

Edinburgh OVER-SEAS NEWSLETTER



News and events from the Royal Over-Seas League, Edinburgh Branch.

OCTOBER 2015



Letter from the Chairman

This year's Edinburgh International Festival of performing arts with top class performers of music, theatre, opera and dance from around the world and other events was enjoyed by a large number of visitors as well as Edinburgh residents. Over-Seas House, Edinburgh is of course a venue for the world's largest arts festival, the Edinburgh Festival Fringe.

Many of our members will already be aware of the death from serious injuries following a traffic accident in Edinburgh of Roderick Lakin MBE, ROSL's Director of Arts. Roderick was in Edinburgh to manage the arrangements for the ROSL ARTS Music & More programme of Festival Fringe performances at Over-Seas House. Roderick held his post with the ROSL for over 31 years and it was always a joy to see his enthusiasm in providing us with such young talented musical performers, all of whom had won prizes at the ROSL music competitions. Our thoughts and prayers go out to his wife Margaret and the family at this sad time.

Despite the enforced absence and subsequent death of Roderick Lakin, much credit is due to Gemma, Tait and the ROSL team for continuing to provide

members and visitors with the "significantly expanded and diversified series of events" at Over-Seas House.

On 15 August I was privileged to represent ROSL at the Canongate Kirk for a service to mark the seventieth anniversary of Victory in Japan Day which was followed by a reception in Waverley Court.

As I write, the date of the St. Andrew's Night Dinner is approaching and I am certain that we are all looking forward to hearing our guest speaker Roddy Martine, author, journalist and broadcaster.

At our Arts Lunch in December our guest speaker will be the Rev. Ian Gilmour, Minister of St. Andrews and St. Georges Church, and lunch will be followed by the Church Choir singing Christmas carols led by Choirmaster Brigitte Harris.

The Branch Committee continues to provide interesting speakers at our various events and I recommend and trust that you will support the events with your attendance.

Best wishes and the compliments of the season to you all in 2016.

Mae Barr MBE, Branch Chairman



Mae Barr MBE
CHAIRMAN

From the Director-General

We have had a summer of soaring highs and desperate lows. Trying to find meaning in Roderick Lakin's awful and untimely death has been nigh on impossible. We stand with dear Margaret, his widow, and, in sending her our sincere condolences, are determined that both Roderick's memory and his programme will live on. Indeed, we are working hard to maintain the ARTS programme and are thinking through how best to remember him. We will let members know what Margaret and the Central Council decide as soon as possible. For now, we remember with deep gratitude a life well lived and an extraordinary artistic talent which, for too short a time, enlightened and enlivened all it touched. Thank you, Roderick.

The Festival Fringe concerts and events were a towering success and we have had wonderful feedback from concert-goers and musicians. So we have much to build on for the future. My thanks go to all – ROSL staff, Cobbs and Edinburgh members - who made the occasion such a success.

In early September, I accompanied members of Central Council on a visit to Edinburgh and we had a good discussion with your Committee members and Cobbs about facilities and future refurbishment. We have some exciting ideas for the future and plans greatly to improve facilities and the décor. But first, I promise that we will be making the planned improvements to the Reception area very soon.

Roddy Porter, Director-General

ALTERATIONS TO THE CLUBHOUSE ENTRANCE

The entrance hall is to be reconstructed and improved. The works were postponed until after the Edinburgh Festival Fringe activities. During the works it may be necessary for members to access the clubhouse via the Rose Street South Lane entrance. Dates for the commencement of works will be announced in the near future.

YOUNGER MEMBERS IN EDINBURGH

This July hailed the return of ROSL's croquet night hosted on behalf of the Scottish Clubs Group. A delegation of young members from different clubs and their guests arrived at the Meadows Croquet Club to a champagne reception before taking to the lawns in competition for the top spot. In August, YMs were invited to join members of the Royal Scots Club for dinner and attendance at the Royal Military Tattoo. Alexander Lamley and Matthew Oddy attended for ROSL and were joined by young members of the Glasgow Arts Club as well as Royal Scots.

The draw of young members for other clubs and the network created between the YM cohorts is stronger than ever. YMs at ROSL are very much encouraged to come forward with ideas for future events they would like to see and there are opportunities to organise YM events, work with YMs from other clubs and help shape the future of the membership of ROSL in Scotland. If you have any ideas or would like to find out more about supporting the YM programme then please email alexjlamley@aol.com.

