

# OVERSEAS

Quarterly journal of the ROSL

Issue 1, March-May 2014



## **Spotlight on Scotland**

Inspiring artists and fostering unity via the Commonwealth Games and Homecoming 2014

## **United by song**

How community opera is bringing people together and helping to transform lives

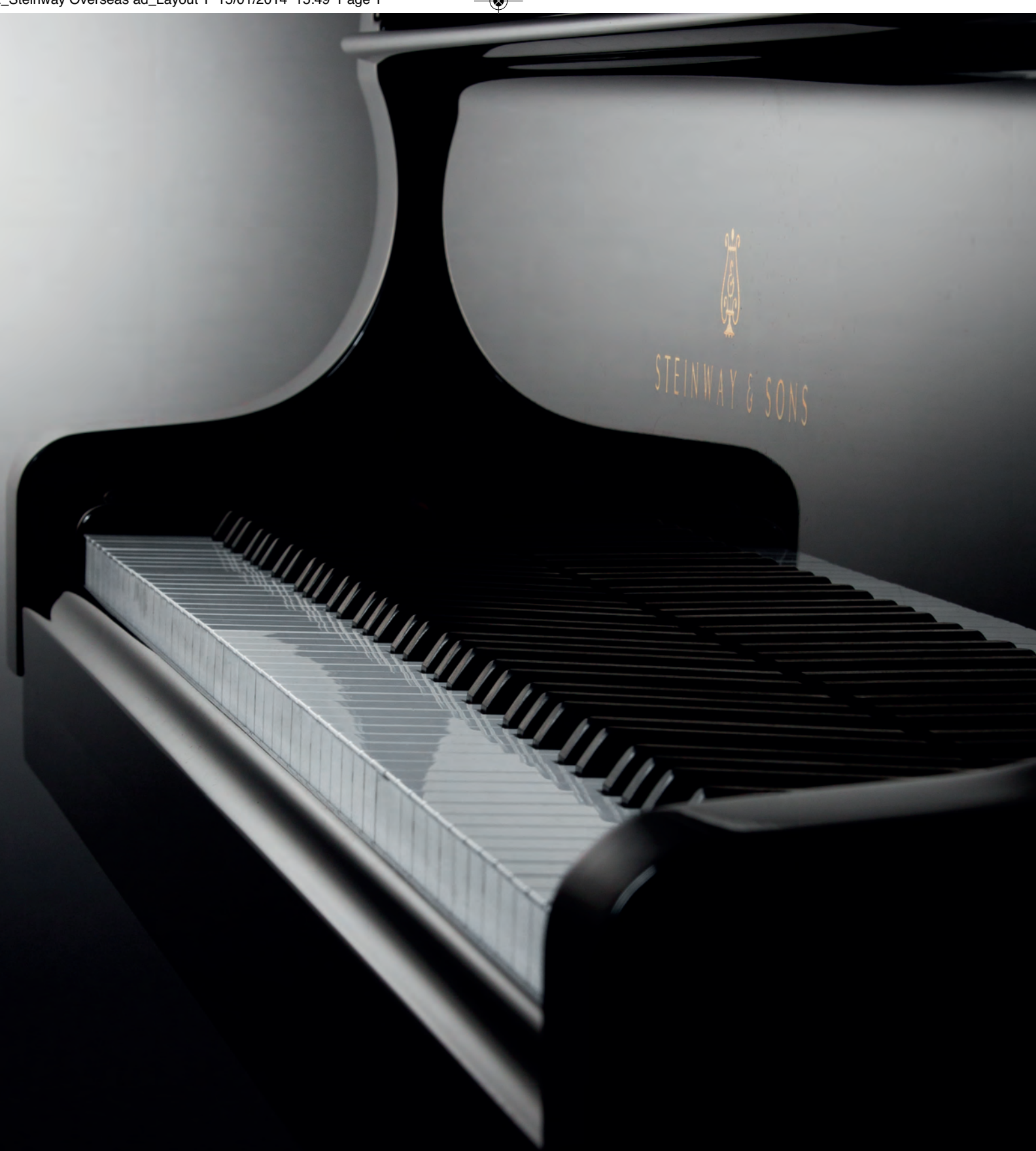
## **Exciting times**

Why ROSL members are benefitting from developments at the Edinburgh clubhouse

## **Sounds of Sri Lanka**

ROSL's contribution to the ambitious music outreach programme during CHOGM





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## OVERSEAS

ISSUE 1 March-May 2014

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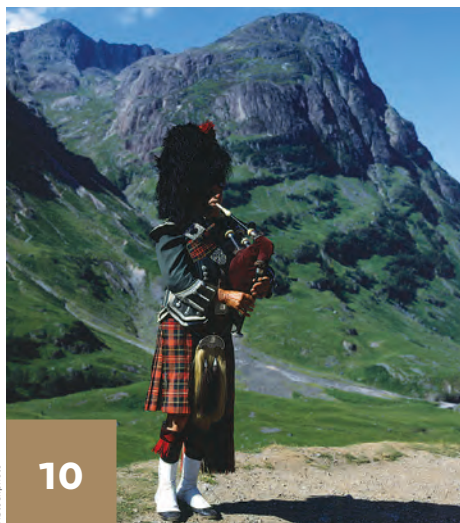
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FRONT COVER: A child welcomes the Queen's Baton to Nauru in November © Glasgow 2014



## From the Director-General

I trust that the first months of 2014 have been kind to you. Members' response to the new renewals letter has been impressive and we received record numbers of renewals towards the end of 2013. May I encourage you to renew your subscription as soon as possible, if you have not yet done so, to enable you to enjoy all ROSL has to offer this year. We have much in store but first I would like to thank all our members who again contributed so generously to the Staff Christmas Gratitude Fund. They really appreciated your generosity and continue to be encouraged by your kind words of thanks and encouragement.

This is also my first public opportunity to thank our Australian members for their wonderful hospitality when Marianne and I visited them in October and November. The programme, organised so expertly by Jason Ronald and our branch chairmen and secretaries, enabled us to meet many of our members in the most stunning settings across Australia. We were touched by your kindness and greatly encouraged by the demonstrable love for ROSL and our programmes. Thank you one and all – too many to mention here by name. That tremendous odyssey has presented plenty of ideas for future developments, and I look forward to meeting you all again as you venture to the UK in the near future.

2014 marks 100 years since the outbreak of the First World War (see page 21). We began our commemorations with excellent Discussion Group lectures from Alan Mallinson (1914), Michael Orr (command experience) and Audrey Arden-Jones (women's war poetry), and will continue with an Act of Remembrance at Over-Seas House London in November and, in July, a Battlefield Tour to look at the events in Champagne that so shaped the later fighting. To book this and other forthcoming events, see page 33. If you have family stories, pictures or memorabilia from the Great War, we would love to receive

them and perhaps add them to our displays.

This is also a significant year for Scotland, which hosts the Commonwealth Games this summer, and we have an article on page 8 about how the Queen's Baton Relay is bringing people together throughout the Commonwealth. Cobbs, who run the Edinburgh clubhouse, have been involved in securing the legacy of the Games (page 9), and will be holding a number of events at the Edinburgh clubhouse (see page 34). Look out for further events in the next issue.

Many of us measure progress in terms of developments in our clubhouses. Plenty is happening this year. One of my prime objectives, working with Cobbs, is to make significant strides in developing Edinburgh to your satisfaction. I have received many helpful comments and we will be working hard on all fronts (fabric, service and club events) over the coming months to this end (see page 22).

In London, the Buttery and the bar will shortly be undergoing significant refurbishment and we will continue to refurbish bedrooms. Now that wi-fi is well established, we will be turning to other aspects of IT and improving all our internet and email-based communications.

I am putting out a call to the membership for volunteers who might be willing to support our activities in London and Edinburgh on an occasional basis. We are always grateful for help in hosting our larger events and have a particular need for assistance in the massive task of developing ROSL's archives. Our committees and local branches (UK and worldwide) always need volunteers to replace those who step down. So if you are interested in any kind of voluntary role, I would very much like to hear from you (see page 18).

### Roddy Porter

**WARM WELCOME:** Roddy and Marianne Porter (back row, right) with members of the Adelaide Branch Committee



**IN TALAROOK:**  
(L-r) Christine Chamberlain,  
Roddy Porter, Jason Ronald  
and Marianne Porter



## Editor's letter

With the Ryder Cup coming to Gleneagles, the Commonwealth Games in Glasgow, the independence vote in September, and the Homecoming festival



attracting visitors from all over the world, 2014 is set to be an unforgettable year for Scotland. As if we needed another reason to feature the country in *Overseas*, changes are also underway to improve facilities, services and the events programme at Over-Seas House Edinburgh.

These are exciting times for our Scottish clubhouse (see page 22), and our Focus on Scotland celebrates that with a look at how the Queen's Baton Relay for Glasgow 2014 is showcasing cultural traditions across the Commonwealth (page 8); why people from across the globe are coming together to celebrate a common Scottish ancestry (page 10); and how Hospitalfield House, which has been a centre of creativity for more than 120 years, is continuing to inspire ROSL visual arts scholars (page 6).

If you're still unsure whether to visit Glasgow for the Games, Bill Agnew (Glasgow Branch Chair) and Mandy Murphy (our Glaswegian Arts Administrator) may well convince you with their tips for visitors (page 26). I am already planning my trip!

Singing lessons are also on my 'to do' list, and the growth of inner-city choirs makes it ever easier to get involved. Community opera is now getting in on the act, and these outreach projects can be incredibly powerful, with opera bringing people together and even transforming lives (page 12). ROSL musical projects in Sri Lanka, linked to CHOGM 2014, have had a similar impact (page 5). Our club's humanitarian work is certainly broad and wide-reaching: on page 21, Margaret Adrian-Vallance, who has been the driving force behind the educational projects in Africa, explains how members' generosity is ensuring continuing success there.

With everything from a Battlefield Tour in France to a spectacular summer ball to look forward to, please don't forget to check out the most up-to-date benefits (page 24) and events (pages 28-34) for members.

### Miranda Moore





#### ACCLAIMED TRIO:

Robert Plane and Ashan Pillai take a bow at the Gala Concert in Nelum Pokuna Theatre (left); and perform with fellow ROSL prizewinner Sophia Rahman for the pupils of Ladies' College in Colombo (above)

# CHOGM: the sound of success

Director of Arts, **Roderick Lakin**, reflects on a memorable visit to Sri Lanka

**F**or more than 20 years, ROSL ARTS has represented ROSL in cultural events related to the biennial Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM). As on a number of previous occasions, ROSL ARTS joined forces with The Commonwealth Resounds! for CHOGM 2013 in Colombo, with its most ambitious programme yet.

Led by Founder-Director Alison Cox, The Commonwealth Resounds! (TCR) brought more than 20 young musicians to work with the Symphony Orchestra of Sri Lanka (SOSL). The students, from the Purcell School and Chethams School of Music, also worked on a variety of educational and outreach projects. ROSL ARTS enhanced the TCR team with a trio of distinguished past ROSL prizewinners: Robert Plane (clarinet), Ashan Pillai (viola), and Sophia Rahman (piano).

The centrepiece of the ten-day programme was the creation of a Commonwealth Festival Orchestra for a Gala Concert, held on Friday 15 November at the splendid Nelum Pokuna Theatre, where the CHOGM opening ceremony had taken place earlier that day. For the occasion, the Symphony Orchestra was joined by 30 TCR musicians, as well as young players from India and Goa, to create a large orchestra of 80.

British conductor James Ross inspired his augmented forces to achieve a new level of performance. The orchestral showcase opened with an ebullient fanfare composed by 17-year-old Alan Mufti from the Purcell School, and included music by Tchaikovsky, Shostakovich and Holst, and the evocative 'Hymn for Sri Lanka' by John de Silva/V Laoji. ROSL soloists Robert Plane and Ashan Pillai combined brilliance and finesse in a fine performance of Bruch's double concerto for clarinet and viola.

At the end of the evening, James Ross and the Commonwealth Festival Orchestra were given a well deserved ovation, and gave two encores. This was the first symphony orchestra concert to be held in the recently built Nelum Pokuna. Particular thanks are due to

the orchestra chairman, Sharmini Wettimuny, who masterminded the complex rehearsal and performance arrangements and whose hard work and determination ensured the success of this landmark event.

TCR gave two other gala concerts at the beginning and end of the tour: at the Lighthouse Hotel in Galle, sponsored by Jetwing, and at the Mount Lavinia Hotel, Colombo, for the SOSL Board. To mark the opening of the Commonwealth People's Forum in Hikkaduwa, the ROSL trio participated in an open-air cultural evening, broadcast on national television, which also featured several Sri Lankan musical traditions.

A myriad of ancillary activities were presented under the TCR banner, including workshops with the Southern Youth Orchestra in Galle and at two of Colombo's leading schools: Ladies' College and St Joseph's College. FIM, the international arm of the Musicians' Union, hosted music industry seminars, and four school choirs were established in different parts of the country through the ground-breaking Songbound project.

ROSL ARTS hopes to strengthen its links with the SOSL by supporting a study visit to the UK later this year for one of the orchestra's most promising young players.

#### INSPIRATIONAL:

Joe Walters coaches one of the four school choirs established in Sri Lanka by Songbound







## FOCUS

# Home of creativity

**Lucy Byatt**, Director of Hospitalfield Arts, on the inspirational house in Arbroath

**T**his ancient site, so close to the sea and the glens that lead to the Grampian mountains, has been occupied from the early 13th century.

Monks built a hospital here to receive pilgrims making their way to the spiritual sites of Arbroath and further north. The architecture of Hospitalfield House has been added to and changed by many of the families that have lived in it since the 16th century, and particularly by the Fraser family, who purchased the estate in the 1660s.

