

# OVERSEAS

Quarterly journal of the ROSL

Issue 1, March-May 2015



## Top of the competition

Detailed look at ROSL's music competition, with a special message from HRH Princess Alexandra

## Exciting times

Sir Anthony Figgis looks back at his time as Chairman, as he retires from the role

## Having a ball

Insight into a long ROSL tradition of dances, from war-time events to society balls

## Spring highlights

Stand-out events, including a British Food Feast and travel photography workshop



"The Steinway is not only an instrument, it is a work of art of the first rank." *Christoph Eschenbach*



For information on Steinway & Sons pianos or to arrange a private appointment to visit our London showrooms, please call 0207 487 3391 or email [info@steinway.co.uk](mailto:info@steinway.co.uk) [WWW.STEINWAYHALL.CO.UK](http://WWW.STEINWAYHALL.CO.UK)



## OVERSEAS

ISSUE 1 March-May 2015

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

### Overseas editorial team

**Editor** Ms Miranda Moore

**Deputy Editor** Ms Christine Wilde:

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

**Design** Ms Erica Bund

**Display advertisements** Mr David Jeffries:

+44 (0)20 8674 9444; [djeffries@onlymedia.co.uk](mailto:djeffries@onlymedia.co.uk)

### Royal Over-Seas League

**Incorporated by** Royal Charter

**Patron** Her Majesty The Queen

**Vice-Patron** Her Royal Highness

Princess Alexandra KG GCVO

**President** The Rt Hon the Lord Luce KG GCVO DL

**Chairman** Sir Anthony Figgis KCVO CMG\*

**Vice-Chairman** Sir Roger Carrick KCMG LVO\*

**Hon Treasurer** Mr Simon Ward FCA\*

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

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

### Central Council

Mr Graham Archer CMG\*, Mrs Mae Barr MBE,  
Mr Clive Carpenter, Prof Monojit Chatterji,  
Mr Sohail Choudhry, Prof Meryll Dean, Mr John  
Edwards CMG, Mr David Fall CMG\*, Mrs Patricia  
Farrant\*, Mr Simon Gimson LVO, Mr Peter Hamlyn\*,  
Miss Maureen Howley MBE\*, Mr David Jamieson,  
Mrs Frances King, Miss Sheila MacTaggart LVO,  
Mr David Nicholson, Miss Caroline Roddis,  
Ms Lindsay Ross, Mrs Judith Steiner, Mrs Pamela  
Voice, Mr Frank Wibaut  
\*Executive Committee

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

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

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

**Director of Humanitarian and Education Projects**  
Ms Margaret Adrian-Vallance MBE:

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

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

**Asst. to D-G** Ms Arabella Beresford-Mitchell:  
+44 (0)20 7408 0214 x201;

[aberesford-mitchell@rosl.org.uk](mailto:aberesford-mitchell@rosl.org.uk)

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

**Catering Operations Director**

Mrs Louise Leighton-Rees: +44 (0)7809 322 591;  
[louise.leighton-rees@graysonsrestaurants.com](mailto:louise.leighton-rees@graysonsrestaurants.com)

**Edinburgh House Manager** Mr Daniel Campbell:  
[reception@rosl-edinburgh.org](mailto:reception@rosl-edinburgh.org)

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



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



12



14

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

## World

**Royal support** . . . . . 5

Princess Alexandra writes of her involvement with  
our Annual Music Competition over half a century

**Winners then and now** . . . . . 6

ROSL Gold Medallists on how the competition  
helped to launch their acclaimed musical careers

**Impressing the judges** . . . . . 8

With standards rising, how do ROSL Annual  
Music Competition judges decide on a winner?

**An enduring legacy** . . . . . 10

How you can support promising young musicians

**From the archives** . . . . . 11

As *Overseas* enters its centenary year, we reprint  
fascinating images and stories of yesteryear

**Dancing through the  
decades** . . . . . 12

As ROSL gears up for a fabulous Summer Ball,  
we look at the club's long tradition of dances

**Our Georgian clubhouse** . . . . 13

A tour of the building's exquisite period features

**Journey to the Pole of Cold** . 14

Celebrating winter on an epic adventure

## ROSL news

**Chairman's farewell** . . . . . 15

Sir Anthony Figgis looks back at his time as  
Chairman, as he retires from the role

**QUATTRO bound for the UK** . 16

Introducing the Pettman/ROSL ARTS scholars

**ROSL scholars exhibitions** . . 17

What made the art world select Mehreen Murtaza  
and Lerato Shadi for this unique opportunity?

**News and views** . . . . . 18

Pictures of recent activities at the clubhouses

**Bright young things** . . . . . 20

A Younger Member in Edinburgh explains why  
the Scottish Clubs Group is continuing to flourish

**Members' benefits** . . . . . 21

How you can help ROSL to grow

**Branches: what's on?** . . . . . 24

**Thank you Dr Valentine** . . . . 26

A generous bequest gives a much-needed boost  
to ROSL's humanitarian work in southern Africa

**Books** . . . . . 26

## In the UK

**My Port Erin** . . . . . 27

John Bethell on the thriving music scene and  
stunning scenery that drew him to the Isle of Man

**London and Edinburgh  
Top 10** . . . . . 27

Our choice of sights and sounds this spring

## Events

**Calendar highlights** . . . . . 29

Don't miss our top events, from an exciting Easter  
Weekend programme to a great British Food Feast

**ROSL calendar** . . . . . 30-34

All of ROSL's fantastic events, one handy calendar

**Full booking information  
and contact details** . . . . . 34

**FRONT COVER:** A musician approaches Princess Alexandra Hall to compete in the  
early stages of the 2015 ROSL Annual Music Competition © James McCormick



## From the Director-General

Christmas was a very happy occasion in the London clubhouse, and our first attempt at a package of events covering Christmas Eve to Boxing Day seemed to work very well; 101 people sat down to lunch on Christmas Day – a record! Thank you to everyone who wrote to us thereafter; we had some excellent feedback and plan an even better series of events for Christmas 2015.

Hogmanay proved to be as busy as usual in Edinburgh. Congratulations to the Cobbs team there for another enjoyable evening. We have found that the take-up for a New Year's Eve event of any kind in London is very small and we therefore did not provide a special event this year. If members would like something particular in London, I would be interested to receive suggestions. In the meantime, we are offering members numerous opportunities to enjoy catering, accommodation and events at the London clubhouse throughout 2015, with our Easter Weekend, Art Weekend and Summer Ball packages (see page 29 for details).

Thank you once again to so many generous members who contributed to the staff gratuity fund in 2014. Our team are very grateful for the recognition you give to their hard work throughout the year; they much appreciate this kind gesture at Christmas.

2015 is likely to be another year of development and change. Our Chairman,

Sir Anthony Figgis, steps down at the end of his highly successful tenure at the AGM on 5 May. We hope that many of you will be able to attend the meeting (notified on page 15), and the farewell dinner that evening to mark Sir Anthony's chairmanship, and to thank him and Mayella in style (see page 32).

As I write, the new sun terrace outside the Duke of York Bar is taking shape and I hope that members will enjoy using that facility when the weather warms up. Construction should be complete by early March.

Almost finished is the refurbishment of the third floor of bedrooms on the Westminster Wing and our focus has now shifted to the second floor, which should be finished in April. This will see modern standards on all floors on the Westminster Wing, and we will be turning our attention to the Park Side (Vernon House) in 2016.

I hope that you will be free to participate in the many varied events scheduled for 2015. Please take time to peruse carefully the Events calendar (pages 29-34), for old favourites such as the Commonwealth Day Service and new opportunities, including our ROSL quiz nights. I look forward to seeing you during 2015.

**Roddy Porter**

**SNAPPED READING:** The Director-General poses with a copy of *Overseas* on the Gibbs staircase, and invites members to send in photos of themselves with the journal



## Editor's letter

It is always fascinating to look back at past issues of *Overseas*, which marks its 100th anniversary this year. Not only does it offer insights into the day-to-day activities of the club through the ages, but it reveals much about the priorities and concerns of the time. Throughout this centenary year, we will be delving into the archives to bring you a selection of intriguing stories and images.

In this issue, the archive material (page 11) links to our Focus on the ROSL Annual Music Competition (AMC), looking back at how the prestigious contest was covered in years gone by. Our Vice-Patron, HRH Princess Alexandra, introduces the Focus with a letter of support for the competition (opposite), with which she has been involved for more than 50 years.

I was told recently that every major orchestra in the country has a ROSL prizewinning musician in a leading role, and I can well believe it: the competition attracts some of the most promising young talent from across the Commonwealth and can be an important springboard in their musical careers. To find out more about this aspect of the AMC, we spoke to just a few of the prizewinners who have gone on to great success (page 6). I was particularly keen to discover what the judges look for in competitors, and what makes a winning programme (page 8).

Looking further into our history, we highlight the stunning period features of our Georgian clubhouse (page 13), and a fine tradition for holding balls (page 12), which will be resurrected this summer in Regency-era style (see page 34).

Another tradition that ROSL is keen to revive is our recruitment drives, which encouraged members to sign up friends, acquaintances and family. For more on how you can introduce people to your club, see page 21. A glance at the photos from our recent events (pages 18-20) and diverse Events calendar (pages 29-34), should serve to highlight the vibrant and welcoming nature of ROSL for both existing and prospective members. I hope to see you at some of our events this spring.

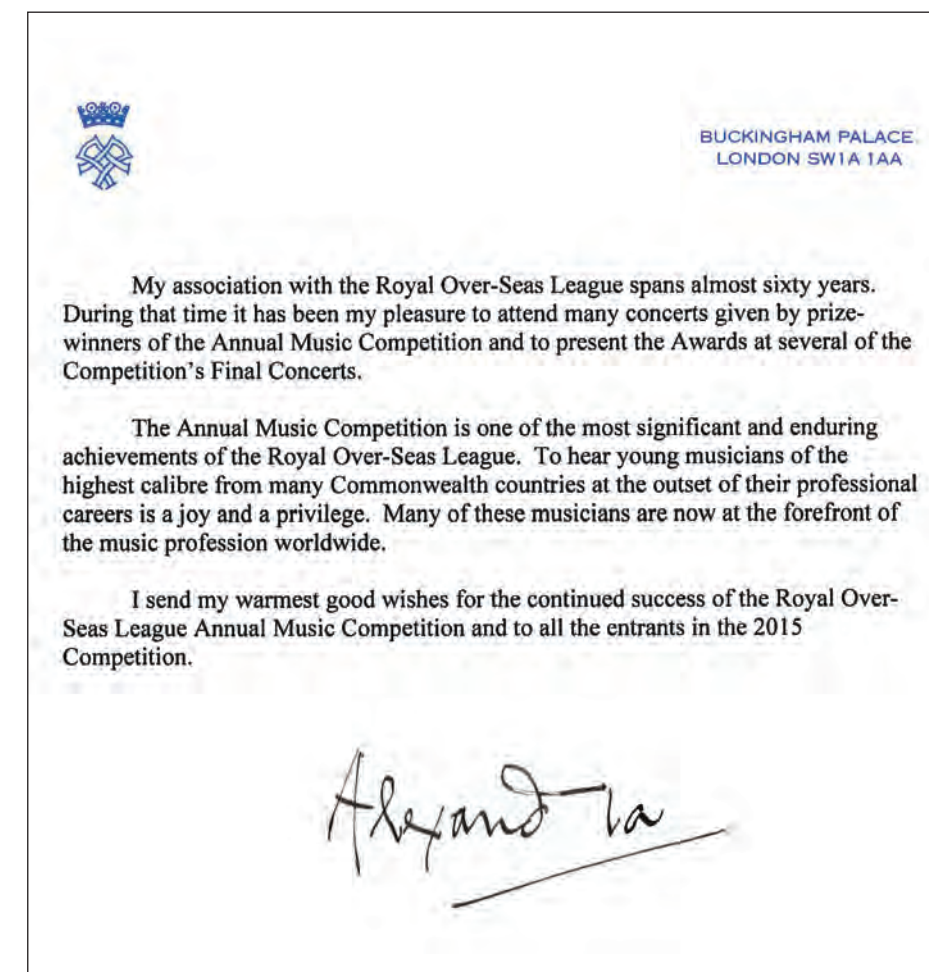
**Miranda Moore**



## FOCUS

# Royal support

HRH Princess Alexandra writes in support of one of ROSL's 'most significant and enduring achievements'



**HIGHEST CALIBRE:** ROSL Vice-Patron since 1979, Princess Alexandra first visited the club in 1958. After signing the visitors' book (above right), she was introduced to ROSL prizewinning musicians. HRH attended her first prizewinners concert in 1964 and is pictured (right) arriving for a Gala Concert in 1980. The Princess has presented the prizes three times, including last year, and speaks with soprano Anna Rajah at the 2014 Final (left)





# Winners then and now

The ROSL Annual Music Competition has been a springboard for the careers of many successful musicians. **Christine Wilde** speaks to four past winners

## Melvyn Tan, piano, harpsichord, fortepiano AMC Gold Medallist 1976

'I was the first harpsichordist to win the ROSL Music Competition [AMC] Gold Medal when I was in my last year at the Royal College of Music. I trained as a pianist, but went on to play harpsichord because I wanted to concentrate on early music, particularly Bach. It's a very mechanical instrument, but if you're a good player you can make it sound incredible just by articulation and phrasing.

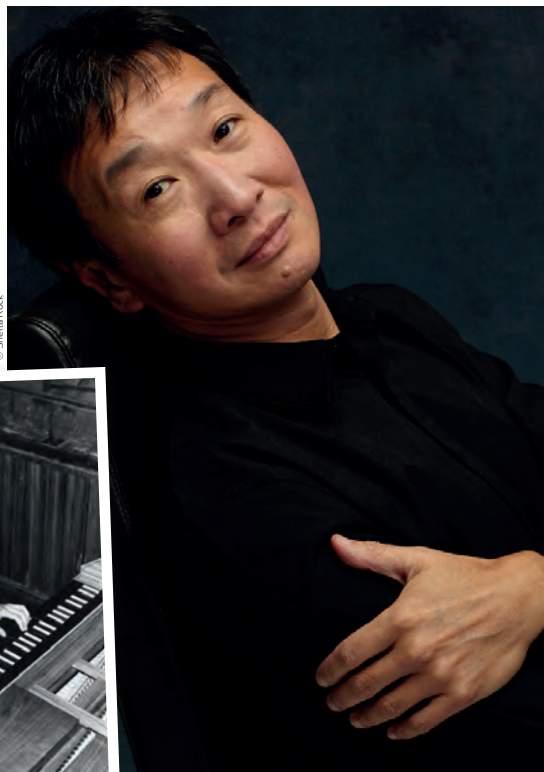
At the time, people weren't interested in historically informed performances, so I was surprised I got through. I chose slightly obscure but beautiful pieces, so I think programming had a lot to do with it. The AMC helped me to get my first BBC broadcast, and it was an honour to be invited back to the 2013 Final.

I haven't played the harpsichord for 25 years, as I went on to concentrate on the fortepiano and, more recently, the modern piano. When studying the fortepiano, you learn its limitations and history, which informs your interpretation and the way you play. In the 1990s, I toured the UK and Europe with Beethoven's piano. Having

this £14 million instrument with me was the most extraordinary thing I've done: Interpol had to sleep with it! Recording Beethoven on his fortepiano and introducing audiences to historically aware performances is my biggest legacy. When I started doing those types of performances people thought I was crazy, but now most modern pianists have an awareness of the fortepiano that influences their style.

This year, I'm touring the UK with some new commissions from young British composers. At this stage in my career, it's nice to encourage young talent. In February, I went to South Africa to perform Mozart piano concertos with young musicians in Soweto as part of the Buskaid project, which was a great experience.'

