

# OVERSEAS

Quarterly journal of the ROSL

Issue 3, September-November 2014



## Telling tales

Charting a resurgence in storytelling, from the 1st Burma book festival to work by our arts scholars

## Winning words

Music Competition Gold Medallist Huw Wiggin on preparing for the performance of his life

## Building the future

A look at planned improvements, and renovations to the Bar and Brabourne Room

## Exclusive shorts

Specially commissioned stories from top ROSL authors and the 2013 Caine Prize winner





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## OVERSEAS

ISSUE 3 September-November 2014

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## OVERSEAS



20

**From the Director-General;  
Editor's letter . . . . . 4**

## World

**The return of the storyteller . . 5**

Charting the resurgence of the performance art

**Turning the page . . . . . 6**

A personal view of developments in Kenyan  
storytelling by Caine Prize winner Okwiri Oduor

**A Prayer . . . . . 7**

An exclusive short story by novelist Tope Folarin

**Pictures that paint a  
thousand words . . . . . 8**

ROSL Visual Arts Scholars reveal their literary  
influences and the narrative elements of their work

**A valuable history . . . . . 10**

Why the story behind an object can be  
worth more than the item itself

**A Burmese tale of  
literary adventure . . . . . 13**

Reviewing the first book festival in Mandalay

**Could tablets be the best  
medicine? . . . . . 14**

How iPads are transforming people's lives

**My St George's Town . . . . . 16**

Insights from a ROSL member living in Bermuda

## ROSL news

**Members' benefits . . . . . 17**

Make the most of your membership, with ROSL  
wines and new travel and golfing partnerships

**Building for a brighter future . 18**

Important update on vital works at the clubhouse

**FRONT COVER:** A detail of 'Subspace Transmission of the Magnetically Ordained Architect'  
by ROSL Visual Arts Scholar Mehreen Murtaza © Mehreen Murtaza



18

**A winning performance . . . 20**

A view of the Annual Music Competition from  
the Gold Medallist; plus a review of the heats

**Five literary gems . . . . . 22**

Specially commissioned 'ultimate' short stories

**Books . . . . . 23**

Titles by some of our most successful authors

**How to start a ROSL group . . 23**

Advice from the founder of the new Book Group

**Branches: what's on? . . . . 24**

**News and Views . . . . . 26**

**Bright young things . . . . . 28**

Scotland's flourishing scene for Younger Members

## In the UK

**Ripping yarns . . . . . 29**

Inspiring storytelling centres near the clubhouses

**Drama in an intimate space . 30**

Actor Janet Prince's pick of the best small theatre

**London and Edinburgh  
Top 10 . . . . . 30**

Our recommendations for attractions this autumn

## Events

**Christmas and New Year  
at ROSL . . . . . 31**

Don't miss our festive packages and activities

**ROSL calendar . . . . . 32-38**

All of ROSL's fantastic events, one handy calendar

**Full booking information  
and contact details . . . . . 38**



## From the Director-General

As I write, we are enjoying a real summer with the ROSL Garden in full swing. The clubhouse in Edinburgh is looking good, with its new coat of paint throughout, and is gearing up for another frenetic festival season. We have had a tremendously busy few months, with music and arts events, and refurbishment of clubhouse facilities very much to the fore. The changes to the Brabourne Room and Bar have been well received and I am grateful to the many members who have expressed their views on the outcome. On page 18, Sir Roger Carrick, ROSL Vice-Chairman and Chair of the Buildings Sub-Committee, explains our plans to improve and refurbish other areas of the club. We have three major projects this winter. We will be undertaking major refurbishment work in the third-floor bedrooms, essentially a comprehensive refit. This will reduce availability in London by 11 bedrooms from 24 November until early 2015, so please bear this in mind when planning your visit.

We will also start work on the sun terrace outside the Bar, once the Garden closes in late October. That work should be complete by Christmas. May I thank members for their forbearance over the Park Side lift in London. It is being replaced this autumn and that will make a great difference.

Members may also be glad to hear that we are upgrading the London clubhouse's telephone exchange at the same time, and launching a refreshed website that will

make transactions easier to conduct, searches more straightforward and information much more accessible.

In Edinburgh our near-term improvement plans include a re-modelled Reception and an external staircase at the rear of the building to access the roof viewing area.

Events in the autumn will include a tour of several wineries (*bodegas*) in Rioja, supported, as last year, by Grape Escapes and Davy's wine merchants. We plan to conduct a similar tour each year and I hope also to include a shorter visit to English vineyards in 2015. I am very much looking forward to visiting ROSL members in Canada in October and our hard-working chapter presidents are planning events in Vancouver, Victoria, Edmonton, Calgary and Toronto.

I draw your attention to the Christmas packages we are developing, the details of which are on page 31. We would like to give more members the opportunity to enjoy the London clubhouse at Christmas, and I hope that these options will be of interest both to individual members and family groups. Please let us know if you are interested.

As ever, may I thank all our wonderful staff in London and Edinburgh, and our branch/chapter officers and honorary corresponding secretaries around the world for all you do for ROSL. I am very much in your debt and thank you, on behalf of our members, for your tireless energy.

**Roddy Porter**

**POPULAR EVENT:** Director-General Roddy Porter with toastmaster Barry Dorn and guest Lena Broad at the House of Lords afternoon tea in June



## Editor's letter

When Okwiri Oduor, this year's Caine Prize winner, sent me her article about developments in East African storytelling (page 6), the text was an unusual colour. "It has to be in blue or I am unable to move my thoughts along," she apologised. It is this kind of fascinating glimpse into the creative process that this issue's Focus aims to provide.

ROSL Visual Arts Scholars talk about their literary and narrative influences on page 8, while, on page 10, we look at how the stories behind objects can increase their value, ahead of our forthcoming *Antiques Roadshow*-style event and talk by the author of *The First World War in 100 Objects* (see the Events section for details). Some of ROSL's top authors have contributed exclusive 50-word stories (page 22), and they have so inspired the editorial team that we have been writing some 'ultimate' short stories of our own.

One of the biggest eye-openers has been the number of storytelling shows and clubs that exist across the UK. I was mesmerised by the dramatic rendition of Welsh folktales I saw at the Crick Crack Club in north London and, on page 5, its founder discusses the resurgence of performance storytelling in Britain. For shows close to you, why not check out [www.sfs.org.uk/events](http://www.sfs.org.uk/events)?

For people with dementia, the stories of their childhood and early adulthood are particularly important, as these are usually their clearest memories. The role that technology can play in helping them to access and talk about those memories may not initially be obvious. I was surprised to learn how the immediacy and ease-of-use of iPads and similar handheld devices are transforming care and improving the wellbeing of vulnerable people (page 14).

This year's ROSL Annual Music Competition was a triumph, and we have a special article by the winner, Huw Wiggin, about his unique experience of the contest, as well as an account by one member who went to all the heats. If you missed Huw's impressive performance, see our Events section for details of his next ROSL concert (pages 32-38).

**Miranda Moore**



**Ben Haggarty** charts the rise of performance storytelling in the UK since the 1980s, and his role in promoting it as an artform

Mr Haggarty, when I was eight you came to tell stories in my school. I remembered your name and I've come to this event," the event being an evening of 'Fairy Tales for Grown Ups' at Soho Theatre. This frequently heard comment is a testament to more than 30 years of work. In 1981, I embarked on a mission to reintroduce the telling of traditional tales at all levels of society – from comedic folktales through transformative fairytales to epic mythology. I wanted to reimagine and recreate 'storytelling' as a viable branch of professional, performance-based entertainment – something lost in Britain since the late Middle Ages.

Storytelling uses a repertoire of tales that are the common inheritance of humanity, in which the story is not 'the words'; it is the 'what happens'. When told well, they have the power to interest, entertain or haunt people from all walks of life, whether via a few satisfying belly laughs bundled in a cunning trick, or a sequence of strikingly rich metaphorical images, such as the blinding of a one-eyed all-devouring monster or a deity's self sacrifice on a tree. These are stories that can travel through time (frequently counted in millennia) and across continents. Collectively they represent an intangible cultural heritage, which can produce a phenomenal quality of listening in live performance, as audiences are taken through the gamut of human emotional responses.

In 1981, performance storytelling didn't exist in the UK and the rich content of traditional narrative was not being served well by other contemporary media. In the wake of political riots in major cities across the UK, two colleagues and I founded the country's first educational storytelling organisation, the West London Storytelling Unit, with the aim of telling stories from all over the world to children from all over the world. It soon became evident that there

was as much demand for storytelling for adult audiences as among children, so I organised the UK's first international storytelling festival at Battersea Arts Centre in 1985 – an event so popular that it sparked further festivals at Watermans and the Southbank Centre.

With Hugh Lupton and Sally Pomme Clayton I formed the Company of Storytellers – a touring storytelling troupe performing almost exclusively for adults and sharing our skills through workshops. By 1987, the demand had reached such a level that I founded the Crick Crack Club – the first organisation dedicated exclusively to the promoting and programming of the artform for adults. The sector continued to grow and, today, hundreds of events are programmed annually, filling mainstream theatres, arts centres and festivals. Using little or no set, costume or production, storytellers deploy expertly controlled and highly developed techniques of composition and performance. While the finest fill public auditoriums, equally skilled educational storytellers enthral classes of children and immerse museum artefacts in deep narrative contexts; parents tell bedtime stories with renewed confidence, and pub rooms host lively, community-building amateur events. Mission accomplished!

*Performance storyteller Ben Haggarty is Artistic Director of the Crick Crack Club. See [www.crickcrackclub.com](http://www.crickcrackclub.com) or [www.benhaggarty.com](http://www.benhaggarty.com) for details of forthcoming shows.*

**MESMERISING:** Ben Haggarty enthral the audience during a storytelling event at the Crick Crack Club; and (inset) US-based The Moth storytelling group came to the UK for the first time in July

*These are stories that can travel through time and across continents*





FOCUS



# Turning the page

A personal account of storytelling in Kenya by Caine Prize winner **Okwiri Oduor**

**A**s a child, I was convinced that I lived in the wrong world. If I had my way, I would have elected to be Jo in *Little Women*, or Wendy in *Peter Pan*, or even Anne of Green Gables. Sometimes, I wanted to be Pollyanna and play glad games out of my little miseries. As it was, they consumed me. I realised very early that I was not like the other girls my age. Me, I was a strange, mute thing that lived inside its own head.

We were first generation Nairobians or, as people referred to us both reverentially and derisively, born-towns. We were the children whose parents had performed the rural to urban migration we learned about in school.

Our parents told us about the villages they came from. They told us about huddling at the hems of their grandmothers' skirts and nibbling on maize cobs as they listened to night-time stories.

For them, stories were an instrument of education, of passing on history, culture and social values from generation to generation. Stories gave them the tools to navigate the material and metaphysical worlds. Stories introduced them to ancestors who prowled the villages in

**OPEN BOOK:**  
In Kenyan cities, many children grow up reading books but without traditional oral storytelling (above left)

**OKWIRI ODUOR:**  
Deep in thought (above right) and with the other shortlisted writers (below)

*Stories introduced them to ancestors who prowled the villages in howling winds*

howling winds, to ghouls that made the shingles tumble, to women that gave birth to snakes and men that kept those snakes in cooking pots. Stories warned little children not to answer-answer just *fwa* when someone called their names – what if it was a lonely spirit that was seeking out their company?

Sometimes I wished that my parents had never left the villages. I imagined how it would have been – each evening I would have taken out a reed mat and spread it in the centre of the yard and hurled rocks at squawking chickens and told the people gathered there, *Hadithi, hadithi?* And they would have said to me, *Hadithi njoo.* And I would have told them things that mesmerised them.



## And the winner is...

Okwiri Oduor was awarded the 2014 Caine Prize for her story 'My Father's Head' at a celebratory dinner at the Bodleian Library, Oxford, in July. The £10,000 prize, supported by ROSL, is awarded annually to an African writer for a short story published in English. The other finalists were Diane Awerbuck (South Africa), Billy Kahora (Kenya), Efemia Chela (Ghana/Zambia) and Tendai Huchu (Zimbabwe).

## A Prayer

A specially commissioned story by 2013 Caine Prize winner **Tope Folarin**

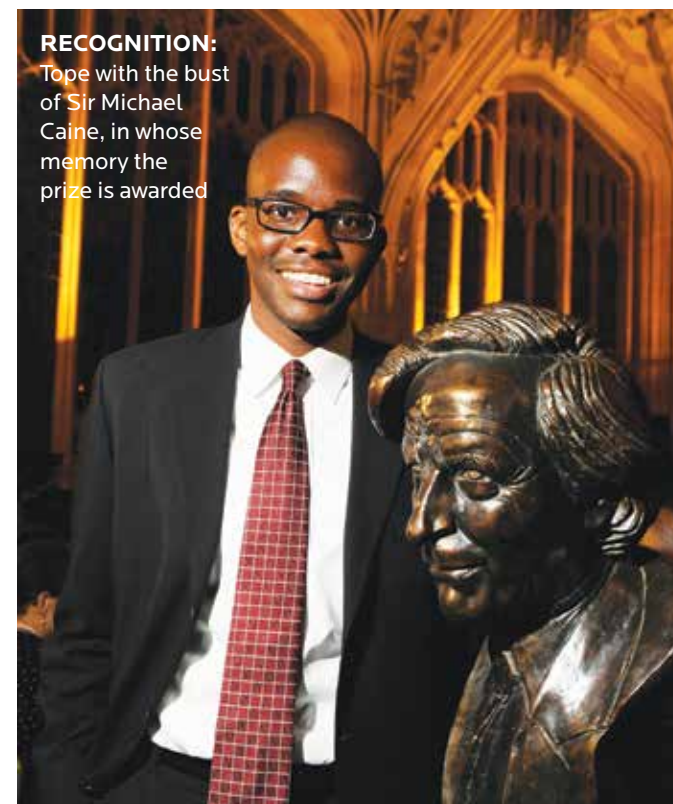
**A** few days after my new mother and stepbrothers arrived in America, my father asked all of us to gather in the living room. As we stood there awkwardly gazing at each other, he informed us that he had decided that we had to pray together at least twice a day. I looked up and noticed my new mother shaking her head. When I caught her eyes she smiled widely. She nodded and winked at me.