When Elizabeth Fraser, the last of that family, was a child, her father died leaving the estate to her. In 1843, she married Patrick Allan, who was originally from Arbroath but had moved to Edinburgh to train as an artist. He continued his studies in Rome, Paris and London, returning to Arbroath in 1841 to work on an illustration for Sir Walter Scott's *The Antiquary*. Scott's story was based on Hospitalfield and it was while researching for this commission that Allan and Fraser met. After they married, he became Patrick Allan-Fraser.

Their long and devoted marriage resulted in a complete remodelling of the estate. Hospitalfield became the focus for Patrick's interests and network of friends, who were among the most progressive artists, writers and thinkers in Europe at the time. On his death in 1890, he left the house, collections and estate in trust as a place of education for artists, and the college finally opened in 1901.

Since then, Hospitalfield House and its grounds have facilitated artists, students, educators, writers and others working within the broad themes of art, design and cultural ideas. This is a place that has had a central role in the arts and cultural ecology of Scotland for a long time, and the organisation continues to develop in order to respond to contemporary questions within art and culture. It is this legacy that informs our future thinking and planning.

At the heart of our programme are opportunities for residency, exchange, study and learning for professional artists and designers, enthusiasts, amateurs and young people. This is an international programme woven strategically into its local Angus and Scottish roots.

ROSL has supported artists coming to the UK from countries across the Commonwealth for many years. Over the last 12 years, Hospitalfield has played host to the artists who receive a ROSL bursary, offering them studio space to work in, the house to live in, and a network of artists participating in the residency programme. In 2013, the ROSL residency programme began to develop partnerships with cultural organisations across the UK. These links will enable artists to return the year after their residency and to organise an exhibition or event with a partner organisation.

We are embarking on a new development at Hospitalfield, which will combine the conservation of the architecture and collections with a refurbishment of the studios and facilities for artists. At the centre will be a new building and we are now working with architects Caruso St John on the designs. This will enable us to become a publicly accessible place, while also playing an increasingly important role in supporting artists.

**MAGNIFICENT:**  
Paintings and sculpture on display in the majestic Picture Gallery







**NATURE TRAIL:**  
Hospitalfield House  
main entrance (far left)  
and the Monks  
Walk leading up to  
the building (left)



**COLLABORATION:**  
Artists in residence  
discuss their work

*This place has had a central role in  
the cultural ecology of Scotland*



**EXPLORATION:**  
One of the studios

## Edinburgh exhibitions

**George Harwood Smith** looks at the  
Scottish clubhouse's arts programme

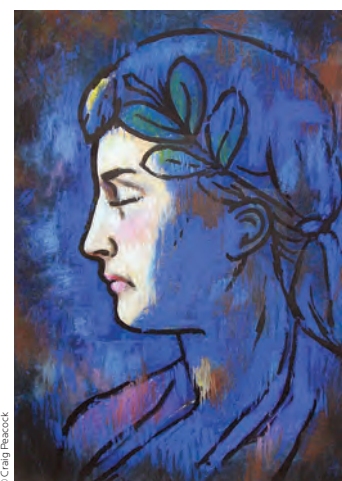
Over the course of 2013, the Edinburgh clubhouse played host to a number of exhibitions organised through both new and established relationships with visual arts organisations in Scotland. At the beginning of the year, ROSL hosted 'The Force and Form of Memory', a large exhibition in association with Alzheimer Scotland. Curated by Jill Gerber, Director of Compass Gallery in Glasgow, it featured work by the well-known Scottish artist Calum Colvin.

Summer saw a vibrant show by the Edinburgh Printmakers art gallery. Visitors to the Festival Fringe were treated to an eclectic selection of prints by a range of accomplished Scottish printmakers, and the exhibition received warm reviews from the Festival magazine *Three Weeks*, *Broadway Baby* and visitors.

To round off the 2013 Edinburgh exhibition programme, ROSL ARTS collaborated with the artist-run gallery Whitespace. The exhibition of paintings, drawings and etchings by Leigh Chorlton, Tim Le Breuilly and Robin Wu was well received, and the opening in October attracted artists from all over the Edinburgh arts community. Email [gharwoodsmith@rosl.org.uk](mailto:gharwoodsmith@rosl.org.uk) for information about exhibitions at the Edinburgh clubhouse and the ROSL visual arts programme, or see the Events section on pages 28-34.



© Laura Gressani



© Craig Peacock

**SHOWCASE:**  
Laura Gressani's  
'Sardines'  
screenprint (above);  
and a pastel  
drawing entitled  
'Mnemosine II' by  
Craig Peacock (left)



## FOCUS

# Passing the baton to future generations

**Christine Wilde** follows the Queen's Baton Relay around the Commonwealth to find out how it is bringing people together and celebrating local traditions

**O**f the nations preparing to compete at the Commonwealth Games in Glasgow this summer, the tiny Pacific island of Nauru is unlikely to be the first to spring to mind.

Nevertheless, since Nauru's debut in 1990, the world's smallest nation has won 28 medals, including ten golds in weightlifting. This ranks them 19th in the all-time Commonwealth Games medal tally – a remarkable achievement for a country with a population of just 9,426.

It is therefore unsurprising that there was so much excitement when the Queen's Baton Relay visited the country in November. Established in 1958, the relay marks the traditional opening of the Games and involves a ceremonial baton being carried from Buckingham Palace to the host nation via every Commonwealth territory.

Much like its older cousin, the Olympic Torch, the baton is passed between selected members of the public as well as athletes. Glaswegian teenager Aamir Mehmood was chosen as a batonbearer after designing the official tartan for the Games. "It is great that lots of different people – not just athletes – get to be part of the relay," said the 17-year-old, who carried the baton alongside athletes Sir Chris Hoy and Alan Wells at the launch ceremony on 9 October.

A month later, the baton landed on the sandy shores of Nauru. With the government declaring a national holiday to mark the occasion, a large proportion of the island's residents turned out to cheer on their batonbearers and support the athletes they hope will continue to do their country proud. Bright banners and dazzling decorations lined the relay route, and energetic songs and dances were performed at each handover, as neighbourhoods vied to create the best carnival atmosphere, after the government announced that there would be a prize.

This enthusiasm has been replicated around the globe as the baton traverses continents and time-zones, connecting a diverse range of cultures and communities. In Rwanda, throngs of local children ran alongside athletes and dignitaries, while an unofficial escort of noisy motorcycle taxis announced the arrival of the baton to the communities en route with a cacophony of beeps. This is the first time that the relay has visited Rwanda, which joined the Commonwealth in 2009. The occasion was marked by an array of cultural performances, including a dance display at the King's Palace Museum in Nyanza.

In the Seychelles, the baton was escorted around Mahe Island by an entourage of excited schoolchildren, while in Kenya, it was joined by a team of visually impaired children, who showed off their formidable skills at an exhibition football match. The excitement is palpable by the time the relay party departs. At almost every stop, minor delays occur at airport security, as staff pose for photos with the same baton they have seen being presented to presidents and royalty on TV.

Crafted from materials sourced, produced and prepared in Scotland, the baton's design reflects the country's proud cultural and natural heritage. Holding the Queen's message to the athletes of the Commonwealth at its core, it serves as an invitation from the host nation to the Commonwealth to unite in a celebration of sport and culture. It also gives Commonwealth Games Associations, National Olympic Committees and other sport initiatives the opportunity to push for more funding, and supports budding athletes by encouraging thousands of schools and local teams to get involved.

"It is a chance to be part of something bigger than ourselves," said rhythmic gymnast Daphne Chia, who

## CULTURAL HIGHLIGHTS:

Bringing the Queen's Baton to shore by canoe in Papua New Guinea (below left); and in Nauru (below); and The Queen places her message in the Baton at Buckingham Palace on 9 October 2013 (below right)







**TOP ATHLETES:** Sir Chris Hoy carries the baton as it leaves Buckingham Palace (top); and Ezekiel Cofie, 93, who ran for Scotland in 1945, holds the baton with his daughter Zetta Cofi, a former Ghanaian sprinter (above)

carried the baton to the British Embassy in Singapore and hopes to be selected to compete at the Games. Fellow gymnast and batonbearer Lim Heem Wei added: "I know there is a message inside written by the Queen. I hope I'll be in Glasgow to hear the message read!"

In the coming months, the relay will continue to the Americas, the Caribbean and Europe, visiting each region of the UK before returning to Scotland in June. Four thousand batonbearers will take it on a final lap around the country before it is delivered to Her Majesty, who will read her message at the Opening Ceremony on 23 July.

With the role of the Commonwealth subject to increasing scrutiny in recent years, the Queen's Baton Relay is seen as an opportunity to affirm Commonwealth friendships in the build-up to the Glasgow Games. 'People from very diverse backgrounds and interests are coming together with a unity of purpose – to ensure the XX Commonwealth Games is a powerful and genuine celebration of world-class sport and culture that looks to embrace and empower all who experience it,' commented David Grevemberg, Chief Executive of Glasgow 2014, in his New Year statement. 'This is everyone's moment to shine, our chance to welcome the Commonwealth to this proud city and, together, have the time of our lives.'

*The baton relay will arrive in Scotland on 14 June. Visit [www.glasgow2014.com/queens-baton-relay](http://www.glasgow2014.com/queens-baton-relay) for updates.*



## Securing a legacy

Willie Cameron looks at Cobbs' involvement in planning the Commonwealth Games 2014

**G**lasgow 2014 will see more than 6,500 athletes, representing 70 nations and territories, compete across 17 sports for 11 days, starting on 23 July. Hosting one of the world's largest sporting events will require 15,000 volunteers. It is a great opportunity for Scotland to build upon the incredible success of the London 2012 Olympics, and Legacy 2014 is about using that chance to deliver lasting change over the whole of Scotland, both now and in the years to come.

At Cobbs, we were both honoured and surprised to receive a call inviting us, as a small company, to participate in the Legacy 2014 programme. This was an opportunity to promote our business and convey our links with ROSL, which has been associated with the Commonwealth for more than 100 years. The Edinburgh clubhouse, which is run by Cobbs, is only one hour from Glasgow – the centre of activity during this year's Commonwealth Games. We are anticipating a busier than usual period, with our overseas members making full use of the facilities.

You might wonder why a small catering company from the shores of Loch Ness, which specialises in home-baked cakes and desserts, would be identified to assist with the promotion of such a major venture. During London 2012, we fulfilled a contract to supply and deliver 12,000 bespoke cupcakes, decorated with a sporting decal and sitting in a Union Jack holder, to 34 outlets throughout England. This logistically demanding exercise attracted the attention of the press and those organising the Legacy 2014 campaign.

At the launch of Legacy 2014, held at the Commonwealth Swimming Pool in Edinburgh, I presented the Cobbs story to an audience of stakeholders. There to endorse the campaign was Shona Robison, Minister for Commonwealth Games and Sport, and David Wilkie MBE, former Olympic and Commonwealth champion. The event was covered on STV News and in the local press. Cobbs also produced resources including a short video, brochure and website.

The whole ethos of Legacy 2014 is to include business, community school children and young people, and to inspire them to become more active through walking, cycling, taking up sport and recognising the health benefits of doing so. So bring on the Games!

ROSL members wishing to visit Scotland in 2014, which is also the year of Homecoming and the Ryder Cup, will receive a warm welcome. See [www.ros-edinburgh.org](http://www.ros-edinburgh.org) for further details or to book accommodation.



**GREAT HONOUR:** Track cyclists compete (top); and at the launch of Legacy 2014, at the Commonwealth Pool in Edinburgh, Willie Cameron presents 'The Cobbs Story' (above)



WORLD

FOCUS

# United by the past

**Mark Fisher** discovers how Homecoming Scotland 2014 is unearthing the secrets of the past and celebrating the Scottish diaspora

**ANCESTRY TOUR:** Heritage pilgrims are guided through some of the most stunning landscapes in the UK

It's a sweltering December day in Sydney and two old friends, Barbara Gurney and Elizabeth Campbell-Mackenzie, have stepped out of the summer heat to show off their handiwork. Sitting in Gurney's living room, each of them holds up the linen panel she is in the midst of embroidering.

Measuring 50cm by 50cm, Campbell-Mackenzie's panel is an illustration of the Scottish-born Elizabeth Macquarie (née Campbell). She is standing in front of the Female Orphan School she built in Parramatta in 1818. With an end-of-the-month deadline approaching, Campbell-Mackenzie has stitched her blue dress, the details of the orphanage and the cliffs in the background.

Gurney's panel pictures Macquarie's husband, Lachlan, the fifth Governor of New South Wales, who was born on the Hebridean island of Ulva. So far, she has embroidered his military jacket, golden epaulettes and much of the foreground detail. "There was a lot of stitching in that red coat," she says.

Once their work is done, the panels will travel the 10,000 miles to Prestonpans, near Edinburgh, where the Prestoungrange Arts Festival will stitch them together to form the Scottish Diaspora Tapestry. This 90m artwork is a labour of love created in 27 countries by more than 400 volunteer embroiderers who, like Campbell-Mackenzie and Gurney, have an affiliation to Scotland.

At the start of the two-year project, they shared their diaspora tales with artist Andrew Crummy. He turned those tales into 150 designs, which he sent back to Canada, India, China, Malawi and wherever else the diaspora communities were found. The embroidering began in earnest.

"I even said to one of my daughters-in-law, 'Can you do Christmas this year? I'm busy stitching,'" says Campbell-Mackenzie, a supporter of the Clan Campbell Society and the Scottish Australian Heritage Council. "It's nice to be part of it," says Gurney. "It's a bit unreal to think something we've done might be around in a few hundred years."