**NEW GROUND:**  
Melvyn in 1976  
(inset); and today



© Sheila Rock

## Amy Dickson, saxophone AMC Gold Medallist 2004

'I was in my third undergraduate year of music college when I won the ROSL Gold Medal. I grew up entering competitions in Australia but I think ROSL's Annual Music Competition was the biggest I had done. At the time, I was just concentrating on playing well, and didn't consider any eventuality of winning. It was so exciting when they announced my name; I was the first saxophonist to win the Gold Medal, so it was a huge surprise.

About three months later, I won the Australia Young Performer of the Year Award and, after a year or two, an A&R person from Sony Music came to a concert I was playing in. That was the start of my recording career.

I'd always dreamt of being a soloist. That doesn't sound much, but on the saxophone it is a bit harder, so to make that lifestyle work, given the instrument I play, is one of my proudest achievements. I now travel and play all over the world with orchestras, wonderful pianists and chamber musicians, and make a recording each year. 'Moon River' from my 2014 album, *A Summer Place*, was recently nominated for a Grammy for Best Arrangement. I'll be releasing an album of three new concertos



**SOLO SUCCESS:** Amy Dickson with Lady Barbirolli at the 2004 Final (inset); and with her saxophone following the start of a successful recording career



by three Australian composers with the Sydney Symphony Orchestra in May, and I'm starting to play in America, so that's very exciting.

I loved coming back to judge the AMC. The standard is very high; it really makes you think about what's important in music. The

main difference between the AMC and other competitions is what it leads to. [ROSL Director of Arts] Roderick Lakin supported me enormously after I'd won the competition and continued to do so for many years. I'm hugely grateful for that because it made an enormous impact on what I did afterwards.'



**ACCLAIM:** Peter with Dame Eva Turner at the AMC Final in 1980 (inset); and at his desk in 2013



## Peter Manning, violin AMC Gold Medallist 1980

'ROSL was a central pillar for me: the launchpad in leafy St James's. Even though I had been playing in concerts since I was a child, the competition was daunting. But the seriousness with which ROSL treated me as a young person gave me strength of purpose. As an ambassador for UK arts, I think ROSL is a marvellous community with great networking opportunities. I have spent most of my career travelling, and it seems to be a part of every musical organisation in and outside of the UK.

Winning the Gold Medal helped to secure my place at Indiana University with Josef Gingold and Nathan Milstein. I came back to England to lead the London Philharmonic Orchestra, then

spent 10 years travelling around the world after founding the Britten String Quartet.

I've always had an interest in the orchestral world, collaborative ventures between opera houses, and the future of UK theatre, so I became a conductor, director and researcher. I take a great interest in where the arts sit in society, and I am on the board of the National Campaign for the Arts. Ten years ago, I set up my own orchestra, the Manning Camerata, because I wanted to explore relationships with new arts creators. It's about performance and training too – that's where I see my strengths. I am now Concert Master of the Royal Opera House, leading the orchestra. I love conducting because it is a supporting role: you get to help people be better than they thought they could be.

I am grateful to be part of an evolving British music scene, and I would love to get more involved with Commonwealth music. Bringing together a group of Commonwealth artists is something I look forward to achieving.'



© Jean Rigby

## Jean Rigby, mezzo soprano AMC Gold Medallist 1981

'I was late to singing. I enrolled at Birmingham School of Music, now the Conservatoire, to study piano and viola but was persuaded to sing. I then went to the Royal Academy of Music and, in 1981, entered the AMC. Audrey Strange was in charge at the time, but I remember Roderick [Lakin] interviewing me for the magazine. I'd won prizes in college but the AMC had more far-reaching effects. It's a great platform because lots of people hear you.

I'd only been singing for three years so it gave me confidence.

I joined the English National Opera (ENO) and performed at the Royal Opera House (ROH) with Mirella Freni in *Eugene*

**A GREAT PLATFORM:**  
Jean Rigby in the ROSL Garden in 1981 (inset); and at Glyndebourne last year



*Onegin* and Alfredo Kraus in *The Tales of Hoffman*. Before that, I sang in *Ariadne* with the wonderful soprano Gundula Janowitz. When I was little, my father used to play me a recording of *Figaro*, and Janowitz was the Countess. He cherished that record, so he was thrilled that I would be performing with her. Sadly he died during rehearsals, but at least he knew I was on stage with one of his heroines.

Since becoming freelance, I have sung at Glyndebourne and the ROH, with the ENO, and throughout Europe and the US, as well as recording about 60 CDs. I have also performed with the Nash Ensemble, so my repertoire now stretches from Monteverdi to MacMillan.

I often organise charity concerts. My son has epilepsy, so we arranged a concert at Glyndebourne for Young Epilepsy, which raised more than £100,000. I still do some singing, but I mainly coach now, which I love. Last year, I adjudicated for the AMC, which was strange as I could remember participating myself – it didn't seem that long ago!





**Selecting a jury**  
One of the most rewarding aspects of my job over the past 30 years has been the selection of adjudicators for the AMC. There are three for each solo section (Wind, Singers, Strings, Keyboard) and the two Ensemble sections. The solo section judges form a grand jury of 12 for the Final concert, and are joined by chairman Gavin Henderson and an Accompanist Award judge. All of the jurors are performers themselves, and since 2000, more than half have been past ROSL prizewinners: 15 of the 19 judges for 2015 are past prizewinners, including pianist Frank Wibaut (ROSL Gold Medal 1968), who has been a juror a number of times, and soprano Janice Watson, who joins the jury for the first time since winning the Gold Medal in 1987. For me, it is a particular pleasure to become reacquainted with musicians I first got to know at the outset of their professional careers. This gives a distinctive sense of continuity to the ROSL competition, which is now in its 63rd year.  
**Roderick Lakin**

something that we don't know. Quite often, however, it will be the playing of just one piece that wins the day.



say about the music. You want to hear a fantastic performance; you want to find someone who brings the music to life and shares their passion for it with you.  
**SL** Technical competence is a given. Above all, I look for an honest and individual approach to interpreting the music, combined with an ability to convey these ideas to an audience.

**What makes a winning programme?**  
**IP** Programme building is vital. Often you feel that not enough thought has gone into this. Of course you need variety, but sometimes the choice is not made wisely. The best programmes should be within the capabilities of the artist at this time in their burgeoning careers.  
**JM** Variety is crucial but the pieces should work well together so that each programme is a mini concert in itself.  
**SL** Each round requires a slightly different approach: the first two are in front of the panel alone; later rounds are in front of a larger audience. Sometimes it can be the most simple and seemingly 'easy' piece that reveals the most about the performer.  
**GH** A winning programme will often feature extremes – usually a well-established work contrasted with something more contemporary. This can show the artist's aptitude for discovery – the ability to make a convincing case for

**MAJOR IMPACT:**  
(Opposite page)  
Saxophonist Huw Wiggin, 2014 Gold Medallist, with his accompanist James Sherlock

**ON STAGE:**  
(Clockwise from above) Princess Alexandra, Sir Anthony Figgis and the 2014 judges enjoy a performance by winning ensemble, the Solem Quartet, at the Final; judging the first round of the 2015 competition; and Gavin Henderson at the 2007 Final

## FOCUS

# Impressing the judges

Acclaimed musicians who have adjudicated for the ROSL competition reveal what they look for in competitors and what makes a winning programme

### The judges



Conductor and trumpeter Gavin Henderson has chaired the panel of judges since 2007, when he also became Principal of the Central School of Speech and Drama. Previously, he was Principal of Trinity College of Music (now Trinity Laban).



Pianist Simon Lepper is Professor of Piano Accompaniment at the Royal College of Music and also teaches at the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama. He won the ROSL Accompanist Award in 1999, and has since judged the award twice.  
[www.simonlepper.com](http://www.simonlepper.com)



John Myerscough, AMC Gold Medallist 2006, has a busy international career as a cellist for the Doric String Quartet, with which he has released several acclaimed recordings. He also performs widely as a soloist, and judged the ROSL Ensemble Prize in 2013.



Ian Partridge is one of Britain's leading lyric tenors and appeared as a soloist with major choirs and orchestras worldwide until he retired in 2008. A former member of ROSL Central Council, he chaired the panel of judges for three years (2003-05) and was also on the panel in 2014.

### Has there been a particularly memorable year for you?

**SIMON LEPPER** Each year has its highlights but it is always interesting when an unexpected instrument is in the Final. I've been on the panel when there was a recorder, and when there was a trombone player.

**IAN PARTRIDGE** I particularly enjoyed the occasions when both Gareth Morris and Lady Barbirolli were on the panel. They were very clear with their opinions.

### What criteria do you use to choose between competitors?

**GAVIN HENDERSON** The range of the ROSL Annual Music Competition (AMC) is one of its strengths – embracing keyboard, wind and brass, and singing – but it also makes the judging process quite challenging. Each category has its own specialist panel, and I sit on each of them across the seven weeks. The music available to each category varies enormously: the brass and percussion do not have the spectrum of masterworks available to others. However, there are issues of general musicianship, tone, colour and personality, which are common to all aspects of performing.

**JOHN MYERSCOUGH** It is crucial to look for a group or performer that has something strong and convincing to



reward. However, it takes many years to establish a career as a musician, and while ROSL is an important part of that journey, a career is not made on winning one competition. **GH** For those who do not win their category, there is always another year. Last year’s Gold Medallist [saxophonist Huw Wiggin] had been a competitor four times. The musical profession is really one big competition – auditioning for parts and places in an orchestra, seeking agents and broadcasting opportunities – so the ROSL process is good experience. Post-competition feedback is important in encouraging the performer to persist, or perhaps to explore a new avenue of tuition. **JM** The opportunity to talk to the competitors after the Final is invaluable. The feeling of failure can be very strong and harsh words can seriously affect confidence, so it is good to take this moment to encourage and support all the competitors.

**What have you most enjoyed about adjudicating?**  
**GH** The competition’s innate friendliness and generosity of spirit. It is wonderful to hear and see the relative strengths of musicians coming from different places in a genuinely international framework. One of the joys of the AMC is the sense of freshness that successive generations bring to repertoire which one may have heard many times before. The skill and sensitivity of Roderick Lakin gives a firm foundation, and the warmth of ROSL, and its loyal followers of the competition, makes for a very compelling atmosphere. **JM** It is wonderful to be able to hear so many fantastic young musicians and also to hear repertoire that I might not know. **SL** I enjoy the sense of community that ROSL gives to both its competitors and judges. The AMC is a celebration of the wealth of talent that Britain attracts. Having the audience in the final rounds helps the judges to see clearly how the competitors engage with the public: some rise to the occasion and others do not. It is in this moment that we can see whether a competitor has the ‘X factor’. **IP** The musical scene is difficult for young players and singers, and I feel that what we do in the AMC is so worthwhile. This competition is one of the really important ones; lots of candidates have gone on to success. It is great to have the chance to help promising musicians on their way.

See the Events section for details of the 2015 Annual Music Competition, including the Final on 1 June.



**KEYS TO SUCCESS:** 2013 winners, the Francoise-Green piano duo



# An enduring legacy

**Roderick Lakin** explains how you can support young musicians at the start of their career by making a bequest

Throughout the ROSL Annual Music Competition’s distinguished history of support for outstanding young musicians from the UK and the Commonwealth, donations and legacies, principally from ROSL members, have played a crucial role in sustaining its vitality. In the 21st century alone, such donations have enabled us to transform the concert room at the London clubhouse into a first-class chamber music venue with a new Steinway grand piano. To mark its centenary in 2010, ROSL launched a Centenary Appeal to secure the endowment of the competition’s annual awards in excess of £60,000. By 2013, we had met the initial target of £1,000,000, and the fund continues to grow. Legacies received from two long-standing supporters, Harry Miller and Margaret Ker, significantly enhanced the fund in 2014. The ROSL Centenary Appeal Fund is held within the ROSL Golden Jubilee Trust (registered charity 306095).

**Making a bequest**  
Making a bequest to the ROSL Centenary Appeal (GJT) is a wonderful way to ensure that future generations can experience the inspiration and enjoyment offered by gifted young musicians at the outset of their musical careers. It is very simple to include a legacy to ROSL in your will, and gifts can be made as a specified sum of money, a proportion of your residual estate, or more specific items of your property. Making a bequest to a charity such as the ROSL Golden Jubilee Trust can also be an effective way to reduce your inheritance tax. If you already have a will, it is easy to add a codicil making a change.

**Gifts in memoriam**  
Some members have made donations or bequests for a ROSL music prize or scholarship in memory of a family member or close friend. These may be dedicated to a particular instrument, or to a musician from a specific country. The continuous cycle of generosity gives us a strong sense of purpose for the future of the competition. As Director of Arts, I would be delighted to discuss prize and scholarship options, and to advise you on how to remember ROSL ARTS in your will. Contact Roderick Lakin on rlakin@rosl.org.uk or +44 (0)20 7408 0214 x 325.



© James McCormick

**VITAL ROLE:** Princess Alexandra presents Huw Wiggin with the First Prize at the 2014 competition (above); and the Tempest flute trio, 2013 Ensemble B prizewinners, during rehearsals for the Final at the Queen Elizabeth Hall (top)

# From the archives

As *Overseas* enters its centenary year, we look at stories from years gone by

From the cover of the August 1979 issue  
**Music: ‘World’s most prestigious...’**

You certainly have to be good to impress the Director of Music after she has organised 557 young musicians and listened to three weeks of intensive preliminary auditions. But at the final concert I discerned an unmistakeable beam of genuine pleasure on the face of Audrey Strange. The standard of playing at these final concerts has been consistently high in the past. This is hardly surprising, for, to survive the preliminaries and the quarter- and semi-finals, every competitor must have, as well as nerves of steel and the ability to play or sing with competence, the resources to overcome technical difficulties and still infuse feeling and personality into the music. The Queen Elizabeth Hall itself, of course, provides stimulus. In the growing excitement of the rehearsal, when the BBC were carrying out balance tests for subsequent broadcasts, many of the performers told me how wonderful it felt to make music in a hall with such acoustics. But in addition to this, was Princess Alexandra’s presence to give inspiration, with the result that all the finalists without exception gave a splendid account of themselves, each one being rewarded with not only a prize but with what was more precious – a smile and an imitatively sincere appreciative word from the Princess herself.



**GRACIOUS:** HRH presents the First Prize to pianist Barry Douglas

From the February 1920 issue  
**Snapped reading Overseas**

This month we have published a photograph of Mr. Hugh Murray, one of our Cape Province Members, reading ‘Overseas’ in his orchard. We have not received many photographs of Members reading our magazine, but when one thinks of all the thousands of people in different parts of the world who do read it at least once a month, we feel that here is a chance for some very interesting and excellent snapshots to be taken. We are, therefore, offering two prizes of £3 3s each, one for men and one for women, for the best amateur photograph of a Member reading ‘Overseas’. This competition will remain open until November 1st, 1920, and the prize photographs will be published in the December, 1920, issue.

We have revived the ‘Snapped reading Overseas’ tradition in this anniversary year. See page 18 for the first pictures, and do email editor@rosl.org.uk with your own snaps.



From the February 1980 issue  
Celebrating ROSL’s 70th anniversary, the February 1980 cover announces Princess Alexandra as Vice-Patron. HRH already had a long history of involvement with the club, and her presence at music events and competitions is recorded in many issues.

If we do enlarge ‘Overseas’, as some are anxious we should do, these photographs will be interesting mementoes of our magazine in its present companionable size. Whatever our views on the dignity and enhanced value of an enlarged journal may be, yet I think we all have a soft corner in our hearts for our little ‘Overseas’, so adaptable to the pocket and so much our own even in its technical treatment.

