

OVERSEAS

Quarterly journal of the ROSL

Issue 3, September-November 2012



Jubilee in Focus

How ROSL and the world paid tribute to HM The Queen: a fresh view of the festivities

Grand Final

Celebrating 60 years of the ROSL Annual Music Competition with two very special events

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Why one septuagenarian member is getting on his bike for an epic road trip across Europe



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FRONT COVER: ROSL Annual Music Competition Gold Medal and First Prize winner,
Jayson Gillham, in rehearsals before the Final © Jules Lawrence

From the Director-General



As I write, a smoothly efficient Swiss train bears Marianne and me effortlessly past acres of sun-drenched vines and the shores of Lac Léman, en route to attend the Switzerland Branch's annual dinner in Lausanne. I am enjoying my visits to the branches and I appreciate the opportunity to meet our members; thank you for the welcome you have afforded us both at your recent events.

It has been a wonderful year so far. This edition looks back on HM The Queen's Diamond Jubilee and focuses on the events in which ROSL participated. The Jubilee weekend was busy and exciting; it was a great pleasure to welcome so many members to London and Edinburgh, particularly those who had travelled long distances from Australia, New Zealand, Canada and the United States. Members of the Victoria Branch had a particularly absorbing time, with a long programme of engagements.

Our events programme continues to develop and we have just heard that our request to hold a musical evening and supper at St James's Palace on Wednesday 10 October has been accepted. We are equally delighted that HRH Princess Alexandra, our Vice-Patron, will host this gala evening. Details are on page 20; this is an important event for ROSL and we encourage you to book early if you wish to attend.

I have been astonished at the response to the invitation to dinner in the Tower of London, which was several times over-subscribed. I promise that we will be holding this dinner again soon for those who missed out – so please keep reading *Overseas* and checking the website.

Members who attended the AGM in May, or who have attended recent branch functions, may recall mention of the ROSL

Strategic Review that the Central Council invited me to undertake. I delivered the final version of the review paper at the end of May. The Council is considering the document with its recommendations for the future, and discussed it in detail at their meeting at the end of July. I will be able to explore it further in the next issue.

I am delighted to welcome Sara Brouwer and Emmerson Wood to our ROSL staff family. Sara has replaced Alex Pavry as Events Coordinator very ably and is already beaver away on our autumn and winter programme. Emmerson is with us for six months to help us develop the new role of Guest Relations Officer, a member of staff who will be based in the Central Lounge during the week in order to assist members with queries, event bookings, membership documentation and other issues.

We are always delighted to show prospective or new members around the London clubhouse and to describe the history of the house, how ROSL has developed, and what facilities and events are available. Such is the demand that we have programmed in daily periods at 11am and 3pm each weekday to do so. 'Show rounds' can be booked with Emmerson (see page 14 for his details) or via Reception after hours.

I would like to alert members to a new approach we are taking to reminding you to renew your membership subscription: renewal notices will now appear as a page in the December issue of *Overseas*. Please look out for this – it will be very obvious and we will have reminders on the website as well. We hope that this approach will reduce our administration costs, thus enabling us to focus additional resources on supporting members' events and maintaining our rooms in the best condition.

Roddy Porter

Editor's letter

When Lloyd Scott was

diagnosed with leukaemia, aged 25, he had an unusual reaction. Determined to beat the cancer, he ran the London marathon just three weeks before a risky bone marrow transplant – and again a year later. It triggered a lifetime of 'extreme fundraising' that has seen the self-styled 'man who won't be beaten' run a 145-mile marathon through the Sahara Desert and cycle across Australia on a Penny Farthing.

I met Lloyd in June, a few days after his latest stunt to raise money for the Queen Elizabeth Diamond Jubilee Trust – a 26-mile walk, dressed in a 140lb antique diving suit, along the Olympic marathon route. My research into the newly established Trust – for our four-article Focus on the Jubilee – introduced me to some inspiring individuals dedicated to helping disadvantaged people across the Commonwealth in the name of HM The Queen (page 8). Elsewhere, we look at ROSL's own celebrations on the Thames (page 6) and in a smaller flotilla on the Rhine (page 5).

Our Deputy Editor, Claire Simon, has been meeting some equally inspirational characters: ROSL member Max Dodd and his friend Warrick Try are embarking on an epic 10-week bike ride across Europe in aid of cancer research. And if that doesn't impress you, bear in mind that the pair are 70 years old – and (almost as impressive) will be blogging about the experience along the way (page 12).

Claire has been ferreting out some fantastic UK sights, with trips to the stunning Brecon Beacons in South Wales (page 27) and the newly re-opened Kensington Palace (page 26). For more great activities, look no further than our Events section (pages 28-34). It is a particularly special year for the ROSL Annual Music Competition, which has been marking its own Diamond Jubilee with a first-rate Final in May (page 18). The celebrations culminate with a special event at St James's in October (page 20).

Miranda Moore



ATMOSPHERIC:
View of the river
by night

FOCUS

Jubilee on the Rhine

Roddy Porter joins a surprising flotilla as Basel celebrates The Queen's reign

ROSL's celebration of the Diamond Jubilee was genuinely worldwide. One joyous event was held in, perhaps, a surprising corner of the globe. On 2 June, I was privileged to represent the wider ROSL membership at a special party held on the River Rhine in Basel, Switzerland. The inspiration of Alan Chalmers, a ROSL member and former British Honorary Consul in Basel, this event aboard the good ship Basler Dybli enabled 140 British, German, Swiss, French and Dutch citizens to enjoy an afternoon on the Rhine to honour The Queen.

This unique collaboration between the British Residents Association (BRA) of Basel and ROSL was supported by the British-Swiss Chamber of Commerce. Thanks are due to Angela Meier-Jones, BRA Regional Chairman, for her sterling efforts. There may not have been the 1,000 vessels that graced the Thames on the following day, but the small flotilla that swept majestically up and down the river was richly adorned with Union flags and admired by hundreds of curious spectators. Attracted by publicity in the media, locals converged on the Mittlere Brücke to witness this one-off extravaganza. Even the local ferries sported Union flags to mark the occasion.

The atmosphere along the river was vibrant, with much cheering, flag waving and hooting of ships' horns. Further enlivened by pipe music and Scottish country dancing, the guests basked in glorious sunshine and enjoyed a fine buffet with some delicious local wine. So good, in fact, was the wine

that some photographed the bottle's label in order to locate more.

In support of the event, a special photographic exhibition was staged in the Merian Hotel at the north end of the Mittlere Brücke. It reflected on our shared artistic and literary heritage, and on Basel's links with The Queen, who visited the city in 1980 to open the garden exhibition 'Green 80'.

ROSL's Switzerland Branch is very well established, holds regular events and continues to attract members. The branch was well represented in the flotilla and our guests expressed great interest in ROSL and our future. The focus, however, was The Queen and the celebrations were covered by local television and radio. The Loyal Toast was proposed and the National Anthem sung, accompanied by bagpipes, and many of our Swiss friends spoke very warmly of Her Majesty.

As evidence of the strong bonds that link the UK and Switzerland, Basel and London, the Rhine and the Thames, several local dignitaries accepted invitations to attend the event. These included the Oberbürgermeister of Weil am Rhein (an adjacent German town), the Dutch Honorary Consul and the Consul General of Thailand.

The event was a triumph of planning and Alan Chalmers deserves enormous credit and our thanks for the detailed coordination with a wide spectrum of organisations, from the city authorities to the owners of ships companies, the river police and the fire brigade.

The flotilla staged from and finished at the very fine Les Trois Rois hotel, a great place to stay for anyone wishing to linger in Basel and enjoy the hospitality, interesting history, delicious cuisine and increasingly good wine the city has to offer. On disembarkation, the festivities continued at the Merian Hotel, Union flag bedecked, where traditional fish and chips were served to participants and spectators. This was a marvellous curtain-raiser for the Diamond Jubilee celebrations. It gave the British contingent a golden opportunity to honour The Queen, and the locals occasion to celebrate our vibrant and charismatic monarch who, 60 years on, continues to unite and excite the Commonwealth of Nations.

GOLDEN OPPORTUNITY:
The Basler Dybli heads under Mittlere Brücke



PHOTOS: MAJOR GENERAL RODDY PORTER

FOCUS

The Queen who launched a thousand ships

How ROSL marked the Diamond Jubilee with a vessel in the Thames River Pageant

At the beginning of June, London became a blur of red, white and blue as people donned their most patriotic garb and, in true British style, braved the elements in celebration of HM The Queen's 60-year reign. With Her Majesty as Patron of the Royal Over-Seas League, the Diamond Jubilee became the central and most important event of our 2012 calendar. We certainly celebrated in style, with three events organised over the Jubilee weekend, including a boat in the Thames Diamond Jubilee River Pageant and a buffet evening to watch the Buckingham Palace concert. Here, some of the 150 members who joined us aboard the aptly named Queen Elizabeth offer their memories of that very special day.

HIGH SPIRITS:

The rain couldn't ruin the day for (l-r) Arabella Beresford-Mitchell (Assistant to the Director-General), Margaret Adrian-Vallance (Director of PR), Alex Pavry (former Events Coordinator) and Sheila MacTaggart (ROSL Central Council)



Ella Slack

As one of The Queen's official stand-ins, ROSL member Ella Slack is no stranger to dressing up for a royal celebration. She was filmed getting on to the ROSL boat for a German TV show, which drew some attention from passers-by. "I was at The Queen's Coronation, so it is really special to be here again for her Diamond Jubilee. Yesterday I was on the Mall with the TV crew and people kept approaching thinking I was Her Majesty."

The question had to be asked, how did Ella become a rehearsal Queen? "I was Manager of Sport and Royal Events at BBC Television and one day I was asked to stand in for a rehearsal at the cenotaph to realign the cameras, as I am similar in build and height to The Queen." This led on to many other events as

rehearsal Queen, including the annual Festival of Remembrance.

"I was asked to rehearse the part of The Queen for the River Pageant and carried out a rehearsal in March, dressed in my winter coat. I sat on a white box on the Spirit of Chartwell."

ROYAL DRESSER: Ella Slack wore one of her 'royal' outfits for the occasion



Margaret Lakin and Jean Black

Margaret Lakin, wife of Roderick Lakin, Director of ROSL ARTS, is no stranger to ROSL events, but this one holds no comparison: "Being part of the flotilla is not even once in a lifetime; it's an absolute one-off. I was only young when Elizabeth became Queen, but everyone then was brought up with the Royals. There is only a month's age difference between myself and Princess Anne."

For Jean Black, who was on a five-week trip with the Victoria Branch, it was worth flying thousands of miles from Melbourne to join the London festivities. "I remember the Coronation. In order to watch it I had to go to a local movie theatre where they were showing it for everyone."

NO COMPARISON: Margaret Lakin (right) and Jean Black





THE ROYAL BARGE: The atmosphere was incredible as ROSL members watched the Spirit of Chartwell sail past – and even got a wave from the Royal Family



AUSSIE SUPPORT: ROSL Australian members flew thousands of miles to be there

Musical tribute

Members gathered at Over-Seas House to watch the Buckingham Palace concert on 4 June. After a hot buffet, the concert was shown on big screens, and the clubhouse afforded fantastic views of the fireworks that ended the show.

COMFORTABLE VIEWING: Members at the London clubhouse



Robert Newell



TRIBUTE: Robert Newell and Margaret Lakin enjoy the music

Former ROSL Director-General, Robert Newell, was the driving force behind the idea of a ROSL boat in the flotilla. For him, the day brings back wonderful memories of 1953: "I was 10 years old and my mother made us come to Piccadilly to watch

the Coronation. We camped out to be able to see it, and I remember it was absolutely pouring down with rain – like today! All the children were brought to the front of the crowds by the soldiers so we could see what was going on. I

remember the headline that day being that Everest had been conquered by Edmund Hillary and Sherpa Tenzing Norgay.

Today also brings back memories of the Golden Jubilee, when I did a ROSL reception at the Nairobi Club, attended by Prince Edward and the Countess of Wessex. We lit a beacon to celebrate."

Caroline Roddis



Younger Member Caroline Roddis felt "extremely patriotic" on the day. "We're watching history happen and I feel at the core of 21st-century Britain. I'm so proud to be a ROSL member and to be part of a club which really gives something back to society."

PATRIOTIC: Caroline Roddis

David and Christine Sweeny

ROSL members David and Christine Sweeny had more than most to celebrate on the day as it marked their 40th wedding anniversary. "Today is a double celebration for us. We're so happy to mark our ruby anniversary on the ROSL boat for the Jubilee celebrations."

