

# OVERSEAS

Journal of the Royal Over-Seas League

Issue 1, March–May 2010



## Music to their ears

We follow the music prize-winners on tour, and reveal the NZ scholarship winners

## Action in Namibia

How the director of the Centenary DVD caught the project's successes on film

## Future generation

A look at the problems facing Commonwealth children, now and then

## Truth laid bear

Why the ice art by member Mark Coreth became an emblem of climate change



# Too old to fight

For over 180 years the Gurkhas have helped to fight our wars and keep our peace. Gurkhas have won 13 Victoria Crosses and have served in most of the major conflicts of the 20th century.

If there was a minute's silence for every Gurkha casualty from World War Two alone, we would have to keep quiet for two whole weeks. But silence will not help the living, the wounded and disabled, those without military pensions following World War Two service or redundancy, or those left destitute by ill health or natural disasters.

There is no doubt that we in this country owe the Gurkhas a debt of honour, and the Gurkha Welfare Trust is seeking to repay that debt. The work of the Trust is now vital to the health, well-being and quality of life for thousands of Gurkha old soldiers and their dependants.

Please will you help us? Anything you can send now will be gratefully received and carefully used in relieving hardship and distress among Gurkha ex-servicemen and their dependants in Nepal.

# Too proud to ask



This is Ramesh Lakshmi Thapa (L) aged 89 and his younger brother Ramesh Lakshmi Thapa. Both served with the Gurkha Rifles throughout World War Two.

The brothers keep each other company on the five day walk they make every three months from their home village to the nearest Gurkha Welfare Trust Area Welfare Centre to collect their 'wellness pension'. This money is their only source of income and all that stands between them and destitution.

I would like to help these proud, gallant people who served Britain so well and gave so much for my freedom. Here is my gift:

☐ £20 supports a soldier/widow for one month

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Tel: 01722323955 Fax: 01722343119 [www.gwt.org.uk](http://www.gwt.org.uk) Registered Charity Number 1107662





## OVERSEAS

ISSUE 1 March-May 2010

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**Front cover:** Stills from the Centenary DVD – ROSL ARTS and the Barbirolli String Quartet's landmark visit to the Pakirikiri Marae, as part of the ROSL ARTS/Pettman Scholarship tour of New Zealand. See page 20

## From the Director-General

**M**r Stanley Martin's retirement from the ROSL chairmanship and the announcement of his successor, Sir Anthony Figgis, was reported in the last issue. Stanley and his wife, Hanni, were to have been guests of honour at the lunch before the Council meeting on 7 December. Sadly, they were unable to attend as Stanley was in hospital after major surgery. The lunch was hosted by ROSL President, Lord Luce, who conveyed the best wishes of the Central Council to Stanley for a speedy recovery, and tributes were paid for his service to the ROSL. I can report that Stanley is recovering and we were delighted to see him at the Centenary Launch party on 26 January. He was looking very well and was in good spirits. One of the last events he hosted as Chairman was the Chairman's Lunch in October, at which the speaker was Cardinal Cormac Murphy-O'Connor (the former Archbishop of Westminster). The attendance was the highest yet and members were not disappointed. The Cardinal was a delightful guest and gave an excellent speech.

Christmas and New Year at the clubhouses were happy occasions, with members enjoying traditional fare on Christmas Day. In London, 45 members saw in the New Year at a dinner dance in the restaurant, and in Edinburgh, nearly 100 enjoyed the best possible views of the Princes Street Party and the fireworks set off from the ramparts of Edinburgh Castle. The ROSL Festival of Christmas carols and readings was again held at St James's Piccadilly, followed by a Christmas tea at Over-Seas House, which, to the delight of members' children, included a visit by Father Christmas.

Although I wrote, in issue 3, 2009, that bedroom occupancy at Over-Seas House, London was a casualty of the recession, occupancy levels then soared. Consequently, financial results at year-end were positive and ROSL is in good financial health as it enters the centenary year.

Discussion Group meetings this year are held in association with *The Round Table* (the Commonwealth Journal of International Affairs), which is also celebrating its centenary. At the first meeting, Dr Alex May (research editor of the *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography* and Secretary of *The Round Table*) gave a fascinating talk on our founder, Sir Evelyn Wrench.

We have been heartened by the positive response from members both in the UK and from all of the world since the Centenary Appeal was launched in September 2009 (see page 31). Members also continue to be generous in their support of our Namibia project (see page 9). As the ROSL embarks on its second century, the vitality of our artistic and educational endeavours reinforces our sense of purpose, inspired by Evelyn Wrench and the directives of our Royal Charter.

**Robert Newell**

**ONTARIO CHAPTER:** Pictured at the chapter's annual lunch are (l-r) Mrs Shanaz Newell, the British Consul-General to Toronto Mr Jonathan Dart, the chapter president Miss Ishrani Jaikaran and Mr Robert Newell

## Editor's letter

**I** first read Kamallesh Sharma's introduction to our Focus on children while I was staying with my husband's family in Mexico. They live in Chiapas – one of the poorest states – and, as I walked through the centre of San Cristóbal, while children only a little taller than my two-year-old tried to sell me ornamental animals and others pleaded to shine my shoes, the Secretary-General's words on child poverty were ever more poignant (page 11). With one billion young people living in the Commonwealth, organisations such as Save the Children and the Commonwealth's own Youth Programme can make a real difference (page 12).



Almost 100 years earlier, one man who made a real difference to the lives of newborns, halving the infant death rate and setting up 'mothercraft' centres in the UK at the invitation of Sir Evelyn Wrench, was Dr Truby King (page 14). I am always fascinated to read past articles from the *Overseas* archives (pages 6 and 15) and, as a mother, I am particularly interested in Winifride Wrench's pieces in support of Dr King's methods. As I return to work after maternity leave, I only wish that a ban on night-time feeding was still recommended today!

It leaves me to thank my sister Jessica Moore for the two excellent issues she put together as acting editor and to wish her the very best for the future.

**Miranda Moore**



# Chairman's welcome

As the centenary year begins, **Sir Anthony Figgis** discusses why he is so delighted to succeed Mr Stanley Martin as Chairman

When our President, Lord Luce, asked me to consider being a candidate to succeed Stanley Martin as Chairman, I was a bit concerned – but delighted. Concerned because, compared to Stanley, who has given such wise advice and steadfast service to the ROSL over so many years, I was (and am) a newcomer. And my direct experience of the Commonwealth is small. I asked Lord Luce whether he was sure these things wouldn't rule me out. His answer was: "Well, it depends what you think of the League." So this is my opportunity to say, as I did to him, why I was so delighted.

Our organisation, as Adele Smith's excellent history shows, is a unique beast. It started, all those years ago in 1910, as a buttress of Empire. But it was always more than that – a place for people to enjoy each other's company, and a focus for their interests and concerns. I sometimes wonder what our founder, Sir Evelyn Wrench, would think of us

if he could see what kind of adult his baby has become. He would, I think, be pleased.

Through two world wars, in which the ROSL distinguished itself in unusual ways, and after changes in society undreamt of in 1910, we are not only still here, but thriving. We have evolved from a prop of Empire to a significant strand in a Commonwealth of equals. But we are more than that: a forum for debate; an encourager and funder of the arts, especially for the young; a channel for education, both of others (as in Namibia) and of ourselves. Many ROSL branches support charities. And all members, whether in Britain or overseas, are made to feel at home in Over-Seas House.

This has been achieved, it seems to me, by two main means – the enthusiasm of our members and the dedication of our staff. Without the staff, who come from almost all quarters of the globe, the machinery would not run, let alone in such a helpful and friendly way. And without a membership willing to give their

time and ideas, it would not be possible to sustain the variety of activities that happen under the ROSL's umbrella – the music competitions, the arts scholarships, the speakers programmes, the visits and much more.

Which brings me to the centenary. It was typically thoughtful of Stanley Martin, once the Central Council had decided on me as his successor, to suggest that I take over a little early, at the end of 2009, so as to have a clear run at the centenary year. Stanley and Hanni have made an enormous contribution to the life and success of the ROSL over many years. So I take over the reins with some trepidation. But it is a huge privilege to find myself as Chairman, especially in our hundredth year, when my wife Mayella and I hope to meet as many members as possible, in Britain and in the branches elsewhere. With the support of the Central Council and the membership, and of our superb staff led by Robert Newell, I shall do my best.



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## From HM The Queen

**Sandringham House  
Sir Anthony Figgis, KCVO, CMG,  
Chairman, The Royal Over-Seas League.**

Please convey my warm thanks to the members of the Royal Over-Seas League for their kind messages of loyal greetings, sent on the occasion of the League's Centenary.

As your Patron, I much appreciate your thoughtfulness in writing as you did and, in return, send my best wishes to all concerned during this most special anniversary year.

**Elizabeth R.**

**15 January 2010**



# 'The Queen Visits Over-Seas House'

An extract from *Overseas* July, 1960

The highlight of the jubilee year has been the visit of Her Majesty the Queen, Patron of the Royal Over-Seas League, to World Headquarters on Wednesday, May 18th.

When Her Majesty's maroon Rolls-Royce (with no registration number plates) flying the Royal Standard and bearing the Royal Arms on a shield mounted on the roof, drew up in the courtyard outside Vernon House, the Queen was greeted – as our picture on this page shows – by the League's Grand President, Lord Mountbatten.

Vernon House and the main entrance was newly adorned with the carved and painted coat of arms, for which letters patent have recently been granted.

Accompanying the Grand President were Sir Evelyn Wrench, the Founder, and Sir Angus Gillan, Chairman of the Central Council, and Lady Gillan. On entering Over-Seas House Sir Angus presented Sir Joycelyn Lucas (Vice-

Chairman), Mr. Geoffrey Draper (Honorary Treasurer) and Mrs. Draper, members of the Central Council, and Mr. Philip Crawshaw (Director-General) and Mrs. Crawshaw. Presentations to H.R.H. the Duke of Edinburgh were made by Sir Evelyn Wrench.

Her Majesty was then conducted to the Reception Office, Main Hall, Rutland Room, Card Room, and Wrench Room, in each of which members and retired members of the staff and members nominated by the various Groups at World Headquarters were presented.

Finally, Her Majesty and the Duke were escorted to the Hall of India and Pakistan and the St. Andrews Hall, in each of which a reception was in progress for some 200 members from the United Kingdom and overseas, and a number of members were presented.

Before taking their leave the Queen and the Duke signed the League's Visitor's Book.

**A ROYAL GREETING:** Lord Mountbatten greets The Queen outside Vernon House



## The Queen's foreword

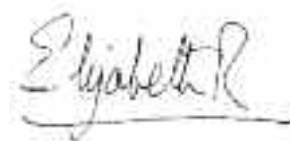
Read the preface by The Queen from Adele Smith's 'History'



The Royal Over-Seas League was founded by Sir Evelyn Wrench in 1910, the year that my grandfather, King George V, came to the throne. Within six years, he had granted his patronage to the young society and I am delighted to have followed him and my father, King George VI, in being Patron of the League.

On its fiftieth anniversary in 1960, I was happy to approve the title 'Royal' and I have appreciated meeting its members, from the United Kingdom and the overseas Commonwealth, on many occasions during my reign.

On its centenary in 2010, I wish the Royal Over-Seas League and all its members every success for the future.



# Success in Trinidad

**Derek Ingram** reports on CHOGM 2009



**OPENING CEREMONY:** Patrick Manning, Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago, speaking at the opening ceremony

It is a staggering thought: one billion people in the Commonwealth are under 25 years old. Rightly, the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) in Trinidad last November focused much of its attention on the young. In her opening address, The Queen said the young “need to be convinced that the Commonwealth can help them to realise their ambitions”.

