

OVERSEAS

Quarterly journal of the ROSL

Issue 1, March-May 2011



Picture perfect

Images of HRH Princess Alexandra's visit to Over-Seas House, Edinburgh

Moving stories

A focus on migration, from India's displaced people to Canada's 'cultural mosaic'

Winning reflections

An interview with the new Young Artist of Thailand and photos of his prize painting

City breaks

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OVERSEAS

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The Royal Over-Seas League is a self-funded Commonwealth organisation that offers clubhouse facilities to members, organises Commonwealth art and music competitions and develops joint welfare projects with specific countries.

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Front cover: HRH Princess Alexandra visits Over-Seas House, Edinburgh, in February.

© Graham Carnie BA



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From the Director-General



Graham Carnie BA

EDINBURGH VISIT: Robert Newell with HRH Princess Alexandra and Edinburgh Branch Chairman Bill Agnew

The visit by HRH Princess Alexandra, ROSL Vice-Patron, to Over-Seas House, Edinburgh, on 4 February, was a happy success and we are very grateful to the Princess for spending so much time meeting our staff and members. It had been postponed from 3 December due to the heavy snow, and we were very honoured that Her Royal Highness stayed the night of her visit at the clubhouse. A picture report appears on page 5. While writing about royal events, I am pleased to inform members that a programme has been arranged at the clubhouses in London and Edinburgh to celebrate the Royal Wedding on 29 April. See the events pages for details.

After much consultation and deliberation, the Central Council has decided to appoint the Loch Ness Coffee Company (known as Cobbs), a Scottish hotel and catering company, to manage the Edinburgh clubhouse on its behalf. Cobbs's Managing Director, Fraser Campbell, is a former manager of the clubhouse and therefore understands the needs of ROSL members. His company will work closely with us to ensure that present standards are maintained and, in many cases, improved, and that the ethos of the club is also maintained. Cobbs will increase membership benefits, not least by providing special privileges for members at their two hotels on Loch Ness (one 3-star and the other 4-star).

In the long term, the agreement will help to secure the future of Over-Seas House, Edinburgh. Staff will have their employment transferred to Cobbs with terms of service and employment benefits intact. The transition and new management will be closely monitored by Central Council to ensure its success and the welfare of members and staff.

I have received many kind messages from members on the inclusion of my name in the New Year Honours list. When I was told that it was The Queen's intention to promote me to CVO, I was very honoured, and I felt it was a mark of Her Majesty's interest in ROSL, and recognition of the endeavours of members around the world and the staff in promoting ROSL's Commonwealth ideals, particularly during the centenary year.

The many ROSL members in Queensland, Victoria and Western Australia are in our thoughts as they battle the recent extreme weather conditions, as are those in Brazil and Sri Lanka, who have also suffered severe floods.

Robert Newell

Editor's letter

As I write, the British Prime Minister has made an important statement on multiculturalism in the UK, increasing the debate on immigration, diversity and racism that continues here. Perhaps its detractors should look to the 'cultural mosaic' of Canada before rejecting the idea of multiculturalism altogether. Britain's new Equality Act brings the country in line with Canada, whose constitution has enshrined the equality of cultures for nearly 30 years (page 8). Although the model is not without its problems, it shows how different cultures can coexist peaceably within a shared national identity and respect for the law.



Our Focus on migration also includes articles on the challenges faced by displaced people in India (page 10) and New Zealand's response to increasing immigration from the South Pacific islands, which are facing growing pressures as a result of climate change and the 'youth bulge' (page 12).

This issue contains our last ever centenary section – and what a year it's been! Representatives of ROSL share their personal experiences of the most talked-about events on page 6, and there is a review in pictures of the reception for Princess Alexandra in Edinburgh on page 5.

If, like me, you've yet to book your summer holiday, you will find plenty of ideas on these pages. With so much to see in Geneva (page 16), Girona (page 26) and Glasgow (page 25), I am finding it hard to choose a destination. I am also looking forward to going to the Chelsea Flower Show for the first time this year; for details of how you can go with other members, plus other must-see trips this spring, check out the Events section.

Miranda Moore

A royal occasion

HRH Princess Alexandra visits Over-Seas House, Edinburgh, on Friday 4 February

► Edinburgh Branch Chairman Bill Chalmers (centre) and HRH Princess Alexandra, with members of the branch committee



▲ HRH Princess Alexandra meets classical guitar duo Ian Watts and Sean Shibe (past ROSL ARTS Music Competition prizewinner)

▼ Her Royal Highness has tea with members of the staff (clockwise from left) HRH Princess Alexandra, former chef Ian Harper, Wojciech Budzik (night porter), Anna Manka-Sak (waitress), Chloe Leonna-Steele (receptionist), and Katarzyna Lozano-Manka (waitress)



▲ Edinburgh House Manager Alan Chalmers introduces HRH Princess Alexandra to the Edinburgh clubhouse staff



► HRH Princess Alexandra shares a joke with waiter Atef Hassan



Snapshots of our 100th year

ROSL representatives share their memories, from the launch event to the reception at Marlborough House

Centenary launch event

There was a buzz of excited conversation in the Central Lounge at Over-Seas House, London as we sipped the centenary cocktail prior to the main event. In Princess Alexandra Hall, we were treated to a screened montage of snapshots of ROSL's history. Alexandra Debarge then introduced the new Chairman, Sir Anthony Figgis, who told us of the planned events for the centenary year.

John Ackroyd, ROSL member

Chairman's lunch, DVD launch and Service of Thanksgiving

The Chairman's lunch on 4 May was a well-attended and enjoyable feast, and the Centenary DVD, shown after the meal, gave an excellent picture of why ROSL is so special. Many of us had been to the Service of Thanksgiving – a moving occasion with lovely music and singing. We were grateful to St James's, Piccadilly for providing the setting, and to the Dean of Westminster for giving the address.

Mayella Figgis, ROSL member

Centenary reception at St James's Palace

The downpour and grey skies did little to dampen the spirits of ROSL guests as they were welcomed to St James's Palace by palace officials and ROSL staff. Our eyes darted from the red and gilded interior to the works of art and statuesque floral displays, before settling on the other guests: familiar and new faces, elegant and stylish outfits. There was a frisson of excitement as the Royal party arrived. HM The Queen, HRH The Duke of Edinburgh and HRH Princess Alexandra took time to talk to guests as they processed through the State Rooms. Leaving the reception, the beaming faces of Cwisa Cwi and Elias Araeb, representing the ROSL-Namibia Project, said it all: it was a truly unforgettable evening.

Pamela Voice, Central Council and Chairman of London Group



BY INVITATION: ROSL members gather in the garden of Over-Seas House before going to the Buckingham Palace garden party

ROSL ARTS Annual Music Competition final concert

Those of us who had been to the section finals earlier in the year anticipated a close and interesting final. The four finalists – Jonathan McGovern (baritone), James Sherlock (piano), Huw Morgan (trumpet) and Jun Sasaki (cello) – each had their supporters. At the interval, after they had all performed brilliantly, the discussion became yet more animated. However, we all felt Jonathan had put more variety into the programme, and when he was declared the winner there were loud cheers. It was a splendid evening, graced by ROSL Vice-Patron HRH Princess Alexandra.

Patricia Farrant, Central Council and Chairman of House Advisory Committee

International Branch Conference

Thirty-one delegates from seven countries were entertained in London with excellent talks on the monarchy, Sir Evelyn Wrench and the modern Commonwealth, together with an update on ROSL ARTS and its future. The highlights of the trip were a treasured evening at St James's Palace, with an introduction to our Patron, HM The Queen; and the Annual Music Competition final concert at Queen Elizabeth Hall, in the presence of Vice-Patron HRH Princess Alexandra. We ended an unforgettable week on a high note, trotting around St James's with Blue Badge Guides, visiting the Penthouse at New Zealand House, and enjoying very memorable last evening at the home of Sir Anthony and Lady Figgis.

Lyn Milne, ROSL NZ Director

On a high note

Why the final centenary events were a fitting conclusion to an unforgettable year

Buckingham Palace garden party

My wife Glenda and I joined other ROSL members lucky enough to be selected in the ballot in the garden of Over-Seas House, before strolling through Green Park to join the queues outside Buckingham Palace. On the West Terrace, the Band of the Light Cavalry and of the Royal Regiment of Artillery were stationed at opposite corners. At precisely 4pm, the Royal Party – HM The Queen, HRH The Duke of Edinburgh, TRH The Prince of Wales and Duchess of Cornwall, and TRH The Duke and Duchess of Gloucester – processed through the guests to the Royal Tea Tent. Tea was served with the same quiet, efficient organisation we had experienced at the gate. Of the delicious food on offer, the favourite was the chocolate fudge cake, decorated with the crown emblem. **Cyril Sullivan, ROSL member**

Centenary Summer Ball

A glance at my fellow guests put me in mind of a bench of Bishops: ecclesiastical purple abounded. It was a balmy summer evening, and as greetings were exchanged with old friends on the lawn and pre-dinner drinks consumed, a smart-suited man moved among us, amusing us with his magic tricks. A delicious dinner was followed by more entertainment and a chance to share stories with members of ROSL and the Younger Members' Inter-Club Group. **Conrad Purcell, Younger Members' Rep**

Tango tea dance

On 27 August – the exact ROSL centenary date – we were treated to a sumptuous afternoon tea and tango cabaret, in the presence of the Argentine Cultural Attaché, Silvina Murphy. Professional tango dancers Jenney Surelia and Alberto Ortiz gave a breathtaking demonstration, accompanied by authentic Argentine tango musicians El Farabute. **Anne de Lasta, Central Council and Discussion Group**



WARM WELCOME: Sir Anthony Figgis addresses the High Commissioners

Marlborough House reception

To mark the close of the centenary events programme, a reception for ROSL members was held on 4 November at Marlborough House, by the generous invitation of the Commonwealth Secretary-General HE Kamallesh Sharma, who was represented by his Deputy, Mr Ransford Smith. Both Mr Smith and the ROSL Chairman, Sir Anthony Figgis, briefly addressed the guests.

The ambience was relaxed and intimate, in spite of the magnificent surroundings of the Blenheim Saloon of the former Royal Palace. Guests sampled Commonwealth wines and delicious canapés to the sounds of light classical music and popular jazz from saxophone and guitar duo Sarah Field and Charlie Morland.

Chairman's Lunch with Lord Patten



SELL-OUT EVENT: Lord Patten (left) and Sir Anthony Figgis

At the Chairman's Lunch on 9 November, in the Hall of India and Pakistan, the guest of honour was Lord Patten of Barnes, who offered a wide-ranging review of international affairs, including the Pope's recent visit, with which he was closely connected.

It was a sell-out event attended by 125 ROSL members and guests. A cheque was presented on behalf of the ROSL Hong Kong Branch in aid of the ROSL Centenary Appeal.

High Commissioners' lunch

Sir Anthony Figgis gave a speech of welcome at the lunch for Commonwealth High Commissioners to London on 25 November, in celebration of the centenary. It was attended by 35 High Commissioners and the Deputy Commonwealth Secretary-General, who spoke about ROSL's support of Commonwealth ideals, and commended its support of young Commonwealth musicians, artists and writers.

ROSL President Lord Luce also spoke about the Commonwealth and announced the formation of the Commonwealth Youth Orchestra (CYO), of which he is President. Senior High Commissioner HE Laleswar Singh, from Guyana, gave the vote of thanks.

FOCUS

The diversity 'experiment'

Multiculturalism can work, says **Haroon Siddiqui**. For proof he looks to the 'cultural mosaic' of Canada, which has enshrined plurality in its constitution

Why is Canada such a successful multicultural country? To find out, the Aga Khan has established the Global Centre for Pluralism in Ottawa. Its mandate is to distil the Canadian wisdom on peaceful pluralism and export the potion to the world. The centre's board of directors includes the former Secretary-General of the United Nations, Kofi Annan, and the former Governor-General of Canada, Adrienne Clarkson, a Chinese Canadian born in Hong Kong.

Having chosen Canada for his think tank, the estimable Aga – the spiritual but very worldly leader of Ismaili Muslims, who operates his worldwide development network out of Geneva – decided to bring his extensive collection of Islamic artefacts to Canada as well. His new CA\$300 million museum-cum-18-acre urban park, now going up in Toronto, has been described as 'an exquisite jewel'.

I am not an Ismaili but cite his case as an example of how Canada's openness enriches us in unforeseen ways – intellectually, architecturally and culturally – and can also be good business. Even the Conservative government of Prime Minister Stephen Harper, whose ranks include rabid anti-multiculturalists, can see the value of all this, and has conferred an honorary Order of Canada on the (non-Canadian) Aga Khan.

