

Edinburgh Branch NEWSLETTER



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



From the Branch Chairman...



Members and Friends, time passes so quickly! It seems but a short time ago that I penned my previous letter to you. Since then Christmas has come and gone and a New Year is established.

The festive season is always a busy time for the staff at our clubhouse and we commend them for their constant cheerfulness and helpfulness, especially as renovations proceed at the front entrance to 100 Princes Street. It was hoped the work there would be completed by early February. Your Committee are pleased it was ready on the afternoon of our Burns Night Dinner on 28 January.

Events since last I wrote have been well attended but we would welcome more of our members and their friends at all of the advertised events - Coffee Mornings on the first Saturday of each month (£5 per head for coffee/tea, cakes and an interesting speaker). Our Arts Lunches are advertised elsewhere in this Newsletter as are other events taking place over the next few months. Please do put the dates in your diaries

and come and enjoy some interesting events.

Many of you will have enjoyed meeting Sir David Brewer, the recently appointed Chairman of ROSL. He visited our Edinburgh Clubhouse in November and was enchanted by the views and by all the members he met. He is planning a return visit.

An outing is planned for 19 April. ROSL Members David and Lorrie Osman are kindly opening their home in the Borders to us. Transport there and back will be by bus, Lunch with wine is being provided by David and Lorrie, and we hope to have a small music group playing also. Tweedbank is very near Paxton House but more details will be available at Reception and in the Members' Lounge. Cost is £40 per person and numbers are limited so please book up soon to reserve your place. All proceeds are going to the Roderick Lakin Fund to be used in the renovation of the Princess Alexandra suite in our Clubhouse. *(cont overleaf...)*

(cont. from page one)

It is with deep sadness that I announce the death of a much loved former Chairman of ROSL Edinburgh- Mr Robert (Bob) Gregor, MBE. He passed away on Sunday 22nd January, at his home here in Edinburgh. He was 92. Our sympathies are with his wife, Ada, their daughters, Alison & Lorna and their wider family.

Advance notice of our Commonwealth Day Lunch on 13 March when our Guest Speaker will be The Rt Hon The Lord Steel of Aikwood. Looking forward to Springtime and all it has to offer.

Helen Macpherson
Edinburgh Branch Chairman

Clubhouse news



What a wonderful festive season we had at the Edinburgh Clubhouse, with many members attending the carol concert but also many enjoying the Christmas lunches held throughout the December period. We had a record breaking number of guests

attending the lunches and dinners with over 1,400 portions of turkey being served! It definitely kept the kitchen very busy.

Our Hogmanay Gala Dinner and Ceilidh was a great success and the view from the roof over Edinburgh while our guests watched the fireworks was breath taking. Feedback on the evening was excellent with many returning in 2017.

In December we also saw Colin Anderson leave us. We were all very sad to see Colin finish working at the Edinburgh Clubhouse and I know he will be missed, not only by myself and the staff, here but by the members who have known him for so many years. He has said that he will not be a stranger, and I am sure will be popping in from time-to-time but now on the other side of the bar.

In January we saw the renovations to our new front entrance completed just in time for our Members' Burns Supper. I would like to offer my thanks and appreciation to all members and friends of the Edinburgh Clubhouse for your understanding and patience whilst the work was being carried out. The end result is a much brighter and lighter reception area which is attracting many people to venture in and ask what Royal Over-Seas League means.

With Spring on its way, and hopefully the cold winds along Princes Street easing, I hope I can welcome members and friends to the Edinburgh Clubhouse for not only the Edinburgh Branch events but to enjoy the new menus Andrew Robertson our Head Chef is creating. Whether it be afternoon tea, a light lunch or his renowned fish and chips - there will be much to taste and savour.

On 1 March 2017 I will have been in the role of General Manager at the Royal Over-Seas League one year. Time has gone by very quickly but I do hope that you have seen some of the improvements being made to the Edinburgh Clubhouse. This is just the start, 2017 will see further enhancements being made. An exciting time for me, my team, our members and the Edinburgh Clubhouse.

