

# OVERSEAS

Journal of the Royal Over-Seas League

Issue 4, December 2009-February 2010



# ROSL

ROYAL OVER-SEAS LEAGUE

FOUNDED 1910

*celebrating 100 years*

## **Centenary special**

An exciting calendar of events to celebrate 100 years of ROSL

## **End of an era**

The ROSL Chairman reflects on his time in office and welcomes his successor

## **Green scene**

Why Commonwealth countries must prioritise environmental issues

## **Exhibiting greatness**

Interviews with ROSL's four talented, scholarship-winning artists



## OVERSEAS

ISSUE 4 December 2009-February 2010

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

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© SAMANTHA WHITAKER

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Front cover: The new ROSL logo

# Chairman's farewell

As he steps down, **Mr Stanley Martin** reflects on his time in office, and looks at the recent successes of the ROSL

Two months after I became Chairman in 2005, 52 people were killed by terrorist bombs on the transport system of London. We all feared for the fabric of our society. More narrowly, at the League, we feared for an adverse effect on our fortunes, especially if there were repeated attacks. Mercifully, there was none and members still travelled and stayed at the Over-Seas Houses in London and Edinburgh.

I was due to retire from the chairmanship in May 2010, after five years, the maximum time sensibly allowed by our constitution. I thought, however, that we should have the same Chairman throughout our centenary Year. I have therefore resigned, with effect from December 2009, and the Central Council have elected the Vice-Chairman, Sir Anthony Figgis, to succeed me.

Like me and my predecessor, Sir Colin Imray, he is a former diplomat, who was Marshal of the Diplomatic Corps in London from 2001-08. You will read much more about (and from) him in the next *Overseas*. Meanwhile, let me simply say that he and his wife, Mayella, make a powerful team. I have no doubt that, as members come to know them better, they will realise how fortunate the League is to have such a charming and energetic couple at its head. Hanni and I wish them both many happy and successful years and hope they will derive as much satisfaction and pleasure from the task as we did.

Certainly, our abiding impression of the last five years is the friendship and help extended to us by members in Britain and overseas. Together, we visited all the branches in the United Kingdom and those in Canada, as well as attending the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meetings in Malta and Uganda. Alone, I attended the CHOGM in Trinidad in November and I made an extensive tour of the branches in Thailand, Australia and New Zealand in 2007.

I was very sorry that my visit this year to

the thriving branch in Hong Kong was thwarted by political problems in Thailand. The immense amount of voluntary activity in the branches – and in the various groups in London – is evidence of the place the League holds in the lives of so many people.

There is another abiding impression: of the loyalty and friendship of the staff of the League. Obviously, our closest association has been with Mr Robert Newell and his wife, Shanaz. He, with her support, has given over 30 years service to the League, as General Manager from 1979 and, more importantly, as Director-General since 1991. On becoming Chairman, I was told by many people that my

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*We hope the new  
Chairman derives as  
much satisfaction  
and pleasure from  
the task as we did*

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most difficult task would be to find a successor to Robert. As you all know, I avoided the problem by persuading him that he should defer his retirement in order to organise the centenary celebrations. How could he possibly have watched a successor make a hash of it?

Robert Newell is the dynamic chief of staff but the staff itself does not let him or the League down. Many of them are long-serving: Mr Roderick Lakin, Mrs Fatima Vanicek, Miss Margaret Adrian-Vallance, Mr Mick McCall and Mr Abdul Amrani, whom we have known for all or most of their time at the League. There are others in the background whom we do not know so well

but whose contribution is vital to the successful functioning of the League.

Like all my predecessors, I have relied on the advice and friendship of members of the Central Council and particularly those on the Executive Committee, who give up a good deal of time to considering and deciding on the affairs of the League. This is especially true of the Honorary Treasurer, Mr Simon Ward.

To Lord (Richard) Luce and his wife, Rose, I am grateful for the close interest they display in our various activities, particularly the music. They are a source of great encouragement and he is ready when necessary with sound advice based on his extensive political and administrative experience. All his friends in the League were delighted when The Queen conferred on him last year the Order of the Garter.

I am glad we have been able to attract many distinguished people, including a number of High Commissioners, to our Central Council lunches and to literary and discussion evenings. The speakers at the Chairman's Lunches, now a well established six-monthly event in our calendar, have included men who are or have been Private Secretary to The Queen, Lord Chamberlain, Governor of Hong Kong, Leader of the Liberal Party, Secretary of the Cabinet, Cardinal Archbishop of Westminster and Lord-Lieutenants of Counties.

I am proud that my history of the Order of Merit was published during my chairmanship and that its launch took place at the League, in the presence of several members of this very special order. Its publishers, I B Tauris, have now produced the centenary history of the League.

There have been no dramatic additions to the League during my time as Chairman: no new floors but much modernisation to existing rooms. Two successful changes that were already under way (and so owed little to my involvement) were the transformation of



**IN OFFICE:** The departing Chairman, Mr Stanley Martin, and his wife Hanni

the dowdy St Andrews Hall into the resplendent Princess Alexandra Hall and the outsourcing of our catering activities to Convex Leisure. Two royal highlights of my term were the inauguration by our Vice-Patron, Princess Alexandra, of her Hall and, exactly three years later, of the splendid piano that now graces it.

The ship that symbolises the League and its world-wide spread – *ubique navigavimus*: we shall sail everywhere – has happily navigated fairly smooth financial waters but may be becalmed in recessionary tides or even be buffeted by swine flu storms. We do not yet know but I am confident that the triumvirate of Chairman, Director-General and Honorary Treasurer are well equipped to cope with any such adverse weather.

I return to the year ahead, in which we celebrate our centenary. Any voluntary organisation that is still alive and kicking after

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*Our abiding impression of the last five years is the friendship and help extended by members*

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100 years has much to be proud of and that pride will manifest itself throughout our celebrations, in Britain and overseas. Naturally, most of the plans have already had to be made: our Patron, The Queen, will honour us by attending a reception at St James's Palace in May or June; Princess Alexandra will present the prizes at the Annual

Music Competition Final in June; we have more places than usual at the Royal Garden Parties in July; in the autumn, the Commonwealth Secretary-General will host a reception at Marlborough House and Lord Patten of Barnes will speak at the Chairman's Lunch.

Many overseas members will be visiting Britain and, with representatives of headquarters and the British branches, will take the opportunity to discuss the present and future state of the League. Much that is good in what we do now – especially in the arts – deserves to be retained but there is always room for improvement and change, provided it is not simply for its own sake. Those at the centenary conference deserve the encouragement and support of all League members as they seek to chart a course for that symbolic ship of ours over the coming years.

## From the Director-General

It is an unusual time of year to have a change of ROSL Chairman. It usually takes place at the AGM in May, but Mr Stanley Martin has decided to retire at the Central Council meeting on 7 December to allow his successor, Sir Anthony Figgis, to be Chairman throughout our centenary year. This is both generous and thoughtful of him, and members may be assured that Stanley and his delightful wife Hanni will be included, as honoured guests, in all our celebratory events.

As I write this message I reflect on the success ROSL has achieved under Stanley's leadership. Last year, membership increased, and ROSL weathered the economic storms. The ROSL is in sound financial health, and its Royal Charter objectives continue to be fulfilled. During Stanley's chairmanship, he has travelled extensively, as he explains in his farewell message on page 4, and he and Hanni have attended nearly all ROSL events during the past five years. They made many friends and admirers among ROSL members.

Stanley first joined the ROSL Central Council in 1982, when he was with the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO). He retired as a diplomat in 1992 and became Vice-Chairman in 2002 and Chairman in 2005. I have enjoyed working with him, and I have benefited greatly from his vast experience and encyclopaedic historical knowledge.

Recently, he has been enormously helpful in advising on the *History of ROSL*, and proofreading it. On behalf of members throughout the world, I convey to Stanley and Hanni grateful thanks and very best wishes for the future. I know they will stay in touch, and they will certainly remain firm friends of my wife and me.

Sir Anthony Figgis joined the ROSL Central Council in 2004 and became Vice-Chairman in 2007. He was HM Marshal of the Diplomatic Corps from 2001 to 2008. Prior to that, he was a diplomat with the FCO and served in Belgrade, Bahrain, Madrid, Geneva, Bonn, and was Ambassador to Austria from 1996 to 2000. He is a Trustee of the Guildhall School Trust, a Governor of Goodenough College, a Freeman of the City of London, a Liveryman of the Musicians' Company, and Gentleman Usher of the Blue Rod in the Order of St Michael and St George. Sir Anthony was appointed CMG in 1993 and KCVO in 1996. He was educated at Rugby School and studied modern languages at King's College Cambridge. He is married to Mayella and they have a daughter and two sons. I offer a warm welcome to Anthony and Mayella, and wish them a very happy term of office.

Finally, on a sad note, I am sorry to report the death of ROSL Vice-President, the eminent artist, Donald Hamilton Fraser RA, on 2 September, aged 80. He was a delightful person whose advice on artistic matters I always much appreciated. A tribute to Donald appears on page 37.

Robert Newell

## Editor's letter

A centenary is a time for reflection, but also an opportunity to consider plans for the future and ways in which positive changes may be made. This is the attitude I have seen everyone at ROSL embrace recently, and it is the motivation behind the articles you will find in this issue of *Overseas*.



We publish a number of features on the ROSL centenary celebrations, both in our dedicated centenary section at the front of the journal, and interspersed throughout. Our World section, too, offers food for thought and goals for the future – as well as some sobering reminders of things we might have done better in the past. We take the environment as our theme, an issue of global concern and global responsibility, where we can all, truly, contribute to our health and stability.

On page 14, Richard Hammond looks at the epoch of 'ecotourism'. On page 12, Vicky Baker investigates an innovative and controversial scheme in Guyana, through which the government hopes to reduce its carbon emissions and protect its rainforest. And on page 16, Vijay Amliwala highlights the projects being undertaken by and within the Commonwealth to tackle environmental damage and climate change. The key, he says, is to start with the poorest, but fast-growing, countries. He describes a project in India that aims to achieve great things.

In October, in the lead-up to the Copenhagen climate change talks, Gordon Brown claimed that it is not too late for us to make a difference. "We cannot compromise with the earth, we cannot compromise with the catastrophe of unchecked climate change, so we must compromise with one another," he said. Whether those who assemble in Copenhagen will manage this is yet to be seen. We can only hope they embrace the progressive spirit I've been so impressed with and inspired by among my colleagues at ROSL.

Jessica Moore

# Where it all started

Our second extract from Adele Smith's book, celebrating 100 years of ROSL, looks at the founding of the *Overseas* journal

It was not surprising that [the founder of ROSL] Evelyn Wrench, trained as a newspaper man, was determined to establish a journal for the new society as soon as possible. Despite the difficulties and paper shortages of wartime Britain he launched *Overseas*, a monthly magazine for members, edited by himself, in December 1915. Early contributors included George Bernard Shaw, A.A. Milne and Harry Lauder. King George V, the Prince of Wales and the Prime Ministers H.H. Asquith and Lloyd George were among the many distinguished and busy people who sent personal messages to the magazine, acknowledging the great contribution made by members of the Overseas Club to the war effort.

Evelyn Wrench's view of what the magazine could achieve was ambitious from the beginning: "My vision of *Overseas* was a journal dedicated to the highest ideals, which would ultimately earn for itself a unique place in the

literature of the Empire." He later claimed it was "The Foundation on which our edifice rests".

The first edition of *Overseas* comprised 32 pages including eight pages of advertising, only taken from British firms. There was a strict embargo on advertisements for alcohol. With a cover by the popular artist Macdonald Gill, its identity was established quickly. The cost of the first four years of production (£1,000 a year) was paid for by Alec Cochrane, an American and early Wrench supporter. The magazine was intended to be a "non-political", positive arm of Empire, to offset German propaganda. The Empire War Aims were set out and social questions discussed ranged from housing, slums and public ownership of the drink trade to garden cities and the decimal system. A special "Khaki" supplement was provided for the troops monthly and an armistice special issue reflected on how London welcomed the peace.

In 1922, there was a great increase in the length of the journal. Regular features now included Evelyn Wrench's monthly newsletter, which was extensive and rambling, covering topics of the moment, political situations at home and overseas, details of his travels and general philosophy. There were reviews of new books and London theatre productions, "Sport at home and overseas" (including football results!), a motoring column and a series "Why I went overseas and what happened to me", as well as articles on every imaginable Empire topic. Large numbers of photographs enlivened the text.

*Overseas* was used as the main tool in the League's many fundraising efforts.

*The Royal Over-Seas League: From Empire into Commonwealth, A History of the First 100 Years* by Adele Smith, published 2009 by I B Tauris, ISBN 9781 8488 5010

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## ...and what was said

Here, we publish an extract from the very first issue of the *Overseas* journal, printed in December 1915

**In December 1915, the Over-Seas Club (as it was then called) had been in existence for five years. The membership at that time exceeded 135,000 – made up of 10,000 subscribing London members, many thousands of branch members worldwide who paid a 'branch fee', and many more thousands who did not subscribe but who had purchased a club badge to express "their sympathy with the Over-Seas movement." Already, the founder, Evelyn Wrench, was phasing out the latter, encouraging everyone to become active, subscribing members. The following extract is from the very first issue of the *Overseas* journal. Here, Wrench endeavours to define the Over-Seas Club and its purpose, so as to justify, in part, the need for subscription rates which were (for London members) 3s. per annum for the upkeep of headquarters.**

### You and I

...it is almost impossible to describe the Overseas Club and its ultimate aims, for we are still in the making. The Overseas Club, after all, narrows down to the individual – it is just what you and I make it. If we could only manage always to live up to our ideals, the Overseas Club would become one of the greatest spiritual influences in the Empire. It is the old argument we have heard used in connection with the church – the church is not something outside its members, its members are the church. And so with the Overseas Club. You and I, as members, are the Overseas Club.

This fact was brought home to me very often during my Empire tour. In the town of \_\_\_\_\_, I found on my arrival that no respectable people cared to join the local Overseas Club, for the reason that the local

secretary was subject to certain human failings, which need not be specified.

