

Edinburgh OVER-SEAS NEWSLETTER



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

SUMMER 2014



From Edinburgh to the Himalayas

The exceptional speakers at our events have taken us on a tour around the globe from the comfort of our clubhouse.

Our programme in January began with a Coffee Morning at which David Affleck spoke about "The Royal Botanic Gardens"; ended with the popular Burns Supper. The Haggis was addressed by our own Edinburgh clubhouse chef with great aplomb. The Immortal Memory was given by Fergus Gillies and we finished off a splendid evening of entertainment with "The Toast to the Lassies" given by John Gailey to which Fiona Campbell replied most suitably.

The title of our February Coffee Morning was "Musical New Year in Vienna" presented by Ian Robert who transported us all to a magical evening in Vienna. Dr. Mihai Delcea, Head of the Romanian Consular Office in Edinburgh gave the April Arts Lunch talk; and he enlightened us on the "Cultural History between U.K. and Romania". We also enjoyed the opportunity to sample some fine Romanian wine.

Duncan Currie spoke at our March Coffee Morning; and his presentation of the "Foothills of the Himalayas" revealed the wonders of that side of the world. Our Commonwealth Day Lunch was held on 10 March. In Her Majesty the Queen's

Message to the Commonwealth, Her Majesty hoped that *Team Commonwealth* would be working to build a brighter and united future in which every one of us can play a part and share in its rewards.

In April Dr. Alistair Durie of the University of Stirling presented us with a programme of "Sun, Sea and Shivers". At the Arts Lunch we heard about "The Hunterian" from their Director, Professor David Gaimster, who explained the impressive plans for renovating the Kelvin Hall to display more than 3000 artefacts. The hall is located beside the Kelvingrove Museum and will eventually link up with the whole University complex.

At the May Coffee Morning John Howie, Professor of General Practice of Medicine at the University of Edinburgh gave an illuminating talk titled "Yes Minister" about the challenges of funding for the University Departments in this modern age.

Our Annual General Meeting was held on 21 May 2014 and we were delighted that the Director-General of ROSL, Major General Roddy Porter, was in attendance.

Mae Barr MBE, Branch Chairman



From the
CHAIRMAN



BUILDING A LASTING PARTNERSHIP

Cobbs have been working in partnership with ROSL now for three years past in March and, although the time has passed very quickly, it has not been without a degree of stress and constant change to get the product right. Our goal, in conjunction with ROSL HQ, the Scottish membership and the Edinburgh Committee is of wanting to be the best private members club in the UK and for our particular premises at 100, Princes Street, to be the best in Scotland.

To this end ROSL and Cobbs have worked together to roll out the refurbishment programme, including the new lift and the redecoration and upgrading of bedrooms is part of the process to make the club more comfortable and attractive to both new and existing members. The recent refurbishment of the bar has been completed in conjunction with the Edinburgh Committee, and I hope you have had a chance to look at the ROSL memorabilia that now adorns the walls.

As you are aware, my personal association with 100 Princes Street goes back nearly thirty years and the fact that my son Daniel is the present House Manager makes my wife Jackie and me very proud. However, the paternal sentiment is fine but we can't rest on our laurels and there is still a great deal of work to be done to achieve the accolades we wish to win for ROSL Edinburgh.

Increasing the membership in Edinburgh and attracting a new young, professional applicant is a priority. We also need to ensure current members from across the UK and internationally know about and visit the clubhouse, and also attend the vibrant events programme. We strive for better communication between members and management, and together with London, we will continue to upgrade the facilities, improve service and provide a quality offering in all aspects of Cobbs' input to ROSL's operation.

A lot has changed; sometimes it does not suit everyone but we have to have a financially viable operation in Edinburgh to make the wheels turn, so we need all the support we can get from both membership and from London.

I am pleased to say that we have a great

working relationship with the Director-General, Roddy Porter, and his Director of Marketing, Gemma Matthews. Our lines of communication are strong and this bodes very well for ROSL. An extension to this new open line is that Willie Cameron, Business Development Director of Cobbs, has been seconded for six months to work alongside Gemma and her team to develop Partnership Agreements with organisations in Scotland to assist in increasing membership. Willie started in March and is making significant inroads into various organisations; so hopefully these will be converted into membership applications before too long. I will keep you posted on progress.

As you will also be aware, Cobbs was chosen by the Scottish Government to be involved in The Legacy 2014 Campaign to coincide with the Commonwealth Games. Apart from this being a great honour, it brought both Cobbs and ROSL to the attention of the people who are at the heart of sport in these Commonwealth countries. I am sure that this would be something looked on with pride by Sir Evelyn Wrench.

