemouth** Branch held a Christmas Raffle coffee morning in



© Christopher Haat

December and raised £212 for the Chairman's charity. Following the sad death of Chairman Chris Bladen last year, the Committee set up the 'Chris Bladen Memorial Address', which will take place following the Autumn Lunch in October. Speakers will be invited to address the branch on interesting subjects. The search for new members continues, with membership numbers remaining stable in 2012. Coffee mornings are held at Marriott Highcliff Hotel every Thursday.

In **Cheltenham**, monthly afternoon meetings continued with illustrated talks on the Falklands, Swindon Village and the Descent of the Grand Canyon given by local guest speakers. The final event of the year was the Christmas lunch at the Everyman Theatre.

In **Edinburgh**, actor John Cairney paid a welcome return visit to address the November Arts Lunch and, in December, Professor Linda Dryden spoke on 'RL Stevenson and Popular Culture'. The clubhouse once again enjoyed a splendid festive season, with special lunches and the Hogmanay celebrations.

The Director-General paid his first visit to the **Exeter** Branch, outlining the initial outcome of the strategic review and his first year at ROSL. Talks were given by Professor Ruth Hawker on 'Occupied Guernsey', and Naomi Lawrence on designing and erecting a garden at the Hampton Court Flower Show.

The Director-General was guest speaker at the Glasgow Branch Christmas Lunch. The autumn/winter programme included a talk on the mountain gorillas of Rwanda, a presentation on the life of Sir Edward Elgar, and a talk by Ian Robert on a musical theme.

In October, the **Taunton** Branch had a gala lunch in celebration of The Queen's Diamond Jubilee, in the presence of the Lord Lieutenant of Somerset Lady Gass and the Mayor of Taunton Deane. Sir Anthony Figgis gave a short talk on the future of ROSL and there was a recital by Jun Sasaki (cello) with Jadran Duncomb (guitar). In November, David Elkington gave a talk on the Romans in Somerset, while the over-subscribed Christmas lunch featured an illustrated talk



JUBILEE CELEBRATION: At the reception hosted by the St George's Society in Halifax, Nova Scotia (left), are pictured (l-r) ROSL members Barbara Hughes QC, Hamish and Johanna Calder, Nova Scotia Branch President Elizabeth Stern, and President of the St George's Society Alan Williams

ON DISPLAY: (Far left) The Governor of New South Wales (r) with ROSL branch members after opening the Beaded Links exhibition at Parliament, Melbourne

on a visit to Uzbekistan. The branch coffee mornings are held at the Castle Green Inn on Wednesdays.

The West Cornwall Branch's monthly Cornish cream tea meetings at Carbis Bay have included talks on Central America, a voyage on the Volga, and the building of a school in Nepal.

The West Sussex Branch held an informal lunch in October. Central Council member Clive Carpenter was guest speaker at the November lunch, bringing members up-to-date with the Namibia Project. The year concluded with the traditional Christmas lunch, followed by a fundraising event for the ROSL Music Competition Sussex Prize for a young woodwind player of promise.

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

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

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

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

West Cornwall: Ian Wood, +44 (0)1736 333 460

West Sussex: Marilyn Archbold, +44 (0)1444 458 853

WELCOME RETURN: Scottish actor, John Cairney (l), who spoke at the November Edinburgh Arts Lunch, with Edinburgh Branch Chairman, Bill Chalmers



Obituaries

Dame Elisabeth Murdoch, 1909-2012



Aged 103, in her home of 84 years in Langwarrin, Dame Elisabeth Murdoch AC DBE died peacefully with members of her family at her side. An Honorary Life Member of ROSL since 2003, Elisabeth Murdoch was a wonderful wife, mother, grandmother, great grandmother and great great grandmother. She married Keith Murdoch in 1928, when he was 43 and she 19, and they were married for 24 years until his untimely death in 1952. They had four children: Helen (who died in 2004), Rupert, Anne and Janet.

Elisabeth was a keen gardener, a generous and inspiring philanthropist and, above all, encouraged young people in the arts and promoted scientific and medical research. Her involvement with ROSL began in 1990, when she became a member, but her association with loyal societies went back further.

The Victoria Branch visited her Cruden Farm home twice – the second time just before her 100th birthday, when she was presented with a Water Gum tree. When Sir Anthony and Lady Figgis came to Australia in 2010, Dame Elisabeth invited us all to Cruden Farm and, following a tour of the garden, she asked us to join her for lunch at the McClelland Gallery in Langwarrin. She was in fine form and interested in everything ROSL was doing. Dame Elisabeth often attended the ROSL Christmas Reception at the home of the

British Consul-General and frequently made encouraging comments after reading *Overseas* or the Victoria Branch News Bulletin.

A State Memorial Service was held for Dame Elisabeth at St Paul's Cathedral, Melbourne, on 18 December 2012.

Jason Ronald OAM

DAME ELISABETH: With ROSL Australia Chairman, Jason Ronald

Peggy Ellerton, 1921-2013

In January, we received the sad news of the death of Peggy Ellerton. Peggy and her husband, Sir Geoffrey (ROSL Chairman 1995-2000), had known each other since childhood, never spending more than a night away from each other since she joined him in Kenya, after their marriage, when he was a District Officer. Her dedicated support of Geoffrey ran through his time as Head of the Kenyan Civil Service, his Chairmanship of Elder Dempster Lines on their return to the UK, and his role as Chairman of the Local Government Boundary Commission in 1983.

Peggy had a slender frame but was far from fragile in the support she gave Geoffrey during his chairmanship of ROSL. In their mid-seventies, when his term began, they devoted themselves to the task with an energy that belied their age. They visited all the branches in Britain and many overseas, presiding over the main annual ROSL events and attending as many others as they could from their Cotswold home.

Away from ROSL, and especially in retirement, Peggy applied herself with love and devotion to her prizewinning garden. Peggy and Geoffrey were serious Wagnerites and went to Bayreuth most years. She was a much liked ROSL personality and, through her charm, she won many friends and admirers among ROSL staff and members around the world. We send our sincere condolences to her wider family.

Stanley Martin and Robert Newell

Annual General Meeting 2013

Dear Member,

I am instructed to inform you that the ROSL AGM will be held at Over-Seas House London on Tuesday 7 May 2013 at 3.30pm. The AGM will receive a verbal report on events in 2012 and the ROSL accounts. Such other business as may be necessary in accordance with the bye-laws will also be conducted. The AGM will be preceded by the Chairman's Lunch (12pm for 12.30pm) and followed by a reception, at which only members attending the AGM will be served delicious refreshments.