I also remember another case of a drunken man being found in the public gardens at \_\_\_\_\_ with the Overseas Club badge in his button hole. My informant removed the badge from the coat of the delinquent – who continued to slumber – rather than that our emblem should be brought into disrepute...

### A woman's letter

What the Overseas Club might become one day was put very well in a letter I received recently from a correspondent at Rawal Pindi, India. She wrote: "The nation has a great deal to thank the Overseas Club for, and I feel as the years pass by there will not be a Briton in the world who will care to own that he is not a member of it."

# Call to members

Do you have any memories or stories from your time at Over-Seas House? We'd love to hear your anecdotes!

As we celebrate the centenary of ROSL and look back over the past 100 years, we would like to feature members' reminiscences, stories and anecdotes of their stays at Over-Seas Houses in London and Edinburgh, events, dances, parties or functions. Your memories of branch activities, or a special members' event or a moment when you were particularly grateful for your ROSL membership, would also prove valuable.

If you feel you can contribute to this feature, please write to:

*Samantha Whitaker, PR Dept  
Over-Seas House, Park Place, St. James's  
Street, London SW1A 1LR  
Email: [swhitaker@rosl.org.uk](mailto:swhitaker@rosl.org.uk)*

We look forward to hearing from you!



**THE VICTORIAN BAR:** Members enjoyed drinks at 4 Park Place just outside the current gates of Over-Seas House, London. ROSL owned 4 and 5 Park Place until 1981

## THE OFFICERS' ASSOCIATION COUNTRY HOME ~ "HUNTLY"

Located between Teignmouth and Newton Abbot in South Devon

### Short Breaks Available



Huntly is the Officers' Association's residential retirement home for elderly single ex-officers, male or female, of all three Services, and widows and widowers of ex-officers who wish to enjoy an active retirement in a peaceful and tranquil environment. Applications from other retired professionals are also welcomed. Located in the village of Bishopsteignton and situated in extensive landscaped grounds overlooking the Teign estuary, Huntly offers the comfort, security and peace of mind of a community while preserving the independence and privacy of residents. All residents have a single room with en-suite facilities, and the spacious public rooms includes a Dining Room, Drawing Room, Library, Snooker Room, Coffee Lounge and a TV room. Fast communications by both road and rail are conveniently close.

Applicants must be mobile, able to look after themselves and attend meals. There are no medical facilities at Huntly, although a local doctor visits each week and welfare officers are employed to provide support for the residents. All residents pay a standard fee that covers their accommodation, meals and welfare support.

Contact the House Governor on Tel: 01626 775223, Fax: 01626 779241 Email: [huntly2@officersassociation.org.uk](mailto:huntly2@officersassociation.org.uk) for further details and a colour brochure and application form. Or visit our Website: [www.officersassociation.org.uk](http://www.officersassociation.org.uk)

# Inspired design

Director of Arts **Roderick Lakin** traces the historic ROSL imagery, which has inspired the new ROSL logo

The front cover of this magazine takes as its key image the new ROSL logo, created for centenary year. The brief for the designer Raymond Patmore of Helix Design was to create an elegant and contemporary new look for the ROSL, which drew on existing images associated with the club over the past 100 years.

Only five years after the ROSL was founded, Sir Evelyn Wrench launched the monthly magazine *Overseas*, in 1915, for which he commissioned a striking cover from the artist Macdonald Gill depicting a stylised sailing ship on the high seas. Used for more than 40 years, this represented the notion of the ROSL as an international organisation reaching out around the globe, concordant with the club's adopted creed.

*We sailed wherever ship could sail,  
We founded many a mighty state,  
Pray God our greatness may not fail  
Through craven fears of being great.*

Alfred Lord Tennyson

The ship became the central feature of the ROSL's crest, created by the College of Arms when the 'Royal' title was conferred by HM The Queen on the Royal Over-Seas League's 50th anniversary in 1960. The latin motto 'ubique

navigavimus', roughly translated 'voyaging everywhere', reinforces the maritime imagery.

The other key piece of design, used from the earliest days, was the O enclosing the letter S. This highlights the importance of the hyphen in the name Over-Seas League, to express the idea of reciprocal traffic between the mother country Great Britain and the Empire across the seas, rather than overseas without a hyphen meaning not the mainland. This device was used extensively with different typefaces in printed materials, club pins, badges, ties, scarves and other club merchandise. The O with enclosed S is also featured in the decorative metal grill covering the glass panels of the main entrance to Over-Seas House, London. It is sometimes used with the ship perched on top, for example the badges of office of the President, Chairman of Central Council, Branch Presidents and Chairmen

In the new centenary logo, the crest with the sailing ship is retained, redrawn for clarity of reproduction in small and large formats and in electronic media. The O and S of the acronym, lean into each other like links in a chain suggesting a coming together from across the seas. The maroon and purple colours chosen for the centenary stationary



**IMAGES THAT SAY 100 WORDS:** One of the first journals (above), and the evolution of ROSL imagery (below)

and printed materials update the more staid dark navy and maroon of the old club tie, and the flexibility of the design is well demonstrated in the attractive and diverse merchandise created for the centenary.

The words 'Founded 1910' denote the heritage of the ROSL and the dynamic circular flourish emphasises the celebratory aspect of the centenary and optimism of a forward-looking organisation. I am sure Evelyn Wrench would have approved.





# Celebrating 100 years

Director-General **Robert Newell** announces highlights of the centenary events programme at Over-Seas House, London

There is no better time to be a member of the ROSL than our centenary year, 2010, for which we have planned a series of attractive events at Over-Seas House, London.

The year is launched in style with a party for members on 26 January (see page 39). ROSL ARTS presents two very fine concerts

in January before embarking on the ROSL Annual Music Competition auditions in February and March, for which competitors from different parts of the Commonwealth will compete for a prize fund greatly augmented for the centenary (see page 36).

Tuesday 4 May will be an especially full

day with a Service of Thanksgiving at St James's Piccadilly at 11am, followed by the Chairman's lunch at which, instead of a speaker, a specially commissioned ROSL Centenary DVD will have its premiere. Directed by BAFTA award winning former BBC producer Christopher Swann and

## Centenary reception

*In late May or early June 2010, the Royal Over-Seas League will celebrate its centenary in 2010 with a reception at St James's Palace in the presence of HM The Queen*

**HM The Queen, our Patron, has graciously consented to attend a champagne reception in the magnificent setting of the state apartments of St James's Palace to mark our centenary. The Queen will be accompanied by our Vice-Patron, HRH Princess Alexandra. This will be the highlight of the ROSL centenary year.**

The last time The Queen attended a ROSL event was in 1992 for a concert to celebrate the 40th anniversary of Her Majesty's accession to the throne. Before that, The Queen visited Over-Seas House for the ROSL's Golden Jubilee, its 60th, 70th and 80th anniversaries.

We expect many members will wish to attend this special event, and since St James's Palace has very good capacity, we are not balloting tickets as we expect to be able to satisfy demand. Please do book as early as possible, using the application form on page 38. The ticket price of £90 includes champagne and canapés, provided by the caterers By Word of Mouth. Members are invited to make a donation to the ROSL Centenary Appeal in addition to the ticket price for the reception. Donations can be made by Gift Aid.

Accommodation at Over-Seas House, London on the evening of the Centenary Reception will be allocated on a first come first served basis. We have also negotiated alternative accommodation at central London hotels of a comparable standard and at similar rates to the ROSL (single: £115-£125, double/twin: £160-£180) and the reception team at Over-Seas House, London will make reservations on behalf of members. Please apply for this event using the application form on page 38. For bedroom reservations, call 020 7408 0214.

We will contact each applicant six weeks prior to the reception with the precise date.



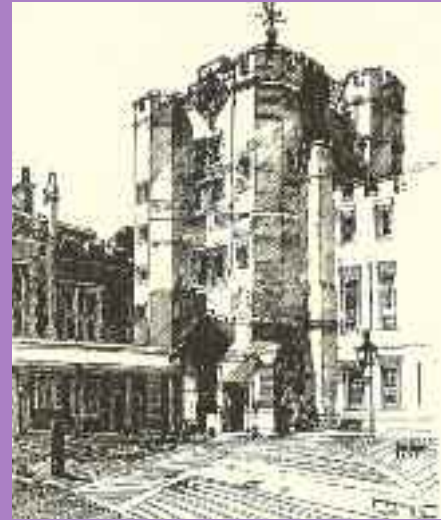
**ST JAMES'S PALACE:** From Ackermann's *Microcosm of London* – in the 'drawing-room'

## St James's Palace

Henry VIII built St James's Palace between 1531 and 1536 on the site of the Hospital of St James, Westminster. Henry VIII was the first in a long line of monarchs to reside in St James's, ending only when Queen Victoria preferred to live at Buckingham Palace. St James's Palace became the official residence of the Sovereign when Queen Anne moved her entire court there, after Whitehall Palace burned down in 1698. Foreign ambassadors continue to be accredited to the Court of St James's, and visiting

Heads of State are received there.

The State Apartments, enlarged by Christopher Wren, embellished by William Kent and partly redecorated by William Morris in the 19th century, are still used for official entertaining. They house the Mortlake tapestries ordered by Charles I as Prince of Wales in the Old Presence Chamber, a fine display of arms and armour, and a marvellous collection of paintings including important works by Mytens, Gainsborough, Sir Peter Lely and Sir Joshua Reynolds.



narrated by Chris de Souza, the DVD will depict the diverse activities of the ROSL today around the world. The day will conclude with the AGM in Princess Alexandra Hall, followed by a reception.

A Centenary Ball will be held on Friday 25 June, which will be a great summer treat for members – particularly our younger members and those from the very active Inter-Club Younger Members' Group.

Further centenary events will be held in the autumn and winter, including a reception at Marlborough House, hosted by the Commonwealth Secretary-General, the date

is to be announced later, and the Chairman's Lunch with Lord Patten of Barnes.

Throughout the year, special Discussion Group meetings will be held in conjunction with the Round Table Commonwealth journal, which also celebrates its centenary in 2010. Excellent speakers on the theme of 'Empire to Commonwealth' have been arranged.

The clubhouse in Edinburgh and ROSL branches worldwide are planning a host of centenary related events throughout the year, the highlights of which will be reported in forthcoming issues of this magazine.

## GIFT OF MEMBERSHIP

**The ROSL centenary is an ideal time to introduce new members to the ROSL. Membership makes a very useful and distinctive Christmas gift for family and friends. A special membership application form is included on the carrier sheet of this issue of *Overseas*.**

## Buckingham Palace and Holyrood House Garden Parties

**If you would like to be invited to either the Buckingham Palace Garden Party in London in June/July or the garden party at Holyrood House in Edinburgh in June/July (for members living in Scotland and the North of England), you must submit a request for consideration by noon on Friday 26 February by POST ONLY (no emails, faxes or phone calls please). Include your membership number and contact details for you and your guest (one per member only) and send to the PR Department, clearly marked 'Garden Party'. A ballot will be held and ONLY SUCCESSFUL APPLICANTS WILL BE NOTIFIED. Please note that it is officials of Buckingham Palace who scrutinise applications and issue the invitations, which are not sent out until early June.**



# Protect and survive

In Guyana, an innovative carbon offsetting scheme hopes to combat global warming – by ‘selling’ the rainforest. **Vicky Baker** reports

Just over a year ago the world flew into crisis. Financial markets were on the brink of collapse, world leaders called emergency meetings, billions of pounds were reassigned and a ‘rescue plan’ was priority number one. But as the world’s superpowers rallied round, it was time for others to gain perspective. Why, asked environmentalists, is there not the same sense of urgency associated with the other crisis facing humanity: global climate change.

‘Nature doesn’t do bailouts,’ read a protest banner in London around the time that the banking deals were signed. It’s true enough. In 50 years time, we won’t be able to buy our way out of rising global temperatures. However, if Mother Nature was looking to strike a deal – and sooner rather than later – we could expect a very different line-up of leaders brokering deals around the international table. To date, the nearest thing to a climate bailout has come from a country that many of the citizens of superpower states would struggle to locate on a map.

Tucked up in a very non-Latino, north-eastern corner of South America is Guyana, a country as large as the UK. This Caribbean-facing, English-speaking, former British colony is home to a population of just 770,000 – the size of Liverpool – with predominantly African, Indian and Amerindian heritage. It’s also home to some of the world’s most unspoilt rainforests, covering more than 75% of the country’s landmass.

In 2006, Guyanese President Bharrat Jagdeo put forward a protection plan for these precious forests. In return for financial compensation to assist in the development of a low carbon economy, he was willing to place his country’s rainforests under internationally verified supervision. The forests would, in turn, become Guyana’s economic generator, removing CO<sub>2</sub> from the atmosphere and storing it for nations

generating emissions. The buyers, meanwhile, could sell carbon credits on global markets, make money from ecotourism and pharmaceutical discoveries, and eventually create markets for ecosystem services, such as rainfall generation and climate regulation. Studies suggested that such a venture could bring Guyana almost US\$60 million a year, or 6% of its GDP.

“This does not mean sacrificing sovereignty over our forest or restricting the development aspirations of our people,” Jagdeo told the BBC. “It simply means allowing globally recognised supervision to verify that activities within the forest are sustainable.” The proposal – and

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*In 50 years time, we won’t be able to buy our way out of rising global temperatures*

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Jagdeo’s efforts to keep the issue on the global agenda since, including writing columns for international news services and giving talks worldwide – led the president to be named as one of *Time* magazine’s Heroes of the Environment in 2008.

Deforestation is said to account for one fifth of human-generated greenhouse gases – more than the emissions created by all the world’s cars, trucks and aeroplanes combined. The Prince of Wales’s Rainforests Project, which

was launched in 2007 to find urgent protection strategies for rainforests, claims that an area the size of a football pitch is being felled somewhere in the world every four seconds.

President Jagdeo said he wanted to redress a system that says trees only have a “value” if they are cut down. He singled out the UK as a potential partner in his plans, saying this was a chance for Britain to make a “moral offset”. Some feared a new breed of eco blackmail. Jagdeo fought back. “I’m not a mercenary,” he told critics. “I’m not just doing this just because I’m a good man and want to save the world. I need the assistance.”

