

# Edinburgh OVER-SEAS NEWSLETTER



**RCSL**  
ROYAL OVER-SEAS LEAGUE

*The latest news and events from the Royal Over-Seas League, Edinburgh.*

SPRING 2018



## From the Branch Chairman



Dear Members and Friends,

It is difficult to know where to begin my report for this current issue of our newsletter, so let me firstly wish you all a healthy, peaceful and happy 2018. May it bring many good moments for all of you.

You will all now have received a second letter from our Chairman, Sir David Brewer, giving an update on the current situation. The closure of our Edinburgh Clubhouse at 100 Princes Street came as a shock to our members. As we are all aware, the Edinburgh Clubhouse, built in the early 1880s, is 'tired' and in desperate need of upgrading. Central Council instigated structural and survey reports, which were somewhat alarming in their content.

We are now faced with addressing these challenges, hence the temporary closure of our clubhouse from the end of January, both to abide by health and safety regulations, and to enable further investigation to determine the best options for our future. In the meantime, ROSL have provided us with alternative facilities at the Royal Scots Club (RSC) on Abercrombie

Place and since February we have held all our events there: our new 'home from home'.

Sadly, we lose our view of the castle and the convenience of the Princes Street venue but it is my hope that we can all be patient with the changes and enjoy our new facilities and benefits at the RSC.

Following a busy festive season, we bade farewell to Johanne Falconer, our General Manager. Johanne was a pleasant and helpful addition to ROSL staff and we wish her well in her new appointment as General Manager at Borthwick Castle.

Over time many of you have donated to our charity box in the Members' Lounge and we are delighted to tell you that we have made a donation of £1,000 each to Water Aid and to St. Mary's Music School, Edinburgh. I look forward to seeing you all at our future in the Royal Scots Club.

With all good wishes,

Helen MacPherson  
Branch Chairman

# A WELCOME FROM THE RSC



Dear ROSL members,

We are delighted to welcome you as temporary members of the Royal Scots Club and very much look forward to providing you with a home from home while the Royal Over-Seas League reviews their options for the future of their building.

We begin our agreement from Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> February and hope to see as many of you as possible using our facilities.

I have attached a fact sheet to provide some information on our Club and the benefits available to you as temporary members. Please do have a look over this to familiarise yourself with the facilities we have to offer.

We would also be delighted to see you attend some of our own Members events. All of which can be seen and booked on our website at

[www.royalscotsclub.com/membership/members-events/](http://www.royalscotsclub.com/membership/members-events/)

If you have used the facilities at the Royal Over-Seas League in a certain way in the past and would like to know if it's possible to use our facilities in the same way, then please don't hesitate to contact myself via [events@royalscotsclub.com](mailto:events@royalscotsclub.com) or 0131 525 6156 and I will be able to give you further information.

We very much look forward to welcoming you all soon,

Ayesha Nickson  
Conference, Weddings & Event Co-ordinator  
Royal Scots Club

## Branch Committee

Committee meetings were held on the 6 December 2017 and 13 January 2018.

Much of the 6 December committee meeting's business has been taken up with the need to close 100 Princes Street for a structural survey. Mr Tony Roestenberg was appointed by Central Council to oversee this matter for the time being. He and the ROSL Chairman, Sir David Brewer, met the committee recently.

The committee further discussed and sought speakers for our programme of events well into next year. Committee members put forward lists of possible speakers and these were slotted into available suggested dates. The Chairman is in the process of contacting them and trying to place them into available events. Events are noted in this Newsletter.

The Scottish Members visit to London for next year has been confirmed as the Weekend 27-30 July 2018.

The closure of the clubhouse will mean that some of the advanced events may need revision.

A further committee meeting was held on the 13 January. The Central Council meeting that was set to be held in Edinburgh in November was cancelled.

We again appeal for you, if not already done, to send an email to our Secretary, Tom Murison ([tamurison@hotmail.com](mailto:tamurison@hotmail.com)), so that he can remind you of events. The address will only be used for that purpose.

Mrs Helen Macpherson



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Mr Alexander Merton



# CLUB RULES

An outline of the ROSL Club rules are available at <https://www.rosl.org.uk/rules> which includes a link to the details.