**HIS FAVOURITE LITERATURE:**  
Mr Hugh Murray, of Erin Farm, Middleburg, C.P., South Africa, reading ‘Overseas’ in his orchard







© Tom Hunter

# Dancing through the

**Christine Wilde** looks at the long tradition of dances at ROSL, and why the Waterloo Summer Ball will be

A ball? I long for a ball!’ announces Kitty Bennet in Jane Austen’s *Pride and Prejudice*. From the mid-19th century, high-society balls became the pinnacle of the social season. While the idea of a grand ball conjures images of elegant outfits and dignified dancing, they also served an important role in the community – it was here that romances began, gossip was traded and friendships solidified. Fashions and dancing might have changed, but the anticipation, excitement and kinship associated with a ball remains.

Such dances were a significant part of ROSL’s vibrant social calendar. The acquisition and expansion of Over-Seas House London in the 1920s and 1930s provided ROSL with a central base for its growing membership. Soon, member-run committees, such as the Twentieth Century Group (TCG) – a forerunner of the Younger Members – began to organise entertainment for members visiting from all over the world. Their first dance, held in December 1936, was an ‘unqualified success’. From then on, dances, both formal and informal, became regular diary staples and, for many travellers, the highlight of their stay.

During the Second World War, Over-Seas House was a vital social hub for Allied servicemen. Chaired by MP and ROSL Head of Hospitality Sir Jocelyn Lucas, the Allies

Welcome Committee (1940-50) organised lunches, tea parties and broadcasts for visiting troops of all races and ranks. However, it was their dances that drew the biggest crowds. ‘Numbers at the dances and welcome parties on Saturday evenings have grown to such an extent that we have now reached a state of “house full”,’ declared the March 1941 issue of *Overseas*. The balls of the 1940s played an important role in the social development of the club, bringing members and visiting servicemen together, and providing a respite from the realities of war-ravaged London.

Formal balls, often attended by VIPs, were also popular. New Year’s Eve balls of the 1940s were always glittering occasions, and during the war, members were often invited to events held in honour of visiting dignitaries and royalty. In 1955, the Agents-General for Queensland, South Australia and Western Australia were the guests of honour at a glamorous ‘Australia Ball’, hosted by the High

**HIGH SOCIETY:** (Clockwise from main image): The Great Gatsby Ball in 2013; a dance for servicemen in St Andrew’s Hall, around 1945; and the London Group masked ball of 1950

*The balls of the 1940s provided a respite from war-ravaged London*



# decades

a highlight for the whole ROSL community

Commissioner for Australia, Lady White, ROSL Deputy Chairman Sir Angus Gillan, and Vice-Chairman Lady Brabourne. The event was such a success that a ‘Canadian Ball’ was held the following July, attended by ROSL President Earl Mountbatten of Burma, Countess Mountbatten and the High Commissioner for Canada. ROSL also welcomed the Patron of the TCG, Princess Alexandra, to the Jubilee Ball in 1960, where she met a number of Commonwealth members and guests.

As priorities shifted, fewer opportunities to host formal balls arose. However, those that were organised in the 1970s-1990s, such as the St James’s Balls in 1978 and 1979, were extremely well attended. These special occasions were used as an opportunity to showcase ROSL’s ever-widening network of musical talent, as well as to raise money for charitable projects, such as the Royal Commonwealth Society for the Blind.

*In the spirit of its fine predecessors, a Waterloo dinner-dance for all members will be held at Over-Seas House London on 27 June. This Regency-themed extravaganza will continue the proud ROSL tradition of uniting the membership community for an evening of superb music, delicious food and, of course, dancing. See page 34 for ticket details.*

## Our Georgian clubhouse

**Sara Brouwer** investigates the exquisite period features of Rutland House

On 18 June it will be 200 years since the Battle of Waterloo. The battle took place during the Regency period, a fascinating sub-period of the Georgian era, considered to be one of the most turbulent ages in British history. The Regency spanned not only the Napoleonic Wars but also the French Revolution; witnessed unprecedented industrial progress, artistic accomplishment, and violent social unrest; and – paradoxically – gave rise to the most scintillating social scene in English high society.

The Battle of Waterloo and the backdrop of the time provide our theme for this year’s ROSL Summer Ball. This focus pulls us enticingly into the origins of the clubhouse buildings and, in particular, the history of Rutland House. Named after the 5th Duke of Rutland, who bought the house in 1816 (one year after the Battle of Waterloo), the building was designed by James Gibbs between 1734 and 1740 in the new classical Georgian style. It retains many of its original features, including windows and shutters, and splendidly carved dado rails, skirting, doors and surrounds.

The Rutland and Bennet-Clark rooms are proud examples of the style, and include an exquisite marble fireplace by John Rysbrack. Both rooms belonged to the Dowager Duchess of Rutland, and members attending our Summer Ball will see them brought back to life as a Regency-era lady’s dressing room!

Rutland House once had a splendid ballroom, but it was built over in 1937 to make way for the Westminster Wing. Other architectural features have also sadly vanished, but the quirky Crinoline Staircase provides us with an insight into the past: its bowed spindles were designed to accommodate a growing appetite for wide, hooped skirts, which became so spectacular and impractical that separate passageways had to be built. Thankfully, full crinolines fall just outside the Regency period and will not be required in our Summer Ball dress code. See page 34 for more details.



**TIMELESS ELEGANCE:** Detail of the exquisite fireplace by the Flemish sculptor John Rysbrack (above); and (below) the staircase in the central lounge, designed by James Gibbs, is a fine example of Georgian architecture – and perfect for a grand entrance







© Felicity Aston

# Journey to the Pole of Cold

**Felicity Aston** travels in sub-freezing conditions in an attempt to bring winter in from the cold

I arrived at the Pole of Cold monument in the centre of the Siberian village of Oymyakon, the coldest inhabited place in the world, to find Chyskhan, the Lord Keeper of the Cold, waiting for me. Chyskhan is a character from local Yakutian mythology, believed to be responsible for distributing winter around the world. As our breath made clouds in temperatures that fell below -50°C he advised: 'People should be smiling in the cold and taking winter as a friend, not as an enemy.'

It was timely advice. My journey had begun nearly two months earlier in London, just as the first chill of winter was starting to shiver along the spine of Europe. I set off from the UK on a 36,000km journey in a Land Rover Defender to chase the onset of winter as it occurs across Scandinavia and Siberia. My purpose was to investigate differing perspectives of winter, and I found that often winter was cherished, rather than dreaded.

In northern Norway, deep within the Arctic Circle, where polar night endures for weeks, a Sámi shaman told me that winter is not dark but full of colour. Standing beneath a star-lit sky, striped with the colours of the aurora, it was hard to disagree.

With the welcoming speech at the Pole of Cold over, I thanked Chyskhan through chattering teeth and gratefully retreated to the warmth of the Land Rover. A few moments later, a face appeared at the window, 'The Lord Keeper of the Cold asks if there is any chance you might be able to give him a lift home?'

*Felicity Aston charted her 2012 expedition to ski alone across Antarctica in Overseas. Chasing Winter: A Journey to the Pole of Cold is available at [www.felicityaston.co.uk/writing.html](http://www.felicityaston.co.uk/writing.html).*

## Supporting The Royal Naval Officer Family For 275 Years



Formed in 1739 the Royal Navy Officers' Charity has for 275 years provided support and financial assistance to serving and retired Royal Navy and Royal Marine Officers and their Reserves, spouses and dependants at home and overseas.

Today the Charity continues to make a real difference to the quality of life for our beneficiaries through the breadth of our grant making. In order to continue this support, which includes assistance to those on low incomes, care home fees, scholarships and re-training to gain employment, the Charity needs your generous help in the form of donations and legacies.

Please help us to help them



Call 020 7402 5231,  
e-mail [rnoc@arno.org.uk](mailto:rnoc@arno.org.uk) or write to  
70 Porchester Terrace, London W2 3TP.  
Visit [www.arno.org.uk](http://www.arno.org.uk) for further details'

## DO YOU HAVE A RECORD OF YOUR POSSESSIONS?

Now you see it



Now you don't

If some valuable things were stolen or lost, could you give an exact description? Could you prove ownership and worth?



Clear

Unclear

Do you have a clear, documented overview of your belongings? Are your records up to date? Do you know where everything is?

## Art&Antiques Ledger

A comprehensive picture inventory of your possessions and valuables is essential to your security and insurance provisions, as well as family record. **AAL** provides you with a unique digital photo log and written description of every item. Service run by longstanding ROSL member.

**AAL: the invaluable record of the things you value.**  
Tel/fax: 01288 341666, E-mail: [richard.hoppe@virgin.net](mailto:richard.hoppe@virgin.net)  
Write: Stoneleigh, Week St. Mary, Holsworthy EX22 6XA

# Chairman's farewell

**Sir Anthony Figgis** looks back on his time as Chairman on the eve of his retirement from the role

I became Chairman just before our centenary year began, in December 2010. How lucky I have been! They have been eventful years, as well as thoroughly enjoyable, especially the visits that Mayella and I have paid to our branches in the UK and elsewhere – Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Switzerland, Hong Kong. We've been welcomed heart-warmingly everywhere.

There have been sadnesses, too, including the death of Sir David Scott, one of my predecessors, and of Dame Elizabeth Murdoch in Australia. And another kind of sadness: the retirement of Bob Newell, the colossus of Park Place for so many years, and of Fatima Vanicek, his much-loved assistant.

But the caravan has to move on. As Chairman, I have only had one really important task: to find, with others, a suitable replacement for Bob Newell. Roddy Porter has been everything we could have hoped for and more. He has overseen big changes, most of which flow from the Strategic Review, which he prepared in 2012. The public areas have been refreshed and reconfigured. And we are benefitting from our two sub-committees: on finance, chaired by Simon Ward, and on buildings, chaired by Sir Roger Carrick. Heartfelt thanks to them both.

Which brings me to something I have said before in these pages: ROSL relies on volunteers to serve on our Council, on the sub-committees, as pension trustees, in the groups and branches, as adjudicators for the

Annual Music Competition, and in a host of other ways. So, my warmest thanks to all those many members who have given their time and guidance to these and other activities during my chairmanship. Their contributions are vital, and are greatly appreciated.

What have been the high points? Certainly our centenary, with its reception at St James's Palace, attended by The Queen. Certainly Her Majesty's Jubilee Year, with our participation in the Royal Flotilla on the Thames. But there have been other highlights, especially

*Appreciative thanks to you, the members, for your friendship*

our brilliant music competition, supported so graciously and with such infectious enthusiasm by HRH Princess Alexandra.

I did have one other important task: to find a successor for myself. I can't imagine anyone more suitable than Simon Ward. He has already given years of extraordinary service to ROSL as Honorary Treasurer. He may take comfort from the fact that being Chairman is a bed of roses compared to that! And I hope that he and Raye will enjoy the role as much as Mayella and I have done.



© Michael Gaskell



© James McCormick

**EVENTFUL:** Michael Gaskell's portrait of Sir Anthony Figgis, commissioned by ROSL (top); and Sir Anthony and Lady Mayella Figgis with HRH Princess Alexandra at the 2014 ROSL Annual Music Competition

A few last words of appreciative thanks: to Graysons, our contract partners in London, and to Cobbs, our contract managers in Edinburgh; to our loyal and often over-worked staff; and to you, the membership, for your friendship and for putting up with me as Chairman. We have enjoyed ourselves enormously.

*To book the Farewell Dinner, see page 32.*

## Annual General Meeting 2015

Dear Member,

I am instructed to inform you that the ROSL AGM will be held at Over-Seas House London on Tuesday 5 May 2015 at 3pm. The AGM will receive the 2014 ROSL accounts. Such other business as may be necessary in accordance with the bye-laws will also be conducted. The AGM will be followed by a special Farewell Dinner (see page 32 for details), at 6.30pm, for Sir Anthony Figgis, who is stepping down at the end of his appointment as Chairman.

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 2014
- 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 2014
- To appoint auditors for the ensuing year

**NOTE:** Copies of the 2014 Financial Accounts will be available to download from the website from 15 April and copies will be available on request from ROSL Reception.



# ROSL scholar exhibitions

## Tessa Jackson explains why Iniva nominated Lerato Shadi for a scholarship

Iniva (Institute of International Visual Arts) first started working with ROSL ARTS in 2012, when Hospitalfield Arts approached us to be part of their programme of visual arts scholarships. Having seen the South African artist Lerato Shadi present 'Tlhogu' at Dak'Art 2012 in Senegal, we put her forward for the one-month residency and subsequent exhibition. From her studio time at Hospitalfield in 2013 to her live performance at Iniva in December 2014, it has been an important collaboration.

Over the years, Iniva has invited artists to 'speak to the street' in December and early January, using our large window on Rivington Street, Shoreditch, for particular commissions and presentations. It seemed an ideal marriage, and Lerato responded enthusiastically to the opportunity.

Her first presentation in the UK was 'Makhuba', a new work that continues her exploration of performance and the stage, through which she makes the body both visible and invisible. She performed over six days – writing her life story and erasing it on alternate days, thereafter leaving a trace of her daily actions.

Lerato uses her own body as her medium, employing time and repetitive actions to create work that is both beautiful and compelling, yet alludes to the complexities of the world and of man's inhumanity to man. Her performances are a way of placing herself in the world – as a woman, as a black woman, as a South African – giving her body agency to disrupt history, stereotyping and assumption.

Read our Q&A with Lerato and other ROSL Visual Arts Scholars, including Mehreen Murtaza (see below), in the September-November 2014 issue.



© Erik Dettwiler, 2014



© Erik Dettwiler, 2014

**WRITING ON THE WALL:** Lerato Shadi's work 'Makhuba' at Iniva (above and left) – a performance piece in which she wrote and erased her life story, leaving a trace that became an installation at the gallery

## James Lee gives an overview of Mehreen Murtaza's exhibition at Generator

Mehreen Murtaza was selected for a ROSL ARTS scholarship by GENERATORprojects, Dundee, in 2013. The two-part award took her from Lahore to Scotland, firstly for a residency at Hospitalfield House, Arbroath, and secondly to Dundee for an exhibition at the artist-led space.

I curated the exhibition with fellow artist, Trustee and Director Kirsty Mckeown, showcasing Mehreen's work alongside two other exciting emerging artists: London-based artist Sam Burford and Diemantas Narkevičius, who is almost certainly the most promising current talent in Lithuanian visual art.

Entitled 'To Sail Beyond the Sunset', a name taken from Tennyson's poem 'Ulysses', the show

**AMBITIOUS:** Mehreen's installation at Generator



© Mehreen Murtaza

presented artists influenced by science fiction and, in particular, by time travel. They all manipulate time in their work to explore alternative pasts or potential futures. The title suggests the vaulting ambitions of the work on show; its grand conceptual and aesthetic aspirations.

Mehreen was selected because Generator trustees identified her as one of the most promising and exciting artists working in Pakistan today – an artist we all wanted to work with. The exhibited work developed around the life of the Pakistani physicist Dr Abdus Salam, engaging with his legacy and investigating the most fantastical possibilities of quantum mechanics: that communication can happen between parallel dimensions.

# QUATTRO bound for the UK

## Roderick Lakin reports from New Zealand on the hotly contested ninth Pettman/ROSL ARTS Scholarship auditions and ROSL prizewinners tour

Once in a lifetime experience is guaranteed for QUATTRO (cellists Catherine Kwak, Jacky Siu, Sam Lucas and Alexander Arai-Swale), winners of the ninth Annual Pettman/ROSL ARTS Scholarship for an outstanding New Zealand Chamber Ensemble, as they prepare for an intensive five-week UK study and performance tour in July and August.