The tapestry will tour Scotland throughout 2014 and internationally in 2015, and is one of the flagship projects in a headline year for Scotland. As well as Bannockburn Live (28-30 June), which marks the 700th anniversary of the Battle of Bannockburn, the Commonwealth Games in Glasgow (23 July-3 August) and the Ryder Cup in Gleneagles (26-28 September), the country is reinforcing its international links through Homecoming Scotland 2014, a year-long programme pitched at the 50 million people around the world who claim Scottish heritage.

A key Homecoming strand is the ancestral programme, designed to help visitors explore their family roots. "There can be somebody who wants to spend every waking hour in Scotland's People Centre researching Great Aunt Mary because she was a MacDonald. But the larger portion are people who are coming because they have family history and, by going to a ceilidh, visiting Glencoe or Culloden, it makes it an ancestral experience," says Vineet Lal, International Marketing Manager at VisitScotland.

For those who want to delve deeper into their clan heritage, the three-day ancestral itineraries ([visitscotland.com/see-do/itineraries/ancestry](http://visitscotland.com/see-do/itineraries/ancestry)) are a good place to start. Gurney has made the journey from Sydney five times since 1973 and, using genealogy websites such as Scotland's People ([scotlandspeople.gov.uk](http://scotlandspeople.gov.uk)), she has

**A STITCH IN TIME:** Glenda Gartrell begins work on her William Scott panel (below)





uncovered the story of her ancestors. They came to Australia in 1835: one side from Edinburgh, the other from Banffshire by way of Denmark. "I've been to most of the places that hold the records and I've seen where my ancestors are buried, up near the North Sea in an old ruined church that hasn't been used since 1800," she says.

She also traced Campbell-Mackenzie's lineage all the way back to a woman who inherited a substantial sum from the estate of Robert the Bruce. "Unfortunately, it didn't come down the female line," she laughs.

As the Scottish Diaspora Tapestry shows, the creative relationship goes two ways. That's also the case for composer Jim Sutherland, mastermind behind *Struileag/Shore to Shore*, a show he is creating with the descendants of native Gaelic speakers he has found all over the world. In Russia, he tracked down Vitaliy Negoda MacDhùghaill, author of Gaelic poetry; in Buenos Aires, Guillermo Santana MacKinlay, leader of a Gaelic choir; and in Vancouver, Dave MacCallum, a Gaelic rapper. "When I started a Facebook page for the project, I found that people had a real thirst for information about Scotland and information about each other," says Sutherland.

Written by 20 poets and writers, his large-scale 75-minute show will premiere in Glasgow during the Commonwealth Games. It is complemented by an online historical storytelling project ([www.struileag.com](http://www.struileag.com)), designed to bring the diaspora together. "There are lots of amazing stories," he says. "There was the Highlander who went off to America and married into the Nez Perce tribe and ended up fighting against Custer at the Battle of Little Big Horn. We'd like to see people adding themselves into these stories so it'll have a life of its own."

See [www.visitscotland.com/see-do/homecoming-scotland-2014](http://www.visitscotland.com/see-do/homecoming-scotland-2014) to find out more about *Homecoming Scotland 2014*; and [www.scottishdiasporatapestry.org](http://www.scottishdiasporatapestry.org) for information about the *Diaspora Tapestry*.

**Mark Fisher is a freelance journalist based in Scotland and author of *The Edinburgh Fringe Survival Guide*.**



**DIASPORA TAPESTRY:** (Clockwise from top left) Helen Johnson stitches the Botany Bay panel; the St Mary MacKillop panel; the Botany Bay panel; and Elizabeth Campbell-Mackenzie with her Elizabeth Macquarie panel outside the Female Orphanage in Sydney



**PAPER TRAIL:** A woman studies documents at Register House in Edinburgh for information about her forefathers



## NEW PASSION:

Young people participate in the Blackheath Halls Community Opera

# Songs from the heart

How community opera can change lives. By **Samantha Whitaker**

Inspired by the HS2 high-speed rail link that's set to slice through the Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire countryside, Garsington Opera staged its first community opera, *Road Rage*, in July 2013 at Wormsley. Written by Richard Stilgoe, it told the story of a village divided by plans to build a toll road, and featured a cast of nearly 200. "What's really special is that it was intergenerational," explains Karen Gillingham, Director of Garsington Opera Education. "You'd see a 14-year-old and an 86-year-old having a cup of tea, chatting and reminding each other what they were supposed to do next. They were in it together, on the same level."

Gillingham, who also directs professional operas, really appreciates the journey some people go on: "It's a massive kick when someone who has never done anything like this before ends up doing something extraordinary," she says. And with *Road Rage*, composer Orlando Gough set the cast a real challenge: "Some of them thought it was too difficult," Gillingham recalls. "But over two years, we got them to the point where they were singing three-part harmonies while moving around the stage."

The transformation was particularly apparent in the teenage chorus, made up of students who had taken part in Garsington Opera workshops at school. "They wanted to be there, but it was like none of them wanted to shine. None of them wanted to stand out," she says. But performing alongside Daniel Norman, one of four professionals in the cast, inspired them to raise their game. "A group will always perform to match the person of the highest level," explains Gillingham. During an all-cast rehearsal, a similar effect occurred when it became clear that the local primary school children were far better prepared than the teenagers.

As well as a confidence boost, nearly all the cast experienced cognitive benefits too. The older generation enjoyed challenging themselves to learn words, music and movement by heart – a skill that tends to wane during adulthood. And for the younger children, the unusually long rehearsal sessions of half or even full days resulted in a noticeable improvement in concentration levels, according to their teachers.



One child who particularly benefitted was seven-year-old Tyler, who is autistic. "The team were so patient with all of us," says his mum, Jennifer, who also performed. "They went beyond the call of duty in making allowances for Tyler and motivating him. They even created a photobook of the performance venue to help prepare him, because a change in scenery can uproot everything." On the night, you wouldn't have known Tyler was any different, and he and his classmates, who all played great crested newts, received the biggest applause from the audience.

*Road Rage* was the culmination of smaller projects designed to introduce Garsington to the local community after the company moved to the Wormsley Estate in 2011. Workshops in local secondary schools continue to open students' eyes to the world of opera. "Sometimes, teachers are astounded to see kids who were on the point

## PROFOUND EXPERIENCE:

A diverse cast performing in the Garsington community opera, *Road Rage* (above)



# Africa's first Opera Village

An ambitious new arts village in Burkina Faso is helping to raise the quality of life there, says **Samantha Whitaker**

**A**lthough Burkina Faso is one of the world's poorest countries, it is also the centre of African film and theatre. So, in 2008, it was here that conceptual artist and director Christoph Schlingensiefel decided to build an opera house as his legacy, following a diagnosis of lung cancer. His vision was a platform for cultural exchange between Africa and the West. However, following major flooding in the chosen location of Laongo, the opera house evolved into an opera village as it became clear that this rural community was in urgent need of much more than a theatre.

Schlingensiefel enlisted architect Francis Kéré, a Burkinabé living in Berlin, who made use of local materials in his plans, combining native building methods with low-energy, sustainable solutions, including wells and solar collectors. Importantly, local workers would be trained to help build and maintain the village.

With support from the German government and the Goethe Institute, work began in January 2010 but, tragically, Schlingensiefel died just eight months later. Under the leadership of his partner, Aino Labarencz, the project continued and the first phase – a school for 300 pupils – opened in October 2011. Equipped with African musical instruments and Western film cameras, the school includes a sound studio and workshops for cultural activities.

"Already, the pupils have better grades and less absence time than in most other schools," says Christin Richter, Project Manager at Festspielhaus Afrika, the non-profit company that operates the village. "As a result, the Ministry of Education is now considering changing the national curriculum to integrate more arts lessons."

Phase two – a solar-powered medical unit – is now being completed. It will provide vital primary healthcare, as well as education on nutrition and dental hygiene. Since 2012, an extensive programme of workshops and performances has been running, and the final construction phase will include the 500-seat Festspielhaus (festival house) at the heart of the village to host these activities and complete the hub of cultural discovery that Schlingensiefel envisioned.

**AMBITIOUS:**  
The Opera Village  
in Laongo



of being expelled stand up and perform with tears in their eyes," says Gillingham. Another project model is to create a piece for secondary school students to perform alongside pupils from feeder primary schools, which helps to ease the passage between schools.

At Glyndebourne, there is an equally thriving education department, led by Lucy Lowe. One project that stands out is Raise Your Voice, which is for people with dementia and their carers. "We have an expectation of creativity, so they devise songs and learn movement as well as investigating their voices and singing as a group," Lowe explains. "For many, it's a lifeline," adds Chris Stones, Senior Education Project Manager. "And for their carers, having time to enjoy themselves and the relationship they have with the person they're caring for really gives them energy."

Above all, a common aim for community opera is to make the art form accessible to everyone. In a review of the Blackheath Halls Community Opera, in Southeast London, Susan Elkin commented: "The children are not required in Act 3, and to see them sitting totally engrossed moves me deeply. They're having a life-changing experience. Who says opera is 'too difficult' or 'irrelevant' if you attend an inner-city school or if you have special needs? Don't ever patronise or underestimate children."

Opera encompasses an incredibly wide range of creative skills, from music, drama and storytelling to costume, set design and production, so people from all walks of life can find a role. "We recruit diverse groups and team work is essential," says Rose Ballantyne, Community Engagement Manager at Blackheath Halls. "Being involved in a production of any sort will always bring people together."

**Samantha Whitaker is a former Deputy Editor of Overseas and now works for Sunday Publishing.**

## THERAPEUTIC EFFECT:

Raise Your Voice, Glyndebourne's outreach project for people with dementia and their carers

## IN HARMONY:

Children learn to love opera through Garsington's community work







#### THE SCHOLARS:

The Pettman/ROSL ARTS Scholarship winners 2013, the Trinity Trio: (l-r) Tina Kim piano, Stella Kim violin and Sally Kim cello (left)

#### CONCERT TOUR:

The Hon Alex Chernov, Governor of Victoria, and Elizabeth Chernov (centre) with the Cavaleri Quartet: (l-r) Martyn Jackson, Ciaran McCabe violins, Ann Beilby viola and Rowena Calvert cello (right)

# Trio heads for UK

Director of Arts, **Roderick Lakin**, reports on the 8th Annual Pettman/ROSL ARTS Scholarship auditions in New Zealand

A full immersion in the cultural life of the UK is guaranteed for the Trinity Trio from the University of Auckland. As winners of the 8th Annual Pettman/ROSL ARTS Scholarship for an outstanding New Zealand Chamber Ensemble, they will undertake an intensive six-week UK study and performance tour in July and August.

The trio will give performances in London and Edinburgh for ROSL, and at the Budleigh Salterton Festival, as well as participating in the two-week Summer Academy of the Lake District Music Festival. In addition to performances, coaching and masterclasses from leading UK teachers, they will attend events at festivals and major venues, including the BBC Proms, Wigmore Hall, the Royal Opera House, London Coliseum and Edinburgh International Festival.

The trio came together as a group at the beginning of 2013. Sisters Stella (violin) and Sally Kim (cello) have worked together in duos, piano trios and quartets since high school. Stella has also worked with Tina Kim (piano) in chamber ensembles through three years of study at the University of Auckland. Sally is a 7th-form student at Westlake Girls High School and currently studies with Edith Salzmänn, supported by a scholarship from the Pettman National Junior Academy.

Ten ensembles, nominated by the universities of Auckland; Otago, Dunedin; Victoria, Wellington; and Waikato, Hamilton, participated in the Pettman/ROSL ARTS Scholarship auditions, held on 22-24 November at the Academy of Performing Arts at the University of Waikato.

Three were selected for the final concert on 24 November: Trinity Trio, Garga Duo (Julian Baker violin and Heather Lewis cello of Te Kōkī New Zealand School of Music), and Akato Trio (Shauno Isomura violin, Jesbery Hartono cello and Kent Isomura piano of the universities of Auckland and Waikato). The concert was recorded and broadcast on Radio New Zealand Concert.

I was joined on the adjudicating panel by the Cavaleri Quartet: Martyn Jackson, Ciaran McCabe (violins), Ann Beilby (viola) and Rowena Calvert (cello); Euan Murdoch, CEO of Chamber Music New Zealand; and Edward Allen, former principal horn of the NZSO.

The winning trio impressed the jury with their consistently polished and thoughtful performances of well-chosen programmes. They are at an ideal point in their professional development to take advantage of the opportunities that the scholarship offers, and to explore the possibilities for postgraduate study in the UK.







**CELEBRATION:**  
The Trinity Trio (in blue) with their parents, Lyn Milne (centre) and members of the Cavaleri Quartet



*The trio are at an ideal point to take advantage of the opportunities offered*

A high standard was evident in all the groups. An important feature of the competition is feedback and coaching from the judges for all of the participants. Competitors and judges are brought together in informal play-throughs, which engender a positive, collaborative atmosphere in which to enjoy performing chamber music.

For the UK-based Cavaleri Quartet, winners of the 2011 ROSL Annual Music Competition Ensemble Award, the Pettman/ROSL ARTS Scholarship auditions were an important part of their concert tour of New Zealand. To open the scholarship weekend, they gave a concert entitled *Testimonies*, built around Steve Reich's seminal 1980s work *Different Trains*, for string quartet and tape. The music reflects the frequent commutes the composer made between New York and Los Angeles in 1939-1942, and the very different train journeys that he, as a Jew, might have taken at the same time in Europe. The programme also included quartets by Beethoven and Shostakovich, which also explore themes of war, tyranny and inhumanity.

The performance was recorded in Hamilton to be broadcast by Radio New Zealand Concert, and the programme was repeated in Christchurch's Cardboard Cathedral in aid of the Christchurch School of Music and the Cardboard Cathedral; and in Auckland War Memorial Museum in aid of the museum's Cenotaph Project.