Recent reports in *The Guardian* have also suggested that a global carbon market could be ‘a recipe for corruption and will be hijacked by organised crime without safeguards’ (5 October). Yet a few days later, the newspaper carried a retort from the Minister of the Environment for Norway – the largest financial contributor to the Redd scheme (Reducing emissions from deforestation and degradation) – saying they are “well aware of the risks of the scheme”, but the urgency of the situation has left no alternative.

In the meantime, Guyana continues with their innovative plans. In March 2008, they found their first taker in Canopy Capital, a newly formed, UK-based eco-finance company, and signed a groundbreaking deal with the Iwokrama International Centre – which manages the 371,000-hectare Iwokrama reserve – to develop a new approach that would enable countries with large rainforests to earn significant income from them, without cutting them down. Established in 1996, in a joint mandate with the Commonwealth Secretariat, the Iwokrama International Centre has been deemed a unique and exemplary project by environmentalists worldwide, bringing together



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people, science and business to show how a rainforest can be used sustainably for climate change protection and community benefit. This work has included training workers about reduced impact logging, and working with indigenous communities to help them diversify their income through ecotourism.

Although the fee has not been disclosed, it is known that Canopy Capital did not buy lands or trees in Iwokrama. Instead, it received a five-year licence to measure and value the ecosystem services provided by the forest. "This deal was the first real step to drive private equity into a rainforest," says Edward Glover, Chairman of the reserve's board of trustees and former British High Commissioner to Guyana. "Putting a price on a rainforest is like taking out an insurance plan. It's a model that has tremendous potential to be replicated elsewhere."

In December, world leaders meet in Copenhagen for climate negotiations. There is hope that the summit will press forward the concept of Redd, and address the Kyoto protocol's failure to include a mechanism for protecting forests. Jagdeo has admitted that he paid little attention to the Kyoto deal as he was then working as his country's minister of finance. "I advise today's Ministers of Finance, prime ministers and presidents to ensure that they give climate change and deforestation a greater priority than I did," he has said since.

Timing is crucial for Guyana. In September, a new bridge opened linking the country to the state of Roraima in Brazil. A paved road through the heart of the forest is expected to follow, giving landlocked Roraima access to Guyana's seaport and opening a host of new trading possibilities. The fear is that this could lead to more deforestation. There is also concern about changing weather patterns.

Much of Guyana lies below sea level, and, in 2005, devastating floods caused economic damage equivalent to 60% of the GDP. Many more floods have followed since.

Father Malcolm Rodrigues, a former Iwokrama trustee, has been trying to stir up awareness about the Copenhagen summit on the streets of Guyana's capital, Georgetown. He says of a recent demonstration: "It was very uplifting to hear the ordinary man-in-the-street express his support."

One of the main messages campaigners wish to put forward is that protecting Guyana's rainforests doesn't have to hold the

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*We need to redress a system that says trees only have a 'value' if they are cut down*

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country back. "The key work at Iwokrama is to show how to conserve and use a forest at the same time," explains Glover. "A tremendous amount of progress has already been made at Iwokrama. With this model, we hope it will be possible to show that money can grow on trees."

**Vicky Baker is a freelance journalist based in Buenos Aires and a former editor of *Overseas* magazine. [www.vickybaker.co.uk](http://www.vickybaker.co.uk)**

**LOOKING AHEAD:** A deal involving Guyana's 371,000-hectare Iwokrama reserve could secure the future of this rainforest

## The bigger picture

Another Commonwealth country with precious, and endangered, rainforest resources is Malaysia. Borneo – the island the country jointly administrates with Indonesia and Brunei – has been particularly hard hit, and it's not just the famed orangutan that is under threat. According to the World Wildlife Federation, more than 360 new species have been discovered in Borneo over the last decade.

In October, the *Malaysia Star* newspaper announced that a tri-nation rainforest conservation initiative between the island's three ruling governments is finally getting off the ground, two years after the project's declaration was signed. The 'Heart of Borneo' project will seek to protect a third of the island from deforestation.

Malaysia's deputy natural resources and environment minister Tan Sri Joseph Kurup told the newspaper that "the world at large" could benefit from the project.

"Forests are like the proverbial goose that lays the gold eggs and we must therefore ... protect them."

But the question remains: should poorer countries be compensated for the effect conservation and emissions cutting have on their country's income? It was a topic hotly debated at international climate talks in Bangkok in October, and will be on agenda again at the eagerly anticipated Copenhagen summit in December.

The topic echoes a statement made by former Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir bin Mohamad back in 1992: "If it is in the interests of the rich that we do not cut down our trees, then they must compensate us for the loss of income."

# Travel right

Just how worthy is ‘ecotourism’? When it comes to holidays, sort the green from the greenwash, says **Richard Hammond**

The sprawling bushveld of South Africa’s malarial-free Madikwe Game Reserve, on the border with Botswana, is home to some of the continent’s most elusive animals: black and white rhino, wild dogs, leopard and cheetah – as well as some of the Africa’s most popular wildlife, such as elephant, zebra and giraffe. Safari guests can see these animals while staying in the lap of luxury at Thakadu River Camp, where there’s gourmet dining in a large open lounge and a swimming pool overlooking the Marico river. The tents have double beds, an ensuite bath, and sliding doors onto a private outdoor deck. There are some 30 other, similarly luxurious, safari lodges in the reserve, yet what sets Thakadu and its nearby sister lodge, Buffalo Safari, apart is that they are owned by the local communities in collaboration with North-West Parks and a South African tour operator (The Madikwe Collection). The camps are low impact, and provide a source of income for the communities who have traversing rights across the reserve, so they can lead safaris that ultimately help the conservation of the reserve. It’s an enlightened approach, and one that is indicative of an increase in ecotourism throughout southern Africa.

Ecotourism is now big business. According to a report by market research company Mintel: ‘The UK’s green travellers are a rapidly expanding minority. In 2006, there were over a million “responsible holidays” taken by the British, worth £409 million.’

The future popularity of ecotourism is expected to be driven by a trend towards more adventurous tourism. According to the United Nations World Tourism Organisation’s report, *Tourism 2020 Vision*: ‘Sun-and-sand resort tourism has now “matured as a market” and its

growth is projected to remain flat. In contrast, “experiential” tourism – which encompasses ecotourism, nature, heritage, cultural, and soft adventure tourism, as well as sub-sectors such as rural and community tourism – is among the sectors expected to grow most quickly over the next two decades.’

Mintel says: ‘Based on 25% growth year on year, it is predicted that, by 2011, ecotourism will account for 3.4% of the total travel market.’

So what exactly is ‘ecotourism’? The International Ecotourism Society (TIES), which has members in more than 90 countries, says ecotourism is ‘responsible travel to natural areas that conserves the environment and improves the well-being of local people.’

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*While progressive ecotourism can provide genuine support, the term has lost credibility*

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Neil Birnie of Wilderness Journeys, which organises adventure holidays in Africa, Bhutan and South America, says that genuine ecotourism can make a real difference to conservation and the livelihoods of local communities, but only when certain conditions are met. “For ecotourism to work”, he says, “there must be a threatened natural resource and a human population nearby for whom



ecotourism provides an alternative sustainable use of that resource, rather than an extractive use of that resource. If ecotourism operators approach it from a long-term basis – whereby there is a genuine commitment to employ locally, to ensure local capacity building and ensure as many of the benefits from ecotourism as possible will benefit local people – then the nature resource will be protected and the livelihood of local people will improve.”

Birnie says there are some excellent examples of very successful ecotourism enterprises, particularly in Kenya – such as at the Sarara Eco Lodge in the Namunyak Conservancy in Northern Kenya, the largest community conservation area in Africa. According to Birnie, 15 years ago there were virtually no elephants in the area because they’d been poached almost to extinction, but, since the development of the Sarara Eco Lodge, the operation has been so successful there are now estimated to be 4,000 elephants in the conservation area, as well as leopard and healthy populations of African wild dogs. In addition, US\$150,000, raised from the lodge, has been distributed to the local communities for health and educational projects.

While progressive ecotourism enterprises, such as Thakadu and Sarara, provide genuine support for conservation and communities, Harold Goodwin, Professor of Responsible Tourism Management at the International



**GOOD BREAKS:** South Africa's Madikwe Game Reserve deserves its 'eco' credentials

Centre for Responsible Tourism, Leeds Metropolitan University, says the term 'ecotourism' has lost credibility. Goodwin was commissioned by the World Tourism Organisation to research the use of the concept of ecotourism in marketing nature-based tourism in the UK. "We found that only 3.5% of brochures were using the concept", he said. "The idea of ecotourism had lost all purchase in the UK, and that has increasingly been the case across Europe. The concept is still meaningful in Australia and some parts of the USA."

According to Goodwin, the notion of a more responsible tourism industry has a much broader agenda than ecotourism. "The danger of the whole ecotourism approach that was dominant throughout the 1990s was that sustainability was addressed only in terms of nature based tourism, which was a cul-de-sac. Any type of tourism can be more responsible: in economic terms – by encouraging people to go to local markets and buy directly from local craftsmen and women; in social terms – by encouraging people to behave in ways that mean they get more out of their trip and cause less offence to local people; and in environmental terms – by using less water and conserving endangered species."

Choosing to go on a holiday where these kinds of concerns are genuinely addressed is not easy. Key in 'ecotourism' or 'responsible

travel' into an internet search engine and you're likely to find thousands of results, from remote ecolodges and luxury hotels to safari holidays and voluntourism. Similar search terms, such as 'ethical' and 'sustainable' are becoming just as over-used (and abused) by tourism companies looking to cash in on the green wave.

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*Terms such as 'ethical' and 'sustainable' are becoming over-used and abused*

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"All too often, ecotourism is a guise for an ordinary hotel that uses the term purely for marketing purposes" says Patricia Barnett, of Tourism Concern, the UK-based charity that campaigns against exploitation in tourism. "A famous example is an Italian hotel in Nungwi, Zanzibar, which marketed itself as an ecotourism hotel, but it was taking water supplies from the nearest village to the point

where the local villagers had no water. It prevented local people accessing the beach and local fisherman from fishing, so precluding local people getting their livelihoods."

So how can you tell the green from the greenwash? One of the best indicators is whether a business has been awarded an eco label – yet there are more than 150 tourism ecolabels worldwide, and a confusing array of regional, national and international programmes. However, efforts are under way to create a global framework by which certification schemes are run. The Global Partnership for Sustainable Tourism Criteria is a coalition of more than 40 organisations, including Rainforest Alliance, the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations Foundation, and the United Nations World Tourism Organization, whose aim is to foster a universally accepted set of principles for sustainable tourism.

Patricia Barnett welcomes the initiative and sees it as an important step in the future of defining responsible tourism. "Standardisation of criteria is important," she says, "it's too easy to use the word 'eco' and not be more holistic".

**Richard Hammond is the author of *Clean Breaks – 500 New Ways to See the World* (£18.99, Rough Guides) and the founder of [greentraveller.co.uk](http://greentraveller.co.uk) – an online guide to low impact holidays.**

# Sustainable futures

The Commonwealth needs to address global carbon emissions and ensure that its poorer member states take a green initiative. By **Vijay Amliwala**

During 2007 and 2008, rising oil prices worldwide set many businesses in turmoil. But they had those interested in environmental energies rubbing their hands with glee: with oil pricing itself out of the market, renewable energies came into focus.

At that time, many countries took the decision to 'go renewable'. Some did this by attracting business through generous tax incentives and subsidies. Spain, Italy, and Greece, for example, offered businesses a 25-year agreement to buy renewable electricity with cash back of 10% to 30% of the project costs. Meanwhile, a huge proportion of industries started to pursue programmes that would help them be more energy efficient and reduce carbon emissions. We saw the major car manufacturer, Ferrari, taking steps to reduce its energy consumption by fitting Solar PV modules at its factory in Maranello, Italy – and there are many other examples of industry reducing its carbon footprint.

Renewable energies are essential as they reduce the world's dependency on exhaustible fossil fuel resources. Renewable, or 'sustainable', energy meets the needs of the present generation without compromising our ability to meet the requirements of the future.

The transition from our current style of energy consumption to renewable energy is one of the biggest challenges facing the world today. The unprecedented growth in the world economy in recent years has put enormous pressure on our energy reserves. This has led to the afore-mentioned rise in oil prices, and every nation is consequently on the hunt to acquire natural and mineral resource assets.

But this search doesn't come without complications. The main concerns are, firstly, in harnessing renewable energy in ways that

tackle global warming and climate change. Secondly, in making renewable energies available to those who currently lack modern forms of energy. And, finally, in making renewable energies attainable to all, without risking geo-political conflict, which could arise due to the competition for resources.

So, what is happening in the Commonwealth, where many countries are developing? These nations, arguably, hold the key to keeping global warming in equilibrium. With high growth predicted over the next decade in many Commonwealth countries, now is the time to take some initiative. There is the potential to reduce energy consumption in

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*The transition to renewable energy is one of the biggest challenges facing the world today*

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certain (wealthier) countries, while improving the quality of life for the world's poorest.

Commonwealth Business Council Technology (CBCT), a company formed in 2007 in the UK, aims to make 'clean technology' (renewable energies that reduce carbon emissions) a strategic focus. Many leading figures within the Commonwealth – including the Indian science and technology minister, the Maldives energy minister, and the Kenyan

prime minister – have discussed their 'clean technology' plans with the CBCT, and examined their 'green' strategies. Together, they resolved that the Commonwealth needs to support developing countries first and foremost, to ensure their growth entwines a green initiative.

Work started in India, as this country has the fastest growing economy. India also realises the need to reduce carbon, and so formed a Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) in 2006. The MNRE's concerns were very different to those the mainstream energy companies provided for: they wanted to promote small-scale energy development technologies that could assist growth in India's underdeveloped sectors, which include agriculture and rural electrification. Thus the 'Green Oorja' (Oorja means energy in Hindi) programme was born, in 2008, to bring together technologies, academics and investors interested in innovative ideas and problem-solving and delivering them to the Government, with the help of CBCT.