That evening my father inaugurated what would become a decade-long tradition in our family: after dinner we gathered in the living room and my father asked us to hold hands and close our eyes. He began to pray. His voice sounded more assured, more powerful than I'd ever heard it. I was so frightened when I heard his new voice that I suddenly had an urge to pee. I squeezed my legs shut and tried to listen to his words, but all I could hear was his voice, so loud and confident and alien to me. I thought of the scene in *The Ten Commandments* – Dad's favourite movie – when Moses returns from the mountaintop bearing a stone tablet in each hand, his face instantly old and more handsome, a white beard lining his jaw. I expected that my father would be similarly transformed when I opened my eyes, but he was the same man, short and stout with a slightly receding hairline, a joyful, almost goofy smile on his face. I could not reconcile his voice with his face, but then I noticed his eyes. The teasing glint was gone, replaced by a focus and hardness that made him almost unrecognisable.

Immediately I knew that my father had been replaced by someone else.

### RECOGNITION:

Tope with the bust of Sir Michael Caine, in whose memory the prize is awarded



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## FOCUS

# Pictures that paint a thousand words

ROSL Visual Arts Scholars explain the narrative elements of their work and how literature and real-life stories inspire them



**ERASING A LIFE:**  
Lerato's 'Seipone';  
and (above)  
'Mosako wa Nako'

## Lerato Shadi

**Your work is performance based and plays with folktale and autobiography. Why do these forms interest you?**

For me, life is a story that you tell to yourself and to the people you are living it with. So storytelling is important because I am telling myself and I am telling 'us' in the works, performances and videos.

Unlike theatre, which might have a storyline with a beginning, middle and end, my performances deal with ideas and might not have a visible storyline. I wouldn't think of storytelling in a traditional way of sitting down and telling an audience a linear story, but I might see storytelling in the performance as a concept, which becomes the story that is told.

## What is the audience's role?

I like the audience to become the storyteller. I like the concept of the audience also performing the work, in them coming to the space and viewing the work, and the idea that they complete the work by seeing it. There is a triangular relationship between the performer, the work and the viewer. It is important that the viewer sees themselves in the story that is being told it.

## What narrative were you weaving with 'Mosako wa Nako', in which you crocheted a red carpet?

Most of the performance took place before the opening; what's left in the space is the carpet and a bit of the ball of wool. It was about finding a way to take over the gallery space, inscribe myself within it. I was looking at how red carpets have to do with who is allowed access – celebrities, dignitaries, winners – and who is denied access. Then you can talk about historically 'me', as the 'other', having been excluded, and ideas of who writes history and what they exclude.

I did crocheting rather than knitting because you use one needle, like you use one

pen to write. You could say I wrote on to the red carpet or 'scroll'. I was recording myself – how I was feeling, whether I was getting sleepy or energised or resisting nature's call. That is also a form of storytelling.

## In 'Seipone' you wrote your life story on a wall and rubbed it out before the gallery opened. Isn't it important for your story to be heard?

I thought if I had an audience, the details would go through a form of self-censorship. Without an audience to read what I am writing, it's like standing in front of a mirror, which is what *seipone* means in Setswana. When the audience looks at the piece, what they are ultimately faced with is their own story, not mine. It is the impossible process of trying to erase a life and then rewriting yourself. That is more important than the details of the story.

## You grew up in Johannesburg and moved to Berlin two years ago. How have the different cultures influenced your work?

I'm more influenced by my South African background. The white male history is the predominant story; I'm more interested in the black female history – in my own history, my own folktales, retelling that.

## Which stories have most influenced your work?

You should ask me that question every day! I just sent an email to my family, so the stories of my family, of my great-great-grandmother, who is still alive, how she lived her life and how she was part of apartheid before it was legalised and after it was no longer in law. Looking at the community I come from, and how they tell these stories and live them, and the majesty, beauty, dignity and humanity that is contained in all of that – those are the stories that are inspiring at the moment. A personal history for me is also an international history.



## Mehreen Murtaza

**Could you explain how science fiction informs your work?**

I was reading a lot of American writers, like William Gibson and Philip K Dick, and this became my departure point. I started working with photomontage, sourcing images from the internet, books, magazines. This eventually transpired into grander narratives of Islam. Islam and the idea of institutionalised religion is similar to a lot of speculative fiction that was written in the 1960s and 1970s.

## Which writers have most influenced you?

I am really interested in Middle Eastern science fiction, which has undergone a resurgence. There is a history of science fiction writing in Islam that is now being re-contextualised as science fiction. It got me interested in history and what's happening right now in science. They seem paradoxical but somehow to fit together.

Recently, I came across several writers who are mixing theory and fiction. That's what I've wanted to do with my work so I had an immediate affinity with their work. It is also



Courtesy gallery Grey Nosed and the artist



Courtesy gallery Grey Nosed and the artist

**PARALLEL WORLDS:** The left and middle panels of 'Triptych': (above) 'President of the Imaginary Solution' and (above right) 'The Glare of an Accustomed Totem'

'grotesquely overwrought' with a lot of information. I like this idea of formulated chaos; it implies something that our generation is going through – the conversation of our times.

## Your work has been described as 'visual narratives'. Was that your intention?

In Pakistan, we have our own, vernacular history, and storytelling is a really important part of our culture. I think that has seeped into my work. A lot of art is rooted in historical contexts, which are again stories, so I think storytelling is an inherent part of a lot of work. It is something that I have become conscious of over time. I feel like I have been writing a book of sorts. I like the idea that my last body of work is a narrative that is stringing itself together.

## Adele Todd

**You tend to work in embroidery. Why do you particularly like that medium?**

I started to work in thread in 1999 for a show on domestic violence. I was looking at the whole idea of women being in the home and the word 'domestic' because there were a lot of stories in Trinidad and Tobago about women being abused. I also like thread because, unlike when you're drawing or painting – when people hover – with thread, they leave you alone because it's 'an old-lady kind of thing'.

## How do you decide which narratives to focus on?

At the base of all the work I do is this desire to understand my island. It's a complex place

## What are you working on now?

A narrative about theoretical physicist and Nobel Prize winner Dr Abdus Salam. I re-wrote history with him time-travelling. I weaved together ideas that are in Islamic religion to do with the apocalypse and parallel worlds, which exists in some strands of Sufism.

## Is your work with sound tied to your love of film?

I think so. With 'Score for a Film', the idea was to make a show that is about a film that never exists but you have all this evidence leading to it. There was a script, which never made it into the show, but there are snippets in parts of the work. Films have informed the way I work because there is a narrative, some kind of sound design, a theatrical set. Then you orchestrate these elements to form one idea.

*A detail of Mehreen's artwork appears on the cover. Her exhibition 'To Sail Beyond the Sunset' is at Generator Projects, Dundee, 23 November- 14 December (see page 37).*

– it has experienced great wealth and great challenge because of wealth – and I am fascinated by how crazy I find the place to be. I did a lot of work on crime because it's really affecting my society. Everybody I know has some story to tell.

## Could you describe your creative process?

I spend a lot of time organising and sketching, contemplating, making errors and living with the thing – just like writers. If I'm embroidering something on a victim, I think about victims. I read about victims, I try to stay true to the thing. At one point, I felt as though I was encouraging crime because the more I focused on it, the more I would hear. It came from life, from the everyday crimes that would be in the papers.





**CHALLENGING:**  
A still from Adele's performance piece, 'Playground'

**What are you working on now?**  
I have been experimenting with what I call 'dimensional embroidery', using wire, wadding and thread to create sculptural detailing where the thread is no longer on fabric but exposed as itself. I like the fact that it's this delicate thread but the thread is weighty because of the colour and form it takes. This body of work is about female sexuality and I call it 'Stain' because, despite women's liberation, we still are living with lots of stereotypes. I'm looking at where that behaviour comes from, particularly as it relates to my island. And I chose to do so using language, because using typical imagery of the female body would just be stoking the stereotypes.

**Is it important for you to challenge the audience?**  
People look at my work and they are warmed by it because it's embroidery and then, when they see what it's about, they feel tricked. I think that is successful because I want to move my nation, I want people to look at the work and feel it resonating with them. We are an island of people who like to cover up things. We are enrapt by hearing negative news stories that bombard us, so we are very anxiety filled as a nation. But our writers and our artists are in a place where confronting these difficult issues seems too close to the surface, too scary.

**How important is it for you to get a story or message across?**  
I did my first solo show, which was called 'A Visual Narrative on Domestic Violence', because I got really angry about the way women were being treated in Trinidad. I never wanted to have a show until I felt I had something to say and with that I had something to say. One of our senators, Diana Mahabir-Wyatt, wrote in every newspaper on the island that the show was something the whole nation needed to see. That tells me that what artists do is important.

## FOCUS

# A valuable history

From a spotted dog gift item to a poppy from WWI, how the story behind an object can increase its value. By **Samantha Whitaker**

**A**re you sitting comfortably? Then I'll begin. From the moment we're born, we collect stories, and things to remind us of those stories. Often our most treasured possessions are not the most expensive things we own, but those that help to recall a person or a particular moment in time. Photographs are an obvious example, but it might also be a soft toy, a graduation certificate or your child's first drawing.

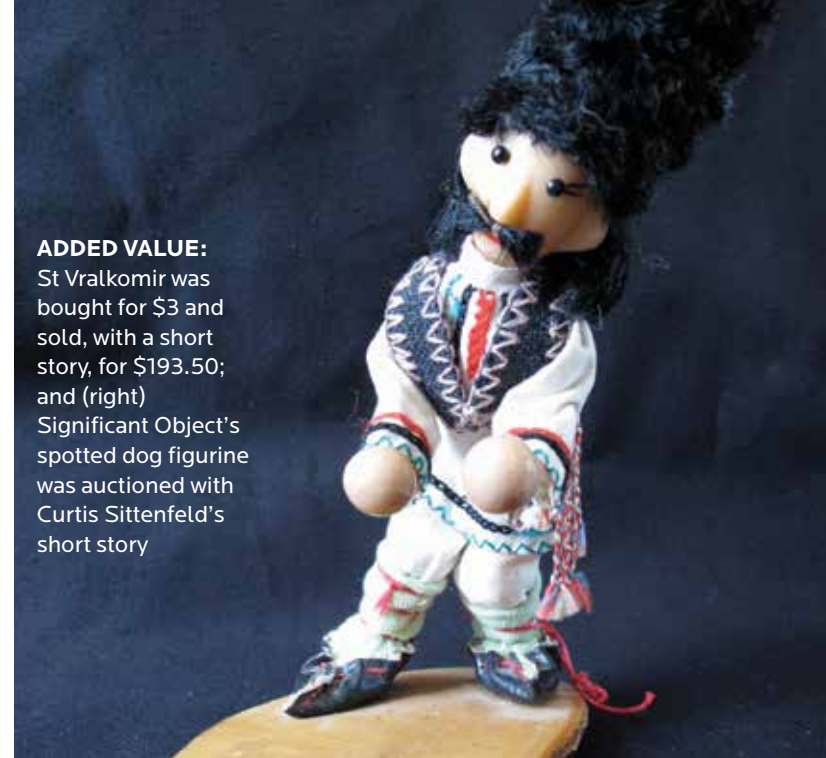
In the case of American journalist Rob Walker, it was breaking a souvenir coffee mug from a special holiday with his wife that made him realise how valuable the item was to him because of its story. This got him thinking, and with his friend and fellow writer Joshua Glenn, he devised an anthropological experiment, entitled Significant Objects, to test whether invented stories about seemingly worthless objects could increase their value. They bought 100 trinkets for a total of US\$128.74 and recruited a team of creative writers to invent short stories about them, ranging from letters, memoirs and diary entries to operating instructions and public notices. Then they put each object up for auction on eBay, along with the story as its description (plus a disclaimer about its true provenance).

Most of the items had been bought for a dollar, but some sold for more than US\$100, raising a total of US\$3,612.51 – a mark up of more than 2,700%, which went to the storywriters. The bestseller was a Russian

**LIFE STORY:**  
Justin Croft evaluates a 15th-century locket book, revealing Perth local history of the time, on BBC One's *Antiques Roadshow* in Scone



**ADDED VALUE:**  
St Vralkomir was bought for \$3 and sold, with a short story, for \$193.50; and (right) Significant Object's spotted dog figurine was auctioned with Curtis Sittenfeld's short story



figurine of St Vralkomir, bought for \$3, which, together with a story by American author Doug Dorst, sold for \$193.50. "The original project was successful almost immediately: from the first auction, we demonstrated that the stories added measurable economic value to objects," explains Walker. One of his favourites was a spotted dog figurine with Curtis Sittenfeld's simple but powerful short story about choosing between two potential husbands.

A second phase of the project saw another 100 objects sold in two rounds, raising a total of US\$4,351.50, this time for literary-related charities. There was even a mystery object, only revealed at the end of the auction, which they bought for 99¢ and sold for US\$103.50.

Walker and Glenn have since published a book of their 100 favourite stories from the project, proving that these have a value of their own. "The bidding is long over, but the stories are still out there being read and clearly have taken on a life beyond our original experiment," says Walker. Of course, in this project there was an element of novelty involved, a sense of being part of something new and exciting. But these items will forever prompt the retelling of the story of their origin – both true and fictional.