Johanne Falconer
General Manager



ROSL ARTS

The arrival of February marks the start of our Annual Music Competition here at ROSL. In a departure from previous years, the first round has already happened by video, and so we are sure to be in for some exciting section finals of a very high standard. We look forward to presenting some of these new talents at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe series in August!

We are also pleased to be both continuing and enhancing our relationship between ROSL and the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland. On 23 May the annual RCS Opera Gala concert will take place, presented by Professor Timothy Dean, Director of Opera. In addition, we will be offering performance opportunities for RCS students as part of the Fringe Series, giving them the chance to work alongside both ROSL prize-winners and more established musicians.

We are now in planning mode for the Festival Fringe series, and this will start to fully take shape once the competition section finals are underway. In the meantime, I am pleased to report that jazz pianist and vocalist Stephen Duffy (presenter of "Jazz House" on BBC Radio Scotland) will be presenting two jazz concerts as part of the series.

For those interested in visual art, we will be presenting an arts talk and discussion on the 27 April. Our new visual arts co-ordinator Eilidh McCormick is finalising details and we will confirm these very soon.

Geoff Parkin
Director of ROSL ARTS

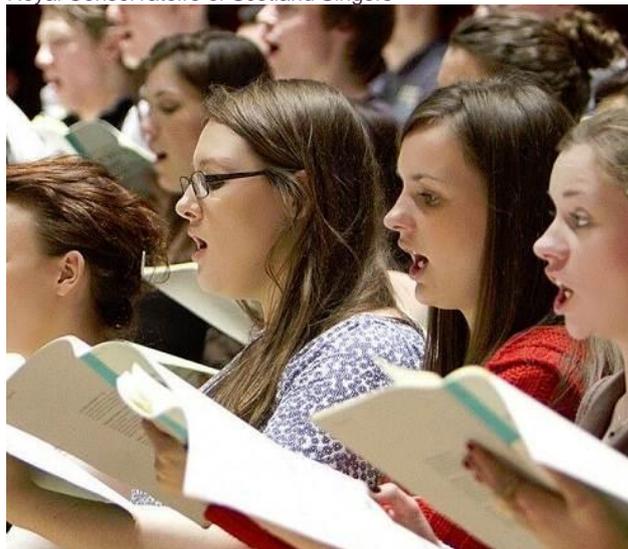
Branch committee update

A Committee meeting on the 4 December received reports from our Chairman and the House management. They discussed and sought speakers for our programme of events. We are near to arranging the next twelve months to make it easier for our diaries.

Events are advertised in this Newsletter and in notices placed in the Clubhouse. We again appeal for you to send an email to our Secretary, Mr Tom Murison, tamurison@hotmail.com, so that he can remind you of events. The address will only be used for that purpose.

Your committee continues to welcome the return of questionnaires (at the end of this newsletter).

Royal Conservatoire of Scotland Singers



COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Mrs Helen Macpherson, Branch Chairman,
Mr Stuart Lynch, Deputy Chairman,
Mr Tom Murison, Branch Secretary
Mr Alex Lamley, Younger Members,
Mrs Marjorie Wilson, Coffee Morning Administrator
Keith Stringer, Newsletter Editor
Mr David Withington, Librarian
Mrs Wilma Bernie
Miss Katie Elliott.

Members' Lounge comments box

There is a box for members' feedback in the Members' Drawing Room. Members are asked to complete one of the forms placed there with their observations, comments and suggestions on the running of the Edinburgh clubhouse and branch. The completed form should be placed through the slot in the box.

The Branch Secretary empties it from time to time. The Committee and Management will then take any appropriate action arising from the comments.

Younger Members at the club

There was good attendance of young people at the Burns Supper on 28 January. With a central location in Edinburgh, a clubhouse in London and links to reciprocal clubs around the world, ROSL membership is attractive to all ages. We'd like to encourage more young people to join and use the Edinburgh clubhouse. Please introduce your relatives and friends to ROSL and invite them to join.