DOUBLE CELEBRATION: David and Christine Sweeny



In them we Trust

Miranda Moore meets the extraordinary fundraisers supporting projects in the Commonwealth through the Queen Elizabeth Diamond Jubilee Trust

Even the staunchest of republicans would agree that the Diamond Jubilee weekend was a unifying and inspiring occasion, bringing communities – and the entire Commonwealth family – together. But it has to be asked, what happens when the party's over? The nations of the Commonwealth continue to face enormous challenges, and although the festivities may have raised spirits, a more lasting commitment is needed to change lives. Step in the Queen Elizabeth Diamond Jubilee Trust.

Launched under the slogan 'A lasting tribute for a lifetime of giving' on the anniversary of Her Majesty's accession to the throne on 6 February, the Trust was created to ensure that the legacy of the Diamond Jubilee year would be profound and enduring. According to its Chairman, Sir John Major: "At the express wish of The Queen, the Trust will help people across the Commonwealth – from the UK and Canada in the north, to Australia and New Zealand in the south."

Rather than establishing its own projects, it will support carefully selected charities that are working to make a tangible and sustainable difference to the lives of some of the Commonwealth's most disadvantaged people. Offering us the opportunity to pay tribute to The Queen by way of a message, donation or both, it will work in six areas or 'themes': 'Disability to Capability', 'Care with Dignity', 'Exceptional Leaders', 'Urban Food' and 'Young Diamonds'. Its success is dependent on our generosity. And fundraising is at its heart.

Leading the way is the commemorative ballad *Sing*, which, to date, has sold more than 250,000 copies, topping the UK singles charts in the Jubilee week. Written by Gary

OLYMPIC RECORD:

Extreme fundraiser Lloyd Scott wears an antique diving suit, with the Trust logo, for his epic walk along the London 2012 marathon route

PRIDE AND UNITY:

Sir John Major and well-wishers greet Lloyd Scott at the finishing line on The Mall (below)



Barlow and Andrew Lloyd Webber, the Official Diamond Jubilee song features a 'cameo' from Prince Harry (striking a drum) and has become an anthem for all that is good about The Queen's 60-year reign. Thanks to a show-stopping performance by the Commonwealth Band at the Diamond Jubilee concert, people were humming the tune all over the world, yet few who bought the souvenir record knew anything about the charity it was supporting.

When Nicola Diamond, Head of Diamond's House at Bristol Grammar School, proposed the Trust to her students as House charity they had never heard of it. "At the start they thought we were raising money for The Queen, rather than for projects in the Commonwealth," she explains. In assembly, they watched a video in which the charity's aims are described by John Major and HE Kamallesh Sharma, the Commonwealth Secretary-General, who is on the board of Trustees. "Finding out more about it was really useful," says House Captain Louise Parnell. "It was nice to see the kinds of people we would be helping in the Commonwealth. You don't really realise, when you live in England, how connected you are to all these places, and the part we play through charity."

The school went on to raise more than £1,000 for the Trust, dedicating a week to fundraising activities that included a string of cake sales and a 'street party' on the school grounds. To create a Jubilee 'feel', stalls were decked with bunting and Union Jacks, souvenir Diamond Jubilee Trust wristbands were on sale, and



TRIBUTE SONG:

Gary Barlow presents Andrew Lloyd Webber, his collaborator on *Sing*, to The Queen at the Diamond Jubilee Concert

FUN OF THE FAIR:

Students of Bristol Grammar School don crowns and masks of the Royal family for a week of fundraising activities (below)



© PA Photo

sixth-formers donned crowns and masks of the Royal family.

"Because it's called Diamond's House and it was the Diamond Jubilee year, I thought it would be fantastic for us to get involved so that the pupils could remember the historic event and the fact that they did something towards it," says Diamond. Her students agreed. "It makes it a lot more memorable knowing that I did something in this year," says Parnell, 17, who starred in the sell-out school play that raised a further £400.

For fundraiser Lloyd Scott, his charity stunt was as much about publicising the Trust as about raising money (an impressive £5,000). On 28 May, the former Leyton Orient goalkeeper set out on the new Olympic marathon route wearing a 140lb antique diving suit. He ended, five and a half days later, on The Mall, just hours before the road was closed for the Jubilee celebrations.

As a mini-heatwave struck, sweat poured into each of his 25lb boots and he struggled to make the necessary five miles a day. "The dedication of individuals is remarkable," says Sir John. "The physical effort of walking, bearing such a weight – and in such extreme heat – was enormous, but no tiredness, or blisters, or any other discomfort could stop him." The former Prime Minister joined Scott at the start of the race, helping him into the heavy suit, and at the end, to rally a crowd of well-wishers. "It makes me enormously proud to see the tremendous effort that is being made to support this lasting legacy," he adds.

That level of support meant a lot to Scott, who fell behind on the first day despite being an old hand at extreme fundraising: as well as previous diving-suit marathons, he ran the ultra marathon in Death Valley, the Everest Marathon starting at 5,184m, and a marathon at the bottom of Loch Ness. But following replacement operations to both hips and his left knee, he is finding it more difficult to meet the challenges he sets himself.

Looking for one last challenge, he decided to "do something for The Queen" in the Jubilee year, and the Trust could barely have hoped for a better ambassador. His daring venture garnered widespread media coverage, and did more than any other event to raise awareness of the charity.

As the only person to have 'run' the course, Scott held the Olympic marathon record until the London 2012 race in August, and he was careful to bear both the Union and Commonwealth flags, as well as the Trust's logo on his chest. "The focus was very much on the Commonwealth," he says. "I was very keen to promote the charity overseas: imagine what we could achieve if everyone just gave £1."

As a new charity the Trust has a lot of groundwork to do, and it has not gained quite the coverage it might have hoped for. "Now the Jubilee is finished they're going to have to think very carefully about how they sustain that legacy," says Scott. But with a newly appointed Chief Executive in Dr Astrid Bonfield, and supporters including the Prime Minister David Cameron and English Cricket Captain Andrew Strauss, he is not alone in wanting to make that happen.

Visit jubileetribute.org to give thanks for The Queen's 60 years of service to the Commonwealth by making a donation or leaving a tribute message.

As a mini-heatwave struck, sweat poured into each of his 25lb boots



A world party

From a yacht race in Kingston harbour to a 12-hour extravaganza on St Helena, the Jubilee was celebrated across the globe, says **Samantha Whitaker**



On Monday 4 June, more than 4,200 beacons were lit at sunset, creating a chain of light that began in New Zealand, Tonga and Australia, and stretched across the globe to Buckingham Palace in London, where Her Majesty lit the final beacon on stage to close the Diamond Jubilee Concert. Originally used for communication, the tradition of lighting beacons has become a symbol of unity. Bruno Peek, pageant-master of the beacons, said: "We set out to mark the year by having 2,012 beacons worldwide, which would have been the most ever for this type of occasion. To reach double that figure reflects the national and worldwide respect and affection for The Queen."

In Kenya a particularly special beacon marked the spot where, in 1952, Princess Elizabeth first heard that her father had died. "It was an honour to light the beacon at the Treetops Hotel in Aberdare National Park, surrounded by elephants, buffalo, rhino and leopards," says John Bradshaw, Head of Communications at the British High

Commission in Kenya. "It was the place where 'a young girl climbed into a tree one day a Princess and climbed down the next a Queen', as described at the time by safari legend Jim Corbett." Bradshaw explains how important it was for Kenya to mark the Jubilee: "There are many special links in the relationship that bonds the UK and Kenya, and this one is particularly historic."

On the island of St Helena, part of the British Overseas Territory in the South Atlantic Ocean (with Ascension Island and Tristan da Cunha), there was a strong sense of patriotism among the Saints (as locals call themselves). Mike Dean, Tourism Development Executive on the island, described the 12-hour extravaganza: "The day began with a parade of uniformed contingents, followed by a village fair, a procession of floats, and plenty of music and entertainment. Four beacons were lit, one after another, forming a diamond shape, plus a fifth at Longwood. The day concluded with a spectacular firework display."



TRIUMPHANT:
Jamaicans
compete in a
festive yacht
race in Kingston
harbour

The beacons, along with those on Ascension Island and Tristan da Cunha, were probably the most remote in the chain. St Helena is only accessible by sea, usually via the last working Royal Mail Ship – a five-day voyage from Cape Town.

Despite talk of a move away from the monarchy, beacons were lit at four sites in Jamaica, and the Royal Jamaica Yacht Club hosted a boat parade and yacht race in Kingston Harbour – mirroring London's Jubilee flotilla – with each boat beautifully decorated in the colours of the Jamaican flag. The following week, tributes were paid to The Queen at a Special Joint Meeting of the Houses of Parliament, where the Speaker of the House of Representatives said: "The people of Jamaica have historically reserved a special place in their hearts for The Queen and the institution of the British Monarchy. This is true today, notwithstanding the many changes that have taken place in the world, and in the relationship between Jamaica and the UK."

As well as the beacons, hundreds of street parties, lunches and garden parties took place across the globe. The UK's annual Big Lunch, which is organised by the Eden Project in Southwest England and aims to encourage people to get to know their neighbours and local community, this year became the Big Jubilee Lunch and formed part of the main programme of events. An estimated six million people worldwide took part in lunches of all sizes – from small private parties in back gardens to street parties and park picnics. Peter Stewart, Big Jubilee Lunch Director, said: "This year's Big Lunch really captured the nation's imagination – not to say its love of a royal celebration."

Big Lunches were held in 70 countries, including Afghanistan, Nepal, Nigeria and the remote island nation of Tuvalu. In the Canadian Arctic, an Anglo-Canadian group on a special expedition in honour of The Queen had tea and cake on the summit of Mount Barbeau, the highest point of the Queen Elizabeth Islands. It is thought to have been the world's most remote Jubilee party.

Many British embassies, high commissions and missions overseas marked the Jubilee in other ways, including a Great British Car Rally in Abu Dhabi and a Mad Hatter's tea party in Bahrain. In Pakistan, schoolchildren buried a time capsule at the British High

Commission in Islamabad. They marked the spot with a commemorative plaque and the capsule, which contains drawings of the children's communities, postcards of Pakistani landmarks, coins, newspapers, photographs and video footage, will be recovered in 25 years.

In New York, 1,000 people ran 6km through Central Park in the Great British Run. "The Queen has witnessed a remarkable amount of change in her 60 years as monarch and her ability to adapt with grace has always been a hallmark of her reign," says Danny Lopez, British Consul-General in New York. "The Diamond Jubilee is an extraordinary international occasion, and the iconic Central Park was the perfect setting for New York's own celebration."

In the UK – particularly in London – the Jubilee hype was followed by excitement about the London 2012 Games. But throughout the year, members of the Royal Family will visit Commonwealth countries on behalf of The Queen, and I am sure they will find an extremely warm welcome wherever they go.

To see video footage and photos of Jubilee celebrations around the world, visit the Jubilee Pinterest Board at pinterest.com/foreignoffice/diamond-jubilee.

ISLAND PRIDE: Locals on the island of St Helena showed their colours with a patriotic parade



Lunches were held in 70 countries, including Afghanistan and Nigeria

HISTORIC PLACE: Special celebrations at Treetops (right), where The Queen found out she had acceded to the throne

GLOBAL FAMILY: The Queen and Prince Philip revisit Treetops Hotel during a four-day tour of Kenya in 1983 (left)



© PA Photo

Ride of a lifetime

Claire Simon asks 70-year-old Max Dodd about his 3,000km charity bike ride

Earlier this year, an interesting email landed in my inbox from Max Dodd, a ROSL member for more than 30 years. He and his childhood friend, Warrick Try, would be celebrating their 70th birthdays by cycling 3,000km over 10 weeks, passing through 10 European countries and blogging about the trip along the way. The aim: to raise money for cancer research in Australia.

Describing themselves as “two ancient idiots with plans to stay young”, Max and Warrick set off in August on a trip that will take them from the Black Forest to the Black Sea. Warrick has suffered from multiple forms of cancer and when, in 2009, he was diagnosed with prostate cancer, he decided that raising his fitness levels was key to his recovery. He is convinced that it is thanks to this determination that he is now cancer free for the first time in more than a decade.

Wanting to raise money to help others in his situation, he applied to take part in the Australian Tour de Cure, a popular bike ride in aid of cancer research, but did not get a place due to balloted entry. Max had been planning a cycling trip through Europe to raise awareness about the importance of exercise for the older generation and asked Warrick to join him. “Warrick jumped at the chance,” says Max. “His wife was less enthusiastic at first though!”

The friends have known each other for 60 years. “I met Warrick the week The Queen was in Sydney in 1954, on the first day of our school term.” Though their lives moved in different directions, with Warrick becoming a businessman and Max a solicitor, their friendship has been lasting. Max’s long-distance cycling trips started in 1974 with an eight-day, 700-mile ride from Sydney to Melbourne. For him they have been a great way of seeing the world and providing breaks from the routine of office life.



