

Edinburgh OVER-SEAS NEWSLETTER



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

WINTER 2014



An autumn of activities for Edinburgh

The summer has now been and gone, however I do hope for those who remained in Edinburgh that you enjoyed the Edinburgh International Festival and related activities.

Those of us who attended the opening and closing Commonwealth Games dinners thoroughly enjoyed the meals 'inspired by cuisine from the Commonwealth'. It was most gratifying to see the Scottish Athletes winning a record number of medals - well done to them all.

Not long after the Commonwealth Games had finished, the Edinburgh International Festival, the Edinburgh Festival Fringe, the Edinburgh International Book Festival and other related events got underway. It was good to see so many members and visitors throughout the city.

The ROSL ARTS Music @100 Princes Street Concert Series is always well attended and provided us with an insight into the music of a wide variety of composers and musicians. We were privileged to hear saxophonist Huw Wiggin, the gold medal winner of this years ROSL Annual Music Competition perform.

I now turn to our own yearly programme. At our Arts Lunch in September we were fascinated to hear the first lady to be appointed the Lyon Clerk and Keeper of the Records, Elizabeth Roads, talk on the subject of heraldry; the study of creating, granting, and blazoning arms and ruling on questions of rank or protocol with the title 'A Heraldic walk through Edinburgh'.

At our coffee morning on 4 October I will be

delighted to welcome Mary Fleming – to talk on 'The Edinburgh Skyline'. Mary's former profession was nursing and, apart from playing the violin and clarsach professionally, her love of history shines through – there is not much that she doesn't know about the history of Edinburgh and Scotland. The speaker at the Arts Lunch on 8 October will be George Sutherland on the subject of 'WWI and Gallipoli'.

The November programme of events is quite hectic but promises to be of much interest to members. events include: a coffee morning with guest speaker Christine De Luca on 'Shetland Muse and Musings', an Arts Lunch with historian Eric Graham on 'Robert Louis Stevenson -The Pirates' and St. Andrew's Night Dinner with guest speaker Councillor Eric Milligan, former Lord Provost of the City of Edinburgh. Finally to put you in the festive mood we will be having Afternoon Tea (with a glass of mulled wine) on 10 December and you are invited to join in the carol singing which will be led by Brigitte Harris from St. Andrews and St. George's West Church Choir. For the full event listings turn to page 6.

I wish all Members a very Happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

Mae Barr MBE, Branch Chairman

P.S. An early reminder – please book your seats for the "Burns Supper" to be held on 31 January 2015.



Above: Edinburgh members in the Garden of Over-Seas House, London

LONDON CLUBHOUSE VISIT

A group of us left various Scottish railway stations arriving at Over-Seas House during the day on Friday 18 July.

At a late afternoon drinks reception in the garden we were met by Gemma Matthews, Director of Marketing, Roderick Lakin MBE, Director of ROSL Arts, Angela Farago, Membership Secretary and Christine Wilde, Deputy Editor of *Overseas Magazine*.

Among the Scottish visitors were the Chairmen of both the Edinburgh and Glasgow Branches.

Members arranged a variety of activities for themselves. Amongst others, visits were made to the Houses of Parliament, Wimbledon, the Thames Barrier, the National Portrait Gallery, the Victoria and Albert Museum, the Proms, and Kew Gardens.

Shopping expeditions included Burlington Arcade, Fortnum and Mason, Harrods, Fenwicks and specialists such as Stanfords. Many of us visited relatives in the London area or invited friends to Over-Seas House.

We met for drinks and dinner each evening to exchange experiences. Departures on Monday were staggered and some even stayed on extra days.

This was, once again, a very successful and enjoyable event and is to be commended to other Scottish members.

Keith Stringer

Young Members in Edinburgh



Above: Young Members Group playing golf croquet at the Meadows Croquet Club

Many of the YMs at ROSL Edinburgh have been away over the summer but a small group have been attending drinks and evening events. Alexander took a table with YM guests from ROSL and other Edinburgh Clubs at the Scottish Members Dinner in May. The evening was a great platform for making introductions and socialising with one another and other attendees on the night.