Canada is not multicultural the way Britons and Europeans have understood it – mostly ethnic song and dance and cuisine. Rather, Canada is constitutionally multicultural. Section 27 of the 1982 Charter of Rights and Freedoms declares: 'This Charter shall be interpreted in a manner consistent with the preservation and

enhancement of the multicultural heritage of Canadians.' Further, the 1988 Multiculturalism Act enjoined the government to promote it. In other words, the entire constitution and all the laws of the land and public policy must conform to the principle that there is no single official culture. This ensures a level playing field for citizens. It takes the arbitrariness and double standards out of public policy, or at least reduces it substantially.

For example, how to balance the right of an orthodox Jew to refuse work on the Saturday Sabbath against the need of his employer to have all staff on duty on the busiest business day of the week? (He gets the day off and the store finds a permanent temp.) Canada has built up a considerable case law on what might constitute 'reasonable accommodation' between the competing rights of different groups of citizens.

So, Canadians live and let live – within the rule of law, as interpreted by the courts and tribunals. The exercise has turned out to be far less onerous than predicted by the peddlers of 'multiculti-phobia', as Prof Phil Ryan of Carleton University, Ottawa, famously called it in his book of the same title.

Challenges

We do have our bouts of bigotry. Even governments can sometimes go bonkers. Last fall, the province of Quebec, for example, tabled legislation to 'ban the *niqab*', as popular parlance has it. But a government can no more ban the *niqab* than proscribe the bikini. A woman's dress is surely her secular, democratic prerogative. So, the government took a different tack: you must show your face



to receive government services, including healthcare.

Critics argued that if the state must go that route, why not extend *niqabi* women the courtesy of having them show their face to female officials. This is done for security reasons at airports and border checkpoints. Also, Quebec's own ministry of transport finds female examiners for driving tests for Orthodox Jewish women. Not surprisingly, the Jewish Orthodox Council of Quebec sided with the *niqabis*. Meanwhile, the Court of Appeal in Ontario, Canada's largest province, ruled that a *niqabi* woman could not be forced to unveil on the witness stand, unless there were good reasons for the court to order her to do so.

Four years earlier, Ontario was gripped by a furious debate about 'sharia' law. Truth be told, no sharia was coming, or even being considered. What was being debated was whether the 1991 Arbitration Act – which allowed Christians and Jews to settle family and business disputes by religious arbitration, so as not to clog the courts – could be extended to Muslims. All hell broke loose – until multicultural equality kicked in: the government had no choice but to allow such arbitration either for all faith groups or for none. It opted for the latter.



CHINA TOWN: China is the second biggest source of immigration in Canada, with 70% of Chinese immigrants living in Vancouver (pictured) and Toronto

Canadian philosopher-author John Ralston Saul (husband of Adrienne Clarkson) has argued, persuasively, that Canadian multiculturalism dates back to our aboriginal peoples. 'Ours is not a civilization that emerged out of the Judeo-Christian line. Nor did we rise out of the opposite, the secular or the laic,' he writes in *A Fair Country*. 'The central inspiration of our country is aboriginal. How we imagine ourselves, how we govern, how we live together, how we treat one another when we are not being stupid is deeply aboriginal. The aboriginal peoples, with their idea of expandable and inclusive circles of people, welcomed the (European) settlers.' We have been expanding the Canadian circle ever since.

Today, about 150 languages are spoken in the school yards of Toronto. Both sides of every international conflict are present in Canada – Arabs and Jews, Serbs and Kosovans, Indians and Pakistanis, Tamils and Sinhalese. They all learn to argue here peacefully, within the rule of law. As for strange cultural practices – such as 'forced marriages' or female genital mutilation – those, too, are dealt with simply and equitably on the basis of the law, on individual behaviour, not stereotypes that demonise an entire religious or racial group.

Lessons learned

- The best tool of integration is a job commensurate with one's skills. Employers who discriminate against someone based on skin colour or clothing should be prosecuted.
- A society that marginalises entire groups and then accuses them of being marginalised is a hypocritical society. The more you shun a people, the more they will find solace in their ghettos, especially religious ghettos.
- Nativists and racists use multiculturalism as a proxy to attack immigrants. Post-9/11, it has become the shield behind which Islamophobes hide to attack Muslims. Throughout our history, other minorities, such as the Catholics and Jews, too, have been accused of being incompatible with democracy.

This is not to say that all critics of multiculturalism are racists or Islamophobes, not at all. As a public policy, multiculturalism has had teething problems aplenty. It is evolving. It's just that in Canada it is more evolved than elsewhere.

Haroon Siddiqui is a columnist with Toronto Star, Canada's largest newspaper, and author of Being Muslim, published by A&C Black.

It triggered the most dramatic experiment in heterogeneity in the history of humanity

UNDER ONE FLAG: Many people who have settled in Canada have a strong sense of national identity. A Canadian Sikh wears a turban with the country's flag



Constitutional multiculturalism long ago also settled the issue of who, exactly, is a Canadian. Not old-stock (white) Canadians but rather anyone who lives legally in Canada, period. Canadians have also gone past the stage of lecturing immigrants to follow 'Canadian values', as Tony Blair does in his memoirs, *A Journey*. A people's common values are distilled into the law of the land, which everyone must obey and those who don't go off to jail. The rest is populist humbug.

Canada came to its multiculturalism gradually. The 1867 British North America Act (BNA), by which Britain granted greater powers to the Dominion of Canada, conferred specific collective rights on our aboriginal peoples, as well as English-speaking British protestants and French-speaking catholics. It did so on the basis of race, religion and language. The DNA of BNA being diversity, its natural outgrowth was a demand in the 1960s, by non-aboriginal, non-English and non-French Canadians (Germans, Ukrainians, Poles, Scandinavians, etc) that they, too, be officially recognised as an integral part of Canada. Pierre Elliot Trudeau, the most flamboyant and daring of our prime ministers, responded with the (above-cited) provision in the constitution, thereby triggering the most dramatic legal experiment in heterogeneity in the history of humanity.

FOCUS

The people India forgot

Jessica Moore investigates the millions of people who are living as refugees within their own country, and the work that is being done to support them

In a slum camp in the foothills of the Himalayas, Rohit can count himself among India's Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs). He is the eldest of three children. His parents had made their livelihood on the land in Maharashtra. Then came drought, environmental degradation and economic reform, which forced them to move on and rendered them 'environmental refugees'; migrants within their own country. They settled in a displacement camp in the Kangra Valley, where his father died of malnutrition and disease. At the age of six, Rohit became the main breadwinner, spending every day either begging or searching through rubbish for anything salvageable to feed his family.

Along came Tong-Len, a partnership of two charities – Tong-Len Charitable Trust, which is registered in India, and Tong-Len UK, which is registered in Scotland. Brigid Whoriskey, one of the charity's UK Trustees, explains: "The work we do aims to provide sustainable help for displaced communities through education and health programmes so they can become integrated into the community and independent.

"We do work in a displacement camp at Charan Khad, where there are about a thousand people, and we've recently managed to build a hostel which will provide a home for up to 65 children." These include Rohit and his friends. "The local schools wouldn't take them for health and hygiene reasons – these children were eating off the ground; walking ten miles to the dump to scavenge for food. Infant and child mortality is high. We get them clean and healthy so we can get them into schools. We've now started a reverse education process too, whereby the children go back to the camp and teach health awareness to their families, convincing them of the importance of vaccinations, for example."

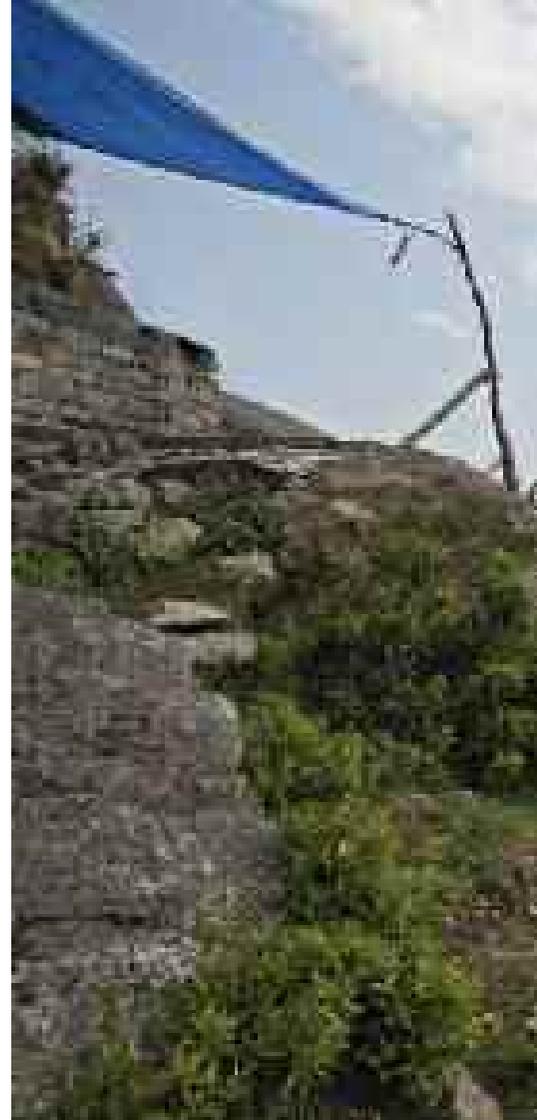
Tong-Len works specifically and exclusively with displaced Indian communities in the Kangra Valley, an area of India near the Pakistan border. "We have identified almost 50 such communities living in abject poverty with little or no access to what we would consider basic human rights, including clean water, essential medicines and education for the children", explains Anna Owen, Director of Tong-Len UK. The charity is funded by donations.

Hope for millions

There are many reasons that communities and individuals are forced to migrate, including conflict, discrimination, demands for self-determination, localised violence, natural and man-made disasters, including famines and floods, and ill-conceived development projects, such as highways and dams. The scale of this problem in India is off the radar. The country has no national policy or legal institutional framework to deal with IDPs. Neither does it permit the UNHCR (the United Nations Refugee Agency) access to most refugee and forced migrant groups. Consequently, estimates of the number of IDPs in India are exactly that: estimates – and often wild ones.

The Calcutta Research Group (CRG) states on its website that 'millions of people have been displaced for reasons of development, such as dam building, in North-east India alone'. As long ago as 1994, the Indian government admitted that 10 million people displaced by dams, mines, deforestation and other development projects were 'awaiting rehabilitation'. Action is still pending.

In August 2010, the government said it would re-introduce the Rehabilitation and Resettlement Bill and the Land Acquisition (Amendment) Bill, which both focus on involuntary displacement due to development



There is still a fear the camp will be closed, the people dispersed. 'Nobody wants them'



IMPROVING LIVES: When his family was displaced by drought, Rohit (left) became the main provider. He is now at school



VITAL WORK: Tong-Len provided eight-year-old Sandeep with life-saving brain surgery and transformative plastic surgery (above). The charity works with displaced people in the Kangra Valley (left)

projects. The two Bills had been introduced in 2007 and passed by the Lok Sabha (the lower house of the Indian parliament) in February 2009, but have not been introduced in the Rajya Sabha (the upper house). No law has yet been passed.

That's just part of the story. While the cogs may now begin to turn to support those displaced by national building schemes, Indian communities displaced for other reasons have less cause for optimism. A spokesperson for the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC) says: "The government doesn't recognise that there are people displaced by conflict in India, and as a result there is no national IDP legislation nor policy that would guide the provision of assistance and protection to these people." In August 2010, the IDMC conservatively estimated that India had 650,000 such conflict-induced IDPs.

Coordination

Compounding these issues is India's system of state governance. The IDMC's website explains: "The responsibility for assisting and protecting IDPs has frequently been delegated to state governments and district authorities. The lack of a national policy has allowed representatives of certain states to claim that they are powerless to make decisions to protect and assist displaced people." It adds: "Where state-

and district-level authorities do provide assistance, it remains ad-hoc and varied."

Owen sees this at grass-roots level: "Initially, when Tong-Len started its work with the displaced communities in the Kangra Valley, the residents lived in constant fear of being moved on, and we were not allowed to erect any permanent structure within the camps – hence our tent schools and mobile health clinic. In the last two years, we have been allowed to introduce clean piped drinking water, some basic sanitation, and even a couple of solar-heated showers.