Yours sincerely,

Major General Roddy Porter MBE
Director-General

Agenda

- To sing the first verse of the National Anthem
- Address by the Chairman
- The Honorary Treasurer to report on ROSL's finances
- To receive and adopt the ROSL accounts for 2012
- To confirm appointments to the Central Council under the terms of bye-laws 14.6 and 14.7
- To fill vacancies occurring under the terms of bye-laws 20.1 and 20.2
- To receive a verbal report for 2012
- To appoint auditors for the ensuing year.

Note: copies of the 2012 Financial Accounts will be available from the Finance and Administration Department from 15 April and on request from ROSL Reception from 29 April.

Share your views: help us improve

At ROSL, we are always aiming to improve your membership experience. On the reverse of the carrier sheet, which is enclosed with your copy of *Overseas*, you will find a questionnaire about the magazine. Please send us your feedback on what we are doing well and how we can improve the magazine, by filling it out and returning it to us.

SPECIAL LINKS

Taking care

Julie Thompson, from the Hospital and Medical Care Association, looks at why the health plan provider's links with ROSL are so strong

The Hospital and Medical Care Association (HMCA) has been a provider of exclusive membership benefits to ROSL members since 1994. HMCA began in 1978 from premises based in Fleet Street, London. The ethos of the business remains true to its roots: providing cost-effective, specialised membership benefits befitting individuals of professional organisations.

The synergy that exists between the association and ROSL is based on our traditional values, providing a professional service and putting members first. This remains the foundation on which HMCA operates, and mirrors that of ROSL and other long-standing membership groups.

HMCA currently works with more than 700 associations nationally, offering a specific range of plans designed to provide quality medical and related plans to its members. When members subscribe to any of the plans they are automatically entitled to an additional raft of benefits, including a 25% discount on the ROSL joining fee. HMCA continuously promotes the work of our associations and strives to support the importance of the projects and work carried out by organisations such as ROSL.

Like ROSL, HMCA has links to associations including the National Trust, Incorporated Society of Musicians, Historic Houses Association, Royal Horticultural Society, Royal Academy, Irish Nurses and Midwives Organisation (Dublin), Royal Institute of Naval Architects and the Foreign & Commonwealth Office.

The Founders of HMCA have been avid members of ROSL for some 25 years, enjoying the hospitality and diverse range of benefits and activities that come with membership.



ON CALL: HMCA offers a professional service to its members (above)

BEECH HALL: HMCA Head Office in Knaresborough (below)



Annual subscription renewal reminder 2013

Dear Member,

Annual membership subscriptions were due for renewal on 1 January 2013.

If you have not yet renewed there are several options for payment. The simplest is via the members' profile* section of our website, www.rosl.org.uk, where you can pay your membership renewal using a debit or credit card. Please note that a surcharge of 3% applies for all credit card payments. No surcharge applies for renewals using a debit card.

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

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

Please return the tear-off slip on the right with your cheque (made payable to ROSL), marked for the attention of the Membership Department.

*To access the members' profile section of the website you must register as an online user. This is currently unavailable to Australian and New Zealand members, who should contact their local branch for renewal details.

London area (resident within the 50-mile radius of Charing Cross)	£297
Country England and Wales (outside the 50-mile radius)	£163
Edinburgh area (within the 25-mile radius of Edinburgh)	£220
Country Scotland (outside the 25-mile radius)	£162
Organisational Country Scotland (outside the 25-mile radius)	£155
Resident overseas (includes Ireland, Isle of Man, Channel Islands)	£127
Aged 17-25 (all countries and areas)	£85
Student members aged 17-30 (those in full-time education. Proof required)	£85
Local Branch	£18



ROSL annual subscription payment 2013 (by cheque)

Please return this tear-off slip with your cheque (made payable to ROSL), marked for the attention of the Membership Department to:

**Royal Over-Seas League,
Over-Seas House,
Park Place,
St James's Street,
London, SW1A 1LR**

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Name(s).....

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Total subscription fee(s) due: £.....

If the address shown on the carrier sheet of *Overseas* magazine is incorrect, please enter your correct address below. Please use capital letters:

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ROSL Golden Jubilee Trust

(registered Charity Number 306095)

Donations and legacies from ROSL members enable us to maintain the heritage of the Royal Over-Seas League, expand our education and development programmes, and continue our ROSL ARTS programmes. More information about development projects and ROSL ARTS can be found on our website. If you would like to make a donation with this renewal form, please specify here:

In addition to my subscription, I would like to make a donation to:

ROSL Development Projects £.....

ROSL ARTS £.....

Total enclosed (including subscription) £.....

Gift aid declaration (optional) ☐

As a UK taxpayer, I would like the Golden Jubilee Trust to treat this and any future donations as Gift Aid donations, which will enable the charity to reclaim my basic income tax on these donations. (To qualify for Gift Aid, what you pay in tax must be at least equal to the amount we will claim in the tax year).

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Date.....

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CAN LIGHT UP LIVES**

Your loved ones always come first when it comes to your last wishes. Our wish is that, if you are thinking about a charitable gift, then please consider Royal Blind.

We educate and care for blind and disabled children and our work is only possible through the kindness and generosity of others.

Every gift, large or small is appreciated and every penny really will make a big difference to the work of Royal Blind.

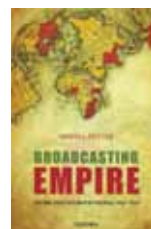
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For more information about giving to Royal Blind, please visit our website at www.royalblind.org or call 0131 229 1456

Charity number SC017167

Books

Reviews of recent works by ROSL members



Through a Lebanese Window: Letters from Lebanon

Elizabeth Thorneycroft-Smith

Dergham s.a.r.l, 2012

ISBN: 978-9953-579-00-9,

£14.99. To buy, email

through.a.lebanese.window@gmail.com

Written as a series of letters from 1998 to 2011, *Through a Lebanese Window* details the author's everyday life in the ancient port city of Byblos. From descriptions of the traditional houses she lived in, to the local friends she made, the book traces her experience of a country torn apart by religion and international politics.

Broadcasting Empire: The BBC and the British world, 1922-1970

Simon J Potter

Oxford University Press, 2012

ISBN: 978-0-19-956896-3, £60

Broadcasting emerged as the British Empire reached its greatest territorial extent, and was used by the BBC as a tool to drive enthusiasm at home for Britain's imperial role. In *Broadcasting Empire*, Potter demonstrates how broadcasting was used to link Britons at home with those in Canada, Australia, New Zealand and South Africa, and explores broadcasting through the decades, making an important contribution to our understanding of its transnational history.