This sense of originality and individuality is increasingly what we're craving, according to Ambra Medda, co-creator and Creative Director of L'ArcoBaleno ([www.larcobaleno.com](http://www.larcobaleno.com)), an online marketplace that brings together extraordinary design from around the world. "Every object contains a story, but some are more meaningful and more valuable than others," she says. "Because we're inundated with the generic and the virtual, we increasingly want to surround ourselves with special objects that have been made by hand, showing a human touch and spirit at work."

Amy Brennan, an auctioneer and valuer at Duke's, agrees. In fact, she believes the provenance or history of an object can be more valuable than the item alone. "Sometimes, the idea that a famous person has touched or used an object is as intriguing as the object itself – and some people spend a lot of money buying into these stories," she says.

Last year, Duke's sold some medical notes relating to Lord Lucan, whose fate still remains a mystery. Written by Dr John Watson, they detail the treatment Lord Lucan

## 'Story hunters' have obsessions about a person or event

received following a speedboat accident in September 1963, in which he broke his nose. "We didn't really know how to price them," explains Brennan. "We put £150-£200, but they sold for several thousands of pounds. It's a great example of where a thing – in this case a piece of paper – is only valuable because it details something quite personal about someone very famous." Importantly, the medical card could be crucial in identifying someone thought to be Lord Lucan, which adds the possibility of a future story to its worth.

Brenan calls those who buy items such as these 'story hunters'. They have obsessions about a person or event and collect ephemera – paperwork, letters, clothing etc – in order to feel a connection. "These items are not the type of things a normal antiques collector will go for," she explains. "They appeal to a very specific type of person, and these people spend a lot of money on their obsessions. They want the story."

However, there doesn't have to be a celebrity involved to generate a profitable story. Brennan recalls stumbling upon an ancient Egyptian canopic jar while doing a valuation at a home in Dorset. The family had inherited the jar, had no idea what it was and were happily using it as a flowerpot. Despite being thousands of years old, canopic jars are not as rare as you might imagine, and they seldom make more than £300. This one wasn't in particularly good condition, but Duke's used the press to publicise the tale of its discovery – the unknown treasure in the garden – and it sold for more than £2,000. Further proof of the economic value of a good story.

*If you think you might have a hidden treasure or an object with a story to tell, come to Over-Seas House London on 15 October for ROSL's free valuation day with Duke's Auctioneers. See page 34 for more details.*

*Samantha Whitaker is a Sub-Editor at Sunday Publishing and was previously Deputy Editor of Overseas.*



**AUTHENTIC:**  
The only verified poppy from the battlefields of WWI, sold by Duke's at auction for more than £6,000

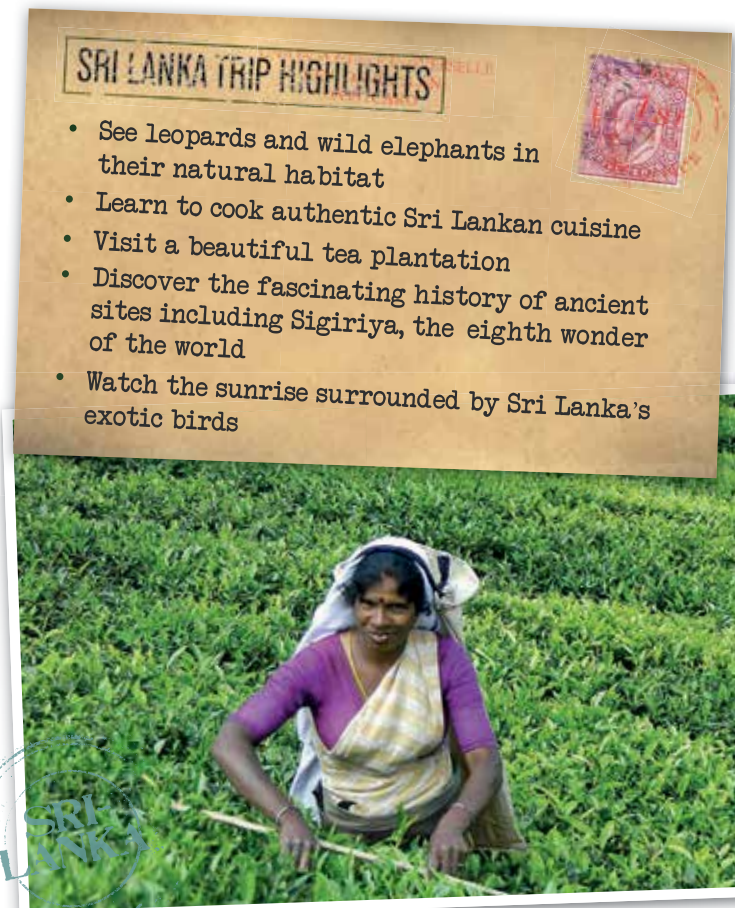




## EXCLUSIVE TOURS FOR ROSL MEMBERS IN SRI LANKA & THAILAND

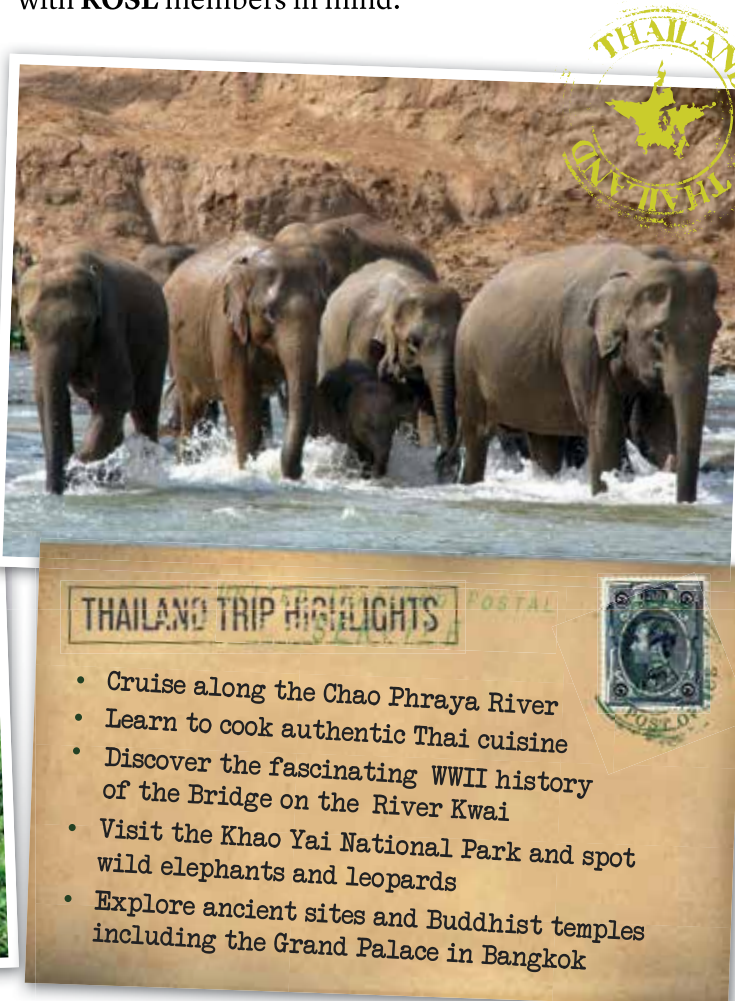
### ROSL Sri Lanka Group Tour 16 days. 12 people. March 2015

Sri Lanka is one of the most diverse and beautiful islands on the planet. For such a small island to have such a variety of wildlife, cultural treasures, dramatic scenery and amazing beaches is extraordinary. For this exclusive tour we've hand-picked the 'must-see' highlights of Sri Lanka with ROSL members in mind.



### ROSL Thailand Group Tour 16 days. 12 people. March 2015

Thailand has a timeless charm and a mystical allure with its idyllic beaches, steamy jungles, exotic wildlife, exquisite temples and rich history. For this exclusive tour we've hand-picked the 'must-see' highlights of Thailand with ROSL members in mind.



Experience Travel Group is a tailor-made holiday specialist that combines engaging service with intimate knowledge of Sri Lanka, Maldives, Indochina, Borneo and Indonesia to create extraordinary local experiences.

For every booking made, Experience Travel Group will make a contribution of 5% to **ROSL Humanitarian and Development Projects.**

To join a group speak to a Personal Travel Expert on **0203 468 4524**, quoting your ROSL membership number.

**www.experiencetravelgroup.com**

Address: Studio C & D, 209 St John's Hill, London, SW11 1TH

## FOCUS

# A Burmese tale of literary adventure

**Martha Kearney** explains why authors, publishers and thousands of adoring fans flocked to Mandalay for the first Irrawaddy Literary Festival



Even the title has a romantic ring, named after the magnificent Irrawaddy river which flows through the centre of Burma, carrying giant logs of teak, bamboo and people from one part of the country to another. The festival brought giants of the literary world to Mandalay to discuss writing and culture, in a society that has been for so long repressed under a military dictatorship.

The Irrawaddy Literary Festival isn't exactly like Cheltenham or Hay. For a start, it's unlikely that a British festival would be invaded by thousands of adoring fans, yet that's precisely what happened at the plush hotel in Mandalay where this celebration of writers took place.

The star attraction was Aung San Suu Kyi, who is patron of the festival. Everywhere she goes, this diminutive figure of 68 – her hair tied up with traditional sprigs of jasmine – is mobbed. So when word got out that she would be appearing, her loyal supporters came in their thousands. The session that I was chairing was packed, so most of the people watched on a large screen outside – rapt, I was told, though they couldn't benefit from the simultaneous interpretation indoors.

Aung San Suu Kyi, or Daw Suu as she is respectfully known, was taking part in a panel discussion. One of the other guests was the English novelist Louis de Bernières, a man who takes his guitar with him everywhere, so strains of Albinoni could be heard gently wafting through his hotel door in the afternoons. U Thaw Kaung is well known in Burma as a long-standing man of letters. Completing the line-up was Jung Chang, the *Wild Swans*

author, whose glamorous outfits left the rest of us feeling even more crumpled than usual in the strong heat.

Our subject was 'Literary Heroes and Heroines', and I began on a positive note by asking Daw Suu for her thoughts. She immediately said "Lizzie Bennet", with an affectionate tone that suggested a much-loved friend rather than a character from a book. This was a woman who wasn't afraid to speak her mind, she suggested, who was prepared to challenge the rigid conservatism of her day. I think the resonances for that audience were clear. Jean Valjean from *Les Misérables* provided similar parallels. The other panellists selected the little boy who challenged the emperor with no clothes, Maggie Tulliver from George Eliot's *Mill on the Floss*, and a Burmese homage to a good housewife, which was chosen by U Thaw. That met with a retort from Aung San Suu Kyi: "Typical man!"

My favourite moment came at the end, with a rather tricky question from the audience. Who would the panel pick for an anti-hero? De Bernières questioned whether there was any real difference between a villain and an anti-hero. After the session, Daw Suu turned to me and whispered, "Molesworth, isn't he an anti-hero?" As I laughed, I realised that the memory of the miscreant schoolboy must have come from her earlier incarnation as a mother and housewife, living a domestic life in Oxford before her world turned upside down.

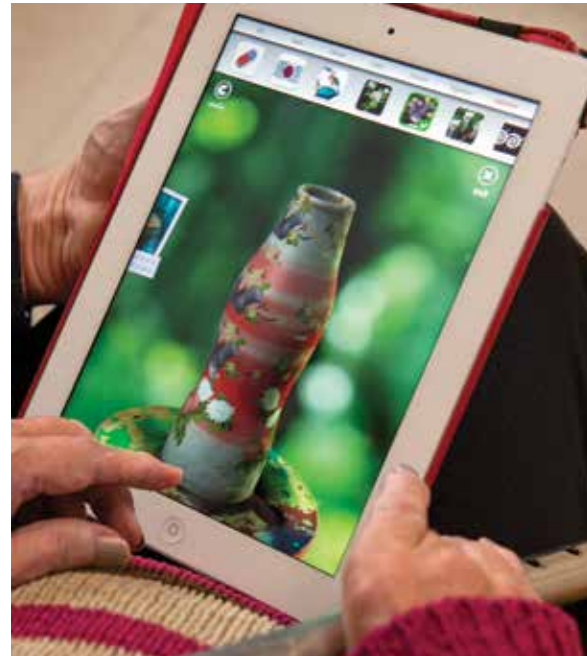
*ROSL member Martha Kearney is a broadcaster and journalist, who presents BBC Radio 4's The World at One.*

**CELEBRATION:** School children have a day at the festival (left); and a workshop with author Dr Rupert Arrowsmith (above)



# Could tablets be the best medicine?

**Miranda Moore** finds out how iPads are improving the lives of vulnerable people, and giving them back their independence and self-confidence



**INTUITIVE:** Three generations use an iPad together (above left); and designing a vase using the 'Let's Create! Pottery' app (above)

Six years ago, Tim Lloyd-Yeates was doing a guided reminiscence session with an Alzheimer's patient called Dorothy when a slip of the tongue led to a life-changing discovery. The Executive Director of Alive! Activities, a charity supporting people with dementia, asked not what Dorothy wanted to *hear* but what she wanted to *see*. The answer – the Bayswell Hotel in Scarborough – seemed impossible to deliver. "I had lots of things in my bag but this hotel was not one of them," he smiles. Then he remembered his iPhone. Within seconds, he had found a picture of the hotel using Google Maps.

To some clients, such technology may seem like witchcraft, but the real magic was the incredible change that came over Dorothy. "She went from being closed body language – closed legs, crossed arms, distant, memories confused, not at all sociable – to 'My dear boy, let me tell you about this hotel'. She told me all about the menu, the dining room, the chandeliers," he says.

"What we'd done is found a part of her memory that was still working, as is often the case with people living with dementia." Running reminiscence sessions using music, objects and art, he had found it difficult to respond to spontaneous requests in clients' more lucid moments – how to show a clip from a film or a picture of a church that the person suddenly recalls before the moment has passed. When the iPad launched in 2010, he realised it had the potential to deliver all that and more.