The Secretary-General, Kamallesh Sharma, pointed out in his first briefing that the Commonwealth Youth Programme (CYP) had been in operation since 1974, that the youth credit initiative dated back to 1995, and that help for young people to start up businesses began in 2000. But, he said, much more needed to be done – and this means more money.

In Trinidad, heads made a declaration ‘Investing in Young People’. They set a new scale of contributions to the CYP to start forthwith. Before that, the week-long Commonwealth Youth Forum brought together 450 young people from Trinidad and 37 other countries. They put forward a raft of proposals for young people to be represented in decision-making at all levels of governance.

The Commonwealth Games are in New Delhi this year (3-4 October). In October 2008, India hosted the Commonwealth Youth Games in Pune and, this August, Singapore hosts the first Youth Olympic Games.

Many good things came out of Trinidad. One was a lifting, at last, of the freeze, dating back to 1989, on the amount of contributions to the Secretariat’s woefully small budget. Now they are to be reviewed and adjusted every five years.

About time. Compared with other international organisations, the Commonwealth runs on a shoestring. The Secretariat budget last year was a mere £14.8 million. The other main official funds are the Youth Programme (£2.7m) and the

Commonwealth Fund for Technical Cooperation – the Commonwealth’s aid arm (£27.1m).

Another important Trinidad decision was to strengthen the Commonwealth Ministerial Action Group (CMAG), the watchdog body of foreign ministers set up 15 years ago, which can recommend the suspension, and even expulsion, of member countries for breaches of democracy and good governance.

Strengthening CMAG is long overdue, but this is a delicate matter that can, and does, involve intervention in a member country’s internal affairs. The carefully worded communiqué passage said ‘consideration should be given to strengthening the CMAG in order to enable the Group to deal with the full range of serious or persistent violations of the Harare principles’ (as set down in the 1991 Declaration).

Also, a network of election management bodies will be created to supplement the work of Commonwealth observer groups and to enhance the capacity of member countries to hold credible elections that the people can have confidence in.

A Commonwealth joint office will be set up in Geneva, for small states that cannot afford separate staff, to negotiate with the international bodies there. A similar Commonwealth office for UN work operates in New York.

The Commonwealth also decided to set up an Eminent Persons Group to look at the format and content of ministerial meetings and work out how the many Commonwealth institutions can be made stronger and work together more effectively. In other words, a much-needed streamlining.

The Trinidad meeting took place a week before the UN Climate Change conference in Copenhagen and broke totally new ground by holding a session with President Nicolas Sarkozy of France, the UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon and the Danish Prime Minister

Lars Lokke Rasmussen, chair of the Copenhagen conference. The threat of rising sea levels to small island states was first raised at the 1989 Commonwealth summit in Kuala Lumpur. The then president of the Maldives, Abdul Gayoom, highlighted the vulnerability of his country and the result was the Langkawi Declaration on Environment, targeting the 1992 UN Earth Summit. Despite such early warnings another decade was to pass before the real dangers were realised.

As expected, Rwanda became the 54th member of the Commonwealth – only the second country without any historical links to join. Mozambique was the first, in 1995. One or two countries had reservations but did not push them, given the overwhelming support, led by the UK and all the African countries.

Opposition came from the Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative (CHRI) and other sections of civil society, arguing that Rwanda is not properly democratic and does not enjoy freedom of expression, and therefore does not fulfil principles set down for applicant members in the Membership Report endorsed by heads at the Kampala CHOGM in 2007. A strong case favouring admission, despite these reservations, is that, in membership, the Commonwealth could exert influence on the Rwandan government to liberalise and run free presidential elections, taking place this year.

It was a good CHOGM, but not always a smooth one. The question of the next venue led to prolonged argument. Sri Lanka wanted to host it, but in the wake of the ethnic conflict there most heads said ‘not yet’. In the Commonwealth tradition, a compromise was reached. Mauritius and Australia offered. To soften the blow to Sri Lanka, it was decided that Australia would host the next, Sri Lanka was earmarked for 2013, and Mauritius for 2015.

Next stop Perth 2011.

# Cold truth

Mark Coreth's ice bears are not just pretty sculptures but carry a powerful environmental message. **Samantha Whitaker** meets the artist to find out more

Far North, floating over 400 fathoms of black Arctic Ocean on a raft of ice, sculptor and ROSL member Mark Coreth searches for a polar bear. Surrounded by ice that shimmers with a "Doctor Who vibrating blueness" Mark realises that sculpting a polar bear isn't enough. There is an issue that needs to be communicated. An issue that is critical to the whole Arctic environment.

Mark is a master sculptor of animals in motion. He recently created a 6.5 tonne bronze bull elephant, and regularly holds exhibitions at the Sladmore Contemporary Gallery in London. To create "a really honest exhibition", Mark 'becomes' the creature he is studying. He immerses himself in its environment, watching, listening and learning from local guides, with no expectations, no preconceptions, just open eyes.

Travelling with Inuit guides across the Arctic near Baffin Island in November 2007, he found that the consequences of global warming became "stonkingly real". The sea-ice – where the Inuit live and hunt – is disappearing. And while scientists admit that there is natural cyclical warming of the planet, a great part of global warming cannot be accounted for by

natural causes, and that is the influence of humans. "It's like a pendulum", says Mark, "and we have put a great lump of lead on it so that now it's swinging harder and faster than it would naturally."

Mark realised that he was no longer just sculpting a polar bear, but a serious issue. And as he witnessed the commanding power of the Arctic ice, it became evident that bronze alone wasn't enough, that ice must play a fundamental role. And so the idea was born: a bronze polar bear skeleton encased in a body of solid ice, which would eventually melt, leaving a skeleton, a pool of water and a powerful environmental message.

Many of us would not understand the complicated science behind climate change and the melting of the Arctic ice, but Mark's ice bear gets the message across in a simple piece of sculpture that can be understood by all. Everyone who touches the bear can feel the ice melting beneath their hand: the human contribution to climate change. A flat hand left for a long time causes significant damage, but if you touch it with the tip of a finger for only a second, the impact is minimal. As the skeleton emerges, the bronze conducts the heat and melts the bear from the inside, just as the Arctic Ocean does as the sun warms it. And as the majestic bear thaws into a fearsome skeleton, the effect is frightening. Just as it is frightening that even the scientists don't really know what will happen when the Arctic ice melts.

The first ice bear in Copenhagen became the art icon of the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP15), and media from all over the world used it as their backdrop when reporting on the talks. As the bear melted, Mark and his team returned to London, where, on 11 December at 5.30am, the second bronze polar bear skeleton encased in ice was delivered to Trafalgar Square. During the



© SAMANTHA WHITTAKER

morning, Mark, with Duncan and Jamie Hamilton, furiously chipped away, and by midday the second ice bear was complete.

For the next fortnight, people became 'sculptors' themselves as they touched the ice. For many children, when they touched it for the first time, the effect was like an electric shock, which they will hopefully remember, even if they don't fully understand the message. "One couple had been dragged down to London from Blackpool by their children!" said Mark. And so the message spreads.

An ice bear will very soon travel across Canada, hopefully as far as Vancouver, to the Winter Olympics in February. It will then go to Washington for Earth Day, to Denver, and then to New York. The London skeleton will go to Sydney in August, and then hopefully to Hong Kong and China. "Everywhere you do it, it will behave differently," says Mark, "but its message is the same."

Mark asks that everyone does whatever they can – from putting pressure on the scientists and politicians to take the big but necessary steps, to simply switching off the light as you leave a room. Some people can do more than others, but if we all work together to reduce the weight and calm the pendulum, then nature might be able to regain its balance.

Visit [www.icebearproject.org](http://www.icebearproject.org) to find out more.

**BARE BONES:** The sculpture in Trafalgar Square on day one (below) and day eleven (above)



© BRIAN SUTTON



# Ashes to Ashes

**Oli Broom** writes home with the first report on his 25,000km bike ride from Lord's to Australia

In October 2009, I left Lord's Cricket Ground in London to cycle to the next Ashes cricket series, starting in Australia in November 2010. By that time, I will have pedalled through 25 countries and covered more than 25,000km, through some of the harshest environments on earth. In doing so, I hope not only to introduce a few people to cricket (yes, I am carrying a bat on my bike!), but also to raise £100,000 for two charities: the Lord's Taverners and the British Neurological Research Trust.

Between long stints in the saddle, I aim to play cricket in as many countries as I can. I have so far played in some surprising places, including the National Sports Academy in Sofia,

inside a fourth-century Belgrade fortress, and outside the Hagia Sophia in Istanbul. As I write, I am in the bustling Turkish city of Adana, having spent the last three weeks pedalling across a 1,000m-high plateau that spans this vast country. I am a two-day cycle from the Syrian border. From there, I will head through Africa as far as Kenya, and then hop on a boat to India.

I often get asked why I chose to cycle to Australia, instead of jumping on a plane. "For the adventure," is my answer. Each morning I wake up not knowing who I might meet, or where I'll be that evening. I am constantly on the move, seeing things I have only dreamt about seeing. Yesterday I was drinking tea with



**ON TOUR:** Oli poses with locals outside the Hagia Sophia in Istanbul

a Turkish cotton farmer on top of a mountain, and today I am sure to meet more strangers, who will look at my bike, ask me what I am doing, question my sanity and not let me leave before I am well fed. It's a very different lifestyle from the one I was used to in London. I am out of my comfort zone, and I'm loving the challenge.

For more information visit:  
[www.cyclingtotheashes.com](http://www.cyclingtotheashes.com)



## Will power.

Douglas Bader was legendary for his dogged determination and will power, refusing to let the loss of both his legs prevent him from flying Spitfires in the Second World War.

These qualities of determination and will power are shared by the men and women, past and present, of the Royal Air Force family who secured and maintain our freedom today. Qualities that, sadly, are often needed to fight different battles such as disability, age, accident, illness and poverty. The Royal Air Force Benevolent Fund has a duty to assist such family members. You have the power to help by remembering the RAF family as you remember your family in your will.

Because, where there is a will, there is a way to help.

For more information, please phone us on 0800 169 2942 and ask to speak to 'Legacy Support', look us up on the web at [www.rafbf.org](http://www.rafbf.org) or write to:  
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La Casa del Habano (Hamburg, Germany)

# Capturing success

The triumphs of ROSL bursary awardees in Namibia were caught on film during a recent visit to the country. **Margaret Adrian-Vallance** reports

Because members have so generously supported and taken an interest in the ROSL/Namibia project since 1995, it will be featured in a short section of the ROSL Centenary DVD, directed by Chris Swann. Two ROSL bursary alumni will also be visiting the UK during the centenary year.

Distilling the project's 15 years into three minutes of film presented a challenge, both before and during the visit. Who, what and where to film? And how to do this in an economical way?

In the event, Chris covered Hippo and Katora Primary, interviews with Elias Araeb and Ellie Velskoen in the Omaheke, Tamigu Gariseb in Swakopmund and Clara Bohitile MP in

Windhoek. My co-monitor, Paul Oosthuizen, and I filmed ROSL bursary recipients in Tsumeb and the Nyae Nyae Conservancy.

There is nothing like working with a documentary filmmaker in a hot climate to concentrate the mind. As well as an ability to conjure up instant shade, silence, coffee, wildlife and telephone numbers, you need to make sure interviewees are on time, schools advised and accommodation pre-booked. Paul was a great support in this and, as it later turned out, very good with a Handycam.