The focus in India was twofold: to bring innovative solutions to energy provision from hybrid technologies; and to understand the current state and the promotion of clean technology. Progress has been significant. CBCT worked with the International Institute of Management (IIM), Centre for Incubation, Innovation and Entrepreneurship in Ahmedabad, India, to research these technologies, and develop solar, wind, and bioenergy, biofuel, and hydro power in Gujarat, State. They also investigated why certain technologies were not already being implemented, and how Government policies could improve the take-up of these in Gujarat. Subsequently, Gujarat reviewed their renewable

**POSITIVE ENERGY:** Wind turbines  
in Udumalpet, southern India

energy programme and released first a Solar Policy in January 2009, then a revised Wind Power Policy in September 2009.

Since then, the State of Gujarat has attracted many companies and generated more than 700MW of energy from the sun. CBCT are now planning to build a 'Solar Power Plant', harnessing and producing 30MW of solar power, connecting directly to the national electricity grid for consumers' use. With more than 300 days of sunlight a year, and large expanse of arid land, Gujarat has good radiation levels and land that can be used to transfer the sun's rays into electricity. This mission has further been aided by the Clinton Foundation – a charity founded by Bill Clinton to address, among other world issues, global climate change – which recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding to raise funds and develop solar technologies over a large area of land, capturing and converting sunlight into electricity in Gujarat.

Green Oorja also aims to set up an innovation hub with international partners and IIM Ahmedabad to pursue hybrid technologies, such as using hot gases from factories to cool offices, and to bring commercially viable solutions to energy efficiency to everyday life. It hopes to reduce carbon emissions, and to reuse resources effectively from industrial energy, transport, agriculture, commercial and residential properties, and energy production sectors – for example, using solar energy to create water for the rural population and agriculture; developing solar-powered rickshaws to replace fossil fuel vehicles; and using mobile solar-powered cold storage systems to ensure farmers crop do not perish.

Such innovations can, hopefully, be applied to other regions of the Commonwealth.

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*The Commonwealth  
needs to support  
developing countries  
first and foremost to  
ensure 'green' growth*

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Recently, the Kenyan energy minister expressed interest in utilising solar and wind power, but admitted a reluctance in putting scarce resources into capital-intensive programmes. Here, the Gujarat Solar Policy can move the agenda forward in Africa by providing a concrete business case for funding, and for the practical success of using green power.

Meanwhile, the world financial markets need to take a long-term view and support renewable

energy in the developing world. Implementing projects that address climate change must take precedence over absolute returns on bank balances. World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) can lead the way in providing funding for environmental energy programmes. Their funding can further some of the current sectors, such as agriculture, and some of the new sectors, such as IT.

Undeniably, the credit crunch has brought temporary setbacks, but overall the energy market has remained stable. Investors have continued to create a climate for change. The Global Trend in Sustainable Energy Investment report has reported an additional US\$150 billion dollars investment in this sector in 2008. This has come despite the global economic crisis, showing that there is hope for a sustainable future.

**Vijay Amliwala is the Director of  
Commonwealth Business Council  
Technology.**





# News and views

The latest from the London clubhouse



▲ Robert Newell (Director-General) cuts the cake presented by the staff to celebrate his 30th anniversary with ROSL in October.



▲ At the Central Council lunch in July are retired Bournemouth Branch Officers (l-r) Mrs Janet Moir (immediate past Chairman), Mrs Marjorie Harvey (immediate past Secretary), Mr Robert Newell (Director-General) and Mr Michael Moir (immediate past Deputy Chairman).



▲ Also at the Central Council lunch are (l-r) Mrs Lyn Milne (ROSL Director New Zealand) with former Central Council member, Maj Gen Tim Toyne Sewell and Lady Imray.



▲ The guest of honour and speaker at the lunch was HE Mr John Dauth (High Commissioner for Australia), second left with (l-r) Sir Colin Imray (former Chairman), Mr Ian Partridge (Central Council member), Mr Stanley Martin (Chairman) and Sir Roger Carrick (Central Council member and former High Commissioner to Australia).



▲ At the Central Council lunch in September is the Chairman with (l-r) Roderick Lakin (Director of ROSL ARTS), Rachid Mellah (Rooms Division Manager), Margaret Adrian-Vallance (Director of PR and Development), Fatima Vanicek (Asst to the DG and Membership Secretary), Shakil Tayub (Director of Finance and Administration), Michael McCall (Head Hall Porter and Health and Safety Officer) and the Director-General. Roderick Lakin, Fatima Vanicek and Michael McCall were presented with gifts to mark their long-service anniversaries.



▲ The guest of honour and speaker at the Central Council lunch was Sir David Brewer (Lord-Lieutenant of Greater London) with (l-r) Sir Anthony Figgis (Chairman-elect), Lord Wraxall (former Vice-Marshal of the Diplomatic Corps), the Chairman and Mrs Hanni Martin, and the Lord-Lieutenant.

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# Having a ball

The younger members enjoy a club crawl, quiz and tennis tournament. By **Alexandra Debarge**

## August

This year's club crawl was once again a huge success despite the torrential rain, which failed to stop all the participating clubs showing off clubland at its best. The first stop was the ROSL, where members were greeted with a glass of champagne as they mingled in Princess Alexandra Hall and heard a little about the club's history. Then it was on to the Army and Navy, where rain-drenched members were served hot canapés with wine. When it was time to leave, the club sold a record number of umbrellas!

The Reform Club put on a delicious speedy dinner in its beautiful library before a quick dash across Trafalgar Square to the Farmer's Club. Here, sadly, the rain prevented members from enjoying the stunning views over the river; however, the usual carnage ensued at the Savage Club where the crawl ended with a fantastic band and plenty of dancing.

Also in August, the first Inter-Club Tennis Tournament Final took place at the Queen's Club on No.2 Court on a glorious sunny summer's day. Pimms was served to the supportive and enthusiastic crowd as they watched and cheered from the sidelines.



## Upcoming events

**Friday 18 December**

Christmas Ball at the Hurlingham Club.

Following the tennis, the players joined the spectators on the terrace for a barbecue lunch. Keeping with tennis tradition, fresh strawberries and cream were also served.

## September

This year's Inter-Club Quiz took place at the Army and Navy Club. Members faced a series of challenging questions in an attempt to dethrone the reigning champions for the past two years, the Savage Club. Former Inter-Club Chairman, James Scott, compiled the quiz. It covered a range of subjects, including popular culture of the 1980s – a category that proved very popular with the competitors! A delicious meal and fine wine were served as the clubs battled it out. By the end of the evening, the scores were very close, but it was the Carlton Club who managed to usurp the Savage Club at last.



**A NIGHT TO REMEMBER:** (above and bottom left) Younger members mingle at the club crawl



**AND THE WINNER IS...:** The Carlton Club won this year's Inter-Club Quiz



"Words are, of course, the most powerful drug used by mankind"

Ref: ROS

Rudyard Kipling

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# ROSL Annual Scholars Exhibition

**Renée Jones** chats to this year's scholarship-winning artists about their experiences in residency at Hospitalfield House in Scotland

On Wednesday 7 October, the ROSL Annual Scholars Exhibition was launched with a Private View held at the OXO Gallery on London's South Bank. Despite torrential rain, the event was well attended and praise for the artists' work could be heard from all corners of the gallery. The exhibition brought together works by four overseas artists, who each undertook a month-long residency in 2008 at Hospitalfield House in Arbroath, Scotland, funded by ROSL ARTS scholarships. Hospitalfield provides a quiet haven for artists, who are able to explore both the intriguing building and the rugged Scottish coastline. Many of the artworks in this year's exhibition were inspired by their experiences. Exhibiting in 2009 are **Melanie Fitzmaurice (Australia)**, **Michele Fletcher (Canada)**, **Lilian Nabulime (Uganda)** and **Kazi Sahid (Bangladesh)**. Here they share their experiences and describe the inspiration behind their work.

**'EXPLORER'S HOOK':**

By Melanie Fitzmaurice (below)



**Melanie Fitzmaurice (Australia)**

"The ROSL scholarship and residency has been incredible. At the time that I was offered a place in the programme, I had never travelled internationally. My time in London and Arbroath (including day trips to Glasgow and Edinburgh) has allowed me to experience new cities and landscapes, to access artworks that are unavailable to me in Canberra, and to share experiences with people from across the world. Hospitalfield is unlike anywhere I've ever been. For me, living in the house was somewhat surreal, where different moments in history converged. I was interested in the contrast between the contemporary objects that I'd brought with me, including eight metres of tracksuit fleece, and the perfectly restored rooms of historical objects in Hospitalfield.

The sculptures that I conceived during my stay in Hospitalfield draw on themes of navigation, distance and orientation. In my work, I have used physical objects to depict emotional experience, drawing connections between geographical and emotional journeys. My sculptures are united through a surface of

tracksuit fleece. For me, tracksuit fleece is a casual material that is juxtaposed with the explorer's equipment I refer to in my sculptures."

**Melanie exhibited three sculptural works including *Explorer's Hook*, pictured below.**

**Michele Fletcher (Canada)**

"My dreamlike paintings of heightened colour take their influence from a variety of sources, including fairy tales and mythologies, along with my childhood memories of the Canadian landscape. I took Polaroid photographs and smaller sketches around the grounds of Hospitalfield, which then informed my paintings.

In my work, I explore the capacity of paintings to transform the familiar and ordinary into the mysterious, evoking a sense of narratives that slip between time, leaving a gap that is filled by the viewer. Rather than depicting a site-specific locale or topographic representation, my works invoke a sense of place inherent in the painting process itself while tapping into something uncomfortable and disturbing within the landscape genre."

**Michele exhibited seven oil paintings.**

**'NORTH SEA AT ARBROATH':**

By Michele Fletcher (below)



**Lilian Nabulime (Uganda)**

“During my ROSL scholarship, I took the opportunity to work intensively on a sculpture series entitled *Issues of Women*. In each sculpture, I have tried to explore the various changes and experiences women go through in their lives. While I was on the scholarship at Hospitalfield, I worked on a large wooden sculpture, entitled *Twisted Woman*. I took the wood from a fallen down beech tree in the Hospitalfield grounds and carved it using a chainsaw and a chisel. In this sculpture, I wanted to symbolise a woman as she faces times of change in her life. It is assumed that women are reliable and powerful, thus capable of adapting and coping in all circumstances, but women may face many factors that make them vulnerable – such as violence and poverty – which change the course of their lives. Women need access to education and health in order to have the ability to contribute to policies in their countries, which, in turn, improve their lives. The chain is symbolic of this. The saying goes, if you educate a woman you have educated a nation. My other works using wood and recycled materials also explore these ideas.”

**Lilian exhibited *Twisted Woman*.**

**Kazi Sahid (Bangladesh)**

“I was really excited when I was selected as a ROSL art scholar in 2008. It was a great opportunity for me to take a trip to see one of the most important contemporary art centres in the world. I visited most of the modern art galleries of London, Edinburgh, Dundee, and Glasgow. It was amazing. I really enjoyed my time at Hospitalfield and I used the opportunity to explore new techniques in my painting, as well as immerse myself in the surroundings of the house.

In my art, I have always been interested in relationships between people: man to woman, position to opposition, rich to poor, one religion to another. I am also interested in facial expressions, textures and colours. I enjoy figurative work with an expressionist edge, where the stories of social and political issues are reflected. I eagerly desire to represent my feelings about society, political conditions, and nationalities from all over the world. In my painting, I seek to expose the problems of our society under a veil of optimism.”

**For the 2009 ROSL Annual Scholars Exhibition, Kazi chose to exhibit six works that he painted while he was at Hospitalfield.**



**ART WORKS:** guests admire the exhibition (above)

**IN A TWIST:** Lilian Nabulime's *Twisted Woman*, a sculpture in beech (below)

**PICTURE PERFECT:** Kazi Sahid surrounded by his work in the studio (bottom)



# ROSL WORLD

## The latest from the global branches



**MUSIC AND MERRIMENT:** (l-r) The 2009 ROSL Young Musician of Thailand competition winner, Krit Niramittham; The Alberta Chapter annual summer social event in Edmonton in July; Prizegiving at the competition for Young Singers in Western Australia. Jeff Turner presents the First Prize to Victoria Wilkie. Seated (l-r) June Turner, Eunice Cousins (Branch Treasurer) and standing Esther Tan (President, RSMC)

### Australia

At the **Western Australia** Branch social evening in August, the speaker was member Professor John Howard, who took 'International Technical Relations - A Bird's Eye View' as his subject, and covered part of his worldwide experience with the United Nations (FAO). Also in August, the Annual Competition for Young Singers, sponsored by the branch and organised by the Royal Schools Music Club, was held at the Eileen Joyce Studio, University of Western Australia. The adjudicator, Ruby Philogene, awarded the first prize of AUS\$500 to soprano Victoria Wilkie, second prize to Alexandra Leonzini and third prize to Kathleen How.

**New South Wales:** Lily Murray, [murraylily@hotmail.com](mailto:murraylily@hotmail.com)  
**Queensland:** Sharon Morgan, [sllmorgan@hotmail.com](mailto:sllmorgan@hotmail.com)  
**South Australia:** Michael Kent, [rosl.sa@mac.com](mailto:rosl.sa@mac.com)  
**Tasmania:** Robert Dick, [gradick1@gmail.com](mailto:gradick1@gmail.com)  
**Victoria:** Coral Strahan, +61 (0)3 9654 8338  
**Western Australia:** Jeff Turner, +61 9381 2600

### Canada

Under sunny skies, the **Alberta** Chapter held its annual summer social event in Edmonton in July.

The picnic was hosted by Luba and Michael Bell. It was attended by 30 members who were lucky to witness a military fly-past consisting of the latest Canadian jets from the local air-base.