In July, Alexander hosted ROSL's first Scottish Clubs Group (SCG) event; a champagne and croquet evening. The SCG is an cross-club programme for young members of any Scottish private member clubs. Members of SCG and their guests were greeted at Meadows Croquet Club, Edinburgh with glasses of fizz before being given a quick tutorial on how to play golf croquet. Doubles teams were formed and a competition played which saw ROSL's very own Sara Brouwer and Alexander take the top spot! After a night of fierce competition the group moved on to the ROSL clubhouse to continue the bon hommie.

The next SCG event will be a club crawl on 11 October starting at the Glasgow Art Club before moving on to the Royal Scots Club, Scottish Arts Club and ROSL.

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

Letter from the Director-General

I am pleased to be able to pen a few thoughts to contribute to this latest edition of the excellent Edinburgh Branch Newsletter. It seems that the pace of life rarely lets up and the clubhouse has experienced a really busy summer and looks forward to an equally active winter, especially to Christmas and Hogmanay. I write this without the advantage of knowing the result of the Referendum but, whatever its outcome, 100 Princes Street and our Scottish branches will remain vital elements of the League, which we will continue to cherish and sustain. Indeed, the Central Council recently debated the importance of the clubhouse in Edinburgh and concluded that we must keep, 'a resolute focus on the financial viability of Edinburgh and its success as a venue of choice for increasing numbers of members'. That is my commitment to the clubhouse in Edinburgh and to our Scottish membership and I look forward to the rest of this year and to 2015 with enthusiasm and mounting confidence.

It was a great pleasure to be able to attend the Edinburgh Branch AGM earlier this year and to have the opportunity to meet a number of attendees. The AGM spoke volumes for the variety and enthusiasm of the Branch and we had a spirited and thoroughly enjoyable reception thereafter. I would like to congratulate Mrs Mae Barr and her whole committee on the programme that they run and the focus they bring to their programme.

When I last visited, just before the Edinburgh Festival, I was struck by how well the clubhouse looked with its smart new livery. We are still working hard in partnership with Cobbs to improve the decor and the service but I would like to say how far we have come since my first visit in 2011. Cobbs deserve great credit for the changes they have brought in and the improvements made. We all know that there is more to do but I am grateful to Fraser and Daniel Campbell, Willie Cameron, Angus McMaster, Colin Anderson and their whole team at Edinburgh for committing to doing things well. There is more to come, so watch this space.

Looking ahead, the Central Council will be staying in the clubhouse during the weekend of 22-24 November 2014 for their triannual visit. They will be meeting members of the Committee and holding their quarterly Council meeting during their visit. This is an important occasion to enable the Council to see for themselves how things are progressing and how we can develop the clubhouse in the future.

I look forward to coming up again in the very near future.

Major General Roddy Porter MBE
Director-General

ROSL SUCCESSES IN EDINBURGH FESTIVALS

Director of Arts Roderick Lakin reflects on a vintage year.

ROSL prizewinning musicians from Australia, Canada, Malaysia, New Zealand, South Africa and the UK converged in Edinburgh for ROSLs 15th annual concert series 'Music@100 Princes Street' and for a unique partnership between ROSL, Scottish Ensemble and the Edinburgh International Festival under the banner Commonwealth Strings.

The Edinburgh Fringe series attracted ROSL members and public alike to 30 concerts, spread over 12 days. The ever popular Bach and Beethoven for Breakfast at 9.30pm daily, Chopin After Lunch and Mozart at Teatime played to capacity audiences and late night concerts at 10.30pm attracted an equally large and enthusiastic following and glowing reviews.