"There is still a fear the camp will be closed and the people dispersed to make way for government building projects. Already a large area of this camp has been reclaimed for a three-storey market and office block." Whoriskey puts it more simply: "Nobody wants them".

India is not alone. IDPs present a problem for a number of countries. According to the CRG, which has been researching IDPs in South Asia since 2002, "There are no legal or constitutional mechanisms in any country in South Asia for the IDPs... Yet the reality is that

IDPs are more vulnerable than refugees, particularly because they have to remain within a system that is responsible for their displacement, and there is no definite international protection mechanism for them."

Localised support

Currently, help for India's IDPs comes principally from NGOs and charities that focus on specific geographical areas and social groups. The CRG, for example, has a programme for the rehabilitation and care of displaced people in North-east India. Meanwhile, Swami Vivekananda Youth Movement (SVYM) works in the state of Karnataka, supporting tribal communities that were displaced in the 1960s.

Rohit's story illustrates how quickly lives can be turned around. He moved into the Tong-Len hostel nearly three years ago. His mother now helps with the charity's hygiene programme in the slum camp. She received some basic first aid and midwifery training, and is able to assist other families, under the direction of Tong-Len's health team. Rohit is now nine and doing "brilliantly" at school, says Whoriskey. "The kids, when you help them, are highly motivated. We want to reach as many as possible."

Jessica Moore is a freelance journalist and editor, and former Acting Editor of Overseas.

For information about Tong-Len, visit www.tong-len.org. To sponsor a hostel child or make a donation to the charity, contact anna@tong-len.org.

FOCUS

A Pacific future

How is New Zealand responding to increasing immigration from the South Pacific and what challenges lie ahead, asks **Paul Spoonley**

The mid-20th century set a new course for the various nations of the South Pacific. Most gained their independence, becoming independent states in their own right. In terms of what might be called the 'Commonwealth Pacific', the last 50 years have seen some significant changes in the fortunes and locations of the people involved. The late Tongan sociologist, Epeli Hau'ofa, referred to the Pacific as a 'sea of islands' with connections that reflected 'ancient routes drawn in bloodlines'. One of the most significant shifts has occurred between these Pacific states and New Zealand.

The first major migration involved Polynesians from Samoa, Tonga, the Cook Islands, Niue and Tokelau, who came to work in an expanding manufacturing sector in the 1960s. By the end of the century, New Zealand – and Auckland specifically – contained the largest concentration of Polynesians anywhere in the Pacific. Today, about 300,000 New Zealand residents identify themselves as members of Pacific ethnic groups. In the case of the Cook Islands, Niue and Tokelau (all of whom are New Zealand citizens), 70-90% now live in New Zealand. By 2020, more Samoans will live in New Zealand than in Samoa (170,000).

These new connections with the Pacific caused initial consternation among some New Zealanders, but this has changed as more of New Zealand's identity and culture begins to reflect these Pacific influences. Pacific peoples are now well represented in national sports teams, with many having Pacific captains. There are television shows, films and books that bring a Pacific voice to public life, and the annual celebration of Pacific identity in Auckland, Pasifika, now draws upwards of a quarter of a million people.

In the last 25 years, 110,000 Pacific immigrants have come to New Zealand; about 70% from the Polynesian Pacific, but a growing number from Melanesia. The Fiji coups, beginning in 1987, have encouraged 2,000 Indo-Fijians and Fijians to move to New Zealand every year. New 'bloodlines' of migration are being established. Australia has not experienced such extensive migration.

Recent changes

But the context of Pacific migration and settlement has changed. In 1986/7, New Zealand abandoned its preferred source country system of immigration, which had favoured Britain and Ireland, and adopted a points-based system. Immigrants from Britain and the Pacific were now equalled by those arriving from Asia. Between 2003 and 2009, New Zealand approved 68,800 British people for permanent residence, 35,500 Chinese and 16,500 Fijians – the largest Pacific group.

New Zealand operates a relaxed system compared to most. Gaining permanent residence provides all of the benefits of full citizenship, and immigrants are eligible for the same support as other New Zealanders. The major difficulty comes from gatekeepers, such as employers, who still do not see immigrants from Asia and the Pacific as an important labour source. This has to change, as a larger proportion of the workforce (nearly half in Auckland) are immigrants or their children.

By 2010, New Zealand's overseas-born population was one of the highest in the OECD (Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development) – equivalent to Australia's and ahead of Canada's. The country had the highest proportion of international and overseas students in its tertiary institutions (28%). Auckland, home to the largest

CELEBRATING DIVERSITY: Former New Zealand Prime Minister Helen Clark with traditional dance group Tau Fuata Niue at the annual Pasifika Festival in Auckland



Polynesian population in the world, is now an extremely diverse city, with almost 4% of its population born in another country. The British connections are still very obvious, but the city is as much a city of the Pacific and Asia.

The first half of this century presents some new challenges for the Pacific: the impacts of climate change, natural disasters and population growth, as well as the need to provide for the economic wellbeing of island nations and their communities. The United Nations calculates that Pacific populations will grow from their current level of 7.6 million to about 16 million in the next 40 years. In 2000, Polynesia was home to almost 600,000 people; by 2050, this is expected to reach 900,000. Melanesia currently has 6.5 million inhabitants; this is set to increase to 14 million.

These are very significant increases for Pacific nations, which are limited in terms of land and, often, economic viability. To this must be added the effect of climate change, especially on countries such as Kiribati, and natural

By 2020, more Samoans will live in New Zealand than in Samoa

disasters on small islands, for example the devastating earthquake that hit Samoa, American Samoa and northern Tonga in 2009.

So how is the region responding to these challenges? One response is to allow migration to continue, or to increase. The numbers from Kiribati and Tuvalu living in New Zealand are growing. The question that New Zealand – and Australia – have yet to discuss is whether there should be more relocation to help mitigate the environmental impacts on particular states.

Both countries have sought to provide temporary employment. The Recognised

Seasonal Employer scheme has been going for several years, and allows workers from Kiribati, Samoa, Tonga and Vanuatu to harvest and pack in horticultural and viticultural industries. New Zealand has adopted the scheme with some enthusiasm, with 130 employers. By 2010, 19,000 temporary workers had been involved. Australia has just seven employers. When it works well, it provides seasonal employment in New Zealand and Australia for Pacific workers, and helps to solve labour shortages in the 'host' countries. New Zealand continues to permit Pacific immigrants to settle permanently. An annual Samoan quota of 1,100 operates, while a Pacific Access Quota is in place for migrants from Tonga, Tuvalu and Kiribati.

Crucial response

The difficulty is that migration from the Pacific tends to sit slightly to one side of New Zealand's current immigration priorities. New Zealand, like Canada and Australia, is focused on recruiting high-skilled immigrants to meet local labour shortages. In all three countries, 60% of immigrants fall into this category, 30% are family members and 10% are humanitarian immigrants. However, there are major issues in recruiting skilled people from nations that are significantly affected by such departures.

Pressures are growing for more employment and migration opportunities to help relieve Pacific states. The youth bulge (20% of the Pacific population is aged 15-24) has placed new demands on educational facilities, as well as on labour markets, especially in Melanesia. Migration is one way to ease this pressure. The question is how New Zealand and Australia – which have a larger resource base and more space – will respond. The twin challenges of major demographic growth and economic/environmental vulnerability are going to require some innovative regional responses. Quite what this will look like is still unclear.

New Zealand already has extensive connections with the Polynesian Pacific and large, well-established resident communities. Connections with Melanesia, as well as immigration, have been growing, but are still limited. Australia has been a somewhat reluctant player, not helped by the 'Pacific solution' of paying Pacific states to take unwelcome arrivals such as 'boat people'. It is going to be interesting to see what emerges in the next few decades.

Professor Paul Spoonley is Regional Director (Auckland) of the College of Humanities and Social Sciences, Massey University. His research interests include immigration and settlement policies.



Kingdom of culture

Frequently mistaken for a South African state, Swaziland is striving to set itself apart and now receives one tourist per inhabitant every year. **Chris Pritchard** visits the tiny nation to find out why

It isn't easy being Swaziland. Some people haven't heard of the country. Many who have believe it is part of South Africa. "It's terribly frustrating," says Cynthia Simelane, Marketing Officer at the Swaziland Tourism Authority in Mbabane, the capital. "We explain we're a totally different place. People are initially puzzled – but when they think about it they understand."

Michael Mabaso, a Swazi whose company, Etinyatsi Tours and Safaris, takes tourists across the country, encounters a similar lack of knowledge: "Visitors sometimes ask why they had to show passports. When I tell them we're a separate country they're stunned."

Swaziland, formerly ruled by Britain, has been independent since 1968. One of Africa's 53 countries, it is among the smallest. Wedged between South Africa and Mozambique, it is a mere 40-minute flight – or half-day road trip – from Johannesburg. Increasingly, it is added to South African holidays. The landlocked country measures just 200km from northern to southern extremities, and a mere 130km from east to west. Now, however, it aims to raise its profile and boost tourism – an important industry in neighbouring South Africa.

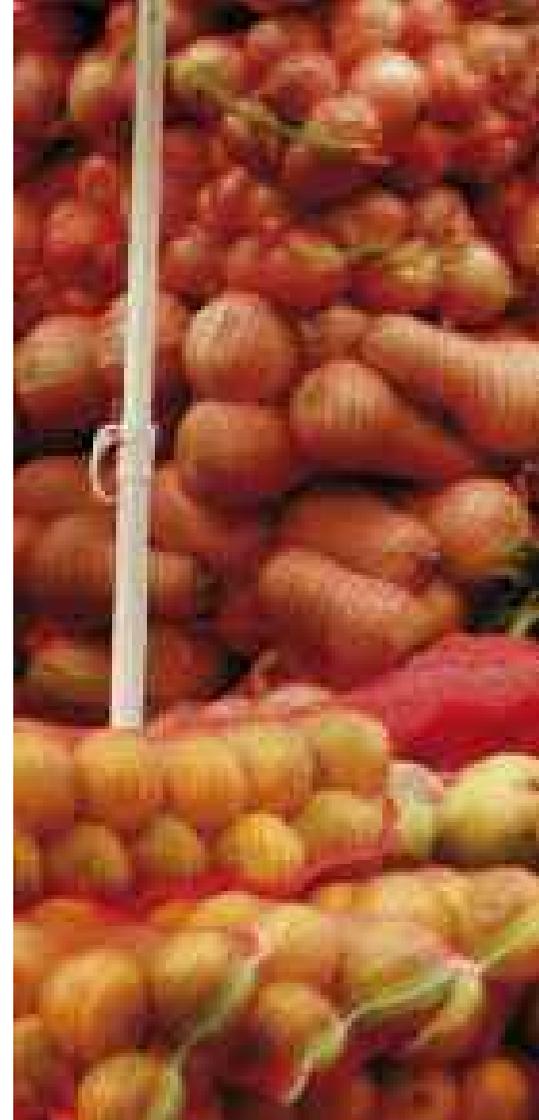
Tourist numbers are rapidly rising. Swaziland showcases itself more and more at important international travel shows. This ancient African kingdom had 1.3 million foreign visitors in

2009, the latest year for which official statistics are available – up 13.3% on the previous year.

Swaziland markets itself as an all-year destination, but a major draw is the Reed Dance (or Umhlanga), the country's biggest festival. Held annually in August or September, it is one of southern Africa's most unforgettable sights. Crowds of up to 20,000 include a couple of thousand dancers, Swazis hailing from all over the country, foreign residents and tourists – and King Mswati III and other members of the royal family.

Often described as Africa's last absolute monarch, the King is an urbane and well-travelled 42-year-old, who received part of his schooling in Britain. In a country where polygamy is common, he has 13 wives – some of them selected from Umhlanga participants. So the buzz at every Reed Dance is about whether the king will take another wife. Parents encourage their prettiest daughters to dance topless. "Don't blame the parents," a Swazi companion whispers. "Families see it as a way to become part of the royal family."

A minority of parliamentarians is elected, but nothing important happens without the approval of the king and his closest relatives. I talk to dozens of Swazis during my week-long visit, and it is clear that the king and royal family are widely revered, although a vocal opposition does exist. In SiSwati, the local



Four rhinos clamber from the muddy water. The place is crawling with them





TOP ATTRACTIONS: A market-seller in Manzini, Swaziland's largest city (left); rhinos at Mkhaya (below); and a traditional drummer (bottom left)

diverse birdlife. Safari experiences include tracking rhino on foot.