In **British Columbia**, pianist Grace Mo gave a recital in West Vancouver in August to a capacity audience. In October, a luncheon was held at The Royal Vancouver Tennis Club, with guests from the Royal Commonwealth Society and guest speaker Nora Harrison. Nora oversees The High Achievers' Program, an organisation which helps deserving young Kenyan boys secure places in secondary schools. Many branch members in **Ontario** attended outings in May and June to see *West Side Story* in Stratford, *Sunday in the Park with George* at the Shaw Festival, Niagara-on-the-Lake, and to the Drayton Theatre. Branch president, Ishrani Jaikaran, was invited by the Royal Commonwealth Society to give a talk on the ROSL at their annual garden party at the Hunt Club, which was a great success despite the terrible weather.

**Alberta:** Cynthia Cordery, +1 780 477 0001, [ccordery@shaw.ca](mailto:ccordery@shaw.ca)

**British Columbia:** Pamela Ducommun, +1 604 925 3719

**Nova Scotia:** Barbara Hughes,

[barbara.hughes@evansec.com](mailto:barbara.hughes@evansec.com)

**Ontario:** Ishrani Jaikaran, +1 416 760 0309, [ishrani@sympatico.ca](mailto:ishrani@sympatico.ca)

### Hong Kong

At the **Hong Kong** Branch in September, members participated in the opening reception of an art exhibition at a gallery in Central. In October, members joined a hike on Lantau Island, organised by the Southern Africa Association. Also in October, branch members were invited to a cocktail reception and dinner at the palatial residence of branch patron Dr Hari Harilela.

**Hong Kong:** Paul Surtees, [president@rosl.org.hk](mailto:president@rosl.org.hk), [www.rosl.org.hk](http://www.rosl.org.hk)

### New Zealand

Visiting New Zealand for the first time, the Barbarolli Quartet performed in November in Christchurch, Dunedin, Wellington, Hamilton, Napier, Gisborne and Waiheke Island. Details of these concerts are on [www.roslnz.org.nz](http://www.roslnz.org.nz).

**New Zealand:** Lyn Milne, [royalo-s@xtra.co.nz](mailto:royalo-s@xtra.co.nz), [www.roslnz.org.nz](http://www.roslnz.org.nz)

### Saudi Arabia

The newly-formed committee of ROSL, Saudi Arabia, welcomed John Freel as the new

branch Chairman. Members were invited to a dinner function at the residence of the New Zealand Ambassador to Saudi Arabia, who is also a branch patron.

**Riyadh committee:** John Freel,  
rosliyah@hotmail.com

## Thailand

The 2009 ROSL Young Musician of Thailand competition was held in April. The winner, pianist Krit Niramittham, was awarded the prestigious Royal Trophy by HM The King of Thailand and received a cheque for US\$3,000, plus an air ticket to London, where he performed at Over-Seas House in July. He then attended the Dartington Music Summer Camp in Devon. The 2009 Young Artist of Thailand competition Finals were held at the Sukhothai Hotel in November.

**Thailand:** Roger Willbourn, +66 2213 1589,  
rswillbourn@gmail.com

## United Kingdom

The **Bath** Branch autumn lunch was held in October at the Bath and County Club with guest of honour Mr Stanley Martin, ROSL Chairman. Members from the **Cheltenham** Branch have enjoyed visits to Over-Seas House, Edinburgh, and Over-Seas House, London, and the branch secretary and deputy Chairman went to see the excellent ROSL series of lunchtime concerts at St Martin-in-the-Fields. Afternoon illustrated talks resumed in September with 'Hitchhiking across America for Charity'. In **Edinburgh**, the ROSL Arts Edinburgh Festival Fringe programme was very successful, and the *Music with a View* series opened with a piano performance by Shuenda Wong. The new exhibition was Lauren Porter's 'Hunting Tophies'. Pupils from St Mary's Music School performed at an Arts Lunch in October and, in November, a splendid event in aid of the Edinburgh University Centre of African Studies was held. The guest speaker was the former Scottish First Minister Jack McConnell MSP, who spoke on the Scotland/Malawi project. The Edinburgh Chairman's reception for new members followed the autumn theatre visit, and author and broadcaster Billy Kay spoke at the annual St Andrew's Day Dinner.



**WORLDWIDE EVENTS:** (clockwise from left) West Cornwall Branch members enjoyed a social evening at Trevethoe House, Lelan; members of the Saudi Arabia committee; members of Bath, Exeter and Taunton branches enjoyed themselves at Kenwood House in Hampstead

The **Exeter** Branch enjoyed a picnic at Sand, near Sidbury, in Devon in July. The group were also treated to a guided tour of the house by the owner. The ROSL prizewinning Zephyrus Saxophone Quartet played a lunchtime concert in the Budleigh Salterton Music Festival. Exeter Branch member, Susan Ward, has started a Literary Festival at Budleigh Salterton, which was a great success.

The **Glasgow** Branch heard from Moira Condie, who spoke on Jean Armour, wife of Robert Burns, in October. In November, a talk on 'The Great Wall of China, Xian and Guilin' was given by David Scott.

Thirty members from **Bath, Exeter and Taunton** enjoyed a weekend at Over-Seas House, London, in September, with outings to Kenwood House, the Garden Museum, the Chelsea Physic Garden and a performance of *Oliver!*. The **Taunton** Branch winter season of lunches has moved to a new venue at Somerset College with a delicious choice of food produced by the catering students. Speakers for the first half of the season include photographer Julian Comrie, retired Correspondence Secretary for The Queen,

Deborah Bean, and retired county historian, Robert Dunning. Coffee mornings at the Castle Green Inn are held every Wednesday. The **Torbay** Branch holds a coffee morning on the last Saturday of the month at the Livermead Cliff Hotel.

After the summer holidays, the **West Cornwall** Branch started its meetings programme in September with a social evening at Trevethoe House, which included a talk on members' antiques and collectables by a local expert. The programme includes talks on Kiribati, The Falkland Islands, and Namibia, as well as the works of local painters on their travels away from Cornwall.

**Bath:** Sally Roberts, 01823 661148,  
rosl@aldith.org

**Bournemouth:** Gordon Irving, 07851 381744

**Cheltenham:** Kathleen Northage, 01242 515540

**Edinburgh:** Bob Gregor, 0131 3321874

**Exeter:** Brian Hawkes, 01395 442 017

**Glasgow:** Bill Agnew, 0141 884 4290

**Somerset area:** Sally Roberts, 01823 661148,  
rosl@aldith.org

**West Cornwall:** Ian Wood, 01736 333460

**West Sussex:** Marilyn Archbold, 01444 458853

# Books

Reviews of recent works by ROSL members

## 'Remember and be Glad'

**Sir Colin Imray,  
former ROSL Chairman**

*£15 (available from the ROSL Shop)*

From his childhood in Porthcawl to his fascinating diplomatic career overseas and his chairmanship of ROSL from 2000 to 2005, Sir Colin Imray takes the reader of his autobiography on a fascinating journey, full of interesting anecdotes and historical facts. Some of the latter are his



Sir Colin Imray

memories of Kenya as it gained independence in 1963, of the kidnapping of Jasper Cross when Head of Diplomatic Post in Montreal in 1970, and the assassination of Colin's successor as Deputy High Commissioner in Bombay just after he left India. This is a fascinating read for those who know Colin, or those interested in the history of the countries in which he served.

**Review by Robert Newell**

### Discounts

Remember that members of the Society of Authors (as well as many other affiliated professional organisations and groups) qualify for a discounted rate when joining ROSL. See the 'Membership' page on [www.rosl.org.uk](http://www.rosl.org.uk) for more details.

## Books in brief by Samantha Whitaker

### 'The Sword of France'

**Hilary Condé-Mark**

*Indeprenpress Publishing Ltd, 2009,  
ISBN: 978-1906710835, £8.99*

The compelling story of Napoleon Bonaparte, the military and political leader of France whose actions shaped European politics in the early 19th century.



combination of distinguished colonial and post colonial experiences of Africa makes this book especially valuable.

**Review by Lord Luce**

### 'Captain John Skinner and the Age of the Steam Yacht: A Biography'

**Malcolm Pearce**

*Armadillo Press, 2009, ISBN: 978-0955171734, £12.99*

A rare and fully researched biography of an 'ordinary' individual, and a testament to the people who helped Britain build and maintain a trading Empire.

### 'The Success and Sacrifices of the British Army in 1914'

**John Philip Jones**

*The Edwin Mellen Press, 2009, ISBN: 978-0773447417 Available directly from the author £30 incl. p&p. Email [jpjones@syr.edu](mailto:jpjones@syr.edu)*

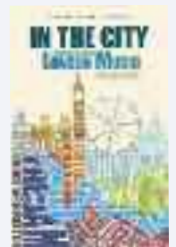
A fresh and inspired insight into the unwillingness of generals to adapt or see the consequences of their own policies in the course of the First World War.

### 'In the City: A Celebration of London Music'

**Paul Du Noyer**

*Virgin Books, 2009, ISBN: 978-1905264605, £18.99*

An exploration of London's native talent, from Noël Coward to the Sex Pistols to Amy Winehouse, with stories of the people and places that have made London such an exciting and innovative musical city.



### 'Beyond the Malachite Hills: A Life of Colonial Service and Business in the New Africa'

**Jonathan Lawley**

*I B Tauris & Co Ltd, 2009,  
ISBN: 978-1848850491, £27.50*

For anyone interested in Africa, its recent history and its past, *Beyond the Malachite Hills* is a must. Refreshingly frank and objective, the



### 'Begging Dogs and Happy Pigs'

**Jason Clark**

*Blenheim Press Limited, 2009,  
ISBN: 978-1906302184, £9.95*

A personal snapshot of the Cuban way of life, and an insight into some of the political intrigue that surrounds the country.





# Mid-week wonders

**Samantha Whitaker** looks at the advent of 'slow travel' and discovers an eco haven at Mildren Hall in Suffolk

An eco-break needn't be a 'worthy' affair. It is all about getting out of the city and deep into the country. No tipis, treehouses or swimming with dolphins required; just nature, walking and breathing fresh air – without leaving a dirty footprint on the British countryside.

That's what the 'slow travel' movement is all about: becoming part of local life, connecting with a place and its people and its culture. It's the opposite of a whirlwind tour: it's about going with the flow and exploring an area thoroughly, ideally by foot or bicycle.

Mildren Hall, near Lavenham in Suffolk, is a Georgianised 16th-century hall farmhouse bed and breakfast. There is also self-catering accommodation in a restored Tudor barn. Run by Christopher and Juliet Hawkins, Mildren Hall is all about slowing down. "We try to get people to use their feet and bikes", says Juliet. During the day, they also encourage their B&B guests to keep out of the house. They are busy people. Christopher is a farmer and Juliet is an ecologist, who advises farmers on the environment. They are both committed to sustainable farming, integrating conservation where they can, and encouraging environmental awareness. In 2002, they were awarded the Gold award for Green Tourism.

And they practice what they preach. At Mildren Hall, a wood burner heats the farmhouse, fuelled by wood coppiced from the farm hedgerows. Guests are encouraged to put on a jumper rather than leaving the heaters on. They use biodegradable products and there is a comprehensive compost and recycling programme. But, as Mildren Hall is a listed building, any serious restructuring, even for environmental purposes, is prohibited. The three bedrooms share a bathroom – there are no en suites – and each boasts handsome period furniture and a view over the wildflower meadow and walled garden. Room rates range from £60-£90 per night for a double or twin. It's generally quieter mid-week than on weekends, making it an ideal mid-week wonder for the eco-inclined, or just for those who enjoy peace, quiet and countryside.

Mildren Hall isn't trying to be a hotel, it is a home, and that is what people love about it.

"I think people are gradually realising that they don't have to have a brand new sparkly bleached-white towel every day", says Juliet, and there is a growing movement for lowering food-miles and using local produce. Juliet and Christopher provide sumptuous breakfasts using mostly their own produce: homemade jams, free-range eggs, bacon and sausages from their own Tamworths and Gloucester Old Spots, and plenty of seasonal fruit. Over breakfast, they often find themselves waxing lyrical about ecological subjects, and the various reading materials available in the house are on a similar theme.

After breakfast, there is plenty to do. Around the farm, there are various tracks to explore and keen readers can find peace in the walled garden. For barn self-catering families, Juliet organises activities, which can be booked in advance – including leaf rubbing, pond dipping, basket weaving and feeding the pigs.

If you want to go further afield, Christopher and Juliet provide planned routes for longer circular walks, which take in nature reserves, churches and medieval villages such as Lavenham, Chelworth and Bildeston. Here you can find cafes and welcoming pubs, such as the Bell Inn at Kersey, the Angel in Lavenham and The White Horse at Edwardstone, an 'eco' pub serving local food and beer brewed in their own green microbrewery. If you want to go further, or faster, borrow a bike and perhaps even try the 'cryptic clue bike treasure hunt'.

The pretty medieval villages and churches, such as Kersey and Monks Eleigh, are also popular with historians, painters, artists and antique and junk shop hunters. The coast is about an hour away, and there are several National Trust properties nearby, including Sutton Hoo and Flatford Mill, where you can hire a boat and row down the River Stour.

Alongside the farmhouse, there is self-catering accommodation in an open-plan restored Tudor barn for groups of friends, families, artists, walkers, cyclists and re-enactors, who recreate historical periods or events through roleplay. The barn comfortably accommodates up to 22 guests, plus space for campers in the meadow with shower and toilet facilities. With



© John Foley

**ON YOUR BIKE:** Guests at Mildren Hall are encouraged to explore by bicycle

Tudor style furniture, a large oak table which can seat 30-50, and plenty of room to dance or sing, the barn offers a unique venue in a glorious rural setting. "At Mildren", says Juliet, "you can walk, run, hug trees, pond dip, read, lie about, write, draw, paint, sing, eat and be merry."