In celebration of Scotland as host of the Commonwealth Games, Commonwealth Strings brought 14 outstanding young musicians from across the Commonwealth together with the 14 strong Scottish Ensemble for a prestigious concert on 26 August at the Queens Hall Edinburgh, as part of the Edinburgh International Festival, broadcast live on BBC Radio 3. This was followed by a tour to Inverness, Dundee and Snape Maltings Aldeburgh. For me as Director of Arts for ROSL, the Commonwealth Strings performance at the Queen's Hall, must rank among the highest artistic achievements with which I and ROSL have been involved. The rave 5 star review by veteran music critic of the Glasgow Herald Michael Tumelty captured the occasion perfectly:

"RIGHT: pens down, hats off and hands together. In 30 years of this business....I have heard the Scottish Ensemble in great form, routine form and very occasionally slightly off form. But I never expect to hear them again as I did yesterday morning at the Edinburgh Festival, where they were sensational in the best performance I have ever heard them deliver at home or away....This was a double sized Scottish Ensemble of 28 players, 14 of whom were young virtuosi from Commonwealth countries, joined in near miraculous indivisibility of sound and style with Jonathan Morton's elite group, producing collectively, performances so gutsy, so meaty, so refined and so robust that it was impossible not to be gripped...."

IN PICTURES

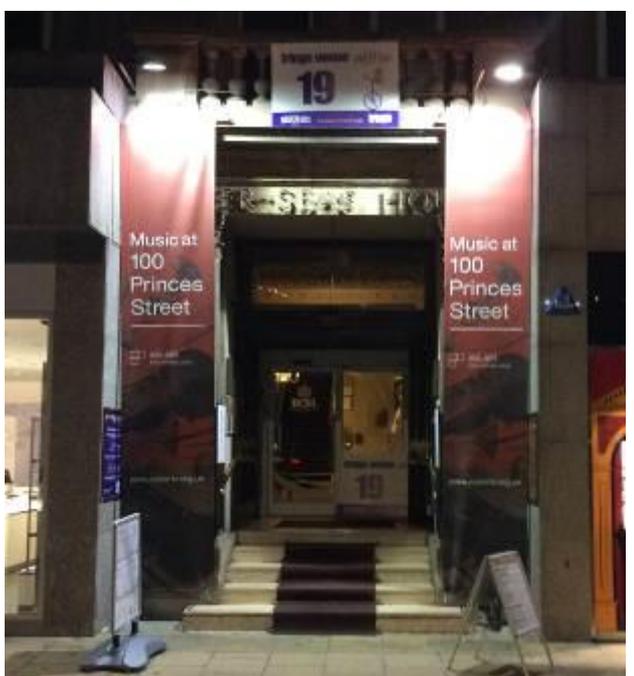
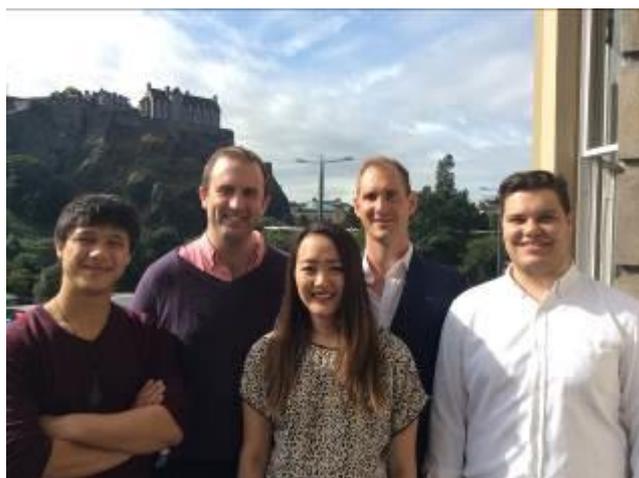
Clerk and Keeper of the Records, and secretary David Withington



Above

- 1 Members in the London clubhouse garden
- 2 Members enjoying the Welcome Reception at the London clubhouse.
- 3 Arts Lunch 3 September: Chairman Mae Barr with the Speaker Elizabeth Roads, the Lyon

- 4 Arts Lunch 25 June: Chairman Mae Barr with Speaker Millie Gray, author and professional storyteller
- 5 Edinburgh manager, Daniel Campbell with members of the committee
- 6 Members and Guests at the Chairman's AGM Reception



Above

- 7. Director General, Major General Roddy Porter MBE at the AGM
- 8. Members and Guests at the Chairman’s AGM Reception
- 9. Music @100 Princes Street