"On the day that they were released, we bought an

iPad, and we've been using them every day, all day with vulnerable people ever since," he says. In 2011, a research team from the University of Worcester concluded that touchscreen devices could improve the quality of life of people with dementia. Interactions between residents, staff and family members improved, people were better able to make everyday decisions and there was a potential rehabilitative role as well.

Dementia support charities across the country are slowly beginning to take note, yet only 10% of people in care homes have access to the technology that can have such a positive impact on their lives. Tom Christie, who works with Stirling University's Dementia Services Development Centre, believes this will change, with an increasing number of apps being designed specifically for people with dementia, including medication alerts, reminder messages and other memory aids.

For Christie, there are two things that make tablets so effective: the diversity of applications and the ease of use. "It's the variety that is really the selling point – the fact that there's a really diverse range of apps and they are really

*It's the variety that is really the selling point – there's a diverse range of apps*



easy to get hold of." This helps carers to respond to the interests of each individual, with options ranging from creative apps such as Let's Create! Pottery to the ever-popular YouTube, which gives instant access to almost any music, film or video clip in the public domain. In addition, it's intuitive: you don't have to use a mouse or understand operating systems to make it work. "We're using this ancient interface between mind and hand that means that we don't need a big instruction manual," says Lloyd-Yeates.

It was after visiting his mother-in-law in a care home for the first time that he began working in the sector. Seeing her sitting in front of a large TV – a machine she despised – made him realise how isolated people can become when they are unable to act as their own advocate. His aim now is to help clients by giving them what they want, not what their carers may *think* they want, and this means focusing on each person's story: "What they used to do, where they lived, what they like to do now. That helps with the work you're going to do on the iPad, because it's different things to different people," he explains.

Colin Moody, an activities presenter for Alive!, understands this only too well. At a recent session involving an iPad connected to a TV screen, he was able to take the group on a virtual tour of the cathedral in Udine, Italy, where one of the participants was from. Tears of joy ran down her cheeks, and soon Moody, his colleague and others in the group were crying too. Lloyd-Yeates had a similar experience when he found out that a client had been a locomotive driver and brought up a video of his train, the Clun Castle, on YouTube. "He's in tears, I'm in tears. It's priceless – better than any medicine," he says.

This highlights the benefits of the technology for people from all backgrounds, whatever their age, as well as the ease with which people who are not IT-literate can learn. "It gives us access, in an intuitive and immediate way, to things that people find interesting," he says. That can really brighten up people's lives, while also revealing the tablet's greatest gift: the ability to validate people's interests and individuality.

## Technology event for members

ROSL members in Scotland who would like to learn how to use touchscreen devices, apps and other information technology, or brush up on existing skills, should see the Events section for details of our forthcoming free Technical Thursdays sessions.

**ENGAGING:** iPads enable users to learn all kinds of new skills, including apps that teach you to play the keyboard (above)

**INDIVIDUAL INTERESTS:** Tim Lloyd-Yeates supports an elderly resident with dementia during an Alive! Activities session (right)



## Tim's recommended apps

- **Piccolage:** a free, easy-to-use app that allows you to manipulate images and includes a search facility that means you can use and adapt pictures from the internet.
- **Let's Create! Pottery:** an incredibly engaging app that enables you to create virtual pieces of pottery by moving fingers across the screen.
- **YouTube:** the all-time favourite now includes every Pathé news reel, from royal weddings to presidents of the United States. Paul Robeson singing *Ol' Man River* is always a hit.
- **Skype:** free video-calls for staying in touch with friends and family.
- **Bloom HD:** a beautiful app where you touch the screen to change the zen-like music and ripples of colour that move across the screen. I've had people with mobility issues play it with the back of their hand or the end of their nose.
- **Morris Lessmore:** the first generation of animated, interactive storybooks, this app is enchanting. It reads you a story and when you move your fingers across the screen, the pictures move accordingly.
- See [memoryappsfordementia.org.uk](http://memoryappsfordementia.org.uk) for more ideas.



SUSANNE PRIDE NOTMAN'S



# St George's Town, Bermuda

## How long have you lived in Bermuda?

On a blustery February day in 1971, I stepped off the plane with my Bermuda-born husband. "Welcome to your new home," said he, and it has been ever since. I grew up in Montreal so I had to learn to adapt, but my adopted island and I evolved together. The past 40 years have seen a burgeoning cultural identity and a collective pride in 'homeland'.

## What do you love about living there?

I can enjoy a rich, cultural community, including annual international film and performing arts festivals, local theatrical and musical productions of a high standard, an eclectic visual arts scene and a circle of talented writers, filmmakers, raconteurs and historians. There are also the sandy beaches, sunsets across the harbour, short commutes and near-year-round mild temperatures.

## St George's is often described as a 'jewel in Bermuda's crown'. What is unique about the town?

Part of the charm of this World Heritage site is that very little has changed since its settlement in 1612. Visitors can meander down narrow lanes where merchants sell their wares. Guided tours of the original limestone buildings, with their unique architectural features, start in King's Square on the harbour. During the National Trust's Christmas walkabout, the old town is aglow and decorations in local greenery abound. It is an image that has been captured by writers and artists for centuries.

## Bermuda is a draw for archaeologists. Tell us something of its heritage...

I find it thrilling to learn of new digs telling of the tenacity of each person who arrived on Bermuda's soil. On Ordinance Island, there is a magnificent bronze statue of Admiral George Somers, who landed the ill-fated 'Sea Venture' on Bermuda's treacherous reefs in 1609, and a replica of the 'Deliverance', the crude ship that carried the survivors.

## What's your favourite restaurant?

The White Horse Tavern on King's Square is a family favourite. The main attraction is the verandah by the waterside. Wahoo's is a lively bistro on the water where, yes, the wahoo (fish) is delicious, as well as the gelato.

## How has living and working in Bermuda influenced your writing?

Bermuda's outstanding beauty, historical and cultural diversity, biological and marine life, and much slower pace of life has inspired a myriad of writers, including Mark Twain, Eugene O'Neill and Shakespeare who, on learning of the 'Sea Venture' wreck, crafted his own *Tempest*. I find inspiration in the rich tapestry and layers of history that is the foundation of this magical isle. My first cover story for *The Bermudian* took readers into the deep, where the myriad shipwrecks surrounding the island offer up stories of brave and valiant souls seeking a new life; and of plundering and greed as Spanish galleons, swollen with rich treasures of gold and emeralds, sank to their watery graves.

My most recent inspiration has come from Jane Austen and her 'particular little brother' Charles, who spent time in Bermuda from 1805, as commander of a Bermuda-built sloop. It was an adventurous, dangerous five years of his life, chasing French frigates up and down the American coast. He became immersed in Bermudian life and married the Attorney General's daughter. After extensive research of diaries, letters and log books, I am developing an original screenplay, with St George's taking a lead role.

*Susanne Pride Notman is a freelance writer and journalist. She has been a Programmer for the Bermuda International Film Festival and is co-author of a book of rare, archival photographs of the island. Her current project, Becoming Charles, is a historical drama set in Bermuda, Burma and England. Interview by Christine Wilde.*



## PORT TOWN:

St George's Harbour is a focal point for the town on St George's Island

## NATURAL CHARM:

Water Street in the centre of town (below); and Bermuda's most famous beach, Horseshoe Bay, is a short trip from St George's on the Main Island (below left)

# Members' benefits

**Gemma Matthews** highlights some of ROSL's most exciting new partnerships and services for members

Our vibrant New Members' Reception on 29 May was the perfect opportunity to introduce newly minted members (as well as those thinking about joining the club) to the full spectrum of ROSL benefits. Princess Alexandra Hall was buzzing with conversation, as members met each other and the ROSL team to find out about clubhouse catering and accommodation in London and Edinburgh, our branch network, ROSL arts and humanitarian projects and our popular events programme.

Many partner organisations that offer a range of additional benefits, such as Grange Hotels, DAKS clothing and insurance providers HMCA, were on-hand to answer questions. And everyone enjoyed sampling the clubhouse wines from La Tour de Chollet and Davy's (see right for more details). We will be holding further New Members' Receptions in London on 7 October and Edinburgh on 22 October; these events are

the perfect way to show off your club and recommend a friend. Please contact Ellie Locke, Guest Relations Officer, at [guestrelations@rosl.org.uk](mailto:guestrelations@rosl.org.uk) for information about bringing a guest to this event or to book a showaround of the clubhouse.

## CULTURAL HIGHLIGHTS:

George Harwood-Smith introduces members to the ROSL ARTS programme



## Clubhouse wines

We are delighted to launch our very own ROSL wine club, allowing you to enjoy your favourite clubhouse wines from the comfort of home. Working in partnership with independent wine merchants Davy's, we will introduce you to fine wines from the club's excellent cellar and provide an exclusive opportunity to buy bottles or cases and have them delivered directly to your door.

Why not stock up in time for your Christmas and New Year celebrations with a tempting selection, including Maison Gardet champagne and claret from the club cellar – Château La Tour Carnet, Haut Medoc 2002.

Visit [www.davy.co.uk/rosl](http://www.davy.co.uk/rosl) to find out more or to place an order.

# New partnerships

## Exploring Sri Lanka

Earlier this year, a small group of members embarked on a trip organised by Experience Travel Group to Sri Lanka. Specifically designed for ROSL members, this 15-day tour took in the sites of the ancient cities of Polonnaruwa and Anuradhapura, Sigiriya rock fortress and the Royal Botanical Gardens in Peradeniya. Members also enjoyed a safari in Yala National Park, which has one of the densest populations of leopards anywhere in the world.

Experience Travel Group are organising a ROSL Sri Lankan tour for March 2015. For every booking, Experience Travel will make a 5% donation to ROSL humanitarian projects. See page 12 or contact +44 (0)20 3468 4524 to find out more.

## ON TOUR:

Sri Lankan drummers



## HOLE IN ONE:

Crail Golfing Society course with sea views



## Golfing links

We are delighted that Edinburgh Clubhouse Manager Daniel Campbell has introduced Crail Golfing Society, the seventh oldest golf club in the world, as a partner organisation. This means our members will be able to enjoy some of the finest links golf in Scotland – many say, the world – at a specially reduced rate.

Established in 1786, the club has a distinguished history: golfing legend Old Tom Morris laid out the Balcomie course in 1895 and, in 1998, a second course, Craighead Links, was designed by Gil Hanse. It is located on the coast, 85 minutes' drive from the Edinburgh clubhouse, and with green fees at just £15, reduced from £45-£80, ROSL members can afford to improve their handicap. You will be required to show your membership card on arrival and an advance reservation is essential. Contact [info@crailgolfingsociety.co.uk](mailto:info@crailgolfingsociety.co.uk) or +44 (0)1333 450 686 to book, or visit [www.crailgolfingsociety.co.uk](http://www.crailgolfingsociety.co.uk) for more information about the course.





**BEFORE AND AFTER:**  
The old Bar; and (right)  
the Duke of York Bar



**BRABOURNE ROOM:**  
Before and (left) after  
the renovations

# Building for a brighter future

**Sir Roger Carrick**, Chairman of the ROSL Buildings Sub-Committee, reviews the work being done to improve the London clubhouse

**T**he Buildings Sub-Committee (BSC), formed in 2012 at the behest of the Central Council and on behalf of members, has been beaver away. It is time to say something more widely about its efforts. There have been some much-needed changes at Over-Seas House London, thanks to careful management and cost control by the Director-General Roddy Porter, and the Finance and other directors; the work of the Finance Sub-Committee; and professional and productive cooperation from our fine catering company, Graysons. There are further plans too, made possible in large part by the introduction of a Capital Reserve Fund, to which a modest sum is now intended to be allocated each year.

Members visiting Park Place have already been enjoying the refurbished Brabourne

Room. New and quite major work in the room was overdue. When the rather wobbly floor was taken up, the remains looked like flotsam in a moderate sea. Laser-levelling, timber replacement and reconstitution was the basis of a radical and carefully designed refit of the whole room, expertly designed and financed principally by Graysons, who saw the need for changes in menu and pricing. Staff members were involved in decisions, including their smart new uniforms. The result is generally admired, much used and disliked by only a (very) few.

The Duke of York Bar (named after the Grand Old Duke, who died in an armchair in the room beyond) was very tired; its furnishings badly worn, its logistic support crumbling. The new stock, menu and prices represent a real improvement. There will be more to come. The new look is almost universally valued as historic yet modern and tasteful, and the atmosphere as comfortable and welcoming: much needed change.

There were discussions along the way with English Heritage, who are responsible for ensuring that listed Georgian buildings retain

*When the rather wobbly floor was taken up, the remains looked like flotsam*



**TRANSFORMATION:**  
Installing the new Bar (above); and  
(below) staff enjoy the benefits of the  
new, improved Brabourne Room



their fine qualities. We are particularly glad to have brought the rare crinoline staircase lower landing into proper use for members, and to have 'lifted' the staircase with new carpeting, decoration, lighting and artwork. It is one of the many jewels of Over-Seas House and, again, only a (very) few dislike that change.

Members will also have noticed a less radical but necessary 'uplift' in the main Restaurant, especially in the lighting. Breakfast is widely enjoyed there now, and the menu improvements are welcomed. To suit members, Graysons plan more menu changes. They, too, would welcome comments.

The BSC are seriously disappointed that, so far, we have not been able to implement two important projects. One is a matter of health and safety, and is our highest priority: essential changes in the courtyard to install a goods delivery lift and make other allied improvements to the movement of staff in this area, on which we all depend. This project is complex; it is also fraught with practical, regulatory and bureaucratic delays and complications, for example the need for a noise survey (we all believe that the end result will be less noise). The Director-General and our ROSL architect Jim Cumming, are battling on with this essential work, whose completion will herald a huge sigh of relief, as service and staff operations become much safer and more efficient.