The Cavaleri also gave concerts of music by Mozart and Mendelssohn in Nelson, Napier, Gisborne, Tokomaru Bay, Waiheke Island and Keri Keri, each in aid of a different charity, including Save the Children. Venues ranged from churches and concert halls to a winery and a museum. Mission Winery in Napier is New Zealand's oldest winery, while the quirky Whittaker's Music Museum is located on Waiheke Island. We were also privileged to be invited back to give a concert and school workshop in Tokomaru Bay at the Pakirikiri Marae meeting house.

None of this would be possible without the energy and dedication of ROSL New Zealand Director, Lyn Milne, and her husband Keith, who devise and coordinate the tour, and Professor Barrie Pettman and Maureen Pettman for their commitment and continued support of this distinctive project.



**CHARITY CONCERT:**

The Cavaleri Quartet sets up at Christchurch's Cardboard Cathedral for a performance of Steve Reich's *Different Trains*

**OUTREACH WORK:**

Ciaran McCabe of the Cavaleri Quartet gives an impromptu lesson in Tokomaru Bay



**Australian stopover**

On the return journey to the UK from New Zealand, the Cavaleri Quartet stopped off in Australia. They gave a concert at the home of ROSL members Di and Lino



Bresciani, and at Government House, Melbourne, as part of the Governor's prestigious recital series. In Sydney, they performed at the RACA Club (a ROSL reciprocal club) and at the Sydney Conservatorium.

**PERFORMANCE:**  
Government House, Melbourne



# Branches: what's on?

## Details of forthcoming events

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



### Australia

#### Tuesday 4 March

##### South Australia Branch lunch

The Public Schools Club, Adelaide; 12.30pm  
Informative talk by guest speaker Mark Gilbert about the clipper ship 'City of Adelaide'. \$25.

#### Monday 10 March

##### New South Wales

##### Commonwealth Day lunch

New South Wales Parliament Branch members are invited to this event at Parliament. Email [murraylily@hotmail.com](mailto:murraylily@hotmail.com) for details.

#### Wednesday 26 March

##### Western Australia

##### Branch AGM

For branch members only. Email [losabbotts@hotmail.com](mailto:losabbotts@hotmail.com) for details.

#### Tuesday 1 April

##### South Australia Branch lunch

The Public Schools Club, Adelaide; 12.30pm  
Talk by guest speaker Bob Korotcoff on 'Angel Flight Australia', a charity that coordinates flights to help people facing bad health, poor finances and daunting distances. \$25.

#### Sunday 13 April

##### Western Australia Branch

##### Queen's Birthday lunch

Celebration jointly hosted with other loyal societies in Perth. Email [losabbotts@hotmail.com](mailto:losabbotts@hotmail.com) for details.

#### April

##### New South Wales Branch

##### Queen's Birthday lunch.

Email [murraylily@hotmail.com](mailto:murraylily@hotmail.com) for details.

#### Tuesday 6 May

##### South Australia AGM & lunch

The Public Schools Club; 12.30pm

Talk by retired interior designer Shirley Matthews. \$25.



### Canada

#### Spring 2014

##### Receptions for new members

Victoria and Vancouver Opportunity for members in British Columbia to meet. Email [evmurray@elus.net](mailto:evmurray@elus.net) for details.

#### Sunday 30 March

##### Alberta Branch AGM & lunch

Royal Glenora Club; 12.30pm  
For branch members only. Email [ccordery@shaw.ca](mailto:ccordery@shaw.ca) for details.



### New Zealand

#### Wednesday 12 March

##### Christchurch Branch meeting

Hollylea Retirement Village; 10am  
Morning tea with Commonwealth speaker. \$NZ10.

#### Wednesday 26 March

##### Oamaru Branch meeting

St Paul's Lounge; 7.45pm  
Guests welcome. Speaker tba.



### UK

#### Bath

#### Wednesday 12 March, 9 April, 14 May and 11 June

##### Monthly coffee morning

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

#### Thursday 10 April

##### Spring lunch

Bath and County Club; 12pm  
Speaker tba. To be added to the



**WAR MEMORIAL:**  
Roddy Porter joined the Perth Branch for a wreath-laying ceremony in King's Park



mailing list or for details, email [rosl.west@gmail.com](mailto:rosl.west@gmail.com). £25.

#### Bournemouth

#### Thursday 20 & 27 March, 3, 10, 17 & 24 April and 1, 8, 15, 22 & 29 May

##### Weekly coffee morning

Marriott Highcliff Hotel; 10.30am  
Guests welcome. £2.90.

#### Wednesday 18 June

##### The Queen's Birthday lunch

Marriott Highcliff Hotel; 12.30pm for 1pm  
Two courses with music from ROSL young musicians. £23.

#### Cheltenham

#### Wednesday 19 March

##### 'Glorious Gloucestershire'

Church House, Grafton Road; 2.30pm  
Illustrated talk by Dennis Halliday. Guests welcome. £2.

#### Wednesday 16 April

##### 'Ireland'

Church House, Grafton Road; 2.30pm  
Talk by Frank Austin. Guests welcome. £2.

#### Wednesday 21 May

##### Cheltenham Branch AGM

Church House, Grafton Road; 2.30pm  
A short talk will follow the formal meeting.

**CONCERT TOUR:** The Cavaleri String Quartet take time out at the Huka Falls, New Zealand

#### Wednesday 18 June

##### Summer lunch

For details or to register interest, call +44 (0)1452 813373.

#### Edinburgh

#### Saturday 5 April

##### Coffee morning

Over-Seas House Edinburgh; 10.30am  
Talk by Dr Alistair Durie of the University of Stirling, entitled 'Sun, Sea and Shivers'. £3.

#### Saturday 3 May

##### Coffee morning

Over-Seas House Edinburgh; 10.30am  
Talk by Professor John Howie on 'A Chapter in the Edinburgh Medicine Story'. £3.

#### Wednesday 21 May

##### Edinburgh AGM and

##### Chairman's Reception

Over-Seas House Edinburgh; 6pm for 6.30pm  
Reception follows the AGM.

#### Saturday 7 June

##### Coffee morning

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



## Exeter

### Friday 28 March

#### Exeter Branch lunch

Great Western Hotel; 12pm  
Talk on 'An Unusual Royal Air Force Station' by Brian Hawkes. £14.50.

### Friday 25 April

#### Exeter Branch AGM

Great Western Hotel; 12.30pm  
For branch members only. AGM starts at 1.45pm. Lunch: £14.50; AGM and coffee: £3.

### Friday 30 May

#### Annual coffee morning

Venue tba; 10.30am  
Call +44 (0)1823 661148 for details.

## Glasgow

### Friday 16 May

#### Glasgow Branch AGM

The Western Club, Glasgow; 2pm  
For branch members only.  
Call +44 (0)141 884 6342 for details.

## Taunton

### Wednesday 12, 19 & 26 March, 9, 16, 23 & 30 April and 14, 21 & 28 May

#### Weekly coffee morning

Miles @ Riverside; 10.30am  
Guests welcome.

### Wednesday 2 April

#### Taunton Branch AGM

Library Meeting Room, Paul Street, Taunton; 10.30am  
With coffee morning. For branch members only. £5.50.

### Wednesday 7 May

#### Taunton Branch lunch

Somerset College, Taunton; 11am  
Illustrated talk by David Elkington on 'The Other Pompeiis.' Guests welcome. £14.50.

### Wednesday 4 June

#### Taunton Branch

#### summer outing

Email [rosl.west@gmail.com](mailto:rosl.west@gmail.com) for details or to be added to the mailing list.

## Torbay

We are sad to announce the closure of the Torbay/Torquay Branch. Thank you to all those who supported the branch over the years. The nearest branch is now Exeter.

## West Cornwall

### Thursday 20 March

#### Branch annual lunch

Carbis Bay Hotel; 12.30pm for 1pm

Three-course lunch and coffee with Guest of Honour Colonel Edward Bolitho OBE, Lord Lieutenant of Cornwall. Guests welcome. £20.

### Thursday 10 April

#### West Cornwall AGM

Carbis Bay Hotel; 2.45pm  
The formal meeting will be followed by a short talk by Pam Winterbourne, with Cornish cream tea. To attend, call +44 (0)1736 333460 by 8 April. £5.50.

## West Sussex

### May

#### Brighton Festival

Brighton Dome; 1pm  
Visit to Brighton Festival for the lunch-time concert organised with ROSL ARTS, followed by a meal at Café Rouge.

### Wednesday 4 June

#### The Queen's Birthday lunch

Windsor Hotel, Worthing; 12.30pm for 1pm  
Celebratory lunch. Guest speaker tba. Call +44 (0)1444 458853 for details of West Sussex Branch events or to register interest.

## CONTACT DETAILS

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## Meet the British Columbia Chapter

The British Columbia Chapter was founded in the mid-1990s with the BC Lieutenant-Governor, the Hon Garde Gardom, as Patron. Liz Murray joined ROSL in 2006 and became branch President in 2012. She explains how she got involved.

The former branch President, Pam DuCommun, is a friend, and she suggested that my partner and I look at joining ROSL because we go to London regularly. We love the central location of the clubhouse, the arts involvement and the general feeling of relaxed hospitality.

We have a number of Vancouver-based members who have a shared interest in ROSL and like to get together in an informal way. Our main events are the gatherings that we hold at my home in Vancouver. In 2013, we also started to hold events in Victoria again, using the reciprocal club, The Union Club of Victoria, with good results.

I am committed to arranging two events a year, for both Vancouver and Victoria, in spring and late summer. We have also linked up with the Royal Commonwealth Society to arrange a Christmas event.



UNION CLUB:  
Liz Murray  
(2nd left) with  
members in Victoria

2013 was my first full year as President, so the reception at my home was memorable. It was also great to have a small group of members from Victoria join Desmond and me at The Union Club and hear their encouragement for more Victoria events. What I most enjoy about being a member of the branch is meeting other members, hearing their stories, and finding out how and why they joined ROSL.



# News and views

The latest from the clubhouses in London and Edinburgh



## Meet ROSL's new Catering Director

The staff at Over-Seas House London wished a fond farewell to David Laurance at his retirement party at the end of November. Stepping into the role of Catering Operations Director is Louise Leighton-Rees, who joins us from Graysons Restaurants Operations team.

Louise jumped at the opportunity to take on this challenging role after attending meetings at ROSL, where she fell in love with the ethos of the club. The chance to develop the menus, services and facilities through a full refurbishment of the catering areas was an extremely exciting prospect. Louise looks forward to meeting more members and is happy to discuss new ideas.

Email [louise.leighton-rees@graysonsrestaurants.com](mailto:louise.leighton-rees@graysonsrestaurants.com) or call +44 (0)7809 322591 to get in touch with her or to arrange a meeting.

## Chairman's Lunch

ROSL welcomed Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe QPM to the Chairman's Lunch in November. The Metropolitan Police Commissioner spoke eloquently about the economic and operational challenges facing one of the largest police services in the world.



## Santé!

In October, members embarked on a three-day tour of some of the finest vineyards in Bordeaux, organised in association with Davy's Wine Merchants and specialist travel company Grape Escapes. Bonding over a glass of each Chateau's finest, the group, led by Director-General Roddy Porter, were also welcomed into the wine-makers' homes to enjoy some exceptional dining experiences in beautiful and historic surroundings.

## Call for volunteers

If you are passionate about your club's community, interested in social history or keen to volunteer for our vibrant events programmes, we would love to hear from you! ROSL is looking for a new group of volunteers to help with a variety of projects, including our First World War centenary programme, members' events, club history archiving projects, and the ROSL shop, as well as ROSL branch and audience research. It's a great way to get to know more about the club and meet other members, and you'll learn new skills too. The time you spend volunteering will vary, depending on your availability and the projects you choose to work on. Please email Sara ([sbrouwer@rosl.org.uk](mailto:sbrouwer@rosl.org.uk)) if you are interested or want to find out more.





## Cultural triumphs ▶

ROSL ARTS hosted several extremely popular events in the winter quarter. At a sold-out concert, in association with the Medical Music Society of London, world-renowned musicians Adrian Brendel (cello) and Imogen Cooper (piano) delighted members and Friends of ROSL ARTS with music by Bach, Schubert, Liszt and Rachmaninov.

In December, James Malpas presented an insightful examination of the avant-garde innovations made by Viennese artists to a packed audience in Princess Alexandra Hall. The successful event was held in partnership with the ArtFund and tied to a major exhibition at the National Gallery.



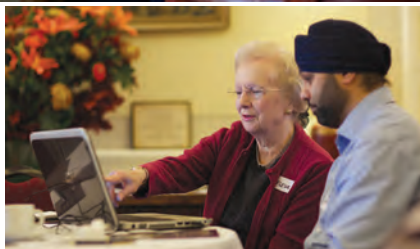
## ▲ Great Scott!

The Edinburgh clubhouse was pleased to invite guest speaker Dr Owen Dudley Edwards to the Arts Lunch in December. The writer and historian gave a fascinating talk to members about Sir Walter Scott's early influences and his role as a founder of social history.



## ▶▶ Technically minded

In the last in the series of Technical Tuesdays, ROSL members took their first steps into the world of social media. Guided by computer gurus from Wanstor in the comfort of the Drawing Room, participants soon got to grips with tools such as Skype and Facebook. Members also received advice about purchasing IT equipment from our helpful John Lewis representative, John. Our thanks also go to the pupils of Buckswood School, the Metropolitan Police and the ROSL volunteers who helped to make these events such a success.