Building Sydney's History: Structures, sculptures, stories and secrets

Derek and Julia Parker

Woodslane Press, 2011

ISBN: 978-1-921683-21-3, £20

Telling the story of Sydney through some of its remarkable architecture, this book offers a new perspective of the city, and looks at how it grew into a vibrant international metropolis.

Reviews by Claire Simon.

The Greatest Crash

David Kaunders

Sparkling Books, 2011

ISBN: 978-1-907230-31-8, £12.99.

Long-standing ROSL member David Kaunders has produced a provocative and meticulously researched book outlining what he believes are the key reasons for the failure of global economic polices in the 21st century. He asserts that economic stagnation in Japan in the 1990s provided a major opportunity to review policy that was missed.

He writes persuasively about wishful thinking in the setting of economic policies, especially with regard to national debt. His thoughts on the constrained thinking around the alternatives to austerity and economic stimulus resonate clearly in 2013.

Not everyone will agree, but for the layman as well as the economist, there is much here to stimulate thought and challenge our perspectives on how national economies might effectively evolve in the years ahead.

Maj Gen Roddy Porter

Design inspiration

Miranda Moore visits the refurbished William Morris Gallery

Whether you're an ardent minimalist or a fan of palladian grandeur, you can't fail to be impressed by the skilled craftsmanship and organic beauty of a William Morris textile. Reopened following a £1.6m refurbishment, the William Morris Gallery, located in his grand childhood home in East London, displays 600 objects, among them original hand-painted designs for his popular wallpaper and exquisitely made furniture from his Morris & Co firm.

The first of 12 galleries introduces William Morris 'The Man': champion of the Arts and Crafts movement, early socialist, yet known to the Victorians principally for his poetry. With interactive displays to appeal to younger visitors, the Gallery is now a brighter and more inviting space. The new glass-roofed extension houses a tea room overlooking the revamped Lloyd Park. It's just a short Tube ride from Green Park to Walthamstow Central and entry is free. *Open Wed-Sun; www.wmgallery.org.uk.*



FIRM FRIENDS:
The families of Morris and his collaborator Burne-Jones



NATURAL BEAUTY:
Classic wallpaper by William Morris, inspired by nature and displayed at the Gallery (right)

RURAL STYLE:
Display of furniture made by Morris and Co, contrasting with a plusher style more typical of the Victorian era (left)



Can't find shoes to fit? Need wide, deep, bespoke or soft, comfortable shoes? Need your own personal Shoemaker?

My name is Alan James Raddon.
I believe in healing through the feet.
I come to Shoemaking with the intention of actively strengthening and healing my clients feet.

If you have problems with your feet, knees, hips, have high arches, hammer toes, sore feet, flat feet, bunions or are diabetic or just want comfortable shoes that last, then I offer you my Shoes and Shandals.

I come to Shoemaking with the intention of combining fine workmanship, superb high quality leather and suede with integrity and a quick, personal, professional, reliable, service that is second to none.

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

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

The Lace-up design holds the heels of the feet firmly back into the heels of both the Shoes and Shandals, leaving the toes liberated and free to spread into the wide toe box.

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

My Shoes and Shandals have profound healing properties for those with



sore and damaged feet.

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

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

This strength is reflected in strong ankles and legs.

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

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

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

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

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They are not cheap, but they are an investment in your future mobility.

Your health is your greatest wealth.

So ring me, Alan James Raddon now on 01545 570 904 and ask for my free Information Pack.



Master of colour

Director of Arts, **Roderick Lakin**, pays tribute to the Guyanese-British artist Frank Bowling

As Frank Bowling looks forward to his 80th birthday, in February next year, he can reflect on a career spanning six decades, in which his work has been continually exhibited and appreciated in the UK, USA and internationally, and is held in many important public and private collections. These include the Tate Gallery and V&A Museum in London, and the Museum of Modern Art in New York.

In recent years, his distinctive contribution to British art has been recognised and celebrated. In 2005, he became the first black artist to be elected a Royal Academician, and he was appointed OBE in The Queen's Birthday Honours in 2008. A beautifully illustrated monograph by the leading art critic Mel Gooding was published by the Royal Academy in 2011, and towards the end of 2012 Tate Britain mounted a solo exhibition of his Poured Paintings, 1973-1978.

Frank Bowling has been a great supporter of ROSL ARTS since 1995, when he was one of the selectors for the ROSL Annual Exhibition. It was a great pleasure to meet up with him at Over-Seas House recently and a privilege to have him give me a tour of his exhibition at Tate Britain. In the 1970s, he was a leading colour-field painter. These lyrical works employ a technique in which acrylic paint is tipped on to tall canvases – a process he calls 'wet on wet' – which are then tilted to guide the paint as it gushes down.

Born in British Guiana in 1934, Frank Bowling moved to England in 1950, intending to become a writer and poet. During three years of National Service in the RAF, he was befriended by Keith Critchlow, a brilliant artist, architect and art historian, who introduced him to galleries and great paintings. After leaving the RAF, Bowling lodged with Critchlow's parents, who encouraged him to study at Chelsea School of Art. He went on to win a scholarship to study painting at the Royal College of Art, where his talent was nurtured by his mentor Carel Weight. His contemporaries at the RCA included David Hockney and R B Kitaj. He graduated in 1962, winning the Silver Medal; Hockney won the Gold.

Since 1966, when he had his first solo exhibition in New York and took up a Guggenheim fellowship, Bowling has developed an idiosyncratic and virtuosic abstract style, exploring a full range of colour. He divides his time between New York and London, maintaining studios in both.

'Focus: Frank Bowling' is at Tate Britain until Tuesday 30 April. Frank Bowling by Mel Gooding is published by Royal Academy Publications, ISBN 978-1-905711-96-3.

LYRICAL: 'Julia' (1975), one of the 'Poured Paintings' on show at the Tate. Acrylic on canvas 2336 x 1193 mm



ANNUAL EXHIBITION:
(L-r) Frank Bowling RA,
John Hoyland RA,
Karen Wright (Editor,
Modern Painters) and
Patrick Caulfield RA
at Over-Seas House
London in 1995



LONDON

What's on...

Lichtenstein: A retrospective

Tate Modern

Until 27 May

The first full-scale retrospective of Lichtenstein in more than 20 years brings together 125 of his paintings and sculptures, including his renowned works based on comic strips and advertising imagery, coloured with his signature Benday dots.

Tickets: £14, concessions available.

Contact: +44 (0)20 7887 8888.