QUATTRO will give concerts in London, Devon and Norfolk, and attend the two-week Summer Academy of the Lake District Music Festival, before ending their trip with a week of performances for ROSL ARTS on the Edinburgh Festival Fringe. 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, Royal Opera House and Edinburgh Festival.

One of New Zealand's most valuable and sought-after musical awards, the Pettman/ROSL ARTS International Scholarship offers a unique, bespoke study package for a New Zealand chamber group valued in excess of \$60,000. Eleven groups from university music departments in Auckland, Christchurch, Hamilton and Wellington participated in three days of concerts, auditions and mentoring as part of the 2014 selection process at the University of Waikato, Hamilton.

The final concert on 16 November was recorded by Radio New Zealand Concert. Three ensembles were selected to perform: QUATTRO, Akato Trio (Shauno Isomura violin, Jesbery Hartono cello, Kent Isomura piano; University of Auckland/ University of Waikato) and Duo Cecilia (Lucy Gijsbers cello,

**SPECIAL EVENTS:** (Above, l-r) Catherine Kwak, Sam Lucas, Alexander Arai-Swale and Jacky Siu; and (right, l-r) Maureen Pettman, Chris Clark, Somi Kim, Olivia Francis and Ben Baker at the Pettman/ROSL ARTS and DARE/Opera North Reception at Over-Seas House to celebrate the Pettmans' support of both organisations



© Richard Hubert-Smith

Andrew Atkins piano; New Zealand School of Music, Wellington).

Joining me on the adjudicating panel were Tamsin Waley-Cohen violin, Bartholomew LaFollette cello, Tom Poster piano, the CEO of Chamber Music New Zealand Euan Murdoch, and Peter Dykes, NZSO Associate Principal Oboe. We were impressed by the quality of music-making but selected QUATTRO for their imaginative programming, thorough preparation, and the musicality and vitality of their performances for this unusual instrument combination. Particularly impressive was their performance of a transcription by group member Arai-Swale of Shostakovich's bleak and intense *String Quartet No 8*. Formed at the beginning of 2014, the cello quartet is tutored by James Tennant, Katherine Austin and Amalia Hall, and its members are all Sir Edmund Hillary Scholars.

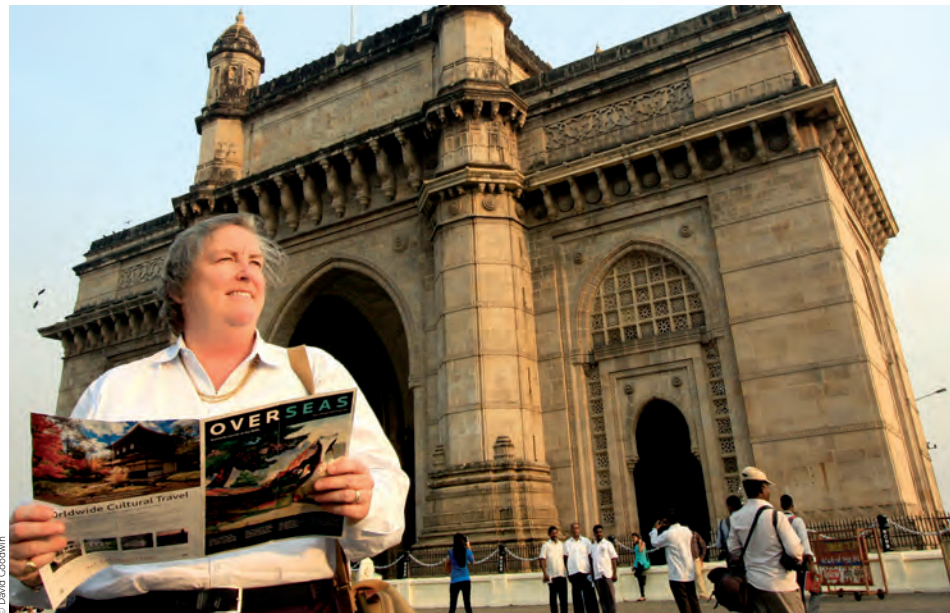
During finals weekend, the Waley-Cohen/LaFollette/Poster Trio gave a concert of music by Beethoven, Carpenter and Tchaikovsky. In November, they also gave concerts in KeriKeri, Auckland, Waiheke Island, Geraldine, Oamaru, Dunedin, Purau, Nelson, Napier and Gisborne – each in aid of a different charity, including Otago Community Hospice, Whittakers Music Museum and Save the Children NZ.

Both the tour and auditions heightened interest in, and encouraged support for, ROSL in New Zealand, introducing us to new venues and communities, and re-enforcing established relationships countrywide. I would like to thank ROSL NZ Director, Lyn Milne, for her untiring efforts in developing the scholarship auditions and concert tour, which has gone from strength to strength over the past nine years. None of this would be possible without the enthusiastic support of Barrie and Maureen Pettman, which sustains this unique opportunity.



# News and views

The latest from the clubhouses in London and Edinburgh



## ◀▶ Snapped reading *Overseas*

ROSL members rekindle an old tradition of taking snapshots of themselves with the journal around the world. (Left) Central Council member Prof Meryll Dean visits Mumbai for a wedding in December; and (below, l-r) Mary Ann Slagle, Terry Grundy, DeAnn Knego, David Pike, Jody Grundy and Marshall Slagle share happy memories of ROSL at a restaurant high above Cincinnati. *Send your pictures to [editor@rosl.org.uk](mailto:editor@rosl.org.uk)*



## ▼ Hogmanay and Burns Night

Members and guests welcomed the New Year with a successful Hogmanay dinner and dance at the Edinburgh clubhouse. Following a cocktail reception and four-course meal, revellers enjoyed the capital's fireworks display from the roof before dancing the night away at the ceilidh disco. For Burns Night, the Rt Rev Brian Smith, former Bishop of Edinburgh, delivered the Immortal Memory; Pat Bourne, the Consul General of Ireland, gave an amusing Toast to the Lassies; and Zoja D Bazarnic, Consul General of the USA, gave the witty Reply.



## ▲ Art Fund afternoons

ROSL hosted a series of popular afternoon lectures in association with the Art Fund. Exploring the relationship between art and music, experts spoke eloquently on a range of subjects including art and music in wartime, and explorations of Russian national identity.



## ◀ Valuation day

Members brought their antiques to the London clubhouse to be valued by Duke's experts, Dr Matthew Denney and Amy Brenan. 'One of the highlights was a superb Victorian gold chain,' said Amy. 'The owner had inherited it but was too nervous to wear it in case it was damaged. When I revealed that the chain, with its unusual clasp, was very desirable and worth several hundred pounds, she decided to sell it.' At auction, the chain was the subject of a fierce bidding war and sold for £2,196, more than three times its estimate. Duke's Auctioneers are planning further valuation days for members later this year.

## Volunteers needed: Discussion Group

ROSL is looking for a team of volunteers to help organise speakers for the Discussion Group. Whether you have a wealth of interesting ideas you would like to bring to fruition, know good speakers, or would just like to help shape our vibrant Events programmes and get more involved with the club, we would love to hear from you. Please contact Gemma at [gmatthews@rosl.org.uk](mailto:gmatthews@rosl.org.uk).

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

## ▼ ROSL remembers

As part of ROSL's WWI Centenary programme, members united in an act of remembrance, led by the Dean of Westminster, at Over-Seas House London. Peter Wilkinson, National President of the British Legion, HE Kamalesh Sharma, Secretary-General of the Commonwealth, and Lord Luce, ROSL President, laid wreaths by the Vernon House memorial. In the afternoon, a Blue Badge guide showed members around the WWI memorials to Commonwealth soldiers in Marble Arch and Green Park.



## ▶ Christmas cheer

Members at the Edinburgh clubhouse enjoyed an afternoon of carol singing led by choirmaster Brigitte Harris. In London, the YM Christmas drinks coincided with the Edinburgh Printmakers private view, enabling attendees to mingle over a glass or two of mulled wine. Soprano Nardus Williams and pianist Somi Kim, together with the excellent ROSL choir, filled St James's Piccadilly with beautiful music during the Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols. Later in the month, members packed into the Central Lounge to sing carols around the Christmas tree (pictured).



March-May 2015



## ▲ Black-tie dinner and ceilidh

Princess Alexandra Hall was alive with music and dancing at the Burns Night celebrations in January. Fuelled by haggis and whisky, members and their guests joined in with the dancing, led by a caller, while those who preferred to let their meal digest in a more sedate fashion sat and enjoyed the ambiance created by the traditional Scottish music, including Burns' *Ae Fond Kiss*. Director-General Roddy Porter acted as chairman of the proceedings and said the Selkirk Grace.



## ▲ St Andrew's Day dinner

Eric Milligan, former Lord Provost of the City of Edinburgh, was guest of honour at the November celebrations at the Edinburgh clubhouse. Following a drinks reception and three-course dinner, Councillor Milligan spoke about his love of Edinburgh and provided insights into his 40 years in public office.



## ▲ Chairman's lunch

The Rt Revd and Rt Hon Richard Chartres was the guest of honour at November's lunch. After a three-course gourmet meal with clubhouse wines, the Bishop of London gave a riveting speech about the changing role of religion across the globe, and the dangers and virtues of religious practice.





▲ New members’ receptions

In October, new and prospective members came to the clubhouses in London (pictured) and Edinburgh. The receptions featured ROSL musicians, Davy’s Wines, and delectables from the in-house menus, providing a literal taste of our membership benefits.



▲► London Group Christmas lunch

The London Group got into the seasonal spirit with a delicious turkey dinner, raffle and wonderful music performed by Maltese harpist Cecilia da Maria.



Branch Secretary for ROSL West

We are looking for someone to take on the coordination of the branches in Taunton, Exeter and Bath. Responsibilities include organising a series of lunches for each branch and the popular visit to the London clubhouse. Applicants must have excellent IT and people skills. The current Secretary, Sally Roberts, will be retiring from the Taunton Branch first and handing over the responsibilities of the other branches at a later date. Contact Sally directly on 01823 661148 or rosl.west@gmail.com.



Bright young things

The Younger Members group in Scotland is going from strength to strength, says Alex Lamley

Since the summer, YMs in Scotland have been focusing on developing the inter-club scene established by the Scottish Clubs Group (SCG). On 11 October, the SCG held its first club crawl, with members meeting at the Glasgow Art Club before getting the train to Edinburgh. At ROSL, YMs and guests enjoyed drinks in the Balmoral Room followed by dinner in the Edinburgh Room. We then moved to the Royal Scots Club, and ended the evening at the Scottish Arts Club. While some YMs made themselves comfortable in the idyllic drawing room, others had a tour of the billiards room and art studio. It was a fantastic opportunity to meet members and prospective members of the various clubs.

On 29 November, we had a well-attended black-tie Christmas dinner at the Royal Scots Club. In the bar afterwards, we met the Scottish Heraldry Society, which was also holding a black-tie dinner. It was quite the festive gathering! In February, the SCG held a murder mystery evening at the Glasgow Art Club, while plans are afoot for another croquet party in the summer, so watch this space!

For details of YM events in Scotland, email alexjlamley@aol.com or reception@rosl-edinburgh.org.uk or ask at the Edinburgh clubhouse.

Members’ benefits

Gemma Matthews explains why ROSL members are the club’s best advocates, as we aim to boost our numbers over the next five years

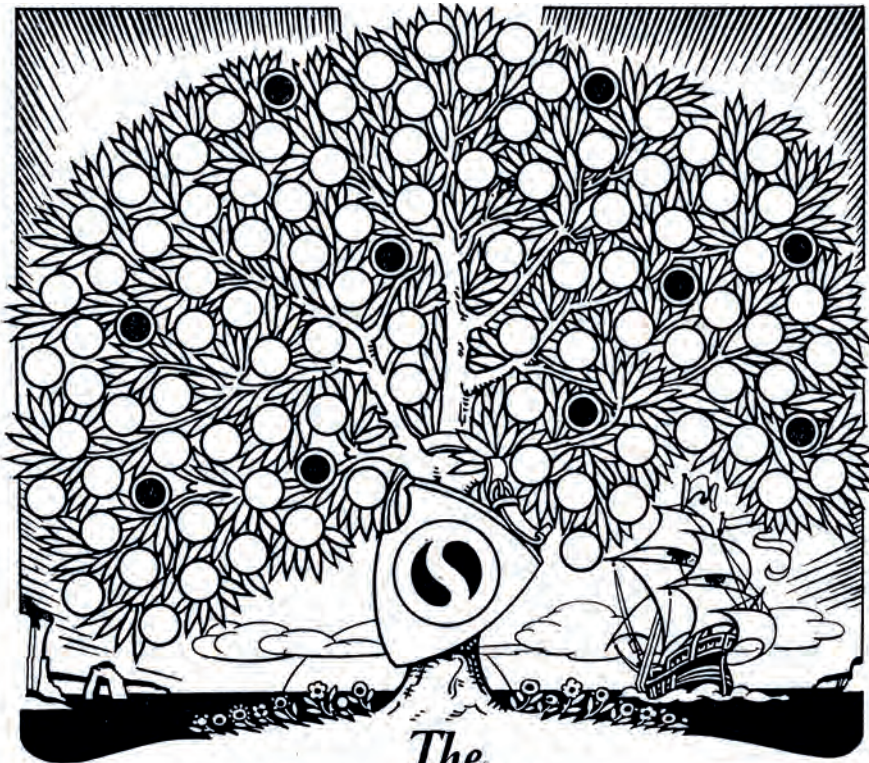
Growing the membership tree

Over the last few months, the team have been poring over old issues of *Overseas*, delving into the journal’s history in preparation for its centenary this year. It has been hard not to get distracted by the articles and advertisements; with features such as ‘My Monthly Letter’ and ‘From a Woman’s Standpoint’, one can easily find the afternoon slip away.

One of the most interesting and common themes is the encouragement for members to be active in growing membership. Various campaigns and initiatives were introduced, as Sir Evelyn Wrench realised that the best advocates for ROSL were (and still are) its members.

In June 1934, to mark the approaching 25th anniversary of the club, Lady des Voeux launched the ‘Forward campaign’, asking 10,000 members to pledge to recruit one new member each by 1935. She wrote: ‘If our membership numbered 500,000 instead of 46,000 we should be a power in the world. What could 500,000 human beings scattered east, west, south and north accomplish if their hearts were as one? Think of the Peace propaganda they could carry on... think of new light on old problems, the opportunities of mutual service.’ Fine aims indeed. Progress was charted on the Membership Tree illustration (right).

In 2015, some 80 years on, we continue with our recruitment efforts. Though we are more conservative in our ambitions, we aim to grow our subscribing members to 18,500 over the next five years. Member referrals remain the best way to recruit, so if you have friends, family or colleagues who you think would enjoy membership, why not introduce them



The Membership Tree has added five more ripened fruits to its branches, thanks to the enrolment of 473 further new Members, whose names appear in this number.

**CAMPAIGN:** Progress was charted on the ‘tree’ and, in this June 1934 update, members were asked to help ‘darken at least six new fruits’ in July by enlisting 1,046 members

to the club at one of our New Members Receptions? Each May in London, and October in London and Edinburgh, we host an evening reception to introduce both new and potential members to all the benefits of membership.

Email [guestrelations@rosl.org.uk](mailto:guestrelations@rosl.org.uk) if you would like to bring a guest to the New Members Reception at Over-Seas House London on 28 May, or to book a clubhouse showaround.

Wedding bells at ROSL

Did you know that you can now get married at the club? Both the London and Edinburgh clubhouses hold civil ceremony licences. So whether you’re planning an intimate wedding for 20 or a celebration for 200, your clubhouse provides the perfect location for your special day.

For details, contact the team in Edinburgh on +44 (0)131 225 1501 or in London on +44 (0)20 7629 0406.