## ▲ Keeping it local

Members enjoyed another excellent tour with a Blue Badge Guide. Heading down the road from the London clubhouse, they explored the history of Mayfair, including the secrets and scandals of its famous residents, and visited what is reputed to be the city's most haunted house. Another group of members took the Victoria Line to Walthamstow to visit the newly refurbished and award-winning William Morris Gallery. Leading us through Morris's expansive childhood home, the museum curator gave us a tour of the exhibition rooms, which reveal more about the man behind the iconic designs.





## ▲ MASK Art Prize

ROSL exhibited work by young Kenyan artists shortlisted for the MASK Art Prize in the clubhouse in December and January. At the private view on 3 December, members heard about MASK (the Mobile Art School in Kenya), and its efforts to promote and develop creative education, from its Director Alla Tkachuk and the Counsellor for Education at the Kenya High Commission, Margaret Lesuuda (pictured with Roddy Porter, above left). The vibrancy and diversity of the paintings brought a new energy to the Central Lounge and proved extremely popular with members and guests alike.



## ▲ Central Council

April Gow, pictured with Roddy Porter (l) and Sir Anthony Figgis, was Guest of Honour at the Central Council Lunch in November. A Strategic Consultant in the non-profit arts sector, April spoke on regenerating hope and commerce through the Turquoise Mountain Foundation in Afghanistan ([www.turquoisemountain.org](http://www.turquoisemountain.org)).



**EXCLUSIVE:**  
YMs enjoyed a night at Mahiki cocktail bar in November

# Bright young things

From cocktails to mince pies, it was a great end to 2013 for ROSL YMs, says **Mark Paskins**

In November, ROSL Younger Members set off for a night at exclusive cocktail bar Mahiki. The evening started with the regular monthly drinks night, which is always well attended, as YMs from across the globe meet up in the cocktail bar, usually combined with dinner in the Buttery or Restaurant. Then it was off to Mahiki, on the free ROSL guest list, to sample their infamous Treasure Chest champagne cocktails and dance the night away, Tiki-style.

In December, the First Thursdays drinks were given a distinctly Christmas feel, with mulled wine, mince pies and a Christmas dinner in the Buttery. Overall, it was a superb way to round off the year at the club.

Now for 2014! ROSL is already putting together an exciting series of events, including themed drinks nights to celebrate International Women's Day, the newly-opened cocktail bar, and another Cinco de Mayo Mexican evening in May.

*Follow us on Facebook, search for 'ROSL 1910'.*



**FESTIVE FUN:**  
Younger Members enjoy mulled wine at First Thursdays drinks in December





**ALLIED TROOPS:**  
Taking aim at an  
enemy plane

## Marking the War



### ROSL launches its WWI centenary programme

**A**ugust marks the 100th anniversary of the outbreak of the First World War. As well as bringing nations, communities and individuals from all over the world together to remember those who lived, fought and died in the war, this centenary offers ROSL, as a Commonwealth organisation, an opportunity to uncover, connect and engage with the lives, stories and legacies that have shaped our community.

Founded only four years previously, the club was influenced profoundly by the advent of war. From the outset, ROSL was involved in the war effort: raising more than £1 million to send comforts to the troops; providing 350 aircraft; and supporting hospitals for the wounded. This was formally acknowledged in 1917, when Evelyn Wrench was appointed CMG for his fundraising work. ROSL continues to follow his example through our humanitarian work today.

Over the next four years, ROSL will be commemorating and exploring key points in the Great War through a special programme of events, publications, branch activities and clubhouse exhibits, beginning in July with a Battlefield Tour of the Aisne and the Marne regions of France (see page 33 for details).

As we reflect on the club's history during this period, we would also like to invite members to share their stories of how WWI shaped their families, communities and countries, to help us to make our remembrances more personal.

If you have a story you would like us to feature in *Overseas*, or materials relating to the centenary or ROSL's involvement in the First World War, please send an email to [ww1centenary@rosl.org.uk](mailto:ww1centenary@rosl.org.uk) or write to us at the London clubhouse.

# ROSL support in Africa grows

Generous donations and the voluntary £1 add-ons to bedroom bills are helping to make a difference, reports **Margaret Adrian-Vallance**

**T**he defining characteristic of ROSL humanitarian projects is support for marginalised communities in the Commonwealth, often where only 20% of people are literate, employment prospects are minimal and a small amount of well-monitored funding can go a long way. The generous spirit of our members helped many such communities in 2013.

They included Aids orphans in Zambia, where the Contesa project feeds and educates 900 children in a village outside Kabwe. ROSL member Enid Bates says: "I visited the village last September and witnessed the distressing poverty of the children orphaned due to parents dying of Aids and also old people left without family support. Although Contesa is a small charity with few overhead costs, all these children get meals and an education, which they would otherwise not be able to afford."

In Namibia, the restricted fund for Bushmen of the Kalahari, made possible by Dr Allen Zimble, is addressing a variety of needs. "The funds are used for my bush schools to buy teaching aids, school uniforms and toiletries, especially when learners transfer to Grade 4 at Tsumkwe Primary," says Headteacher and ROSL bursary alumnus Cwisa Cwi.

In Windhoek, the 13 students studying Education at the University of Namibia hope to return to their Himba and edge-of-Kalahari homelands when they qualify. Teachers in these remote areas are in short supply.

In Botswana, enterprise and training for marginalised young people ranges from leading bush walks to a fishing project on the Okavango. The focus is on sustainable development, heritage and eco-tourism.

Long-term supporters Jo and Yaell Agar added funds to supply clean water in the Philippines (via Oxfam) to their generous donation to ROSL projects. And, in Kenya, our bursary recipients continue to do well.

Many ROSL members added donations to their membership renewals. As a result, 2014 already looks promising in terms of our ability to continue these links of friendship with Commonwealth communities.

Email [mvallance@rosl.org.uk](mailto:mvallance@rosl.org.uk) if you would like to find out more about the projects or to make a donation.

#### A GOOD START:

Children at Kabwe village school, Zambia



#### GAINING SKILLS:

Carpentry workshop for older students



#### ENTERPRISE:

ROSL is involved in a range of projects in the Okavango region of Botswana



# The Edinburgh vibe

**Alexander Lamley** is excited by opportunities for Younger Members in Scotland



I have been a ROSL member for four years, signing up in Edinburgh shortly after leaving university, initially for use as a base when visiting the city. It has become my home from home: my space

for meeting professional contacts and entertaining socially. The Edinburgh clubhouse is in one of the most fantastic locations. It is only five minutes' walk from Waverley train station, offers the best view of Edinburgh Castle in town and sits right at the heart of the shopping, restaurant and bar district.

I now work for McClure Naismith solicitors and work between their offices in Edinburgh, Glasgow and London. It is a great comfort to know that ROSL is always close by, should I need accommodation, entertaining space or to drop in and see some friendly faces at the bar.

In my spare time, I run a networking group called Connections, which brings together professional advisors and entrepreneurs. The clubhouses lend themselves perfectly to group meet-ups: in April, I organised a lecture on financial services with a networking reception and, in December, a Christmas quiz, which was also open to ROSL Young Members.

I am currently involved in galvanising the YMs of ROSL Scotland, where the YM group is growing steadily. So far, we have met for drinks and dinners but we don't intend to stop there. I hope to see a movie night and a more regular get-together of YMs from a range of clubs in Edinburgh, much like the Inter-Club Group in London.

If you see me wandering the corridors of the Edinburgh clubhouse or in the bar, please come and say hello. Alternatively, email alexjlamley@aol.com to find out more about what is happening for ROSL Young Members in Scotland.



**QUIZ NIGHT:**  
Younger Members at the Edinburgh clubhouse

## Your Scottish clubhouse

Over-Seas House on Princes Street first opened its doors to members in 1930. The Victorian building, formerly the Windsor Hotel, is located directly opposite Princes Street Gardens and has an uninterrupted view of Edinburgh Castle. Members staying in the clubhouse during the Festival and Hogmanay celebrations are invited to visit the roof terrace to view the spectacular firework displays.

An active calendar of events and activities means that the clubhouse is a great place to meet friends. From monthly film nights and coffee mornings to arts lunches with guest speakers, hospitality is at its heart. The restaurant menu tempts with seasonal and locally sourced dishes

and, as in the London clubhouse, the wine menu is extensive and competitively priced.

During August, the ROSL ARTS team run their critically acclaimed concert series – now in its 15th year – on the Festival Fringe. Prizewinning musicians perform 30 concerts in 12 days, making the clubhouse a vibrant hub for members and visitors alike.

Over-Seas House has 20 comfortable bedrooms, many with a castle view, a bar, restaurant and private drawing room. Members who want a place to work and meet colleagues are able to use the recently refurbished Balmoral Room. So whether you live, work in or are planning a visit to Edinburgh, be sure to make use of your Scottish clubhouse.



**PRIME POSITION:**  
View of Edinburgh Castle from the clubhouse

## Annual General Meeting 2014

Dear Member,

I am instructed to inform you that the ROSL AGM will be held at Over-Seas House London on Tuesday 6 May 2014 at 3.30pm. The AGM will receive a verbal report on events in 2013 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.

Yours sincerely,

Major General Roddy Porter MBE,  
Director-General

### Agenda

- Address by the Chairman
- The Honorary Treasurer to report on ROSL's finances
- To receive and adopt the ROSL accounts for 2013
- 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 2013
- To appoint auditors for the ensuing year

*Note: copies of the 2013 Financial Accounts will be available to download from the members' area of the website from 15 April and copies will be available on request from ROSL Reception.*



# Books

Reviews of recent works by ROSL members

## Ten Weeks in Africa

JM Shaw

*Sceptre, 2012*

ISBN: 978-0-340-93406-7, £8.99

Set in a fictional African country, this gripping and often disturbing story unfolds in a world where corruption and tribal allegiances reign over moral values. Following well-intentioned aid workers, slum-dwellers and officials, *Ten Weeks...* raises important questions about the real benefit of Western aid and intervention in developing countries.

Claire Simon

## The Seven Motivations of Life

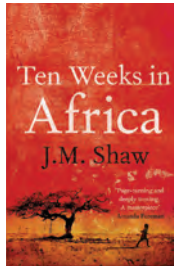
Mark Oliver

*Mark Oliver, 2013*

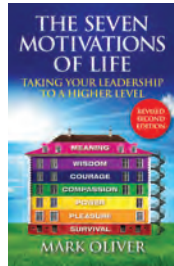
ISBN: 978-1-4477-8328-2, £25.45

available from *Lulu.com*

*The Seven Motivations...* tries to answer some of the big life questions: Who am I, where am I going, and how can I lead myself and others more effectively? It aims to help readers to think more clearly and to adapt their



behaviour to be more effective professionally and personally.  
CS



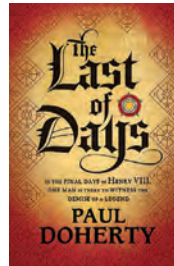
## The Last of Days

Paul Doherty

*Headline, 2013*

ISBN: 978-0-7553-9787-7, £7.99

It is 1546 and King Henry is dying. Riddled with disease, haunted by the ghosts of the past and wracked by fears and doubts for the future, his demeanour is reflective of the unrest that is growing in England: fear of the King, fear of enemies at home and abroad, concern over the succession and how men may freely worship, and fear about what one can say to whom.



This is ROSL member Paul Doherty's 100th novel, a well-researched and compelling piece of storytelling that explores, through the journal of Henry's fool and confidant Will Somers, the psyche of the wasted monarch, his counsellors (some loyal, others not), and his dysfunctional family.

This is a rare novel that recreates Henry VIII's last fevered days, rather than his more celebrated earlier years (Wolsey, Moore and Cromwell appear here in the King's nightmares, not in the flesh) and Doherty's darkly atmospheric narration of those troubled times makes for good reading.

Roddy Porter

## Pat Anderson, 1925-2013

Pat Anderson, who died on 9 November 2013, was Assistant to the Director-General under three D-Gs: Philip Crawshaw CBE, Capt John Rumble and Robert Newell LVO. A cheerful member of the team, she took great interest in the activities carried out by other staff. Pat was particularly attached to ROSL's annual international music festival, and to the club's other arts and cultural events. She was highly conscientious and efficient in every aspect of her responsibilities.

After her retirement, she worked part-time for the Musicians' Benevolent Fund while continuing to proofread *Overseas*. Born Patricia Kelsey in December 1925, in Streatham, London, she started her career at the Inland Revenue in Harrow.

In 1960, she married trumpeter Tom Anderson. Pat died a month before her 88th birthday at the Ker Maria Nursing Home. She leaves her sister Margaret.

## ROSL Book Group

ROSL has launched a Book Group that will meet once a month to discuss newly published and classic novels. It is free to join and open to all ROSL members.

The first meeting, on Wednesday 4 December at 6.30pm, was followed by dinner, where members continued the discussion and decided on the next book. The choice is always a group decision, and we settled on *New Selected Stories* by

Alice Munro, winner of the 2013 Nobel Prize for Literature. This volume includes selections from her last five collections and brings together her finest work from the last 15 years.

The Book Group will meet at 5pm on 25 March and 6.30pm on 30 April, 21 May, 26 June, 16 July and 20 August. Contact the group coordinator, Eve Mitleton-Kelly, on [e.mitleton-kelly@mitleton-kelly.org.uk](mailto:e.mitleton-kelly@mitleton-kelly.org.uk) or +44 (0)7887 514 522 for details or to join.

**JOIN THE DEBATE:**  
The ROSL Book Group discusses *New Selected Stories* by Alice Munro at their first meeting in December





# More for your membership

**Gemma Matthews** looks at the partnerships bringing you a wider range of services, discounts and events

**W**e are always keen to develop partnerships with like-minded organisations to provide you, our members, with exclusive offers and exceptional services. Most recently, members have benefitted from the wide range of insurance plans on offer from HMCA, discounts on spa and health club facilities at Grange Hotels, bespoke holidays from the Experience Travel Group and, as you will see below, we are now launching an exciting new partnership with DAKS clothing stores.