This will be Warrick’s first long-distance bike ride, but meeting Max in June, I was struck by how relaxed he was about this. “There’s no point worrying. We all must live entirely moment for moment and cope with situations as they arise. My message is just to enjoy life.” When I asked about their training he smiled. “Warrick is very physically fit at the moment anyway. Just before we go I will probably start cycling the 100km from St Goar [on the Rhine Gorge], where I spend a lot of time, to Frankfurt.”

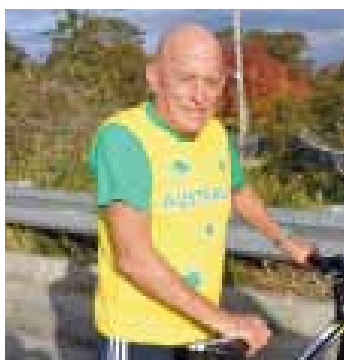
Embarking on such a long trip clearly doesn’t faze the septuagenarians. “You can’t let age stand in the way of what you want to do,” says Max. “Yes, my system is showing signs of too many birthdays, but that doesn’t matter. For us it is a wonderful way to draw attention to the importance of fitness for older people.” They

ENJOYING LIFE: Warrick (l) and Max on one of their bike rides

are aiming for 50-60 miles a day, with a 9am start and a mid-morning coffee break. “We’re not going to overdo it,” he explains.

Sponsorship has been essential to help fund the trip, with a large proportion raised through events organised by Warrick, including cyclothons and raffles. The trip is bare essentials only: the bikes are basic and accommodation is in hostels where available. Their principal aim is to raise as much money for cancer research as possible and, in so doing, make their contribution towards the prevention and cure of the disease.

To follow Max and Warrick’s blog about their epic trip or to sponsor them, visit www.wheelingforhealing.com. Max Dodd will report back in a future issue of Overseas.



“My system is showing signs of too many birthdays, but you can’t let age stand in the way”

DEDICATION: Max Dodd (l) and Warrick Try (r) have been friends for 60 years

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LIZ MURRAY'S Vancouver

Vancouver often ranks highly in the world's top cities to live in. Why do you think that is?

Its natural beauty and the availability of so many different things to do. It is said that, at any time of year, you could ski and sail on the same day. The scenery is beautiful and the city planners have made a conscious effort to plan for residential areas within the city centre, which makes it a very walkable and habitable city.



What are your favourite things to do?

Vancouver is a great city for walking, so strolling around the city – or meeting friends at one of the many lovely coffee places, preferably with a view of the sea or mountains. There are lots of opportunities to attend concerts and listen to wonderful music.

Vancouver is surrounded by many areas of outstanding natural beauty. Where would you recommend for a weekend visit?

Whistler/Blackcomb in the mountains is an obvious choice, as it is an all-seasons resort, and so is a visit to one of the Gulf Islands, like Salt Spring. Or perhaps a ferry to the Sechart Peninsula or Vancouver Island. A visit to the Okanagan Valley, where the wine country is well established, is a great way to spend a few days.

Do you have a favourite bar?

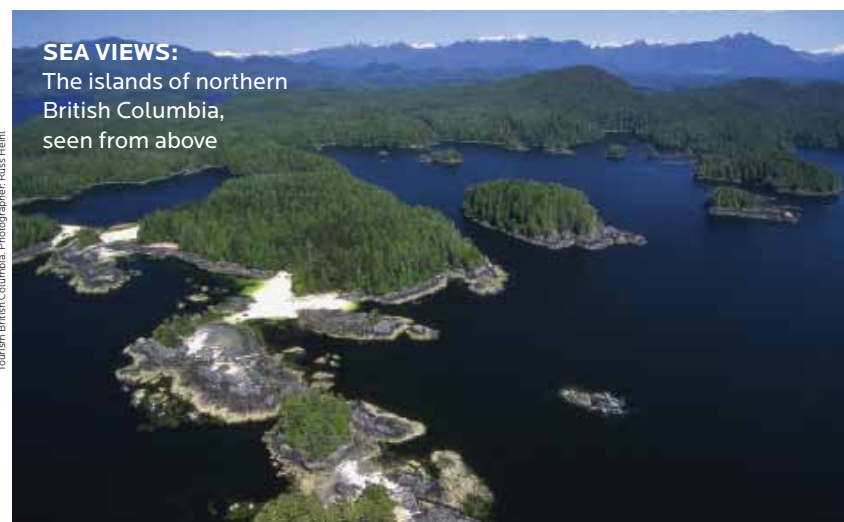
I like the piano bar at the Salmon House Restaurant. There is live music on a Friday and Saturday. It's difficult to find a place where you can dance these days so this is a special venue.

What would you miss if you moved away?

The sea and water views – the sea and mountains are defining aspects of Vancouver and create much of its wonderful ambience.

Liz Murray is the new President of the British Columbia Branch. Since retiring as the Executive of a major Canadian organisation, she has been volunteering for the Vancouver Board of Trade.

Interview by Claire Simon.



SEA VIEWS:
The islands of northern British Columbia, seen from above

Tourism British Columbia. Photographer: Russ Heim

News and views

The latest from the clubhouses in London and Edinburgh



◀ Titanic memories

A Titanic-themed evening was held at the Edinburgh clubhouse to mark the 100th anniversary of the tragedy. The menu was similar to that served in the first-class dining room of the ship. Attended by 75 people, the event raised £1,600 for the Royal National Lifeboat Institution (RNLI). A speaker from the RNLI explained the day-to-day heroics of their crews (*pictured*). Top prize in the raffle was a stay at the Loch Ness Clansman hotel.



▼ Chairman's lunch

At the Chairman's Diamond Jubilee Lunch on 9 May, the guest speaker was Camila Batmanghelidjh, founder of the charity Kids Company, who spoke about her life and her inspirational work in helping disadvantaged young people in London. The lunch was followed by the Annual General Meeting. Pictured l-r are ROSL Director-General Maj Gen Roddy Porter; Lady Luce; Camila Batmanghelidjh; ROSL President Lord Luce; and ROSL Chairman Sir Anthony Figgis.

▲ Farewells and welcomes

ROSL waved a sad goodbye to Alexandra Pavry in June. Alex has been the dedicated and enthusiastic Events Coordinator for nearly two years, and has now moved overseas. Shop Manager, Andrew Bowen, who has been a friendly face for many members during visits to the clubhouse, has also left to work with a PR company. However, ROSL is very happy to welcome Sara Brouwer (l), Alex's replacement, and Emmerson Wood (r); they are already fitting in well at Over-Seas House. If you are interested in a short tour around our beautiful listed buildings, please contact Emmerson on ewood@rosl.org.uk or phone +44 (0)20 7408 0214 ext 215.



▶ All change

The May Central Council was the last for outgoing Council members Pamela Voice (l), Marilyn Archbold (r), Diana Grey and Paul Dimond; it was the first for Frances King (centre) and David Fall.





▲ Central Council

The Central Council warmly welcomed their guest speaker, the Nigerian Deputy High Commissioner, Ambassador Oluwatoyin Lawal, to their lunch in May. Pictured (l-r) are ROSL Chairman Sir Anthony Figgis; Ambassador Lawal; and ROSL Director-General Roddy Porter.

ROSL archives

Edinburgh members are collecting archive material about ROSL to display in the Edinburgh clubhouse. Gems include literature about members' tours of Canada for £47.50 in the 1930s and old prints of Princes Street. If you have any materials you would like to donate to the ROSL archive, please email fraser.campbell@cobbs.info.



Caine Prize

Nigerian author Rotimi Babatunde wins Africa's premier literary award

Rotimi Babatunde from Ibadan, Nigeria, is the 2012 winner of the £10,000 Caine Prize for African writing for his short story

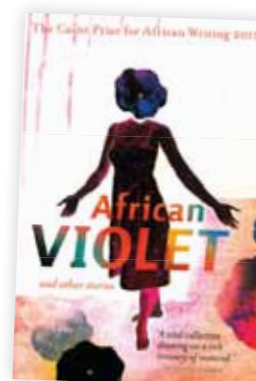
Bombay's Republic, published in *Mirabilia Review* Vol 3.9 (Lagos, 2011). The winner was announced at an awards dinner held on Monday 2 July at the Bodleian Library in Oxford.

The four other shortlisted writers were Billy Kahora (Kenya), Stanley Kenani (Malawi), Melissa Tandiwe Myambo (Zimbabwe) and Constance Myburgh (South Africa). The chair of judges, author and Fellow of the Royal Society of Literature, Bernardine Evaristo MBE, described the shortlist as "truly diverse fiction from a truly diverse continent". She called the prizewinning work "ambitious, darkly humorous and in scorching prose, it exposes the exploitative colonial project and the psychology of independence".

Rotimi Babatunde's fiction and poems have been published in Africa, Europe and America, and he is a winner of the BBC World Service's Meridian Tragic Love Story competition. His plays have been presented by Halcyon Theatre in Chicago, Riksteatern in Stockholm, and in the UK by the Royal Court Theatre, the Institute of Contemporary Arts and Churchill Theatre, Bromley. He is currently taking part in a collaborative piece at the Royal Court and Young Vic, as part of World Stages for a World City.

ROSL has supported the Caine Prize since 2001, by providing accommodation for the shortlisted writers at the London clubhouse prior to the announcement of the winner. During their stay at Over-Seas House, the shortlisted writers gave readings from their works on Friday 29 June in Princess Alexandra Hall.

INSPIRING: (L-r) Melissa Tandiwe Myambo, Lizzy Attree (Caine Prize Administrator), Rotimi Babatunde, Constance Myburgh and Stanley Kenani at Over-Seas House



Bombay's Republic: an extract

When an African man is conscripted into the Allied Forces during the Second World War, he confronts harsh circumstances but equally liberating possibilities. Bellicose and still grieving the abrupt end of the war, Colour Sergeant Bombay returns to his homeland to effect changes never dared before.

'The platoon leader, a no-nonsense combatant from the Welsh highlands, was almost in tears as he

pondered the destiny of their common struggle on that neglected front, an effort that, true to his prophecy, would remain anonymous, like the travails of faceless and nameless characters forever entombed in a book of fiction that will never be written. The platoon leader plodded away with heavy steps, his spirit sapped to the lees by his valedictory agonies.

Bombay watched him go. He sighed. Bombay didn't care much about memory or

forgetting. For him, things would never be locked in boxes again and that consciousness, the irreversible awareness handed out not by charity to Bombay but appropriated by him from the jungle without gratitude and by right, was enough recompense from the war. With the campaign over, the only thing that mattered to Bombay was the brand-new universe of possibilities he would be taking home with him from the front.'

Development news

Margaret Adrian-Vallance reports on projects in Kenya, Namibia and Botswana, and support from Switzerland, Canada and beyond

From Canada to Kenya, Benin to Botswana, the interconnected nature of ROSL's welfare/ educational projects and assisting organisations continues apace. In Kenya's lush Rift Valley there is good news from ROSL bursary recipients Antony Waweru and Beatrice Njeri at Nyandarua High School. Both passed end-of-term exams in 11 subjects, including several A grades. Antony writes: 'My first term in secondary school has gone well', although cold showers in the mornings took a bit of getting used to. Beatrice says: 'I was seventh out of 49 and promise to improve in chemistry and history.'

In Namibia's eastern desert, where even drinking water can be in short supply, teacher Mariane Ramakhutla reports: 'We are doing fine here at Katora [Primary School]. The money we received last year paid school and hostel fees for ROSL bursary recipients.' School uniforms and toiletries were bought in the first term, hostel fees paid in the second term and money saved for the third term. Elsewhere, ten ROSL bursary recipients continue to do well at the University of Namibia, with only one dropping out. The Helpless Kindergarten at Tsumeb now has electricity and plumbing, and Hippo Primary near Gobabis is near the top of its league in virtually all respects.

In May, I met Samuel Dossou-Aworet from Benin, who has helped make this support possible through two donations from Fondation Espace Afrique, which is based in Geneva. He says: 'The ROSL project is well administered, which is one of the reasons the Fondation has supported it. There are too many situations in Africa where money gets lost in governments, local offices or spent on large, unnecessary vehicles. Proper monitoring and keeping track of individuals who have been supported is very important but difficult to do.'

Generous support has also come from Jo Brown, ROSL Switzerland Branch Secretary, and members from the Canton de Vaud and other areas, as well as branches in Australia, England and Scotland.

New on the scene are a variety of hitherto non-member organisations and individuals who have heard about the projects. They include Canada's Digital Opportunity Trust, which is working in Africa to improve young people's access to IT, and PublicationsUK, which donated 1,000 copies of *Jubilee: A celebration of the 60 year reign of HM Queen Elizabeth II*, with the ROSL logo on the front and three pages about ROSL inside. Retailing in shops at £10, the book is available from the ROSL Shop for £8, with all proceeds going towards our development projects.

Other supporters include Mike Main, renowned for his travels, research and knowledge of African rock art, and travel writer and photographer Dave Southwood, who grew up in Botswana and has provided many helpful contacts in southern Africa over the years.