A little night music

Over the next few months we will be bringing live music to the bar. Each first Thursday of the month, we’ll have sets from jazz and classical performers to enhance the relaxed ambiance of the refurbished room. So whether you are enjoying a pre-dinner aperitif or a glass of wine after a long day, take time to unwind in the Duke of York Bar.



Info@PureSafari.com  
Agents@PureSafari.com

**Pure Safari**  
Exceptional Safari Experiences Worldwide

UK: 01227 753181  
FREE: 0800 422 0798



Exceptional Photographic Safari Experiences from Around The World  
Interactive Maps, Videos, Virtual Itineraries and Tours  
Expert Advice and a Friendly Dedicated Service

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

ABTA  
The Travel Association

**Beautiful Photography**



**Zuza Jungowska**  
professional photographer  
tel: 0771 774 2960  
[www.beautifulphotography.biz](http://www.beautifulphotography.biz)  
[info@beautifulphotography.biz](mailto:info@beautifulphotography.biz)

 **Under-used London property?**

**It should be earning its keep!**

Our business is short letting under-used London accommodation mainly to Americans coming to England on holiday.

Since 2001 we have achieved over 4,500 lets and have many happy owners.

If you have a house or flat sitting empty some of the time, get in touch.

Go to: [www.chsrentals.com/london/owners](http://www.chsrentals.com/london/owners)  
or call Julie on 020 8355 3192

also in New York and Rome - [www.chsrentals.com](http://www.chsrentals.com)



# Cherwell College Oxford

## PRE-UNIVERSITY TUTORIAL COLLEGE

One-to-one tutorials supported by: seminars; subject clinics; study skills workshops; with all-important feedback, plus regular mock exams.

- We aim to build confidence and increase knowledge.
- We pinpoint problems and help our students through supervised private study and homework sessions.
- We help consolidate academic progress for entry into Russell Group Universities.

A-LEVELS / (I) GCSE / CAMBRIDGE PRE-U / IB  
– ALL EXAM BOARDS

**OUR BRAND NEW BOUTIQUE ACCOMMODATION IS NOW OPEN IN THE CENTRE OF OXFORD**

**BESPOKE EASTER REVISION COURSES**  
2015 REGISTRATION NOW OPEN!

- Monday 30th March – Friday 10 April (other dates available on request)
  - 25 tuition hours over five full days per week
  - bespoke revision plans / exam techniques / study skills
- one-to-one tuition and/or micro groups (maximum of three students)
  - mock exams
  - traditional subjects
  - residential – full-board (weekend option)
  - tuition takes place in Oxford city centre
  - black tie dinner every evening (we can supply the tie!)
- students arrive on Sunday evening & finish on Friday evening  
[www.oxfordeasterrevision.com](http://www.oxfordeasterrevision.com)

Telephone: 01865 242670  
[secretary@ccoxford.co.uk](mailto:secretary@ccoxford.co.uk)  
[www.ccoxford.co.uk](http://www.ccoxford.co.uk)





# Branches: what's on?

## Details of forthcoming events

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



### Australia

#### Tuesday 3 March

#### South Australia Branch valuation evening

Burnside Community Centre, Adelaide; 7pm  
Bring your smaller treasures and curios for an expert appraisal – or just come to watch. Guests welcome. Refreshments provided. *Email rosl.sa@mac.com if you wish to bring an item. \$10.*

#### Monday 9 March

#### New South Wales Branch Commonwealth Day lunch

NSW Parliament  
*Email murraylily@hotmail.com to attend.*

#### Monday 16 March

#### South Australia Branch Commonwealth Day reception

Wyatt Hall, Pulteney Grammar School; 5.30pm  
Drinks and canapés with the Joint Commonwealth Societies of South Australia. *Email rosl.sa@mac.com by 6 March to attend. \$25.*

#### Sunday 12 April

#### Western Australia Branch Queen's birthday lunch

Pagoda restaurant, Como; 12.30pm  
Drinks and two-course lunch, jointly hosted with other loyal societies. Guests welcome.

#### Tuesday 14 April

#### South Australia AGM & lunch

Public Schools Club, Adelaide; 12pm  
AGM, two-course lunch and talk on Opportunity International Australia, which helps families to overcome poverty. *Email rosl.sa@mac.com to attend. \$35.*

#### Thursday 23 April

#### Tasmania Branch St George's Day tea

4 Clarke Avenue, Hobart; 11am  
Celebration at Chairman Robert Dick's residence. *To attend, contact gradick@gmail.com or +61 (3) 6223 3763 by 16 April.*



### Canada

#### British Columbia outing

The BC branch is planning a trip to a music or arts event in Vancouver and Victoria. *Contact evmurray@telus.net to register interest, or to join the mailing list.*



### New Zealand

See [www.roslnz.org.nz](http://www.roslnz.org.nz) for full event listings, or for details of your local branch activities email [royalo-s@xtra.co.nz](mailto:royalo-s@xtra.co.nz).

#### Wednesday 4 March

#### Southland Branch Commonwealth Day lunch

Southland Club; 12pm  
Talk by guest speaker Shirley Kean. Guests welcome.



### UK

#### Bath

#### Wednesday 11 March, 8 April, 13 May

#### Monthly coffee morning

Pratt's Hotel, South Parade; 10.30am  
Meet-up every second Wednesday of the month. Pay for your own refreshments. Guests welcome.

#### Thursday 23 April

#### Spring lunch

Bath & County Club, Queen's Parade; 11.30am  
Lecture with two-course lunch



#### SPECIAL VISITS: (Left to right)

Roddy and Marianne Porter with Liz Murray (r) at Government House in Victoria; Scottish poet Christine De Luca at November's Edinburgh coffee morning; and the Tasmania Branch visit Dr John Tooth's rhododendron garden

and coffee. Guests welcome.

*Email rosl.west@gmail.com to register your interest.*

#### Bournemouth

#### Thursday 5, 12, 19, 26 March 2, 16, 23, 30 April

#### 7, 14, 21, 28 May Weekly coffee morning

Marriott Highcliff Hotel; 10.30am  
Guests welcome. £3.

#### Wednesday 8 April

#### AGM and lunch

Marriott Highcliff Hotel; 11am  
AGM, drinks reception and two-course lunch with Director-General Roddy Porter. £27.

#### Wednesday 17 June

#### The Queen's birthday lunch

Marriott Highcliff Hotel; 12.30pm  
Two-course lunch with ROSL's new Chairman, Simon Ward. £24.

#### Cheltenham

#### Monday 9 March Commonwealth Day lunch

Matchams, Everyman Theatre; 12pm  
Guests welcome. *Two courses £14; three courses £17.*

#### Wednesday 18 March

#### 'Bygone Cheltenham'

Church House, Grafton Road; 2.30pm  
Illustrated talk exploring the changing views of Cheltenham over the last two centuries. £2.

#### Wednesday 15 April

#### 'Norway during the German Occupation'

Church House, Cheltenham; 2.30pm  
Local translator Tore Fauske on his experiences growing up in Norway, 1940-45. £2.

#### Wednesday 20 May

#### AGM and talk

Church House, Cheltenham; 2.30pm  
Talk by Matthew Gemmill. £2.

#### Edinburgh

#### Saturday 7 March 'Mahatma Gandhi'

Over-Seas House Edinburgh; 10am  
Coffee morning with talk. £3.

#### Saturday 2 May

#### 'Bike Bengal'

Over-Seas House Edinburgh; 10am  
Coffee morning with talk. £3.

#### Saturday 6 June

#### 'Music therapy'

Over-Seas House Edinburgh; 10am  
Coffee morning with talk. £3.

#### Exeter

#### Friday 27 March

#### 'Challenges of Peacekeeping'

City Gate Hotel; 11.30am  
Talk by Maj-Gen Roddy Porter with lunch. Guests welcome. £13.

#### Friday 24 April

#### AGM and lunch

City Gate Hotel; 11.30am  
Branch members only. £13.

#### Friday 29 May

#### Annual visit

Powderham Castle; time tba

All members and guests welcome.

*Email rosl.west@gmail.com to register your interest.*

#### Glasgow

#### Friday 6 March

#### St Aloysius Church talk

The Western Club; 2pm  
Talk on the church's history and efforts to restore its organ. *Free.*

#### Friday 15 May

#### Glasgow Branch AGM

Western Club; 2pm tbc  
*Call +44 (0)141 884 6342 for confirmation of date, time and place.*

#### Taunton

#### Wednesday 4 March

#### 'Chateau Generals: A Myth of WWI examined'

Somerset College; 11am  
Talk by historian Michael Orr followed by two-course lunch. Guests welcome. £14.50.

#### Wednesday 11, 18, 25 March 8, 15, 22, 29 April

#### 13, 20, 27 May

#### Weekly coffee morning

Miles at the Riverside; 10.30am  
For members, guests and those interested in joining. Buy your own refreshments then find the group upstairs.

#### Wednesday 1 April

#### Taunton Branch AGM

Library Meeting Room, TA1 3XZ; 10.30am  
Branch members only.

#### Wednesday 6 May

#### May lunch

Somerset College; 11am  
Talk on 'Women Poets of WWI' with two-course lunch. Guests welcome. £14.50



#### Wednesday 3 June

#### The Queen's birthday lunch

Oake Manor Golf Club; time tba  
Two-course fundraising lunch for the VSO. *To register your interest, email rosl.west@gmail.com.*

#### West Cornwall

#### Thursday 19 March

#### Annual lunch

Carbis Bay Hotel; 12.30pm  
Three-course lunch with guests of honour ROSL Chairman, Sir Anthony Figgis, and Lady Figgis. Guests welcome. *To attend, call +44 (0)1736 333460 by 17 March. £20.*

#### Friday 17 April

#### AGM and talk

Carbis Bay Hotel; 2.45pm  
With Cornish cream tea. Guests welcome. *To attend, call +44 (0)1736 333460 by 15 April. £6.*

#### West Sussex

#### Wednesday 4 March

#### AGM and lunch

Windsor Hotel, Windsor Road, Worthing; 12.30pm  
Guests welcome at two-course lunch with guest speaker; branch members only at AGM.

#### May

#### Brighton Festival

Brighton Dome; 1pm  
ROSL ARTS festival concert, followed by a meal at Café Rouge. *To register your interest, call +44 (0)1444 458853.*

#### Wednesday 3 June

#### The Queen's birthday lunch

Windsor Hotel, Worthing; 12.30pm  
Guest speaker tba. *To register your interest, call +44 (0)1444 458853.*

## Meet Jo Brown

Jo Brown has been a ROSL member since 1959 and Chairman of the Switzerland Branch since 1993.

Switzerland is home to several multinational organisations, so it is no surprise that many ROSL members in Switzerland and neighbouring France work for international bodies. Consequently, they move frequently and, sad though it is to say 'farewell', we do have the privilege of meeting new members regularly.

In 1992, members living in or near Lausanne and Geneva held their first dinner in the world-renowned Lausanne Hotel School, and we have met there annually ever since (our next dinner is on 19 June). Over the years, we have had many interesting speakers, including the former Swiss President Dr Adolf Ogi; several British and Commonwealth ambassadors; and the ROSL Chairman.

We have links with local clubs and occasionally hold joint events, such as the lunch organised with the British Swiss Chamber of Commerce, at which members met Kamallesh Sharma. In the Jubilee year, Roddy Porter was guest of honour at a cruise on the Rhine organised by member Dr Alan Chalmers.

**LINKS:** Jo with Robert Newell (top); and branch members (right)



Photos © Caroline Woods

## CONTACT DETAILS

**Alberta:** Cynthia Cordery, [ccordery@shaw.ca](mailto:ccordery@shaw.ca), +1 780 477 0001  
**Bath, Exeter, Taunton:** Sally Roberts, [rosl.west@gmail.com](mailto:rosl.west@gmail.com), +44 (0)1823 661148  
**Bournemouth:** Gordon Irving, [westoverirving@aol.com](mailto:westoverirving@aol.com), +44 (0)1258 480887  
**British Columbia:** Liz Murray, [evmurray@telus.net](mailto:evmurray@telus.net), +1 604 922 1564  
**Cheltenham:** Barbara Snell, +44 (0)1452 813373  
**Edinburgh:** Mae Barr, [maebarr@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:maebarr@tiscali.co.uk), +44 (0)131 334 3005  
**Glasgow:** Bill Agnew, +44 (0)141 884 6342  
**New Zealand:** Lyn Milne, [www.roslnz.org.nz](http://www.roslnz.org.nz), [royalo-s@xtra.co.nz](mailto:royalo-s@xtra.co.nz)  
**Nova Scotia:** Liz Stern, [lizstern317@gmail.com](mailto:lizstern317@gmail.com), +1 902 678 1975

**Ontario:** Ishrani Jaikaran, [www.rosl-ontario-canada.ca](http://www.rosl-ontario-canada.ca), [rosl.ont@sympatico.ca](mailto:rosl.ont@sympatico.ca), +1 416 760 0309  
**Queensland:** Sharon Morgan, [sllmorgan@hotmail.com](mailto:sllmorgan@hotmail.com)  
**South Australia:** Michael Kent, [rosl.sa@mac.com](mailto:rosl.sa@mac.com)  
**Switzerland:** Jo Brown, +334 5040 6631  
**Tasmania:** Robert Dick, [gradick1@gmail.com](mailto:gradick1@gmail.com)  
**Thailand:** Anna Bunya-Ananta, [www.roslthailand.com](http://www.roslthailand.com), [annabunya@gmail.com](mailto:annabunya@gmail.com)  
**Victoria:** Coral Strahan, [www.rosl.org.au](http://www.rosl.org.au), [rosl@alphalink.com.au](mailto:rosl@alphalink.com.au), +61 (0)3 9654 8338  
**West Cornwall:** Ian Wood, +44 (0)1736 333460  
**West Sussex:** Marilyn Archbold, +44 (0)1444 458853  
**Western Australia:** Anthony Abbott, [losabbotts@hotmail.com](mailto:losabbotts@hotmail.com), +61 (0)8 9368 0379





**A GOOD START:** Children at St Peter's Day Care Centre

© Sarah Ward

## Thank you Dr Valentine

Due to the generous legacy of Donald Valentine, ROSL has a capital sum to help support its humanitarian projects for the first time. **Margaret Adrian-Vallance** reports

The late Donald Valentine left a substantial legacy to ROSL Humanitarian Projects at the end of last year, which can be used to support ROSL's education projects in Namibia and Botswana.

Donald and Vera Valentine lived in Winchester, after spending most of their working lives in Africa, where Donald worked on educational projects. During the late 1990s, they took a keen interest in the ROSL-Namibia Project, and Vera selected and funded books for a number of primary schools, including Katora, Hippo and a new school at the Otjivero settlement, where displaced commercial farm workers lived.

When the Namibian President, Sam Nujoma, opened Otjivero Primary, he paid tribute to the ROSL members who had helped the country to meet some of its

educational challenges since independence in 1990. 'It is often easier to get funding for new buildings than for the essential books, resource materials and teachers,' said the Deputy Minister of Primary Education – a problem the Valentines well understood.

Vera died in 2007 after a courageous battle with cancer and Donald continued his interest in ROSL's education projects. They were a wonderful, generous and thoughtful couple.

ROSL feels very honoured to have received this generous legacy from such an experienced educationalist and, inspired by this donation, will seek to increase the Humanitarian Projects Capital Fund over the next few years.

*For further information, please email [mvallance@rosl.org.uk](mailto:mvallance@rosl.org.uk) or contact Margaret at the London clubhouse.*

## Arvinde Barvé, 1935-2014

It is with sadness that we report the death of Arvinde Barvé, aged 79. Arvinde joined ROSL in 1986 and was appointed to the Central Council in 2000. From 2001 to 2006, he served on the Executive Committee and he retired from the Council in 2007. Being so much a Commonwealth man, his contribution to the affairs of ROSL was considerable.