Our worldwide reciprocal club links are a valued benefit for those who travel, but members also receive a generous discount on hotel accommodation run by our Edinburgh clubhouse partners, Cobbs. Located near Loch Ness, the Clansman

Hotel and Country House Hotel provide a perfect base to explore the beauty of the Scottish Highlands.

But that's not all: working with partner organisations, such as the ArtFund, we hope to bring you added value in the form of more events and networking opportunities (see the Events section for the latest ArtFund events). We hope that 2014 will bring more of these kinds of relationship, both in London and Edinburgh, providing our members with an enhanced events programme, complemented by seasonal offers and promotions in the restaurants at our clubhouses.

Visit [www.rosl.org.uk](http://www.rosl.org.uk) for information on all the benefits of membership, and email [gmatthews@rosl.org.uk](mailto:gmatthews@rosl.org.uk) if there are any services or products you would like to see added to the list of benefits.



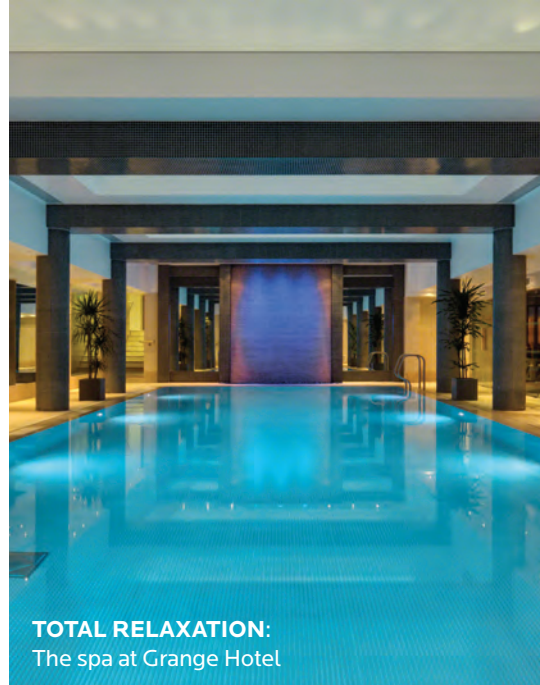
**CLASSIC CLOTHING:**  
DAKS' London stores



## Dress to impress

We are delighted to announce a new partnership with DAKS, the classic clothing store for men and women. Members shopping in the Jermyn Street or Old Bond Street stores will receive a 15% discount on full-price purchases, just by showing a valid ROSL membership card.

Known as Simpsons in the early years, DAKS is renowned for fine tailoring and craftsmanship. From the invention of the 'self supporting' waistband to the distinctive House Check, DAKS prides itself on quality and service. The company was established 110 years ago, and has clothed royalty and sporting legends. It now exports to more than 30 countries around the world. Visit [www.daks.com](http://www.daks.com) to view the latest collections.



**TOTAL RELAXATION:**  
The spa at Grange Hotel

## A boutique club in the heart of Brisbane



If you are visiting the east coast of Australia, be sure to pay a visit to the Brisbane Polo Club. Established in 1990, it is widely recognised as one of

Brisbane's premier private and progressive members' clubs.

Located in Naldham House, a beautiful listed building built in 1866, the club recently completed an extensive renovation programme to create a range of dining and function rooms for all occasions. Although no overnight accommodation is available, a corporate partnership with city hotels provides members from further afield with a place to stay.

See [www.brisbanepoloclub.com.au](http://www.brisbanepoloclub.com.au) to find out more about the club, and [www.rosl.org.uk](http://www.rosl.org.uk) to request a letter of introduction.



© Images Brisbane Polo Club

**FINE DINING:**  
The club restaurant





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# BILL AGNEW AND MANDY MURPHY'S Glasgow

## Two very different perspectives on Scotland's largest city

### Bill Agnew

#### How long have you lived in Glasgow?

I've lived all my life in the greater Glasgow area. The private nursing home at 3 Claremont Terrace, where I was born, was later acquired by ROSL and was used until 1972 as the Glasgow Branch headquarters.

#### Glasgow has undergone substantial regeneration in the last 60 years. How has it changed during your lifetime?

The changes in Glasgow have been quite extraordinary. In the 1960s and 1970s, it was a city in economic decline due to the loss of heavy industry. The population of Glasgow was declining, people were moving to the outer suburbs. Since then, central areas of the city have seen a great deal of development and inner-city living is becoming quite popular, so Glasgow has become a much livelier place.

There has been a focus on Glasgow's cultural heritage. About 40 years ago, recognition was given to its preminent Victorian heritage and many of the buildings of that era were stone cleaned, which transformed the wonderful architecture. These days, Glasgow is a self-confident city and very forward-looking. No doubt this helped it to be chosen as the host for the Commonwealth Games this year.

#### The city is known for its wealth of architectural styles. What is your favourite feature of the skyline?

The tower of the main building of the University of Glasgow at Gilmore Hill. Designed by Sir George Gilbert Scott, it dates from 1870 when the university moved from its historic site in the centre of the city.

#### Which of the newest attractions would you recommend?

The Riverside Museum, which houses Glasgow's transport collection, on the bank of the Clyde. It opened in 2011 and was designed by the noted international

architect Zaha Hadid. The 19th-century Glenlee is berthed adjacent to the museum, so you have a combination of the new build and the ship reflecting Glasgow's heritage.

#### What do you like most about the city?

The wide range of cultural attractions and world-class museums, which include the Kelvingrove Art Gallery and the Burrell Collection. There is a multitude of restaurants; I would particularly recommend the Barolo Grill and Rogano, one of Glasgow's oldest restaurants, which is noteworthy not only for its cuisine but its 1930s decor.

#### Where would you take a first-time visitor on a trip outside the city?

Loch Lomond, which is about an hour north of Glasgow, is a must-see. I would also recommend a visit to the island of Arran in the Firth of Clyde. It is frequently called 'Scotland in miniature', as its topography replicates mainland Scotland.

#### Do you think the Commonwealth Games will be good for Glasgow?

I think media coverage of the Games will change perceptions of Glasgow and encourage more visitors. A lot of money has been spent on the infrastructure and it is hoped that the East End will be regenerated.

### CULTURAL

#### HIGHLIGHTS:

(Clockwise from main picture) The view of Kelvingrove Art Gallery and Museum from the university tower; inside Kelvingrove; and the University of Glasgow, designed by Sir George Gilbert Scott

### OLD MEETS NEW:

The Glenlee berthed beside Zaha Hadid's impressive new building for the Riverside Museum (below)





## Mandy Murphy

### How would you describe Glasgow in three words?

At Glasgow Prestwick Airport you are welcomed to the city by a huge sign which reads 'pure dead brilliant'. This definitely sums Glasgow up!

### You were born in 1987. How has the city changed in your lifetime?

Glasgow is now a much more positive city. It has become more creative and innovative in terms of the architecture, the entrepreneurial developments and the attitudes of the general public. In my opinion, the city is constantly trying to improve the lives of its people and impress its visitors. It is ambitious and determined, which I think is admirable.

### Could you tell me about the vibrant live music scene?

Glasgow has a plethora of gig venues and champions local talent. It is home to the two Scottish symphony orchestras, the Scottish Opera and the Scottish Ballet. There is also a great traditional music scene, which is celebrated every year at the Celtic Connections festival. When I was studying at the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama (now the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland), I went to at least two concerts a week. I always go to a gig when I am there.

The Barrowland Ballroom is my favourite venue. It has a sprung dancefloor, and the feeling of the floor 'bouncing' when you are watching one of your favourite bands is exhilarating. My grandparents went to the Barrowlands in the 1950s and my parents went in the 1970s, which makes the venue even more special for me.

### What are your favourite things to do?

I love going to the Transport Museum. My parents used to take my sisters and me there when we were children, so it brings back lovely family memories. The bustling West End has quirky cafés, bars and restaurants. City Merchant is one of my favourite restaurants; it serves high-quality seafood and steaks, and uses fine local produce.

### What do you miss when you are away?

I miss the Glasgow 'patter'. I find the people very open and friendly, and I enjoy the sense of humour shared by most Glaswegians. I also miss Lorne or 'square' sausage – I still can't find anywhere that sells it in London.

### How do you think the city will benefit from hosting the Commonwealth Games?

The eyes of the sporting world will be on the city and I'm confident that it will be an extremely successful event. In preparation for the Games, Glasgow has built numerous sporting venues and redeveloped some of the most deprived areas, which will improve the quality of life there. Sports clubs have already been formed for young people in these venues and I hope the Games entice the younger generation to become more active and healthy.

*Retired chartered surveyor Bill Agnew is Chair of the Glasgow Branch and has been a ROSL member since 1998. Mandy Murphy studied Music at the RSAMD (now RCS) and has been ROSL ARTS Administrator since 2011.*

**Interviews by Christine Wilde.**

# Top 10 London and Edinburgh

## The Weir

After a successful 2013 run, Conor McPherson's ghost story comes to Wyndham's Theatre in London.

**Until 19 April.**

**Tickets: £10-£55.**

[www.theweir.com](http://www.theweir.com)

[london.co.uk/tickets](http://london.co.uk/tickets)



© Helen Warner

## Benjamin Britten: A life in pictures

The National Portrait Gallery's photographic display charts the personal and professional life of the famous British composer.

**Until 30 June.**

**Free.**

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



© Malcolm Crowther/National Portrait Gallery, London

## Reformation to Revolution



© Scottish National Portrait Gallery

This exhibition at the Scottish National Portrait Gallery explores the cultural impact of political, social and religious changes in Scotland in the 16th-17th century.

**Until 31 December 2016. Free.**

[www.nationalgalleries.org](http://www.nationalgalleries.org)

## ROH: Interpretations of Gounod's 'Faust'

The Royal Opera House complements David McVicar's spectacular production of Gounod's grand opera with two contemporary retellings in the Linbury Studio Theatre. **3-25 April. Tickets: £8-£230.**

[www.roh.org.uk/productions](http://www.roh.org.uk/productions)

## Macbeth

Emmanuel Joel-Hornak conducts this take on Verdi's operatic adaptation of Shakespeare's 'Scottish play' at King's Theatre, Edinburgh. **8 & 10 April. Tickets: £15-£29.50.**

[www.edtheatres.com/macbeth](http://www.edtheatres.com/macbeth)

## Henri Matisse: The cut-outs

Tate Modern celebrates the colourful final works of the modern art master.

**17 April-7 September. Tickets: £18.**

[www.tate.org.uk/whats-on/](http://www.tate.org.uk/whats-on/)



## The Beautiful Cosmos of Ivor Cutler

This nationwide tour exploring the work of the extraordinary Scottish poet and singer Ivor Cutler ends at Traverse Theatre in Edinburgh.

**29 April-3 May. Prices tba.**

[www.nationaltheatrescotland.com](http://www.nationaltheatrescotland.com)

## TradFest Edinburgh: Dùn Eideann

Vibrant festival celebrating Scottish culture with a modern edge.

**29 April-11 May.**

**Prices vary.**

[www.scottishstorytellingcentre.co.uk/tradfest/tradfest.asp](http://www.scottishstorytellingcentre.co.uk/tradfest/tradfest.asp)



© TradFest Edinburgh, Dùn Eideann

## Imagine Festival

Scotland's international festival of performing arts for children and young people. **5-12 May. Prices vary.**

[www.imagine.org.uk/festival](http://www.imagine.org.uk/festival)

## Romeo and Juliet

Scottish Ballet perform their iconic interpretation of Shakespeare's tragic love story at Sadler's Wells and then Edinburgh Festival Theatre.

**14-17 May & 21-24 May. Tickets:**

**£12-£42. [www.scottishballet.co.uk](http://www.scottishballet.co.uk)**



© Andrew Ross



# ROSL CALENDAR

## MARCH

### Until Wednesday 26 March

Freedom Street:  
Paintings by David Webb



#### Over-Seas House London, daily

This exhibition of paintings made between 2002 and 2013 consists of work from several distinct projects, exhibited together for the first time. Freedom Street is the address of the Cyprus College of Art, where David Webb lived and worked in 2001-2002. This period marked

the beginning of a deep connection between the artist, the people and the landscape. *Free.*

### Tuesday 4 March

Section final:  
Ensembles A



#### Princess Alexandra Hall, Over-Seas House London, 7pm

Finalists of the Ensemble A auditions (strings; strings and piano; piano duo/duet) compete for the £10,000 prize and the chance to perform at the ROSL Annual Music Competition Final. *Tickets £15; Friends of ROSL ARTS £12. Includes wine.*

### The view from Canterbury

#### Thursday 20 March

##### Princess Alexandra Hall, Over-Seas House London, 6pm

Lord Williams of Oystermouth, formerly Dr Rowan Williams, Archbishop of Canterbury, will speak to the London Group about 'Development, Democracy, Devotion'. Lord Williams will reflect on his time as the 104th Archbishop of Canterbury. His primacy was marked by speculation that the Anglican Church was on the verge of fragmentation and by his efforts to keep all sides in dialogue. A drinks reception with Lord Williams will follow.