Then there is the need to improve disabled access to and movement in Over-Seas House: another multi-faceted project, requiring careful research and study, and expensive to get right. We hope to provide a much improved entrance to the Westminster

Wing from the courtyard, and better movement from there to and from the Central Lounge and Reception. There are architectural and other complications to resolve: this project will also take a good deal more time than the Sub-Committee would wish.

Delays to high-priority projects may, almost perversely, allow earlier work on less vital but productive building projects, such as a terrace beyond the Bar and over the edge of the Garden nearest Over-Seas House, to give more members more space in tolerable weather to enjoy the Bar drinks and light meals. English Heritage have approved this project. We hope to start work this autumn to finish in time for summer 2015.

We should dearly like, 'ere too long, to provide more bedrooms for members (our current 83 are often all taken). In a listed building, the difficulties will be legion, but we shall have a good try, when finance permits.

Maintenance of our listed buildings is a constant concern, requiring Herculean efforts, expert troubleshooting, skill and devotion. Fortunately, all these are readily available in the persons of Maintenance Engineer Paul Streat and his splendid team, who daily achieve miracles.

The BSC has some longer-term embryonic thoughts about how best to meet members' future needs in our beautiful and much-loved buildings. With the Director-General, we think a lot and, with the help of many others, we seek to achieve some good things that serve you, the members. The 'proof of the pudding': we monitor members' use, and welcome your views – by email, letter or conversation with ROSL officers, please.

## Setting the Bar

Younger Member **Amelia Voice** reviews the new Duke of York Bar



**A**s a ROSL Younger Member who has been living in London for a number of years, I am scrupulous as to where I spend my free time. ROSL is a smart, sophisticated and really friendly club; even so, I was initially ambivalent about the significant overhaul to the Bar. However, having spent an hour quietly losing myself in the ambience of the new, charcoal grey and flawlessly cool Duke of York Bar, I can confirm that ROSL has done something quite different from simply 'rearranging a few sofas'. Instead, one sees large modern chairs, clever lighting and an array of monochrome textures.

Wifi (yes free wifi to all guests) is fast. The fact that my coffee tasted luxurious and my food was delivered on slabs of black slate were added validation that this place is somewhere to come back to. In fact, I'm popping back with chums to celebrate my 24th birthday.



# In search of the 'tingle factor'

Kate Fearnley saw every stage of the competition. She picks her highlights

The awfulness of February is always alleviated by the prospect of six Tuesday evenings of music in Princess Alexandra Hall. This year's cohort of promising musicians presented themselves to an array of distinguished adjudicators and enthusiastic listeners in the ROSL Annual Music Competition section finals for wind, singers, strings, keyboard and two separate ensemble sections.

The adventure started with the wind competitors, five of them: a flautist, a recorder player, two saxophonists and, puzzlingly, a percussionist. Saxophonist Huw Wiggin carried all before him with a showy programme and a great personality. The six singers on the following Tuesday played a game of 'anything you can sing, I can sing louder'. Soprano Anna Rajah emerged as the winner, but the beautiful soprano Nardus Williams was the one who gave me the 'tingle factor' and I shall look forward to hearing her again; she was the youngest by several years.

A surprise winner in the string section was – a ROSL first – a double-bass player. A week later, the pianists were consistently splendid. I particularly liked Peter Foggitt (not afraid to play quietly, I scribbled in my programme) and the very young Dominic Degavino. Jan Hugo was declared the winner but I wasn't enamoured of his programme.

The ensemble finals are always my favourites. The Solem Quartet from Manchester were winners from a very strong field, and in the second section the winners were Block4, an unusual group of recorder players. My favourites were the Ferio Saxophone Quartet, slightly dominated by Huw Wiggin's soprano.

And what of the grand Final at Queen Elizabeth Hall on the Southbank? It is always a great party occasion. The moment that stays in my memory is Anna Rajah's first note – an exquisite pianissimo growing into a beautiful, warm mezzoforte, then melting back to pianissimo. How did she do it? But the well-deserved winner was Huw Wiggin, yet again. All of these delightful artists will keep appearing in concert brochures during the next few years. Good luck to them!

# A winning performance

Gold Medallist **Huw Wiggin** on why he's been preparing for the ROSL Annual Music Competition Final his whole life

When I arrived at Queen Elizabeth Hall on 6 May, I was extremely nervous, as I felt as if I had been preparing for the Final my whole life. I had entered the ROSL Annual Music Competition a number of times, both while studying and while working as a professional musician, but it was my accompanist, James Sherlock, who encouraged me to give it one last shot this year. Before I went on stage, everyone kept saying how anxious they would be, but I tried to breathe deeply and relax, and a few minutes into the performance, I really started to enjoy myself.

I knew that I was performing first, so I had to find a way of being remembered. I started with Stockhausen's *In Freundschaft* for solo soprano saxophone, as it involves extensive use of stagecraft and advanced techniques such as circular breathing, as well as fast, virtuosic passages. Marcello's *Concerto in D Minor* provided an extreme contrast; originally written for the oboe, it is very melodic and played at a slow pace, creating a completely different atmosphere. I chose to finish with *Pequena Czarda* by Pedro Iturralde because it is the lightest of the three and has the feeling of an encore piece.

After the ensembles had performed, we met the judges backstage and the adjudication followed. Then Princess

Alexandra came on to the stage with all 13 judges. I had never felt so nervous, and when Gavin Henderson announced my name as the winner, it was such a shock I didn't know what to do. I hadn't prepared a speech but somehow pulled a few words together.

Winning the Gold Medal and First Prize is my biggest achievement to date and has already opened many doors. I now have an agent and manager to help me with concert opportunities, and I will have a chance to appear at festivals in the UK and abroad. I am so grateful for this accolade.

*Huw Wiggin will perform with other ROSL prizewinners at Wigmore Hall on 13 October. See page 34 for details.*

## MAKING AN IMPRESSION:

(Clockwise from main image) Huw Wiggin; the rapt audience; Block4; HRH Princess Alexandra presents Huw with the First Prize; Toby Hughes; and Gavin Henderson

## Annual Music Competition 2014

In February and March, more than 400 musicians from Australia, Canada, Hong Kong, India, Ireland, Malta, New Zealand, Singapore, South Africa and the UK participated in auditions at Over-Seas House London for the 62nd ROSL Annual Music Competition. At the Final on 6 May, the panel of judges was chaired by Gavin Henderson CBE, Principal of the Central School of Speech and Drama, and prizes worth £68,000 were presented by ROSL Vice Patron HRH Princess Alexandra.

The solo finalists, Anna Rajah *soprano*, Toby Hughes *double bass* and Jan Hugo *piano*, received £5,000 each, with First Prize winner Huw Wiggin *saxophone* receiving £10,000. Huw, who studied at Chetham's School of Music, RNCM Manchester and RCM London, had been a wind

finalist three times previously. He is only the second saxophonist to win the Gold Medal; the first was Amy Dickson in 2004. Other past saxophonist prizewinners include John Harle (1980), Gerard McChrystal (1988), Sarah Markham (1995) and Sarah Field (2000).

The accompanist award of £5,000, equal in value and importance to the solo awards, was won by James Sherlock (winner of the 2010 solo keyboard award). The Ensemble awards of £10,000 each were won by the Solem Quartet (string quartet) and Block4 (recorder quartet). Overseas Award winners included Emily Sun *violin* (Australia), Gerard Schneider *tenor* (Australia), Isabella Moore *soprano* (New Zealand), Carson Becke *piano* (Canada) and Jan Hugo *piano* (South Africa).



SECTION WINNERS:  
(L-r) Toby Hughes,  
Anna Rajah, Jan Hugo  
and Huw Wiggin





**In Memoriam**  
Paul Doherty  
Her beloved's faded photograph stood close-by. He'd vowed to return, to tap at the rose-window overlooking the turtle-doves' nest, only to be killed at Ypres an eternity ago. She smiled, as she always did, when dusk fell and the turtle-dove began its passionate pattering against the darkening glass.

# Five literary gems

We set some of our successful ROSL novelists a challenge: to write a short story in just 50 words. The results were surprising, moving and inspirational, exploring themes of war, loss, mortality and friendship

**Bite**  
Gillian Philip  
How could he know the thing would grow flesh on his fairytale words? His kids grown and gone, and still it came, greedy now. One molar left, and then? Sucking his gums, he shrank under the blankets. Tiny claws scratched the night window, tiny wings fluttered. He listened, waited, whimpered.

**War of Words**  
Hilary Robinson  
"Listen," said Grandpa, sitting beside the campfire. "We native American Choctaws have a powerful weapon."  
"What is the weapon, Grandpa?"  
"Our language, Marty."  
"We had no civil rights during the First World War but we manned the communications and confused the enemy spies. Within weeks the war was over."

**Flight**  
Trisha Ashley  
Flocks of words wheeled and turned until, one by one, they alighted, aligned themselves and were still: her first sentence was born.  
His anger being light-sleeping, she scribbled in the dark. At dawn, the pencil was broken, the paper blank.  
She left, slamming the door: the last bird had flown.

**England – August 1940**  
Suzette A Hill  
That dog was such a thumping liar – swore he had a bone which flew like a Spitfire! Being a cat of cynical bent I replied scathingly that my saucer was actually a camouflaged Stuka... As we spun our yarns, crouched on the innocent lawn, the skies exploded with epic dogfights.



Photos © Stock

# Books

Recent works by ROSL members Trisha Ashley, Suzette Hill and Paul Doherty

**The Venetian Venture**  
Suzette A Hill

*Allison & Busby, 2014*  
*ISBN: 978-0749016555, £19.99*  
Rosy Gilchrist jumps at the chance to escape her daily routine at the British Museum to visit Venice in search of a rare, first edition of translated poems by Horace. Little does she know that she's not the only one searching for this valuable book. Adventure and mayhem ensue as Rosy bumps into old friends along the way.

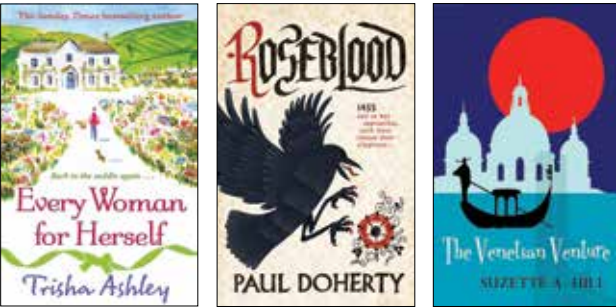
Misty waterways and shadowy piazzas provide the setting for suspected blackmail, double crossing and murder in this comic thriller set in 1950s Venice. The elegant social whirl of bellinis at Harry's and espressos at Cafe Florian offer light relief and tempting descriptions of Italian delicacies – so much so that you'll be planning your very own Venetian holiday by the end of the book!  
*Gemma Matthews*

**Every Woman for Herself**  
Trisha Ashley

*Avon, 2014*  
*ISBN: 978-1847562821, £7.99*  
*Every Woman for Herself*, by Sunday Times bestseller Trisha Ashley, is a witty tale of life after divorce. Forced to move back to her childhood home with her eccentric family, Charlie reignites her passion for painting and meets an exciting new flame. The oddities of the family's rural village life, mixed with comedic extracts from the Skint Old Northern Woman magazine, make for highly enjoyable reading, while the blossoming romance threatens family traditions and made this a book I simply couldn't put down.  
*Ellie Locke*

**Roseblood**  
Paul Doherty

*Headline, 2014*  
*ISBN: 978-0755395965, hardback £19.99*  
It is England, 1455, and as the animosity between the houses of York and Lancaster increases, Simon Roseblood, who is loyal to King Henry, and Amadeus Seigny, a henchman of Richard of York, find themselves embroiled in a bloody conspiracy that threatens to plunge the entire country into chaos. Tense and compelling, this historical thriller paints a vivid picture of the corruption and brutality of 15th-century life, as the dark tale of political intrigue and vengeance unfolds.  
*Christine Wilde*



# How to start a ROSL group

The Book Group has gone from strength to strength since its first meeting last year. **Eve Mittleton-Kelly** explains what setting up and running a group involves



**A NEW CHAPTER:**  
Eve Mittleton-Kelly reads the latest Book Group title at Over-Seas House

**A**s a new ROSL member, one of the things I was looking for was a book group, and last autumn the club didn't have one. When a group of interested members had a meeting in December, Sara Brouwer, ROSL Events Coordinator and Marketing Executive, was very enthusiastic. She helped us to book a room and encouraged us to set dates for future meetings.

We decided that prospective members should choose two or three titles each, and select the next books from those. We sent a list of titles and dates to Sara, who put them on the website, and we also had some leaflets printed. Yet for the first three months we had very few new members. The big breakthrough came when an announcement was put in the March-May issue of *Overseas*; that month we had 15 participants.

New members have continued to join and the Book Group has grown to be an absolute delight. Many went to see the play of *Bring Up the Bodies* while reading the book by Hilary

Mantel, and some enjoyed Shostakovich's 7th Symphony after reading *The Conductor*.

I like to keep in touch with members regularly via email, and a week before a meeting I remind them to let me know if they are staying for dinner so that I can book a table. In addition, people contact me for details of forthcoming books, requirements for becoming a member and dates of future meetings. What I did not expect was the number of ROSL members who are not on email and have to be contacted by phone.

Setting up a ROSL group requires a degree of organisation in setting dates and making information available. These are regular commitments, so if you are thinking of setting up a group, do not underestimate the amount of work involved. Nevertheless, I would recommend it. Our small initial group was made very welcome indeed, and Sara's support and encouragement made all the difference.

Contact [membersevents@rosl.org.uk](mailto:membersevents@rosl.org.uk) to start your own group, or email [e.mittleton-kelly@mittleton-kelly.org.uk](mailto:e.mittleton-kelly@mittleton-kelly.org.uk) to join the Book Group.