All these strands came together in April during an excellent two-day programme of visits to schools in Botswana, including the remarkable SOS Children's Village. This was organised by ROSL member Sarah Ward. Such was her hospitality and excellent planning that we covered a lot of ground in a very short time. With contacts and advice from Sarah and Mike Ward, ROSL bursary recipient Cwisa Cwi (from just across the border), school principals, teachers, community leaders, Alec Campbell and others, the foundations were laid for a variety of partnerships in Botswana, ranging from school bursaries and water tanks to ways of using IT and local knowledge and craftsmanship in isolated areas.

VALUED SUPPORT:
Dave Southwood in the ROSL garden with a rare 19th-century Zulu arm band, awarded for bravery (below left)

FOOD FOR THOUGHT:
A great menu is on offer each week for students living in the SOS Children's Village in Botswana (below right)

'There are too many situations where money gets lost. Proper monitoring is very important but difficult to do'



SPECIAL LINKS

National Trust

Graham Archer looks at why the Trust is one of ROSL's biggest organisational membership groups

Members of the National Trust constitute one of the largest of the ROSL organisational membership groups. The National Trust is an independent, self-financing charity, launched in 1895 to protect places of historic interest and natural beauty. It now has more than 4 million members, and responsibility for some 618,000 acres of countryside, 700 miles of coastline, 290 parks and gardens, 104 nature reserves and 400 buildings, most regularly open to the public. Trust members are entitled to free admission to most properties in England, Wales and Northern Ireland and, under reciprocal arrangements, to properties managed by the National Trust for Scotland. Many ROSL members based overseas find it advantageous to take out membership of the Trust, or to take advantage of reciprocal visiting arrangements with the National Trusts of other countries, including Australia, New Zealand and Canada.

The National Trust is exploring ways to increase its involvement in London boroughs. For example, its members can now visit the stunning, recently restored Leighton House Museum in Holland Park for a discounted price. Other Trust properties in London that may appeal to visitors to Over-Seas House include Ham House in Richmond and Osterly Park and House, once described as 'the palace of palaces', now with a newly restored water garden. ROSL members may also enjoy a day-trip to Hampstead to see the 17th-century Fenton House, Hampstead Grove ('a gem of a house') and 2 Willow Road, a modernist home full of innovative designs.

To mark the centenary of the death of Octavia Hill, one of the founders of the Trust, the ROSL London Group arranged a talk at Over-Seas House about the Trust earlier this year. The new National Trust projects being planned in London will be a pleasing addition to the opportunities for closer links between the Trust and ROSL members.

For information about joining the Trust and details of its properties, please visit www.nationaltrust.org.uk.

Graham Archer is a member of the ROSL Central Council and Deputy Chairman for the National Trust Advisory Board for the London and South-East Region.

Scheme benefits

Individual members of certain organisations can obtain a 50% joining fee discount when applying for ROSL membership and do not need a proposer or seconder. The full list can be found at www.rosl.org.uk.



IMPRESSIVE:
The south front of Ham House in Surrey

*The Trust is responsible for
290 parks and 400 buildings*

The Nepali link

In 2008, ROSL supported the first international exhibition of the Kathmandu Contemporary Art Centre (KCAC), featuring the work of 108 artists. 'The Open Door' exhibition was a huge success and filled the central lounge at Over-Seas House with contemporary Asian and international art.

Founder and Director Celia Washington established the KCAC in 2007 as a means of promoting the work of contemporary Nepali artists abroad. Since then it has gone from strength to strength, with new artists' studios and a gallery opening this year in the grounds of the historic Patan Museum.

The KCAC continues to foster a strong relationship with ROSL and will be holding a fundraiser at the London clubhouse next year. Sunil

Sigdel, a 2011 ROSL ARTS Scholar from Nepal, will be exhibiting in the ROSL Annual Scholars Exhibition at gallery@oxo in October.

George Harwood-Smith

For further details about the KCAC see www.kathmanduarts.org.uk or email gharwoodsmith@rosl.org.uk.

SUCCESS: KCAC's latest exhibition in Kathmandu



Courtesy of Antonio Nodari Photographer

The other Diamond Jubilee

Roderick Lakin reports on the 60th ROSL Annual Music Competition Final

Decision-making was not prolonged as Jayson emerged as a clear winner

London's Queen Elizabeth Hall has been the setting of the Final Concert of the ROSL Annual Music Competition for almost 40 years, and on Wednesday 8 May, the 2012 Final proved to be an inspiring evening of first-class music-making worthy of the competition's 60th anniversary. The occasion was graced by the presence of ROSL Vice-Patron HRH Princess Alexandra, who presented the prizes at the end of the concert.

The Final Concert is a prestigious platform for the winners of the solo award section and our ensemble prizewinners. This year's performers earned their place in the Final through a demanding series of auditions, lasting more than 100 hours, held in February and March at Over-Seas House. Since its inception in 1952, one of the competition's core aims has been to provide a London showcase for outstanding young musicians from the Commonwealth who are studying or working in the capital, and it was gratifying in our 60th year that three out of the four solo finalists were from different Commonwealth countries: Australia, New Zealand and South Africa.

The solo award winners perform during the first half of the concert: the challenge is to choose an imaginative and well-contrasted recital programme of just 20 minutes to encapsulate their particular musical strengths. British flautist Matthew Featherstone (Guildhall School of Music and Drama), who opened the concert, showed stylistic versatility and accomplishment in a programme that began with CPE Bach and ended,

by way of Prokofiev and Ibert, with Ian Clark's showpiece for contemporary flute techniques, *Zoom Tube*. South African baritone Njabulo Madlala brought a communicative stage presence and burnished vocal quality to a programme encompassing opera, oratorio, lieder and a traditional South African song. Pianist William Vann (Royal Academy of Music), who played for Njabulo, amply demonstrated why he was chosen as winner of the accompanist prize.

New Zealand-born violinist Ben Baker (Royal College of Music) chose two contrasted pieces – James MacMillan's evocative *After the Tryst* and *Fantasia in C Op. 131*, an intense late work by Schumann – bringing to both an unshowy and intelligent musical personality. Finally, Australian pianist Jayson Gillham performed Debussy, Ligetti and Liszt. His nuanced, pellucid account of Debussy's *Etude No 11 Pour les arpèges composés* showed a different kind of technical command and musical sensibility to his performance of Liszt's show-stopping *Rhapsodie Espagnole*, which he dispatched with the requisite brilliance and *élan*.

The chamber ensemble section of the competition is of equal importance to the solo awards and while the jury retired to the Green Room to deliberate on their choice of solo award winner, the two major ensemble award winners were showcased. The Busch Ensemble (piano trio) performed the first movement of Mendelssohn's *D minor Piano Trio*, and, in complete contrast, the Aurora Duo (percussion) presented Zivkovic's theatrical musical duel *Duo per Uno*. They also

SHOW STOPPER:
The judges applaud the winner of the First Prize, Jayson Gillham

brought the evening to a close, after the presentation of awards, with a serene performance of the prelude to Bach's *English Suite No 2*, arranged for marimba duet.

In the jury room, after the votes were collated, discussion and decision-making was not prolonged, as Jayson Gillham emerged as a clear winner. As Gold Medallist, the Australian pianist joins distinguished competition alumni including John Lill (1963), Melvyn Tan (1976), Barry Douglas (1979) and fellow Queenslander Piers Lane (1983).

As Director of Arts, I look forward to devising performance and other career opportunities for our 2012 prizewinners over the next few years. Given ROSL's outstanding track record of talent spotting over 60 years, the 'class of 2012' will undoubtedly find their individual niche at a high level of the music profession around the world.

A double CD of the Final Concert, recorded live at Queen Elizabeth Hall, will be available in October from the ROSL Shop at Over-Seas House, London. Price £6 (mail order plus p&p).

Panel of Adjudicators 2012

More than half of the adjudicators for the competition are themselves past ROSL prizewinners. Bryan Allen, Sheila Armstrong*, David Campbell, Martin Cousin*, Amy Dickson*, Danny Driver*, Sarah Field, Gavin Henderson CBE (Chairman)*, Vanessa Latache*, Carmine Lauri, Keith Lewis*, Nona Liddell MBE*, Pat Macmahon*, Leslie Neish*, Ruth Palmer*, Ashan Pillai, Robert Plane*, Stephen de Pledge, Sophia Rahman, Tom Randle, Rodney Slatford OBE*, Colin Stone and George Vass.

* Adjudicators for the final.



PRIZEWINNERS: (L-r) Benjamin Baker violin, Jayson Gillham piano, Matthew Featherstone flute, Njabulo Madlala baritone and William Vann accompanist

HIGH PRAISE: ROSL Vice-Patron HRH Princess Alexandra congratulates the 2012 Gold Medallist, pianist Jayson Gillham



The prizewinners

Main awards

Gold Medal and First Prize	£10,000	Jayson Gillham piano	Australia/UK
ROSL Award for Wind & Percussion in memory of Lady Barbirolli, supported by Dyers Company	£5,000	Matthew Featherstone flute	UK
ROSL Award for Singers in memory of Pamela Faulkner	£5,000	Njabulo Madlala baritone	South Africa
ROSL Award for Strings	£5,000	Benjamin Baker violin	New Zealand/UK
ROSL Award for Keyboard	£5,000	Jayson Gillham piano	Australia/UK
ROSL Award for Accompanists	£5,000	William Vann	UK
ROSL Ensemble Prize A	£10,000	The Busch Ensemble	
ROSL Ensemble Prize B	£10,000	Aurora Percussion Duo	

Awards for musicians from overseas

Lorna Viol Memorial Prize and ROSL Trophy for the most outstanding musician from overseas	£3,000	Njabulo Madlala baritone	South Africa
Sir John Manduell Award for an outstanding South African musician	£1,000	Njabulo Madlala baritone	South Africa
Australian Musical Association Prize	£1,000	Helen Sherman mezzo soprano	Australia
Tait Memorial Scholarship for an Australian Musician	£1,000	Morgan Pearse baritone	Australia
Tait Memorial Scholarship for an Australian Musician	£1,000	Sujin Park violin	Australia
Australian Musical Association Prize	£1,000	Jayson Gillham piano	Australia
McCallum Prize for a pianist of promise	£1,000	Charis Cheung piano	Canada
Mitchell Award for a New Zealand musician	£1,000	Benjamin Baker violin	New Zealand/UK

Additional award

Elias Fawcett Award for an outstanding ensemble	£2,000	Trio Anima	
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Royal Collection Trust © HM Queen Elizabeth II 2012

Music at the palace

Director of Arts, **Roderick Lakin**, announces a musical evening at St James's Palace, hosted by HRH Princess Alexandra

The Royal Over-Seas League has been granted the privilege of holding a musical evening in the magnificent setting of the State Apartments of St James's Palace, hosted by HRH Princess Alexandra, ROSL Vice-Patron, on 10 October to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the ROSL Annual Music Competition. A concert featuring recent prizewinners of the ROSL Annual Music Competition will be given in the Picture Gallery at 7pm, preceded by a champagne reception at 6pm and followed by supper in the Queen Anne, Entrée and Throne rooms. Dress is black tie for gentlemen and evening dress for ladies.

St James's Palace

Built in the first half of the 16th century, St James's Palace is still used for many formal and State occasions. Henry VIII was the first in a long line of monarchs to reside at the palace, ending only when Queen Victoria moved to Buckingham Palace. Foreign ambassadors continue to be accredited to 'the Court of St James's', and visiting Heads of State are received there. The Queen's Life Guard, the Yeoman of the Guard, the Chapels Royal and the Royal Watermen have their headquarters at the palace, and several senior members of the Royal Household have apartments there.

The State Apartments, enlarged by Christopher Wren and redecorated by William Morris in the 19th century, are used for official entertaining. They house a marvellous collection of paintings, including works by Gainsborough, Sir Peter Lely and Sir Joshua Reynolds; tapestries commissioned by Charles I; and an impressive display of firearms.

ROSL Centenary Appeal

To mark ROSL's centenary in 2010, an appeal was launched to endow the awards of the ROSL Annual

Music Competition. The Annual Music Competition is at the heart of the work of ROSL ARTS, now in its 60th year, and occupies a singular position within the cultural life of the UK and the Commonwealth. Past alumni have distinguished themselves at the highest level of the music profession worldwide, and return to give their support as the core of our panel of adjudicators.

In the past decade, donations and legacies from ROSL members have enabled us to transform the concert room at Over-Seas House, London into a first-rate chamber music venue, renamed Princess Alexandra Hall, and to purchase a Steinway concert grand piano. Thanks to the generosity of ROSL members and long-term supporters, more than £800,000 has been raised towards our initial target of £1 million. Funds raised are held in a restricted fund within the ROSL Golden Jubilee Trust (registered charity no. 306095).