*Free; tickets to drinks reception £10 (cash only), available at 5-6pm on the door. LG members, their guests and members at Over-Seas House welcome. No prior bookings: first-come, first-served.*



### Thursday 6 March

#### First Thursdays



#### Over-Seas House London, from 6pm

The Monthly Younger Members drinks' night celebrates International Women's Day with an inspirational guest speaker. *Free. All members and their guests welcome.*

### Monday 10 March

#### Crisis in the Middle East



#### Over-Seas House London, 7pm

A Discussion Group talk with speaker Lord Michael Williams of Baglan, the United Nations Special Coordinator for Lebanon. *Free.*

### Monday 10 March

#### Commonwealth Day lunch



#### Over-Seas House Edinburgh, 12pm for 12.30pm

Two-course lunch with speaker, the Rt Hon Donald Wilson, Lord Provost of the City of Edinburgh. Includes sherry, coffee and wine. *Tickets £20; guests £25.*

### Monday 10 March

#### Commonwealth Day Service

#### Westminster Abbey, London, time tba

A multi-faith service, held annually to celebrate the Commonwealth of Nations, in the presence of HM The Queen. A £6 administration charge applies for this event. *Tickets £6. One guest per member.*

### Tuesday 11 March

Section final:  
Ensembles B



#### Princess Alexandra Hall, Over-Seas House London, 7pm

Finalists of the Ensemble B auditions (wind; percussion; vocal; mixed ensembles) compete for the £10,000 prize and the chance to perform at the ROSL Annual Music Competition Final on 6 May.

*Tickets £15; Friends of ROSL ARTS £12. Includes wine.*

### Tuesday 18 March

#### Overseas Awards



#### Princess Alexandra Hall, Over-Seas House London, 7pm

Gifted musicians from the 2014 ROSL Annual Music Competition section finals compete for the outstanding Commonwealth musician awards at the London clubhouse. *Tickets £15; Friends of ROSL ARTS £12. Includes wine.*



**Tuesday 18 March**

Edinburgh film night

**Over-Seas House Edinburgh, 5pm**

Laugh along with Powell and Pressburger's 1945 comedy *I Know Where I'm Going*, with coffee, popcorn and ice-cream. Tickets £7.50.

**Wednesday 19 March**

Music @ 100 Princes Street

**Over-Seas House Edinburgh, 6.30pm**

Rising classical stars, the Busch Ensemble (Mathieu van Bellen violin, Jonathan Bloxham cello and Omri Epstein piano), perform trios by Haydn and Medelssohn. Winners of the 2012 ROSL Annual Music Competition Ensembles prize, these talented musicians have won several other international awards. Tickets £12; Friends of ROSL ARTS £10. Includes wine.

**March**

Inter-Club quiz

**The Oxford and Cambridge Club, time tba**

ROSL Younger Members, come and do your club proud! We need all the brain power we can get to go up against the Landsdowne, the RAC and all the others. Fittingly hosted by the beacon of club academia, the O&C, this event will test your wits as you are plied with fine wine.

Visit [www.inter-club.co.uk](http://www.inter-club.co.uk) for details and booking information.

**Tuesday 25 March**

Turner and the sea

**Princess Alexandra Hall, Over-Seas House London, 6.30pm**

Curator Christine Riding discusses this major exhibition at the National Maritime Museum. It is the first full-scale examination of J M W Turner's lifelong preoccupation with the sea and his extraordinary ability to represent its power and beauty. Including iconic works, the show re-evaluates the appeal of the sea for Turner, placing his works alongside those by his contemporaries. Discover how Turner responded to the art of the past while challenging his audiences with a new maritime vision. In association with the ArtFund.

Tickets £16. Includes wine.

**APRIL****Wednesday 2 - Thursday 26 April**

Theogony: The Aphrodite of Cyprus

**Over-Seas House London, daily**

Established in 2004 in Paris, Éditions Kallimages publishes books illustrated with photographs from the Hellenic world and, more generally, from the Mediterranean Sea. With an archive of more than 50,000 images dating from 1839, Photothèque Kallimages collects materials that provide visual itineraries for places, stories and events.

This exhibition, entitled 'Theogony: Aphrodite of Cyprus',

**Join the new Book Group**

All members are welcome to join the monthly discussions of the Book Group. Meetings for the coming season will take place at 5pm on Tuesday 25 March and 6.30pm on Wednesday 30 April, Wednesday 21 May and Thursday 26 June in the Bennet-Clark Room, Over-Seas House London. Call +44 (0)7887 514 522 or email [e.mitton-kelly@mitton-kelly.org.uk](mailto:e.mitton-kelly@mitton-kelly.org.uk) for details.

features photography by Haris Yiakoumis as well as archival prints of the island. Email [gharwoodsmith@rosl.org.uk](mailto:gharwoodsmith@rosl.org.uk) to attend the **Private View on Tuesday 1 April**, 6-8pm. Free.

**Wednesday 2 April**

Tasmin Little violin and Piers Lane piano

**Princess Alexandra Hall, Over-Seas House London, 7pm**

An all-Schubert programme from Tasmin Little and Piers Lane, the world-renowned piano duo. In association with the Medical Music Society of London.

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

**Thursday 3 April**

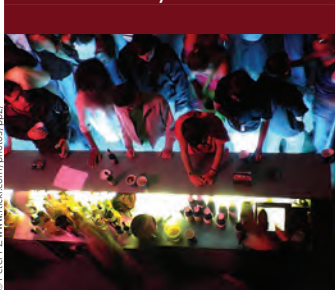
London Group AGM

**Hall of India and Pakistan, Over-Seas House London, 6pm**

London Group members are asked to bring their LG membership cards in order to register their attendance at the 66th London Group AGM. Refreshments will be served after the formal proceedings. Free. LG members only.

**Thursday 3 April**

First Thursdays

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

Monthly Younger Members drinks' night. Come and inaugurate our sparkling new Cocktail Lounge with cocktails, bubbly and live music. Free. Guests welcome.

**QUICK BOOKING INFORMATION**

For full booking and contact details, see page 34

**ROSL ARTS**

+44 (0)20 7408 0214 ext 219;  
[culture@rosl.org.uk](mailto:culture@rosl.org.uk)

**ROSL Scotland**

+44 (0)131 225 1501;  
[www.rosl-edinburgh.org.uk](http://www.rosl-edinburgh.org.uk)

**Members' events**

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[membersevents@rosl.org.uk](mailto:membersevents@rosl.org.uk)

**London Group**

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

**Younger Members**

Book online at [www.rosl.org.uk](http://www.rosl.org.uk);  
[membersevents@rosl.org.uk](mailto:membersevents@rosl.org.uk)

**Discussion Group**

No advanced booking required.



# EVENTS

## Summer Art Weekend for ROSL Members

ROSL is offering members a weekend break and artistic escape rolled into one special event at the London clubhouse in August. Over the two days there will be painting lessons and visits to the city's outstanding art collections, as well as quality dining and accommodation in your home-away-from-home. To register your interest, email [membersevents@rosl.org.uk](mailto:membersevents@rosl.org.uk) and we will let you know more about what promises to be a very attractive package.



## Monday 7 April

### Private tour of Kenwood House



### Hampstead Heath, 11.30am

The superbly positioned Kenwood House in Hampstead Heath has reopened its doors to the public. This former stately home is renowned for its fabulous collection of artworks, including a Rembrandt self-portrait. *Tickets £12.50. One guest per member.*

## Tuesday 8 April

### Edinburgh film night

### Over-Seas House Edinburgh, 5pm

Enjoy the James Stewart and June Allyson 1954 classic, *The Glenn Miller Story*, about the life and work of the bandleader. With coffee, popcorn and ice-cream. *Tickets £7.50.*

## Wednesday 9 April

### Visit to Bentley Priory Museum, Stanmore

### Over-Seas House London, 12.45pm

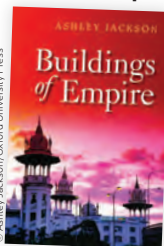
Coach trip to the Battle of Britain Headquarters at Bentley Priory,

which has been restored to its former glory and turned into a museum. There will be a guided tour of the country house where RAF chiefs commanded 'The Few' in the 1940 battle that changed the course of history in the early years of the Second World War. *Tickets £33; LG members £30. Includes coach, museum entry and tea/coffee.*

## Wednesday 9 April

### Ashley Jackson: Buildings of Empire Princess Alexandra Hall, Over-Seas House London, 7pm

Historian Ashley Jackson, Professor of Imperial and Military History at King's College London, takes us on an exciting journey around the architectural legacy of the British Empire. *Tickets £7; Friends of ROSL ARTS £5. Includes wine.*



## Thursday 10 April

### Music @ 100 Princes Street

### Over-Seas House Edinburgh, 6.30pm

Paul Chamberlain is one of the first classical accordion players to graduate from the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland, where he won the Governor's Recital Prize for keyboard, one of

the Conservatoire's highest honours. This programme includes music by Bach, Piazzolla and Weber from his debut CD. *Tickets £12; Friends of ROSL ARTS £10. Includes wine and canapés.*

## Thursday 12 April

### Tour of George Heriot's School Building Lauriston Place, Edinburgh

Walking tour including the magnificent Old Building. *Free.*

## Tuesday 15 April

### Matisse: From Darkness to Light



### Princess Alexandra Hall, Over-Seas House London, 7pm

Art historian Hilary Guise provides a compelling background to the Tate Modern's exhibition 'Henri Matisse: The cut-outs', running from 17 April to 7 September. Exploring the life of the remarkable artist and his work, this special Discussion Group event is held in association with the ArtFund. There is a limit of 30 places, allocated from 6pm at Princess Alexandra Hall on a first-come, first-served basis. *Free. Includes wine and nibbles.*

## Wednesday 16 April

### History of chocolate talk and tasting



### Rutland Room, Over-Seas House London, 6.30pm

Join us as we travel 3,000 years: from the long and fascinating history of chocolate in Mesoamerica to its present form as one of the most loved confectionery in the world –

including the pivotal role that London clubs played in bringing it to England!

Members will discover that, like wine, chocolate has a distinctive flavour dependent on the bean variety, geography and the fermentation, drying and roasting process. As part of ROSL's Commonwealth Day celebrations we will also learn about the Kuapa Kokoo fairtrade cooperative in Ghana. The second half of the session takes guests on a sensory experience, teaching the subtleties of chocolate tasting. The event concludes with a glass of wine and a Q&A reception. *Tickets £17.50. Guests welcome. Includes chocolate and wine.*

## Friday 25 April

### Inter-Club champagne tasting



### The Oriental Club, time tba

It is probably the clubland tippie of choice, but how well do you really know your bubbly? This event is set in the glamorous Oriental Club, so go ahead and pop that cork.

Visit [www.inter-club.co.uk](http://www.inter-club.co.uk) for details and booking information.

## Tuesday 29 April

### Street photography workshop



### Over-Seas House London, 11am

Members get snap happy again. This time, professional photographer Roy Matthews will focus on capturing the spirit of the city with a street photography workshop. Participants will be taught specific techniques and learn



how to use their camera controls to good effect, as well as improving their general skills. Suitable for all levels, the workshop will include a practical shooting session in the local area, followed by a group discussion of pictures taken on the day.  
*Tickets £45.50. Guests welcome. Includes coffee/tea.*

## Wednesday 30 April

### Edinburgh Arts Lunch



### Over-Seas House Edinburgh, 12pm for 12.30pm

Delicious two-course lunch with a talk on the latest developments at Glasgow's Hunterian Museum, given by its director, Professor David Gaimster. Scotland's oldest public museum, the Hunterian has been recognised as holding a collection that is of national significance.  
*Tickets £20; guests £25. Includes glass of wine and coffee.*

## MAY

### Thursday 1 May

#### Mexican First Thursdays



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

Monthly Younger Members drinks' night. Back by popular demand, this month First Thursdays celebrates el Cinco de Mayo. Think margaritas, Mexican street food, piñatas in the garden and Mariachi music.  
*Free. Guests welcome.*

### Tuesday 6 May

#### Chairman's Lunch and ROSL AGM

**Hall of India and Pakistan, Over-Seas House London, 12pm for 12.30pm**  
Three-course meal with ROSL Chairman Sir Anthony Figgis and Guest of Honour, General The Lord Dannatt, followed by the AGM at 3.30pm. See box (below) for further details.  
*Tickets £58. Guests welcome.*

### Tuesday 6 May

#### ROSL Annual Music Competition Final 2014



### Queen Elizabeth Hall, Southbank Centre, 7pm

The distinguished panel of judges, chaired by Gavin Henderson CBE, will make their decision while the prizewinning ensembles perform. See box (below left) for details.  
*Tickets £15; Friends of ROSL ARTS £12. Special price ONLY AVAILABLE from ROSL ARTS.*

### Tuesday 6 May

#### Edinburgh Film Night



### Over-Seas House Edinburgh, 5pm

Enjoy this special showing of the 1946 film noir *The Postman Always Rings Twice*, starring Lana Turner and John Garfield. With coffee, popcorn and ice-cream.  
*Tickets £7.50.*

### Monday 12 May

#### Cosmology



### Over-Seas House London, 7pm

Talk by the world-renowned cosmologist and astrophysicist Lord Martin Rees. A Discussion Group event.  
*Free.*

### Wednesday 14 May

#### Music @ 100 Princes Street

### Over-Seas House Edinburgh, 6.30pm

Postgraduate singing students of the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland present a soirée of lieder and mélodies.  
*Tickets £12; Friends of ROSL ARTS £10. Includes wine and canapés.*

### Thursday 15 May

#### The Work of the Queen's Messengers

### Over-Seas House London, 6pm

Col John Kimmins will speak of his work as a Queen's Messenger – a courier employed by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office to deliver secret and important documents around the world.  
*Free. LG members and overnight guests at Over-Seas House only.*

## Make a day of it

### Tuesday 6 May

#### Over-Seas House London

ROSL Chairman, Sir Anthony Figgis, welcomes Guest of Honour, General The Lord Dannatt and ROSL members to the first of the year's Chairman's lunches. This is the perfect opportunity to meet friends old and new, over a seasonal three-course lunch, after which Lord Dannatt will give a topical speech. The Chairman's Lunch is directly followed by the AGM.