"But perhaps the biggest draw is the culture," he suggests. "As Africa's only absolute monarchy, Swaziland embraces and upholds unique and ancient traditions, which are carefully guarded, faithfully celebrated and very much part of daily life. This rich mix is backed by well-developed infrastructure and wonderful friendliness. Excellent roads, great lodges, hiking trails and warm hosts make visits to Swaziland safe, easy, pleasurable and an all-in-one African experience."

Three main game reserves – Hlane, Mkhaya and Mlilwane – offer accommodation, but in such a small country, guests staying at other Swazi resorts can reach the reserves in little more than an hour. My game-viewing guide points to a pond just ahead of our vehicle. Four gigantic white rhinos clamber slowly from the muddy water. Not quite 30 minutes later, I see three more rhinos basking in the midday sun alongside another pond. Twenty minutes pass and another two run across open grassland; then two more amble across the trail ahead.

I've seen plenty of animals in other parts of Africa. Most of them are here, too. But I've been unlucky on the rhino front – eyeballing only a few. Mkhaya makes up for that. The place is crawling with rhinos.

We drive along a steep, winding road. Low cloud envelops our vehicle. Our destination: the Foresters Arms, one of Southern Africa's great country hotels. From the front it seems disappointingly small, resembling a cottage in rural England. Appearances prove misleading. Inside, a hushed olde-worlde gentlemen's club ambience dominates public areas. It is very English – even if most tourists, during my stay, are German. A wing of 30 comfortable rooms is at the back, at the edge of the 90 hectare property's neatly-trimmed lawn, which slopes down to a swimming pool.

The thick cloud of the following morning is even lower. I stride through it on my way to breakfast. A waitress suggests kippers. This seems a weird choice in deepest Africa – but, in this setting, altogether appropriate.

ROSL member Chris Pritchard is a Sydney-based journalist who writes for publications in several countries and travels frequently in Africa and Asia.

language (though English is commonly spoken), the king is the 'lion of Swaziland' and his mother 'the great she-elephant'.

Only 1.3 million people live in Swaziland (which has fewer Swazis than South Africa), mostly in the industrial city of Manzini, as well as in Mbabane. Almost all residents are Swazis, who often wear traditional dress, with minuscule numbers of whites, non-Swazi blacks and Asians. Although few Swazis now live in traditional 'beehive' thatched huts, an old-style village survives to give tourists a taste of how things were.

Swaziland has a colourful recent past. During South Africa's apartheid era, it teemed with undercover agents of both the South African regime and its African National Congress rival. Some on each side met violent deaths. But life these days is much more tranquil. Indeed, one of the country's much-touted attributes to entice tourists is its exceptionally low crime rate – which is often contrasted with that of South Africa.

There is no denying that Swaziland – a poor country – is a nation that works. Mines (small-scale coal and diamond production), textiles, sugar and forestry power the economy, but officials are tapping increasingly into tourism.

Near Mbabane I stop at Ngwenya Glass, described (in a jocular reference to its furnaces) as the 'hottest spot in Swaziland'. It is among

the most successful industrial enterprises, recycling scrap glass to make tableware, sculptures of African animals and other items. It bridges the divide between industry and tourism: glass-blowing demonstrations and a shop crammed with the factory's output entice many tourists.

According to Kelly White, British representative of the Swaziland Tourism Authority: "Swaziland is no longer dominated by its larger neighbours. It's fighting to be a stand-alone destination. Although compact, it has a remarkable variety of attractions. Exquisite landscapes include mountains and valleys, forests and plains.

"Game parks are home to the Big Five (lions, elephants, rhinos, buffaloes and leopards), as well as hippos, giraffes, zebras, wildebeest, many types of antelope and



MICHAEL MCKAY'S GENEVA



Which attractions would you recommend to visitors?

Geneva has two features of which I never tire: life around and on Lac Léman, including the elegant paddle steamers, the lakeside restaurants and cafés, walks and wonderful views; and La Vieille Ville (the Old Town), full of character and history, from John Calvin to John Knox and Henri Dunant to George Eliot.

Do you have a favourite café?

The terrace (in summer) of Café Papon in the Old Town.

What can you buy in Geneva that you can't elsewhere?

Geneva must be world famous for its watches and clocks of all sizes and prices, and for all tastes. Head for Bucherer, or Patek Philippe if your budget is generous, or the fine city centre department stores of Globus and Bon Genie for a broad range of prices.

How easy is it to get around the city? And is it true that anyone staying in a hotel/hostel is entitled to a free travel pass?

It is very easy and the TPG (the local bus company) is striving to make it even easier: buses, trolley buses and trams are in abundance. And yes, your hotel will provide you with a free pass. Beware, the TPG ticket machines do not (yet) give change. So if you

do not get a free pass from your hotel, carry lots of small change with you.

Where in the city do you most enjoy walking?

My favourite walks are: Parc des Bastions, where you will find the impressive Reformation Wall with statues of, among others, Guillaume Farel, John Calvin and John Knox – a Scottish preacher, friend of Calvin and founder of Presbyterianism in Scotland; the Old Town, including the Cathedral of St Pierre; the United Nations; and Parc Barton, beautifully laid out beside the lake.

Where can you find the best view in Geneva?

There are at least three great views: from the top of the tower of the Cathedral of St Pierre; from the south-facing balconies and gardens of the United Nations, affording great views of Mt Blanc and the Alps; and from the hillside in Cologny, arguably Geneva's most exclusive commune, with fabulous views of the city, the lake and the Jura Mountains.

ROSL member Michael McKay is Founder and Principal of McKay's International Corporate Communications and Public Affairs Management, and the Honorary Chairman of the British-Swiss Chamber of Commerce in Geneva.

Interview by Samantha Whitaker.



CITY VIEW: Looking out to the Cathedral of St Pierre and the surrounding mountains

Ashes to Ashes

The final leg of Oli Broom's epic journey



CHALLENGE: Alone on the open road

The Australian leg provided me with my toughest challenge. For almost 4,000km, from Darwin to Brisbane, I faced vicious and incessant headwinds, and extreme variations in weather conditions. One day the sun would beat down, making cycling almost impossible; the next I'd be wrapped up in every item of clothing I had, shielding myself from wind and rain. The distances between settlements were vast, especially in the Northern Territory and Western Queensland. From Mataranka to Camooweal, I pedalled 1,600km (the equivalent of Land's End to John o'Groats) without passing a town or village. I found water in billabongs, and stocked up on food at the occasional pub or service station.

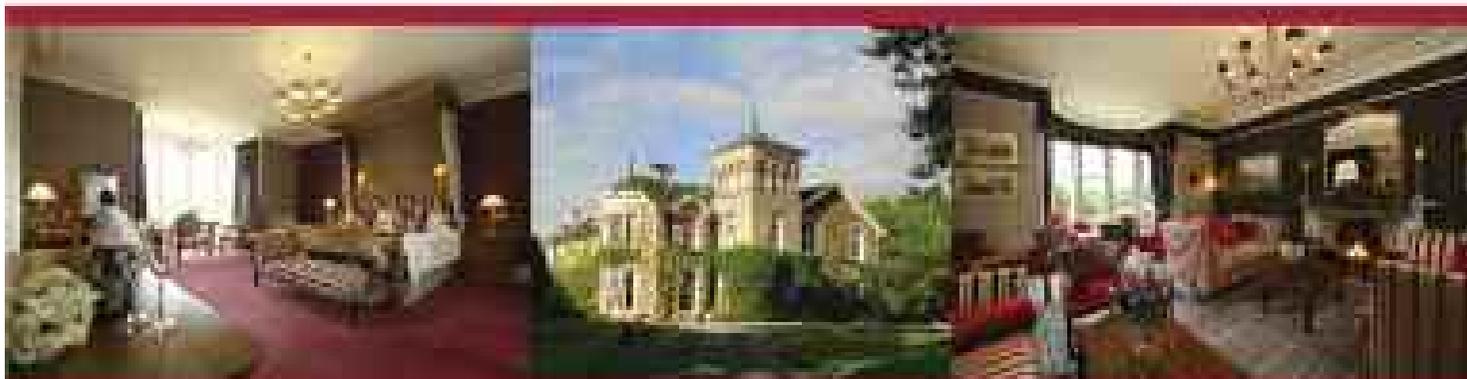
Then, just after 1pm on 24 November, I pedalled my last few strokes up to Gate 2 of the Brisbane Cricket Ground. I had achieved the goal that had seemed so far off when I left Lord's 14 months earlier. At last I could sit back and watch England beat Australia in The Ashes.

But was it all worth it? Definitely. One can't fail to be changed after visiting so many countries on a bicycle. I am often asked what was the worst thing that happened to me, and I am always stumped. Of course, there was the odd occasion when I felt threatened or uneasy, but the overwhelming impression was of a world full of decent people – people who see a stranger and welcome him with open arms, feed him, and send him on his way. That is the story I most enjoy telling: the world is a friendly, beautiful place. Get on your bike and find out for yourself.

Cycling to the Ashes in association with Betfair. For details visit cyclingtotheashes.com or email cyclingtotheashes@gmail.com.



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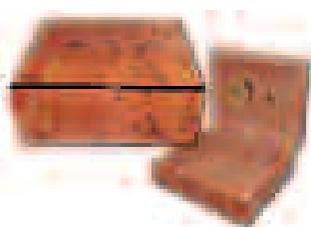
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News and views

The latest from the London clubhouse



▲ Wine tasting

In October, Master of Wine Martin Everett conducted a tutored wine-tasting for ROSL members of some of the excellent clarets in the ROSL cellar. All of the wines are available in the Restaurant, and are competitively priced

▼ Providing refuge

When Azusa Torii's connecting flight from Heathrow to Frankfurt was cancelled due to heavy snow, she queued for more than three hours to be allocated accommodation by her airline, before being told that passengers would now have to make their own arrangements. ROSL member Andrew Domanski, who was behind her in the queue, recommended Over-Seas House, London, assuring her that she would receive a warm and friendly welcome there, and be given refuge from the chaos at Heathrow.

Fortunately there were rooms to spare, and she stayed at Over-Seas House for several days until she could get another flight to Germany, where she was due to spend Christmas with her partner, before spending six months learning German there. The PR Department also organised a ticket for her to see Matthew Bourne's *Cinderella* at Sadler's Wells. We thank Mr Domanski for sending Azusa to ROSL and giving us the opportunity to help a young person in distress



◀ Central Council lunch

Sally Capp, Agent-General for Victoria, was the guest of honour and speaker at the Central Council lunch in November. She is pictured with her husband, Andrew Sutherland (right), and ROSL Chairman, Sir Anthony Figgis



◀ House of Lords tour

Lady Luce, wife of ROSL President The Rt Hon the Lord Luce, gave a tour of the House of Lords to ROSL member Sheila Jarvis and members of her church group





▲ **Man of many faces**

ROSL porter Leni Marini was ROSL's own Father Christmas at the festive tea that followed the Festival of Christmas carols and readings at St James's, Piccadilly, in December. He will be running the 2011 Virgin London Marathon on 17 April for Action Medical Research, a UK-wide medical research charity dedicated to helping babies and children suffering from disease and disability. If you would like to sponsor Leni, please contact the reception at Over-Seas House



Prince sends ROSL members 'warmest thanks'

A reply to Sir Anthony Figgis's letter of congratulations, on behalf of the ROSL, to Prince William and Kate Middleton

Clarence House
 Sir Anthony Figgis KCVO CMG,
 Chairman, The Royal Over-Seas League
 23 December 2010

Dear Sir Anthony,

Prince William and Miss Catherine Middleton have asked me to thank you for your very kind letter.

His Royal Highness and Miss Middleton have been overwhelmed by the incredibly kind response following the announcement of their engagement, and were immensely touched that you should take the trouble to write as you did. Your words were greatly appreciated and Prince William and Miss Middleton have asked me to send their warmest thanks and best wishes to all members of the Royal Over-Seas League.

Yours sincerely,

Jonathan Hellewell, Assistant Private Secretary
 to TRH The Prince of Wales and The Duchess of Cornwall

DO YOU HAVE A RECORD OF YOUR POSSESSIONS?



If some valuable things were stolen or lost, could you give an exact description? Could you prove ownership and worth?



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New Year Honour for Director-General

Everyone will want to join me in congratulating Robert Newell on becoming a Commander of the Royal Victorian Order (CVO) in the New Year Honours. The Royal Victorian Order recognises personal service to the Sovereign. Bob's award is mainly a tribute to his extraordinary personal contribution to the life and success of ROSL over many years. But it also shows how much Her Majesty values our work. I can't imagine a more heart-warming end to our centenary year.