It was great to see that all ROSL bursary recipients were, indeed, in the right place at the right time, getting off buses from far-flung corners in the sweltering heat, and answering Chris's questions with thought and confidence. And all were so grateful to the ROSL donors who had helped them with life-changing school and college bursaries. In a country that was under South Africa's apartheid rule until 1990, it is pleasing that so many are now teachers.

Some spoke frankly about the challenges of striking out into something new. A quote from Rajan Naidoo, Principal of Masibambane Secondary School, Western Cape, sums up the situation: "This cycle of poverty is where, if I ask a child, 'Where does your mother work?' she might be a domestic or farm worker. 'Your father?' Very likely, an unskilled labourer. 'Grandparents?' The same. There is one way we can break this cycle and that is through education."

In this respect, there can be few greater

**NEW GENERATION:** Traditional hunters in Nhoma village (left) and ROSL bursary recipient Cwisa Cwi and his wife, Anna Angula, with their son Tsamkxao Simeon (above)



challenges than that facing ROSL bursary recipient Cwisa Cwi, in the remote Nyae Nyae Conservancy, where the Ju'hoansi live in isolated communities connected only by sand tracks. Subject to flooding, drought and damage by elephants, there is also the problem of tuberculosis. There is little electricity, only one water tap per community, and difficulties in getting around in this huge area. Cwisa is now principal of five bush schools, and one of the most memorable aspects of this visit was how he is combining tradition with modern education.

At the remote Nhoma Camp, we heard that a BBC film crew had just spent a week filming a traditional hunt for a five-minute piece in an upcoming documentary. Perhaps just as interesting is the search for a way of bringing education to those who want it in this remote and fascinating area, and the consistency of support from ROSL members who are helping people such as Cwisa to achieve this.





# Destiny's child

With half of the Commonwealth aged under 25, children are our future. The Secretary-General, **Kamalesh Sharma**, introduces our Focus on children

We may say it a thousand times: it is a self-evident truth that children are our future. I welcome this special Focus on children, for it is our young people who are inheriting this Commonwealth and this 21st century, and it is our task to make it fit for them.

We are a very young Commonwealth – half of our two billion people are under 25, and a quarter are under five. Our youngest are entering a world of greater possibility than ever before: the ledger of achievement and progress, even in the last 10 years, is colossal, and the advances that we can offer in areas such as health, education and technology are ever greater.

But the fact remains that the challenges we face, the world over, are intimidating in their breadth – and their depth. UNICEF tells us that 25,000 children die each day due to poverty. These children die quietly in some of the poorest villages on earth, far removed from the scrutiny and conscience of the world. Being meek and weak in life makes these dying multitudes even more invisible in death.

The litany goes on: there are 2.2 billion children in the world, of whom one billion are in poverty. In the developing world, one in three children have inadequate shelter, one in five have no access to safe water, one in seven have no access to health services. Thirty million of our Commonwealth children never go even to primary school; a further 40 million complete primary, but never go through secondary school.

So we ask the question: is our world in fact fit to offer its children the future they deserve? And how committed are we to making it so?

It is a question of priority. Consider the fact that it would take only 1% of what the world spends on defence every year to put every child through primary school. Yet still that does not happen. We would need five million teachers in Africa alone in order to meet the

Millennium Development Goal of putting every child through primary education by 2015. The painful truth is that we, as adults, have tended to live for ourselves and for the moment, and not for our children. If they are our future then, too often, we have lived for the present.

Nowhere could this be more apparent than in the way we have abused our surroundings by degrading our own environment. How well the Commonwealth knows this, in that some of its low-lying island states in the Indian and Pacific Oceans face what is quite literally an existential threat from climate change.

So what sort of world will be left for our children and grandchildren? And what can we, in the Commonwealth, do for them?

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*We would need five million teachers in Africa alone to put every child through primary school*

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The inter-governmental Commonwealth – in the form of its executive body, the Commonwealth Secretariat – has run targeted and powerful programmes, awareness-raising on both maternal and infant mortality, and supporting primary school teachers, not least in equipping them to teach a multitude of subjects to a multitude of children of different ages.

Standalone projects – such as our rehabilitation centre for children who have been caught in the crossfire of civil war in



**COMPASSION:** A rehabilitation centre helps child soldiers and other children in Uganda

northern Uganda – provide extraordinary testimony to what young people can do if they are given not just education and training, but also compassion in equal measure. Add to this the work of some of our non-governmental Commonwealth organisations – for instance in providing bursaries for young girls in the developing world – and a richly textured picture develops. It is also the best possible strategic forerunner for the work of the inter-governmental Commonwealth in the area of youth empowerment. We have a 35-year-old Commonwealth Youth Programme of training, advocacy and empowerment, which is a global leader in its field.

It is the Commonwealth's task to see that children and young people are the highest concerns of its member governments in their policies and budgets. And our other core work – in strengthening democratic institutions, and deepening economic development – is targeted at the same ultimate goal: to improve the lives of Commonwealth citizens, and the lives of its citizens to come. In this, the centenary year of the ROSL, *Overseas's* Focus on the future – our children – is to be welcomed and encouraged. All of us must continue to hold to the most basic and profound of truths, that children are, indeed, our future.

# Make it a better place

Save the Children NZ President **Ros Stace** reports on the work the charity is doing to help the billion children living in the Commonwealth

Save the Children is recognised, around the world, as the pre-eminent children's charity. It was founded in 1919 by Eglantine Jebb, after she saw starving and displaced children in Europe and the Baltic, following the First World War. This brave woman from Shropshire was responsible for the first Declaration on the Rights of a Child, in 1923.

By 1930, the Save the Children Fund, as it was then known, was working in 25 countries across four continents. Today, the Save the Children Alliance is made up of 29 national organisations worldwide and is present on every continent. The charity is fortunate to have an extraordinary and dedicated Patron in HRH The Princess Royal.

Save the Children has a global staff of 14,000, supporting the work of many thousands of volunteers. As with any large charity, it is continually striving to keep administration costs to a minimum so that every penny can be distributed to the children who so desperately require assistance.

One of the charity's founding principles is to support children in times of catastrophic emergencies, such as armed conflicts, floods, tsunamis and other natural disasters. After the horrific and devastating earthquake that hit Haiti, one of the world's poorest countries, in January, the UN asked Save the Children to take the lead in coordinating the child protection aspect of the disaster. As in Sri Lanka, following the 2004 tsunami, this involved setting up safe spaces where children could play and resume some sort of normality. Reuniting them with their families is always a priority, as is providing food and clean water.

Save the Children campaigns for child rights. The vision for the future is a world that respects and values each child; a world that listens to

children and learns from them; a world where all children have hope and opportunity.

Even now, more than nine million children worldwide die every year before the age of five from preventable causes, measles, pneumonia, malaria, hunger and malnutrition, HIV and Aids. Millions still have no access to education or basic medicine. The organisation has been active in Commonwealth countries for many years. The Commonwealth is of great nostalgic and real importance to Save the Children.

In India, about 50% of children do not complete primary school because they have to work to supplement the family income and because schools are often a great distance from their homes. Save the Children has set up educational facilities in remote areas where the children can easily get to school, or can go after

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*More than nine million children worldwide die before the age of five from preventable causes*

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work to catch up on classes they have missed. To date, 12,600 child workers that were not being educated are now attending school, thanks to the project.

Programmes are also being put in place to address the very high mortality rate among mothers and infants. HIV and Aids are a vast

problem in African countries. It is said that grandmothers bear the brunt of Africa's problems. Lucy, aged 50, lives in the Meru district of Kenya. Her husband and daughter died of Aids, and her son-in-law ran away. She cares for five children, including her four grandchildren, and is supported by Save the Children. Lucy was given a goat, blankets, second-hand clothes, school uniforms, mattresses, and an energy-saving stove. She was taught to make clothes and shoes, and how to grow her own vegetables and maize.

In Bangladesh, Sulieman was five when he began working as a waste collector in a slum in Dhaka. However, he earned so little that he was soon pulled into the drugs trade. At 14, he heard about Child Brigade, a local NGO supported by Save the Children. He joined the organisation, learnt about the rights of the children and how he could change his life, and left the drugs world, although his family disagreed, as it meant his income would drop. Sulieman became actively involved in the Brigade's activities, motivated by his brother.

He now works in a garage, learning how to

© SAVE THE CHILDREN







**LIFE LESSONS:** Save the Children is improving the quality of education for 14,800 primary school children in India

repair cars, and has started school. He takes part in the Brigade's dramas, which show how the lives of children like him have been changed. With his friends, he now runs literacy classes and provides medical support for children in the slum.

Papua New Guinea is a very lawless society, with poor roads and communications in remote areas. Violence in the home and the abuse of women and children is endemic. HIV and Aids have reached epidemic proportions. Many women migrate to the cities and become sex workers, as there is little other employment. Children as young as eight are pushed into the industry. They have no idea of the risks.

The Poro Sapot clinic in Port Moresby is a safe place where people can be tested for HIV and given advice and education on how to prevent infection. Save the Children's outreach project in the Eastern Highlands Province targets young people in remote areas by training out-of-school youth, aged 15-25, to become volunteers and spread the word on safe sex, drugs, violence and other issues that are relevant to young people. The impact of this work is not just slowing the

spread of HIV, but it is helping young people to gain respect in their communities. Some have even joined their village councils as youth representatives.

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*Lucy was given a goat, blankets, second-hand clothes, mattresses, and an energy-saving stove*

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In New Zealand, there are various programmes aimed at helping children and young people to reduce levels of aggression and violence in the home, and bullying at school. Just Write is a project that mentors and develops the skills of young writers from around New Zealand. The aim is to teach young

people community and literacy skills, and develop their understanding of global issues. These children can then become peer educators, motivating other young people to work towards a more just world. What better way to educate the children of the world than through other children. Save the Children sows the seeds, gives the support and helps.

It is an ongoing battle, but the organisation is dedicated to making the world a safer and better place for children. We can all help in some small way. Every coffee morning, fair, tea party, concert and fashion show held by committees and groups worldwide to raise funds helps to keep the work going, and supports the dedicated men and women who are working to achieve our aim.

**Ros Stace is President of New Zealand's Hastings Branch of Save the Children.**

*For the past two years, Save the Children's Hastings Branch has hosted a concert featuring the winners of ROSL's Annual Music Competition, with 100% of the proceeds going to the charity.*

# King of care

Why Evelyn Wrench brought Dr Truby King to London after he halved infant deaths in NZ. By **Adele Smith**

In November 1912, Evelyn Wrench and his sister Winifride arrived in New Zealand on their world tour of the emerging branches of the Over-Seas Club. They were welcomed by the Premier W F Massey, and introduced to notable New Zealand citizens. Prominent among them was Dr Frederic Truby King, already well-known for his pioneering work on behalf of mothers and babies. This work was of particular interest to Winifride Wrench, as she was involved in child welfare in England.

Dr Truby King was an outstanding doctor, who had abandoned a career as a bank clerk in New Zealand to study medicine at Edinburgh University, working for some time in Scotland in preventative medicine, and taking the new qualification of a BSc in public health. On his return to New Zealand, he became superintendent at Seaclyff Mental Hospital and lectured on mental illnesses at the University of Otago. Attached to the hospital was a large farm, and Truby King had the idea of providing his patients with healthy occupation in caring for the animals while simultaneously studying methods by which the health of the animals could be improved. In this very basic way, the worldwide crusade to establish a healthy regime for mothers and babies began.

The animals had a simple environment with plenty of fresh air, their natural food and an ordered life, which transformed their physical health and resulted in prizewinning pigs and cattle, to the extent that independent farmers complained of the unfair competition from a government-owned enterprise.