This Appeal exemplifies the confidence with which ROSL has embarked on its second 100 years and its strong sense of purpose, inspired by the vision of our founder, Evelyn Wrench, and the directives of our Royal Charter.

HRH PRINCESS ALEXANDRA:
ROSL Vice-Patron



OPULENT SETTING:
Dinner will be served in the State Apartments of St James's Palace, including the Throne Room (above), following the concert

Booking information

Tickets are £150 each, which includes the champagne reception with canapés, concert and supper with wine (food by the highly regarded caterers By Word of Mouth). Members are encouraged to make a donation to the ROSL Centenary Appeal in addition to the ticket price for the event.

On previous ROSL musical evenings at St James's Palace, in 1988, 1995 and 2004, the demand for tickets greatly exceeded the availability. Members are urged to make their ticket applications at the earliest opportunity.

Allocation of tickets will be made strictly in the order in which applications are received. One third of the tickets will be held back until Friday 7 September for members based overseas.

Tickets will be mailed on Friday 21 September, and on the same date, those who have not been allocated tickets will be notified and cheques returned.

Deadline for ticket applications: 14 September 2012.

Ticket order form

A Musical Evening at St James's Palace

10 October 2012

Please complete this form, or a photocopy, and return with payment to arrive no later than 14 September 2012 to ROSL ARTS (SJP), Royal Over-Seas League, Park Place, St James's Street, London SW1A 1LR. **Tel:** +44 (0)20 7408 0214 x 324. **Email:** culture@rosl.org.uk. Or book online at www.rosl.org.uk.

Membership no.
 Name
 Address
 Telephone no.
 Email
 Address to which tickets should be sent (if different from above)

I wish to book tickets at £150 each
 In addition, I would like to make a donation of to the ROSL Centenary Appeal
TOTAL

Gift Aid declaration (optional)

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

Method of payment

Cheques (sterling) should be made payable to 'ROSL'. All major credit cards accepted AMEX/Diners Club/Mastercard/Visa*

*please indicate

C/C no.
 Expiry date
 Security no. (on signature panel)
 Signature
 Date

Books

Reviews of recent works by ROSL members

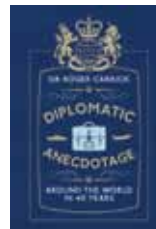


Sampans & Saffron Cake

Richard Lewis
Kenwater Books, 2012
ISBN: 978-0-9571832-0-9,
£12.75

Sampans & Saffron Cake is a biography based on diaries written by Lewis's grandfather, Fritz Lewis, from 1904 to 1928. An engineer, sailor, sportsman and family man, Fritz led an extraordinary life, and the diaries shed light on the histories of China and Falmouth during an important historical period.

Claire Simon



Diplomatic Anecdote: Around the world in 40 years

Sir Roger Carrick
Elliott and Thompson Limited, 2012

ISBN: 978-1-907642-55-5,
£18.99. Available for the discounted price of £13 from the ROSL Shop.

This excellent read by Sir Roger Carrick, ROSL's Vice-Chairman, gives an account of his experiences as a career diplomat that weaves a unique thread through some of the momentous foreign policy issues the UK has faced since 1960.

From the dark days of the Cold War through the British withdrawal from East of Suez, to the development of Anglo-French and US/UK relations, Sir Roger writes fluently on his increasingly central role in British affairs as his star rose in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

The wisdom contained in his reflections is as pertinent today as it is helpful in throwing useful light on the past. His narrative, focused as it is on serious events, is also very entertaining. This is a memoir laced with humour; I endangered myself with hot coffee, laughing aloud at some of the wonderful stories. And those of us who have worked in a Government Department can only empathise with his experiences of HM Treasury. *Sir Roger will speak at a special ROSL Book Event on Monday 26 November (see page 30).*

Maj Gen Roddy Porter

Literary festival

The Budleigh Salterton Literary Festival takes place this year on 21-23 September, with speakers including Douglas Hurd, Joan Bakewell, Penelope Lively, Peter Hennessy and Wendy Cope. Its Founder Susan Ward and Honorary President Hilary Mantel are both ROSL members. Novelist Hilary Mantel will be speaking on *Bring Up the Bodies*, the second book in her trilogy about Thomas Cromwell.

Readers' offer

Buy *Diplomatic Anecdote* for the special price of £13, including free p&p in the UK. To order via cheque or credit card, email direct@macmillan.co.uk or call +44 (0)1256 302 688 and quote CODE 7DV. Offer ends 15 October.

ROSL WORLD

The latest from the global branches



Australia

Members of the New South Wales Branch attended a Queen's Birthday Lunch hosted by the Australia-Britain Society. The South Australia Branch will hold its main Diamond Jubilee celebration in October, but members toasted HM The Queen at their June meeting. Recent speakers at the branch's monthly lunches include winemaker Geoffrey Patrilli and author Nigel Starck. Hon. David Wooton succeeded Marjorie Scriven as South Australia Branch President.

Some members of the New South Wales and Victoria branches were on board the ROSL boat in the Jubilee flotilla. Coral Strahan, Victoria Branch Secretary, organised a range of activities during the trip, including the Trooping the Colour (Major General's Review), a concert at the Royal Albert Hall and tea at the Ritz.

The Western Australia Branch, in association with the Australia-Britain Society, Australians for Constitutional Monarchy and the Victoria League, organised a dinner, in April, in celebration of the Diamond Jubilee. HE The Governor of Western Australia, Malcolm McCusker, who is the new Branch Patron, proposed the Loyal Toast. Sir William Heseltine, a former member of the Royal Household, was guest speaker.

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

Queensland: Sharon Morgan, sllmorgan@hotmail.com

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

Tasmania: Robert Dick, gradick1@gmail.com

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

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



Canada

The British Columbia Branch welcomed Liz Murray as President and gave thanks to her predecessor, Pam Ducommen, at a reception in May. A toast was raised to HM The Queen in celebration of her Diamond Jubilee.

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

British Columbia: Liz Murray,

evmurray@telus.net

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

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



Hong Kong

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



New Zealand

Manawatu Branch members donned hats to watch the Diamond Jubilee flotilla at a special tea party, while the Auckland Branch joined ranks with the Royal Commonwealth Society at the Northern Club for cocktails and held a celebratory lunch at the Black Sugar Restaurant.

A Diamond Jubilee concert and reception will be held on 18 September at Government House, Wellington, hosted by the NZ Patron, the Governor-General of New Zealand, Te Kwhana Tianara o Aotearoa. ROSL Director-General Roddy Porter and his wife Marianne will attend the event, at which past ROSL prizewinners will perform.

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



Switzerland

In June, 140 members of the British Residents' Association (BRA) and the ROSL Switzerland Branch embarked on the Rhine steamer Basler Dybli, for a Jubilee event organised by ROSL member Alan Chalmers. After a performance by the Basel Scottish Dance Society, passengers boarded to the sounds of the Dalhousie Pipe Band. BRA Chairman, Michael Type, welcomed guests, including Roddy Porter, who proposed the Loyal Toast. A message of greeting from HM Ambassador Sarah Gillett was read by Alan Chalmers (for a full report see page 5).

Switzerland: Jo Brown, +334 5040 6631



Thailand

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



UNITED: (Clockwise from left) Ken Bock (Australia-Britain Society) on the Young Endeavour; Roddy Porter with the new Edinburgh Branch Committee at the branch's AGM; the Western Australia Jubilee Dinner Party: (l-r) Richard Savage (Australia-Britain Society), Katie Dunkley (Victoria League), Tony Abbott (Chairman ROSL WA), Tonya McCusker, HE Malcolm McCusker, Alex Butterworth (Australians for Constitutional Monarchy)



UK

In May, the Bath Branch was joined by members of the Taunton Branch for a Jubilee Cream Tea at Bathampton Mill, reached by boat on the River Avon. The Bath Branch holds a monthly coffee morning.

In April, the Bournemouth Branch welcomed ROSL Vice-Chairman, Sir Roger Carrick, and his wife as guests of honour at the AGM. The Diamond Jubilee celebrations began that month with a concert in Blandford Forum Parish Church by ROSL prizewinners the Cavalieri Quartet and clarinetist Robert Plane. Attended by more than 100 people, the event raised £800 for the church's Cupola Fund and ROSL's Namibia Project, as well as raising the profile of ROSL in northwest Dorset. The branch holds weekly coffee mornings, its Annual Dinner was held in May and, in June, Roddy and Marianne Porter were guests of honour at its Annual Queen's Birthday Lunch.

Following the Cheltenham Branch's AGM, member Barbara Snell gave an illustrated talk on Russia. To celebrate the Diamond Jubilee, a lunch was held at the Cheltenham Dandy Restaurant. Monthly meetings re-start in September with Frances Kay's illustrated talk on Gloucester Cathedral.

A series of popular events at the Edinburgh clubhouse included Lord Charles Bruce's talk on the Kolkata Scottish Cemetery; an overview of the ROSL Namibia Project by Central Council member Clive Carpenter; a Scottish Members' Dinner at which the Rev John P Chalmers was speaker; and a guitar recital by 2011 Annual Music Competition Gold



© Graham Camille



Photo: Paul McCormick

Medallist Sean Shibe. At the Edinburgh Branch AGM, the Director-General Roddy Porter told members about current ROSL developments; the Jubilee Lunch was well attended; and the summer season ended with a Gala Opera Evening and the ROSL ARTS programme on the Edinburgh Festival Fringe.

The Exeter, Taunton and West Cornwall branches held their AGMs in April. In May, the Exeter Branch enjoyed a Jubilee Coffee Morning at the Royal Albert Memorial Museum, including a tour of the recently re-opened museum. The weekly coffee mornings of the Taunton Branch continue at Castle Green Inn. The calendar of the West Cornwall Branch begins in September with a social evening at Trevethoe House, Lelant.

In May, a group of West Sussex Branch members attended a lunchtime concert at the Brighton Festival, arranged in association with ROSL and featuring ROSL Annual Music Competition keyboard section winner Ashley Frupp. In June, ROSL Chairman Sir Anthony Figgis was guest of honour at a lunch to celebrate the Diamond Jubilee, which was also attended by members of the London Group.

Bath, Exeter, Taunton, Torbay: Sally Roberts, +44 (0)1823 661148, ros1.west@goolemail.com

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

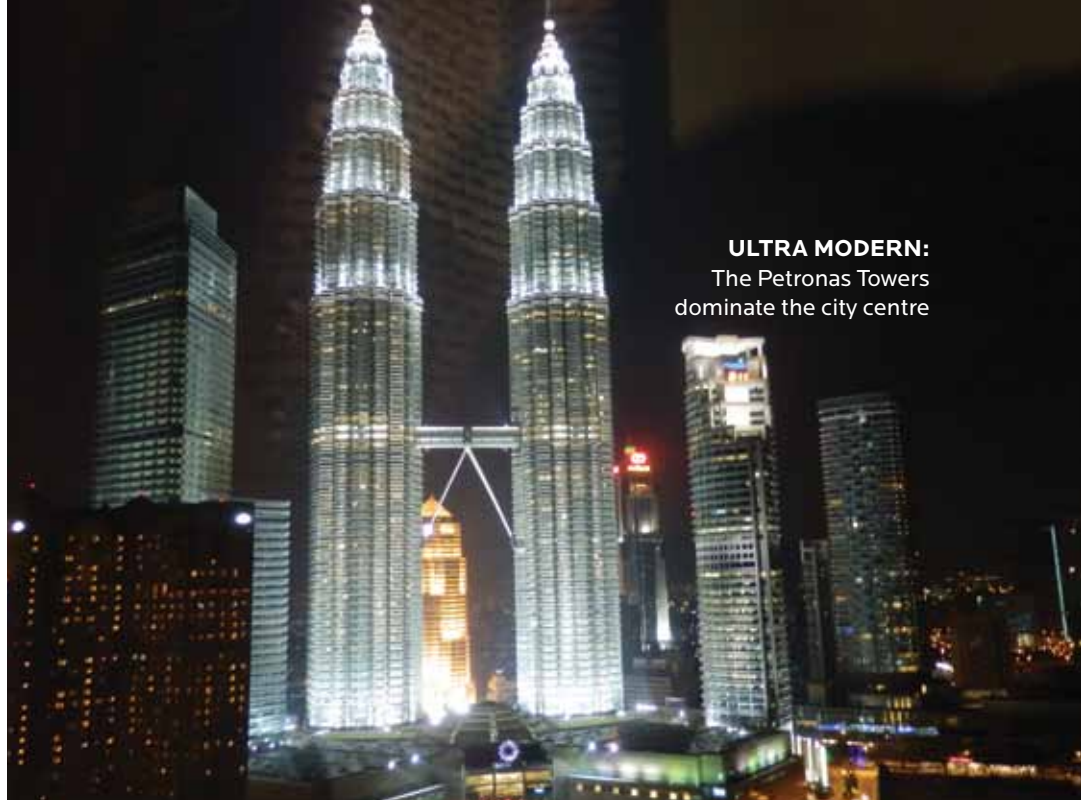
Cheltenham: Kathleen Northage, +44 (0)1242 515540

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

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

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

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



ULTRA MODERN:
The Petronas Towers dominate the city centre

Reciprocal club: Kuala Lumpur

Director of Arts, **Roderick Lakin**, visits the Royal Selangor Club, a bastion of a bygone colonial age

One of the great benefits of ROSL membership is access to a range of worldwide reciprocal clubs. In Kuala Lumpur, ROSL has reciprocal agreements with the Royal Selangor Club. Situated in Merdeka Square, the heart of KL's historic colonial district, the club is a far cry from the bustling 21st-century city centre (KLCC) of glitzy shopping malls and ultra-modern high-rise condominiums and office blocks, dominated by the iconic Petronas Towers.