Alexander Lamley



Clubhouse News

The Edinburgh clubhouse has had an extremely busy summer season with the world-class ROSL ARTS concerts spanning the three weeks during August. There were lunch and dinner parties and the dinner at the end of Festival fireworks. Since the last newsletter we have met the budgets given to us by Angus McMaster, Cobbs Financial Director. It was great, and still is, to see the clubhouse being busy and doing so well. I would like to thank my fantastic team for keeping everyone happy during the busy season.

A huge thank you also to Gemma Matthews, Tait Becke and all the musicians who coped extremely well with the concerts particularly after the tragic accident and death of Roderick Lakin. Although the Edinburgh staff and I didn't work with him on a day-to-day basis, he came to Edinburgh regularly, promoting and organising ROSL ARTS events. He will be sorely missed by all and it was a great privilege to work with such a talented man. We plan to work closely with London and ROSL ARTS to make sure the concerts and the Fringe Festival concerts remain world-class events.

We have a great programme in store for members during the autumn and winter, with the usual interesting Arts Lunches, coffee mornings, film nights and the Christmas carols. Lastly, I would like to thank the Edinburgh Branch Committee and members for their continued support.

Daniel Campbell
General Manager & Cobbs Director



Above: Visitors dining in Restaurant 100 at the Edinburgh clubhouse during the Fringe.

MEMBERS' LOUNGE COMMENTS BOX

A locked box is to be placed in the members' lounge. 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. It will be emptied from time to time by the Branch Secretary. The Committee will then take any appropriate action arising from the comments.

SCOTTISH MEMBERS VISIT TO LONDON



Above: Members enjoyed a meal in the Brabourne Room during their visit to the London clubhouse

The pleasantly warm and sunny weather in London was a welcome contrast to this Year's dismal summer in Scotland.

Some in our group took advantage of the attractive rates offered in the 'weekend package' to extend their stay with an extra day. As usual no programme was arranged and everyone had their own agenda. These included Promenade concerts at the Albert Hall, a play at the National Theatre, a performance of the Queensland Ballet at the London Coliseum; an eclectic range rellocking our varied cultural interests.

Opportunities were taken by some to meet family and friends and, of course, shopping was not overlooked. Everyone greatly enjoyed the conviviality of the weekend and the comfort and ambience of the club.

Bill Agnew
Glasgow Branch Chairman

Music @ 100 Princes Street

Featuring more musicians than ever before and an additional week of new events, the 16th ROSL ARTS Edinburgh Fringe was the largest series ROSL ARTS has ever had the privilege to organise. It was lovely to see so many members as well as visitors attending our numerous sold out shows, packing out the Edinburgh clubhouse from Bach for Breakfast to More Sax before Midnight.

Uniting musicians from all over the Commonwealth, our Fringe programme gave soloists and ensembles who don't usually perform together a unique opportunity to collaborate, making for some exciting performances.

As well as giving us the opportunity to showcase our incredibly talented musicians, the extended programme offered new events such as literary discussions and even a children's show. The private view of ROSL artist Leo de Feu's exhibition of watercolour paintings was also a great success and attracted much interest throughout the Festival: our immense gratitude to the Edinburgh committee for their help with running this event. Despite difficult circumstances, the professionalism of all involved made for a successful programme.



Above: Huw Wiggin saxophone and Peter Foggitt piano play to a capacity audience at an evening concert during the second week of the festival

RODERICK LAKIN MBE 1949-2015



Our friend was left in a critical condition at 10.45am on Wednesday 19 August after being knocked down by a bus at the junction of Frederick Street and Princes Street, Edinburgh. He was rushed to Edinburgh Royal Infirmary after the accident and then transferred to the Western General Hospital.

He did not regain consciousness following his accident and passed away in the evening of Friday 28 August 2015.

Roderick was born in Aberdeen in 1949 and was educated at Robert Gordon's College, the University of Aberdeen and St John's College, Oxford. He has worked for the Oxford Playhouse and the Roundhouse Theatre, London; was Director of the Society for the Promotion of New Music from 1978 - 1983; and since 1984 has been Director of Arts at Royal Over-Seas League.