Sir Anthony Figgis, ROSL Chairman

Winter of intrigue

Younger members round off the year with murder, mystery... and a lot of food, says **Alexandra Pavry**



DRAMATIC REVELATIONS: Murder mystery at the Army and Navy Club (above) and Younger Members don elaborate Venetian masks for the Inter-Club Christmas ball

© CHRIS BARSKY

OCTOBER Murder mystery and Inter-Club moveable feast

Murder most foul was committed at the Army and Navy Club when Lord Havalot was poisoned in the library while enjoying a glass of champagne. During the course of the evening, a cast of actors brought the murder investigation to life, aided and abetted by Inter-Club Group members Leon Renwick, Hannah Marshall, Justin Chilton and Anna Kleanthous, who played their roles with great aplomb. Clues were discovered, witnesses questioned and motives examined over champagne in the library, a three-course dinner in the Marlborough Room, and a round of port for the great reveal.

Later that month, the Lansdowne Club once again played host to the celebrated 'moveable Inter-Club feast'. After a white wine reception, guests found their seats in the beautiful 1930s Art Deco ballroom, and dinner began. In the true spirit of Hallowe'en, a starter of pumpkin and cinnamon soup was served, followed by a delicious roast chump of lamb and Devils' food cake.

After each course the gentlemen moved round the table, providing the ideal opportunity to get to know as many Inter-Clubbers and guests as possible. The evening carried on long into the night in the historic Oval Bar.

NOVEMBER Thanksgiving dinner

The penultimate event of the 2010 Inter-Club calendar proved to be a great success, with a splendid thanksgiving dinner hosted by the Reform Club. After a champagne reception, more than 70 Inter-Club members and guests were seated in the historic library, containing more than 50,000 books.

Club Chairman Anthony Cardew spoke eloquently about the history and traditions of the Reform Club. From its genesis, it has enjoyed an excellent reputation for food and wine, which has continued to this day. The club white – Vin de Pays des Côtes de Gascogne, Maison Sichel et Fils 08/09 – went beautifully with the clam chowder, which was followed by salt beef and pumpkin hash. The traditional roast turkey, with trimmings, was wonderfully complimented by the club claret, Château Mont-Redon 2005. And when the pecan pie with vanilla ice cream arrived, an American guest commented that it reminded her of being back at home.

DECEMBER Christmas ball

Almost 200 guests were greeted by the glamorous actors Lord and Lady Goodwin in the Committee Room of the the Royal Automobile Club. Wearing stunning Venetian

masks, guests enjoyed a champagne reception to open the 2010 Inter-Club Christmas ball, before moving to the historic Mountbatten Room. After a delicious three-course dinner, the dancefloor was soon packed, with guests dancing the night away to the tunes of the amazing live band. Philippa Minty was awarded £100 worth of vouchers for the best Venetian mask. Numerous revellers then laid siege to the Art Deco Long Bar, where the festivities continued into the early hours.

Forthcoming events

Chinese New Year Dinner at the Oxford & Cambridge Club

Saturday 12 March

Full Military Dinner at the In and Out club

Thursday 31 March

For more information on events, visit www.inter-club.co.uk. To join ROSL's young members' network, email apavry@rosl.org.uk or conradpurcell@hotmail.com.

Portrait of an artist

Reflections from the Thai Young Artist 2010.

By **Simon Leslie**

The Royal Over-Seas League Young Artist of Thailand competition, now in its fourth year, has been a magnet for hundreds of aspiring young artists throughout Thailand. The first prize of 100,000 baht (£2,000), a return trip for two to the UK, and free accommodation at Over-Seas House, London has proven a compelling draw for some of Thailand's finest talent. A special exhibition featuring the work of the finalists is also held at Over-Seas House, providing finalists with international exposure.

The competition is open to anyone aged 14-20 who has been living in Thailand for at least one year. Contestants can submit one piece of two-dimensional hanging art. The work must be original and must not have received an award in any other national art competition.

There were 157 participants in 2010, an increase of more than 60% on the previous year, with two universities and 37 schools represented. The panel of judges – Steven Pettefor, Louise Truslow, Kata Sangkhae, Mike Croft and Brian Curtin – selected 27 talented artists for the semi-finals. They then faced the difficult task of selecting 10 finalists.

The winner is Sottithat Winyarat, a 17-year-old Thai/Australian student of the American Pacific International School in Chiang Mai. His artwork, 'Reflection', won the admiration of the judges for its composition and conceptualisation.

Sottithat commented on his inspiration: "I chose to render a portrait of myself leaning against a reflective wall, using acrylic paints on a brown sheet of paper. I started contemplating on myself and eventually reached a conclusion: dreams are the driving force of self.



MIRROR IMAGE: Sottithat Winyarat with his winning artwork 'Reflections', which will be exhibited at Over-Seas House, London in April (see page 29)

The competition has been a magnet for hundreds of aspiring young artists

"I knew that I longed to go to Harvard at the time. I also knew that I wanted to become successful and rich. On this piece of art, the book I'm holding thus represents my academic dream and pursuit, meanwhile the money in my mouth represents the hunger for wealth and success.

"However, I simultaneously realised that these dreams were high and the road was tough. The tension against gravity, both on my hand and my neck, shows perseverance and my ambition to reach those goals. Surprisingly, upon finishing this piece of art, as if talking to

someone else, I asked myself if I really wanted to pursue these dreams yet sacrifice other happiness in life. I was shocked. Before I tried to find the answer for that, I immediately went back to the piece and put another portrait of myself with a shocked face onto the mirror.

"One year has passed and I have found the answer. And it was because of art. This piece of art was a mirror that reflected another person within me. It all started from an exploration but ended up with a realisation."

The ROSL Young Artist of Thailand competition has now grown in both stature and reputation. Importantly, it provides young artists with an opportunity to develop in their chosen field, and to receive well-deserved recognition for their creative ability. We wish the best to all participants.

Competition organiser Simon Leslie is a member of the ROSL Thailand Branch Council and Headmaster of the New International School of Thailand (NIST) in Bangkok.

ROSL WORLD

The latest from the global branches

Australia

In November, New South Wales Branch members attended a Remembrance Day Service followed by lunch, with guest speaker Col (Rtd) Don Gillies. Branch members were again invited to join the Australia-Britain Society at a Christmas reception, hosted by the British Consul-General, Richard Morris. In Victoria, the British Consul-General, Stuart Gill, and his wife Maggie, hosted a Christmas reception for the Victoria Branch and the Australia-Britain Society. Branch members represented ROSL at the Australian Day Council's annual dinner in January. Abraham Singer (bass baritone) from Sydney won the 2010 ROSL Bursary in the Opera Awards.

In Western Australia, a centenary cocktail party was held in October, with a toast by Phillip Orchard, Head of Post at the British Consulate in WA. The Christmas lunch was well attended. The branch was sad to lose three valuable members: Sidney Dobb, Branch Treasurer for many years; Frank Robinson, husband of Branch Secretary Sue Robinson, and Walter Hedges.

New South Wales: Lily Murray, murraylily@hotmail.com

Queensland: Sharon Morgan, sllmorgan@hotmail.com

South Australia: Michael Kent, rosl.sa@mac.com

Tasmania: Robert Dick, gradick1@gmail.com

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

Western Australia: Jeff Turner, +61 (0)8 9381 2600

Canada

In October, the Alberta Branch met at the Royal Glenora Club in Edmonton for brunch, a presentation on the International Branch Conference, and a screening of the Centenary DVD. The annual Christmas brunch was also held at the Royal Glenora Club.

Alberta: Cynthia Cordery, +1 780 477 0001, ccordery@shaw.ca

British Columbia: Pamela Ducommun, +1 604 925 3719

Nova Scotia: Liz Stern, lizstern317@gmail.com

Ontario: Ishrani Jaikaran, +1 416 760 0309, ishrani@sympatico.ca

Hong Kong

In November, ROSL was represented at the Remembrance Sunday ceremony in Hong Kong by branch President Paul Surtees. The branch organised a concert by the Hong Kong Chinese Orchestra for members of the blind community, and held a cocktail reception with guests of honour TRH Prince Joachim and Princess Marie of Denmark, which raised HK\$250,000 for the charity F.O.C.U.S. They also sponsored a group of children with Down's syndrome, enabling them to take part in a swimming championship in Taiwan.

The branch sends out invitations by email only. To be added to the mailing list, email Robert Lam at membership@rosl.org.hk.

Hong Kong: Paul Surtees, president@rosl.org.hk, www.rosl.org.hk

New Zealand

The newly-appointed British High Commissioner, Vicki Treadell, gave Manawatu Branch members a humorous and inspirational account of her diplomatic career. ROSL Membership Secretary/Asst. to DG, Fatima Vanicek, was welcomed by members in Auckland and Christchurch, and spent a few days in Queenstown.

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

Switzerland

Switzerland: Jo Brown, +334 5040 6631

Thailand

The Friends of ROSL Arts Thailand scheme has had an encouraging start. Each member has contributed 5,000 baht (£100) to support the two annual arts competitions. The Young Artist of Thailand 2010 awards ceremony was held in Sukhothai Hotel in November (see page 21).



Artworks by the finalists will be exhibited at Over-Seas House, London in April.

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

UK

In October, ROSL ARTS sponsored a centenary concert by the talented Finzi Quartet for the Bath Branch, hosted by ROSL Director-General, Robert Newell, with guest of honour the Lord Lieutenant of Somerset, Lady Gass. The branch showed the Centenary DVD at its autumn lunch.

In Cheltenham, the monthly meetings with afternoon tea continued with David O'Connor's talk on 'Charlton Kings to Everest' and Arthur Ball's illustrated talk 'Birds, Tigers and the Taj'. The year ended with an excellent Christmas lunch at Gupshill Manor, Tewkesbury.

In Edinburgh, many events were cancelled due to the December weather. BBC Radio Scotland ran its Hogmanay news show from



TOP PERFORMANCE: The Finzi Quartet performs for the Bath Branch

Obituaries

Sir David Aubrey Scott GCMG

I am sad to report the death of Sir David Aubrey Scott, on 27 December 2010, aged 91. Sir David joined ROSL in 1958. In 1979 he was elected to Central Council and the Executive Committee, and became ROSL Vice-Chairman. He was Chairman from 1981 to 1986, when he was appointed a Vice-President. He was then President from 1998 to 2002.

Born in 1919, Sir David was educated at Charterhouse and Birmingham University, where he read mining engineering. In 1948, he joined the Commonwealth Relations Office, and in 1951 he received his first posting to Africa, where he was to spend most of his distinguished diplomatic career. In the 1960s, he was Deputy High Commissioner in Salisbury and Delhi. He was then High Commissioner to Uganda and later to New Zealand. His last posting was as Ambassador to South Africa.

I was fortunate to have worked with Sir David. He was a kind man, with great charisma and a wonderful sense of humour, who treated everyone with the utmost respect. He gave great service to ROSL and took a particular interest in its music competition, through which he and his wife Vera formed a close friendship with Evelyn Lady Barbirolli. He was predeceased by his beloved wife by just two months.

Thomas Lansley OBE

Thomas Lansley, known to many members simply as Tom, died in November, aged 89. He joined ROSL in 1972 and served on many of its committees, most notably the discussion and London groups. Tom was a distinguished pathologist, who helped to establish the place of 'non-medical' science within the NHS. He started his career alone in a small hospital laboratory and ended it as one of 50,000 such specialists, now known as 'healthcare scientists'.

Most of his career was spent at the East Ham Memorial Hospital, where he ran the pathology laboratory. He joined the Institute of Biomedical Science in 1939 and, in 1967, was elected president. Shortly before his death, he was honoured with the institute medal. He was a delightful man, with a warm character that endeared him to us all. He will be greatly missed. He is survived by his wife and their three sons.

Robert Newell



CEREMONY: Hong Kong Branch President Paul Surtees laid a wreath at the Cenotaph in November (above). At the Taunton Branch centenary lunch are (l-r) Deputy Lieutenant of Somerset Brigadier Christopher Wolverson, ROSL Chairman Sir Anthony Figgis, Mayor and Mayoress of Taunton Deane Jefferson and Freny Horsley, and Taunton Branch Chairman Cllr Nigel Stuart-Thorn (right)



the clubhouse, and a BBC camera was on the roof for the midnight celebrations. In January, author Howard Purdie and piper Matt Seattle gave a Borders flavour to the Burns Supper.