To mark this Legacy title and to put our social responsibility to the test, we have teamed up with two children's charities; one is Mary's Meals, who feed starving children throughout the world; and the other is The Archie Foundation, who fund hospital wards for sick children in Scotland and provide ancillary benefits for children and their parents. We feel really proud to bring these two charities to the attention of ROSL and its members. We have already held a Charity Dinner for Mary's Meals which we hope will be the first of many fundraising activities.

Cobbs has also organised two trips to the Highlands and Skye for members and we are hoping that Willie will work with the ROSL events team to start things moving for a Spring Tour in 2015 - watch this space. So far, these have been very successful and proved popular.

So, we fervently hope for no more scaffolding, leaky roofs, tradesmen, dust and general disruption and we here at Cobbs get a clear run for the next two years and increase membership, have more activities, and generate enough income to sustain and develop this wonderful club and institution that is ROSL.

*J Fraser, Managing Director, Cobbs
Highlands & Islands tourism ambassador 2013*

MEMBERS' TRIP TO LONDON

The annual trip for Scottish members will take place on the weekend starting Friday 18 July. The cost is £310 (Park View £315) and includes three nights (Friday, Saturday and Sunday) dinner, bed and continental breakfast. Book by **30 June**.

Younger Members in Edinburgh



Exciting developments are afoot for the Edinburgh Young Members programme. YMs are now meeting regularly at the Edinburgh Clubhouse. On 25 April Alexander Lamley hosted the first of a new series of drinks and film nights which saw YMs and their guests get together to watch 80's classic *The Goonies*.

These new monthly events are a fantastic opportunity for like-minded young people to gather for a glass of wine and to meet each other before sitting down to relax and chat over a film. Members are welcome to bring along friends to introduce to the club and to suggest films, we have already received votes for future films including *Ferris Bueller's Day Off*, *Breakfast Club* and *Zoolander*.

Additionally, the first Scottish Inter-Club has now been established and will be holding its first event, a beer tasting, at the Scottish Arts Club on Rutland Square on 24 May. The Inter-Club includes members from ROSL, the New Club, the Royal Scots Club, Glasgow Art Club, and of course the Scottish Arts Club. The new collaborative group is a unique way for Younger Members across the Scottish club landscape to meet other young members and enjoy one another's hospitality. ROSL will host the next Inter-Club event on 3 July, rumoured to be a croquet and fizz night, which should be great fun!

If you would like to get in touch or find out more about the Edinburgh Younger Members programme or Inter-Club contact Alexander on alexjlamley@aol.com

Alex Lamley

ROSL HIGHLAND FLING

Plans are afoot for a trip to the Highlands in Spring 2015. Please contact Daniel to register your interest.



Get set for the Commonwealth Games

The first three months of the year are always the most challenging for the Edinburgh Clubhouse. However, business has been consistent with noticeable accommodation sales increase and food & beverage revenue remaining on par with 2013. A busy Easter period kicked off the season for the clubhouse and our advanced bookings promise a busy summer and autumn.

Presently, ROSL members receive a 10% discount on all Food & Beverage purchased but we are delighted to confirm that this will increase to 20% effective from 1 May 2014. Acting as an additional membership benefit and a great incentive for prospective members, this discount will be closely monitored and reviewed after six months to determine whether the impact it's had on recruitment and club usage.

Here at the Over-Seas House there are some incredible member events to celebrate the Commonwealth Games. We mark the start of the Games with a fantastic hot buffet featuring dishes from the four corners of the Commonwealth as well as wine and coffee. This event also includes a live broadcast of the opening ceremony in Glasgow: tickets from £29.00.

Our chef Andrew has been working hard to provide themed lunch and dinner menus throughout the duration of the Games and we will also be showing all the live events in the new Balmoral Room. Once the Games draw to an end on 3 August, there is another great live event in the Restaurant to mark the occasion, which will be a slightly more formal four-course dinner with wine pairings for each course, courtesy of a wine specialist who has particularly chosen Australian wines to mark the next Commonwealth Games being hosted in Sydney.

The tickets for this event are available at £35.00 per member and for those who book both events the overall price per ticket will only be £60.00

Daniel Campbell

Music@100 Princes Street

The last ROSL ARTS event before the Edinburgh Festival in August is a **Gala Evening of Opera** on **Monday 9 June at 6.30pm** presented by students of the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland introduced by the **RCS Head of Opera, Timothy Dean**. Tickets including **cocktail and canapés** on arrival and post-concert **supper with wine** are **£35**



Now in its 15th year, Music @ 100 Princes Street returns to Scotland for its critically acclaimed sell out series at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe **11 August – 22 August** inclusive.