As ROSL Director of ARTS he was awarded an MBE in 2004 in the Diplomatic and Overseas section of the Queen's Birthday Honours List. In 2007, he received an HonARAM.

Roderick Lakin greatly expanded and developed ROSL ARTS international arts programme, which has given support to hundreds of talented young professional artists and musicians from all over the UK and the Commonwealth. The ROSL Music Competition sees over 300 performers compete for awards each year and has established a solid reputation as a discovery platform for young musicians who are now at the forefront of the music profession. In addition ROSL ARTS supports concerts by prize and scholarship winners, recordings and exhibitions both in the UK and the Commonwealth.

IN PICTURES



Clockwise from top left:

Dr Mitchell Manson (centre) following his talk entitled 'Bike Bengal'

Guest of honour Captain Del Hamilton awards the raffle prizes at a charity night to raise funds for the Personnel Recovery Centre Edinburgh.

James Robertson shows members a Sound Box during his talk on music therapy

Simon Lepper *piano*, Gillian Keith *soprano*, Matthew Sharp *cello and baritone*, and Viv McLean *piano* on the roof of the Edinburgh clubhouse during the Festival Fringe.

John Ramsay giving a talk on 'Frank Sinatra: Man, Music and the Mafia'



FORTHCOMING EVENTS

ARTS LUNCHES

Over-Seas House, Edinburgh. 12pm for 12.30
Members £15, guests £20

Come along to our regular lectures, followed by a two-course lunch and coffee (wine not included).

DYNAMIC EARTH

Wednesday 14 October
Speaker Dr Hermione Cockburn



REFLECTIONS ON RL STEVENSON AND HIS WORKS

Wednesday 18 November
Speaker Ian Nimmo, former Chair of the RLS Club

CAROL SINGING WITH ST ANDREW'S & ST GEORGE'S WEST CHOIR

Wednesday 9 December
Talk by Rev Ian Gilmour, Minister of St Andrew's and St George's West, followed by carol singing led by their choirmaster Brigitte Harris. Chairman, Simon Ward and his wife Raye will join us for lunch.
Tickets £8

BANKING: "INVENTED IN SCOTLAND"

Wednesday 17 February 2016
Speaker Alistair Gibb

LUNCH AND LECTURE

Wednesday 11 May 2016
Subject and speaker to be announced.

COFFEE MORNINGS

Over-Seas House, Edinburgh,
Coffee served from 10am, talk at 10.30am
Tickets £3.50 payable on arrival

HISTORY OF CRAIGLOCKHART HOSPITAL DURING WW1

Saturday 7 November
Speaker Catherine Walker, Curator of the War Poets Collection at Edinburgh Napier University

THE ROYAL MILE

Saturday 9 January 2016
Speaker Eric Melvin

TALK BY JACKIE SUTHERLAND

Saturday 6 February 2016
Subject to be announced.

We plan to hold coffee mornings on the first Saturday of each month (except December) throughout 2016. Speakers will be announced in *Overseas*, on the ROSL website or in the newsletter when they are confirmed.

FILM NIGHTS

Overseas House 100 Princes Street, 5pm
Tickets for entry and refreshments £7.50

Each month ROSL members can enjoy a screening of a classic film in the comfort of the clubhouse. In exceptional cases, the film may finish at 8pm.

GALA FILM NIGHT: CINEMA PARADISO

Saturday 10 October 2015, 5.30pm until late
Enjoy a selection of Italian sharing dishes and glass of wine during this special screening Giuseppe Tornatore's Oscar-winning classic.
£18



GENTLEMAN'S AGREEMENT

Tuesday 3 November

DRIVING MISS DAISY

Tuesday 12 January 2016

THE ENGLISH PATIENT

Tuesday 9 February 2016

MARTY

Tuesday 8 March 2016

Film nights will be on the following dates in 2016.

Titles will be announced when confirmed:

- Tuesday 12 April 2016
- Tuesday 10 May
- Tuesday 7 June
- Tuesday 12 July
- Tuesday 9 August
- Tuesday 13 September
- Tuesday 11 October
- Tuesday 8 November

MUSIC @ 100 PRINCES STREET

Over-Seas House, Edinburgh, 6:30pm

Members £10, Friends of ROSL ARTS £8, guests £12.