The day culminates in the 2014 ROSL Annual Music Competition Final, which takes place at 7pm at Queen Elizabeth Hall on the Southbank. Now in its 62nd year, the Final sees winners of the solo wind, singers, strings and keyboard sections compete for the prestigious Gold Medal and First Prize of £10,000.

If you are planning to make a day of it in the club, make sure you reserve your accommodation via [info@rosl.org.uk](mailto:info@rosl.org.uk) or +44 (0)20 7408 0214. Members dining in the restaurant or bar on 6 May benefit from a special 10% discount on all orders. Contact [rosldining@graysonsrestaurants.com](mailto:rosldining@graysonsrestaurants.com) or call +44 (0)20 7629 3881 to book a table.

## QUICK BOOKING INFORMATION

For full booking and contact details, see page 34

#### ROSL ARTS

+44 (0)20 7408 0214 ext 219;  
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#### London Group

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

#### Discussion Group

No advanced booking required.



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[info@beautifulphotography.biz](mailto:info@beautifulphotography.biz)

## Thursday 15 May

Sue Gee:

'Coming Home'

**Princess Alexandra Hall,  
Over-Seas House London, 7pm**

Sue Gee's new novel, following an English couple 'coming home' from India in 1944, is filled with pathos and humour.

*Tickets £7; Friends of ROSL ARTS £5. Includes wine.*

## Friday 16 May

**Best of the British  
Museum tour**



**British Museum, 2pm**

The UK's most visited cultural attraction, the British Museum offers visitors a chance to see a sample of its collection of 12 million artefacts, covering 7,000 years of human civilisation. Your guided tour will explore some of the highlights, including the famous Rosetta Stone and the deciphering of its ancient inscriptions; the world's largest display of Parthenon sculptures (also known as the Elgin Marbles); and the 5,000-year-old Gebelein Man, affectionately known as Ginger. We will also uncover some treasures from Old Britain.

*Tickets £15. Guests welcome.*

## Monday 19 May

**Singers Morgan Pearse and  
Lucinda Mirikata-Deacon**

**Princess Alexandra Hall,  
Over-Seas House London, 7pm**

Two rising Australian stars in an hour-long programme of operatic arias and duets.

In association with Tait Memorial Trust.

*Tickets £20; Friends of ROSL ARTS & Tait Memorial Trust £15.*

*Includes sparkling wine on arrival, and Australian wine and canapés afterwards.*

## Thursday 22 - Saturday 24 May

**Chelsea Flower Show**



**Royal Hospital, Chelsea,  
8am**

Enjoy the inner-city oasis of the world famous RHS Chelsea Flower Show, from the intimate Artisan Gardens to the flamboyant Show Gardens. Tickets will be balloted and drawn on Tuesday 1 April. Choice of dates will be presented on a first drawn, first served basis.

*Tickets £65. Please state your choice of dates in order of preference.*

## Save the date: 28 June

**Over-Seas House London**

Your club is delighted to announce plans for a sensational summer ball at the London clubhouse on 28 June. Making use of our beautiful garden and drawing on our long-time love affair with the arts, this party will be one to remember. Enjoy a drinks reception on arrival, dinner and dancing into the night.





**Wednesday 28 May**

Edinburgh Arts Lunch

**Over-Seas House Edinburgh, 12pm for 12.30pm**

Two courses, a glass of wine and coffee.

Tickets £20; guests £25.

**Saturday 31 May****Trooping the Colour:  
The Major General's Review  
Horse Guards Parade, 10am**

Witness this impressive display of pageantry to celebrate the official birthday of HM The Queen.

Tickets are balloted and include all three dates (see 7 and 14 June for the Colonel's Review and The Queen's Birthday Parade). The ballot is drawn on Monday 7 April. Choice of dates will be presented on a first drawn, first served basis. Tickets £6/£20/£40. Please state your choice of dates in order of preference.

**JUNE****Tuesday 3 June**Njabulo Madlala baritone  
and William Vann pianoMusic by Schubert, Schumann and Strauss, and traditional South African songs from the duo's debut CD, *Songs of Home*.

Tickets £20; Friends of ROSL ARTS £15. Includes sparkling wine on arrival and South African wine and canapés afterwards.

**Thursday 6 June**

NO First Thursdays

There will be no First Thursdays drinks in June due to the Inter-Club event the following week (see 13 June).

**Saturday 7 June****Trooping the Colour:  
The Colonel's Review****Horse Guards Parade, 10am**

Tickets are balloted and include all three dates (see 31 May and

**Battlefield Tour of the Aisne and the Marne****Friday 11 - Monday 14 July**

The Aisne and the Marne are among the most attractive regions of France, and the champagne vineyards are an added incentive for a visit. But today's peaceful hills were the scene of some of the most important battles of the First World War. The second ROSL Battlefield Tour will be led by last year's excellent guide: military historian and former Lecturer of War Studies at Sandhurst, Michael Orr. ROSL Director-General Roddy Porter will also join the tour, which will encompass the battlefield of Le Cateau, the Marne and the Chemin des Dames. Members will also visit a local champagne house, with a luxury tasting and dinner experience, and discover the historic city of Reims.

Places are limited and will be given on a first come, first served basis. The booking deadline is Wednesday 30 April. £595; single room supplement £100. Guests welcome. All inclusive except for lunch on day one and dinner on day three.



© Thomas Hunter

14 June for the Major General's Review and The Queen's Birthday Parade). The ballot is drawn on Monday 7 April. Choice of dates will be presented on a first drawn, first served basis. Tickets £6/£20/£40. Please state your choice of dates in order of preference.

**Monday 9 June**Music @ 100 Princes Street:  
Gala opera evening**Over-Seas House Edinburgh, 6.30pm**

Popular annual concert by students of the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland Opera School, directed by Professor Timothy Dean. With a delicious two-course dinner and a cocktail reception.

Tickets £35. Includes cocktail reception and wine. Priority booking for Friends of ROSL ARTS until Friday 15 May.

**Monday 9 June**The Hanoverian Tercentenary  
through Royal Portraiture**Over-Seas House London, 7pm**

Discussion Group talk with Wolf Burchard, Exhibition Curatorial Assistant at the Royal Collection Trust, who helped prepare the exhibition commemorating the

300th anniversary of the Hanoverian Succession at Buckingham Palace in April. Free.

**Friday 13 June**

Inter-Club @ ROSL

**Over-Seas House London, 7pm**

It's ROSL's annual Inter-Club extravaganza, and we are going to make it another memorable experience. So save the date and watch this space!

**Saturday 14 June****Trooping the Colour:  
The Queen's Birthday Parade****Horse Guards Parade, 10am**

Tickets are balloted and include all three dates (see 31 May and 7 June for the Major General's Review and the Colonel's Review). The ballot is drawn on Monday 7 April. Choice of dates will be presented on a first drawn, first served basis.

Tickets £6/£20/£40. State choice of dates in order of preference.

**QUICK BOOKING INFORMATION**

For full booking and  
contact details, see page 34

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membersevents@rosl.org.uk

**London Group**

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

**Discussion Group**

No advanced booking required.



## EVENTS

### Monday 23 June

#### Tea at the House of Lords



#### House of Lords, 3.30pm

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

### Monday 23 June - Tuesday 1 July

#### Wimbledon Tennis Championships



#### Court 2, Wimbledon, 1pm

Tickets for two seats on court 2 will be balloted and drawn on 1 May. Dates will be allocated on a first drawn, first served basis. Tickets £106-£154. Please state three choices of date in order of preference.

## Commonwealth Games 2014

### Wednesday 23 July - Sunday 3 August Over-Seas House Edinburgh

Take part in the Commonwealth Games celebrations and cheer on your team at the Edinburgh clubhouse this summer. On Wednesday 23 July, enjoy the Opening Ceremony live on the big screen and sample our delicious buffet menu, inspired by cuisine from the four corners of the Commonwealth.

For the duration of the Games, members visiting the restaurant can enjoy themed Commonwealth lunch, afternoon tea, dinner and cocktail menus. Or why not pop in to watch the televised live events from the newly refurbished Balmoral Room, a perfect place to relax and meet fellow members?

Finally, join us for a special Closing Ceremony dinner on Sunday 3 August, when we will be paying tribute to the next host of the Commonwealth Games by complementing our contemporary Scottish menu with sumptuous Australian wines. During the meal, our guest expert will be on hand to talk you through the intricacies of each wine pairing.

Contact [reception@rosl-edinburgh.org](mailto:reception@rosl-edinburgh.org) for further information and to book tickets. All the ROSL events related to the Commonwealth Games, in both London and Scotland, will be listed in the June-August issue.



## FULL BOOKING INFORMATION & CONTACT DETAILS

### ■ ROSL ARTS

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

### ■ ROSL Scotland

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

### ■ Members' events

Book online at [www.rosl.org.uk/events](http://www.rosl.org.uk/events)

Booking confirmations will be sent within 14 days of payment. To reserve a ticket for popular events or if you have trouble booking online, contact Sara Brouwer. To pay by cheque, please send separate cheques (sterling) for each event, payable to 'ROSL', to Members' events, Marketing Department, Over-Seas House, Park Place, St James's Street, London SW1A 1LR.

Contact: *Sara Brouwer,*  
[membersevents@rosl.org.uk](mailto:membersevents@rosl.org.uk);  
+44 (0)20 7016 6906.

### ■ Younger Members

For members aged 35 and under. Book online at [www.rosl.org.uk/events](http://www.rosl.org.uk/events)

Inter-Club events must be booked independently; visit [www.inter-club.co.uk](http://www.inter-club.co.uk) for details. For information about the ROSL YM programme join the YM Facebook page at [facebook.com/groups/roslym](https://facebook.com/groups/roslym) or contact: *Sara Brouwer,*  
[membersevents@rosl.org.uk](mailto:membersevents@rosl.org.uk); or  
*Ross Lima,* [ross.lima@gmail.com](mailto:ross.lima@gmail.com)

### ■ London Group

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

Talks are drop-in and held once a month at Over-Seas

House London on Thursday evenings at 6pm.

Outside visits can be booked by sending a cheque payable to 'London Group, Royal Over-Seas League' and a stamped, addressed envelope to Doreen Regan (details below). Cancellations and refund requests must be made at least two weeks before the event.

Please note that the London Group is a voluntary organisation and cannot take outside visit inquiries and bookings by email or telephone, only by post. Tickets are sent approximately 10 days in advance.

Contact: *Clive Carpenter,*  
+44 (0)7798 824193;  
[clivedavidcarpenter@compuserve.com](mailto:clivedavidcarpenter@compuserve.com).

Outside visits contact: *Doreen Regan, London Group, c/o Porters' Desk, Over-Seas House, Park Place, St James's Street, London SW1A 1LR.*

### ■ Discussion Group

Meetings are held at Over-Seas House London on Monday evenings. There is no charge, no need to book and all ROSL members and guests are welcome.

Contact: *John Edwards,*  
+44 (0)1732 883556;  
[johncoatesedward@aol.com](mailto:johncoatesedward@aol.com)

Visit [www.rosl.org.uk/events](http://www.rosl.org.uk/events) for more information on the full programme of events.





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### FLORENCE

#### Villa Fiesole \*\*\*\* Superior

On the edge of the town of Fiesole, with panoramic views of Florence. There are 32 bedrooms and we were particularly impressed by the intimate restaurant where superb Tuscan cuisine is served under the watchful eye of the chef, Diego Puddu. There is a large terrace, ideal for an aperitif or for al fresco dining and a small summer swimming pool. A regular bus service operates from outside the hotel into Florence.



3 nights for the price of 2 until 31 March - price from £598, saving £60

4 nights for the price of 3 until 15 May - price from £717, saving £85

Includes Uffizi Gallery, Accademia or Bargello tickets

### PARIS

#### Westminster \*\*\*\* Deluxe

With an excellent location on the prestigious Rue de la Paix, this historic hotel offers 102 rooms, all furnished in the Louis XV style with original furniture, paintings and antiques.

3 nights for the price of 2 for stays including a Sunday night until 28 April - price from £719, saving £170



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

### SALAMANCA

#### Hacienda Zorita Wine Hotel & Spa \*\*\*\* Deluxe

Located in the heart of one of the country's principal wine regions, Ribera del Duero, Zorita was formerly a 14th Century Dominican monastery and is now a stylish hotel and spa, perfect for lovers of fine food, outstanding views, wine and relaxation. Activities include cycling, walking, quad-biking and fishing. Salamanca town is just 10 minutes' away and the drive from Madrid takes two hours.

4 nights for the price of 3 all year - price from £560, saving £68



### ROME

#### Bernini Bristol \*\*\*\*\* Superior

Opened in 1870, the Bernini Bristol has undergone a major restoration. With grand public rooms decorated with tapestries and Venetian chandeliers, it has a great location at the foot of the Via Veneto. The 127 bedrooms are furnished in two contrasting styles - some modern and others classical.

3 nights for the price of 2 until 30 April - price from £669, saving £140



Includes Vatican Museum & Sistine Chapel or Villa Borghese tickets

### BERLIN

#### Brandenburger Hof \*\*\*\*\* Superior

Occupying a palatial and secluded city centre location, the Brandenburger Hof is a very attractive, privately owned hotel.

This turn of the century Wilhelminian residence has an excellent restaurant and 82 luxurious rooms that have been decorated in the Bauhaus style.

3 nights for the price of 2 until 30 April - price from £729, saving £137

### OPERA TICKETS

The Kirker Concierge is able to book tickets for your chosen performance, or provide information on performances in any Kirker destination.

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5-9 May - Norma and Nabucco

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