*Mildren Hall is run by Juliet and Christopher Hawkins.*

*The Hall, Mildren, Lavenham, Sudbury, Suffolk CO10 9NY*

*Tel: 01787 247235*

*Email: [hawkins@thehall-mildren.co.uk](mailto:hawkins@thehall-mildren.co.uk)*

*Web: [www.thehall-mildren.co.uk](http://www.thehall-mildren.co.uk)*

## At a snail's pace...

For more information about slow travel, green places to stay and eco days out all over the UK, purchase a copy of *Ecoescape UK* by Laura Burgess (£8.99, ISBN: 978-1905731404, Markham Publishing, 2008) or visit [www.ecoescape.org](http://www.ecoescape.org)

# HILARY MANTEL'S LONDON



© JOHN HAYNES

## When did you first visit London?

I was born in Derbyshire and first visited London when I was 12 with my family. We managed to fit a huge amount into that week – the royal parks, Hampton Court and the Tower, the National Gallery and the Tate. I found it all exhilarating and couldn't wait to get back. At 18, I came to London to study law at the London School of Economics, and lived in a hall of residence on Malet Street in Bloomsbury. My book, *An Experiment in Love*, is set there.

## Does London feature a lot in your novels?

I tend to see another London, beneath the pavements: the one reality imposed on another, just in different time-frames. I've written about the 18th century in *The Giant, O'Brian*, and about Tudor London in my novel *Wolf Hall*. Thomas Cromwell, the central character of *Wolf Hall*, had a house at Austin Friars in the heart of the City. The site is now Draper's Hall, and it has a small, exquisite city garden. As Master of The Rolls, he had a house on Chancery Lane, a hunting lodge at Canonbury, and other houses at Stepney and Hackney – both were in the country then.

## Are you writing at the moment?

I'm working on the sequel to *Wolf Hall*, taking my main character Thomas Cromwell through the next five years of his life. It will be called *The Mirror and the Light*. It features London's Whitehall and the Royal Palaces, Cromwell's city houses, and his house at Stepney.

## Which is your favourite district?

I love legal London. Lincoln's Inn has one of

**ELTHAM PALACE:** A location for Mantel's next book



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London's undervalued museums, at the Royal College of Surgeons. It displays the skeleton of Charles Byrne, the real-life giant who is the subject of my novel *The Giant, O'Brian*.

## What's London's best-kept secret?

Sutton House, the National Trust house on Homerton High Street. It is a real Tudor house with a complex and absorbing history, first built in 1535 by the young politician Ralph Sadler to house his growing family. You can still see some fine linenfold panelling. It's atmospheric and a lively community resource.

## Any other favourite haunts?

Somerset House, where the Royal Society of Literature is based, and the British Library (and its interesting shop). I am unable to pass a bookshop without going into it. My favourites are Hatchards, Daunts on Marylebone High Street, and the London Review Bookshop.

## Do you have a favourite London restaurant or cafe?

With my husband, Gerald McEwen, I've been a member of ROSL for 20 years and we use the restaurant at Over-Seas House more than anywhere else. I often bring fellow writers for lunch, as it's quiet and private – even on busy days. There are good spaces between the tables, the staff are kind and friendly, and you are never rushed. Contacts from abroad in particular love seeing the house, and the serenity of the garden is always pleasant.

## Where would you consider to be London's most romantic spot?

I've never associated London with romance, but when I was a student, I used to write a daily letter to my boyfriend sitting on a bench in Lincoln's Inn Fields, and read his daily letter back. (Weather permitting: being a northerner I was very hardy.) We've been married for a long time now, so I suppose it was romantic enough for us.

**ROSL member, Hilary Mantel CBE, is a writer and critic. She won the Man Booker Prize for Fiction, 2009, with *Wolf Hall* (£18.99, Fourth Estate Ltd, ISBN: 978-0007230181). Interview by Samantha Whitaker**

## LONDON

# What's on...

## Earth: Art of a Changing World

GSK Contemporary (Royal Academy)

3 December 2009-31 January 2010

The second annual contemporary art season at 6 Burlington Gardens presents work from more than 30 leading international contemporary artists on the theme of climate change.

*Tickets: £5-£7. Contact: 0844 209 1919 or [www.royalacademy.org.uk](http://www.royalacademy.org.uk)*

## Breakfast at Tiffany's

Haymarket Theatre Royal

Until 9 January 2010

Anna Friel stars as the cultural icon Holly Golightly in Samuel Adamson's adaptation of Truman Capote's flighty novella.

*Tickets: £15-£49.50. Contact: 0845 481 1870 or [www.breakfastattiffanys.co.uk](http://www.breakfastattiffanys.co.uk)*



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## The Royal Ballet – Les Patineurs/Tales of Beatrix Potter

Royal Opera House

14 December 2009-13 January 2010

Frederick Ashton's *Tales of Beatrix Potter* holds its audiences spellbound while *Les Patineurs* evokes the atmosphere of a winter's skating party. Charming fun for the whole family.

*Tickets: £5-£70. Contact: 020 7304 4000 or [www.roh.org.uk](http://www.roh.org.uk)*

## DISCOVERING LONDON

# Rising markets

**Polly Hynd** explores London's barrows, from the famous to the hidden gems

London's rich market history dates back to medieval times. Some are the regular haunts of weekend market-goers, others are seasonal, and some are more discrete in their location. All are well worth seeking out.

## Borough

For the gourmets among you, there can be no better destination on a Saturday (or, indeed, on a Thursday or Friday) than 'London's Larder', Borough Market.

Adjacent to the railway arches of London Bridge, Borough Market is the oldest (and arguably the most famous) market in London. It offers a wonderful selection of fresh produce. Take a leisurely amble between the various stalls displaying fruit, vegetables, organic meats, olive oils, breads, specialist teas and mouth-watering cakes. Linger until lunch to sample the offerings of numerous takeaway stalls and epicurean cafés – or a cup of mulled wine.

*Nearest Tube: London Bridge;*  
[www.boroughmarket.org.uk](http://www.boroughmarket.org.uk)

## Spitalfields

This late Victorian market still stands in its original location (unlike so many other markets

**LEADENHALL MARKET:** A feast for all the senses



© RENEE JONES

in the capital). Based opposite Commercial Street, EC1, Spitalfields serves the public with a combination of permanent shops, restaurants and market stalls, featuring everything from clothes by trendy young designers to antiques, depending on which day of the week you go. Note that, although the shops are open, there are no market stalls on Saturdays. And, if you are in search of variety, then Sundays are the best day to go as everything will be in full swing and the market at its most vibrant.

*Nearest tube: Liverpool Street*

## Portobello Road

If antiques are more your thing, take a weekend excursion to the famous market on Portobello Road, home to more than 2,000 stalls selling all manner of wonderful antiques from fine silver tableware to furniture and jewellery, and much more besides, including contemporary fashions and trinkets. There is bound to be something there to catch the eye of anyone who appreciates one-off items. Though be prepared for busy crowds towards the afternoon.

*Nearest Tube: Notting Hill Gate/Ladbroke Grove*

## Leadenhall

Hidden away, a short walk from Bank Tube station, Leadenhall Market, dating back to 1309, offers a feast for the senses. Now a regular haunt of city brokers, the cobbled streets are lined with wine bars, cigar shops and cafés. The focal point of a visit here will no doubt be the striking architecture – wooden shop fronts in rich aquamarine and ox blood red with beautifully intricate mouldings. It is little wonder that this was chosen as the setting for the magical Diagon Alley in the first *Harry Potter* film. The stalls are few in number but worth browsing nonetheless for old photographs of London and trinkets.

*Nearest Tube: Bank*

## Columbia Road flower market

In the heart of London's East End, there is no better activity on Sunday morning than a visit

to the floriferous Columbia Road. The air is fragranced with the heady scent of fresh flowers and busy with the sound of barrow boys selling their wares. Offering everything from everyday bedding plants to rare pelargonium species, this award-winning market is a green fingered haven from the traffic-filled bustle of the city. The area is served by a number of excellent pubs, cafés and restaurants, providing the perfect conclusion to a morning of pleasurable browsing.

*Nearest Tube: Bethnal Green/Old Street*

## Cabbages & Frocks, St Marylebone Parish Church Grounds

Just off Marylebone High Street, this quaint little market sells a selection of fine organic foods every Saturday. Home to new clothing designers and a range of cottage industries, the market provides a unique source of quality clothing and jewellery; it is a hidden gem of W1. Christmas festivals are held here in November and December; the perfect opportunity to find some original gifts.

*Nearest Tube: Baker Street*

## Christmas markets

**Traditional Yuletide markets to get you into the festive mood...**

- **German Christmas Market, Winter Wonderland, Hyde Park, 1 December 2009 to 6 January 2010**
- **Greenwich Market 2009, open daily for Christmas gift shopping (exact dates unavailable at time of printing)**  
[www.greenwichmarket.net](http://www.greenwichmarket.net)

# Good buys

A new range of ROSL merchandise is available now. Perfect for Christmas!

To complement the ROSL rebrand and upcoming centenary year, the ROSL shop has had a bit of a makeover. At Over-Seas House, London, the new merchandise can be viewed in the Central Lounge, and purchased from the shop, which is located underneath the Gibbs Staircase. All items sold in the shop can be found in the 2009-2010 gift catalogue.

The new centenary items make ideal Christmas presents and are all high-quality and reasonably priced. A sterling silver set of ballpoint and fountain pens by Veritas, diamond engraved with the ROSL coat of arms, is £50, and a calf leather bill-fold wallet, embossed with the ROSL logo flourish, just £30. For ladies, a silver-plated diamond-engraved compact mirror is £18. The ever-popular 2010 diaries are selling fast (A5 diary £7; pocket diary £5), as are this year's

Christmas cards featuring The Queen with HRH The Duke of Edinburgh (50p each or 10 for £4.50). New ROSL logo flourish silk ties are available in two different colours, as well as the old-style striped and navy ties. Most centenary items come in a luxury presentation box and can be gift wrapped in ROSL tissue paper upon request.

With Christmas fast approaching, remember that the shop sells various chocolates, including handmade Christmas pudding chocolates, if you are in need of a last-minute gift. Adele Smith's *History of ROSL*, available in hardback (£15) and paperback (£8), is the perfect gift for all members, and a great Christmas read.

The shop is open Monday to Friday, 10am-5pm, or alternatively, order your items using the form at the back of the catalogue or by email or telephone.



## Christmas at Over-Seas House, London

At Over-Seas House, London, Christmas kicks off with the Festival of Christmas carols and readings on 6 December at St James's Church, Piccadilly. The service is followed by a festive tea at Over-Seas House, with a special visit from Father Christmas (providing that

everyone is on their best behaviour).

Reduced bedroom rates for the Christmas period come into effect from 18 December, until 10 January 2010. See below for further details. To book, telephone reception on 020 7408 0214 or email [reservations@rosl.org.uk](mailto:reservations@rosl.org.uk).

On Christmas day, a traditional festive lunch with wine will be served in the restaurant (£77.50 per person), and on 31 December, see in the New Year with a candlelit dinner and entertainment until 12.30am (£86 per person). To book, contact Bianca on 020 7491 3644.



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### Christmas Rates 2009

ROOM TYPE	SINGLE OCCUPANCY	DOUBLE OCCUPANCY
Single without facility	£65	N/A
Single without facility park view	£70	N/A
Single bath/shower	£90	N/A
Single shower park view	£95	N/A
Double/Twin with bath/shower	£100	£135
Double/Twin bath park view	£105	£140
Double king size bath park	£110	£145
Executive double bath/shower	£110	£145

Rates valid from Friday 18 December 2009 until Sunday 10 January 2010 inclusive.

## EDINBURGH

## What's on...

## December-February

## December

**R L Stevenson Arts lunch**

*Wednesday 2 December, 12 for 12.30pm*

Adele Smith presents her book, *The History of ROSL*. Tickets £17; £15 members, for a two-course lunch, plus coffee and a glass of wine.

**Bridge Club Christmas lunch and sherry**

*Friday 4 December, 12.30 for 1pm*

Members only. Tickets: £15.

**Carol singing afternoon**

*Wednesday 9 December, 3pm*

Tickets: £5, including tea/coffee and mince pies.

**Christmas Day lunch**

*Friday 25 December, 12 for 12.30pm*

Tickets: £47, includes Kir Royale and canapés on arrival, three-course lunch with coffee and mince pies. Gifts for all the family.

**Boxing Day lunch**

*Saturday 26 December, table reservations from 12.30pm, last orders 1.30pm*

Tickets: £19, three courses and wine.

**Hogmanay dinner/dance**

*Thursday 31 December*

Reception cocktails, three-course meal plus wine, champagne, black bun and shortbread at midnight. Music by Ceilidh Band. Roof access to view fireworks at midnight. Coach home in Edinburgh area at 1am. Tickets: £95.

## January

**New Year's Day lunch**

*Friday 1 January*

Glass of champagne, meal, wine and coffee. Tickets: £19 (two courses); £22 (three courses). Please make reservations with restaurant, 0131 225 1501.

**Coffee morning**

*Saturday 9 January, 10.30am*

**Gala evening featuring the music of 1910**

*Wednesday 20 January, 6.30pm*

This is the Edinburgh centenary launch event, and one not to be missed. Tickets: £30 including cocktail reception and supper.

**Burns supper**

*Friday 29 January*

Immortal Memory: Robert Crawford, St Andrews University. Tickets: £27 for three-course meal, whisky and wine plus sherry on arrival.

## February

**Arts lunch**

*Wednesday 3 February, 12 for 12.30pm*

Speaker John Wallace, Principal, RSAMD. Tickets: £17; members £15 for two-course lunch, plus coffee and a glass of wine.

**Wine tasting**

*Wednesday 3 February, 6.30pm*

Wine tasting in association with Scots Australian Council. Tickets: £3. Speaker, Duncan Smith.

**Concert**

*Friday 12 February, 6.30pm*

Pupils of the Yehudi Menuhin School perform. Tickets: non-member £10, members £8; Friends of ROSL ARTS £6. Includes post-concert wine and canapés.