Presenting 30 concerts in twelve days, with titles such as the popular early morning **Bach for Breakfast** and **Mozart at Teatime**. The series is a priority for discerning festival goers and popular with ROSL Members, with refreshments included in the ticket price appropriate to the time of day, Music @ 100 Princes Street offers one of the most civilised experiences of the Fringe.

The musicians appearing in these concerts are all ROSL ARTS prizewinners or Commonwealth Scholars of the Royal Over-Seas League from Australia, Canada, New Zealand and the UK. Full details of artists and programmes will be on ROSL website at the beginning of July. A printed brochure will also be available. Tickets: £12, £10 Friends of ROSL ARTS and concessions.

All tickets for ROSL ARTS events at 100 Princes Street are available from Reception at Over-Seas House, telephone **0131 225 1501**. The ROSL ARTS team look forward to welcoming you to these high quality events, which provide an ideal opportunity to introduce music- loving friends to ROSL.

Roderick Lakin MBE

DRESS CODE IN ROSL CLUB ROOMS

The Dress Code for members and guests visiting club premises has been revised and updated. All visitors are asked dress in a manner consistent with ROSL's ethos and standing.

Daily Club Use: Members and guests are at liberty to wear smart casual clothing. Examples for guidance include shirt with collar, chinos or smart jeans; Ladies smart jeans or tailored shorts.

The Restaurant: The minimum acceptable at lunch and dinner is a sports jacket or blazer with a collared shirt and tailored trousers; ties are optional. Jackets are optional at breakfast.

The above is a summary of the new code. For full details see the ROSL Noticeboard in the Clubhouse.



EDINBURGH PRINTMAKERS

Between 17 July and 28 September Edinburgh Printmakers return to the clubhouse with an exhibition of prints by Scotland's best-known printmakers. Private View on Thursday 17 July, 6-8pm, Free.

A DAY OUT IN LONDON

On Sunday night we stayed at Overseas House Edinburgh and left before the house woke up to get the 07:30 train to Kings Cross. We'd armed ourselves with Advance First tickets some weeks earlier at a cost similar to an overnight sleeper from our home in Pitlochry.

Our objective was to attend the ROSL AGM at Park Place but we'd also bought tickets for the Chairmans' Lunch and the ROSL Music Competition Final at the Queen Elizabeth Hall in the evening. We approached London to find that the tube strike was off and were able to catch the Victoria line to Green Park, a short walk from Park Place.

During the reception preceding the **Chairmans' Lunch** on Tuesday we had several pleasant, interesting and useful conversations with members of the ROSL dignitaries and staff. Frances and I were seated with some interesting people. Lady of Cylleth Owen Susan Hiscock was on our right and Mr Michael Hart was between us. We found them to be engaging conversationalists as were the others on the table.

Lord Danett's speech remained non political but he did give opinions. The talk was themed on not "muddling through" but need a plan and strategy in order to accomplish objectives. After some revealing comments on his work and the public's attitude to it he expressed the opinion that Britain needs to decide on its place in the world and resource accordingly.

The **Annual General Meeting** followed the lunch. The Chairman's address is substantially contained in the new "Overseas" magazine with the Treasurer's report in the accompanying leaflet. The new members of council are to be Clive Carpenter, Pamela Voice, Judge Meryl Dean and Sir Roger Carrick. Sir Anthony Figgis' term of office will finish in May 2015 in accordance with the procedure laid down in 2003. Auditors HaysMacintyre were reappointed.

I was too engaged in listening to write notes of the **Director-General's report**. He mentioned too many things to reproduce accurately here so these notes are not exhaustive. Topics included: IT, Membership (1,200 leave each year and are replaced). There are about 13,500 paying membership, 16,000 total.

Young members groups are progressing. The Director-General said he would welcome direct feedback from members. He invited questions. In reply we learned: The outsourcing of London catering started in June/July 2004. He thought we were better off outsourcing. In London only the catering is outsourced but in Edinburgh the whole house is managed.

All ROSL staff get a pension. The outsourcing contractors look after their employees in accordance with the law. The ROSL staff were each transferred under the legal requirement of the TUPE.

Many of the attendees finished the day at the **ROSL Music Competition Final** at the South Bank Queen Elizabeth Hall where the standard was the usual truly exceptional level. Some fellow members in the seats adjacent to us offered different opinions to each other as we awaited results. We had not agreed by the time the results came. One of this group had agreed with the judges and so the others were disappointed.