Arvinde was born in Tanzania and grew up in Kenya. After gaining a Masters from the University of Delhi, he joined the Kenyan Ministry of Commerce and Industry in 1957. In 1973, he was seconded to UNCTAD in Geneva, but he returned to Nairobi in 1976 to establish the Kenya External Trade Authority

(KETA). After gaining an MBA from Stanford University, he became Director of Mehta Group and then of the Commonwealth Secretariat's Export and Industrial Development Division.

Arvinde was an active Rotarian for 28 years, a former President and Patron of Nairobi Gymkhana, and a member of the Bharatiya Vidya Bhawan. With his wife Malini, he was an enthusiastic supporter of ROSL's ideals and aims.

Arvinde was a delightful man with a wonderful sense of humour, and he will be much missed by those who knew and admired him. He is survived by his wife, daughter, son and three grandchildren.

**Robert Newell CVO and Jayu Shah**

## Books

Reviews of recent works by ROSL members

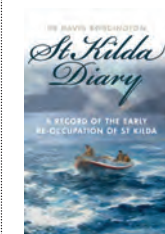


### Open Season in Beirut

Denys Johnson-Davies  
Jerboa Books, 2007  
ISBN: 978-9948431336,  
£8.99

These 15 short stories illustrate the author's intimate knowledge of the Arab world. Harsh stories jostle with the humorous and the gentle. There is the ambitious filmmaker who makes a terrible contract with a sniper in the title story; the over-confident business partners who come to grief in 'Slice of the Cake'; and the Gulf State Ruler and his wily Chief of Police who negotiate the future of a young murderer in 'Fate of a Prisoner'. In contrast, 'Mr Pritchard' tells of friendship and regret, as a young tutor misjudges his elderly pupil; and 'The Dream' sees an academic choosing between staying in Egypt or returning to Ireland.

*Margaret Adrian-Vallance*

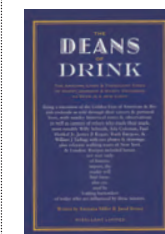


### St Kilda Diary

David Boddington  
The Islands Book Trust, 2010  
ISBN: 978-0-9560764-5-8,  
£5.99

A gripping, first-hand view of post-evacuation life on the St Kilda archipelago, the remotest part of the British Isles. *St Kilda Diary* details the experiences of its author, a Royal Army Medical Officer cum Ornithologist cum Historian, as the island was transformed into a unit of the Royal Artillery Guided Weapons Range. The writing ranges from weather reports to the toils of rationing, offering a rare perspective of island life.

*Ellie Locke*



### The Deans of Drink

Anistatia Miller and Jared Brown  
Mixellany Limited, 2013  
ISBN: 978-1907434389,  
£12.95

From the authors of *Shaken not Stirred: A celebration of the martini* comes an exploration of the world of cocktails, centred around the 'amazing lives and turbulent times' of influential bartenders Harry Johnson and Harry Craddock. Historical constructions of the world's best cocktails accompany recipes for budding mixologists.

*Ellie Locke*



© Mary Davies

## JOHN BETHELL'S Port Erin, Isle of Man



### Your BBC music career took you all over the world. What attracted you to the Isle of Man?

When I first came with my family in 1954, it struck me as a spiritual home and that one day I'd like to live here. The island's natural beauty captivated me.

It's in the Gulf Stream, so tends to have better weather than the mainland. It is the musical connection that has attracted me to Port Erin since those early days. I have been involved in music-making on the island since 1955 and was invited to join the Arts Council in 1966. I moved here permanently when I retired from the BBC in 1990.

### Tell us about the Erin Arts Centre...

It was an old Methodist chapel, which I purchased in 1970. Since the centre opened in 1971, it has become home to international events including the Lionel Tertis Viola competition and the Barbirolli Oboe Festival, named after my friend, and friend of ROSL, Evelyn Barbirolli. Last year we held 244 events, including films, theatre, dance and concerts. It is run mainly by volunteers, including me, and is the most internationally known arts centre on the Isle of Man.

The annual Mananan Festival [21 June - 2 July 2015], viola and oboe competitions attract people from all over the world. I believe the festival to be as famous in the music world as the island's world-renowned TT Race. I am told that I am the longest serving festival director, having run it for more than 40 years.

### What are your favourite scenic spots?

The Sound and Calf of Man, where you can see seals and basking sharks, is a short journey from Port Erin and we have the steam train that goes to Douglas. The electric tram to Snaefell, the summit of the Isle of Man, gives you stunning views over the 'Seven Kingdoms': Mann, Scotland, Ireland, Wales, England, Neptune and Heaven. Transport is very easy: you can get round the whole island within two hours. It's 30 miles long and 14 miles wide. Port Erin and Peel are famed places to watch the sun set over the Mountains of Mourne.

*Dr John Bethell MBE is a musician and conductor, as well as the Founder and Director of the Erin Arts Centre and the Mananan Festival. He has been a ROSL member for nine years.*

**Interview by Christine Wilde.**

### CULTURAL HIGHLIGHTS:

The Inner City Brass Band play at the Erin Arts Centre (right); and (above) views over Port Erin



© Natalie Evans

## Top 10 London and Edinburgh

### Rubens and his Legacy: Van Dyck to Cézanne

The RA exhibits Ruben's masterpieces alongside works by artists who were influenced by him. **Until 10 April.** Tickets £16.50. [www.royalacademy.org.uk/exhibition/rubens-and-his-legacy](http://www.royalacademy.org.uk/exhibition/rubens-and-his-legacy)



© Chris Lee

### Royal Philharmonic Society Lecture: Alan Gilbert

At the Barbican, the Music Director of the New York Philharmonic talks about the future of classical music. **15 April.** Tickets £10. [www.barbican.org.uk/music](http://www.barbican.org.uk/music)



© Bowries, Hepworth Estate

### Changing Britain: 1945-2015

Southbank Centre festival examining 70 years of British history through concerts, a major exhibition, talks and workshops. **Until 9 May.** Prices vary. [www.southbankcentre.co.uk/whatson/festivals-series/changing-britain](http://www.southbankcentre.co.uk/whatson/festivals-series/changing-britain)

### Hooray for Hollywood: The Golden Age of film music

The RSNO performs music from classic films, including *Spartacus* and *The Magnificent Seven*, at Usher Hall, Edinburgh. **17 April.** Tickets £15-£35. [www.rsno.org.uk](http://www.rsno.org.uk)

### The Audience

Kristin Scott Thomas stars in Peter Morgan's play that imagines private conversations between The Queen and successive Prime Ministers. **21 April - 25 July.** Tickets £26.50-£108. [www.apollotheatreondon.co.uk/the-audience](http://www.apollotheatreondon.co.uk/the-audience)

### The Two Roberts: Robert Colquhoun and Robert MacBryde

Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art explores the dramatic rise and fall of the Scottish artists. **Until 24 May.** Tickets £8. [www.nationalgalleries.org](http://www.nationalgalleries.org)



### The Venetian Twins

Fresh take on Carlo Goldoni's classic comedy of estranged twins who cause mayhem through mistaken identity when their paths unexpectedly cross. **24 April - 16 May.** Tickets £12.50-£29. [lyceum.org.uk/whats-on/production/the-venetian-twins](http://lyceum.org.uk/whats-on/production/the-venetian-twins)

### Magna Carta: Law, liberty, legacy

The British Library marks the 800th anniversary of the Magna Carta with an exhibition exploring its history and significance. **13 March - 1 September.** Tickets £12. [www.bl.uk/events/magna-carta-law-liberty-legacy](http://www.bl.uk/events/magna-carta-law-liberty-legacy)

### Edinburgh International Science Festival

Hands-on science for adults and children in venues across the city, with an innovative programme ranging from the entertaining to the controversial. **4-19 April.** Prices vary. [www.sciencefestival.co.uk](http://www.sciencefestival.co.uk)

[www.gardening-scotland.com](http://www.gardening-scotland.com)





# Calendar highlights

Our choice of events for members, including stays and activities at the clubhouse, exclusive day-trips and inspiring tours

TOP PICK



**British Food Feast**  
**Wednesday 25 March**  
**ROSL Restaurant, Over-Seas House**  
**London, 7pm**

We are giving the gastronomic prowess of our new Head Chef, Kevin Casizzi, free reign in a magnificent four-course tasting evening that will put a spotlight on our talented team. Guided by Kevin, with two junior chefs from the River Cottage showcasing dishes of their own, the menu will feature ROSL suppliers and producers, and be matched by choice vintages from the club cellar, illustrated by a wine expert. If you love fine dining and want an expert insight into our food production, don't miss this one-off event.  
*Tickets £59. Guests welcome. To reserve a seat or table, contact +44 (0)20 7629 3881 or [rosldining@graysonsrestaurants.com](mailto:rosldining@graysonsrestaurants.com).*

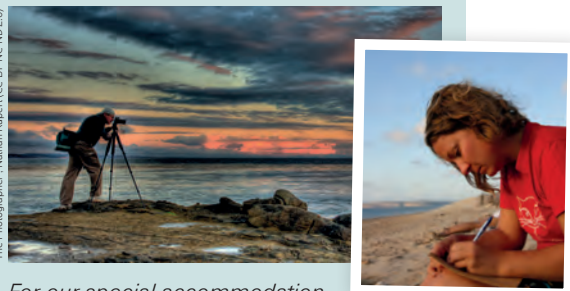
LOOKING AHEAD



**Afternoon tea at the House of Lords**  
**Monday 20 July**  
**Houses of Parliament, Westminster, 3.30pm**  
Our much-loved Members Events staple, hosted by ROSL President Lord Luce. Afternoon tea will be announced by the official toastmaster and served in the Cholmondeley Room and Terrace at Westminster Palace.  
*Tickets £36.50. Book via [www.rosl.org.uk](http://www.rosl.org.uk) or contact [membersevents@rosl.org.uk](mailto:membersevents@rosl.org.uk).*

**Seasonal spotlight: Easter weekend at ROSL**

**Friday 3 - Monday 6 April**  
Treat yourself with a trip to the clubhouse this Easter, with reduced accommodation rates. Families can benefit from the fantastic range of activities at London's world-renowned attractions. What's more, under-12s will dine for free and receive special Easter treats while staying at ROSL! \*  
**Travel writing and photography workshops**  
Members looking for an informative city break can spend the weekend at one or both of our tailor-made day workshops for travel writing and travel photography, and ready their observational skills for future trips (see full listings on page 31).



*For our special accommodation rates contact [reservations@rosl.org.uk](mailto:reservations@rosl.org.uk) or +44 (0)20 7408 0214 x217. To book the workshops contact [MembersEvents@membersevents@rosl.org.uk](mailto:MembersEvents@membersevents@rosl.org.uk) or +44 (0)20 7016 6906. Alternatively, book via [www.rosl.org.uk/events](http://www.rosl.org.uk/events).  
\* When accompanied by an adult ordering a main.*

**Younger Members' choice: Garter Day outing**

**Monday 15 June**  
In June, the Knights of the Garter gather at Windsor Castle for one of the most important ceremonies in the Royal Household calendar: a procession and service for the Order of the Garter. A Chapter meeting is held in the throne room of the palace, where new knights take the oath and are invested with the insignia. A lunch follows in the Waterloo Chamber, after which the knights process to the chapel to hold the service. It is this procession that produces the iconic Garter Day imagery. The Queen (as Sovereign of the Order), The Duke of Edinburgh, The Prince of Wales, our own President, Lord Luce, and other

knights sport blue velvet robes with the badge of the Order on the left shoulder, and black velvet hats with magnificent white plumes.

The Royal Household has offered Younger Members the unique opportunity to attend Garter Day 2015. Tickets include entrance to the precincts of Windsor Castle to watch the iconic procession, listen to the service broadcast on loudspeakers, and observe the attendees leaving the service.

**Free. Book by 1 May. See full listing on p.34.**

**Want to give the gift of ROSL membership to a young person? Contact our Membership Team today to give them access to amazing events and more!**

**CLUB TRIPS AND TOURS 2015-2016**

Our extensive range of trips and tours provide opportunities for you to enjoy a wide range of members' benefits and activities, in and outside of our beautiful clubhouses, through one simple booking.

<b>3-6 April 2015</b> Easter weekend at the London clubhouse	<b>15-16 August 2015</b> Art weekend at the London clubhouse	<b>24-26 December 2015</b> Christmas at the London clubhouse
<b>27-28 June 2015</b> Summer Ball weekend	<b>23-27 September 2015</b> Burgundy wine tour	<b>May 2016</b> Battlefield tour to Gallipoli
<b>10-13 July 2015</b> Battlefield tour of Waterloo and the 'Cockpit of Europe'	<b>16-21 November 2015</b> Cultural highlights of Amsterdam	<b>12-18 May 2016</b> The palaces and galleries of St Petersburg

For more about our exciting packages contact Members Events on +44 (0)20 7016 6906 or [membersevents@rosl.org.uk](mailto:membersevents@rosl.org.uk), or visit [www.rosl.org.uk/events](http://www.rosl.org.uk/events).



**CULTURAL TOURS, PRIVATE VIEWS AND STUDY DAYS**

Our visits are led by experts whose passion and authority on their subjects are equal to their sense of hospitality, attention to detail and above all, their sense of fun.

SELECTED TOURS 2015

**DITCHLEY: NANCY LANCASTER & THE INSPIRATION OF THE PAST**  
21 - 26 JULY  
WITH TOM DUNCAN

**AMERICAN ARCADIAS PHILADELPHIA & THE DU PONTS**  
11 - 18 JUNE 2015  
WITH JAMES HILL

**AT THE CUTTING EDGE CONTEMPORARY GARDENS OF IRELAND**  
19 - 24 JULY 2015  
WITH JIMI BLAKE

**PATRICIANS & PATRONAGE FLORENCE & THE EARLY MEDICI**  
29 OCTOBER - 2 NOVEMBER 2015  
WITH PAULA NUTTALL

**ANTIQUITY EXPLORED THE GOLDEN AGE OF ANCIENT ROME**  
12 - 16 NOVEMBER 2015  
WITH CHRISTOPHER SMITH

To request a brochure please call 01869 811167, email or visit our website



The Pantheon Dome, Rome

CONTACT US

+44 (0) 1869 811167 | [info@ciceroni.co.uk](mailto:info@ciceroni.co.uk) | [www.ciceroni.co.uk](http://www.ciceroni.co.uk)



**PETER SOMMER TRAVELS**

**Expert-led Archaeological & Cultural Tours & Gulet Cruises in Turkey, Greece & Italy**

Our escorted tours will take you to some of the world's best preserved ancient sites. Discover them on our gulet cruises, gulet charters, walking holidays and food tours led by an archaeologist guide.

A "100 Best Holidays" Company 2015, 2014 & 2011  
*The Sunday Times*

One of the world's 'Top 10 Learning Retreats'  
*National Geographic Traveller*



**EXPLORING ATHENS**

Led by two archaeologists, you'll explore the ancient city and its superb archaeological museums as well as its beautiful rural and maritime surroundings.



**CRUISING TO EPHEBUS**

A chance to visit some of the biggest and best preserved classical cities in the world, travelling by traditional wooden gulet on the Aegean coast of Turkey.



**IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF ALEXANDER THE GREAT**

Follow one of history's most extraordinary characters and discover some of the finest ancient wonders: Istanbul, Troy, Sardis, Ephesus, Halicarnassus and more.



**A GASTRONOMIC TOUR OF SICILY**

Discover eastern Sicily's vibrant cuisine and key historical and cultural sites.