In 1957, the Union flag was lowered for the last time in Merdeka Square, marking the birth of independent Malaysia. Today, the Malaysian flag flies proudly from the world's highest freestanding flagpole. The square is an eclectic architectural ensemble set around the *padang*, or open field. One side of the square is occupied by the Sultan Abdul Samad building, a splendid architectural confection encompassing Mughal, Egyptian and Islamic styles, designed in 1897 by British architect A C Norman as the headquarters of the colonial administration.

Distinctly British in character, the northwest corner of the square is occupied by the gothic St Mary's Anglican Cathedral (also by Norman) and, just across the road, the mock Tudor elevations of the Royal Selangor Club. To step into the club is to



DISTINCTLY BRITISH: The mock Tudor Royal Selangor Club in the old town

step back in time: traditional Sunday roast is served and the British club style and character remains unchanged. Today, the Royal Selangor Club is considered the most exclusive club in KL and the Verandah restaurant is a popular lunchtime destination, serving a variety of cuisines, including Malay, Chinese, Indian and British. Favourites include shepherd's pie and sago pudding, finished off with a comforting mug of Horlicks! It makes for an atmospheric interlude to a walking tour of this fascinating area of old Kuala Lumpur.

Contact: *Jalan Raja, Kuala Lumpur, 50050, Malaysia; general@rscweb.org.my; +60 3 2692 7166; www.rscweb.org.my.*

NEW for 2012 at the ROSL shop

To mark a great year for Britain, the ROSL online shop has introduced a new line of products.



1. Olympic 2012 monochrome mug. Part of the Olympic 2012 collection by mastercraftsman and leading ceramic designer William Edwards. **Price: £12**

2. Wine Stopper with ROSL crest and namestyle. **Price: £16**

3. Diamond Jubilee ROSL tumblers. Pair of cut crystal whisky tumblers engraved with the ROSL logo and 'The Queen's Diamond Jubilee 2012'. **Price: £35**

4. USB keyring with ROSL namestyle and 4GB storage. **Price: £15**

5. Diamond Jubilee Tankard in blue and gold. Part of the Diamond Jubilee Collection by mastercraftsman and leading ceramic designer William Edwards. **Price: £16**

The ROSL shop catalogue will no longer be printed. A full list of products and accompanying pictures can be found at www.rosl.org.uk.

Orders can also be placed by calling +44 (0)20 7408 0214 ext 215.

For postage, please add £3.95 for UK, £5.95 for Europe and £9.95 for the rest of the world. Charges subject to increase if postage exceeds these amounts.

Please allow up to 14 days for delivery within the UK (up to 28 days for overseas). Last date for pre-Christmas ordering is 10 December for UK, 1 December for overseas.

An icon for Dundee

The V&A at Dundee will secure the city's transformation, says **James Wilkie**

Dundee enjoys one of the most spectacular city sites in Europe. But don't just take my word for it; ask Joanna Lumley, who was a young actress at the Dundee Rep in the 1960s, or Sir Philip Cohen, the biochemist who helped establish a leading life sciences department at the University of Dundee in the 1970s. Sir Philip first approached the city from St Andrews and the view from the south bank of the River Tay convinced him that he was coming somewhere special.

Dundee's post-war transformation from a rather depressed jute city to the home of a number of the world's most cited scientists is one of the most remarkable changes I have seen. Like Liverpool, Glasgow and other great ports, Dundee has an interesting cultural history, encompassing art, drama, music, architecture and design. Its Victorian railway bridge was the longest in the world when it was built, and in the 1920s it was home to some of the UK's foremost private collectors of modern art.

And now the Victoria and Albert Museum is coming to Dundee. Acknowledging the city's blend of dynamic history and contemporary culture, the great London museum of art and design is to establish V&A at Dundee. Japanese architect Kengo Kuma won the international competition to design the building and its inspirational structures are likely to establish it as one of Europe's iconic sites, perhaps on a par with the celebrated Guggenheim Museum in Bilbao.

© Dundee City Council

Yet Dundee has some distinct advantages over the Basque capital, and the building's location and outlook are far more spectacular. The RSS Discovery, the beautiful sailing ship of Captain Scott, will sit alongside the museum. Built in the Juteopolis at the beginning of the 20th century, it returned home in 1986.

The V&A at Dundee will host major international exhibitions, celebrate Scottish design heritage, inspire and promote contemporary talent, and encourage design innovation for the future. It will also provide a new focus for the city, restore its orientation as a port and, hopefully, contribute to its development as a centre of business and tourism. Construction work is due to start in 2013 for an anticipated opening in 2015. The building is expected to cost £45 million, with a £1 billion projected spend on the regeneration of the entire city seafront.

The V&A's Director of Development, Sandy Richardson, who spoke at Over-Seas House, Edinburgh in June, says: "V&A at Dundee represents a huge opportunity not just for Dundee and its environs, but for the whole of Scotland. It is a truly transformational project with international reach that will well and truly underline the importance – and impact – of Scottish design in all its rich and varied forms." Dundee is a 90 minutes' drive or train ride from Edinburgh, and the remarkable Hospitalfield art house, which accommodates our ROSL visual art scholars each year, is just 20 miles away.

For details see vandaatdundee.com.

SPECTACULAR:
Dundee and the River Tay seen from the Law, a hill in the centre of the city



DYNAMIC BLEND:

The RSS Discovery will sit beside the new museum (left)

CONTEMPORARY:

Artists' impression of the Kengo Kuma-designed V&A at Dundee



© V&A Dundee

A Royal transformation

Claire Simon visits Kensington Palace as it reopens following a £12m refurbishment

It seems 2012 is a big year for Kensington Palace: not only was it announced as the official residence of the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge, adding to a list of royal residents that has included Diana, Princess of Wales, and Princess Margaret, but it also reopened following a £12 million, two-year transformation, which was completed in time for the Olympic and Jubilee celebrations. The main changes are the newly designed entrance and gardens. Previously, the palace was shrouded by trees and fencing, with the entrance at the side of the building; now visitors enter from the front through beautiful landscaped gardens. This has had a dramatic impact: before, the palace had around 1,000 visitors a day, now there can be up to 3,000.

Many previously private areas have been opened to public view. There are four different walking routes, incorporating temporary and permanent displays, which all begin in the Vestibule – a central point for visitors to find their way back to. Refurbished by theatre-makers Coney, the State Apartments now offer a more complete visitor experience. In the King's State Apartment, children and adults alike are encouraged to participate in the Game of Court, a card game helping visitors to understand how the courts of George I and II worked. In the Queen's State Apartments visitors are led through the enchanted rooms of Queen Mary II, where quiet voices issue out of gramophones, and cushions embroidered with 'Sit here to hear the walls whisper' encourage interactive learning.

The Victoria Revealed exhibition is intimate and inspired. Walking through the rooms where she grew from young girl to Queen, visitors are given snapshots of her thoughts and emotions. Taken from her journals and letters, some of her most heartfelt thoughts are scrawled on tables and projected on to the walls. A temporary exhibition (until 4 November) on the Diamond Jubilee of 1897 encourages visitor participation. In one room we are invited to write a letter of congratulations to Queen Victoria; in another we walk through the London of 1897 in miniature and experience the sights and sounds of the Jubilee celebrations.

Although I had not been to the palace before, many of the aspects I most enjoyed turned out to be new. With just 90 minutes to look around, my only wish is that I could have stayed a little longer.

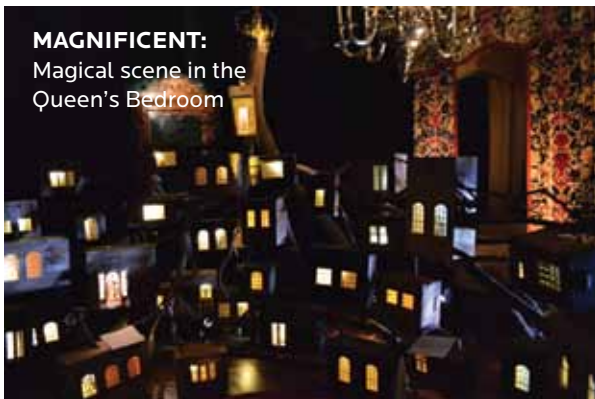
All photos credited to Claire Simon.



ON DISPLAY:
18th-century court dresses in the State Apartments (top)

SOUVENIRS:
Memorabilia from the Diamond Jubilee of Queen Victoria

MAGNIFICENT:
Magical scene in the Queen's Bedroom



LONDON

What's on...

The Queen: Art & image

National Portrait Gallery

Until 21 October

To mark the Diamond Jubilee, this landmark exhibition brings together some of the most remarkable portraits of The Queen, including photographs by Cecil Beaton and Annie Leibovitz, and paintings by Lucian Freud and Andy Warhol.

Tickets: £6. Contact: +44 (0)20 7766 7344; www.npg.org.uk.



PHOTOGRAPHIC TRIBUTE:

Dorothy Wilding's 'Queen Elizabeth II' marked the coronation in 1952 (left); and Chris Levine's 2007 'Lightness of Being'

Swan Lake

Royal Opera House

8 October - 24 November

Anthony Dowell's romantic interpretation of this much-loved ballet uses the 19th-century choreography by Lev Ivanov and Marius Petipa. Tchaikovsky's score is matched by the dramatic costumes, glowing lanterns and magical designs inspired by the work of Carl Fabergé.

Tickets: details at www.roh.org.uk.

Contact: +44 (0)20 7304 4000.

DRAMATIC: Sarah Lamb and Federico Bonelli take the lead roles in *Swan Lake*



London Open House

Various venues, London

22-23 September

More than 700 buildings of architectural interest open their doors to the public free of charge. Celebrating its 20th anniversary, Open House London includes some of the most inspiring architecture in the capital, including government buildings, private homes, historic houses, schools and town halls.

Free. Contact: www.londonopenhouse.org.

Photo by Bill Cooper, courtesy of ROH.

Welsh wanderings

Claire Simon discovers the beauty of the Brecon Beacons

DRAMATIC SETTING:
Sunset in the Beacons

London is a fantastic city, but I do seek a retreat to greener pastures every now and then – so I jumped at the chance to join friends for a long weekend in the Brecon Beacons in May. Although there are trains and local taxis, hiring a car from London is easy and gives you the freedom to explore. From Swansea, we headed north through increasingly smaller villages until we came to the edge of civilisation: a cattle grid and a Beacons sign marked our entry into the national park. With only a few other vehicles, a handful of cyclists and plenty of sheep, we

left urban life behind – all in a three-and-a-half hour drive from central London.

Nestled in the moorlands of Carmarthenshire on the western side of the Beacons, our cottage backed straight on to the national park. Our nearest neighbour was a 15-minute walk away, and the cottage itself was idyllic. The weather, drizzly and grey as expected, added to the dramatic setting as dusk fell and we settled down before a log fire. These lands are shrouded in mystery, and with tales such as the Lady of Llyn-y-Fan, and the Physicians of Myddfai, it's hard not to get caught up in the romanticism of it all.

Star gazing, hiking, cycling and fishing make up just a handful of the activities on offer.

The nearest sizable town was Llandeilo, a 30 minute's drive away. With a lovely chocolate shop, a couple of pubs and a handful of gift shops it was a charming place. But our real reason for hopping in the car was to visit Carreg Cennen castle. Wales is often referred to as the Land of Castles, which are familiar sights in the Beacons, due to the Norman conquest.

A popular tourist destination, the dramatic Carreg Cennen is thought to date back to the 12th century, and walking trails lead to it from all directions. Being new to these lands, I am now fully converted to the wonders of the Welsh mountains.

Claire stayed at Wilderness Cottage. For details see www.uniquehomestays.com or call +44 (0)7878 155 071.



LAND OF CASTLES:
Carreg Cennen



Armchair Travel

Travel weekends at the Royal Over-Seas League



IRAN: Great and Small *Saturday 5th & Sunday 6th January 2013*

From the monumental sculpted reliefs of Persepolis to the brilliant glazed bricks of Susa, we examine the history and artistic legacy of the Achaemenid palace complexes and the golden age of Persian-Islamic architecture at Isfahan. The weekend

features a talk on Persian miniatures and a visit to the British Museum.