**Edinburgh Branch rules** were approved at the annual general meeting in 2016. The copy in the Members' Lounge has been preserved by the Secretary.

## Comments Box

The box for members' feedback will not be available during the temporary arrangements and Members are asked to address queries to the committee members who will table them at their next meeting.

## LIBRARY CLOSURE

The books from the Clubhouse Library were assessed for storage or suitable disposal arrangements made. Archival material is boxed and stored in Edinburgh under ROSL supervision.

## Ian Gordon Barbour



It is with deep regret that we heard of the death of Ian Gordon Barbour On Monday 16 October 2017 at the Royal Infirmary Edinburgh. The Funeral Service was on Wednesday 25 October 2017 at Mayfield Salisbury

Church Edinburgh at 2.30pm and a committal Service at Mortonhall Crematorium Chapel.

Ian was 94 years old. In so many ways, he had a rich and good life, though it was not without its sadness. He joined The Royal Overseas League on 31 July 1946. The most treasured part of Ian's long life was Dorothy who joined on 14 January 1960. They looked good together, inseparable and were part of each other; husband, wife and soul mates.

Over the years, Ian's life spanned London, Edinburgh, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, South Korea and Japan. He won a scholarship to Heriot's School and then also at university. At the end of his first year, he joined the Royal Navy and served on the Atlantic Gibraltar route and on shore in Hong Kong. After the war, Ian returned to university and studied History, Economics and Philosophy.

He taught for a time in a number of schools before taking a job in shipping, based in Indonesia with the Ben Line. Ian and Dorothy lived there for 21 years, and greatly enjoyed the Far East. The great sadness in his life and that of Dorothy was the early and tragic death of their son, Gordon, at the age of 27. Gordon was a graduate of Cambridge University.

For many years, and well into their 80s, Dorothy and Ian taught English to air traffic controllers who did not have English as a first language. They were also English examiners for the International Baccalaureate. Ian and Dorothy were married for over 60 years. They were married in Mayfield Church by the minister James Whyte, later Professor at St Andrews University. While they lived abroad for many years, Ian and Dorothy remained members of Mayfield. In the 1960s, they set up home in St Alban's Road.

When Ian decided to ask Dorothy to marry him, he was at the time in Japan. Ian knew that there were other young gentlemen interested and so he decided he had to act swiftly. Ian sent Dorothy an airline ticket to travel out to Japan. He met her at the airport with a beautiful bunch of roses. Shortly afterwards, Ian took Dorothy to Lake Hakone and, with Mount Fuji in the background, asked her to marry him!

Ian is remembered for his tremendous gift of patience and his sense of humour. We give thanks for a good husband, friend and gentleman who loved music. He is survived by wife Dorothy and (as an uncle to) Susan and Philip. Our sympathies are with our good friend Dorothy.

*Compiled from contributions by  
The Revd Scott S McKenna  
Mrs Margaret Kinnear  
Mr & Mrs Bill Barr  
Mrs Elaine Miller*

# REVIEW OF RECENT EVENTS

## ARTS LUNCH: DAVID REID

Wednesday 15 November



David Reid with our Chairman and Secretary

Old Nick manifests himself in many and subtle ways, sometimes coming too close for our comfort. There was no need to bring a long spoon to sup at this lunch where David Reid, Chairman of the Robert Louis Stevenson Club, examined the many ways in which Stevenson explored man's dual personality culminating in his novel *Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde*.

## ST ANDREW'S NIGHT DINNER

Friday 1 December



Lady Mary Hope, Mrs Johann Macleod, Lord David Hope and our Chairman



Guests at table



Three Chairmen of the Branch, Mrs Helen Macpherson (Current), Mrs Mae Barr (2013 to 2016), Mr Bill Barr (2004 to 2007)

## GLASGOW BRANCH CHRISTMAS LUNCH

Friday 8 December

Our Christmas lunch was attended by David Withington and Helen Macpherson who enjoyed sharing the occasion with the Glasgow members.

## COFFEE MORNING AND CAROLS

Saturday 9 December

By the St Andrew and St George Choir, followed by mulled wine.