Membership for those aged 17-25 is just £99 per year. For more information, please contact the Membership Team via membership@rosl.org.uk or 020 7408 0214 ext. 216 or 214.

REVIEW OF RECENT EVENTS

COFFEE MORNING

Saturday 5 November, 2016

The History of the Festival and Kings Theatres. Speaker, Cerin Richardson Head of Creativity and Diversity, City of Edinburgh.

MUSIC@100 PRINCES STREET

Wednesday 9 November, 2016

Royal Conservatoire of Scotland. Chamber and vocal concert Schubert and Brahms and Spohr, guitar, clarinet, voices and piano.

NEW MEMBER RECEPTION

Thursday 10 November, 2016

Members who recently joined ROSL, or who were thinking about joining ROSL attended a reception at the club to meet with representatives of the club, including the Director General Roddy Porter, and members of the Edinburgh Branch Committee. The next New Member Reception in Edinburgh is already pencilled in for 2 November 2017. But don't wait until then to introduce your friends, family and colleagues to the club, do bring them as guests to the many events we have planned in the coming months.

ST ANDREW'S NIGHT DINNER

Saturday 26 November, 2016

Rev Benjamin J A Abelado spoke to us on "War and Peace and Military Chaplaincy" from his extensive experience in his role. Members who had attended the St Andrew's Night Dinner complimented the Club on the high quality of the food and service.



Our chairman and the Rev. Abelado at the St Andrew's Night Dinner

COFFEE MORNING AND CAROL SINGING

Wednesday 14 December, 2016

Coffee was followed at 11am by carol singing by and with St. Andrew and St. George Choir then mulled wine and seasonal mince pies. Although numbers were small we all had a good sing.



CHRISTMAS DAY LUNCH

Sunday 25 December, 2016

We started in the Princes Suite for canapés and bubbles then through to the restaurant for a choice three-course menu. Among the best things about the day was this excellent lunch. The presence of Dorothy and Ian Barbour was especially welcome as it was Ian's first time out of Liberton Hospital since May. Colin Anderson performed his role as Father Christmas with customary enthusiasm after pudding to give everybody a present. The saddest thing was that this was his last time. Colin has now left his service with the Club but we still have Michael, Andrew, Richard and a few others of the old staff.

Dr. Richard H. Kimberlin OBE

HOGMANAY DINNER AND DANCE

Saturday 31 December, 2016

We all enjoyed a glass of champagne on arrival, a five-course menu, wine and a glass of champagne to see in the New Year.

The Ceilidh band were on hand for dancing before and after midnight when the fireworks could be viewed from the roof top terrace, the finest viewpoint in Edinburgh.



COFFEE MORNING

Saturday 7 January, 2017

Speaker Rev. John Cameron spoke entertainingly about his experiences of eating outside in the open air around the world. He mentioned Australia barbecues, Street food in Thailand, United States of America, South America, Morningside, picnics on days gone by and now. We thank him for a very interesting and engaging talk.



BURNS NIGHT

Saturday 28 January, 2017

This was well attended by over 50 guests. Our Chairman Mrs Helen Macpherson conducted the celebration with clarity and organization.

The Haggis was borne in by our chef Andrew Robertson and piped by Piper Ms **Robin McKay**. **The Immortal Memory** was proposed by Robin Harper FRSSA. John Duncan **addressed the Haggis** and later recited **Holy Willies Prayer**, full version, in his active and entertaining way.



Committee member Alex Lamley proposed a **Toast to the Lassies** and Susan Wilson, US Consul-General replied, both well thought out, amusing and interesting.

The management and staff provided an excellent four course meal of soup, haggis neeps and tatties, venison casserole, cranachan and accompanied by wine, whisky and followed by coffee, tea and tablet. Many new members and guests, some from far away, met and enjoyed each others company.