Fine cuisine and wine in elegant private dining rooms



CYPRUS: Aphrodite's island *Saturday 12th & Sunday 13th January 2013*

The copper island of antiquity where Phoenicians traders built their great temple at Kittim of the Bible. Aphrodite's sanctuary, Ptolemy tombs and Roman mosaics at Paphos; stunning Venetian ramparts in Famagusta and the Ottoman architecture of old Nicosia

visited by 19th-century travellers. The weekend features a talk on icons and painted churches with guest lecturer Zoë Anastasiou.

COMING IN FEBRUARY 2013: Ancient Egypt and Crete

Price for 2013 weekends: £410. Special price without accommodation for Londoners.

Book 2 consecutive weekends and receive £50 pounds off each booking.

For full programme details, please apply to: ARMCHAIR TRAVEL, 7 Home Farm, Croyde, Devon. EX33 1PD. Tel: 01271 890533

Email: et.armchair.travel@gmail.com www.armchair-travel.co.uk

Members' events

October-December

OCTOBER

Windsor Castle exhibition talk and Great Kitchen tour

Tuesday 2 October, 11am, £40, R

Visit the longest-occupied palace in Europe and view 'The Queen: Sixty Photographs for Sixty Years', as well as the Great Kitchen, State Apartments and more. Tickets include an exhibition talk with morning tea/coffee and a popular behind-the-scenes tour of castle life, with afternoon refreshments. Guests to travel independently and make their own lunch arrangements.

Guided tour of Goldsmiths' Hall

Monday 15 October, midday, £10, R

A walking tour through one of London's hidden treasures, erected by the Worshipful Company of Goldsmiths in 1339. Enjoy an introduction to this opulent abode and its fascinating history of riches, ruin and renewal.

Little Beauty wine tasting

Thursday 18 October, 7pm, £50, G

Enjoy a tutored tasting of all six of the award-winning, bespoke products from this independent vineyard in the Waihopai Valley, New Zealand. Little Beauty winemaker Fleur McCree will guide us through their full range of single vineyard wines, accompanied by a complementary tasting menu.

NOVEMBER

The ROSL Big General Knowledge Quiz

Thursday 1 November, 5.45pm (quiz to start promptly at 6.15pm), £12.50, G

Test your mental mettle as our experienced quiz master puts the teams through their paces. Prizes include half-price tickets to the next Dinner in the Tower of London and wine chosen by the Director-General – so start swotting now. You can put together your own team (of up to

five ROSL members and guests) or let us find one for you.

Tickets include sandwiches and a glass of wine, with opportunities to buy drinks from the bar throughout. The quiz will finish no later than 8pm.

A Dram Apart: single cask whisky tasting

Thursday 29 November, 7pm, £45, G

'Through the Scotch Malt Whisky Society you can discover the very best single cask, single malt



FINE WINE: Bottles from Little Beauty's award-winning range



Membership no.....

Title First name

Surname

Guest(s) and trip they are attending

(please include title and first name):

.....

.....

Address to which tickets should be sent:

.....

.....

.....

Tel no

Email

Members' events application form (see opposite)

Please complete this form (or a photocopy) and send to:

Sara Brouwer, PR Department (Members Events), Over-Seas House, Park Place, St James's Street, London SW1A 1LR. Email: sbrouwer@rosl.org.uk.

Tel: +44 (0)20 7016 6906. It is advisable to call in advance to reserve a ticket.

Alternatively you can now book online. Visit www.rosl.org.uk for more details.

EVENT	DATE	PRICE	TICKETS
Windsor Castle talk and tour	Tues 2 Oct	£40 £.....
Tour of Goldsmiths' Hall	Mon 15 Oct	£10 £.....
Little Beauty wine tasting	Thu 18 Oct	£50 £.....
The ROSL Big General Knowledge Quiz	Thu 1 Nov	£12.50 £.....
Chairman's Lunch	Tue 13 Nov	£58 £.....
A Dram Apart: single cask whisky tasting	Thu 29 Nov	£45 £.....
Festival of Christmas carols and readings	Sun 9 Dec	£20 £.....

Payment – please send a SEPARATE CHEQUE for each event. Cheques (sterling) payable to ROSL. For Credit/Debit Card Payments call +44 (0)20 7016 6906.

**ROYAL FEAST:**

Chefs prepare for a State Banquet in the Great Kitchen of Windsor Castle (left)

whisky available to mankind anywhere in the universe.' ROSL has persuaded this exclusive society to bring their expertise and unique whiskies to our club for an exceptional tutored tasting session. With Scottish-themed canapés.

OPULENT: The recently refurbished Livery Hall, designed by Sir Horace Jones, at Goldsmiths Hall (right)



Credit: Richard Valencia.

Chairman's Lunch

Tuesday 13 November, midday, £58, G

The biannual Chairman's Lunch, hosted by ROSL Chairman, Sir Anthony Figgis. Reception drinks will be served in the Wrench Room, followed by a three-course lunch in the Hall of India and Pakistan. Guest of honour and speaker to be announced.

DECEMBER

Festival of Christmas carols and readings

Sunday 9 December, 3.30pm, £20, G

The annual ROSL Christmas service at St James's Church, Piccadilly, will be followed by a delicious festive tea and a visit from Father Christmas.

Application form opposite

These codes identify availability:

M Members only

G Tickets available for members and their guests

R Restricted number of tickets available

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

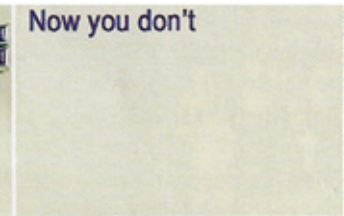
Please note: A booking confirmation will be sent within 10 working days of receiving the application. Refunds can only be given if cancellations are made at least 15 days in advance. Tickets for all events are limited and members should apply early to avoid disappointment. Tickets may be restricted to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

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

Write: Stoneleigh, Week St. Mary, Holsworthy EX22 6XA



ROSL ARTS

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

MUSIC EVENTS

Princess Alexandra Hall, Over-Seas House

Aurora Duo

Sunday 18 November, 6pm

The dynamic percussion duo Delia Stevens and Yu Le (Royal Northern College of Music) showcase their versatility and virtuosity in an hour-long programme of music from Bach to the present day. This will be a captivating visual and aural experience from the winners of the 2012 ROSL Ensemble Award (see page 18).

Tickets: £15; Friends of ROSL ARTS £12. Includes post-concert sparkling wine.

Prizewinners concert

Wednesday 5 December, 7pm

Jayson Gillham piano
Pianist Jayson Gillham, ROSL Annual Music Competition 2012 Gold Medallist and First Prize winner (see page 18), gives an hour-long concert of solo piano showpieces, and is joined in guest performances by other talented ROSL Australian prizewinners. Given in association with the Tait Memorial Trust, which

supports outstanding young Australian musicians.

Tickets: £15; Friends of ROSL ARTS £12. Includes wine, served after the concert.

BOOK EVENTS

Princess Alexandra Hall, Over-Seas House

Lesley Downer: *Across a Bridge of Dreams*

Wednesday 17 October, 7pm

The author of *Geisha: The secret history of a vanishing world*, Lesley Downer makes a welcome return to Over-Seas House to introduce her latest novel. Based on the true story of *The Last Samurai* (the book by Helen DeWitt), *Across a Bridge of Dreams* is a tale of star-crossed lovers set against a backdrop of political and social upheaval in 1870s Japan.

The author of many acclaimed fiction and non-fiction books on Japanese subjects, Downer brings historical and cultural detail to enrich this sweeping narrative of love and war, of a nation divided and a love that can never be.

Across a Bridge of Dreams is published by Random House.

Anne de Courcy: *The Fishing Fleet*

Wednesday 31 October, 7pm

While the Raj was at its height many of Britain's most eligible young men were out in India running the country. With the advent of steam travel and the opening of the Suez Canal, many young women followed in search of romance and adventure. They became known as the Fishing Fleet, and Anne de Courcy tells their hitherto untold story.

A hectic social life greeted them, with tiger-shooting, parties and balls. With men outnumbering women four to one, romances and marriages were frequent – but after the honeymoon, life often changed dramatically. Anne de Courcy explores the reality of life for these young adventurers and, drawing on diaries and letters rescued from attics, she brings this forgotten era vividly to life.

The Fishing Fleet is published by Weidenfeld and Nicholson.



Sir Roger Carrick: *Diplomatic Anecdotage*

Monday 26 November, 7pm

ROSL Vice-Chairman Sir Roger Carrick reflects on a peripatetic life in the British Diplomatic Service, with postings from Bulgaria to Indonesia. He was shadowed by the secret police in Sofia, witnessed the riots of 1968 in Paris and negotiated the withdrawal of British troops from Singapore (see review, page 21).

Diplomatic Anecdotage is published by Elliott and Thompson.

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

SCREENING

Princess Alexandra Hall, Over-Seas House

David Jones Between the Wars: The year's of achievement by Derek Shiel and Adam Alive

Monday 19 November, 7pm

A documentary exploring the life and work of the Anglo-Welsh artist and poet David Jones during the interwar years.



From Jones's conversion to Catholicism to his immersion in the Ditchling community, the film traces his development as a painter, poet and engraver; his friendships and relationships; his breakdown (1932-33); and the success of his epic war poem *In Parenthesis*.

The film draws on interviews with scholars, artists, writers and friends, including Rowan Williams, Archbishop of Canterbury, and art historians Paul Hills and Frances Spalding. With a running time of 78 minutes, it will be introduced by its Director, Derek Shiel, and will be followed by a question and answer session.

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

VISUAL ARTS **gallery@oxo, London** **Annual Scholars** **Exhibition**

Wednesday 3 - Sunday
21 October, 10am-6pm daily
ROSL ARTS returns to gallery@oxo at the landmark Oxo Tower, situated close to the National Theatre on London's Southbank. The exhibition brings together

STOP PRESS

John Lill piano recital

Tuesday 23 October, 7pm

ROSL ARTS is delighted to announce the first in a regular series of concerts in Princess Alexandra Hall, Over-Seas House, to be presented in association with the Medical Music Society (formerly RSM Music Society). Fittingly for the 60th anniversary year of the ROSL Annual Music Competition, the first concert will be given by one of the competition's most distinguished past alumni, John Lill OBE. Programme and ticket prices will be announced in September.

new paintings and prints by Pratheep Modi (India), Nick Olsen (Australia), Holly Parotti (Bahamas) and Sunil Sugdil (Nepal), who all undertook a ROSL ARTS funded residency at the Patrick Allan Fraser Foundation at Hospitalfield in Arbroath, Scotland, last September. Glass work by Samantha Donaldson, winner of the ROSL/Royal College of Art trophy commission 2012, will also be exhibited.

Admission free. gallery@oxo, Oxo Tower Wharf, Bargehouse Street Southbank, London SE1 9PH. See www.coinstreet.org/whatson/exhibitionsandevents.

ON SHOW:

Prathap Modi's 'We Will be Together' (left) will be on view at the 2012 Annual Scholars Exhibition

For tickets and details, call
+44 (0)20 7408
0214 x 219 or
email culture@rosl.org.uk

Musical evening at **St James's Palace**

Wednesday 10 October, 7pm

Celebration of the 60th anniversary of the ROSL Annual Music Competition in the presence of HRH Princess Alexandra.

For details and a ticket form see page 20.

Sing for Her Majesty

Do you sing in a choir? Would you like to celebrate The Queen's Diamond Jubilee? Cathy Graham, Director of Music at the British Council, has news about a wonderful new opportunity

The British Council and Making Music have joined forces to celebrate The Queen's Diamond Jubilee in a very special way, by commissioning Paul Mealor to write a new piece of music, *Jubilate! Jubilee!*. Making Music is the UK's number one membership organisation for voluntary music, and does superb work encouraging all kinds of music groups and individuals to be part of a vibrant multicultural music scene. We would like the piece to be performed by as many choirs as possible, throughout the UK and the Commonwealth.

Paul Mealor is one of Britain's favourite composers, famous for his *Ubi Caritas*, which was performed as part of the Royal Wedding last year and *Wherever You Are*, which was Christmas No.1. *Jubilate! Jubilee!* is a setting of a specially written poem by the Rt Revd Dr Geoffrey Rowell (Bishop of Gibraltar), scored for SATB (soprano, alto, tenor, bass) choir and piano, with a duration of around five minutes. For a limited period, it can be downloaded for free from www.makingmusic.org.uk/Jubilee – all we ask is that you fill in the form so that we can let Her Majesty know how many performances of the work have been given – and where – when we present the score to her later this year.

We hope you will join this special celebration of the close relationship of mutual dedication and affection between Queen and Commonwealth.