- 10 Trinity Trio perform Music@100 Princes Street
- 11 Edward King, Peter Foggit, Somi Kim, Huw Wiggin and Thomas Atkins ROSL Annual Music Competition prize winners take a break from the Music @100 Princes Street concert series to enjoy the view .
- 12 Members of the Royale Conservatoire of Scotland, Piano, Oliver Rundell; Tenor, Luperici de Souza; Baritone, David Horton; Mezzo Soprano, Eirlys Davies; Soprano, Hazel McBain

FORTHCOMING EVENTS



ARTS LUNCH – WWI AND GALLIPOLI

*Wednesday 8 October,
12 noon for 12.30*

George Sutherland looks at this infamous campaign and the impact on ANZAC troops.

Tickets: Members £15, Non-members £20. Includes two course lunch and coffee (Please note the price has reduced by £5 but no wine is included)

NEW MEMBERS' RECEPTION

*Wednesday 22 October,
6.30pm*

ROSL welcomes new members and prospective members to the Edinburgh Clubhouse. This is a wonderful opportunity find out more about the benefits of membership, meet the ROSL team and partnership organisations. This evening is open to new members, and current members who wish to show off their club to prospective members, friends and family. Hosted by ROSL Edinburgh Branch Chairman Mae Barr MBE and Director-General, Major General Roddy Porter MBE.

Tickets: Free. Register attendance with the Edinburgh Reception team.

TECHNICAL THURSDAYS

Thursday 23 October, 11am, 1pm and 3pm

With an increasing number of club activities publicised and documented online, it is our aim to help members who are either not confident with computers or those who just want to brush up on their digital skills.

Working in conjunction with local businesses, the ROSL team will be on hand to talk you through the

basics of how to create an email address, browse the World Wide Web safely and even how to use tools such as Skype and Facebook – helping you keep in touch with friends and family.

We will run three 60 minute sessions. Places are limited so please call 0131 225 1501 to register and book your slot.

Tickets: Free

ARTS LUNCH – ROBERT LOUIS STEVENSON AND THE PIRATES

*Wednesday 5 November,
12 noon for 12.30*

Writer and historian Eric Graham explores the origins of the classic adventure story *Treasure Island*.

Tickets: Members £15, Non-members £20. Includes two course lunch and coffee (Please note the price has reduced by £5 but no wine is included)



ST ANDREW'S NIGHT DINNER

*Saturday 29 November
7pm for 7.30pm*

Three-course dinner to celebrate St Andrew's Day, with a welcome drinks reception on arrival. 'Scottish Flavour' proposed by guest speaker Councillor Eric Milligan (former Lord Provost of Edinburgh).

Tickets Member £30; Non-members £35

BRIDGE CLUB - CHRISTMAS LUNCH

*Friday 5 December
12 noon*

Bridge club members are invited to a Christmas lunch, with a glass of sherry on arrival.

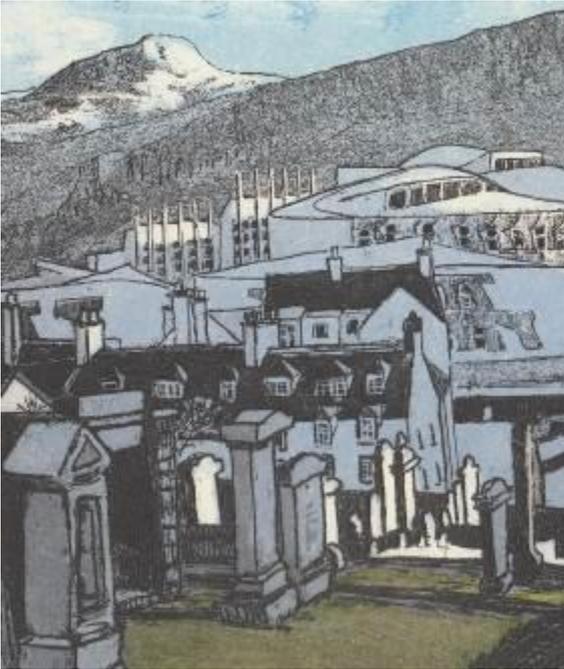
Tickets: Members £17; Non-members £20

CHRISTMAS CHEER WITH CAROLS

Over-Seas House, Wednesday 10 December, 3pm to 4pm

An afternoon of carol sing-along with Brigitte Harris, choirmaster of St. Andrew's and St. George's West church choir.