# Branches: what's on?

## Details of forthcoming events

ROSL branches provide an opportunity for members in all parts of the world and across the UK to enjoy a range of social events close to home. To find out more about getting involved, simply contact your local representative.



### **Australia** **Tuesday 2 September** **South Australia Branch lunch**

The Public Schools Club, Adelaide; 12pm  
Two-course lunch with talk by Mark Pharaoh on the Antarctic explorer and scientist Sir Douglas Mawson. Guests welcome. Email [rosl.sa@mac.com](mailto:rosl.sa@mac.com) by 28 August to attend. \$30.

### **Wednesday 1 October** **Tasmanian Branch outing**

Fern Tree, Hobart; 2pm  
Tour of Dr John Tooth's rhododendron gardens with afternoon tea. Members are invited to bring a dish. Proceeds to Médecins Sans Frontières. Email [gradick1@gmail.com](mailto:gradick1@gmail.com) to book. \$5 donation.

### **October** **South Australia Branch annual dinner**

Naval, Military and Air Force Club, Adelaide; 7pm  
Three-course dinner with speaker. Email [rosl.sa@mac.com](mailto:rosl.sa@mac.com) for details.

### **Tuesday 4 November** **South Australia Branch Melbourne Cup lunch**

Royal Coach Motor Inn, Adelaide; 12pm  
Put on your finery, enter the sweepstake and feast on the best smorgasbord in town as you

### **Perth Branch farewells**

At the Perth Branch AGM, three long-serving members retired. Jeff Turner MBE served as Chairman for more than 20 years, ably supported by Anne Bluntish and Mary Innes. ROSL thanks them for their contribution and wishes them all the best for the future.

enjoy the 'race that stops a nation'. Email [rosl.sa@mac.com](mailto:rosl.sa@mac.com) by 30 October to attend. \$40.



### **New Zealand** **Wednesday 3 September,** **1 October, 5 November,** **3 December**

**Southland Branch morning tea**  
Club Southland; 10am  
There is always a speaker and all members are welcome. Email [royalo-s@xtra.co.nz](mailto:royalo-s@xtra.co.nz) for details.

### **Wednesday 10 September,** **8 October, 12 November** **Christchurch Branch tea**

Holly Lea Retirement Village; 10am  
There is always a speaker and all members are welcome. Email [royalo-s@xtra.co.nz](mailto:royalo-s@xtra.co.nz) for details. \$NZ7.

### **Sunday 9 - Friday 28 November** **Pettman/ROSL ARTS prizewinners' tour**

Tamsin Waley-Cohen *violin*, Bartholomew LaFollette *cello* and Tom Poster *piano* tour with trios by Beethoven, Tchaikovsky and Mendelssohn. See [www.roslnz.org.nz](http://www.roslnz.org.nz) for details.

### **Wednesday 3 December** **Christchurch Branch Christmas lunch**

Venue tba; 12pm  
All members welcome. Email [royalo-s@xtra.co.nz](mailto:royalo-s@xtra.co.nz) for details.



### **UK**

#### **Bath** **Wednesday 10 September,** **8 October, 12 November,** **10 December**

**Monthly coffee morning**  
Pratt's Hotel; 10.30am  
Meet-up every second Wednesday. Guests welcome. *Donation for refreshments appreciated.*

#### **Thursday 9 October** **Autumn lunch**

The Bath and County Club, Queen's Parade; 11.30am  
With talk by Donald Ruffell on 'France: The end of an era'. Price tba.

#### **Bournemouth** **Thursday 11, 18, 25 September** **2, 9, 16, 30 October** **6, 13, 20, 27 November**

**Weekly coffee morning**  
Marriott Highcliff Hotel; 10.30am  
Guests welcome. £2.90.

#### **Wednesday 22 October** **Autumn lunch and Chris Bladen Memorial Address**

Marriott Highcliff Hotel; 12.30pm  
Two-course meal with coffee and talk by renowned author and columnist Allan Mallinson on '1914: Fight the good fight'. Guests welcome. Call +44 (0)1258 480887 to book. £23.



#### **Thursday 11 December** **Christmas lunch and raffle** Marriott Highcliff Hotel; 12.30pm Two-course dinner with coffee and mince pies. Proceeds to A Touch of Light charity. Call +44 (0)1258 480887 for details. £23.

#### **Cheltenham** **Wednesday 17 September** **'Spitzbergen: Icebergs and Polar Bears'**

Church House, Cheltenham; 2.30pm  
Talk by Dr Peter Ormrod with tea. All members welcome. £2.

#### **Wednesday 15 October** **'Sicily'**

Church House, Cheltenham; 2.30pm  
Talk with refreshments. All members welcome. £2.

#### **Wednesday 19 November** **'Historic Gloucester'**

Church House, Cheltenham; 2.30pm  
Illustrated talk with refreshments. All members welcome. £2.

#### **Edinburgh**

**Friday 5 September**  
**Bridge Club lunch**  
Over-Seas House Edinburgh; 12pm  
Bridge Club members only. £12.

**SUMMER FUN:** (Clockwise from top): Taunton non-drivers at Tarr Steps; a Tasmania Branch coffee morning; and the Chairman's Reception in Edinburgh

**Saturday 4 October**  
**Coffee morning**  
Over-Seas House Edinburgh; 10.30am  
Talk by Mary Fleming on 'The Edinburgh Skyline'. £3.

**Saturday 1 November**  
**Coffee morning**  
Over-Seas House Edinburgh; 10.30am  
Talk by Christine De Luca on 'Shetland Muse and Musings'. £3.

**Friday 5 December**  
**Bridge Club Christmas lunch**  
Over-Seas House Edinburgh; 12pm  
Lunch with sherry for Bridge Club members only. £12.

**Exeter**  
**Friday 26 September**  
**'The Work of a JP'**  
Great Western Hotel; 12pm  
Talk by Diane Deane JP with lunch. Guests welcome. £13.

**Friday 31 October**  
**'Harrods Department Store'**  
Great Western Hotel; 12pm  
Talk by Yvonne Bell with lunch. Guests welcome. £13.

**Friday 28 November**  
**'The Life and Work of Lady Butler'**  
Great Western Hotel; 12pm  
Guests welcome. £13.

**Glasgow**  
Contact +44 (0)141 884 6342 for meeting details.

**Taunton**  
**Wednesday 3, 10, 17, 24 September**  
**8, 15, 22, 29 October**  
**12, 19, 26 November**  
**Weekly coffee morning**  
Miles at the Riverside; 10.30am  
Guests welcome.

**Wednesday 1 October**  
**'VSO'**  
Somerset College; 11am  
Talk on the branch charity with lunch. Guests welcome. £14.50.

**Wednesday 5 November**  
**'The wonderful world of glass'**  
Somerset College; 11am  
Talk with a two-course lunch. Guests welcome. £14.50.

**Wednesday 3 December**  
**'ROSL worldwide'**  
Somerset College; 11am  
Talk by Major-General Roddy Porter with a two-course lunch. Guests welcome. £14.50.

**West Cornwall**  
**Thursday 25 September**  
**Baroque music recital**  
Trevethoe House, Lelant; 7.15pm  
Music for cello and piano with a buffet and wine. Guests welcome. Call +44 (0)1736 333460 by 22 September to attend. £5.

**Thursday 16 October**  
**'Berlin: A divided city'**  
Carbis Bay Hotel; 2.45pm  
Illustrated talk with Cornish cream tea. Guests welcome. To attend call +44 (0)1736 333460 by 14 October. £5.50.

**Thursday 20 November**  
**'Madeira and Tenerife'**  
Carbis Bay Hotel; 2.45pm  
Illustrated talk with Cornish cream tea. Guests welcome. To attend call +44 (0)1736 333460 by 18 November. £5.50.

**West Sussex**  
**Wednesday 1 October**  
**Branch lunch**  
Windsor Hotel, Worthing; 12.30pm  
Two-course lunch with coffee. Guests welcome. Call +44 (0)1444 458 853 for details. £18.50; members £17.50.

**Wednesday 5 November**  
**Branch lunch**  
Windsor Hotel, Worthing; 12.30pm  
Talk by Deputy Editor of *Overseas*, Christine Wilde. Guests welcome. Call +44 (0)1444 458 853 for details. £18.50; members £17.50.

**Wednesday 3 December**  
**Christmas lunch**  
Windsor Hotel, Worthing; 12.30pm  
Three-course lunch and fundraising raffle. Guests welcome. Call +44 (0)1444 458 853 for details.

## Meet Sally Roberts, ROSL West



ROSL West came into being in 2006. I was Secretary of Taunton Branch when Robert Newell, who was Director-General at the time, asked me to consider running the Bath Branch, which could not form a committee. ROSL West was formed so I could do this and run the London weekend, which I had taken over from Taunton Branch. This is now open to all the branches I am connected with, including Exeter. I took over as their Secretary five years ago.

I got involved in the Taunton Branch because my father, David Roberts, who had been Chairman of the West Cornwall Branch and then Treasurer of the Taunton Branch, knew they needed a Secretary. We think the branch was founded in 1947, when the Somerset Light Infantry returned to Taunton. Exeter is one of the oldest, established in Budleigh Salterton before WWII.

The most popular events are the lunches. In Taunton, we use Somerset College where, after a talk in a lecture theatre, we have an inexpensive gourmet lunch, cooked by students. Taunton also arranges outings for non-drivers, in an eight-seater taxi, allowing them to get out and about. Our recent trip to East Exmoor (see picture, opposite) was so successful that we are going to West Exmoor in September and the National Trust Tyntesfield in October.

The thing I most enjoy about my role is the contact with the people, providing them with a service that works well so they can get the maximum enjoyment out of their membership.

## CONTACT DETAILS

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# News and views

The latest from the clubhouses in London and Edinburgh

## ► Members' tours

From the Elgin Marbles to Arne Jacobsen's chair and portraits of George I, the Members' Events programme explored some of the cultural highlights of London this spring. In June, our Blue Badge tour showcased the V&A's 20th-century Scandinavian design collection (below left); the sell-out 'First Georgians' tour, with a talk by an exhibition curator at the Queen's Gallery, provided an intriguing insight into the impact of the Hanoverian succession on life in Britain (right); while members were expertly guided through the relics of 7,000 years of human civilisation on the Best of the British Museum tour (below right).



## ► Central Council

Broadcaster and journalist Ashish Ray (centre), pictured with Sir Anthony Figgis (l) and Roddy Porter, was the popular guest speaker at the Central Council lunch in June. ROSL was also pleased to welcome several new and returning members to the Central Council.



## ◄ The Madness of July

One of the UK's best-known and respected Radio 4 broadcasters, Jim Naughtie, signed copies of his debut novel *The Madness of July* following a ROSL ARTS book event at Over-Seas House London in June.



## ◄ Cinco de Mayo

The Rutland and Bennet-Clark Rooms were transformed into a mini-Mexico for the YM's First Thursdays drinks in May. After feasting on chilli and churros, and sampling the delicious mojitos, ROSL Younger Members and friends created their own gorgeous and grotesque designs in a 'day of the dead' face-painting workshop, led by talented, up-and-coming artist Jade Louise Makeup.

## ► Kampala Music School

ROSL ARTS hosted a fundraising concert at Over-Seas House for the Friends of Kampala Music School in May. Founded in 2001 by Fiona Carr MBE, the school has grown from modest beginnings to become a centre of excellence in classical music in East Africa. ROSL Director of Arts Roderick Lakin and Fiona Carr (centre right) are pictured with (l-r) school Director Kiggunudu Fred Musoke *piano*, ROSL prizewinner Iwan Kiuwua *piano*, Claire Hawkes *clarinet* and Terrence Ayebere *baritone*, who all played in the concert.



## ◄ Tea at the House of Lords

At the kind invitation of ROSL President Lord Luce, members enjoyed an afternoon in the Cholmondeley Room and Terrace at the House of Lords. After the formal announcements by official toastmaster Barry Dorn and a short speech from Lord Luce, members tucked into a tasty spread while taking in views of the Thames, the London Eye and Westminster Palace in the sunshine.



## ► Opera at ROSL

In May, postgraduate singers from the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland gave an evening of song at Over-Seas House Edinburgh. This was followed by a Gala Opera night in June, with RCS students Oliver Rundell *piano*, Luperici de Souza *tenor*, David Horton *baritone*, Hazel McBain *soprano* and Eirlys Davies *mezzo soprano* performing favourite operatic arias.



## ► New faces

ROSL welcomes Tomas Nesvadba, our new Breakfast Manager, who joined the catering team in May. Tomas joins us from The Arts Club and is very much looking forward to welcoming and meeting more members.

## ► Chairman's Lunch

ROSL welcomed General The Lord Dannatt as Guest of Honour to the Chairman's Lunch in May. Following a delicious three-course meal, the former British Army Chief, pictured with Lord Luce (l) and host Sir Anthony Figgis (r), spoke about his experience in the British Armed Forces, as well as the future of national security.



## ◄ Matisse: From darkness to light

Art aficionados and the curious alike filled Princess Alexandra Hall at this popular Discussion Group event in collaboration with the Art Fund. Art Historian Hilary Guise (l) offered an intriguing insight into the life and work of Matisse in a lecture that served as the perfect companion piece to the Tate Modern's recent exhibition 'Henri Matisse: The cut-outs'.



## Beautiful Photography



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**BEER TASTING:** The first  
Scottish Clubs Group event

## Bright young things

**Alexander Lamley on the  
burgeoning scene in Scotland**

Since I wrote in the March-May issue, the YMs of ROSL Scotland have been busy. On 24 May, the Scottish Clubs Group (SCG) met for its first inter-club meeting: a beer tasting. The event was hosted by the Scottish Arts Club and saw members from each of the SCG clubs and their guests meeting and relaxing with food and drink in the bar. This was followed by a champagne and croquet party, hosted by ROSL at the Meadows Croquet Club in Edinburgh, on 3 July.