A short Tube ride saw us back at Over-Seas House where we finished the evening with a drink in the temporary bar after a pleasant but full day.

Keith Stringer



Above: Huw Wiggin in rehearsal: Winner of the 2014 Gold Medal Prize

Below: Solem Quartet ROSL Ensemble Prize winners perform at the Queen Elizabeth Hall



IN PICTURES



Clockwise from top left:

Mr Duncan Currie illustrating his talk 'Foothills of the Himalayas'.

Mr John Helliwell, explains the concept and workings of the charity Mary's Meals.

Tombola stall at the charity night for 'Mary's Meals'.

Entrance Archway to George Heriot's School Where Mr Iain Copeland gave members a guided tour of the building.

Yehudi Menuhin School of Music Pupils made a welcome annual visit in February.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS



ARTS LUNCHES

Over-Seas House, Wednesday 25 June, 12 noon for 12.30

Using Life's Experiences to Advantage

Millie Gray, Author and Professional Storyteller.

Tickets £20 Members, £25 Non Members
Two course lunch, glass of wine and coffee

COFFEE MORNINGS

Over-Seas House, Saturday 7 June 10.30am

Patrick Geddes - Father of Town Planning

Jack Aitken, Edinburgh Tour Guide

Tickets £3

FILM NIGHTS

Over-Seas House, 5pm

Rebecca
Tuesday 17 June

Hello Dolly
Tuesday 15 July

Peyton Place
Tuesday 16 August

Tickets £7.50 per person include coffee, pop
corn and ice cream



MUSIC @100 PRINCES STREET

Gala Opera Evening

Monday 9 June at 6.30pm

Annual concert by students of the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland Opera School directed and introduced by Professor Timothy Dean.

Tickets £35 includes cocktail reception and two course dinner with wine.

Edinburgh Festival Fringe 2014 ~

11 August – 22 August

Chamber Concert Series returns for its 15th award winning series. Presenting 30 concerts in two weeks featuring outstanding ROSL prizewinners from the UK and the Commonwealth

Tickets £12, Friends of ROSL ARTS £10

SCOTTISH MEMBERS' DINNER

Over-Seas House, Friday 20 June., 7 for 7.30pm

'Gas Masks and Lipstick'
Guest speaker Margaret Collingwood ; a nursing lecturer who was one of the first from the T.A. to be sent to Iraq.

Three course meal and a welcome drink with fellow ROSL Scotland members.

Tickets £29 includes 3 Course dinner, with wine and coffee Dress Formal

COMMONWEALTH GAMES OPENING CEREMONY DINNER

Over-Seas House, Wednesday 23 July, 6pm

Watch the ceremony live on the big screen and enjoy a buffet menu inspired by cuisine from the Commonwealth.

Tickets £29, non members £34.

COMMONWEALTH GAMES CLOSING CEREMONY DINNER

Over-Seas House, Sunday 3 August, 7pm

ROSL plays tribute to the next host by complementing its contemporary Scottish menu with sumptuous Australian wines. During the meal a speaker will explain the intricacies of each wine pairing. Then watch the closing ceremony with your fellow members.

Tickets £35, non members £40. Includes four course meal and wine.



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 that would be interested in joining, please contact the Membership Department on +44 (0)20 7408 0214 ext 214/216, membership@rosl.org.uk or visit www.rosl.org.uk

USING ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT @ROSL

Complimentary WiFi is available throughout the clubhouse. Electronic devices should be placed on 'silent' or 'vibration' mode in the clubhouse and members and guests are asked to respect others when talking on mobile phones. Members and guests are asked to restrict their use as follows:

Drawing Room, Bar and Cocktail Lounge: mobile phones may not be used. Members and guests are welcome to e-read or browse in silent mode

Restaurant: Members and guests are asked not to use any electronic device in the restaurant.

Mobile phones may be used without restriction in the Reception area, bedrooms and rooms hired for private functions. For full details see the ROSL Noticeboard in the Clubhouse.



TECHNICAL MINDED

ROSL recently held a series of popular morning events in London which guided members through the world of email, internet, and social media. Member's had one on one sessions with a computer guru, and were able to learn all about using digital communications safely and with confidence. We are delighted to be bringing this event to Edinburgh in the Autumn. Look out for more details in Overseas Magazine and the forthcoming autumn events leaflet.

Royal Over-Seas League

Founder: Sir Evelyn Wrench, KCMG

Patron: H.M. The Queen

Vice-Patron: HRH Princess Alexandra, KG, GCVO

Edinburgh Clubhouse

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