Dr King realised that such methods could reasonably be applied to the care and rearing of babies. At that time, the infant mortality rate in New Zealand was 2,000 per 25,000 of the infant population, and around the world the rates were considerably higher. Winifride Wrench, in one of her many articles for

*Overseas* on the subject, later wrote that though the 19th century had seen great advances in medicine, cutting the death rate for adults, the welfare of the newborn had been completely neglected, largely because it was widely believed that mothers knew instinctively how to feed and care for babies. The medical profession had ignored the problem, and even maternity nurses and midwives had only very basic training to help mothers with immediate post-natal problems.

Truby King's study of the animals and his training in public health convinced him that a systematic and hygienic approach to diet and the environment lay at the centre of a child's ability to thrive. Breastfeeding was established as the only completely sure way to feed (or scientifically modified cows' milk in extreme

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*Feeds should be given  
four-hourly and last  
no more than 20  
minutes; there should  
be no feeding at night*

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cases). Feeds should be given four-hourly and last no more than 20 minutes, and there should be no feeding at all during the night. An airy environment was necessary, whatever the weather. He found dirty bottles, unsafe milk and water, unsuitable food and a dusty, unventilated environment at the root of most babies' digestive and lung problems, and early deaths. Over-feeding was also a common



**BRINGING UP BABY:** Childcare methods improved

problem. King described his methods as "common sense scientifically applied".

By the time the Wrenchs met Truby King, he had already established the Plunket Society for the Health of Women and Children in New Zealand, with the help of Lady Plunket, wife of the Governor of New Zealand. It was founded in 1907, and within five years, due to the training of nurses and the instruction and help given to mothers in all aspects of pre- and post-natal care, the infant mortality rate in New Zealand had been halved. The doctor's fame was beginning to spread, and Winifride Wrench and Lady Plunket discussed ways in which his methods could be introduced to England, with the help of the Over-Seas Club and the financial support of its members.

By 1917, in the middle of the Great War, this ambition was realised. Evelyn Wrench obtained Truby King's services from the New Zealand government for a six-month period, to be paid for by the Over-Seas Club (already members were contributing to many War Funds, for aircraft, tobacco, comforts for the troops, etc). The aim was to establish a mothercraft training centre in London, and with his eye for an attention-catching phrase, Wrench called the venture 'The Babies of the Empire Society, a crusade'.

In a war notable for terrible loss of life, people were anxious to promote the health of the next generation. Medical opinion in England was carefully cultivated in advance to promote the new regime. St Thomas' Hospital took over



# Open archive

*Baby-craft – A Little-known Science* by Winifride Wrench. An article from *Overseas*, May 1921



A friend of mine has a little son of a few months old. She is an intelligent and devoted mother, and did all she could to learn about babies before his arrival. She went to the Babies of the Empire Training Centre in London, and was taught how to wash a baby; she studies Dr. Truby King's book, "The Feeding and Care of Baby." As she lives in the country, naturally she employed the local doctor, who engaged what he considered a competent nurse.

She tried to discuss matters with the nurse beforehand, and told her she was going to nurse her baby and follow Truby King's methods as far as possible. Neither doctor nor nurse had ever heard of the man or of his book. The nurse told my friend, whom we will call Mrs. Brown, that it was doubtful whether she would be able to nurse her child, and he would of course have to be fed every two hours day and night, for the child would surely starve if he were fed only every three to four hours during the day and not at all at night, as this madman from New Zealand maintained was the correct way to feed a child [...]

[She felt] obliged to submit to the orders of the doctor and nurse. It was natural. They knew, or thought they did; she did not know; it was her first child and she was not feeling very strong. I hoped for the best, which meant I hoped the child was strong enough to weather the storms of his first few months without too much damage being done. But I was not a bit surprised when Mrs. Brown wrote and told me that her little Harry was not thriving, and she and he were going to stay at the Babies of the Empire Training Centre to find out what was wrong.

The child was losing weight, was fretful, was always getting sick, and, instead of being a jolly, happy baby, was always sad and sorry for himself. It did not take the matron and staff long to find out what was wrong, but it is taking the



**TRUBY KING:**  
The first guru on mothercraft matters

baby weeks to get right. He was being over-fed. Nothing else whatever was the matter! [...]

Well do I remember listening to a brilliant lady doctor, who had two little girls of her own, standing up in a public meeting and telling us that at the end of a long and expensive training to qualify for her medical degree, when her baby arrived, she knew absolutely nothing about babies. But why did she not know anything? The explanation is simple, but humiliating. Every woman is supposed to know all that is necessary by instinct when her own baby arrives, and this wild and mad superstition dies hard. It follows, of course, that it is unnecessary for a doctor to have any special knowledge about the feeding of babies.

It is at least a consolation to know that this superstition is dying by inches, and I can only hope that this little article will prove to be another nail in its coffin [...]

It is for us to inform ourselves of what is being done in these matters, for us to have a vision of health, for us to insist that a course of baby-craft – call it what you will – should form part of the training of every child's doctor, or every child's nurse, and I would go further, of every woman in the country, of every woman in the Empire [...]

Science versus ignorance. Solid ground versus shifting sands. And the matter is vital. It means no less than the well-being of our race. Will you help us to carry on this pioneer work?

the medical direction of the centre, which eventually became the Mothercraft Training Centre in Highgate. The Over-Seas Club raised money to support the project, and regular articles by Winifride Wrench and Mabel Liddiard, its first director, promoted interest in the centre and its methods throughout the Empire.

When the centre opened, a long article in *Overseas* recorded: 'We were made to realise how fortunate we are to have Dr Truby King on this side of the world and how much we shall have to learn from New Zealand with her splendid record in saving babies and rearing a vigorous race – a record unsurpassed by any other country!'

Quite quickly, more training centres were established in England. During the 1920s and 1930s, Dr King's methods spread worldwide, partly due to the publication of his book *The Feeding and Care of Baby*, and through the work of the doctors and nurses who supported his methods.

Courses of all kinds were organised for pre- and post-natal care, and women had access to vast amounts of advice and information. King was the first guru on mothercraft matters. In the period leading up to the Second World War, his was the decisive voice in the field. The Over-Seas Club, by then the Over-Seas League, had the distinction of helping to spread his influence at an early stage in England and throughout the Empire.

Truby King died in 1938. He was the first New Zealand citizen to be given a State Funeral.

greatly in the first half of the 20th century

# Warrior music

**James Wilkie** meets the Osiligi Maasai Troupe

John Curtin is a large, avuncular man who has spent most of his life working as a theatre producer. He retired to live with his wife in Suffolk but soon received a call to assist in the business development of a prestigious local school and this, in turn, has led to a most unusual series of events in what he thought was going to be a quiet later life.

"A parent contacted the school, who had seen an outstanding Maasai musical group performing for tourists in Kenya and thought it would be wonderful if the school could establish links with them somehow and maybe even bring them over to the UK," he says. "The headmaster was intrigued and decided to send me to Kenya. What I found not only made a big impression on me, it was to become a large part of my life for a number of years."

The Osiligi Maasai Warrior Troupe is an eight-strong group that comes from a small village around 30 miles from Nairobi. The Maasai are traditionally nomadic people, but the Kenyan government has been trying to get them to live on settled land and this has led to a number of changes in their traditional way of life.

The Osiligi Troupe is largely uneducated, in a formal sense, but a number of them – including their leader, Tajou or Richard – have taught themselves English, and their cultural

skills are there for all to see. The group, which has a strong Christian ethic, performs songs, dance, and small dramas, such as wedding ceremonies. One of the highlights of the show is the world-famous Maasai jumping.

Their appeal to people of all ages – but to schoolchildren in particular – is amazing. I happened to see a performance at a special needs school and the transformation of a loud, unruly group of children to an enraptured audience was something to behold. The Osiligi also conduct question and answer sessions, which can meaningfully complement African projects in schools and church concerts.

There is also a more serious purpose to the group. Their already-poor villages are currently ravaged by drought and they seek to earn money, not only to improve the lives of their own extended families, but also to engage in wider community work. Curtin has recently secured the support of a benefactor who hopes to give a new school to the community, and a group of West Country farmers has agreed to assist with improvements to the land.

"I have come to love these people," says John. "They are so humble and content with their lives. They do not seek fame or wealth, merely to make modest improvements to the village life to which they are most happy to return."

**CULTURAL EXCHANGE:** The Kenyan dance troupe visits the West Country



## Host Families Required

**Occasional host families needed in London for short stays (normally 1 to 4 days) for overseas students through the English Speaking Union (ESU). A small fee is payable.**

**Please contact Diane Jones by email as soon as possible**  
[msnomad2001@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:msnomad2001@yahoo.co.uk)  
**or**  
[donaldemiller@btopenworld.com](mailto:donaldemiller@btopenworld.com)

**For more details please visit** [www.esu.org](http://www.esu.org)

**The English Speaking Union**  
 www.esu.org

# News and views

The latest from the London clubhouse



◀ During his private visit to London, Mr Jason Ronald (ROSL Australia Chairman and President of the Victoria Branch) attended the meeting of the Executive Committee in August. (L-r) Mrs Marilyn Archbold (Deputy Chairman), Mr Stanley Martin (Chairman), Mr Ronald and the Director-General

▼ During his visit to London in October to meet The Queen, the Governor of Tasmania and his wife stayed at Over-Seas House, where a lunch was given for them. (L-r) the Earl of Buckinghamshire (ROSL member who also holds the title of Lord Hobart), the Countess of Buckinghamshire, HE the Hon Peter Underwood (the Governor), Mrs Hanni Martin, Mr Stanley Martin, HE Mr John Dauth (the Australian High Commissioner), Mrs Frances Underwood and Mrs Shanaz Newell



▲ Lord Luce (ROSL President) was the host at the lunch that preceded the Central Council meeting in December. (L-r) Lady Luce, Lady Figgis, Lord Luce and Sir Anthony Figgis, who took over as ROSL Chairman that day



▼ Guest of honour and speaker at the Chairman's Lunch in October was Cardinal Cormac Murphy-O'Connor (the former Archbishop of Westminster). He is pictured with (l-r) the Countess of Inchcape, Mr Stanley Martin and the Earl of Inchcape



## Apology

We apologise for cutting off the guest of honour and speaker Sir David Brewer from this photo in the previous issue of

*Overseas*. Here is the complete photo of (l-r) Sir Anthony Figgis (Chairman-elect), Lord Wraxall (former Vice-Marshal of HM Diplomatic Corps), Mr Stanley Martin, Mrs Hanni Martin and Sir David Brewer (Lord Lieutenant of Greater London) at the Central Council lunch in September 2009





# The season to be jolly

From the 'reverse dinner' to the Burns supper, winter's events went down a treat, says **Alexandra Debarge**

## September 2009

The ceilidh was once again a great success, as members descended on the Caledonian Club. The glamorous crowd, dressed in black tie, were greeted by the 'scirl o the pipes' (a very talented young man, the son of a Caledonian Club member) before a champagne reception. Scottish fare and whisky were served for dinner before everyone took to the dancefloor to the sound of George Buchanan and his Ceilidh Dance Band. After dancing the night away to dances such as the 'Dashing White Sergeant' and 'Strip the Willow', the delighted crowd finished the evening with a midnight supper.

## October 2009

Members' taste buds were really put to the test at the 'reverse dinner' at the Savile Club, where more than 100 members were treated to a delicious meal – but backwards. The evening's reverse menu started with whisky and coffee, followed by a three cheese selection. Then came a chocolate tart, a succulent fillet of beef with artichoke heart and, finally, spiced crab and champagne. This was served in the Savile's elegant Georgian-style ballroom, where guests were entertained by their host Ashley. Afterwards, members ended the successful night in the club's oak-panelled bar. No doubt the event will be repeated soon.