KEY WORKS: Roy Lichtenstein's 'Oh, Jeff... I Love You, Too... But...' (1964)

Life and Death: Pompeii and Herculaneum

British Museum

28 March - 29 September

Focusing on the Roman home, this show draws together 250 objects, including wall paintings, carbonised wooden furniture and casts of victims.

Tickets: £15, concessions £12.50, under 16s free.

Contact: +44 (0)20 7323 8181.



INSIDE THE ROMAN HOME:

Plaster cast of a dog from the House of Orpheus, Pompeii, AD 79

The National Ballet of Canada: Romeo and Juliet

Sadler's Wells

17 - 21 April

Returning to London after 26 years, Canada's premier dance company brings a new production of *Romeo and Juliet*, with Prokofiev's famous score. *Tickets: £12-£45. Contact: +44 (0)844 412 4300.*



Younger Members

March-June

MARCH

First Thursdays

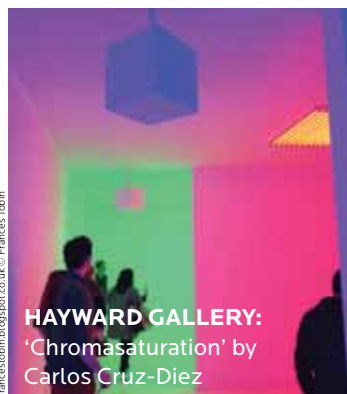
Thursday 7 March, from 6pm

Monthly Younger Members' drinks night in the ROSL bar.

Guided evening tour of 'Light Show'

Thursday 21 March, 6.30pm, £12

Enjoy an exclusive viewing of the new sell-out exhibition at the Hayward Gallery, Southbank Centre. Followed by drinks in Concrete, the buzzing gallery bar.



HAYWARD GALLERY:
'Chromasaturation' by
Carlos Cruz-Diez

APRIL

First Thursdays

Thursday 4 April, from 6pm

Monthly Younger Members' drinks night in the ROSL bar.

Inter-Club photography contest

Thursday 18 April

Get snap happy at this creative Oxford & Cambridge Club event.

MAY

First Thursdays

Thursday 2 May, from 6pm

Monthly Younger Members' drinks night in the ROSL bar.

Inter-Club tasting

May (date tbc)

Another unmissable tasting event, this time set in the Carlton Club's exquisite Georgian building.

JUNE

Note that there will be no First Thursdays drinks in June due to the Gatsby Ball the following day.

Inter-Club Great Gatsby Ball

Friday 7 June

Oh yes, it's our very own ROSL hosting the most glamorous event of the Inter-Club summer calendar! Come for elicit,

GLAMOUR: The summer ball, inspired by the Warner Bros film *The Great Gatsby*

prohibition-era cocktails in the garden, cheeky Charlestons, jazz and swing on the dance floor, and a roaring 1920s dinner in the Hall of India. The original art deco features provide the perfect setting, so dress to impress and release your inner Gatsby or Daisy.

Inter-Club jazz and Manhattan cocktails

June (date tbc)

Let the Travellers Club take you on an American-style staycation.

For further information on ROSL Younger Members and the Inter-Club Group, email Sara Brouwer (sbrouwer@rosl.org.uk) or Ross Lima (ross.lima@gmail.com).

Towering heights

Goodbye 2012! ROSL Younger Members bring the New Year in with a bang in the Fusiliers' Mess

Where did 2012 go? Following a spellbinding performance by Flora Cook at the November First Thursdays drinks night, we soon found ourselves standing in the ROSL bar on the last drinks night of the year – also known as the ROSL YM Christmas Party. Starting with a turkey curry buffet and ending on the dance floor of Chinawhite, the event marked the finale of a great year of ROSL events.

The New Year saw Younger Members head to the Fusiliers' Headquarters at the Tower of London, where a three-course dinner, a Yeoman Warder and the Ceremony of the Keys made for a brilliant night. Having set the benchmark high, we aim to keep putting on exciting, fun and unique events. Book now for the show-stopping Great Gatsby Ball.



AT THE TOWER: (l-r)
Jackie, Carrie, Blake and Neil



SPELLBINDING: Flora
Cook performs in November

FUSILIERS' MESS:

A Yeoman Warder addresses guests





ROSL ARTS

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

MUSIC EVENTS

Princess Alexandra Hall, Over-Seas House 61st Annual Music Competition 2013 Section Finals

Tuesday 5 March, 7pm

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

Tuesday 12 March, 7pm

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

Tuesday 19 March, 7pm

Over-seas Awards.

The section finals offer music-making of the highest quality, with the chance to meet competitors and adjudicators afterwards over a glass of wine.
Tickets: £12; £10 Friends of ROSL ARTS. Includes wine, served after the adjudication.

Prach Boondiskulchok piano

Wednesday 10 April, 7pm

An hour-long concert by the award-winning young Thai pianist and composer Prach Boondiskulchok. The programme

includes Bach's *Italian Concerto*, Liszt's *Sonata in B minor* and the premiere of his own *Lullaby and Double*. Presented in association with the Anglo-Thai Society.
Tickets: £25; £20 Friends of ROSL ARTS. Includes post-concert wine.

Iuventus Ensemble

Wednesday 24 April, 7pm

A programme including two of the most popular works in the chamber music repertoire, Mozart's *Clarinet Quintet* and Dvorak's *American Quartet*, given by Ruth Rogers, Elizabeth Williams violins, Rebecca Low viola, Katherine Jenkinson cello, and Thomas Hull clarinet. Presented in association with the Medical Music Society of London.

Tickets: Concert plus interval glass of wine £28; £22 Friends of ROSL ARTS. Concert plus interval glass of wine and post-concert two-course buffet supper with wine and tea/coffee £56; £48 Friends of ROSL ARTS.

Aquinas Trio

Wednesday 19 June, 7pm

Ruth Rogers violin, Katherine Jenkinson cello and Martin Cousin piano perform three of the greatest piano trios: Haydn's *Gypsy Rondo*, Mendelssohn's *D Minor* and Beethoven's *Archduke*. Presented in association with the Medical Music Society of London.
Tickets: Concert plus interval glass of wine £28; £22 Friends of ROSL ARTS. Concert plus interval glass of wine and post-concert two-course buffet supper with wine and tea/coffee £56; £48 Friends of ROSL ARTS.

Queen Elizabeth Hall, London

61st ROSL Annual Music Competition Grand Final

Monday 3 June, 7pm

The final of the 2013 ROSL Annual Music Competition showcases performances by winners of the solo wind,

singers, strings and keyboard sections as they compete for the Gold Medal and First Prize of £10,000. The distinguished panel of judges, chaired by Gavin Henderson CBE, will make their decision while the two prizewinning ensembles perform.