**Coffee morning**

*Saturday 13 February, 10.30am*

## MEMBERS' ADVERTISING

CENTRAL LONDON. To Rent: Comfortable one bedroom apartment, in quiet, tree lined crescent, Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea, excellent for public transport, centrally heated, Internet access. Contact salem.o@prodigy.net or 001 323 654 2432

VENICE CENTRAL. Tranquil, sunny apartment. Wonderful canalside location. Two bedrooms, two bathroom. Tel: 0207 701 7540 or www.venice-canalsideapartment.com

Retired country member seeks central London spare bedroom for a few nights each month after attending evening functions. Can offer £40/£60+ per night. Call 01903 785901 or email robinkent@onetel.com

House in heart of picturesque old fishing village, yards from tidal estuary and beach. Spectacular views from large top floor leisure room. New kitchen/breakfast room and utility room; separate dining room; sitting room with open

fire. 3 bedrooms (sleeps 6). Fully equipped, c/h. Suntrap walled garden, BBQ. Sorry no dogs. Good wining/dining, local fish. Safe uncrowded beaches. Splendid walks from door, area of outstanding natural beauty, Tarka Trail. Let only to members and friends at discounted market rate. Caroline St.Leger-Davey 01962 865716, caroline.davey1@ntlworld.com

GLYNDEBOURNE – Bed and breakfast in comfortable home

with stunning views, ten minutes from Glyndebourne. One twin room with private bathroom, one double with en-suite facilities. Please contact Charlotte Mitchell on 01273 400978 (email: charlottejmitchell@tiscali.co.uk)

GRASSE/COTE D'AZUR: Villa in residential area, beautifully restored, sleeps 9 including 3 bedrooms with seaviews. Large Garden with 2 terraces, pool and garage. £50 per day or £400 per week. lehmannpietsch@yahoo.de

Members can advertise at a cost of £1 per word plus VAT, min 30 words. Copy for next issue by 15 January 2010. Contact Alex Debarge on 020 7016 6906 or email it to adebarge@rosl.org.uk. No advertisements are endorsed or recommended by the Royal Over-Seas League.

# A League of its own

A short history of Over-Seas House, Edinburgh. By **Bob Gregor, Alan Chalmers and James Wilkie**

In 1960, The Queen granted the Over-Seas League the prefix Royal, to recognise the Golden Jubilee of the organisation. A garden party, to which members in Scotland were invited, was held at the Palace of Holyrood House. Over the years since, many members of the Royal Family have visited the clubhouse in Edinburgh, including the Earl and Countess Mountbatten, Princess Alice, Duchess of Gloucester and the Duke of Gloucester, Princess Marina and Princess Alexandra. The distinguished visitor's book also records visits by Sir Evelyn Wrench, Founder of ROSL, high commissioners from the majority of Commonwealth Countries, Lord and Lady Provosts of Edinburgh, Moderators of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland and many others.

The ROSL had been active for a number of years in Scotland, with branches in Aberdeen, Glasgow and Edinburgh. The premises at 100 Princes Street were acquired in the late 1920s, and the new clubhouse opened on 28 July 1930. It is on record that 'the building was packed for the whole day by inquisitive and enthusiastic explorers: 62 lunches, 80 teas and 65 dinners were served. Much admiration was expressed for the beautiful colour schemes and for the comfort of both reception rooms and bedrooms.'

Facilities were improved in 1936 to include a Reading and Silence Room, a Mixed Smoking Room and an American Bar. In the same year, John G Bridges – then ROSL General Secretary for Scotland – wrote: 'No movement based on Service can live and prosper unless it is constantly giving that service. This is the first principle upon which the structure of the Over-Seas League in Scotland has been built, and it is just because it has ever been kept to the fore in planning our programmes of activity at both Branches and Centres that the League has grown to be the power it is in Scotland today.'

New premises were acquired in Glasgow in 1935, at 3-4 Claremont Terrace, but these eventually had to be relinquished. The Glasgow Branch continues, however, with an active programme of monthly meetings.

The Aberdeen Branch had Club Rooms in



**A HOUSE OF DISTINCTION:** Over-Seas House, Edinburgh

the Park Hotel, Riverside Drive and the Imperial Hotel before the branch was disbanded.

The clubhouse in Scotland, is operated and managed by the ROSL for the benefit of all 20,000 plus members throughout the world, but is particularly enjoyed by the 1,000 or so who live in Scotland – especially the members of the Edinburgh Branch.

During the Second World War, the clubhouse was used as an Over-Seas Officers Club. To mark the 25th anniversary of the ROSL in Edinburgh, a commemorative bench was donated for the use of pedestrians on Princes Street. Sadly, it is no longer there.

In early 1961, the then ROSL General Secretary for Scotland, Lt Col. R R Burnett, wrote: 'The winter programme of lectures, film shows, discussions, bridge, table tennis and Scottish country dancing is in full swing. Lectures have been given on Scottish Country Houses, the Fête des Vignerons, Journey to Formosa, Africa, Understanding Picasso, and

Jamaica, and subjects debated in the Discussion Circle have included Communism, World Peace, Weather Forecasting, Russian Impressions and Traffic Casualties.'

During 1970, Princess Alice, Duchess of Gloucester celebrated the 60th anniversary of ROSL by visiting the clubhouse. In 1975, her son, the Duke of Gloucester, opened the new wing. This development was made possible through collaboration with Messrs Boots Chemists, who bought the part of the building over their existing shop. The site was cleared and rebuilt, providing the Edinburgh clubhouse with five en-suite bedrooms, a new restaurant, kitchen and function suite.

Since 1975, there have been several phases of refurbishment. There has been the refurbishment of the Cocktail Bar, the renovation of bedrooms, the transformation of the Dining Room, the redecoration of the Edinburgh Room, and upgrading of the kitchens. Significant improvements on the first floor have also been made, including the dedication of a function room to the memory of R L Stevenson, and the refurbishment of the Members Drawing Room as a Reading Room. The installation of en-suite bathrooms was completed along with the introduction of a front of office computer system, and, more recently, computer access for members. In 1993, the front of the building was cleaned, and the main entrance refurbished. Recent improvements include the tiling of the entrance hallway, upgrading of the Princes Suite, refurbishment of the lift and redecoration of public areas and bedrooms.

The clubhouse today is a busy centre of activity, served by a dedicated and courteous staff, and catering for members' and guests' interests. Regular events include arts lunches and exhibitions, Music with a View performances by young Commonwealth artists, members dinners, lunches and receptions, coffee mornings and outings, charity events, bridge and Mahjong sessions, and the Annual Commonwealth Week activities. There is also the Annual Festival in August, with its fireworks display, the Hogmanay Festivities, and the annual visit to London.

# ROSL ARTS

Director of ROSL ARTS, **Roderick Lakin**, introduces the winter programme

## Music events

**Over-Seas House  
Princess Alexandra Hall**

**Piers of the Realm: The Entertainment  
of the Seaside**

*Tuesday 8 December, 7pm*

Professor Gavin Henderson CBE, Principal of the Central School of Speech and Drama and chairman of adjudicators for the ROSL Annual Music Competition, presents an entertaining talk on the history of British seaside piers. A Trustee of the West Pier in Brighton and President of the National Piers Association, Gavin has spent much of his life campaigning for the restoration of many of Britain's most well-loved piers, and is



**OH I DO LIKE TO BE BESIDE THE  
SEASIDE: Brighton Pier**

currently writing a book on the subject. This event will be brought to life by live musical performances. Seaside inspired cocktails and canapés will be served after the talk.

**Tickets £12; ROSL members and concessions £11; Friends of ROSL ARTS £10. A cocktail and canapés are included in the ticket price.**

**Ben Schoeman and Tessa Uys pianos**

*Wednesday 20 January, 7pm*

The first ROSL ARTS concert of the centenary year brings together two outstanding South African pianists. Ben is the 2009 ROSL Annual Music Competition Gold Medallist, and Tessa won the same award in 1972. Their programme of piano duo classics includes works by Mozart, Debussy, Rachmaninov and Schubert.

**Tickets £12; ROSL members and concessions £11; Friends of ROSL ARTS £10. A glass of wine in the interval is included in the ticket price.**

**Commonwealth Pianorama**

*Sunday 24 January, 3pm*

Presented in association with the Commonwealth Resounds, this is the UK premiere of 53 one-minute pieces for piano by composers from all over the Commonwealth. The 'Pianorama' was commissioned for the cultural festival preceding the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting, held in November 2009 in Trinidad and Tobago.

Performed by a team of international pianists from music conservatoires and specialist music schools, the pieces, as they are played, will be accompanied by a projected image of the composer, or of their composer's country of origin, and information about the piece.

**Tickets £12; ROSL members and concessions £11; Friends of ROSL ARTS £10. Tea and scones served after the concert included in the ticket price.**

**58th ROSL Annual Music Competition  
2010 Section Finals**

*Tuesday 2 February, 7pm – Wind and Percussion*

## ROSL Centenary Appeal

The appeal aims to secure endowment in excess of £1,000,000 to support ROSL ARTS Annual Music Competition Awards and ROSL ARTS International Music Scholarships. For further information about making a donation or legacy in support of this appeal, or becoming a Friend of ROSL ARTS, please contact Roderick Lakin MBE, Director of Arts, Over-Seas House, Park Place, St James's Street, London SW1A 1LR. Tel 020 7408 0214 x325 or email [rlakin@rosl.org.uk](mailto:rlakin@rosl.org.uk)

## Brochures and bookings

To obtain the latest ROSL ARTS brochure or to book please telephone 020 7408 0214 x324 or email [culture@rosl.org.uk](mailto:culture@rosl.org.uk)

Tuesday 9 February, 7pm – Singers

Tuesday 16 February, 7pm – Strings

Tuesday 23 February, 7pm – Keyboard

Tuesday 2 March, 7pm – Overseas Awards

Tuesday 9 March, 7pm – Ensembles A (strings; strings & piano; piano duo/duet)

Tuesday 16 March, 7pm – Ensembles B (wind, percussion and mixed ensembles)

During February and March, Over-Seas House becomes a mecca for hundreds of young Commonwealth musicians competing for a place in the section finals of the ROSL Annual Music Competition. To mark the centenary of the ROSL, the Annual Music Competition awards have been significantly increased in value, with solo section prizewinners each receiving £5,000 and the opportunity to compete for the Competition First Prize of £10,000. Each of the two prizewinning ensembles will also receive £10,000.

The section finals are all open to the public, and are an ideal way to hear some of the brightest talent currently emerging in the classical music world. After the performances, there will be the opportunity to speak to performers and judges over a glass of wine.

**Tickets for section finals: £12; ROSL members & concessions £11; Friends of ROSL ARTS £10. Wine served after the announcement of the winner is included in the ticket price.**

### A date for your diaries

Wednesday 2 June, 7pm

The Grand Final of the 58th ROSL Annual Music Competition will take place at the Queen Elizabeth Hall on London's South Bank.

## Overseas music scholars in the UK

During the summer months, Over-Seas House played host to musicians from Singapore, Thailand and New Zealand, who came to the UK on ROSL scholarships.

In July the winner of the ROSL Thai Young Musician of the year, pianist Krit Niramittham, enjoyed a busy fortnight in London and at Dartington International Summer School, where he took part in masterclasses given by John Lill (ROSL Annual Music Competition Gold Medallist, 1963).

The Duo Giocosio, Helen Bevin and Rafaella Garlick Grice from Victoria University, Wellington, winners of the Pettman/ROSL ARTS New Zealand Chamber Music Scholarship, and cellist Wu Sha, winner of the ROSL ARTS Singapore Music Scholarship, nominated by the Yong Siew Toh Conservatory, National University of Singapore, spent a month in the UK in the summer. They gave concerts in London at St James's Piccadilly, St Martin-in-the-Fields, St Barnabus Ealing, and at the National Portrait Gallery. They spent a week at Dartington International Summer School and also participated in ROSL ARTS Edinburgh Festival Fringe concert series.

The ROSL ARTS Edinburgh Festival Fringe series celebrated its 10th anniversary with its busiest ever schedule of 31 concerts in 12 consecutive days, almost all of which sold out. Featured on BBC Radio 3's *In Tune*, the series met with consistent critical acclaim.



**FRIENDS OF ROSL ARTS:** Prof Barrie and Maureen Pettman with (l-r) Rafaella Garlick Grice, Wu Sha and Helen Bevin

*'Bach for Breakfast is quite the preferable way to do mornings... a performance which gracefully sent us off to the breakfast room, which has stunning views of the castle, for pastries, coffee and tea, and to ponder the exceptional talent just witnessed, as well as how good life can be with music like this in the world.'*

*2009 Edfest Magazine*

Over the course of the summer, all of the the scholars enjoyed a range of coaching with some of the UK's top musicians. They also attended myriad concerts given by world-class musicians at the BBC Proms and at the Edinburgh International Festival, as well as many other cultural delights.

## Donald Hamilton Fraser: a tribute

The ROSL, and ROSL ARTS in particular, were saddened to hear of the death, on 2 September, of the artist Donald Hamilton Fraser, at the age of 80, who had been a Vice-President of the ROSL since 1986.

Donald Hamilton Fraser studied at St Martins School of Art, where his contemporaries included Frank Auerbach, Jo Tilson and Leon Kossoff. He had already caught the attention of the critics by the time he left St Martins, in 1952, and was brought to international attention through exhibitions at Gimpel Fils, one of the leading cutting edge London dealers of the time. For more

than 50 years, he enjoyed a distinguished and successful career. He had a huge passion for ballet, and for many years visited the English National Ballet to make drawings, and later produced a popular series of paintings of dancers.

He was a professor of painting at the Royal College of Arts for 25 years from 1958, where his pupils included Patrick Caulfield, David Hockney, Ron Kitaj and Therese Oulton. He was elected an ARA in 1975 and made an RA in 1985. It was then that he became involved as a visual arts adviser for the Royal Over-Seas League, which had just launched, in



1984, an Annual Exhibition of young Commonwealth artists to complement its well-established Annual Music Competition. He is pictured above, presenting the first prize and trophy in the 2005 competition to the Scottish artist Neil MacPherson.



# Application form for the Centenary reception

Centenary Celebration at St James's Palace, see page 10 for details.

MEMBERSHIP NO.....  
 Name.....  
 Name of guest(s).....  
 Address to which invitation card should be sent  
 .....  
 .....  
 Tel no.....  
 Email.....  
 I wish to book ..... tickets (at £90 each) and would like to make a donation of £.....to the ROSL Centenary Appeal

**Please complete this form and send to:**  
 Alex Debarge, PR Department (Members Events), Over-Seas House, Park Place, St James's Street, London SW1A 1LR. Tel: 020 7016 6906.