**WINTER WONDERLAND:** Younger Members pose with the Ice Queen at the Narnia-inspired Christmas ball at the Hurlingham (main picture); and (above) get in touch with their Scottish heritage at the Burns supper in January



## Forthcoming events

### Friday 26 March

Concert pianist classical recital at the Oriental Club

### Friday 23 April

Casino night, dinner and disco at the Royal Automobile Club

### Friday 14 May

Inter-Club quiz at the Carlton Club

### Friday 25 June

Centenary Summer Ball at the Royal Overseas League

For more information on events, visit [www.inter-club.co.uk](http://www.inter-club.co.uk). To join ROSL's young members network, email [conrad.purcell@res-ltd.com](mailto:conrad.purcell@res-ltd.com).

## November 2009

The port and stilton tasting, hosted by the Carlton Club, was extremely popular. Members sampled an incredible selection of ports from Justerini and Brooks of St James's, ranging from young tawnies to a 40-year-old vintage. Richard Grenfell-Hill of J&B gave a talk on the history of port. Fortunately, many cheese-loving members made a bee-line for the excellent selection of cheeses, which guaranteed that an appropriate port-to-cheese ratio was maintained.

## December 2009

The Hurlingham was transformed into a magnificent winter wonderland for the Narnian Christmas Ball. Members were greeted by all sorts of creatures from Lewis's books, including the Ice Queen and her helpers. However, the entertainment did not stop there, as many marvelled at Prince Caspian's stockings, the stunning Ice Bar and the vodka luge, while feasting their eyes on the huge chocolate fountain. They then enjoyed a

scrumptious three-course meal and many chanced their luck at the casino. This magical night ended another successful year of Inter-Club events in style.

## January 2010

The Burns supper was hosted by the Caledonian Club, with plenty of fine wine, whisky and renditions of the Bard's Verse. The programme included a stirring version of 'Scots Wha Hae' by Russell McMillan, 'Address to a Haggis' by Adam Watson, a highly entertaining 'Toast to the Lassies' by Paul Rodgers, some expert piping from Andy Parsons, and a version of 'Auld Lang Syne' to close the evening. The high standard of singing made it a memorable evening and gave everyone a true feel for Scottish heritage. It has really set the standard for the 2010 Inter-Club programme.

**TINGLING TASTEBUDS:** Members began their 'reverse dinner' (right) with chocolate tart; and enjoyed a variety of ports at the Carlton Club in November (top)



# Books

## Reviews of recent works by ROSL members

### 'Sarabande'

**Marcus Fedder**

*Dexter Haven Publishing, 2008*  
ISBN: 978-1903660034, £8.99

A gripping love story of a young woman whose family ties in her war-stricken homeland of Sarajevo conflict with her desire to forge a new life and direction in London.



### 'Death Dyed Blonde'

**Stanley Reynolds**

*Quartet Books, 2008*  
ISBN: 978-0704371354, £15

The story of Parker 'Boomer' Daniels, the sheriff of a small New England town, is full of suspense, intrigue and wry humour as he hunts for the perpetrator of several savage murders in his quiet village.



### 'The Six-Day War of 1899'

**Patrick H Hase**

*Hong Kong University Press, 2008*  
ISBN: 978-9622098992, £31.50

Subtitled 'Hong Kong in the Age of Imperialism', this is a day-by-day account of the fighting, which looks at the differences of opinion between the Governor of Hong Kong (Blake) and the Colonial Secretary (Lockhart).



### 'The Sword of France'

**Hilary Condé-Mark**

*Indepenpress Publishing Ltd, 2009*  
ISBN: 978-1906710835, £8.99

The compelling story of Napoleon Bonaparte, the military and political leader of France, whose actions shaped 19th-century European politics.



*Reviews by Samantha Whitaker*

# NZ tour is a classic

The Barbirolli Quartet performed and a scholarship winner was chosen, but a trip to the traditional Marae was the highlight of the tour, says **Roderick Lakin**

The fourth annual Pettman/ROSL ARTS scholarship tour of New Zealand, in November 2009, was the most ambitious and successful yet. The object is twofold: firstly to select an outstanding young New Zealand chamber group for a month-long study visit to the UK and secondly to give UK-based ROSL ARTS prizewinners the opportunity to perform in New Zealand, and to act as scholarship jury members and mentors to participants in the auditions.

The Pettman/ROSL ARTS scholarship of NZ\$50,000 is one of the most valuable and hotly contested music awards in New Zealand, and groups from university music departments in Auckland, Christchurch, Dunedin, Hamilton and Wellington participated in four days of auditions at the University of Waikato in Hamilton.

Three groups were selected for the final concert, which was recorded for transmission

by Radio NZ Concert: The Matariki String Quartet (Victoria University, Wellington), the Leonari Piano Trio (University of Waikato), and the clarinet, violin, piano Clavino Trio (University of Auckland).

The winners were the Leonari Trio – Hilary Hayes (violin), Edward King (cello) and Maria Mo (piano). The Barbirolli String Quartet – Rakhi Singh and Katie Stillman (violins), Ella Brinch (viola) and Ashok Klouda (cello) – and I were joined on the jury by Euan Murdoch, CEO of Chamber Music New Zealand, and the New Zealand pianist and ROSL prizewinner Stephen de Pledge, who was recently appointed Professor of Piano at the University of Auckland.

The musicians from groups not selected for the final participated in coaching sessions and play-throughs of major chamber works with Stephen de Pledge and members of the Barbirolli Quartet. These culminated, on the

final day, in a mass performance of Schumann's *Piano Quintet* with six pianists at six grand pianos and more than 30 string players. These sessions, performance feedback and a career development seminar ensure that the scholarship weekend is a positive and valuable experience for all the participants, not just the finalists.

For the Barbirolli Quartet, the Pettman/ROSL ARTS auditions came at the midpoint of a whistle-stop 10-concert tour of New Zealand (plus concerts in Singapore, Melbourne and Sydney). Organised with customary flair by ROSL NZ Director Lyn Milne, the tour encompassed a wide variety of venues in both North and South Island.

The opening concert and afternoon tea at the home of Lyn and Keith Milne in Puraú was a highlight in the ROSL Christchurch Branch calendar. HE George Fergusson, the British High Commissioner, attended a sell-out concert at Woodford House school in Havelock North, Hawkes Bay, given in aid of Save the Children.

The following day, the quartet and I drove up the coast to give the opening concert of the prestigious Gisborne International Music Competition. Our final stop before heading to Australia was the quirky and charming Whittaker's Musical Museum on Waiheke Island, Auckland.

New tour venues for 2009 included Christchurch City Art Gallery for the Friends of the Gallery, and the Marama Hall at the University of Otago in Dunedin. In Wellington, a concert and reception, hosted by the Hon Chris Finlayson, Minister for Arts, Culture and Heritage, was held in the Old Parliament Buildings as a joint celebration of the ROSL centenary and the 60th anniversary of Chamber Music New Zealand.

Without doubt, the highlight of the tour was a visit to the Pakirikiri Marae in Tokomaru Bay on the Eastern Cape of North Island, where the Barbirolli Quartet gave two concerts – one for schoolchildren from all over this sparsely populated region, and the other for local villagers. The Pakirikiri Marae is famed for the quality of its traditional Maori

**CHIN UP:** Violinist Rakhi Singh invites a bashful local schoolboy to try out her violin



© RODERICK LAKIN





**FLUSHED WITH SUCCESS:** Violinist Hilary Hayes and pianist Maria Mo of the Leonari Trio are overjoyed to be declared winners of the 2009 Pettman/ROSL ARTS scholarship (right); and Tokomaru Bay (above)

music-making, so it was a great honour to be invited to give the first ever Western classical music concerts there.

We were welcomed to the Marae with great ceremony, following traditional protocol: the call, speeches and a song of welcome, beautifully sung by the children. We responded with our own speeches and song – as it was close to Christmas, we chose to sing *Silent Night*. The *Hongi* (pressing of noses) with the entire welcoming party concluded the official welcome.

It was a great privilege for the quartet to be allowed to perform in the Meeting House. Almost 100 years old, with intricate traditional carvings, the wooden rectangular room with its high, pitched ceiling provided a perfect acoustic and ambience for a string quartet concert.

The spontaneity and enthusiasm of the

children in the afternoon concert, at which each member of the quartet talked about themselves, their instruments and their musical training, was infectious. In the evening, the audience listened with rapt attention to pieces by Mozart, Brahms, Debussy and Britten. For most, this was their first encounter with string quartets and it was curious to think of Mozart's music being contemporaneous with Captain Cook's first landing in New Zealand, at Waikanae Beach, near Gisborne, just 80 miles down the coast.

At the end of each concert, the audience expressed their thanks in a song. A magnificent *hakari* (feast) brought the day to a close. The whole visit was captured on film, extracts from which will be included on the ROSL Centenary DVD. For all of us in the ROSL party, the sincerity and generosity of our welcome in Tokomaru Bay will remain a



© RODERICK LAKIN

treasured memory. It was a unique and rewarding experience, which, fittingly in our centenary year, fulfils Evelyn Wrench's vision of the ROSL as a force for international friendship and cultural exchange.

ROSL ARTS would like to express their thanks to Professor Barrie Pettman and his wife Maureen for their generous support in creating and sustaining this unique opportunity for New Zealand and British-based chamber musicians.

# ROSL WORLD

## The latest from the global branches



**AROUND THE GLOBE:** (L-r) Cynthia Cordery (President), Wendy Johnson (Secretary), the Lt Gov of Alberta the Hon Norman Kwong, Her Honour Mrs Mary Kwong, Vanessa Cordery and Michael Bell (Treasurer) at a lunch given by the Lt Governor of Alberta to honour the local institutions to which he is a patron; former presidents Helen Thompson, Stuart Clausen and Joan Pascoe at the Manawatu Branch 60th anniversary celebration; ROSL member Sir James Barlow spoke at the British Columbia Branch Christmas lunch

### Australia

In **New South Wales**, members joined forces with the Australia-Britain Society for a moving Remembrance Day Service. The following week, they were at Parliament House for a lunch to welcome the new British High Commissioner, Valerie Amos, the Rt Hon Baroness Amos of Brondesbury.

In December, more than 100 members and friends attended a concert by the Barbirolli String Quartet, winners of the ROSL Music Competition 2009, in Sydney. Members of the **Victoria** Branch also heard the quartet perform at the home of Lino and Di Bresciani, while filming took place for the Centenary DVD. During the interval, Director of ROSL ARTS, Roderick Lakin, introduced Adele Smith's 'History' of the ROSL. A Christmas celebration at the home of British Consul-General Stuart Gill and his wife ended the year's events.

In **Western Australia** in November, the branch Chairman and his wife joined the Australian Chairman, Jason Ronald, Victoria Branch council members and the President of the Tasmania Branch, Robert Dick, at the finals of the Australian singing competition in Perth. The year ended with a Christmas lunch and concert.

**New South Wales:** Lily Murray, [murraylily@hotmail.com](mailto:murraylily@hotmail.com)

**Queensland:** Sharon Morgan, [sllmorgan@hotmail.com](mailto:sllmorgan@hotmail.com)

**South Australia:** Michael Kent, [rosl.sa@mac.com](mailto:rosl.sa@mac.com)

**Tasmania:** Robert Dick, [gradick1@gmail.com](mailto:gradick1@gmail.com)

**Victoria:** Coral Strahan, +61 (0)3 9654 8338

**Western Australia:** Jeff Turner, +61 9381 2600

### Canada

On the coldest day in **Alberta** since records began, members braved the -54°C cold to attend the branch Christmas lunch around a log fire at the Royal Glenora Club. Earlier in December, members attended a lunch given by the Lt Governor of Alberta to honour the local institutions of which he is patron. The **British Columbia** Branch had their Christmas lunch at the Terminal City Club in Vancouver. Member Sir James Barlow, who is Charles Darwin's great-great-grandson, spoke about a TV series he is taking part in called *The Future of the Species*.