Prizes will be presented by the Singaporean pianist Melvyn Tan (ROSL Annual Music Competition First Prize winner in 1976).
Tickets: £15; £12 Friends of ROSL ARTS, special price available ONLY from ROSL ARTS.

BOOK EVENTS

Princess Alexandra Hall, Over-Seas House 'In the Ring: Commonwealth memoir' with Don McKinnon

Wednesday 6 March, 7pm

In the Ring deals with impossibly devious plots and characters: ambitious presidents and prime ministers from all corners of the world, some determined to hold on to power at any cost; a British



MOVING WORK:

Sunil Sigdel's 'Conversation in Silence', acrylic on canvas 120 x 75 cm (above)

SETTING THE STAGE:

Princess Alexandra Hall (left)

government often with a misplaced sense of its own role in one of the world's oldest organisations; a Royal family keen to do the right thing but not always equipped to exercise the appropriate judgements; and an organisation of 300 people, externally working to help the world while inwardly struggling along racial and geo-political lines.

You couldn't make it up – and he hasn't. For the first eight years of the 21st century, Don McKinnon was the Secretary-General of the Commonwealth and this was the stuff of his day-to-day life. Here, for the first time, he reveals what was going on behind the scenes during such major events as the suspension of Zimbabwe from the Commonwealth, and his predictions for the future of the Commonwealth – a compelling account of the trials and tribulations of running an international organisation in a complex world.

Beethoven with John Suchet

Wednesday 17 April, 7pm

You know the music, but do you



know the man? John Suchet brings new understanding to a difficult and complex character in his new, illustrated life of the world's greatest composer, *Beethoven: The Man Revealed*.

The author of five previous books on the subject, John Suchet is recognised as a leading authority on Beethoven. He presents Classic FM's flagship morning programme and is a former newscaster for ITN.

'10 Weeks in Africa' with J M Shaw

Tuesday 14 May, 7pm

Shortlisted for the Commonwealth Writers' Prize in 2012, *10 Weeks in Africa* is a vivid and gripping account of integrity and good intentions gone wrong. Set in a fictional African country on the brink of civil war, where corruption is normal and tribal allegiances trump moral values, the narrative follows government ministers, slum-dwellers, and a well-intentioned aid worker as the government collapses.

In Shaw's Africa, aid agencies are addicted to giving without reference to benefit and officials steal without fear of exposure, while the Army of Celestial Peace hacks and slaughters its way to power and those abundant Western handouts.

'Explosive... disturbingly realistic', *The Guardian*.

'Vivid... Shocking', *The Spectator*,

Books of the Year.

Tickets for Book Events: £7; Friends of ROSL ARTS £5.

Includes wine, served after the event.

VISUAL ARTS

Central Lounge, Over-Seas House Prathap Modi and Sunil Sigdel

Wednesday 17 April -

Friday 28 June

Paintings and prints by ROSL Visual Arts scholars Prathap Modi from India and Sunil Sigdel from Nepal, produced during – or inspired by – a month-long ROSL ARTS residency at the Patrick Allan Fraser Foundation in Arbroath, Scotland. Presented in association with the Kathmandu Contemporary Arts Centre.

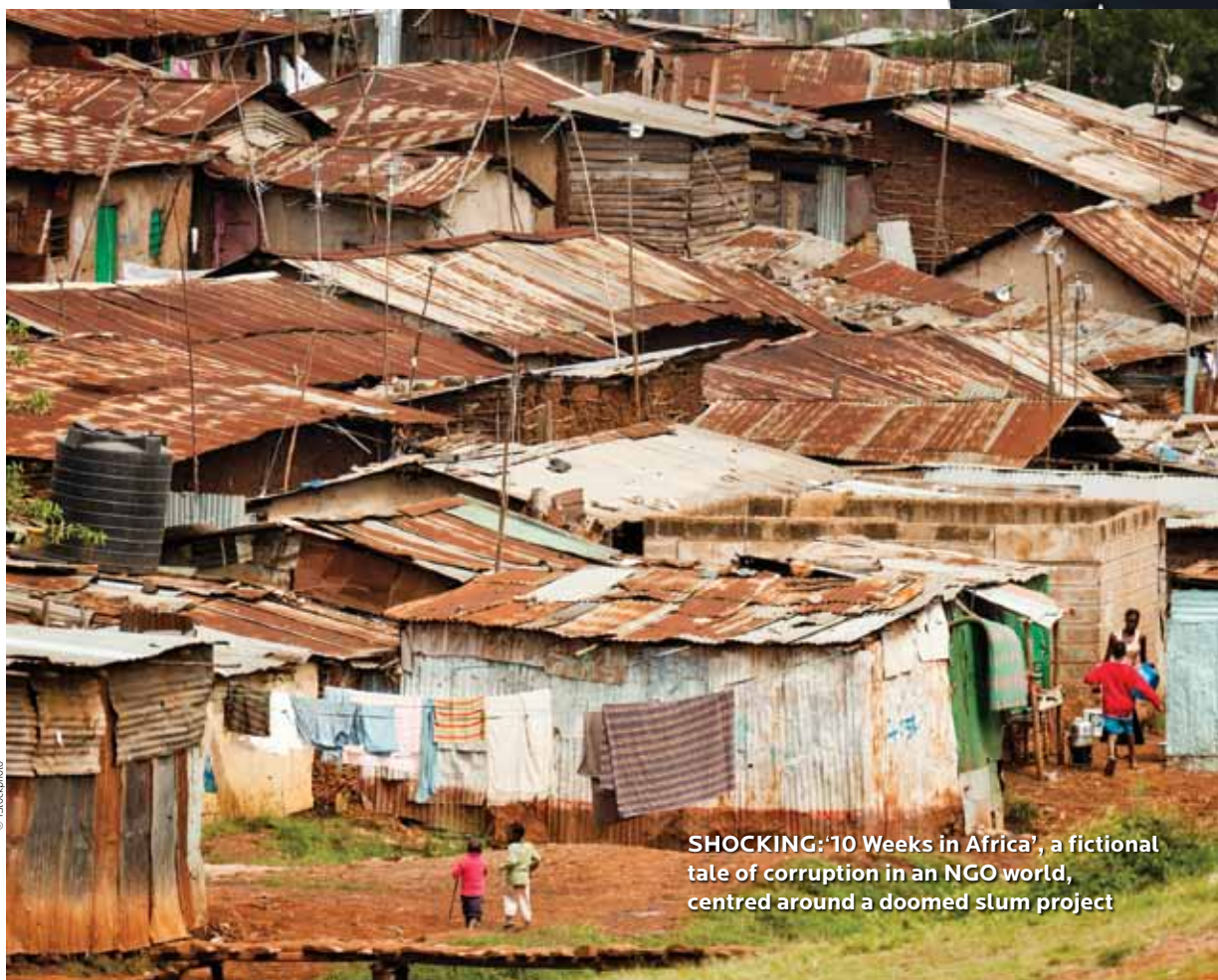
REVEALING:

John Suchet on Beethoven



Tickets for ROSL ARTS events

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



SHOCKING: '10 Weeks in Africa', a fictional tale of corruption in an NGO world, centred around a doomed slum project

Food & drink: London



Food for thought

Claire Simon dines at Dane's Yard Kitchen, where ROSL members get a 30% discount

ROSL's in-house catering company, Graysons Restaurants, has opened a new restaurant near the London Olympics site. A short taxi or bus ride from Stratford station, Dane's Yard Kitchen is a spacious modern restaurant situated in the up-and-coming Strand East area. This new development, set to open fully in 2018, will span more than 26 acres, with offices, shops, accommodation and much more.

With exposed brick walls, warehouse lighting, large windows and an open kitchen, the decor complements the menu, which offers a contemporary twist on classic dishes, with the useful addition of a children's menu. The bar area is at the front of the restaurant, so you can sip a cocktail while perusing the menu and waiting to be seated. Tempted by the selection of starters, we began with the cured meat plank, and salt and pepper crispy Cornish squid, both well presented and served in generous portions. The squid was a stand-out dish.

The staff are friendly, attentive, eager to offer recommendations, and happy to select the perfect wine for each dish. Following their advice, we dined on the steak and pork belly, finishing with a walnut tart with clotted cream, and plum and ginger crumble with honeycomb ice-cream. The walnut tart is divine, and was the winning dish of the night. With such reasonable prices and tasty food, Dane's Yard is a great choice for an evening out.

To get 30% off your food bill, quote the discount code 'ROSL30' when making your reservation. For bookings call +44 (0)20 8803 0003. Visit Dane's Yard as part of the 'Regeneration of Stratford' tour. See page 32 for details.

MODERN DINING: Dane's Yard Kitchen in Strand East, close to the London Olympics site



Wedding receptions at ROSL

Over-Seas House is a unique and elegant venue to host your wedding reception, offering both contemporary and traditional settings, and modern British cuisine.

During the summer months, start the celebrations with drinks and canapés in our private garden with a lovely gazebo and decking area, bordering Green Park. During the winter, our ornate drawing room is a spectacular space to host the occasion.

For your wedding breakfast, our rooms offer a choice of décor, from the classic and intimate Rutland and Bennet Clark rooms, with views over Green Park, to the stylish Princess Alexandra Hall, an ideal space to decorate as you wish, for up to 130 guests.

Whether you choose a grand reception or prefer a smaller, family event, we understand how important this special day is, and our events team works tirelessly to ensure everything is arranged meticulously, so that you have a perfect day.

Contact our Event Coordinators for a copy of our full wedding brochure or for further details: +44 (0)20 7629 0406; Jessica.Taube@graysonsrestaurants.com.



SPECIAL DAY: The rooms at Over-Seas House can be decorated as you wish (above)

HAPPY COUPLE: All your catering needs can be arranged (below)



Rasool recommends

The Cocktail Bar at Over-Seas House is a great place to unwind at the end of the day and our Head Barman, Rasool, always knows what drinks will suit you best. He recommends one of our most popular cocktails, The White Lady. This strong and zesty mixture of Cointreau, lemon juice and gin packs a real punch. Why not take advantage of the Members' and Younger Members' half-price drinks nights on the first and third Thursdays of the month (see pages 18 and 27 for further details).



EDINBURGH

What's on...

March-May

MARCH**Bridge Club lunch****Friday 1 March, midday**Bring a guest. One-course lunch with sherry. *Tickets: £12.***Coffee morning****Saturday 2 March, 10.30am**Talk on 'Prizewinners of the ROSL Music Competition'. *Tickets: £2.50.***ROSL Scotland Commonwealth Day Lunch****Monday 11 March, midday**

Two-course lunch, sherry, coffee

and glass of wine, with speaker Prof Kevin Dunion. *Tickets: £22; ROSL members £20.***Trip to Loch Ness and the Isle of Skye****Wednesday 20 - Friday 22 March**

Three-day trip to the Highlands, including a day on Skye and trips to Pitlochry, Aviemore and Eilean Donan Castle, with travel by coach from Edinburgh.

Accommodation is at the Clansman Hotel (£245pp; single occupancy supplement £40).

Includes breakfast and dinner. *For***HIGHLANDS VISIT:**

Eilean Donan Castle

*further details contact Over-Seas House Edinburgh.***Jayson Gillham, piano****Thursday 21 March, 6.30pm**Performance by the ROSL Annual Music Competition 2012 First Prize winner. *Tickets: £12; Friends of ROSL ARTS £10. Includes post-concert wine and canapés.***Exhibition: Nick Olsen and Holly Parotti****21 March - 31 May**Exhibition of work by ROSL Visual Arts Scholars. *Admission free.***APRIL****Coffee morning****Saturday 6 April, 10.30am**'Some Tunes from a Second Fiddle' with speaker Rev David Preston. *Tickets: £2.50.***Arts Lunch****Wednesday 24 April, midday**

Talk by Robin MacPherson about film in Scotland. Includes two-course lunch with coffee

and glass of wine. *Tickets: £20; ROSL members £18.***MAY****Coffee morning****Saturday 4 May, 10.30am**Talk by John Ramsay on 'The History of Malta'. *Tickets: £2.50.***A Soirée of Lieder and Mélodies****Wednesday 15 May, 6.30pm**Concert by postgraduate students of the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland. *Tickets: £12; Friends of ROSL ARTS £10. Includes post-concert wine and canapés.***Edinburgh Branch AGM****Wednesday 22 May, 6pm**

Chairman's Reception follows, with a complimentary buffet.

Arts Lunch**Wednesday 29 May, midday**Two-course lunch with coffee and glass of wine. Speaker tba. *Tickets: £20; ROSL members £18.***Dress code: smart/casual for events; lounge suit for lunch or dinner.**


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Members' events

April-June

APRIL

The regeneration of Stratford: old trades and new

Tuesday 16 April, midday, £10, G

A walking tour of Stratford in East London, with a focus on the history of the area as a centre of trade and industrialisation, as well as its modern-day commercial prospects following the 2012 Olympic Games.