COFFEE MORNING

Saturday 4 February, 2017

Speaker John Ramsey on Glenn Miller.

Mr Ramsey gave an engaging talk from his collection of anecdotes from a variety of sources, some unsubstantiated on investigation but most interesting and true.

Several of the Glenn Miller numbers were played to us and many members were observed toe tapping

THE FOLLOWING RECENT EVENTS TOOK PLACE AFTER THE COPY DATE FOR THIS NEWSLETTER AND MAYBE REVIEWED LATER...

MUSIC @ 100 PRINCES STREET

Fri 10 Feb 2017, 6:30pm Princes Suite

Yehudi Menuhin School Concert, Includes Cocktail Reception and Wine. Musicians from the prestigious Yehudi Menuhin School for exceptionally gifted string players and pianists are visiting ROSL on their annual concert tour of Scotland. The recital will include works by Mozart, Schubert and Debussy in the Princes Suite, followed by a glass of wine and a chance to chat to the performers.

ARTS LUNCH

Wed 15 Feb 2017

Kris Bryce, "Executive Director, Pitlochry Festival Theatre".



FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Lunches: are held at Over-Seas House, Edinburgh, at 12pm for 12:30pm. Tickets prices normally £18, Guests £24. Please check notices in the clubhouse for confirmed prices.

Coffee mornings: are held at Over-Seas House, Edinburgh at 10:15am, speaker at 10:30. Talks may last until 11:30. Priced at £5. Please pay on arrival.

Tickets available to purchase at reception, by calling 0131 225 1501 or visiting www.rosl.org.uk/events

COFFEE MORNING

Saturday 4 March, 2017

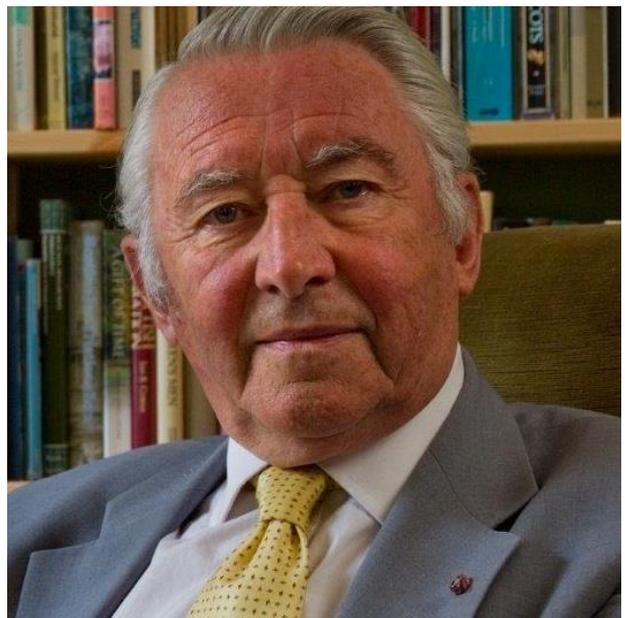
Speaker Mr Martin McMennigall, "The High Constables of Edinburgh".

COMMONWEALTH DAY LUNCH

Monday 13 March, 2017, 12 noon

Join members to observe Commonwealth Day over a two-course lunch with guest speaker, The Right Honourable The Lord Steel of Aikwood Kt, KBE, PC past Leader of the Liberal Party and Presiding Officer of the Scottish Parliament, and also a ROSL member.

£20, £27 guests



The Right Honourable The Lord Steel of Aikwood c.Iain Black Photography

COFFEE MORNING

Saturday 1 April, 2017,

Speaker, Prof Margaret Gill, 'Eating sensibly for the good of the planet and poor people'.

OUTSIDE TRIP

Wednesday 19 April, 2017, 10am

A coach will take us to the home of members Mr David and Mrs Lorrie Osman on the north bank of the Tweed near Fishwick where they will provide lunch. Bus at 10am Charlotte Square. Lunch included. Numbers limited to 32. Proceeds will go to The Roderick Lakin Memorial Appeal.