**Alberta:** Cynthia Cordery, +1 780 477 0001, [ccordery@shaw.ca](mailto:ccordery@shaw.ca)

**British Columbia:** Pamela Ducommun,

+1 604 925 3719

**Nova Scotia:** Barbara Hughes, [barbara.hughes@evansec.com](mailto:barbara.hughes@evansec.com)

**Ontario:** Ishrani Jaikaran, +1 416 760 0309, [ishrani@sympatico.ca](mailto:ishrani@sympatico.ca)

### Hong Kong

In December, the Hong Kong Branch held its Christmas party in the library of the China Club and, in January, member Judith Mackay gave a lunchtime talk to members about her lifelong tobacco control efforts.

**Hong Kong:** Paul Surtees, [president@rosl.org.hk](mailto:president@rosl.org.hk), [www.rosl.org.hk](http://www.rosl.org.hk)

### New Zealand

In August, the Rangī Ruru senior chorale performed for ROSL members at the Christchurch Club, before gaining a silver medal at the 'Big Sing' competition in Dunedin. A celebration was held in October to mark the 60th anniversary of the **Manawatu** Branch. In November, the Barbirolli Quartet gave a concert at Parliament Buildings, and many members stayed at the Wellington Club – a recently-added reciprocal club. Later that month, **Southland** Branch members enjoyed

the skirl of the pipes from the Royal Scots Dragoon Guards, a poem by Robbie Burns and a highland fling by an enthusiastic six-year-old to celebrate St Andrew's Day. Check the New Zealand website for details of centenary celebrations.

New Zealand: Lyn Milne, royalo-s@xtra.co.nz, www.roslnz.org.nz

## Saudi Arabia

Riyadh committee: John Freely, roslriyadh@hotmail.com

## Thailand

Chairman Jim Napier represented the Thailand Branch at the British Embassy Remembrance Day service and parade in Bangkok in November. Later that month, the finals reception and prize-giving ceremony for the ROSL Young Artist of Thailand 2009 competition was held in the Sukhothai Hotel. Trophies and prizes were presented by branch Vice-Patron Mom Ratchawong Sarisdiguna Kitiyakara. The winner won a substantial cheque and a visit to Over-Seas House, London, where her painting, and those of the other finalists, will be displayed.

Thailand: Roger Willbourn, + 66 2213 1589, rswillbourn@gmail.com

## UK

Coffee mornings are held by the Bath Branch on the second Wednesday of the month at Pratt's Hotel, and by the Bournemouth Branch every Thursday at the Marriott Highcliff Hotel. Gordon Irving succeeded Marjorie Harvey as Bournemouth Branch Secretary, and Chris Bladen was appointed Chairman. The retiring ROSL Chairman, Mr Stanley Martin, hosted a lunch at Over-Seas House for Marjorie Harvey, in recognition of her 25 years of service. The new Chairman, Sir Anthony Figgis, attended the branch's Christmas lunch, at which members raised £200 for charity. For a copy of the branch's 2010 programme, contact Gordon Irving.

In Cheltenham, in October, Lynne Garner of Cheltenham Video Makers introduced a short film made by its members. In November, Tony Ireland gave an entertaining talk entitled 'Moscow Madness'. Members enjoyed Christmas lunch at the Charlton Kings Hotel.

Adele Smith presented her book on the ROSL to members of the Edinburgh Branch at the December arts lunch. A Gala Opera Evening launched the centenary year of events, and Robert Crawford gave the Immortal Memory at the Burns Supper. John Wallace, Principal of the Royal Scottish Academy of



**TOP READ:** Author Adele Smith views the 'History' for the first time at the book launch in West Sussex

Music and Drama, was guest speaker at the February arts lunch.

At the Exeter Branch, Simon Dell gave a talk on 'A Trek to Everest Base Camp' in September, Coral Kin spoke about the Luton Girls' Choir, in October, and, in November, the subject was 'The Police and the Media'. Members welcomed the centenary year with a New Years' lunch. The Glasgow Branch enjoyed a successful Christmas lunch, at which James Wilkie introduced Adele Smith's 'History' of the ROSL and, in February, Sheila Christie spoke on 'A Southern African Cruise'.

The new lunch venue for the Taunton Branch has been very successful, with 67 members attending the November event and only slightly fewer in December. Coffee mornings are on Wednesdays at the Castle Green Inn, while those of the Torbay Branch are on the last Saturday of the month at the Livermead Cliff Hotel.

In West Cornwall, the programme of monthly meetings at Carbis Bay continues, with a variety of talks followed by cream tea. The West Sussex Branch held a lunch in November, at which Adele Smith introduced the 'History' and signed copies. The year concluded with a Christmas lunch and a raffle to raise funds for the ROSL Music Competition Sussex Prize.

Bath, Taunton, Torbay: Sally Roberts, 01823 661148, rosl@aldith.org

Bournemouth: Gordon Irving, 07851 381744, westoverirving@aol.com

Cheltenham: Kathleen Northage, 01242 515540

Edinburgh: Bob Gregor, 0131 3321874

Exeter: Brian Hawkes, 01395 442017

Glasgow: Bill Agnew, 0141 8844290

West Cornwall: Ian Wood, 01736 333460

West Sussex: Marilyn Archbold, 01444 458853

## Cornell Club, New York

*Director of ROSL ARTS Roderick Lakin felt at home in the Big Apple*

On a pre-Christmas break, I had the pleasure of staying at the Cornell Club in the heart of midtown Manhattan. The location, on East 44th Street, a couple of blocks from Grand Central Station, is perfect for both business and leisure. Within walking distance are the Museum of Modern Art, the Morgan Library, Times Square, many major Broadway and off-Broadway theatres, Saks 5th Avenue, Bergdorf Goldman, and a host of other retail outlets. Culinary possibilities are endless, from the atmospheric Oyster bar at Grand Central to the legendary Four Seasons in the Seagram Building. For lovers of Art Deco, the Chrysler Building, Empire State Building, Rockefeller Center, and countless other gems are all nearby. Most other major attractions are a short cab or subway ride away.

The club itself is traditional, understated and comfortable – decorated with photographs, paintings and memorabilia of Cornell College. The public areas are wood-panelled and the impeccably maintained bedrooms are traditional but with 21st-century comforts, such as large flat-screen TVs and free WiFi. The room rates, including all taxes and a generous breakfast buffet, are highly competitive for this location (\$348 for a standard double). I am already planning my next trip.

*ROSL has more than 80 reciprocal clubs across the world. Contact the PR department for a complete list, guidelines for usage and a card of introduction, giving at least 10 days notice, or visit www.rosl.org.uk.*



© THOMAS SCHAUER



# Top class

**Judith Steiner visits Highgate Primary to see how a multi-cultural school functions – and why the kids enjoy it so much**

“Everyone is equal; it’s fair. No one is higher”, says the fragile-looking Romanian child sitting next to me suddenly. “I like it here.” It is a poignant observation from 10-year-old Sofia, who came to London with her mother from post-Ceausescu Bucharest.

I am perched precariously on a tiny chair in a classroom at Highgate Primary School, in North London. About 60% of the children at this inner-city state school have English as an additional language, and the room is decorated with word and number charts containing every language under the sun. I now know that ‘sixty’ is *lehdan* in Somali and *saath* in Urdu.

Highgate is a very mixed area. Originally a Georgian town, it was absorbed long ago into Greater London. People living within the school’s catchment area come from a range of financial and career backgrounds. Magnificent Georgian houses, Victorian and Edwardian terraces, council estates and luxury modern homes are within a short walk. There are several fee-paying primary schools, two state primaries, two of London’s best private secondary schools, and several state secondaries.

Highgate Primary enjoys not only a good rating educationally but also a dynamic multicultural, multi-ethnic, and multi-faith mix. Its intake is not so different from when my sons went there in the 1970s, with one important exception: the school has been partnered for some years with the Blanche Nevile School for the Deaf. The deaf children are taught by specially trained teachers, but spend some of their time in the mainstream classes, which seems to benefit both the deaf and the hearing children.

My sons, too, have a multicultural background: I am Canadian and my husband was born in what is now the Czech Republic. Today, I find myself sitting between Sofia and Ayla, an Australian child whose architect parents are here until 2012 to work on the Olympic Park. She tells me that her mother works from home, where there are eight computers. This draws a gasp from the other



**HOP, SKIP AND JUMP:** Highgate pupils enjoy a lesson in the school playground

children. Raj, a big talker whose origins are Indian, pipes up that his mother works in a supermarket and his grandmother takes care of the house.

Dzikri from Malaysia and Halim from Korea both have professional parents. Dzikri’s mother is studying at university and, he tells me, she wears the traditional Muslim Malaysian hair covering. Halim’s mum stays at home – as do the mothers of Busra from Turkey, Rebeca from Brazil, Shamsa from Somalia and Carlos from the Seychelles. Only Paxina’s mother has a job. She comes from Angola.

In a multi-faith school, the festivals are endless, so I ask which are their favourites. Busra likes Seker Bayrami, the ‘Festival of Sugar’ at the end of Ramadan in the Muslim calendar. She explains that children pay their respects to parents and grandparents, and then receive sweets, such as Turkish Delight, and presents. Rebeca describes the Brazilian alternative to Halloween, and the Festa Junina – the midwinter feast of St John, St Anthony and St Peter. Both involve costumes and presents for the children. Shamsa, who wears a headscarf – which was unheard of in my sons’ day – likes celebrating Eid ul-Fitr, when she gets money. Raj, a Hindu, enjoys Diwali, the Hindu festival of lights, but likes Christmas best of all because it brings his family together. For most, faith and religious practices are a present but not a pressing part of their lives.

I ask whether the children feel more at home in their country of origin or in Britain, which elicits a charming hand gesture from all of them to indicate ‘half-half’. Raj’s mother was born in Sheffield and, although they speak Gujarati at home, everyone except his grandmother wears Western dress. He says his diet is half Indian and half British. Sofia says she feels “kind of British and kind of Romanian”. Dzikri says he feels British in Britain, but different in Kuala Lumpur. Ayla feels Australian in Britain and British in Australia, which is exactly how I feel as a Canadian, even after 40 years in London.

A lot of the children are of dual heritage, and this is particularly true of the Caribbean children. Jai-Dene’s father is Jamaican, as is Amba-Rae’s grandmother. Daniel’s mother is Antiguan. They all agree that they felt ‘half-half’ when they visited the Caribbean.

The school opened in 1877, at the height of Empire. 150 children assembled when the new building opened in 1878 on North Hill, Highgate, surrounded by farms and hayfields. Now North Hill is a busy artery to the A1. The assembly hall, built in 1894 to hold 500 children, is still in use. Currently, there are 400 children on roll, including the nursery children. Who would ever have dreamt that 133 years after it opened, these descendants of Empire and international trade would be running through its corridors.

# MARGARET ATWOOD'S LONDON



© GREGG WHITESIDE

## What is your earliest memory of London?

My first trip was in 1964, when I was 24. It was very different then – still post-war, darker, not yet Swinging London. Of course, I was a lot poorer and younger, so I had those kinds of adventures.

## Have you ever been inspired by London in your writing?

Yes, several times. In a couple of early short stories, as I recall.