Exeter Branch winter meetings are at St Olave's Hotel and include lunch; talks this year covered evacuations during the war, tradition in Tibet, and life in Nelson's navy. A representative of Freewheelers EVS gave a talk to the Taunton Branch, who had chosen the out-of-hours emergency courier service for the NHS as their charity of the year. More than 80 members and guests attended the centenary lunch at Somerset County Cricket Club, at which ROSL Chairman, Sir Anthony Figgis, gave a thought-provoking talk on the future of ROSL and the Commonwealth. Robert Newell and Fatima Vanicek were guests of honour at the Christmas lunch and Centenary DVD screening. In January, the branch held a talk on the 40th-anniversary celebrations of Lusaka Cathedral, with which Taunton's St Mary Magdalene is twinned.

The monthly West Cornwall Branch Cornish cream tea meetings included talks on Uganda, the Galapagos and Alaska. In November, the West Sussex Branch held a lunch and Centenary DVD screening. Sadly, the Christmas lunch was cancelled due to heavy snow.

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

Bournemouth: Gordon Irving, 01258 480887, westoverirving@aol.com

Cheltenham: Kathleen Northage, 01242 515540

Edinburgh: Bill Chalmers, 0131 5572754

Glasgow: Bill Agnew, 0141 8844290

West Cornwall: Ian Wood, 01736 333460

West Sussex: Marilyn Archbold, 01444 458853

Correction

In the previous issue of *Overseas* it was reported that 30 members attended the centenary reception hosted by the Victoria Branch. In fact, more than 100 members attended. We apologise for this error.

Books

Reviews of recent works by ROSL members



**St James's Palace:
A History**
Kenneth Scott

Scala Publishers Ltd, 2010
ISBN: 978-1857596595, £25
(£19 from the ROSL Shop)

There could be no better person to write this book than Sir Kenneth Scott. All foreign ambassadors are accredited to 'The Court of St James's', and Sir Kenneth was himself an ambassador. Even more to the point, he worked directly for Her Majesty, as Her Deputy Private Secretary, for a number of years. So he knows the building well, and all that goes with it.

And what a fine book it is: profusely and sensitively illustrated, and full of the quirks of history. St James's Palace is, unfortunately, not open to the public. But this book has, in effect, put that right. A cracking good read, and thoroughly recommended.

Review by Anthony Figgis

Cousins Across the Seas

Glenys Acland and Ken Watson (Editors)
Phoenix Education Australia, 2008, ISBN: 978-1921085734, £25

The British Empire was responsible for spreading the English language across the world. This selection of

30 short stories from around the globe provides a valuable insight into the societies and cultures from which they come, as well as the ways in which the English language is used.

**P G Wodehouse:
The Unknown Years**

Reinhold von Bodenhausen
Stamford Lake Publications, 2009
ISBN: 978-9556581768, £16.99

Von Bodenhausen tells the dramatic story of Wodehouse as a civilian prisoner of war, including unique illustrations of letters, photographs and pages from Wodehouse's own diary.

**Londinium Poeta:
Verses from the Inner City 1980-2000**

Stuart Newton
emp3books, 2009
ISBN: 978-1907140044, £6.99

From the prostitutes to the celebrities; from the drudgery of work to the freedom of the parks, this collection of free-form poems touches the soul of the great city of London.

The Seal King Murders (Inspector Faro)

Alanna Knight
Allison & Busby, 2011
ISBN: 978-0749009656
(hardback), £19.99

The year is 1861 and Inspector

Faro's rest is disrupted when he is called upon to investigate a surprising death. Myths and legends of the Seal King, a dead body under the floor, and a mother who is determined to find him a wife, turn his mission into a dangerous and deadly nightmare.

Quest for a Killer (Rose McQuinn Mystery)

Alanna Knight
Allison & Busby, 2010
ISBN: 978-0749009052
(paperback), £7.99

The much-anticipated festivities of a circus in Edinburgh are overshadowed by a curious set of crimes, including robbery, murder and suicide. Rose McQuinn must discover what vital clue she has overlooked and find the killer, before she becomes the next victim.

ROSL member offer

Order *The Seal King Murders* at the special price of £15 (RRP £19.99) and *Quest for a Killer* for only £5.99 (RRP £7.99) by calling Allison & Busby on 020 7580 1080. Alternatively, buy online at www.allisonandbusby.com and get the discount by entering the promo code SKM5 (for *The Seal King Murders*) or QFK2 (for *Quest for a Killer*). Offer ends 10 May.

Colonial Cousins: A surprising history of connections between India and Australia
Joyce Westrip and Peggy Holroyde

Wakefield Press, 2010
ISBN: 978-1862548411, AU\$39.95, available from www.wakefieldpress.com.au
Colonial Cousins explores the historic relationships and connections between Australia and India, including the affinities of landscape and culture, the relationships in trade and government, and anecdotal links from the time of Gondwana – when the continents were physically joined – to the present.

Your Lowe Profile: Professional Career Coaching

John Lowe
Regent eLearning Limited, 2011
ISBN: 978-1907824005, £14.99
An expert and motivational coaching manual by a leading expert on coaching and recruitment. *Your Lowe Profile* will instruct you on how to discover your personality type, identify your ideal job, make powerful applications, win on interviews, and perform successfully at work.

Reviews by Samantha Whitaker, unless otherwise stated.



MODERN CITY: Glasgow's 'squinty bridge', aka the Clyde Arc Bridge, with the Scottish Exhibition and Conference Centre behind (centre)

© ALAN ROBERTSON, COURTESY OF GLASGOW SCOTLAND WITH STYLE

Discovering Glasgow

Relative newcomer **Thorben Dittes** offers his recommendations for visitors to Scotland's largest city

Getting to know a city can have its share of surprises. I had little real experience of Glasgow before I moved there recently, and I wasn't sure what to expect. What I did know was that Scotland's largest city had not enjoyed the best of reputations for much of the 20th century, but that its self-image had changed significantly since the 'Glasgow's Miles Better' campaign in the 1980s and the subsequent award of European City of Culture in 1990.

It didn't take me long to find Glasgow's dynamic cultural scene. Its thriving contemporary music venues include King Tut's Wah Wah Hut, where new bands emerge every year. And there are excellent museums and galleries, including the Burrell Collection.

It was at one of the city's museums – the large Victorian hulk of Kelvingrove – that I got my first surprise. After a run of five months, the exhibition of work by the Glasgow Boys (a group of influential Scottish painters at the turn of the 19th century) was coming to an end.

When I arrived, shortly after opening time, a long queue stretched halfway round the large museum. In London, I had never experienced such a long queue for an exhibition.

At that exhibition, I bumped into the only three people I knew in Glasgow at the time. Although Greater Glasgow has a population of more than 1.7 million, most of the city's points of interest are in the City Centre and West End, which makes it easy to explore for visitors. You can even travel between the two areas by foot.

The West End has a number of independent and locally-owned restaurants and cafés, plus

*With glitz and grime
in equal measure,
Glasgow often reveals
an unexpected beauty*

Glasgow's superior chain of coffee shops: Tinderbox. Some of these establishments are so of-the-moment that they out-London London in the trendy stakes. My new favourite is The Hillhead Bookclub, complete with neon moose head on the wall.

It is not only the places of interest in Glasgow itself that are easy to get to. The breathtaking surrounding countryside is also surprisingly accessible. Loch Lomond and the start of the Highlands are a mere 30-minute drive away, and hills such as the Campsie Fells are even nearer. These offer spectacular walks that occasionally overlook this exciting city.

Providing glitz and grime in equal measures, Glasgow is not as picturesque as neighbouring Edinburgh, but a stroll along its steep Victorian streets, or through one of its many parks, often reveals an unexpected, quiet beauty.

Thorben Dittes was Administrator for ROSL ARTS until 2006, and is now General Manager of the Scottish Ensemble.



© GRAHAM HEYWOOD/STOCKPHOTO

Mid-week wonder Jewel of Catalonia

Director of ROSL ARTS **Roderick Lakin** extols the attractions of a short break in Girona

Girona, gateway to Spain's popular Costa Brava, is often overlooked, as tourists head straight for the coast or to the Catalan capital, Barcelona, an hour away. They are missing a real gem! Girona's beautifully-preserved, pedestrian-friendly, historical centre, Barri Vell, is an ensemble of medieval streets, squares and vaulted passageways. A leisurely stroll around the restored old city ramparts, dotted with shady 'secret' gardens and welcome resting places, provides ever-changing views of the old-town rooftops and surrounding countryside.

Dominating the skyline is the hilltop Catedral de Santa Maria (pictured), approached by a majestic 90-step staircase. Built between the 11th and 18th centuries, on the site of a Moorish mosque, it has a colossal single nave, which, at 72ft wide and 75ft high, is superseded in width only by St Peter's in Rome. Chief among the priceless objects displayed in its treasury are the 1,000-year-old Tapestry of Creation and the exquisite illuminated book the *Girona Beatus* – a vision of the Apocalypse from 974AD.

The cathedral is surrounded by a clutch of other fine buildings, and museums of art and antiquities, including the 12th-century public baths, els Banyes Àrabs, which have been meticulously restored. The most fascinating quarter of the old town is El Call, the Jewish ghetto, which was once home to 1,000 people. The intricate warren of streets and patios has only one entrance and is windowless on the

outside. The Jews were expelled from Spain in 1492 and the ghetto built over. Excavations in the 1970s revealed forgotten buildings below, including the *yeshiva* (learning centre), with Star of David mosaic. The ghetto now houses a Jewish study centre and Museu d'Historia dels Jueus, tracing the history of Jews in Catalonia.

Girona is one of the most prosperous cities in Spain, as evidenced by designer shops, commercial galleries and fine restaurants. The Michelin-starred El Celler de Can Roca is considered the finest restaurant in town (with prices to match), but there are eateries to suit every pocket, many located around the lively Ramblas of the old town.

Girona makes a splendid tour base for Northern Catalonia. Head to the coast for the chic beach villages of Tamariu, Llafranch and Calella de Palafrugell, with its world-class botanical gardens. Alternatively, explore the extensive Greek and Roman archaeological site at Empuries, or follow the 'Dali trail' from the archaeological Dali Museum in Figueras to his home at Port Lligat. Inland, the volcanic region of Garrotxa is a paradise for walkers, with medieval villages, such as Besalú, close by.

GETTING THERE

Girona is served by Ryanair from Birmingham, Bournemouth, Bristol, East Midlands, Glasgow (Prestwick), Liverpool, Gatwick, Luton, Stansted and Newcastle.

LONDON

What's on...

Tango Fire – Flames of Desire

Peacock Theatre

12-23 April



© LORENZO DI NOZZI

This sizzling show takes audiences on a journey through the history of tango, from its origins in the dance halls of Buenos Aires through to its growing popularity as a contemporary dance form.

Tickets: £15-42. Contact: 0844 412 4322 or www.sadlerswells.com

Greenland

National Theatre

Until 2 April

An exhilarating new piece of documentary theatre, which seeks to understand the great complexities of the environment debate through several separate but connected narratives.

Tickets: £12-30. Contact: 020 7452 3000 or www.nationaltheatre.org.uk

British Art Show 7: In the Days of the Comet

Hayward Gallery, Southbank Centre

Until 17 April

Exhibition of work produced over the last five years by 39 British artists, covering everything from painting to installation – the majority exhibited here for the first time.

Tickets: £5.50-£8. Contact: 0844 875 0073 or www.southbankcentre.co.uk



© MIENA DRUGCEVIC AND GALERIE MARTHA JANDA

Taking a relaxing dip

Samantha Whitaker searches for the most interesting spa experiences in London

In an immaculate salon in Soho called Aqua Sheko, I dipped my quavering toes into a tank of tiny Garra Rufa fish. The dead skin on my feet was their lunch, and they looked hungry. Resisting the overwhelming urge to pull my feet away from the tiny, sucking mouths, I let them scuttle over my feet and in between my toes, focusing instead on Founder and Director Karen Ho. "People say it's like thousands of tiny kisses," she says.

As well as nibbling away up to one-and-a-half layers of dead skin, the fish secrete the enzyme diathanol, which supposedly improves skin regeneration. The sensation is more like tiny electric shocks than kisses – although not altogether unpleasant – and very ticklish; the squeals from customers upsetting the attempted atmosphere of sophisticated calm.

A relaxing massage completed the deluxe treatment. Originally found in southern Turkish river basins, the Garra Rufa fish have been used in Asian spas for several years. Ho left a City job to open her first fish spa in Kensington, and opened the flagship Soho store in December. As well as eight foot spas, there are smaller tanks, with smaller fish, for manicures, and there are plans for a full body tank for sufferers of skin disorders such as eczema.