Tickets £8 includes mulled wine and mince pies



Above: An Edinburgh skyline – Cat Outram: Edinburgh Printmakers

COFFEE MORNINGS

*Over-Seas House, Edinburgh,
Coffee served from 10am, talk at 10.30am
Tickets £3 payable on arrival*

MARY FLEMING: EDINBURGH SKYLINE

Saturday 4 October

CHRISTINE DE LUCA: SHETLAND MUSE AND MUSINGS

Saturday 1 November

ROBERT BERTRUM: PRIME MINISTERS

Saturday 3 January

FILM NIGHTS

Over-Seas House

At 5pm

Tickets £7.50 for coffee, popcorn and ice cream

Each month ROSL members can enjoy a screening of a classic film in the comfort of the clubhouse.

THE MAN IN THE WHITE SUIT

Tuesday 7 October

Classic Ealing comedy starring Alec Guinness, Joan Greenwood and Cecil Parker

A MAN FOR ALL SEASONS

Tuesday 4 November

Oscar Winning historical biopic starring Paul Scofield, Wendy Hiller and Vanessa Redgrave

IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE

Tuesday 3 December

Seasonal feel-good film starring James Stewart, Donna Reid and Lionel Barrymore

THE BEST EXOTIC MARIGOLD HOTEL

Tuesday 8 January

A group of pensioners embark on an Indian adventure starring Judie Dench, Maggie Smith and Bill Nighy

BURNS SUPPER

Saturday 31 January

7pm for 7.30pm

Welcome drink on arrival, three course meal, with wine and whisky. Immortal Memory proposed by Rt Rev Brian A Smith, former Bishop of Edinburgh.

Tickets £35 Members, £40 Non-members



CHRISTMAS AT THE CLUB

So the summer season is coming to an end and the nights are quickly getting darker day by day. The team and I have had a very busy summer season here at the Over-Seas House, with the Jazz Festival, ROSL Arts concerts, and groups coming in for a pre-tattoo dinner. So far from January to date we have beaten every month compared to 2012 and 2013. This is looking very hopeful for the future of the club, and it's a great atmosphere here when it's busy and vibrant. I would like to congratulate all the staff for the hard work and long hours. They all are very much appreciated, certainly by me, but ROSL London and Cobbs across the board.

September and October months are fairly busy however it's calm before the next storm in December. We have a fantastic offering for members throughout the festive period starting with 'Christmas Cheer with Carols' this is on the 10 December at 3pm and tickets cost just £8.00. Andrew our chef has designed lovely festive lunch and dinner menus running throughout December. Then Christmas itself which kicks off at 12noon in the Princes Suite for canapés and bubbles, then through to the restaurant for a choice 3 course menu. The ROSL Father Christmas will appear after pudding to give everybody a present. Then you can relax and watch the Queen's speech on the large screen during coffee.

Don't forget ROSL members receive a 20% discount in Restaurant 100 N.B. this offer excludes Christmas, New Year and other special occasions.

Daniel Campbell, House Manager



Getting technical

Many of us take for granted the technology around us and forget that it's not second nature for everyone to send an email or browse the internet. Our Technical Thursday sessions provide one-on-one tuition to those who may not be so confident in using a computer but

have an interest in finding out how to safely use the World Wide Web – whether it's to search for information, shop or even connect to family and friends through social media tools such as Skype or Facebook.

If you are interested in finding out more about the hour long sessions taking place in Over-Seas House Edinburgh on 22 October please contact Sara Brouwer on 020 7408 0214 206



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. For enquiries about booking events, accommodation or making a restaurant booking at Over-Seas House, Edinburgh call 0131 225 1501

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