Includes wine and canapés.

YEHUDI MENUHIN SCHOOL CONCERT

Friday 12 February 2016

Students from the Yehudi Menuhin School return for their annual ROSL concert.

ROYAL CONSERVATOIRE OF SCOTLAND SONG CLASS

Saturday 16 April 2016

Postgraduate singing students of the RCS present a soirée of lieder and melodies.

EDINBURGH GALA OPERA EVENING

Monday 13 June 2016

Annual concert performed by students of the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland Opera School. Includes cocktail reception and two-course dinner with wine. Prices to be confirmed

CHAIRMAN'S RECEPTION FOR NEW MEMBERS

Wednesday 28 October, 6.30pm

Over-Seas House, Edinburgh

An opportunity for members who have recently joined ROSL or were unable to attend last year's reception to meet ROSL representatives and the Edinburgh Branch committee. Includes wine and canapés, with music on the Clarsach by Mary Fleming.

ST ANDREW'S NIGHT DINNER

Saturday 28 November, 7pm

Over-Seas House, Edinburgh

Author, journalist and broadcaster Roddie Martine is guest of honour at this special three-course dinner, including wine and tea or coffee.

Members £25; guests £30.



HOGMANAY DINNER AND DANCE

Thursday 31 December, 7pm

Over-Seas House, Edinburgh

Watch the fireworks from the finest viewpoint in Edinburgh, with reception cocktails, a three-course meal with wine and champagne, as well as black bun and shortbread at midnight. Also available as part of a three-night Hogmanay package. See p40 of Sep-Nov Overseas for further information.

Members £115; guests £129; children (under 14) £105.

BURNS NIGHT

Saturday 30 January, 7.30 pm

Over-Seas House, Edinburgh

Traditional Burns Night supper with the Immortal Memory given by Rev Dr G Russell Barr and Burns' 'Address to a Haggis' delivered by Eric Milligan.

Tickets £35; Guests £40

COMMONWEALTH DAY LUNCH

Monday 14 March 2016, 12pm

Over-Seas House, Edinburgh

With guest speaker, Commodore Anthony Morrow CVO RN, the last captain to serve on the Britannia.

Members £20; guests £25

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

EDINBURGH BRANCH AGM

Wednesday 18 May 2016, 6pm

SCOTTISH MEMBERS' DINNER

Friday 24 June 2016, 7pm

Join fellow members for a delicious three-course dinner with wine and coffee. Guest speaker to be announced. £29

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 on 0141 884 6342.

THE TRIALS AND TRIBULATIONS OF A TOUR GUIDE

Friday 16 October

Guest speaker Jean Tait shares the amusing experiences of her career.

Free

CHRISTMAS LUNCH

Friday 11 December, 12.30pm

Guests of honour ROSL Chairman Simon Ward, and Raye Ward will attend our three-course festive lunch with wine and coffee.

£30.

EDINBURGH BRANCH COMMITTEE

Meetings were held after the May AGM, in June and in August. In May the elected members were allocated jobs such as chairman, secretary, coffee morning organiser, newsletter editor and others. At normal meetings, individual members suggest subjects and implement speakers for events such as Arts Lunches and coffee mornings as far as practical. Correspondence is discussed including thanks to speakers.

Congratulations were sent to Mr Simon Ward, the new ROSL Chairman.

Revisions to the Edinburgh Branch rules have been discussed in detail over many months preparing for submission to the Director-General and Central Council. These discussions are now drawing to a conclusion using the particular expertise of certain members.

The clubhouse management reports to the

committee meetings on those events which Cobbs organise, maintenance of the house and improvements by both themselves and ROSL centrally.

We have discussed the possibility of twinning with an overseas club but it was agreed to postpone a decision for twelve months.

THE ROYAL OVER-SEAS LEAGUE

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.

EDINBURGH BRANCH COMMITTEE

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Mr Tom Murison

Branch Secretary

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Young members

Mr. Alexander Lamley

Committee Member

Mr. Graham Carnie, Mr. Stuart Lynch, Mrs. Helen Macpherson, Mrs Marjory Wilson, David Withington.

Royal Over-Seas League

Founder: Sir Evelyn Wrench, KCMG

Patron: H.M. The Queen

Vice-Patron: HRH Princess Alexandra, KG, GCMG



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