At the Scottish members' dinner on 20 June, I hosted a table of YMs, who met in the bar for drinks before joining the main reception and moving on to dinner. The evening was an excellent mix of rowdy banter, good food and great company, not to mention a very interesting speaker. The YMs stayed at the clubhouse well into the night before heading off into town for some dancing.

YM movie and wine nights are set to continue on every third Friday of the month, and further SCG events are being planned. Watch this space for further updates.

**LAWN GAMES:** Croquet for the Scottish YMs



## Ripping yarns

**Christine Wilde** discovers a world of storytelling in Edinburgh and London

Old buildings are often said to be full of stories, with walls that could tell a thousand tales, and in the case of John Knox House, this is the literal truth. Dating from 1470, Edinburgh's oldest residence is now part of the Scottish Storytelling Centre, the heart of a lively arts community dedicated to Scotland's stories and the art of oral storytelling.

Halfway along the Royal Mile, less than 15 minutes' walk from the Edinburgh clubhouse, the historic building has joined with the former Netherbow Arts Centre to form the first purpose-built storytelling centre in the world. Hosting an exciting programme of live storytelling, theatre and music, as well as the Scottish International Storytelling Festival (see page 30), the centre celebrates Scotland's rich narratives and oral traditions while bringing them up-to-date, creating opportunities for people of all ages to engage with the stories around them.

Stepping through the low doorway, beneath the lintel proclaiming 'Luf God abufe al and yi nychtbur as yi self', visitors are welcomed into a cosy bookshop, with tales old and new crowded beneath the aged beams. Beyond the reception, the medieval architecture opens out seamlessly into the bright, modern Storytelling Court, a myriad of exhibitions adorning its walls. This inviting, airy space hosts a plethora of regular activities, including Tiny Tales for the under threes, lively ceilidhs and literary-themed displays. Families can sit in the public café and share stories over coffee and cake, or explore Scottish tales from Wee Willie Winkie to *The Gruffalo* at the interactive Storywall. The venue also houses the Netherbow Theatre, an intimate auditorium where literature and performance combine and, in the words of an old Scottish Traveller proverb, the story is told 'eye to eye, mind to mind and heart to heart'.

Journeying south, the Southbank Centre remains one of the focal points of London's storytelling culture. Inviting the best writers and spoken-word artists to discuss their work and present new writing as part of the 'Literature



and the Spoken Word' series, the centre also runs workshops and poetry slams, welcoming poets, rappers and storytellers of all ages and nationalities as part of a vibrant programme of literary festivals.

Across the Thames, the British Library regularly celebrates its exhaustive collections with a variety of immersive exhibitions aimed at capturing the glory of storytelling for different genres and generations. 'Comics Unmasked: Art and anarchy in the UK' traces the British comics tradition as far back as medieval manuscripts and illustrated reports relating to Jack the Ripper. In the coming months (3 October - 20 January 2015), the library will also host 'Terror and Wonder: The Gothic imagination', which explores the gothic influence on film, art, music, fashion and culture over the last 250 years.

Those with younger children or grandchildren will enjoy the Discover Children's Story Centre in Stratford, East London. While, if you have time for a trip outside the capital, you could become Champion of the World at the Roald Dahl Museum and Story Centre in Buckinghamshire, riding the (Great Glass) elevators to the Fantastic and Marvellous activities that are bound to inspire all but the biggest of Twits.



**INTERACTIVE SPACE:**  
An exhibition at the Scottish Storytelling Centre (top); and a young visitor enjoys its Storywall (above right)

**WEAVING TALES:**  
An exhibitor creates colourful pieces at the centre's Craft Fair (above left)



# Drama in an intimate space

Actor **Janet Prince**’s favourite small theatres close to the clubhouses



© Robert Ebbell

As an actor and former Artistic Director of a small London theatre, this is a welcome opportunity to share some of my favourite ‘Off West End’ venues. The best place to start is with **Jermyn Street Theatre**, right on ROSL’s doorstep. This intimate space produces consistently interesting and exciting theatre.

Coming up is *Flowers of the Forest* (22 September - 18 October), a powerful First World War love story by John van Druten, one of the most successful playwrights of the 1930s. Audiences will also have a rare chance to see Mordaunt Shairp’s compelling psychological drama *The Green Bay Tree*, which made Lawrence Olivier a star on Broadway (24 November - 20 December). How fantastic to have these little-known plays just ten minutes’ walk from the clubhouse.

A little further afield in Earl’s Court, the **Finborough Theatre**, above a lovely bar serving food, has the European premiere of *Rachael*, the first play by an African American woman ever to be produced professionally (30 September - 25 October). While the **Arcola** in Dalston (also newly refurbished) brings *A Ghost from a Perfect Place* by Phillip Ridley (11 September - 11 October).

In Edinburgh, the **Traverse Theatre** is a great choice for new writing. Do check out their listings for current shows. The **King’s Theatre** presents *Regeneration*, a play about the life of Siegfried Sassoon, commemorating the centenary of the First World War (30 September - 5 October). The King’s panto – this year *Aladdin*, starting on 29 November – is a Christmas tradition for me. It is truly spectacular and always very funny. A great way to end the year and a great way to round up my recommendations for the coming season.



© Steve Ullathorne

**JANET PRINCE:** In *Durang Durang* at Jermyn Street Theatre (above)

**EXCITING THEATRE:** Cory English and Lisa Caruccio Came in *Dream of Perfect Sleep* at the Finborough Theatre in June (main image)

# Top 10 London and Edinburgh

## London Literary Pub Tour

This three-hour guided performance visits the pubs that inspired generations of writers, including Charles Dickens, Virginia Woolf and Anthony Burgess. **Every Saturday, Tuesday and Thursday.** Tickets £24. [londonliterarypubcrawl.com](http://londonliterarypubcrawl.com)

## The Great Tapestry of Scotland

See the 143m-long tapestry illustrating Scotland’s fascinating history, culture, industry and politics at the Scottish Parliament. **Until 13 September.** Free. [www.scotlandstapestry.com](http://www.scotlandstapestry.com)

## Digital Revolution

Artists, filmmakers, musicians and game developers explore the rise of digital creativity in the Barbican’s interactive exhibition. **Until 14 September.** Tickets £12.50. [www.barbican.org.uk/digital-revolution](http://www.barbican.org.uk/digital-revolution)

## Where Do I End and You Begin

At the City Arts Centre in Edinburgh, contemporary artists from around the world explore the myths underpinning the notion of ‘Commonwealth’. **Until 19 October.** Free. [www.edinburghartfestival.com](http://www.edinburghartfestival.com)

## Daydreams and Diaries: The story of Jacqueline Wilson

The Museum of Childhood celebrates the life and work of the much-loved children’s author. **Until 2 November.** Free. [www.museumofchildhood.org.uk](http://www.museumofchildhood.org.uk)



© Barry Peck, 2011 for Simon & Schuster, National Centre for Children's Books

## Poetry for the Palace

The Queen’s Gallery at the Palace of Holyroodhouse explores the role of the Poet Laureate, and the close relationship between poet and monarch over the last three and a half centuries. **Until 2 November.** Tickets £6.50. [www.royalcollection.org.uk](http://www.royalcollection.org.uk)

## The Crucible with Ten Poems

Scottish Ballet brings together the stylistic language of Arthur Miller and Dylan Thomas in a powerful study of words in motion. **3-4 October.** Tickets £20.50. [www.scottishballet.co.uk](http://www.scottishballet.co.uk)



© Niall Wile, courtesy of Scottish Ballet

## Lord of the Flies

Matthew Bourne’s thrilling new production, inspired by William Golding’s classic dystopian novel, comes to Sadler’s Wells. **8-11 October.** Tickets £12-£45. [www.sadlerswells.com](http://www.sadlerswells.com)



© Helen Mawhinney

## Scottish International Storytelling Festival

Live storytelling, oral traditions and cultural diversity are celebrated by Scottish and international storytellers and musicians at venues throughout Edinburgh. **24 October - 2 November.** Prices vary. [www.tracscotland.org/festivals/scottish-international-storytelling-festival](http://www.tracscotland.org/festivals/scottish-international-storytelling-festival)

## Richmond Literature Festival

Talks, workshops and activities led by high-profile authors, journalists and commentators at locations throughout the London borough. **1-30 November.** Prices vary. [www.richmondliterature.com](http://www.richmondliterature.com)

# Christmas and New Year at ROSL



Celebrate at your home-away-from-home with our special festive packages in London and Edinburgh

## London

By planning ahead you can take advantage of special rates for accommodation at the London clubhouse in December. Choose to stay for one, two or three nights from Christmas Eve to Boxing Day, and let us worry about the turkey, decorations and washing-up while you enjoy scrumptious three-course dinners, winter walks, sparkling drinks receptions and festive films. Choose any number of nights, or why not make the most of our special three-night offer?



Photos: © Stock

	Double/twin	Single
Christmas Eve-Boxing Day ( <b>three-night offer</b> )	£518-£593	£383-£413
Christmas Eve-Christmas Day	£348-£398	£258-£278
Christmas Day-Boxing Day	£372.50-£422.50	£282.50-£302.50

*Included in the price (details above):*

### Christmas Eve

Get into the festive spirit with mulled wine and mince pies at our drinks reception (5.30-7.30pm), followed by a screening of a classic Christmas movie in Princess Alexandra Hall. Information on local church services will be available from Reception. (*Alternatively prices for one night are £100.50-£180.50pp.*)

### Christmas Day

The Christmas celebrations begin at midday with a sparkling drinks reception and a traditional three-course Christmas meal, including half a bottle of wine, coffee and mince pies. Lunch will be followed by a visit from Santa with gifts for everyone, as well as an opportunity to watch the Queen’s Speech. After lunch, family board games will be available in the Drawing and Mountbatten rooms, along with complimentary tea, coffee and biscuits. (*Alternatively prices for one night are £157.50-£227.50pp.*)

### Boxing Day

Enjoy a delicious Boxing Day brunch, available 10am-1pm, before spending the afternoon exploring London on our special winter walking tour with an expert guide. (*Alternatively prices for one night are £125 -£195pp.*)

### Booking information

To book your one, two or three night package, contact [reservations@rosl.org.uk](mailto:reservations@rosl.org.uk) or +44 (0)20 7408 0214 x217. Members and their guests not staying at the clubhouse are also welcome to join our Christmas activities. For prices and information, contact Members’ Events (see page 38 for contact details).

### Christmas Day lunch

Members just wishing to dine on Christmas Day can feast on a festive three-course lunch for £82.50pp. For lunch bookings only, contact [rosliding@graysonsrestaurants.com](mailto:rosliding@graysonsrestaurants.com) or +44 (0)20 7629 3881.

## Edinburgh

### Two-night Christmas shopping break

What better excuse to visit the Edinburgh clubhouse than for a spot of Christmas shopping? Situated on Princes Street, in the heart of the city’s most prestigious shopping district, Over-Seas House Edinburgh is within strolling distance of all the major retailers, including Harvey Nichols, Jenners and John Lewis, as well as the German Christmas markets and outdoor ice rinks. Breakfast is included and ROSL members will also receive 20% off all food and drink.

	Double/twin	Single
Sunday-Thursday	£139pp	£119pp
Friday & Saturday	£199pp	£139pp

### Three-night Christmas package

Stay Christmas Eve to Boxing Day and enjoy a tasty, cooked breakfast on each morning. On Christmas Day, start your celebrations in style with a glass of Kir Royale and canapés with fellow ROSL members. Then sit down to a delicious three-course Christmas meal with coffee, followed by a visit from Father Christmas, with gifts for all the family. A cold buffet will be served in the bar at 7pm. **Double/twin £249pp; single £199.**

### Booking information

To book the Edinburgh packages, contact [reception@rosl-edinburgh.org](mailto:reception@rosl-edinburgh.org) or +44 (0)131 225 1501.

### Three-night Hogmanay treat

Welcome in the New Year in traditional Scottish style with this three-night stay at the Edinburgh clubhouse. Breakfast is included, as well as a ticket to our Hogmanay dinner and dance, where you will be treated to a Kir Royale on arrival, a four-course dinner with three glasses of wine and coffee, followed by a ceilidh disco. Champagne, black bun and shortbread will be served shortly before midnight, allowing time to head up to the rooftop terrace to watch the spectacular fireworks display from the best vantage point in the city.

Members can also purchase tickets just for the Hogmanay dinner and dance for £125pp. **Superior/suite £499pp; standard £449pp (double occupancy); single £549pp.**



# ROSL CALENDAR

## SEPTEMBER

### Until Sunday 7 September

Hatti Patisson exhibition

#### Over-Seas House London, daily

Scottish painter and textile designer Hatti Patisson exhibits her latest collection of work focusing on landscapes around Fife in Scotland. This exhibition follows on from a successful show at Over-Seas House Edinburgh in 2012.  
*Free.*

### Until Sunday 28 September

Edinburgh Printmakers exhibition

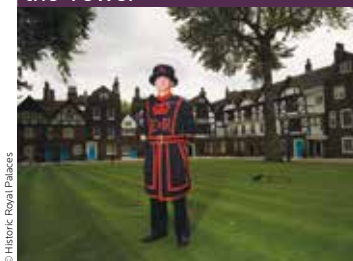


#### Over-Seas House Edinburgh, daily

Some of Scotland's best-known printmakers return to exhibit more stunning prints.  
*Free.*

### Tuesday 2 September

Black-tie Dinner in the Tower



#### Tower of London, 7pm

The ever-popular Dinner in the Tower starts with a reception in the Fusiliers' Mess, followed by a three-course dinner with wine in the Fusiliers' Mess. Afterwards, the Yeoman Warder will escort us to the Ceremony of the Keys.  
*Tickets £79. Guests welcome.*

### Wednesday 3 September

Friends of ROSL ARTS Champagne Garden Party



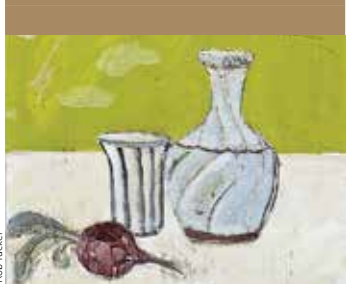
#### Over-Seas House London, 6pm

Exclusive to Friends of ROSL ARTS, the Annual Champagne Garden Parties are the highlight of the summer calendar. A champagne reception in the Garden will be followed by an hour-long concert by a selection of ROSL prizewinners. Afterwards, Commonwealth wines and sweet pastries will be served.