## COFFEE MORNING: CLIFF HAGUE

Saturday 13 January



Speaker Cliff Hague who is Chairman of the Cockburn Association and Emeritus Professor of Town Planning and Spatial Development at Heriot Watt University,

gave a fascinating presentation about 'The future of Edinburgh in an era of disruptive technologies and disruptive urbanisation'. He highlighted the possible effects of driverless vehicles and how artificial intelligence developments may affect white-collar work, how organisations are trying to reduce 'avoidable contact' with the public. Cliff answered several questions and then stayed to talk to individual members.

## CHRISTMAS LUNCH

*Monday 25 December*

## HOGMANAY DINNER AND DANCE

*Sunday 31 December*

# Forthcoming events

**Events for the next few months will be held at the Royal Scots Club**

**Lunches** are at 12pm for 12.30pm. Tickets are £20 for members and guests, and include coffee/tea and a glass of wine. See notices in the clubhouse and intimated in a telephone call when enquiring.

**Coffee Mornings** are on Saturdays. We gather at 10.15am, speaker at 10.30am, may last until 11:30am. **£5.**

Booking can be made by calling the Royal Scots Club on 0131 5564270. Payment must be made at the time of the booking at RSC reservations.

## COFFEE MORNING

*Saturday 3 March, 10.15am*

Speaker Millie Gray, author

## COMMONWEALTH DAY LUNCH

*Monday 12 March, 12pm*

Speaker Col Clinton Hicks OBE, Chairman of the Royal Scots Club

## COFFEE MORNING

*Saturday 7 April, 10.15am*

Speaker Stewart Conn, makar and poet.

## VISIT AND LUNCH

*Wednesday 18 April*

Mr & Mrs David Osman have kindly repeated their invitation to us to share lunch at their home in the Borders.

**£35. The price goes towards transport and charitable donations.**

## COFFEE MORNING

*Saturday 5 May, 10.15am*

Martin Cornish Antiques

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

*Wednesday 16 May, 6.30pm*

## COFFEE MORNING

*Saturday 2 June, 10.15am*

Speaker Catherine Sreyn, Volunteering Adventures.

## SCOTTISH MEMBERS DINNER

*Friday 22 June, 6.30pm*

# GLASGOW EVENTS

Glasgow Branch meetings are usually held at the Western Club, 32 Royal Exchange Square, Glasgow at 2pm. All members and their guests are welcome.

An informal lunch for members is planned for Tuesday 24th April 2018 at the Western Club in Glasgow and as always Edinburgh Branch Members are welcome to attend.

For information about the branch and its meetings, please call Chairman Bill Agnew on 0141 884 6342.

*Bill Agnew  
Glasgow Chairman*

# Future diary dates

**Details will be in the next editions.** Only those already fixed are displayed here

## Scottish members visit to the London Clubhouse

*Friday 27 – Monday 30 July*

## Festival Fringe programme

*Monday 6 to Friday 17 August*

## Pitlochry Festival Theatre

*Thursday 27 September, 2pm*

Chicago. Travel will be by pooling member's cars.

## Coffee Morning

*Saturday 3 November, 10:15 am*

Speaker Rev. Stewart Lamont, 'The Enfield Poltergeist & things that go bump in the night'.

# THE ROYAL OVER-SEAS LEAGUE

For over 100 years the Royal Over-Seas League (ROSL) - a unique not-for-profit membership organisation - has encouraged international friendship and understanding through social, music, arts and humanitarian programmes. With reciprocal arrangements with over 80 clubs around the world and splendid clubhouses in prime locations in St James's, London and Princes Street, Edinburgh, members can escape from the bustle of the city and meet friends and colleagues in a peaceful environment.

If you have a friend or family member who would be interested in joining, please contact the Membership Department on +44 (0)20 7408 0214 ext. 214/216, [membership@rosl.org.uk](mailto:membership@rosl.org.uk) or visit [www.rosl.org.uk](http://www.rosl.org.uk).

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Royal Over-Seas League  
Founder: Sir Evelyn Wrench, KCMG  
Patron: H.M. The Queen  
Vice-Patron: HRH Princess Alexandra, KG, GCVO



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