## Do you have a favourite restaurant or café that you often return to?

My favourite, closest to the ROSL, is the Wolseley – and there are many in Soho that are wonderful. I am lucky to have English friends that keep finding new ones. And I love having lunch or tea in the ROSL garden – one of the nicest spots in the area, when it isn't raining.

## What do you love most, and hate most, about London?

Hate most: the traffic. Like most: the people. Love most: wandering around, looking at the

changes and the things that don't change.

## If you have time, do you like to go shopping while you are here?

I don't like shopping much; it makes me dizzy. But can we count going to the theatre as shopping, please? It costs money, so ought to qualify – and I do love that!

## What advice would you give a member coming to London for the first time?

Do the big touristy things, such as the Tower and the Abbey. Go up high somewhere, so you can get an overall view. Most of all, read some social and architectural history first, so you know what you're seeing. London has so many dimensions, so many layers – you'll be cheating yourself if you don't.

*Member Margaret Atwood is the author of more than 40 works, including fiction, poetry and critical essays. She lives in Toronto, Canada. Her novel 'The Year of the Flood', £18.99 (hardback), was published last year by Bloomsbury (ISBN: 978-0747585169). Interview by Samantha Whitaker.*

**MAJOR ATTRACTION:** the Tower of London should be on any sightseeing tour of the city



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## LONDON

# What's on...

## Myths and Monsters

### Horniman Museum

*Until 5 September*

This exhibition delves into the origin of mythical creatures, such as cyclopes, unicorns, yetis, dragons, and the chimera.

*Tickets: £2.50-£5. Contact: 020 8699 1872 or [www.horniman.ac.uk](http://www.horniman.ac.uk).*



## London Children's Ballet – Ballet Shoes

### Peacock Theatre

*22-25 April*

London Children's Ballet brings a glorious new production of Noel Streatfeild's popular classic *Ballet Shoes*. With a cast of 55 talented dancers, aged 9-16, this is the perfect way to introduce young audiences to the joys of ballet and classical music.

*Tickets: £14-£45. Contact: 0844 412 4322 or [www.sadlerswells.com](http://www.sadlerswells.com).*

## British Comic Art

### Tate Britain

*9 June-5 September*

This groundbreaking exhibition uses visual art to explore the role of humour in British culture over the centuries. Tackling themes such as morality, politics and the absurd, it features works by famous caricaturists, including William Hogarth, George Cruikshank, David Low and Steve Bell.

*Tickets: £8.50-£10. Contact: 020 7887 8888 or [www.tate.org.uk](http://www.tate.org.uk).*



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In Japan, soaring buildings tower over tranquil gardens with winding walkways, bridges and serene pagodas. Then there's Korea, emerging today as a premier destination, and with good reason. Korea boasts a dramatic mountainous interior, beautiful coastline and a cultural tapestry of dynastic treasures, many of them enshrined on UNESCO's World Heritage list.

Vietnam is the centerpiece of our Southeast Asia voyages, a stunning nation of sugar-white beaches, soaring peaks and a blanket of emerald paddies. While in major cities, tuk-tuks and motorbikes throng streets bustling with markets and entrepreneurial energy.

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## EDINBURGH

What's on...  
March-May

**COMMONWEALTH DAY:**  
Sir Menzies Campbell will  
be the speaker in March

## March

## Bridge Club lunch

*Friday 5 March, 12.30 for 1pm*

Members may bring guests to this one-course lunch. Tickets: £9. Includes a glass of sherry.

COMMONWEALTH  
WEEK PROGRAMMECommonwealth Day  
lunch

*Monday 8 March, 12 for 12.30pm*

Two-course lunch with speaker Sir Menzies Campbell MP. Tickets: £18; members £16. Includes coffee, a glass of wine, and sherry on arrival.

## Commonwealth concert

*Wednesday 10 March, 6.30pm*

With violinist Gina McCormack and pianist Nigel Clayton. Exhibition by

Kazi Sahid. Tickets £12; members £10; Friends of ROSL ARTS £8. Includes wine and canapés.

## Coffee morning

*Saturday 13 March, 10.30am*

With bring-and-buy sale in aid of the Erskine Hospital.

## April

## Quiz night

*Tuesday 6 April, tbc*

Test your general knowledge.

## Coffee morning

*Saturday 10 April, 10.30am*

'The Changing Face of Edinburgh' with speaker Neil Shaw.

## Concert

*Wednesday 14 April, 6.30pm*

Wine and canapés, with pianist Ben Schoeman. Tickets: £12; members £10; Friends of ROSL ARTS £8.

## Arts lunch

*Wednesday 28 April, 12 for 12.30pm*

Two-course lunch with speaker Liz Cameron, former Lord Provost of Glasgow, on 'Kelvingrove Museum and the Arts in Glasgow'. A joint event with the Glasgow Branch. Tickets: £17; members £15. Includes coffee and glass of wine.

## May

## Coffee morning

*Saturday 8 May, 10.30am*

With bring-and-buy sale.

## Music with a View

*Thursday 13 May, 6.30pm*

Speaker Gavin Henderson on 'Piers of the Realm – The Entertainment of the Seaside', with live musical illustrations. Exhibition by the Young Artist of Thailand 2009. Tickets: £12; members £10; Friends of ROSL ARTS £8. Includes seaside-inspired cocktails and canapés.

AGM and Chairman's  
reception

*Tuesday 18 May, 6 for 6.30pm*

Includes complimentary buffet and screening of the Centenary DVD.

## Arts lunch

*Wednesday 26 May,  
12 for 12.30pm*

Two-course lunch and musical presentation on 'Scottish Fiddle – Now and Then' by Pete Clark, Niel Gow Festival Director. Tickets £17; members £15. Includes coffee and glass of wine.

## EDINBURGH CLUBHOUSE BREAKS

"The tours were well-managed and our guides... informative and helpful. The staff at the clubhouse could not have been more accommodating and welcoming, and I hope you will continue to offer packages such as this. You may also think of a break focusing on the art and history of your lovely city."

*ROSL member*

## ROYAL STAY IN SCOTLAND

*Monday 24 May–Wednesday 26 May*

Three nights' bed and breakfast at Over-Seas House, Edinburgh. Pre-dinner drinks and dinner with wine on each night. Talk about Royal Yacht Britannia after dinner on first night. Guided tours of Britannia, Holyrood Palace and Glamis Castle.

## ARTS LOVERS STAY IN SCOTLAND

*Tuesday 22 June–Thursday 24 June*

Three nights' bed and breakfast at Over-Seas House, Edinburgh. Pre-dinner drinks and dinner with wine on

each night. Talk about Scottish painters and galleries after dinner on first night. Guided tours of National Gallery of Scotland, Kelvingrove and Burrell Galleries.

TOUR OF HISTORIC SCOTTISH  
BUILDINGS

*Tuesday 27 July–Thursday 29 July*

Three nights' bed and breakfast at Over-Seas House, Edinburgh. Pre-dinner drinks and dinner with wine on each night. Talk about historic Scottish buildings after dinner on first night. Guided tours of Edinburgh Castle, Holyrood Palace and Stirling Castle.



**PRICES FROM £360 per person per trip (excludes meals on guided tours).**

**Please write or telephone reception at Over-Seas House, Edinburgh.**

**Tel: 0131 225 1501**

**Email: reception@rosl-edinburgh.org**



# Food and Drink events

## March-May



© AELTC

### Easter extravaganza

**Monday 22 March–Thursday 1 April**

Join us for lunch or dinner in the restaurant before Easter and enter our special prize draw, with a chance to win a magnum of champagne or an exotic fruit basket. Enjoy some of our seasonal dishes, including some surprises and an easter egg for you and your guests. Two courses, £19.95; three courses, £24.95.

### Asparagus fortnight

**Monday 17 May–Saturday 29 May**

Join us in the restaurant to celebrate the first taste of summer with our chef's creative and delicious selection of asparagus dishes.

### Wimbledon

**Tuesday 22 June–Sunday 4 July**

Enjoy traditional complimentary strawberries when you buy a glass of sparkling wine in the cocktail bar during Wimbledon fortnight.

*Reservations*

020 7408 0214 ext 220.

**TENNIS TREATS:** Enjoy free strawberries during Wimbledon

### The garden and private events

From Monday 24 May, the garden at Over-Seas House, London opens for alfresco lunches and bar service – summer Pimms being the speciality.

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# ROSL ARTS

Anna Maciuk previews the spring events

## Music events

### Over-Seas House Princess Alexandra Hall

#### 58th ROSL Annual Music Competition Section Finals

Overseas awards  
Tuesday 2 March, 7pm

Ensembles A (strings/keyboards)  
Tuesday 9 March, 7pm

Ensembles B (wind/mixed)  
Tuesday 16 March, 7pm

The overseas concert and awards evening, on 2 March, is a celebration of the most outstanding non-UK competitors in the 2010

ROSL Annual Music Competition. After short performances by soloists from across the Commonwealth selected from the section finals, audience members have the opportunity to meet the musicians and adjudicators over wine and canapés. The following two weeks see chamber groups compete for two awards of £10,000.

**Tickets: £12; ROSL members and concessions £11; Friends of ROSL ARTS £10. Tickets include wine, served after adjudication.**

#### Wigmore Hall

#### Ben Schoeman and Solstice Quartet

Messiaen, *Preludes*; Liszt, *Piano Sonata in B minor*; Franck, *Piano Quintet in F minor*  
Monday 19 April, 7pm

South African pianist Ben Schoeman, 2009 ROSL Gold Medallist, presents two of the most challenging works in the solo piano repertoire at one of the world's most important recital venues, Wigmore Hall. He is joined by ROSL prizewinning ensemble the Solstice String Quartet for Franck's lush piano quintet.

**Tickets: £10. Available from ROSL ARTS, NOT the Wigmore box office.**

## Book events

### Over-Seas House Princess Alexandra Hall

#### 'Battle of Britain' by Patrick Bishop

Wednesday 21 April, 7pm

**PATRICK BISHOP:** Fight for national survival



## ROSL CENTENARY APPEAL

I am delighted to report that, since the Centenary Appeal to endow the awards in the ROSL Annual Music Competition was announced in the September issue of *Overseas*, we have received a steady stream of donations – large and small – from members. In addition to those donations we have also benefited from a substantial legacy and a number of other donors have also pledged their support.

With such an encouraging start, and with our successful recent track record of raising funds for the renovation of Princess Alexandra Hall and purchase of a new Steinway grand piano, I am confident that we will reach our ambitious target of £1,000,000 within a few years.

### HOW YOU CAN HELP

If you would like to support the Centenary Appeal, but have not yet done so, you can make a one-off donation to the ROSL Golden Jubilee Trust (Registered Charity number 30695), where Centenary Appeal funds will be held in a restricted fund. British taxpayers can enhance the value of their donations by signing a 'gift aid' declaration, which enables ROSL ARTS to reclaim tax. Cheques should be made payable to ROSL Golden Jubilee Trust (Centenary Appeal).

For a gift aid form or further information about making a donation or legacy in support of this appeal, please contact Roderick Lakin MBE, Director of ROSL ARTS, Over-Seas House, Park



Place, St James's Street, London SW1A 1LR. Tel 020 7408 0214 x 325 or email [rlakin@rosl.org.uk](mailto:rlakin@rosl.org.uk).

*Roderick Lakin*

Acclaimed historian Patrick Bishop presents the story of Britain's fight for national survival. Using eye-witness accounts, his new book, *Battle of Britain*, provides a unique and gripping account of the battle, the men and women who fought it, and the world of the 1940s. After the talk, guests will have the opportunity to buy a signed copy and to meet the author over a complimentary glass of wine.