Director of Savana Spa, Valerie Brennan, also left the City to fill a gap in the spa industry, this time for treatments that use purely natural products. All the treatments are unique, designed by Valerie and Co-Director and Co-Founder Tania Mattock, using only ingredients that fit with their natural and holistic approach.



FISHING FOR TREATMENTS: A client at Aqua Sheko enjoys a pedicure from hundreds of tiny Garra Rufa fish

"Many products contain propylene glycol to stop it freezing in the aeroplane hold," explains Valerie. "But this chemical is also used to de-ice cars... do people really want to put that on their face?"

The 'Chocolate Mousse Hydration Masque', used in my treatment, is made by Éminence Organic Skin Care, which prides itself on creating effective blends of fruits, vegetables, flowers and herbs that are free of harsh chemicals. Cocoa is high in antioxidants, and cocoa butter has long been used to soothe and hydrate skin. There is also evidence that just the aroma of chocolate is enough to release 'feel good' endorphins in the brain.

During my treatment, I was exfoliated all over with a brown sugar concoction, cleansed with hot towels and massaged with warm cocoa butter. The salon specialises in massage and a surprising 35% of the clientele are male.

When I visited Casa Spa, there were also a surprising number of male clients, attracted by

the promise of an authentic hammam experience. It might not have the luxurious feel of Aqua Sheko and Savana, but the spa's shabby exterior gives way to a tranquil, open-plan interior downstairs, with a post-treatment snug, candles, and soft furnishing creating an Arabian Nights feel.

The traditional full-body scrub-down with a *kiss* – or scratchy mitt – is not for the faint-hearted. But after an hour in the steam room, with treatments including a delicious-smelling honey hair-wrap, I felt invigorated and relaxed.

Aqua Sheko: www.aquasheko.co.uk; 29 Frith Street, London, W1; 020 7734 8977; reservations.soho@aquasheko.co.uk

Casa Spa: www.casaspa.co.uk; 439 Edgware Road, London, W2; 020 7724 2030; casaspa@hotmail.co.uk

Savana Spa: www.savanaspa.com; 45 Hereford Road, London, W2; 020 7229 8300; info@savanaspa.com



ROSL ARTS

Director of ROSL ARTS, **Roderick Lakin**, previews the spring events

MUSIC EVENTS

Princess Alexandra Hall,
Over-Seas House
**59th ROSL Annual
Music Competition
Section Finals**

Tuesday 8 March, 7pm
Overseas awards
(for the best non-UK competitors)
Tuesday 15 March, 7pm
Ensembles A (strings/keyboard)
Tuesday 22 March, 7pm
Ensembles B (wind mixed)

The section finals offer music-making of the highest quality, with the chance to meet competitors and adjudicators afterwards over a glass of wine.

Tickets: £12; ROSL members and concessions £11; Friends of ROSL ARTS £10. Includes glass of wine.



Discovering Liszt with Leslie Howard (piano)

Wednesday 6 April, 7pm

To mark the bi-centenary of the great Hungarian composer Liszt, the pre-eminent Liszt scholar and renowned pianist Leslie Howard will give a lecture recital examining why Liszt was such an influence on his younger contemporaries,

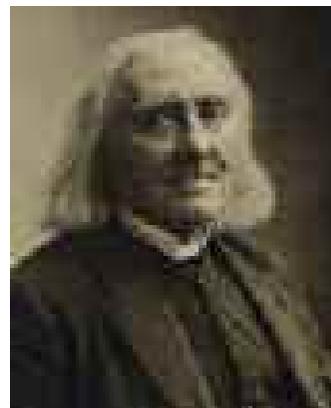
and why his popularity inspired vituperative professional jealousy.

Howard has recorded the complete piano music of Liszt for the Hyperion label, the largest recording project ever undertaken by a solo musician. According to *BBC Music Magazine*, he is 'by general consensus, the finest living exponent of Liszt, and his traversals afford all-enveloping verve and charisma, tremendous daring and a formidable intellectual grasp of the music.'

This event is given in aid of the ROSL Centenary Appeal.

Tickets: £16; ROSL members and concessions £14; Friends of ROSL ARTS £12. Includes a glass of Hungarian wine on arrival, and wine and canapés afterwards.

INSPIRING RECITALS: Sisters Rebecca, Tamsin and Suzanne Thom, the Rose Trio (above), will make their Wigmore Hall debut in June. ROSL will celebrate the 200th anniversary of Liszt's birth in April (below)





Queen Elizabeth Hall 59th ROSL Annual Music Competition Final

Tuesday 17 May, 7pm
The Final of the 2011 ROSL Annual Music Competition is the climax of a rigorous and demanding audition process to select winners of the solo wind, singers, strings and keyboard awards of £5,000 each. The section winners then compete for the gold medal and first prize of £10,000.

While the distinguished panel of judges, under the chairmanship of Gavin Henderson, deliberate, performances are given by winners of the two ensemble awards, of £10,000 each.

Tickets: ROSL members and concessions £12; Friends of

ROSL ARTS £10 (reduced from £20/£15). Members and Friends tickets available only from ROSL ARTS, not the Royal Festival Hall.

Wigmore Hall Rose Trio with Ben Schoeman (piano) and Alex Hambleton (horn)

Monday 6 June, 7.30pm
Music by Poulenc and Françaix, and Mozart's *Quintet for Piano and Winds* K482. 'The best work I have ever composed', wrote Mozart in a letter to his father in 1784, shortly after he completed it. Poulenc, one of the few composers to have matched Mozart's facility in writing chamber works for wind, makes an ideal companion to the Mozart masterwork.

Tickets: ROSL members and concessions £12; Friends of ROSL ARTS £10 (reduced from £15). Members and Friends tickets available only from ROSL ARTS, not Wigmore Hall.

BOOK EVENTS

Princess Alexandra Hall, Over-Seas House Call of the White: Taking the World to the South Pole by Felicity Aston

Wednesday 4 May, 7pm
Could you ski to the South Pole? That was the challenge that British adventurer Felicity Aston put to women from around the Commonwealth as she set out to create the most international all-female expedition to the South Pole. The team would not be experienced explorers but 'ordinary' women who wanted to inspire others to follow their dreams or make a change for the better in their lives.

Felicity received more than 800 applications and embarked on a three-month journey around the world to interview candidates. 'What is skiing?' was the question that greeted her in Ghana. At the close of 2009, she led a team from places as diverse as Jamaica, India, Singapore and Cyprus – some of whom had

Vaut le détour

ROSL prizewinning pianists explore Russian musical byways in two captivating new recordings

In recent months, Danny Driver and Martin Cousin, ROSL major award winners in 2001 and 2003 respectively, have each released CDs devoted to lesser-known romantic Russian piano music by Balakirev and Glazunov; both garnering extremely favourable reviews. Members are recommended to seek out these enterprising and rewarding new releases.



Danny Driver Balakirev: Piano Sonata in B flat minor and other

piano works; Hyperion CDA67806

Saturday Telegraph Classical CD of the Month. 'Bravo to Hyperion for championing this music and to Driver for playing it with such sensitivity and polish.'

Observer 'Impressive playing throughout ensures that your finger won't stray from the replay button.'

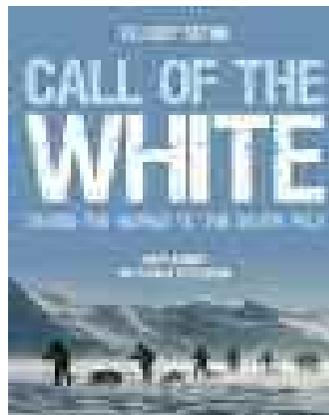


Martin Cousin Glazunov, Liadov and Arensky;

Somm, New Horizons DC100

Gramophone 'In every way, an impressive disc.'

International Piano 'Playing that is both seemingly effortless in its technique... yet utterly natural and sympathetic in its musical narrative and characterisation throughout the programme.'



never seen snow or spent the night in a tent before – on the 900km skiing trek.

Eighty-mile-an-hour winds ripped through base camp; frostbite and injuries were an everyday occurrence; and deadly crevasses emerged from the cracking ice beneath their feet. But they also shared beliefs, ideas, philosophies and laughter, made lasting memories, and broke no less than six world records.

After the talk, guests will have the opportunity to buy a signed copy of *Call of the White* and to

meet Felicity Aston over a complimentary glass of wine. *Tickets: £7; ROSL members and concessions £6; Friends of ROSL ARTS £5.*

VISUAL ARTS

Over-Seas House ROSL Young Artist of Thailand

Tuesday 29 March-Friday 29 April
In 2007, the ROSL Thailand Branch inaugurated the ROSL Young Artist of Thailand Scholarship, open to Thai citizens aged 14-20. Last year's prizewinning work, by Sottithat Winyarat, a 17-year-old student from American Pacific International School in Chiang Mai, will be exhibited, together with works by the nine runners up. As part of the prize, the winner will visit London for the exhibition as a guest of ROSL ARTS.

For tickets for ROSL ARTS events, contact 020 7408 0214 ext 324; culture@rosl.org.uk.

Members' events

March-June 2011

MARCH

Duchy diversions: historic Kennington

Friday 25 March, 2pm, £14, G
Explore one of London's least-known districts, home to Edward the 'Black Prince' and Charlie Chaplin. The tour will feature late 18th-century terraced houses, a gin distillery and a park where radicals campaigned for the vote.

APRIL

Tour of Whitechapel Bell Foundry

Wednesday 6 April, 5.30pm, £18, G
Visit Britain's oldest manufacturing company (founded in 1570), which forged the original Liberty Bell.

Royal Wedding lunch

Friday 29 April, 10am, £35, G

Celebrate with a live broadcast of the service on the big screen in Princess Alexandra Hall, accompanied by morning tea; a toast given by the Director-General; and a buffet lunch.

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.

Magic Circle experience

Monday 11 April, 11.30am, £18, G
Learn about the fascinating history of the world-famous Magic Circle in the clubroom of 10,000 secrets in Euston, with a live performance. Tea/coffee and biscuits included.

Buckingham Palace Garden private tour

Saturday 16 April, 3.30pm, £28, G
There will be light refreshments and an illustrated talk in The Queen's Gallery before the hour-long guided tour of the famous garden (ordinarily closed to the public).



RARE OPPORTUNITY: Visit Buckingham Palace

MAY

Annual General Meeting

Tuesday 3 May, 4pm
AGM and reception, following the Chairman's lunch.



MATCH POINT: Enjoy the competition from No.2 Court at Wimbledon. The 2010 Champion, Rafael Nadal, in action

Chairman's lunch

Tuesday 3 May, midday, £55, G

Reception drinks will be served before a delicious three-course lunch at Overseas House. Hosted by ROSL Chairman, Sir Anthony Figgis, with guest speaker The Rt Hon The Lord Mayor of the City of London, Alderman Michael Bear. The AGM and reception will follow at 4pm.

Private tour of Marlborough House

Friday 13 May, 10.30am, £15, G
A tour of the Commonwealth's international headquarters and its gardens – once the town residence of five Dukes and Duchesses of Marlborough, three Princes of Wales, and three dowager Queens.

Coffee/tea included.

Tour of the Houses of Parliament

Tuesday 17 May, 10.45am, £10, R
Guided tour of one of the most iconic buildings in the world: the Palace of Westminster. To book a package with tea in the House of Lords, see June events (opposite).

Chelsea Flower Show

Thursday 26-Saturday 28 May, 8am-8pm, £51, B
Enjoy gardens and horticultural displays from all over the world.

JUNE Tour of Fulham Palace

Tuesday 7 June, 2pm, £12, G
Discover this architecturally eclectic, grade 1-listed building and extensive grounds, which was used as the residence for the Bishops of London from c.700AD to 1973. Refreshments included.



GARDEN DESIGNS: See the best at the Chelsea Flower Show

Trooping the Colour

£tbc, B
 The Major General's Review, Saturday 28 May
 The Colonel's Review, Saturday 4 June
 The Queen's Birthday Parade, Saturday 11 June
 Members may apply for a maximum of two tickets each.

Wimbledon Tennis Championships

Monday 20 June-Sunday 3 July, £tbc, B
 Watch the world's top tennis players compete for the coveted Wimbledon Champion title. Limited tickets are available for No.2 Court. A maximum of two tickets per member.