DYNAMIC DUO:
The Aurora Duo will perform in the Sundays @ 3 series

Younger Members

September-December



SEPTEMBER

The club crawl

Wednesday 5 September

This year, this ever-popular staple of the clubland calendar will grace the In and Out Club, Reform Club, National Liberation Club and conclude in the Savage Club with a traditional recipe of jazz and all-round chaos. *Inter-Club details TBA.**

OCTOBER

Producers' tasting menu

Thursday 25 October

The Farmers Club will host the first of the autumn's Inter-Club dinners. Guaranteed to showcase the cream of the crop, the tasting menu will be a treat of agrarian splendour. *Inter-Club details TBA.**

NOVEMBER

The Moveable Feast

Thursday 15 November

Whether you're new to London or simply looking for a whale of a time, this gastronomic equivalent of musical chairs will hold great appeal. Enjoy a delicious dinner in the Lansdowne Club's beautiful Ballroom and meet someone new with every course. *Inter-Club details TBA.**

DECEMBER

The annual Inter-Club Christmas Ball

Saturday 8 December

Get your trigger fingers ready and hit the Inter-Club website for tickets to the Christmas Ball, because these bad boys will run out within hours! Hosted this

TOP SHOT: Taking aim at the beautiful Bisley Shooting Ground

year at the stately Savile Club, this is one event in clubland that should not be missed. *Inter-Club details TBA.**

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

Clay shoot for ROSLites

Saturday 6 October, 11am, £65

Put on your best tweeds and escape the big smoke for a morning of hand-eye coordination amid the outstanding natural beauty of Bisley Shooting Ground. Tickets include tuition for beginners, gun hire and safety equipment, a pre-shoot bacon roll and post-shoot lunch in the Old Sergeants' Mess Shooting Club. Instead of tuition, more experienced shots will practice a range of Olympic-esque disciplines – and compete to become ROSL's top shot. We will leave Waterloo at 10am to arrive at Bisley at 11am, and shoot for 90 minutes.

Let the sunshine in

Inter-Clubbers put on a sunny face despite the rain, with Jubilee, Olympic and other fantastic events, says **Sara Brouwer**



The Diamond Jubilee marked a glorious events season for ROSL, and the Younger Members' programme was no exception. The Diamond Jubilee Dinner and Music event in May combined ROSL's acclaimed work in the arts with a delicious sit-down dinner and outstanding performances by ROSL prizewinning musicians. The event was beautifully documented by Christopher Hanges, whose photos can be found on the Inter-Club Younger Members Facebook page.

Sadly, the summer continued to drizzle on – thank goodness for the Inter-Club events calendar bringing a little sunshine into our lives. The Royal Automobile Club kick-started things with a Best of British summer party, including a jazz band, in their stunning terrace room.

More followed in the form of the Travellers Club Garden Party and the Inter-Club Tennis Tournament and Barbecue. But let's not forget the London 2012 Games. Here clubland put its best foot forward and joined the Army and Navy Club for an Inter-Club Sports Day. For those more disposed to mental exercise, the Inter-Club Quiz at the Savage Club provided a fitting alternative.

On a final note, Alex Pavry and Conrad Purcell hung up their coats as Younger Members Coordinator and Younger Members Rep. We will miss their expertise and sense of fun, but welcome Ross Lima, who is already fulfilling the role of Younger Members Rep brilliantly.

GLORIOUS: Younger Members at the ROSL Diamond Jubilee Dinner and Music event in May

EDINBURGH

What's on...

September-November

SEPTEMBER

Edinburgh Festival fireworks

Sunday 2 September

Five-course dinner, wine, coffee and malt whisky, with cocktails on arrival and roof access to view the fireworks. *Tickets: £125. Time TBA.**

Bridge Club lunch

Friday 7 September, 12.30pm

One-course meal with sherry. Introduce a guest. *Tickets: £12.*

Music @ 100 Princes Street

Wednesday 19 September, 6.30pm

Violinist Ben Baker performs works by Strauss, MacMillan and Saint-Saëns, followed by wine and canapés. *Tickets £12; Friends of ROSL ARTS £10.*

Trip to the Highlands

Saturday 29 September -

Monday 1 October

Following the great success of the Highlands visit in spring.*

OCTOBER

Arts Lunch: 21st season

Wednesday 3 October, midday

Music from St Mary's Music School. Two-course lunch, glass

of wine and coffee. *Tickets: £18; £20 non-members.*

Coffee morning

Saturday 6 October, 10.30am

Supporting Guide Dogs for the Blind. *Tickets: £2.50.*

Chairman's Reception for new members

Wednesday 24 October, 6.30pm

NOVEMBER

Coffee morning

Saturday 3 November, 10.30am

Talk on 'How Lord Elgin lost his Marbles'. *Tickets: £2.50.*

Arts Lunch: Greasepaint monkey

Wednesday 7 November, midday

Actor John Cairney returns with more tales of a life in theatre. Two-course lunch with glass of wine and coffee. *Tickets: £20; £22 non-members. Early booking is recommended.*

Music @ 100 Princes Street

Wednesday 14 November, 6.30pm

Pianist Charis Cheung plays works by Beethoven, Ginastera and Liszt, followed by wine and

canapés. *Tickets £12; Friends of ROSL ARTS £10.*

St Andrew's Day Dinner

Friday 30 November, 7.30pm

Three-course dinner with wine. *Tickets: £33.*

* For details see www.rosl-edinburgh.org/events.htm.

Cobbs' Christmas package

Edinburgh is one of the world's most magical places at Christmas, so come for a three-night stay (24-26 December) at the Edinburgh clubhouse from £275pp and enjoy a 20% discount on meals. The Christmas Day lunch menu includes a Kir Royale, seasonal canapés, three delicious courses, a glass of wine, coffee and mince pies. In the evening a cold buffet and wine will be available. On Christmas Eve, afternoon tea will be served in the Observation Bar with sparkling wine.

Traditional German Christmas market

Provided by stallholders from Frankfurt, this popular Christmas market runs from 26 November to 5 January, selling a mix of classic and contemporary gifts, as well as a range of German food and drink. Bed and breakfast for two will be just £75, Sunday-Thursday, at this time (excluding Christmas and New Year periods).

Bookings: reception@rosl-edinburgh.org or +44 (0)131 225 1501.

Food & drink: London

Christmas Day lunch

Join the ROSL festivities this Christmas, with sparkling drinks and a canapé reception followed by a traditional four-course feast and wine. Celebrate with fellow ROSL members on our shared tables or book a private table and bring guests, starting at midday and finishing with The Queen's Speech. *£81.75 pp. For reservations, contact Alastair Betty, Alastair@convexleisure.co.uk; +44 (0) 20 7491 3644.*

New Year's Eve

To welcome 2013, the catering team are planning a special party for members. We are in the process of finalising the event, so please check the ROSL website (www.rosl.org.uk) in September for full details.



© iStockphoto

Discussion Group & London Group

DISCUSSION GROUP

Meetings are held on the following Mondays, 7-8.30pm, at Over-Seas House, London. There is no charge, no need to book and all ROSL members and guests are welcome.

Contact John Edwards,
+44 (0)1732 883556,
johncoatesedward@aol.com.

Please note: The Discussion Group does not meet in September.

2012: ROSL/ Goodenough Diamond Jubilee series

Discussion Group meetings in 2012 are organised in association with Goodenough College. Founded in 1931, the college provides residential accommodation in the heart of Bloomsbury for postgraduate students from all over the world. It is justifiably proud of its rich extracurricular life, which draws on the intellectual and cultural interests and strengths of its student body. See www.goodenough.ac.uk.

Mandela's children turn 21: coming of age in the new South Africa

8 October

With epidemiologist Professor George Ellison, a fellow of Goodenough College and of the Royal Society for Public Health, who has worked in South Africa.

ADVENTURES IN OMAN:

Climbing dunes in Dhofar

The political role of London's clubs

12 November

With Seth Thevoz, whose PhD at Warwick University is on this topic.

LONDON GROUP

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

Contact Clive Carpenter,
+44 (0)7798 824193, clivedavidcarpenter@compuserve.com.

Meetings

Held once a month on a Thursday, 6-7pm, in the Mountbatten Room, Over-Seas House, London.

Exploring Wildlife in Oman

20 September

An illustrated talk by James Borrell, a conservation biologist who recently completed an expedition to the Dhofar mountains of Oman, in search of the critically endangered Arabian leopard.

Three score years and then...?

18 October

'A rambling through a musical life in London' by Professor Gavin

Henderson CBE, Principal of the Central School of Speech and Drama, and Chair of the jury at ROSL Annual Music Competition.

ROSL is hosting a wine tasting following the talk, which London Group members can join for a special discounted fee of £45. For details see page 31.

The Work of St James's Parish

15 November

Talk by the Revd Lucy Winkett, Rector of St James's, Piccadilly, and a former Canon in Residence at St Paul's Cathedral.

Outside visits

For more details, contact Doreen Regan, +44 (0)20 7584 5879.

To apply for events, write to Doreen Regan, London Group, c/o Porters' Desk, Over-Seas House, London. Please enclose separate cheques payable to London Group ROSL and a stamped, self-addressed envelope.

Guided tour of the Austrian Ambassador's residence

Wednesday 3 October, 11am

View the architecture, furnishings and paintings of the Austrian Embassy in London, built in the early 19th century by the architect George Basevi, courtesy of the Ambassador, HE Dr Emil Brix.

Tickets: LG members £10; guests £12. Meet at 10.45am, 18 Belgrave Square, London SW1. Nearest Tube: Victoria.

Guided tour of the Royal Military School of Music and the Museum of British Military Music

(Postponed from 12 June).

Tuesday 16 October, 2pm

Founded in 1857 by the Duke of Cambridge, the Royal Military

School of Music, Kneller Hall, currently trains the musicians and future band masters of the British Army and armies overseas. Tea and light refreshments will be available to purchase at the end of the tour. Travel is by coach from Over-Seas House, London, departing at 1pm and returning by 6pm.

Tickets: LG members £22; guests £24. Meet at 12.45pm at Over-Seas House. Apply by 8 October.

CHURCH WORK:

St James's, Piccadilly



© Derek Larmann

Volunteer poppy sellers

28 October - 11 November

We will be selling poppies at Over-Seas House, London. If you are interested, please call Helen Osborne on +44 (0)20 8503 5693 or leave your name and contact number c/o Porters' Desk, Over-Seas House.

***We guarantee your safe flight home
in case of accident or illness***



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VENICE

Ca' Dei Conti
**** Superior

Formerly a patrician palace, the Ca' Dei Conti is a family-run, boutique hotel with just 35 rooms and a small terrace. It overlooks a canal and is five minutes' walk from St. Mark's Square. All bedrooms are decorated in classic 18th Century style.

4 nights for the price of 3 all year - price from £746, saving £126

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

PRAGUE

Aria ***** Deluxe

Located in the city's atmospheric Mala Strana district just 2 minutes' walk from Charles Bridge, the Aria is a celebration of music and this theme resonates throughout the hotel. Each bedroom is dedicated to a particular artist or composer. The rooftop terrace has spectacular views.

4 nights for the price of 3 all year - price from £819, saving £148

FRASCATI

Villa Grazioli **** Superior

Frascati has always been a popular retreat for discerning travellers who are attracted by the picturesque countryside, famous vineyards and close proximity to Rome. Built in 1580 in a tranquil location with wonderful views over the Eternal City - Villa Grazioli has 58 elegantly furnished bedrooms, an excellent restaurant, summer swimming pool and spectacular public rooms with vaulted ceilings and intricate frescoes.



3 nights for the price of 2 all year - price from £639, saving £117

4 nights for the price of 3 and a 3-course dinner - price from £756

Includes entrance to the Vatican Museum & Sistine Chapel or elegant Borghese Gallery

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Includes entrance to the Vatican Museum & Sistine Chapel or Borghese Gallery in Rome and Bargello, Accademia or Uffizi Gallery in Florence

SEVILLE

Dona Maria
**** Superior

A characterful hotel which stands opposite the Cathedral in the Barrio Santa Cruz - the labyrinthine Jewish quarter in the heart of Seville's old city. The cool Andalusian décor extends from the comfortable lounge to the individually furnished bedrooms, and to the rooftop terrace with its small swimming pool and spectacular views of the Cathedral and Giralda tower.

4 nights for the price of 3 to 8 September - price from £546, saving £62

PARIS

Pavillon de la Reine
**** Deluxe

With a relaxing Eurostar journey and transfers - Paris is the perfect short break destination. This hotel's characterful, intimate atmosphere, superb location by the Place des Vosges, and stylish courtyard terrace, make it the perfect place to relax with a delicious glass of chilled wine.

3 nights price from £749

Includes a Seine cruise, metro tickets and 2 day Museum Pass with entrance to over 60 museums including the Louvre and Musée d'Orsay

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