£40

ROSL ARTS – AFTERNOON ARTS DISCUSSION

Thursday 27 April 2017, 3pm

A guest speaker working in the arts will share their knowledge and experiences.

£10, £8 Friends of ROSL ARTS. Includes tea and coffee. All welcome.

COFFEE MORNING

Saturday 6 May, 2017

Speaker Martin Hunt, 'My life with the media'.

ARTS LUNCH

Wednesday 10 May 2017

Speaker, Robert Macduff-Duncan, Genealogy.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Wednesday 17 May 2017, 1.30 buffet lunch, 3.30pm AGM

All ROSL members are invited to attend the AGM of the ROSL Edinburgh Committee. And join fellow members for lunch beforehand.

RCS GALA OPERA EVENING

Tuesday 23 May 2017

Following their winter recital in Edinburgh, opera students from Glasgow's prestigious conservatoire return to ROSL. Enjoy sumptuous arias, duets and tios by Mozart, Rossini, Handel, Donizetti and Puccini.

£15, 12 Friends of ROSL ARTS. Includes wine and canapes.

Scottish members enjoying the garden at the London club



COFFEE MORNING

Saturday 3 June, 2017

Speaker, Martin Cornish on Antiques.

SCOTTISH MEMBERS' DINNER

Friday 23 June, 2017

Speaker, Dr Donald Smith 'Remembering the Past, Creating the Future'. Three-course lunch, with wine and tea or coffee.

Tickets £30, guests £35

SCOTTISH MEMBERS VISIT TO THE LONDON CLUBHOUSE

Friday 28 July to Monday 31 July 2017

Only 15 bedrooms held so get your entry in early. Join your fellow branch members for a weekend in at the London clubhouse. Make the most of exploring the galleries, museums, or maybe just enjoy the ROSL garden. Please register interest with Reception.

MUSIC & MORE @ 100 PRINCES STREET – EDINBURGH FESTIVAL FRINGE

Sunday 6 August – Tuesday 20 August, 2017

Our 18th Music & More programme will include longstanding favourites, Bach and Beethoven for breakfast, lunchtime Chopin or Schubert and teatime Tchaikovsky.

Tickets will go on sale in June and be available at reception, on www.rosl.org.uk/events and via the Edinburgh Festival Fringe Box Office.

END OF THE EDINBURGH FESTIVAL FRINGE FIREWORKS CONCERT

Monday 28 August, 2017

Dinner and member's buffet

FUTURE DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Details will be in the next edition :

Saturday 2 September : Coffee Morning
Wednesday 13 September : Arts Lunch
Saturday 7 October : Coffee Morning
Wednesday 11 October : Arts Lunch
Thursday 2 November : New Member Reception
Saturday 4 November : Coffee Morning
Wednesday 15 November : Arts Lunch
Friday 1 December : St Andrew's Night Dinner
Saturday 9 December : Coffee Morning and Carols
Monday 25 December : Christmas Day Lunch
Sunday 31 December Hogmanay Dinner and Dance

GLASGOW BRANCH

Glasgow Branch meetings are usually held at the Western Club, 32 Royal Exchange Square, Glasgow at 2pm unless otherwise stated. All members and their guests are welcome. For information about the branch, please call Bill Agnew, Chairman of ROSL Glasgow Branch on 0141 884 6342.

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.

Royal Over-Seas League

Founder: Sir Evelyn Wrench, KCMG

Patron: H.M. The Queen

Vice-Patron: HRH Princess Alexandra, KG, GCVO



London Clubhouse

Over-Seas House, Park Place, St James's Street,

London, SW1A 1LR, England

+44 (0)20 7408 0214, info@rosl.org.uk

Edinburgh Clubhouse

Over-Seas House, 100 Princes Street, Edinburgh, EH2 3AB, Scotland

+44 (0)131 225 1501, reception@rosl-edinburgh.org

www.rosl.org.uk