AGM

Dear Member

I am instructed to inform you that the ROSL Annual General Meeting will be held at Over-Seas House, London on Tuesday 3 May 2011 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 for 12.30pm), 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 finances
- To receive and adopt the accounts of the ROSL for 2010
- To confirm appointments to the Central Council under the terms of bye-laws 14.6 and 14.7, and to fill vacancies occurring under the terms of bye-laws 20.1 and 20.2
- To receive and adopt the Annual Report for 2010
- To appoint auditors for the ensuing year

Note: copies of the 2010 Annual Report will be available from the PR Department from 18 April 2011.

Tour of the Houses of Parliament

Tuesday 28 June, 11am, £10, R
 To book as a package with tea in the House of Lords see below.

Tea in the House of Lords

Tuesday 28 June, 3.30pm, £30

(tour & tea £36), R
 Afternoon tea, hosted by ROSL President Lord Luce, in the Cholmondeley Room in the House of Lords. Book the tour (on either 17 May or 28 June) and tea together for the special price of £36 (subject to availability).



Members' events Application form

Please complete this form (or photocopy) and send to: Alexandra Pavry, PR Department (Members Events), Over-Seas House, Park Place, St James's Street, London SW1A 1LR. **Tel:** 020 7016 6906. **Email:** apavry@rosl.org.uk

Membership No

Name

.....

Name of guest(s)
 and trip they are attending:

.....

.....

.....

Address which tickets should be sent:

.....

.....

.....

Tel no

EVENT	DATE	PRICE	NO.
Duchy diversions: historic Kennington	Fri 25 Mar	£14 £
Tour of Whitechapel Bell Foundry	Wed 6 Apr	£18 £
Magic Circle experience	Mon 11 Apr	£18 £
Buckingham Palace Garden private tour	Sat 16 Apr	£28 £
Royal Wedding lunch	Fri 29 Apr	£35 £
Chairman's lunch	Tues 3 May	£55 £
Private tour of Marlborough House	Fri 13 May	£15 £
Tour of the Houses of Parliament *	Tues 17 May	£10 £
Tour of Fulham Palace	Tues 7 Jun	£12 £
Tour of the Houses of Parliament *	Tues 28 Jun (am)	£10 £
Tea at the House of Lords *	Tues 28 Jun (pm)	£30 £
* Tour and tea package	Tues 17 May and/or 28 June	£36 £
(please specify your preference of tour date)			

BALLOTED EVENTS DO NOT SEND PAYMENT YET. YOU WILL ONLY BE CONTACT IF SUCCESSFUL.
 Maximum TWO tickets per member.

Apply before:

Chelsea Flower Show	Thur 26-Sat 28 May	Fri 29 Apr
Trooping the Colour	Sat 28 May, Sat 4 Jun, Sat 11 Jun	Fri 29 Apr
Wimbledon	Mon 20 Jun-Sun 3 Jul	Fri 27 May

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

Food and drink

Asparagus fortnight

16-28 May

Taste the best of British asparagus this May, in the Restaurant at Over-Seas House, London. Head chef Losine Khezour has designed a number of inspired dishes to tantalise your taste buds.

For reservations call 020 7408 0214 ext 220.

Dine in the garden

From 18 April

Escape the London summer crowds in your own private corner of Green Park, with lunch in the ROSL garden. The garden opens with a spring menu on 18 April, and a different summer menu is available from 23 May.



© croucher/stockphoto

NEW DISHES: Asparagus-inspired cuisine at the Restaurant

Henley Royal Regatta

29 June-3 July

Treat yourself to a wonderful day on the River Thames at one of the most quintessential

English summer events. As a ROSL member, you will be offered a complimentary glass of champagne when you book lunch at Henley Royal Regatta.

For reservations or more information contact Jessica on 020 7629 0406.

ROSL SHOP

With new stock for 2011, plus a few old favourites, no visit to Over-Seas House is complete without a trip to the Shop

Due to popular demand, the original **navy enamelled cufflinks** with the ROSL crest in gold are available again (pictured below), priced **£18**. The original



centenary watches were a bestseller in 2010. The ROSL logo in gold replaces the coat of arms on the new stock for 2011 (**£35, with luxury presentation box**), and a smaller version is available for ladies (pictured above). In April, a limited number of special **ROSL Royal Wedding china mugs** will be available to celebrate the occasion, priced **£12**.

Find these and a whole range of other unique and unusual gifts at the ROSL Shop, Central Lounge, Over-Seas House, London (and by mail order). The shop is open Monday-Friday, 10am-5pm. Contact ROSL Shop, Over-Seas House, Park Place, St James's Street, London SW1A 1LR; 020 7408 0214 ext 338 or 205; info@rosl.org.uk (marked FAO ROSL SHOP). Pick up a 2010-

2011 gift catalogue from Over-Seas House or contact the PR Department to have one posted to you. Mail orders can be made by post, email or telephone.



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EDINBURGH

What's on...

March-May 2011

MARCH**Bridge Club lunch**

Friday 4 March, 12.30pm
One-course lunch; members may bring guests. *Tickets: £12. Includes sherry.*

Commonwealth Week concert

Wednesday 9 March, 6.30pm
South African violinist Gina McCormack with Nigel Clayton (piano). *Tickets: £12; ROSL Members £10; Friends of ROSL ARTS £8. Includes wine and canapés.*

Coffee morning

Saturday 12 March, 10.30am

Commonwealth Day lunch

Monday 14 March, midday
Two-course lunch with speaker Tavish Scott MSP. *Tickets: £20; ROSL members £18. Includes coffee, sherry and a glass of wine.*

APRIL**Quiz night**

Tuesday 19 April, 7pm



COMMONWEALTH WEEK: Tavish Scott MSP (left) will speak, and Gina McCormack will perform

Teams will be made up on the night, with three prizes on offer. *Tickets: £5. Includes buffet.*

Coffee morning

Saturday 9 April, 10.30am

Arts lunch

Wednesday 27 April, midday
Two-course lunch with talk by Ian Robert. *Tickets: £17.50; ROSL members £16.50. Includes coffee and a glass of wine.*

Royal Wedding lunch

Friday 29 April, 10.30am

Morning tea, followed by champagne to toast the marriage ceremony, shown on a big screen. Two-course lunch with coffee and wine at 12.45pm. *Tickets: £20.*

MAY**Sean Shibe guitar concert**

Wednesday 11 May, 6.30pm
Tickets: £12; ROSL members £10; Friends of ROSL ARTS £8. Includes wine and canapés.

Coffee morning

Saturday 14 May, 10.30am

Edinburgh Branch AGM

Wednesday 18 May, 6pm
Followed by the Chairman's reception, with complimentary buffet.

Arts lunch

Wednesday 25 May, midday
Two-course lunch with talk on 'Singing for Scotland' by Kirsteen McCue, Associate Director at the Centre for Robert Burns Studies, Glasgow University. *Tickets: £17.50; ROSL members £16.50. Includes coffee and a glass of wine.*

Two-night breaks at Over-Seas House, Edinburgh

Two nights' bed and breakfast, with dinner on one night of your stay, from £115 per person sharing a twin/double room (£130 for single occupancy).

We have arranged special promotions to help you enjoy your time in Edinburgh. The Mussel Inn is offering a 10% discount to members producing their ROSL room card (Monday to Thursday only). The restaurant

specialises in great Scottish seafood at reasonable prices.

Diners producing a room card will receive a complimentary glass of bubbly at Oloroso. The dynamic chef owner, Tony Singh, prides himself on producing fresh, seasonal food that puts flavour first.

ROSL has secured a 10% discount on Edinburgh Tour tickets, which can be purchased



IN STYLE: Recently refurbished bedroom at Over-Seas House

from the reception at Over-Seas House. Enjoy a one-hour tour of the city's main attractions, and then use the hop on, hop off service to visit the sights.

Pick up a 10% discount voucher for the Royal Yacht Britannia from our reception; the bus stops just outside.

Check with reception on arrival for the most up-to-date information on offers available.



IN THEIR IMAGE:
Tour of the annual
portrait exhibition

Jim COVERBY/DAVID COBBLEY

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.

Contact *John Edwards*,
01732 883556,
johncoatesedward@aol.com.

Britain and Africa

11 April
With The Rt Hon Baroness Chalker of Wallasey, former MP and Minister for Overseas Development, and Founder and Chairman of Africa Matters Limited, which provides advice to businesses, governments and other international organisations on developing business in sub-Saharan Africa.

The Royal Residences of England and Hanover from George I to George IV

9 May
With Wolf Burchard, member of Goodenough College, student of the Courtauld Institute of Art, and

Adviser to the Royal Collection.

Does Britain's Foreign Policy still need a Foreign Office?

13 June
With Lord Jay of Ewelme, former British diplomat and Permanent Under-Secretary of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

LONDON GROUP

Meetings and outside visits are open to currently subscribed London Group members and their occasional guests. ROSL members staying overnight at Over-Seas House, London are also welcome. To become a member of the London Group, ask for an application form from the PR Department, or from the London Group Honorary Membership Secretary c/o Porters' Desk at Over-Seas House, London.

For more information, contact *Pamela Voice (Chairman)*:
pawallingtonvoice@yahoo.co.uk.

Meetings

On the third Thursday of each month at 6.30pm, at Over-Seas House, London.

Upstairs and downstairs

17 March
Writer, television presenter and Chief Curator at Historic Royal Palaces, Dr Lucy Worsley gives a unique insight into 18th-century life at Kensington Palace.

London Group AGM

14 April
Members are asked to bring their London Group membership cards to register prior to the AGM, which will be addressed by ROSL Chairman Sir Anthony Figgis. Refreshments will be served after the formal proceedings.

The Cold War

19 May
Illustrated talk by former ROSL Central Council member Sir Roger Carrick on his early career as a junior diplomat in Eastern Europe.

Outside visits

For more information, contact *Doreen Regan*, 020 7584 5879. To apply for events, write to Doreen Regan, London Group, c/o Porters' Lodge, Over-Seas House, London. Enclose a cheque payable to London Group ROSL and a

stamped addressed envelope.

The Supreme Court

11 April, 2pm
A guided tour of the UK Supreme Court and the basement exhibition. There may be an opportunity to sit in on court proceedings.
Tickets: LG members £10; guests £12.

The Royal Society of Portrait Painters

17 May, 2pm
Be inspired on a private guided tour of the annual exhibition of more than 200 portraits.
Tickets: LG members £10; guests £12.

York

1-5 September
Four nights in historic York with guided tours throughout. Return coach to York and 4-star accommodation.
Cost: £495pp, sharing a double room (some single rooms available at a supplement). Personal travel insurance not included. All ROSL members and guests welcome.



A social haven



for friends and family at home and abroad

The Royal Overseas League (ROSL) is a self-funded, non-profit organisation which offers members a wide variety of benefits including:

Attractive apartments centrally situated in London near the Fitz Hotel and Fitzrovia (E2) House Street.



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For further information please contact the Royal Overseas League membership department:

Overseas House, Park Place,
81 Jamaica Street, London SW71A 1UN
Tel: 020 7408 0234 ext. 214 & 218

Fax: 020 7408 0758

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SYRIA WEEKEND

Friday 6th - Sunday 10th August

- Breakfast (around 10.00) Hotel Air
- The main 4 nights in the Hotel
- Social evening in the Club
- Transfer to airport in the evening



SICILY WEEKEND

Saturday 12th - Sunday 14th August

- Hotel (around 10.00) Hotel Air
- Social evening in the Club
- Transfer to airport in the evening



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e-mail: andrew@downey.co.uk

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(9 - 14 March
& 25 - 30 May 2011)



JORDAN - THE LAND OF T.E. LAWRENCE

Jordan is a country with a rich and colourful history which has embraced many civilisations. We will visit Amman, Petra and Wadi Rum and learn more about the Hijaz railway line crippled by Lawrence during the Arab Revolt.

6 - 18 November 2011



THE MAHLER FESTIVAL IN LEIPZIG

Leipzig has always been one of the great centres of musical life in Europe. JS Bach was cantor at St Thomas's Church and most of the great composers of the 19th century lived, worked and studied here. The city presents its own celebration of the life and work of Gustav Mahler.

(21 - 28 May 2011)



A JOURNEY THROUGH ARMENIA & GEORGIA

Our tour to these two contrasting countries makes for a splendid introduction to a little known but richly historic region. Visits include the Geghard Monastery and the archeological site of Zvartnots Cathedral in Armenia and Hakhpat Monastery and the 6th Century Jvari church in Georgia.

(3 - 14 May
& 13 - 24 September 2011)

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Our destinations include Romania, Ottoman Turkey, Syria, Kiev and the Gardens & Villas of Rome.

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