**DONATIONS ONLY**  
 I cannot attend the reception but wish to make a donation of £..... to the ROSL Centenary Appeal

**GIFT AID DECLARATION (optional)**  
 Using Gift aid means that for every pound you give, the ROSL Golden Jubilee Trust can reclaim 28p from the Inland Revenue, helping your donation go further. To qualify for Gift Aid, what you pay in income tax must be at least equal to the amount we will claim in the tax year. Simply fill in your name and sign below. I would like to Gift Aid all donations I have made since 6 April 2009 and all donations I make hereafter to the ROSL Golden Jubilee Trust (306095)  
 Name .....  
 Signature .....

**PAYMENT**  
 Cheques (sterling) payable to ROSL.  
 For credit card payments telephone 020 7016 6906 or fill in the following:  
 CREDIT/DEBIT CARD TYPE Mastercard/Visa/AMEX/Maestro (delete as applicable)  
 NAME ON CARD .....  
 CARD NO .....  
 EXPIRY DATE .....  
 ISSUE NO. (if shown) .....  
 VALID FROM (if shown) .....  
 SECURITY CODE (last 3 digits on signature panel) .....  
 SIGNATURE .....  
 DATE .....

# Application form for members' events (see opposite)

MEMBERSHIP NO.....  
 Name.....  
 Name of guest(s) and trip they are attending  
 .....  
 .....  
 Address to which tickets should be sent  
 .....  
 .....  
 Tel no.....

**Please complete this form and send to:**  
 Alex Debarge, PR Department (Members Events), Over-Seas House, Park Place, St James's Street, London SW1A 1LR. Tel: 020 7016 6906. Email: adebarge@rosl.org.uk.  
**Please send a SEPARATE CHEQUE for each event.**

			No. of tickets
<b>Foundling Museum</b>	Thur 3 December	£14	..... £.....
<b>Festival of Christmas carols and readings</b>	Sun 6 December	£16.50	..... £.....
<b>Hand and Lock</b>	Fri 22 January	£13	..... £.....
<b>Centenary launch event</b>	Tues 26 January	£30	..... £.....
<b>Tour at H. Forman &amp; Son</b>	Mon 8 February	£25	..... £.....
<b>Smoked Salmon Factory</b>			
<b>Eltham Palace</b>	Wed 10 February	£14	..... £.....
<b>Commonwealth Day Service</b>	Mon 8 March	£6	..... £.....
<b>Wellington Arch</b>	Thur 11 March	£11	..... £.....
<b>Hidden Westminster</b>	Thur 18 March	£15	..... £.....
<b>Chairman's Lunch, AGM &amp; premiere of Centenary DVD</b>	Tues 4 May	£51	..... £.....

**PAYMENT**  
 Please send a **SEPARATE CHEQUE** for each event. Cheques (sterling) payable to ROSL. For **CREDIT CARD PAYMENTS** telephone 020 7016 6906.

BALLOTTED TICKETS  
**Tour of Royal Albert Hall** Mon 1 February £15  
**Apply Before:** 18 Jan

# Members' events

## December – May

### December

#### Foundling Museum

*Thursday 3 December, 11am, £14, G*  
The Foundling Museum tells the story of the Foundling Hospital, the original home for abandoned children, founded in 1739 by Thomas Coram, William Hogarth and George Frideric Handel. After our tour, there will be an opportunity to listen to an afternoon concert from 2pm.

#### Festival of Christmas carols and readings

*Sunday 6 December, 3.30pm, £16.50, G*  
Annual Christmas Carol Service at St James's Piccadilly, followed by a festive tea at Over-Seas House.

### January

#### Hand and Lock

*Friday 22 January, 10.30pm, £13, R*  
Visit the Hand & Lock atelier, one of the oldest work rooms still in activity today, containing an

archive of embroidered work dating back to 1790. See their specialised embroiderers at work, using techniques such as Tambour beading, Trapunto, and Cornely. See samples that have been supplied to the fashion industry and theatre, illustrating examples of diplomatic and military court dress from all over the world.

#### Centenary launch event

*Tuesday 26 January, 6.30pm, £30, G, R*  
The very first event of the ROSL centenary calendar, featuring the exclusive launch of the centenary cocktail, plus canapes, book signing, live music, and much more. There will also be an opportunity to purchase ROSL centenary gifts.

### February

#### Royal Albert Hall

*Monday 1 February, 11am, £15, B*  
Enjoy an exciting tour of the Royal Albert Hall. Opened in 1871, this is one of the capital's most prestigious historic buildings. It has staged more than 150,000

performances, including the celebrated BBC Proms. Lunch and refreshments will also be served.

#### Tour at H. Forman & Son Smoked Salmon Factory

*Monday 8 February, 11.30am, £25, G*  
Visit Forman & Son, a family business, established in 1905 by the current owner's grandfather. Forman's is Britain's most famous fish smokery. Taste their smoked salmon during our bagel lunch, with cake and coffee, in the restaurant overlooking the Olympic stadium. Hear a talk on the salmon industry, tour the smokery, and learn how to cut a salmon the way the professionals do! Parts of the waterside path are a little uneven, so please wear suitable footwear.

#### Eltham Palace

*Wednesday 10 February, 1.30pm, £14, G*  
Eltham Palace was restored in the 1930s by Stephen and Virginia Courtauld. Discover French-influenced Art Deco against the backdrop of a medieval royal palace.

#### Buckingham Palace and Holyrood House Garden Party ballot

*Date and time tbc, no charge, B*  
Applications must be submitted by noon on Friday 26 February. Please see page 11 for further details.

### March

#### Commonwealth Day service

*Monday 8 March, 3.30pm, £6, G*



**FOUNDLING TREASURES:**  
Portrait of Captain Thomas Coram, 1740 by William Hogarth (1697-1764)

© CORAM IN THE CARE OF THE FOUNDLING MUSEUM

The service will take place at Westminster Abbey in the presence of The Queen.

#### Wellington Arch

*Thursday 11 March, 2pm, £11, G*  
Explore the Wellington Arch, which is topped by the largest bronze sculpture in England. Enjoy historical views of the local area from the two balconies. Discover three floors of exhibitions on the history of the Arch, monuments and memorials in London, and the Blue Plaque Scheme. Tea, coffee and biscuits will be served.

#### Hidden Westminster

*Thursday 18 March, 2pm, £15, G*  
Explore the hidden streets behind Westminster Abbey to see homes of famous people and political figures. Discover 'Queen Anne's Footstool', the site of a royal cockpit, monastic cloisters, 18th-century houses, a hotel with a secret passage, and a famous public school.

### May

#### Chairman's Lunch and AGM

*Tuesday 4 May, 12.30pm, £51, G*  
A drinks reception will precede a three-course lunch at Over-Seas House. Hosted by the new Chairman, Sir Anthony Figgis, it will include a premiere of the centenary DVD, instead of a speaker. This DVD will include exclusive new footage from the Namibia Welfare Project. The AGM will take place at 4pm, followed by a reception.

## Application form opposite

These codes identify ticket 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 also note: We do not acknowledge receipt of applications, but tickets are always sent out in advance. Refunds can only be given if cancellations are made at least 15 working days in advance. We do not provide refunds for tickets costing less than £5. 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. Members will be sent tickets seven days prior to each particular event.*

# Food and drink

## Wine tasting evening

Master of wine, **Martin Everett**, was impressed by the fine Clarets available at Over-Seas House

I know you will think that I am biased (I am, I admit it), but I judge every restaurant by its wine list. Foodie philistine I may be, but I remember a good meal more for the wine that I enjoyed than for anything else. Fine Claret is a special treat and, sadly, all too often these days, it's an unaffordable one. Prices of top red Bordeaux have soared of late – anything even mentioned approvingly by the great American wine critic Robert Parker becomes a trophy purchase overnight and, therefore, moves tantalisingly out of the reach of most of us. Not his fault, of course, it is just how the system works.

How wonderful therefore, to come to Over-Seas House where the restaurant boasts a list of Claret to die for, and (keep it quiet) at prices that no serious wine buff can afford not to afford.

In early October, at the invitation of the Director-General, I tutored a tasting for ROSL members of six outstanding Cru Classé

Clarets, including two first growths, the vintages ranging from 1999 to 1990, great years all. They were delicious; each one had its story to tell and, for those of us lucky enough to be there, it was a marvellous sensory walk through some of the greatest vineyard estates in the world.

These gems, and many others, are all available in the Restaurant at Over-Seas House. Any ROSL member who really loves good wine will be in vinous heaven. You will not drink better, or more reasonably, anywhere in London, I guarantee.

All of the wines tasted are available in the restaurant: Ch Plince 1999 Pomerol, Ch d'Issan 1996 3rd growth Margaux, Ch Lafon Rochet 1995 4th growth St Estephe, Ch Cheval Blanc 1994 1st growth St Emilion, Ch Latour 1994 1st growth Pauillac, and Ch la Mission Haut Brion 1990.



## Festive events

### Christmas Day lunch

*Friday 25 December, 12 noon, £77.50*

**Join with other ROSL members for a traditional Christmas lunch, at which members sit together unless separate tables for parties of four or more are requested. Your Christmas Day will start with drinks at noon. The festive Christmas lunch will be served at 1pm. Tickets: £77.50 per person, including wine and reception drinks.**

### New Year's Eve candlelit dinner

*Thursday 31 December, £86*

**See in the New Year 2010 with other ROSL members. Enjoy a glass of champagne on your arrival, followed by dinner and entertainment until 12.30am.**

### Centenary Cocktail

**The ROSL Centenary Cocktail will be launched on 26 January 2010. A bottle of champagne is offered the member who comes up with the most original name for the cocktail. Proposals to [davidlaurance@convexleisure.co.uk](mailto:davidlaurance@convexleisure.co.uk)**

### St Valentine's Day

*Sunday 14 February, £25.90*

**Enjoy a delicious and romantic three-course meal in the buttery this St Valentine's day with a complimentary glass of sparkling wine with dessert.**

**For reservations contact Bianca on 020 7491 3644**

# Discussion Group & London Group

## DISCUSSION GROUP

Meetings will be held at Over-Seas House, London, on the following Monday evenings from 7 to 8.30pm. There is no charge, no need to book and all ROSL members and guests are welcome. Meetings in 2010 are in conjunction with the Round Table Commonwealth journal. Contact John Edwards, 01732 883 556, johncoatesedward@aol.com.

## Swinfen Charitable Trust - Global Telemedicine 2009

7 December

With Lord Swinfen, trustee, and Lady Swinfen MBE, Director, of the Swinfen Charitable Trust.

## Sir Evelyn Wrench

11 January

With Alex May, Research Editor for the *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography*.

## Britain and Africa

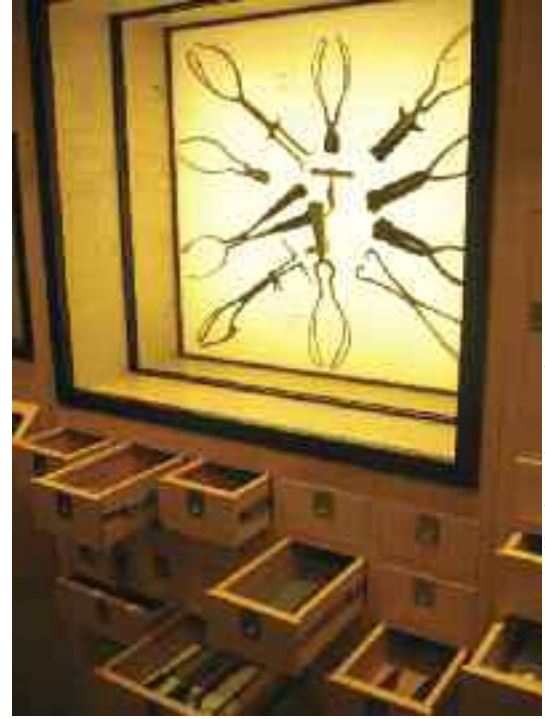
8 February

With Baroness Chalker of Wallasey PC, a British Conservative politician who was MP for Wallasey from 1974 to 1992. She also served as Minister of State for Overseas Development at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, in the Conservative government from 1989 to 1997.

## LONDON GROUP

Please note that you are not automatically a member of the London Group: ask for an application form from the PR department, Over-Seas House, London. The London Group meets at 6.30pm on the third Thursday of each month.

For more information on the



© ROYAL COLLEGE OF OBSTETRICIANS AND GYNAECOLOGISTS

**DEBATES AND TOURS:** (left) The ROSL founder Evelyn Wrench (11 January) and (right) London's Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists (13 January)

group please contact Beryl Keen, 020 8449 5686.

## London Group Christmas lunch

3 December, 12.30pm for 1pm

Princess Alexandra Hall

Entertainment after lunch will be provided by pianist and singer Andrew Brewis. Tickets: £42; London Group members £39. Apply for tickets before 20 November to Celia Goh, London Group, c/o Porters' Desk, Over-Seas House, London, enclosing a cheque payable to 'London Group ROSL' and a SAE.

## A humorous police career

21 January

With Brian Wass, a retired police officer.

## Edwardians in Love: High Society and High Jinks in High Places

18 February

With lecturer, journalist and television presenter Caroline Aston.

## LONDON GROUP OUTSIDE VISITS

For more information, contact Doreen Regan, 020 7584 5879. To apply for events, write to Doreen Regan, London Group, c/o Porters' Desk, Over-Seas House, London.

## Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists

13 January, 10.30am

A guided tour of the Royal College of Obstetricians and

Gynaecologists, founded in 1929 with the aim to set standards to improve women's health. Tickets: £9; London Group members £7.

## Royal Geographical Society (with IBG)

22 February, 11am

A guided tour of the society and museum to see models of famous explorers, diaries, maps etc. The society was founded in 1830 and has been housed in Lowther House since 1913, surrounded by statues of David Livingstone, Sir Ernest Shackleton and others. Tickets: £10; London Group members £8.

*Please enclose a separate cheque and stamped addressed envelope for each visit.*