"One of the 50 Best Cultural Tours"  
- The Telegraph



Visit our website to see all our cultural tours and request a copy of our brochure  
[www.petersommer.com](http://www.petersommer.com) - Tel: 01600 888 220





# ROSL CALENDAR

## MARCH

Until Friday 20 March  
MASK Prize 2014



**Over-Seas House London, daily**  
In association with MASK (Mobile Art Schools in Kenya). Selected prints from this annual creativity competition for young people in East Africa.  
*Free.*

### Tuesday 3 March

**Annual Music Competition section final: Ensembles A Princess Alexandra Hall, Over-Seas House London, 7pm**  
Finalists compete for the £10,000 Ensemble Prize for strings, piano duo/duet, and strings and piano.  
*Tickets £15; Friends of ROSL ARTS £12. Includes wine.*

### Thursday 5 March

Edinburgh film night

**Over-Seas House Edinburgh, 5pm**  
Drama about a monarch's quest to find his voice. Includes coffee, popcorn and ice-cream.  
*Tickets for entry and refreshments £7.50.*

### Commonwealth Day at the clubhouses

#### Monday 9 March

As a club firmly rooted in the Commonwealth ethos and ideals, ROSL will be a hive of activity on the day that marks the global institution. Besides offering members tickets to the afternoon service at Westminster Abbey, we are also hosting an evening reception at the London

### Thursday 5 March

First Thursdays drinks

**Duke of York Bar, Over-Seas House London, from 6pm**  
We want all our YMs to feel at home in our clubhouses and to use them as spaces to relax, bring friends, engage in culture, and form new connections. So join us for our monthly social.  
*Free. Guests welcome.*

### Monday 9 March

Commonwealth Day lunch

**Over-Seas House Edinburgh, 12pm**  
Celebrate Commonwealth Day at ROSL with guest speaker Brigadier David Allfrey, Director of the Edinburgh Military Tattoo.  
*Tickets £20; guests £25. Includes two-course lunch with wine.*

### Monday 9 March

Commonwealth Day service

**Westminster Abbey, 2.45pm**  
The service in Westminster Abbey, customarily attended by the Head of the Commonwealth, HM The Queen. Limited availability; if online ticket sales are closed, contact Members Events.  
*Tickets £8.50. Members only.*

### Monday 9 March

Commonwealth Day drinks celebration

**Over-Seas House London, 5pm**  
Commonwealth Day celebration co-hosted by the Royal

Commonwealth Society, including drinks and nibbles in the Hall of India and Pakistan. The function is open to ROSL members and anyone attending the Westminster Abbey service, offering a unique opportunity to meet a wide range of people invested in, and working for, the Commonwealth.  
*Tickets £15. Guests welcome.*

### Tuesday 10 March

Annual Music Competition section final: Ensembles B



**Princess Alexandra Hall, Over-Seas House London, 7pm**  
Finalists compete for the £10,000 Ensemble Prize for wind, vocal, percussion and mixed ensembles.  
*Tickets £15; Friends of ROSL ARTS £12. Includes wine.*

### Wednesday 11 March

**John Julius Norwich: Cities that Shaped the Ancient World Princess Alexandra Hall, Over-Seas House London, 7pm**  
In association with the Art Fund. Talk by John Julius Norwich, author of the magisterial histories of Venice, Byzantium and the Mediterranean, based on his new book, *Cities that Shaped the Ancient World*. With a book signing and drinks reception.  
**SOLD OUT** *Tickets £20. Includes wine. Returns only; see artfund.org/London.*

### Friday 13 March

Tour of Marlborough House

**Westminster, 2pm**

A walking tour of the Grade I listed mansion on The Mall. Limited availability. If online ticket sales are closed, please contact Members Events.  
*Tickets £15. Guests welcome.*

### Tuesday 17 March

Overseas Awards

**Princess Alexandra Hall, Over-Seas House London, 7pm**  
The best non-UK musicians from the 2015 section finals compete for outstanding Commonwealth musician awards.  
*Tickets £15; Friends of ROSL ARTS £12. Includes wine and canapés.*

### Thursday 19 March

The Royal Maundy



**Over-Seas House London, 6pm**  
A London Group talk by Peter Hartley, Assistant Secretary of the Royal Almonry, about the history of this Church of England service, during which the monarch gives silver coins as symbolic alms to the elderly.  
*Free. LG members and overnight guests at Over-Seas House only.*

### Wednesday 25 March

British Food Feast in the ROSL Restaurant

**Over-Seas House London, 7pm**  
Head chef Kevin Casizzi presents a magnificent four-course tasting evening matched by selected vintages from the club cellar.  
*Tickets £59. Guests welcome. To reserve a seat or table, contact rosldining@graysonsrestaurants.com or +44 (0)20 7629 3881.*

### Wednesday 25 March - Thursday 7 May

The Grand Tour exhibition

**Over-Seas House London, daily**  
An exhibition of new works by Liesel Thomas, who has exhibited in Berlin, London and Edinburgh, and Tim Le Breuilly, who is shortlisted for the John

Moore's Painting Prize. To attend the **Private View on Tuesday 24 March**, 6-8pm, contact gharwoodsmith@rosl.org.uk or +44 (0)20 7408 0214 x219.  
*Free.*

## APRIL

Until Thursday 7 May  
The Grand Tour exhibition

**Over-Seas House London, daily**  
See March listing for details.  
*Free.*

### Thursday 2 April

First Thursdays drinks

**Duke of York Bar, Over-Seas House London, from 6pm**  
Come along for our monthly Younger Members social.  
*Free. Guests welcome.*

### Friday 3 April

Travel writing workshop

**Over-Seas House London, 10.30am**  
'A traveller without observation is a bird without wings,' states Persian poet Sa'di, and we agree! In this workshop, we explore how to construct a narrative, note observations, and unlock past and future travel stories. Suitable for all skill levels. Includes morning and afternoon refreshments and a sandwich lunch.  
*Tickets £65.50. Guests welcome. See page 29 for dining and accommodation offers over Easter weekend.*

### Saturday 4 April

Travel photography workshop

**Over-Seas House London, 10am**  
Professional photographer and lecturer at the Royal Photographic Society, James McCormick, will teach you new skills, as well as improving your knowledge of your camera controls. Includes two practical shooting sessions and a group discussion of pictures taken on the day. Suitable for all skill levels. Includes morning and afternoon refreshments and a sandwich lunch.  
*Tickets £65.50. Guests welcome. See page 29 for dining and accommodation offers over Easter weekend.*

### Tuesday 7 April

Edinburgh film night

**Over-Seas House Edinburgh, 5pm**  
A photographer witnesses a murder – or does he? Thriller with coffee, popcorn and ice-cream.  
*Tickets for entry and refreshments £7.50.*

### Wednesday 8 April

Club quiz night



**Over-Seas House London, 7.30pm**  
Our experienced quiz master will put your team through its paces at ROSL's new regular quiz night. Prizes include restaurant and event vouchers, and wine. For further details see box (right).  
*Tickets £5. Includes glass of wine. Guests welcome.*

### Friday 10 April

ROSL Edinburgh charity night

**Over-Seas House Edinburgh, 6.30pm**  
Two-course fundraising dinner for the Personnel Recovery Centre, with guest speaker Captain D J Hamilton RLC.  
*Tickets £20.*

### Wednesday 15 April

Royal Conservatoire of Scotland Song Class

**Over-Seas House Edinburgh, 6.30pm**  
A delightful evening of song performed by RCS postgraduates.  
*Tickets £12; Friends of ROSL ARTS £10. Includes wine and canapés.*

### Thursday 16 April

London Group AGM

**Hall of India and Pakistan, Over-Seas House London, 6pm**  
With speaker Simon Ward and refreshments. Please bring your LG membership card to attend.  
*Free. LG members only.*

### Monday 20 April

'Diego Rivera and Frida Kahlo' with Dr Adrian Locke



**Princess Alexandra Hall, Over-Seas House, London, 3pm**  
In association with the Art Fund. In 1921, a vibrant international art scene emerged in post-revolutionary Mexico. It was dominated by the larger-than-life figure of Diego Rivera, who married the young artist Frida Kahlo. They had a tempestuous relationship marked by extraordinary art in which they frequently depicted one another.  
*Tickets £14. Includes tea and coffee on arrival. To book visit www.artfund.org/London or call +44 (0)844 415 4151.*

### Tuesday 21 - Sunday 26 April

Song-Ming Ang event series

**Camden Arts Centre, daily**  
2014 ROSL Visual Art Scholar Song-Ming Ang creates a series of events exploring amateurism in music and the zones where experts are actually autodidacts.  
*For details, contact info@camdenartcentre.org or +44 (0)20 7472 5500.*

### Quiz night series

**Over-Seas House London, Wednesdays, 7.30pm, monthly**

We are delighted to announce a new monthly feature in the ROSL calendar: the club quiz. Our experienced quiz masters have a reputation for running the hardest pub quiz in the UK, and we expect the ROSL community to rise to the challenge.

The next events will be on 8 April, 13 May and 17 June, and run for about two hours. Tickets include a glass of wine on arrival, with opportunities to buy drinks and sandwiches from the bar. Max team size six people; individuals will be placed in teams.

### Tuesday 21 April - Friday 3 July

Leo du Feu watercolours

**Duke of York Bar, Over-Seas House, daily**

The first of a new series of exhibitions in the recently refurbished Duke of York Bar. Scottish artist Leo du Feu presents watercolours, including works from his ROSL ARTS scholarship trip to Canada in 2014.  
*Free.*

## QUICK BOOKING INFORMATION

For full booking and contact details, see page 34

#### ROSL ARTS

+44 (0)20 7408 0214 x219;  
roslarts@rosl.org.uk

#### ROSL Scotland

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

#### Members' Events

Book online at [www.rosl.org.uk](http://www.rosl.org.uk);  
+44 (0)20 7016 6906;  
membersevents@rosl.org.uk

#### London Group

Clive Carpenter; [clivedavidcarpenter@compuserve.com](mailto:clivedavidcarpenter@compuserve.com).  
For outside visits: Maureen Howley; [howleymaureen@hotmail.com](mailto:howleymaureen@hotmail.com)

#### Younger Members

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

#### Discussion Group

No advanced booking required.  
*Free, drop-in events.*




Di Bresciani: New Compositions in Colour

**Wednesday 13 May - Sunday 12 July, Over-Seas House London**

Exhibition of works by Australian artist, musician and educator Di Bresciani OAM, whose work is represented in more than 150 collections in Australia, the UK, France, America, Germany and Japan. Di Bresciani's distinctive style reflects her ongoing exploration of colour and its perception, whether it be in music or art.

Contact [roslarts@rosl.org.uk](mailto:roslarts@rosl.org.uk) or +44 (0)20 7408 0214 x219



to attend the **opening on Tuesday 12 May**, 6-8pm, with wine and soft drinks served throughout. *Free.*

Thursday 23 April

Visit to Apsley House

**149 Piccadilly, 10.45am**  
Apsley House has been home to the Dukes of Wellington since the first duke's victory at Waterloo. During this 75-minute tour, the London Group will explore the house's stunning art collection. *Tickets £14; LG members £12; LG members with English Heritage membership £5.*

Monday 27 April

'Francoise Gilot and Pablo Picasso' with Antony Penrose



**Princess Alexandra Hall, Over-Seas House London, 3pm**  
In association with the Art Fund. When they first met, Antony Penrose bit Picasso and Picasso bit him right back; it was the start of a long friendship. Penrose spent time with Picasso and Francoise Gilot at their homes in Provence. Picasso and Gilot often worked from the same subject: family life with their young children. This lecture will consider the artistic influences of one upon the other. *Tickets £14. Includes tea and coffee on arrival. To book visit [www.artfund.org/London](http://www.artfund.org/London) or call +44 (0)844 415 4151.*

MAY

Until Thursday 7 May

The Grand Tour exhibition

**Over-Seas House London, daily**  
See March listing for details. *Free.*

Until Friday 3 July

Leo du Feu watercolours

**Duke of York Bar, Over-Seas House, daily**  
See April listing for details. *Free.*

Friday 1 May

Members dinner

**Restaurant 100, Over-Seas House Edinburgh, 7pm**  
Join fellow members for a delicious three-course dinner with wine and coffee. Guest speaker tba. *Tickets £29.*

Sunday 3 May

Le Yu marimba/percussion

**Princess Alexandra Hall, Over-Seas House London, 7pm**  
In association with Ursula Jones. Le Yu presents a compelling, hour-long programme showcasing the musical possibilities of marimba and percussion. *Tickets £20; Friends of ROSL ARTS £15. Includes sparkling wine on arrival, and wine and canapés afterwards.*

Tuesday 5 May

Chairman's Farewell Dinner

**Over-Seas House London, 6.30pm**  
ROSL Chairman Sir Anthony Figgis hosts this biannual event for the last time before his retirement from the role. A champagne reception will precede a three-course dinner. The evening will feature young ROSL musicians. *Tickets £78. One guest per member.*

Thursday 7 May

First Thursdays drinks

**Duke of York Bar, Over-Seas House London, from 6pm**  
We want all our Younger Members to feel at home in our clubhouses, so come and join us at our monthly social. *Free. Guests welcome.*

Friday 8 May

Nicola Benedetti, Leonard Elschenbroich, Alexei Grynyuk



**Princess Alexandra Hall, Over-Seas House London, 7pm**  
In association with the Medical Music Society of London. Nicola Benedetti, one of the most sought-after violinists of her generation, performs with her trio partners Leonard Elschenbroich *cello* and Alexei Grynyuk *piano*. **SOLD OUT** following Friends of ROSL ARTS priority booking. To become a Friend and avoid disappointment in the future, see box (right). *Tickets £28; Friends of ROSL ARTS £22. Tickets with two-course buffet £56; Friends of ROSL ARTS £48.*

Tuesday 12 May

Edinburgh film night

**Over-Seas House Edinburgh, 5pm**  
Based on a popular book, this Oscar-winning film looks at the

civil rights movement through the eyes of an African-American maid. With coffee, popcorn and ice-cream. *Tickets for entry and refreshments £7.50.*

Tuesday 12 May

Behind-the-scenes tour of the Southbank Centre

**Southbank, 2pm**  
Enjoy exclusive backstage access to this world-famous arts centre. Members will visit restricted areas at the Royal Festival Hall, from artists' dressing rooms to the stage itself, and revel in views of the Thames that are usually off-limits. *Tickets £12.50. Guests welcome.*

Wednesday 13 May

Arts Lunch

**Over-Seas House Edinburgh, 12pm**  
Talk on counter-insurgency by guest speaker Seamus Power, former officer in the British South African Police, followed by two-course lunch with coffee. *Tickets £15; guests £20.*

Wednesday 13 May - Sunday 12 July

**Di Bresciani: New Compositions in Colour Over-Seas House London, daily**  
Recent works by the Australian artist, exploring colour. For details, see box (above left). *Free.*

Wednesday 13 May

Club quiz night

**Over-Seas House London, 7.30pm**  
Compete for prizes at ROSL's new quiz night, with a glass of wine on arrival. For details, see box on page 31. *Tickets £5. Guests welcome.*

Thursday 14 May

Rising Australian stars

**Princess Alexandra Hall, Over-Seas House London, 7pm**  
In association with Tait Memorial Trust. To complement the exhibition by Australian artist Di Bresciani (see box, above left), this hour-long concert

showcases recent winners of the ROSL/Tait Memorial Scholarship for outstanding Australian musicians, including Emily Sun *violin* and Yelien He *cello*. *Tickets £20; Friends of ROSL ARTS £15. Includes sparkling wine on arrival, and wine and canapés afterwards.*

Monday 18 May

'Gertrude Stein and her circle' with Hilary Guise

**Princess Alexandra Hall, Over-Seas House London, 3pm**  
In association with the Art Fund. Living in Paris in the early 20th century, writer Gertrude Stein collected the most avant-garde art of the time. Her 'pavilion' was open to painters, sculptors, writers and choreographers. This lecture looks at the influences and events that led to the cross-fertilization of artistic ideas and new art in the pre-war years. *Tickets £14. Includes tea and coffee on arrival. To book, visit [www.artfund.org/London](http://www.artfund.org/London) or call +44 (0)844 415 4151.*

Thursday 21 May

The Life and Work of William Morris

**Over-Seas House London, 6pm**  
Talk by Helen Elletson, Curator at the William Morris Society. *Free. LG members and overnight guests at Over-Seas House only.*

Thursday 21 - Saturday 23 May

Chelsea Flower Show



**London, 8am-8pm**  
Enjoy this world-famous event, with show gardens including a Singapore-inspired tropical paradise and the Living Legacy Garden, which marks the 200th anniversary of the Battle of Waterloo. Tickets will be balloted and drawn on 1 April. Choice of dates will be presented on a first drawn, first served basis.