The event includes a tour of House Mill, the largest tidal mill in the world. The grade 1 listed, 18th-century building, mentioned in the Domesday Book, is set in a beautiful riverside location. We will end at Dane's Yard Kitchen, where the Head Chef will talk about the restaurant before members have the opportunity to sample a delicious lunch. *Tickets include refreshments. See page 30 for a review of Dane's Yard Kitchen.*

Royal Navy Submarine Museum

Wednesday 30 April, 10am, £30, G

Our trip to this fascinating museum in Gosport includes a guided tour of HMS Alliance with an ex-submariner, and access to other submarines. The event starts with a welcome talk detailing the multimillion pound Heritage Lottery Fund restoration of HMS Alliance, which, after a career of 28 years in active service, is now the only Amphion-class submarine of its kind left. *Tickets include travel by coach and waterbus.*

MAY

Chairman's Lunch and AGM

Tuesday 7 May, midday, £58, G

The biannual Chairman's Lunch, hosted by ROSL Chairman Sir Anthony Figgis, includes reception drinks and a three-course lunch at



© Paul Grant

Over-Seas House London. Guest of honour and speaker to be announced. The AGM will take place at 3.30pm and will be followed by a reception.

Chelsea Flower Show

Thursday 23 - Saturday 25 May, 8am-8pm, £60, B

Enjoy the inner-city oasis of the world famous RHS Chelsea Flower Show. Tickets will be balloted and drawn on Monday 29 April. Choice of dates will be presented on a first drawn, first served basis.

JUNE

Trooping the Colour

Saturday 1, 8 & 15 June, £5-£30, B

Witness this impressive display of pageantry to celebrate the official birthday of HM The Queen. The Major General's review and Colonel's review take place on Saturday 1 and 8 June, respectively, with The Queen's Birthday Parade on 15 June. Tickets will be balloted and drawn on Monday 6 May. Choice of dates will be presented on a first drawn, first served basis.



Membership no.....

Title First name

Surname

Guest(s) and trip they are attending

(please include title and first name):

Address to which tickets should be sent:

Tel no

Email

☐ Tick this box to receive booking letters by email

Members' events application form

Please complete this form (or a photocopy) and send to: Sara Brouwer, Marketing Department (Members' Events), Over-Seas House, Park Place, St James's Street, London SW1A 1LR. **Email:** sbrouwer@rosl.org.uk. **Tel:** +44 (0)20 7016 6906. It is advisable to call in advance to reserve a ticket. Alternatively you can now book online at www.rosl.org.uk.

EVENT	DATE	PRICE	TICKETS
Regeneration of Stratford tour	Tue 16 April	£10 £.....
Royal Navy Submarine Museum	Wed 30 April	£30 £.....
Chairman's Lunch & AGM	Tue 7 May	£58 £.....
Mottisfont visit	Wed 12 June	£40 £.....
Tea at the House of Lords	Mon 24 June	£35 £.....

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

BALLOTTED EVENTS - Maximum two tickets per member.

(Do not send payment yet, you will be contacted if successful.)

EVENT	DATE	PRICE	TICKETS
Chelsea Flower Show	23-25 May	£60 Apply by 26 April
Trooping the Colour	1, 8, 15 June	£5/£20/£30 Apply by 6 May
Wimbledon	24 June - 2 July	£79-£120 Apply by 3 June



DISCOVER STRATFORD:

The grade 1 listed House Mill, the largest tidal mill in the world (left and inset)

RURAL IDYLL:

The National Collection of old roses at Mottisfont (top right)



Mottisfont visit

Wednesday 12 June, 9am, £40, G

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

A specially sourced lunch will be served in a private garden marquee. The house itself, formerly home to artists' muse and society hostess Maud Russell, can be explored in the afternoon and has just opened a new art gallery. *Tickets include entry, travel and food.*

Tea at the House of Lords

Monday 24 June, 3.30pm, £35, G

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

Wimbledon Tennis Championships

Monday 24 June - Tuesday 2 July, £79-£120, B

Watch the world's top players compete on the Wimbledon lawn for that most coveted of tennis titles. Tickets are for two

seats on court number 2. Tickets will be balloted and drawn on Monday 3 June. Choice of dates will be presented on a first drawn, first served basis.

RIVERSIDE LOCATION:

Three Mills Green (above), the site of working mills since Saxon times, in Lee Valley Regional Park

Application form opposite

These codes identify availability:

M Members only

G Tickets available for members and their guests

R Restricted number of tickets available

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

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

NAVAL HISTORY:

Holland 1, the first British Royal Navy Submarine



Discussion Group & London Group

DISCUSSION GROUP

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

War poetry and art from the World Wars 11 March

With the Very Revd Robert Grimley, Dean of Bristol until 2009. Robert now lives in Oxford, where his ministry includes assisting at Christ Church Cathedral. He has a particular interest in how theology and the arts can come together.

The politics of deadlock 8 April

Julianna Fuzesi explores why Israel and Palestine have not achieved Northern Ireland's managed peace. Dr Fuzesi has a doctorate in Comparative Politics from the London School of Economics, and lectures on political violence and ethno-national conflict, in particular border disputes and territorial claims.

Playing the great game 13 May

Edmund Yorke looks at Britain's conduct in the First Anglo-Afghan

War (1838-42) and the lessons that can be learnt. Dr Yorke is a Senior Lecturer in the Department of War Studies at Sandhurst and a member of the British Commission for Military History. He is widely published in the field of British and Commonwealth political and military history.

LONDON GROUP

Meetings and outside visits are open to currently subscribed London Group members and their occasional guests. ROSL members staying overnight at Over-Seas House London are also welcome. To become a member of the London Group, ask for an application form from the London Group Executive Vice-Chairman c/o Porters' Desk at Over-Seas House London. *Contact Clive Carpenter, +44 (0)7798 824193, clivedavidcarpenter@compuserve.com.*

Meetings

Held monthly on Thursdays, 6-7pm, in the Mountbatten Room, Over-Seas House London.

Norway and the Nobel Peace Prize 21 March

Sir Richard Dales, a former Ambassador to Norway and a

former High Commissioner to Zimbabwe, will talk about the Nobel Peace Prize and its origins in Norway. Sir Richard retired in 2002 after 38 years in the Diplomatic Service. He is Chairman of the Anglo-Norse Society, was Chairman of International Alert (2006-2010), and is a member of the Governing Council of the University of East Anglia.