**Tickets: £7; ROSL members and concessions £6; Friends of ROSL ARTS £5. Tickets available from ROSL ARTS.**

## Visual arts

### Over-Seas House

#### ROSL Young Artist of Thailand

*Thursday 25 March–Friday 23 April*

In 2007, the Thailand Branch inaugurated the ROSL Young Artist of Thailand competition, open to Thai citizens aged 12-20. The prizewinning work will be exhibited together with works by 12 runners up. As part of the prize, the 2009 winner will be in London for the opening of the exhibition as a guest of ROSL ARTS.

**Tickets for events available from ROSL ARTS, 020 7408 0214 ext 324 or [culture@rosl.org.uk](mailto:culture@rosl.org.uk)**

## 58th ANNUAL MUSIC COMPETITION FINAL

### Queen Elizabeth Hall

*Wednesday 2 June, 7pm*

The Final Concert of the 2010 ROSL Annual Music Competition showcases performances by the winners of the wind, singers, strings and keyboard sections as they compete for the Gold Medal and First Prize. As the distinguished panel of judges make their decision, performances are given by the two prizewinning ensembles.

**Tickets: £12; Friends of ROSL ARTS £10 (reduced from £20/£15). Available from ROSL ARTS, NOT the QEH box office.**



**COMPETITION FINAL:** An evening in celebration of young Commonwealth musicians on London's South Bank

# Members' events

## March-June

### March

#### Commonwealth Day observance

*Monday 8 March, 3.30pm, £6, G*

The service will take place at Westminster Abbey in the presence of The Queen. A £6 ROSL admin charge will apply.

#### Wellington Arch

*Thursday 11 March, 2pm, £11, G*

An opportunity to discover the Wellington Arch, topped by the largest bronze sculpture in England. Learn all about its history, and see views of the local area from two viewing balconies. Tea, coffee and biscuits will be served.

#### Hidden Westminster

*Thursday 18 March, 2pm, £15, G*

Explore the hidden streets behind Westminster Abbey and see the homes of famous people and political figures. Discover 'Queen Anne's Footstool', the site of a

royal cockpit, monastic cloisters, and a hotel with a secret passage.

### April

#### The Wernher Collection, Ranger's House

*Thursday 1 April, 2.30pm, £14, G*

A guided tour of the Wernher Collection, one of the most unusual art collections in the world. There are more than 650 exhibits, dating back as far as 3BC, including rare Old Masters and the UK's largest collection of Renaissance jewellery. Tea and coffee will also be served.

#### St Paul's Cathedral

*Wednesday 7 April, 2pm, £17, R*

A guided tour of one of the most iconic buildings on the London skyline. Explore the magnificent interior of the cathedral, the Crypt, the geometric staircase and the Quire, and climb the dome to the Whispering Gallery for breathtaking views of London.



**IN BLOOM:** Don't miss the Chelsea Flower Show in May

#### Theatrical London

*Wednesday 21 April, 2pm, £16, G*

On this tour of Covent Garden, learn about the area and hear anecdotes about the West End's most illustrious personalities. Find out about the riots at the Royal Opera House and stand on the spot where Eliza Doolittle sold her flowers.

### May

#### Service of Thanksgiving for the ROSL centenary

*Tuesday 4 May, 11am*

Thanksgiving at St James's, Piccadilly with a special centenary emphasis. All members welcome.

#### Chairman's Lunch

*Tuesday 4 May, 12.30pm, £51, G*

Drinks reception and three-course lunch at Over-Seas House, London.

Hosted by the ROSL Chairman, Sir Anthony Figgis, the lunch will be followed by the premiere screening of the ROSL Centenary DVD. The AGM and a reception will follow.

#### Annual General Meeting

*Tuesday 4 May, 4pm*

AGM and a reception, following the Chairman's lunch.

#### Chelsea Flower Show

*Tuesday 25-Saturday 29 May, 8am-8pm, £50, B*

Enjoy magnificent gardens and horticultural displays from all over the world. Not to be missed.

### June

#### Trooping the Colour

*£tbc, B*



## Application form opposite

These codes identify ticket availability:

**M** Members only

**G** Tickets available for members and their guests

**R** Restricted number of tickets available

**B** Tickets to be allocated by ballot. Payment for balloted tickets is not needed until tickets are allocated. Maximum two tickets per member.

Only successful applicants will be notified.

*Please also note: We do not acknowledge receipt of applications, but tickets are always sent out in advance. Refunds can only be given if cancellations are made at least 15 working days in advance. We do not provide refunds for tickets costing less than £5. Tickets for all events are limited and members should apply early to avoid disappointment. Tickets may be restricted to two per member for popular events. Members will be sent tickets seven days prior to each particular event.*



**Major General's Review –****Saturday 29 May****Colonel's Review –****Saturday 5 June****Queen's Birthday Parade –****Saturday 12 June**

Enjoy this marvellous military parade by the Household Division, which marks the Queen's official birthday. Maximum two tickets per member.

**Wimbledon Tennis Championships**

*Monday 21 June-Sunday 4 July, Etc, B*

One of the greatest tennis championships of the year and a highlight of the English summer events. Limited tickets are available for Court 2. Maximum two tickets per member.

**Centenary Summer Ball**

*Friday 25 June, time tbc, Etc*

A summer treat for all members, including the Inter-Club Younger Members – the London clubhouse will be transformed for the festivities.

**Annual General Meeting**

Dear Member,

I am instructed to inform you that the ROSL AGM will be held at Over-Seas House, London on Tuesday 4 May 2010 at 4pm, to receive and consider the Annual Report and Accounts of the ROSL and to attend to such other business as may be necessary in accordance with the bye-laws. The AGM will be preceded by the Chairman's Lunch (12.30pm for 1pm; apply below), and followed by a reception at which refreshments will be served.

Yours truly,

Robert F Newell

*Director-General/Secretary*

**AGENDA**

- To sing the first verse of the National Anthem
- Address by the Chairman
- The Honorary Treasurer to report on the ROSL's finances
- To receive and adopt the accounts of the ROSL for 2009
- To confirm appointments to the Central Council under the terms of bye-laws 14.6 and 14.7
- To fill vacancies occurring under the terms of bye-laws 20.1 and 20.2
- To confirm the appointments by the Central Council of Vice-Presidents, under the terms of bye-law 18.1
- To receive and adopt the Annual Report for 2009
- To appoint auditors for the ensuing year

**Note:** copies of the 2009 Annual Report will be available from the PR department from 20 April 2010.

**Application form for members' events**

MEMBERSHIP NO.....

Name.....

Name of guest(s) and trip they are attending

.....

.....

.....

Address to which tickets should be sent

.....

.....

.....

Tel no.....

**PAYMENT**

Please send a **SEPARATE CHEQUE** for each event. Cheques (sterling) payable to ROSL. For **CREDIT CARD PAYMENTS** telephone 020 7016 6906.

**Please complete this form and send to:**

Alex Debarge, PR Department (Members Events), Over-Seas House, Park Place, St James's Street, London SW1A 1LR. Tel: 020 7016 6906. Email: adebarge@rosl.org.uk.

**Please send a SEPARATE CHEQUE for each event.**

			<b>No. of tickets</b>
<b>Commonwealth Day observance</b>	Mon 8 March	£6	..... £.....
<b>Wellington Arch</b>	Thur 11 March	£11	..... £.....
<b>Hidden Westminster</b>	Thur 18 March	£15	..... £.....
<b>Ranger's House</b>	Thur 1 April	£14	..... £.....
<b>St Paul's Cathedral</b>	Wed 7 April	£17	..... £.....
<b>Theatrical London</b>	Wed 21 April	£16	..... £.....
<b>Chairman's Lunch</b>	Tues 4 May	£51	..... £.....
<b>Service of Thanksgiving</b>	Tues 4 May		..... £.....
<b>Centenary Summer Ball</b>	Fri 25 June	£tbc	..... £.....

**BALLOTTED EVENTS**

DO NOT SEND PAYMENT YET. YOU WILL ONLY BE CONTACTED IF SUCCESSFUL.

Maximum **TWO TICKETS** per member.

		<b>No. of tickets</b>	<b>Apply before</b>
<b>Chelsea Flower Show</b>	Tues 25-Sat 29 May	.....	27 April
<b>Trooping the Colour</b>	Sat 29 May, 5 June, 12 June	.....	7 May
<b>Wimbledon</b>	Mon 21 June-Sun 4 July	.....	17 May

# Discussion Group & London Group

## DISCUSSION GROUP

Meetings will be held at Over-Seas House, London, on the following Monday evenings from 7 to 8.30pm. There is no charge, no need to book and all ROSL members and guests are welcome. Meetings in 2010 will be arranged in conjunction with *The Round Table* (the Commonwealth Journal of International Affairs), which also celebrates its centenary this year. The theme is 'Empire into Commonwealth'. Contact John Edwards, 01732 883 556, johncoatesedward@aol.com.

## The Edwardian Empire

**1 March** With Dr John Darwin, Beit Lecturer in the history of the British Commonwealth, University of Oxford.

## The Empire/ Commonwealth between the wars

**12 April** With Dr Susan Williams, Senior Research Fellow, Institute of Commonwealth Studies, University of London.

## The Empire/ Commonwealth and the Second World War

**10 May** With Dr Ashley Jackson, Senior Lecturer, Defence Studies Department, King's College London.

## The Commonwealth in the age of decolonisation

**7 June** With Prof Wm. Roger Louis, Kerr Professor of English history and culture, University of Texas.

## The modern Commonwealth

**5 July** With Chief Emeka Anyaoku, former Secretary-General of the Commonwealth.



**TALKS AND VISITS:** (Clockwise from left) the London Group will visit Battersea Power Station in March and hear from Neville Lyons, of the famous Lyons teashops, in May, while Chief Emeka Anyaoku talks to the Discussion Group in July

## LONDON GROUP

Please note that you are not automatically a member of the London Group: ask for an application form from the PR department, Over-Seas House, London. The London Group meets at 6.30pm on the third Thursday of each month. For more information, contact Sheila MacTaggart, 020 8947 2287.

### Beryl Keen

We are sorry to announce the sudden death of London Group Chairman Beryl Keen in January.

The contact for the London Group is now: Sheila MacTaggart LVO, 020 8947 2287.

Doreen Regan is still the contact for outside events.

## The role of a police wildlife crime officer

**18 March** Illustrated talk by Barry Kaufmann-Wright, who was a wildlife crime officer for 19 years.

## London Group AGM

**15 April, 6.30pm** With music from 1910, from Camilla Farrant (soprano) and Dejan Cacija (piano).

## The Joes Lyons story – Food for thought

**20 May** Illustrated talk by Neville Lyons, of the famous teashops.

## LONDON GROUP OUTSIDE VISITS

For more information, contact Doreen Regan, 020 7584 5879. To apply for events, write to Doreen Regan, London Group, c/o Porters' Desk, Over-Seas House, London.

## Battersea Power Station

**24 March, 2pm** Guided tour of

the site and exhibition about the future of the power station. Tickets: £23; LG members £20.

## The Brazilian Ambassador's Residence

**28 April, 3.30pm** Guided tour by courtesy of His Excellency Mr Carlos Augusto Rego Santos-Neves. Tickets: £12; LG members £10.

## Rescheduled: Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists

**27 May, 2pm** This guided tour was postponed due to snow. Members already booked will be notified and further applications are welcome. Tickets: £9; LG members £7.

\* Please enclose a separate cheque and stamped addressed envelope for each visit.

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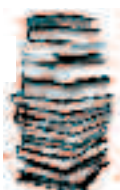
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