Join Friends of ROSL ARTS

Become a Friend of ROSL ARTS to benefit from priority booking and reduced price tickets for ROSL ARTS concerts, book events and lectures. Friends are invited to attend an annual complimentary Champagne Garden Party and Summer Concert, and receive discounts on CDs and books, invitations

to private views, and mailings about forthcoming events. Friends subscriptions are used to support awards for young musicians and artists. *The minimum Friend subscription is £30 for ROSL members; £35 for non-members. Contact [roslarts@rosl.org.uk](mailto:roslarts@rosl.org.uk) or +44 (0)20 7408 0214 x 219.*

*Tickets £65. When applying, please state your choice of dates in order of preference.*

Friday 22 May

Huw Wiggin saxophone, James Sherlock piano

**Princess Alexandra Hall, Over-Seas House London, 7pm**  
With pianist James Sherlock, Gold Medallist 2014 Huw Wiggin combines flair and artistry in a heady cocktail of music from the 18th century to the present day. *Tickets £20; Friends of ROSL ARTS £15. Includes sparkling wine on arrival, and wine and canapés afterwards.*

Saturday 23 May

YM Parliament visit with breakfast

**Brabourne Room and Houses of Parliament, 10am**  
Younger Members will start the day with a tasty hot breakfast in the beautiful Brabourne Room before an invigorating walk to the Houses of Parliament, where a 90-minute Blue Badge guided tour will give you behind-the-scenes access. Then you can head back to Over-Seas House for drinks on the new sun terrace. *Tickets £27.50. Bookings close on 1 May.*

Thursday 28 May

New Members Reception

**Over-Seas House London, 6.30pm**  
Whether you are a new member or want to introduce someone to the club's vibrant social scene, come to our New Members Reception for a taster of our many membership benefits, activities and partnerships. Contact +44 (0)20 7408 0214 x215 or

[guestrelations@rosl.org.uk](mailto:guestrelations@rosl.org.uk) to receive an invitation in April. *Free. Guests welcome.*

Saturday 30 May

Trooping the Colour

**Horse Guards Parade, 10am**  
The Major General's review. Witness this impressive display of pageantry to celebrate the official birthday of HM The Queen. Tickets are balloted and include all three dates (see also 6 and 13 June). The ballot is drawn on 10 April. Choice of dates will be presented on a first drawn, first served basis. *Tickets £6/£20/£40. When applying, state your choice of dates in order of preference.*

JUNE

Until Friday 3 July

Leo du Feu watercolours

**Duke of York Bar, Over-Seas House, daily**  
See April listing for details.

Monday 1 June

ROSL Annual Music Competition Final 2015

**Queen Elizabeth Hall, Southbank Centre, 7pm**  
Now in its 63rd year, the ROSL Annual Music Competition Final brings together winners of the section finals to compete for the Gold Medal and First Prize of £10,000. The distinguished panel of judges make their decision while the prizewinning ensembles perform. For more on the prestigious competition, see pages 5-10. *Tickets £15, Friends of ROSL ARTS £12. Special price only available from ROSL ARTS.*

Thursday 4 June

First Thursdays drinks

**Duke of York Bar, Over-Seas House London, from 6pm**  
We want all our YMs to feel at home in our clubhouses, so join us at our monthly social. *Free. Guests welcome.*

Saturday 6 June

Trooping the Colour

**Horse Guards Parade, 10am**  
The Colonel's Review. Tickets are balloted and include all three dates (see also 30 May and 13 June). The ballot is drawn on 10 April. Choice of dates will be presented on a first drawn, first served basis. *Tickets £6/£20/£40. When applying, please state your choice of dates in order of preference.*

QUICK BOOKING INFORMATION

For full booking and contact details, see page 34

<b>ROSL ARTS</b> +44 (0)20 7408 0214 x219; <a href="mailto:roslarts@rosl.org.uk">roslarts@rosl.org.uk</a>	<b>ROSL Scotland</b> +44 (0)131 225 1501; <a href="http://www.rosl-edinburgh.org.uk">www.rosl-edinburgh.org.uk</a>
<b>Members' Events</b> <i>Book online at <a href="http://www.rosl.org.uk">www.rosl.org.uk</a>;</i> +44 (0)20 7016 6906; <a href="mailto:membersevents@rosl.org.uk">membersevents@rosl.org.uk</a>	<b>London Group</b> <i>Clive Carpenter; <a href="mailto:clivedavidcarpenter@compuserve.com">clivedavidcarpenter@compuserve.com</a>.</i> <i>For outside visits: Maureen Howley; <a href="mailto:howleymaureen@hotmail.com">howleymaureen@hotmail.com</a></i>
<b>Younger Members</b> <i>Book online at <a href="http://www.rosl.org.uk">www.rosl.org.uk</a>;</i> <a href="mailto:membersevents@rosl.org.uk">membersevents@rosl.org.uk</a>	<b>Discussion Group</b> <i>No advanced booking required. Free, drop-in events.</i>



Monday 8 June

Gala opera evening

Over-Seas House Edinburgh, 6.30pm

Annual concert by students of the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland Opera School. Tickets £35. Includes cocktail reception, two-course dinner and wine. Priority booking for Friends of ROSL ARTS until 15 May.

Monday 8 June

Waterloo: The battle of the historians

Over-Seas House London, 7-8.30pm

Military historian Michael Orr analyses the historical debate surrounding the turning points in the battle. This Discussion Group talk will also provide a valuable background for those joining the ROSL tour in July (see page 29). Free.

Wednesday 10 June

Visit to Chelsea Physic Garden

66 Royal Hospital Road, SW3 4HS, 10.45am

An hour-long guided tour of London's oldest botanic garden. Founded in 1673 for the study of medicinal and useful plants, it includes more than 5,000 species. Tickets £14; LG members £12.

Saturday 13 June

Trooping the Colour

Horse Guards Parade, 12pm

The Queen's Birthday Parade. Tickets are balloted and include all three dates (see also 30 May and 6 June). The ballot is drawn on 10 April. Choice of dates will be presented on a first drawn, first served basis. Tickets £6/£20/£40. When applying, state your choice of dates in order of preference.

Monday 15 June

YM Garter Day

Windsor Castle, 12pm

Younger Members have been given the unique opportunity to observe part of the ceremony of the Order of the Garter from within Windsor Castle. The procession is traditionally led by

The Queen, followed by other members of the Royal family, including The Duke of Edinburgh, The Prince of Wales and Prince William. There will be an option to travel in a group and to have food together in a local pub. Free. Younger Members only. Bookings close on 1 May.

Monday 15 June

'Gabriele Münter and Wassily Kandinsky' with Eveline Eaton

Princess Alexandra Hall,

Over-Seas House London, 3pm

In association with the Art Fund. Gabriele Münter was Kandinsky's pupil at the Phalanx School in Munich and they went on to establish the Blaue Reiter group along with Franz Marc and August Macke. This lecture explores Kandinsky and Münter's turbulent relationship and individual styles. Tickets £14. Includes tea and coffee on arrival. To book, visit [www.artfund.org/London](http://www.artfund.org/London) or call +44 (0)844 415 4151.

Saturday 27 June

Waterloo Summer Ball



Over-Seas House London, 6pm

In keeping with the club's rich history of balls and dances (see page 12), we are delighted to announce a Waterloo Summer Ball for the whole ROSL community. Members can enjoy a drinks reception in the Garden and a superb three-course meal. After-dinner activities include a Regency dressing room with a costume historian, a recital by ROSL ARTS musicians, and a band and expert caller, who will lead the nimble and left-footed alike in traditional dancing. Tickets £110; table for 10 people £990. Guests welcome. Includes reception drinks and three-course dinner with wine. ROSL has a limited number of accommodation offers for ball-goers.

FULL BOOKING INFORMATION & CONTACT DETAILS

■ ROSL ARTS

For bookings contact: +44 (0)20 7408 0214 x219; [roslarts@rosl.org.uk](mailto:roslarts@rosl.org.uk)

■ ROSL Scotland

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

■ Members' events

Book online at [www.rosl.org.uk](http://www.rosl.org.uk). 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: [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 at [clivedavidcarpenter@compuserve.com](mailto:clivedavidcarpenter@compuserve.com) or +44 (0)7798 824193.

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 Maureen Howley, London Group, c/o Porters' Desk, Over-Seas House, Park Place, St James's Street, London SW1A 1LR. Cancellations and refund requests must be made at least two weeks before the event.

Outside visit inquiries: Maureen Howley, +44 (0)20 8789 8506; [howleymaureen@hotmail.com](mailto:howleymaureen@hotmail.com).

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

■ 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. For talk details, visit [www.rosl.org.uk](http://www.rosl.org.uk).

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



SEVILLE  
Corral del Rey  
(a deluxe bed and breakfast)

This small boutique hotel has 13 bedrooms and is located just five minutes' walk from the cathedral. Architectural highlights include Roman marble columns and original carved beams combined with striking contemporary features throughout. There is a rooftop patio, plunge pool and terrace which gives spectacular views of the cathedral and Giralda.

3 nights for the price of 2 until 31 March  
- price from £584, saving £145 1 April onwards  
- 3 night price from £726

VENICE  
Luna Baglioni  
★★★★ Superior

100 metres from the Grand Canal and two minutes from St. Mark's Square, the Luna Baglioni is Venice's oldest hotel. It offers 118 luxurious bedrooms, a sumptuous bar, very comfortable lounges and a wonderful gastronomic restaurant, 'Canova', serving excellent Venetian dishes. Buffet breakfast is served in the magnificent former ballroom.

3 nights for the price of 2 until 23 April - price from £698, saving £150

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

MADEIRA  
Reid's Palace ★★★★★ Deluxe

Reid's Palace has a majestic setting on cliffs overlooking Funchal Bay and is one of the world's most famous hotels offering superb service and a tranquil, civilised atmosphere. There are three seawater swimming pools including two large heated pools with sun terraces. The 'Pool Terrace' restaurant has an extensive lunch menu and bar service. There are 10 acres of landscaped gardens, the famous bridge room where games can be arranged and a well equipped fitness room. The 164 bedrooms are decorated in pastel colours with traditional décor and all have balconies or terraces with views of the gardens or Funchal Bay.



7 night price from £1,594 including one complimentary dinner for stays before 31 May.

Direct BA flights from Gatwick start 11 May

IMPERIAL MOROCCO  
TEN NIGHT ESCORTED HOLIDAYS  
18 MARCH & 28 OCTOBER 2015

Morocco is a legendary land of rich colour, turbulent history and breathtaking landscapes. Our tour includes desert, mountains and the historic cities of Rabat, Meknes, Marrakech and Fez.

We begin our tour in Rabat, before exploring the imperial city of Meknes and Volubilis, the largest and best preserved Roman site in Morocco. We will stay for two nights in Morocco's oldest city, Fez, home to Dar Batha, the wonderful Museum of Moroccan Arts. From here we enter the Atlas Mountains before driving through the desert to Merzouga. Continuing through the High Atlas we reach the desert city of Ouarzazate before ending in Marrakech, where we will see all the major sights.



Price from £2,890 for 10 nights including return flights, accommodation with breakfast, ten dinners, four lunches, all entrance fees and gratuities and the services of a local guide and the Kirker Tour Leader.

ROME  
Bernini Bristol ★★★★★

Right on the Piazza Barberini, the Bernini has 127 bedrooms, furnished in contrasting modern and classical styles. The public rooms are grand and decorated with antique tapestries and Venetian glass chandeliers and there is a rooftop restaurant with a terrace offering wonderful views over the rooftops of Rome.

3 nights for the price of 2 until 30 April - price from £648, saving £155

Includes tickets for the Villa Borghese or Vatican Museum & Sistine Chapel

BERLIN

De Rome ★★★★★ Deluxe

The De Rome is located in the heart of Berlin, not far from the Brandenburg Gate. It has 146 bedrooms, a restaurant serving Italian cuisine, and the 'Bebel' bar with its excellent views over the famous Bebelplatz. The former jewel vault has been transformed into a stunning and extensive spa with an indoor swimming pool.

3 nights for the price of 2 until 30 April for stays including a Sunday - price from £729, saving £160

Includes a complimentary aperitif and 10% off the final bill in LaBanca restaurant.

Includes a 72hr Museum card

Speak to an expert or request a brochure:

020 7593 2283 quote code GRO

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



Kirker  
FOR DISCERNING TRAVELLERS





FROM WASHINGTON TO JAMESTOWN  
WITH ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN CHARLES HIND • JUNE 15–26, 2015

# Worldwide Cultural Travel

The Association for Cultural Exchange was established in 1958, making us the UK's most experienced cultural travel tour operator. Join our expert Tour Directors on small group tours that cover every aspect of the arts, from art, architecture and archaeology, to music and natural history.

All profits from ACE Cultural Tours are used by our parent charity, the ACE Foundation, to support educational projects in the UK and worldwide.



## Albania: Illyrian, Byzantine, Ottoman

*June 9–17, 2015*

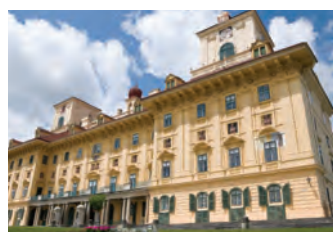
Join archaeologist Philip Kenrick as he uncovers 3,000 years of Mediterranean history amidst Albania's dramatic landscapes.



## Dutch Country Houses & Gardens

*August 10–17, 2015*

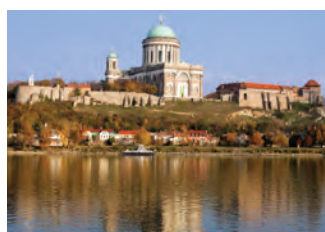
René Dessing, director of the SKBL Foundation, opens the doors of the charming country estates of the Dutch Golden Age.



## Haydn in Eisenstadt

*September 7–14, 2015*

Hear Haydn's music in the very rooms for which it was composed in the company of musicologist John Deathridge.



## Hungarian History Along The Danube

*July 6–15, 2015*

Trace the fascinating cultural centres along the ancient route of the Danube from Bratislava to Budapest with broadcaster Dennis Marks.

CONTACT US FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO REQUEST A FREE BROCHURE  
01223 841055 • [www.aceculturaltours.co.uk](http://www.aceculturaltours.co.uk) • [ace@aceculturaltours.co.uk](mailto:ace@aceculturaltours.co.uk)

**ACE CULTURAL TOURS**  
ASSOCIATION FOR CULTURAL EXCHANGE

Stapleford Granary, Bury Road, Stapleford, Cambridge, CB22 5BP