London Group AGM 18 April

Members are asked to bring their London Group membership cards to register their attendance at the AGM, which will start at 6pm in the Hall of India and Pakistan. An address will be given by Sir Anthony Figgis, ROSL Chairman. Refreshments will be served after the formal proceedings.

Handel, *Messiah* and the King James Bible 16 May

With the Very Revd Nicholas Frayling, who was appointed Dean of Chichester in September 2002 and is noted for his work in reconciliation for faith communities, and between Britain and Ireland. He was awarded an Honorary Doctorate of Laws from the University of Liverpool in 2001.

Outside visits

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



© The Nobel Foundation
Photo: Thomas Waterberg

NOBEL ORIGINS:

A Nobel Peace Prize medal

The Shard

Monday 15 April, 2pm

A unique opportunity to have a guided tour of the Shard, the tallest building in Western Europe. This landmark skyscraper, designed by architect Renzo Piano, has 95 storeys, with 72 habitable floors. Located in the heart of London, it has a viewing gallery with 360 degree views of the city and an open-air observation deck – the UK's highest. Tour duration will be 60-90 minutes.

Tickets: LG members £28; guests £30. Meet at 1.45pm at the piazza in front of the main entrance. Nearest Tube: London Bridge.

City Hall, Westminster and tea with the Lord Mayor

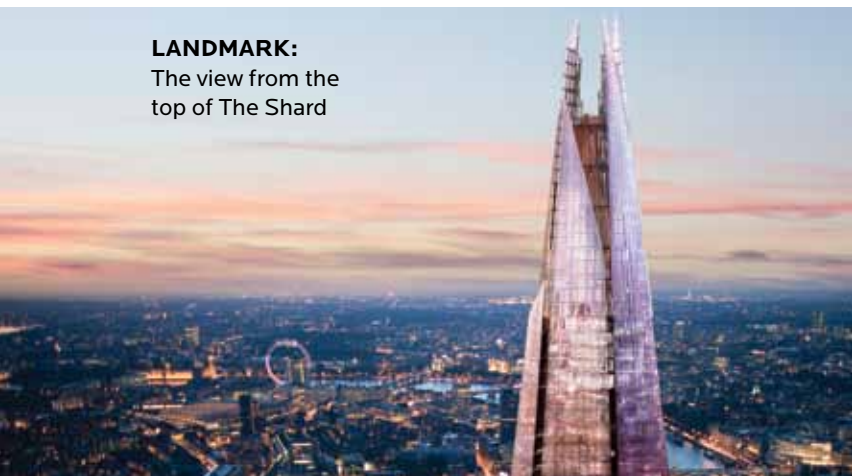
Monday 29 April, 3.30pm

The London Group has been invited to visit City Hall to view some of the Civic Plate and to take tea with the Lord Mayor in her Parlour. Those attending this event will have a magnificent view of the city skyline from the Mayor's Parlour.

Tickets: LG members £12; guests £14. Meet at 3.15pm outside Westminster City Hall, 64 Victoria Street, London SW1. Nearest Tube: Victoria or St James's Park.

LANDMARK:

The view from the top of The Shard



© The View from The Shard



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VENICE

Londra Palace
**** Deluxe

Small, luxurious and located right on the waterfront; just a few steps from St. Mark's Square, the Londra Palace is one of our favourite hotels in Venice, not least for its magnificent vistas and is managed by our great friend Alain Bullo. It has a bar, a comfortable lounge, a restaurant, the 'Do Leoni' with a terrace overlooking the lagoon and 53 bedrooms which are amongst the finest in the city.

4 nights for the price of 3 all year - price from £798, saving £169

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

SOUTH WEST FRANCE

Le Logis du Paradis

(a privately-owned chambres d'hôte)

In the heart of the Grande Champagne Cognac vineyards stands the lovely Logis du Paradis, an exceptionally comfortable chambres d'hôte hotel with five bedrooms (the property dates back to the 18th Century) owned by our good friends Nick and Sally Brimblecombe. A delicious breakfast (and dinner on request) is served on the shady terrace, or in the adjacent dining room. Beyond the courtyard are the garden and outdoor swimming pool and the old distillery which is now an occasional bar.

4 nights for the price of 3 for Sun - Thurs stays (excluding Easter) to 21 June - price from £498, saving £63



RIOJA

Marques de Riscal ***** Deluxe

This is no ordinary hotel - designed by world renowned architect Frank Gehry of Guggenheim fame, it is situated within the Marques de Riscal's 150 year old estate. The design signifies the flow of wine and this theme continues through the hotel, particularly the Vinotherapie Spa which offers a variety of 'wine therapy' massages and treatments. The 43 bedrooms are modern and comfortable and many have large bay windows overlooking the vineyards and town of Elciego. Public areas include a bar serving tapas, a rooftop lounge/library and a gastronomic restaurant. Tours of the winery take place three times a day.

3 nights for the price of 2 for Sun - Thurs stays - price from £696, saving £170



ST. PETERSBURG

Angleterre **** Superior

The Angleterre offers stylish accommodation in a superb location in the heart of the city. Recently refurbished, its 192 bedrooms are comfortable and well furnished.

Buffet breakfast, lunch and dinner are served daily in the 'Borsalino' brasserie where there is live music most evenings. Other facilities include a lively bar, fitness centre, small plunge pool and a sauna.

Russian visa included for UK passport holders.

Ask our Concierge for advice re ballet, opera and private local guides.

4 nights for the price of 3 all year (excl. 14 May to 30 June) - price from £960, saving £85



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KIRKER CULTURAL TOURS - TWO NEW FOUR NIGHT ESCORTED OPERA HOLIDAYS | DEPARTING 18 JULY OR 2 SEPTEMBER 2013

2013 marks the 100th anniversary of opera at the Arena di Verona and the bicentenary of Verdi's birth. To celebrate, we have arranged two escorted tours, both to include two of Verdi's most popular operas: 18 July - *Il trovatore* and *Aida* (with an optional performance of *La Traviata*) or 2 September - *Aida* and *Nabucco*.

Our tours are based at the very stylish 4* Hotel Palazzo Victoria just a few minutes' walk from the vast Roman arena where performances are given in the warm summer evenings. We have reserved numbered, upholstered 'poltrone' seats in the main Arena area. A guided walking tour of historic Verona, a copy of the souvenir programme and talks on the operas by our tour leaders are also included.

Price from £1,698 per person for four nights including flights, accommodation with breakfast, two dinners, two operas and the services of the Kirker Tour Leaders Barry Cheeseman & Richard Kohn.



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