Invitations to attend one of the Garden Parties were sent to existing Friends in June. Joining the Friends costs just £30 for ROSL members or £35 for non-members. Benefits include discounted tickets to all ROSL ARTS events, invitations to private views of exhibitions and regular mailings.  
*Exclusive to Friends of ROSL ARTS. Call +44 (0)20 7408 0214 x219 or email culture@rosl.org.uk to become a Friend.*

### Wednesday 3 September – Friday 24 October

Rob Tucker exhibition



#### Over-Seas House London, daily

2012 ROSL Visual Arts Scholar Rob Tucker exhibits his latest work at the London clubhouse.  
*Free.*

### Thursday 4 September

First Thursdays: History of Clubland talk



#### Hall of India and Pakistan, Over-Seas House London, from 6pm

In a joint social event at this month's drinks' night, Younger Members will be treated to a lecture on a subject guaranteed to pique their interest: the history of clubland. Together with members of the Riding Club London, a members-only equestrian club, we will enjoy reception drinks before sitting down to the talk by Seth Alexander Thévos.  
*£6. Includes a glass of wine. Guests welcome. Advanced booking required.*

### Tuesday 9 September

Visit to Denbies Wine Estate, Surrey



#### Leaving from Over-Seas House London, 9.45am

Situated in the Surrey Hills, Denbies is one of the largest wine producers in the UK. This London Group visit includes a walking tour, with a recorded commentary exploring the highlights of this beautiful vineyard. An indoor guided tour of the working winery follows, with the opportunity to sample their produce.  
*Tickets £42; LG members £40. Travel and entry included. Lunch and refreshments available but not included.*

### Wednesday 10 September

Black-tie Dinner in the Tower with MSJA



#### Tower of London, 7pm

A second Dinner in the Tower, this time in collaboration with the Mayfair and St James's Association. The evening begins in the Fusiliers Headquarters, with champagne and a three-course dinner as usual, and concludes with the Ceremony of the Keys.  
*Tickets £79. Guests welcome.*

### Friday 12 September

Visit to Armourers' Hall



#### Coleman Street, Moorgate, London, 2.30pm

Occupying the same site since 1346, Armourers' Hall tells a story of survival through the Great Fire of London and the Blitz. Members will have an exclusive tour of the building before being served refreshments. Entirely rebuilt in the 19th century, the Hall still carries an atmosphere of antiquity, untouched by the modern era, with deep mahogany furnishings, impressive Dutch and Elizabethan portraiture, and, well, quite a considerable volume of armour.  
*Tickets £15. Refreshments included. One guest per member.*

## Guy Masterson: Anthem for a Doomed Youth



### Friday 31 October

Princess Alexandra Hall, Over-Seas House, 7pm

Multi-award-winning actor and director Guy Masterson brings his sell-out Edinburgh Festival Fringe one-man show to ROSL. *Anthem for a Doomed Youth* is a powerful compendium of the finest stories and poems from both sides of no-man's land. From our greatest war poets, Wilfred Owen, Rupert Brooke and Siegfried Sassoon, to excerpts from Erich Maria Remarque's *All Quiet on the Western Front* and the Christmas Truce, Masterson brings the trenches to life in a compelling and moving tour de force.  
*Tickets £20; £15 Friends of ROSL ARTS. Includes wine and canapés.*



### Tuesday 16 September

Edinburgh film night

#### Over-Seas House Edinburgh, 5pm

Classic American drama, with coffee, popcorn and ice-cream.  
*Tickets for entry and refreshments £7.50.*

### Thursday 18 September

A History of the First World War in 100 Objects

Princess Alexandra Hall, Over-Seas House London, 7pm

*A History of the First World War in 100 Objects* by John Hughes-Wilson is published by the Imperial War Museum and tells the stories behind 100 items from the conflict, including weapons, paintings and letters.  
*Tickets £7; £5 Friends of ROSL ARTS. Includes wine.*



### Thursday 18 September

The Royals in Focus



#### Over-Seas House London, 6pm

London Group talk with Joan Williams, former BBC photographer, whose assignments

have taken her across the UK, Europe and the USA. Her royal photographs have been exhibited at Holyroodhouse, Buckingham Palace and the National Portrait Gallery, among other venues.  
*Free. LG members and overnight guests at Over-Seas House only.*

### Friday 19 September

Inter-Club: A night at the opera



#### Over-Seas House London, 7pm

In a sparkling evening of culture, ROSL brings opera to clubland. After a drinks reception and a pre-performance picnic or dinner, the Olivier Award-winning Opera Up Close will take guests to 1950s Hollywood, resetting Donizetti's comic opera *L'elisir d'amore* with English lyrics and a surprising, interactive element.

True to opera style, guests are required to wear evening dress – and we request a 1950s touch. Refreshments will be available in the interval, and after the performance guests can see out the evening to the mellow strains of 1950s jazz in the ROSL Garden.  
*Tickets are sold through the Inter-Club website. For further notifications, please ensure you are on the ROSL YM mailing list.*

## OCTOBER

### Until Friday 24 October

Rob Tucker exhibition

#### Over-Seas House London, daily

See September listing for details.  
*Free.*

### Thursday 2 October

First Thursdays

#### Duke of York Bar, Over-Seas House London, from 6pm

We want all our YMs to feel at home in our clubhouses and to use them as spaces to relax, bring friends, engage in culture and form new connections, so join us at our monthly drinks.  
*Free. Guests welcome.*

### Friday 3 October - Sunday 25 January

The Grand Tour exhibition



#### Over-Seas House Edinburgh, daily

An exhibition of new works by Liesel Thomas and Tim Le Breuilly. Thomas has exhibited in Berlin, London and Edinburgh, while Le Breuilly is currently undertaking a residency at Fettes College and has been shortlisted for the John Moores Painting Prize. He has also contributed curatorially to exhibitions at Talbot Rice Gallery. Contact reception@rosl-edinburgh.org to attend the **Private View on Thursday 2 October**, 6-8pm. Wine and canapés will be served.  
*Free.*

### Tuesday 7 October

Edinburgh film night

#### Over-Seas House Edinburgh, 5pm

Enjoy an evening of classic Ealing comedy, with coffee, popcorn and ice-cream.  
*Tickets for entry and refreshments £7.50.*

## QUICK BOOKING INFORMATION

For full booking and contact details, see page 38

#### ROSL ARTS

+44 (0)20 7408 0214 ext 219;  
culture@rosl.org.uk

#### ROSL Scotland

+44 (0)131 225 1501;  
www.rosl-edinburgh.org.uk

#### Members' events

Book online at [www.rosl.org.uk](http://www.rosl.org.uk);  
membersevents@rosl.org.uk

#### London Group

Clive Carpenter;  
+44 (0)7798 824193; clivedavidcarpenter@compuserve.com.  
For outside visits: Doreen Regan  
c/o Over-Seas House London

#### Younger Members

Book online at [www.rosl.org.uk](http://www.rosl.org.uk);  
membersevents@rosl.org.uk

#### Discussion Group

No advanced booking required.



Wednesday 8 October

Art and Music in the Time of War

Princess Alexandra Hall, Over-Seas House London, 3pm

In association with the Art Fund. The First World War left more powerful and poignant imagery than any war before or since. We can only speculate on how different Western art would have been without the loss of Franz Marc, August Macke, Henri Gaudier-Brzeska and countless young men who had not yet had time to express themselves fully. By contrast, there were artists such as Otto Dix, Stanley Spencer and Paul Nash whose greatest work was inspired by the war. The music of Elgar, Ravel, Ivor Gurney and Ivor Novello will illustrate the composition element of the lecture, delivered by Patrick Bade, Senior Lecturer at Christie's Education, London. Tickets £14. To book contact the Art Fund on +44 (0)844 415 4100. Includes tea and coffee, served before the event.

Wednesday 8 October

Edinburgh Arts Lunch

Over-Seas House Edinburgh, 12 for 12.30pm

Talk by George Sutherland on 'WWI and Gallipoli', followed by a delicious two-course lunch, including wine and coffee. Tickets £20; guests £25.

Monday 13 October

The Monday Platform

Wigmore Hall, 7.30pm

ROSL major prizewinners, Huw Wiggin saxophone (2014 Gold Medallist), James Sherlock piano and the Tempest Flute Trio, will amaze and beguile members in a programme designed to showcase their performance flair and artistry. (See page 20 for Huw's account of his prizewinning performance). Tickets £10-£18 from www.wigmore-hall.org.uk; Friends of ROSL ARTS £12, available only from ROSL ARTS. Includes post-concert reception with wine for Friends only.

Wednesday 15 October

ROSL's valuation day

Rutland and Bennet-Clark rooms, 11am-5pm

Duke's Auctioneers will host our very own Antiques Roadshow-style event. Experts will appraise everything from jewellery to furniture and fine art. As it might be tricky getting some items to the clubhouse, verbal valuations can be conducted via a selection of good quality photographs, taken from all angles (including any signatures and makers' marks). If you decide to sell your items, have a valuation for insurance purposes or conduct further research, Duke's will be able to arrange this. Duke's Auctioneers was established in Dorset in 1823 and continues to maintain its traditional values while operating in a global marketplace. Free. Members only. Contact guestrelations@rosl.org.uk to register your 15-minute slot. Places are limited.

Thursday 16 October

Contrasts of Conservation: Lapland versus Scotland



Over-Seas House London, 6pm

James Borrell is a conservation biologist, writer and speaker, with a passion for expeditions and adventure. He has been involved in conservation projects around the world and went to Lapland in 2013 to study climate change and habitat fragmentation. His illustrated talk to the London Group will contrast conservation approaches in Lapland and Scotland, and will explain why the Dwarf Birch Tree has an important role to play in both countries. Free. LG members and overnight guests at Over-Seas House only.

Friday 17 October

Inter-Club Reverse Dinner

Savile Club, London, time tba

Held in the Savile's beautiful ballroom, the Reverse Dinner is a tried and tested formula, and well worth attending. Visit www.inter-club.co.uk for details and booking information.

Monday 20 October

Zeppelin Nights: London in the First World War



Over-Seas House London, 7-8.30pm

Discussion Group talk on the bombing of London by award-winning historian Professor Jerry White. Free.

Tuesday 21 October

Midori Komachi violin, Ian Brown piano

Princess Alexandra Hall, Over-Seas House London, 7pm

Japanese-born violinist Midori Komachi and pianist Ian Brown perform Mozart's Sonata for Violin and Piano in G Major, Walton's Sonata for Violin and Piano in A Minor, Brahms's Sonata for Violin and Piano No. 1 in G Major and Ravel's Tzigane. In association with the Medical Music Society of London. Tickets £28; Friends of ROSL ARTS £22. Tickets with two-course buffet, wine and tea/coffee £56; Friends of ROSL ARTS £48. All tickets include wine, tea and coffee.

Wednesday 22 October

Bank of England tour

Bartholomew Lane, London, 1.45pm

This London Group tour will begin with a visit to the Bank of England museum to explore the history of the bank from its foundation in 1694 to the present

day. An audiovisual presentation on the architecture and life of the bank will follow, after which there will then be an opportunity to enjoy some refreshments at the Royal Exchange nearby. Tickets: £14; LG members £12. Refreshments not included.

Thursday 23 October

Technical Thursdays in Edinburgh



Over-Seas House Edinburgh, 11am, 1pm, 3pm

Following our tremendously popular Technical Tuesdays at the London clubhouse last year, the ROSL IT brigade is coming to Scotland. With an increasing number of club activities and benefits publicised and documented online, it is our aim to help members who are not completely confident with computers, or want to brush up on their digital skills, to become an active part of our online community. So come and join us at one of our Technical Thursdays sessions. They will cover a wealth of topics, cater to all skills levels, and run alongside the Europe-wide Get Online Week. Free. Refreshments included. Members only. Places are limited. Call +44 (0)131 225 1501 to register your 60-minute slot.

Saturday 25 October

Yuri Zhislin violin/viola, Katya Apekisheva piano

Princess Alexandra Hall, Over-Seas House London, 7pm

Russian virtuosi Yuri Zhislin and Katya Apekisheva give a sneak preview of the programme for their debut recital at the Carnegie Hall, New York, including Brahms's autumnal Sonata in E Flat and favourites by Tchaikovsky and Gershwin. Tickets £20; £15 Friends of ROSL ARTS. Includes sparkling wine on arrival, and wine and canapés afterwards.

Friday 31 October

Guy Masterson: Anthem for a Doomed Youth

Princess Alexandra Hall, Over-Seas House, 7pm

Guy Masterson brings his sell-out Edinburgh Festival Fringe one-man show to the London clubhouse. See box-out on page 33 for details.

NOVEMBER

Until Sunday 25 January

The Grand Tour exhibition

Over-Seas House Edinburgh, daily

See October listing for details. Free.

Tuesday 4 November

Vernon House WWI Memorial Service

Over-Seas House London, 10.30am

Led by ROSL President Lord Luce, Chairman Sir Anthony Figgis and the Very Reverend John Hall, Dean of Westminster, this act of remembrance is central to the ROSL's First World War Centenary programme and signals the start of the club's commemorations. It will be followed by a coffee reception. Free. Guests welcome.

Tuesday 4 November

The Lion's Roar: WWI history walk



London, 2pm

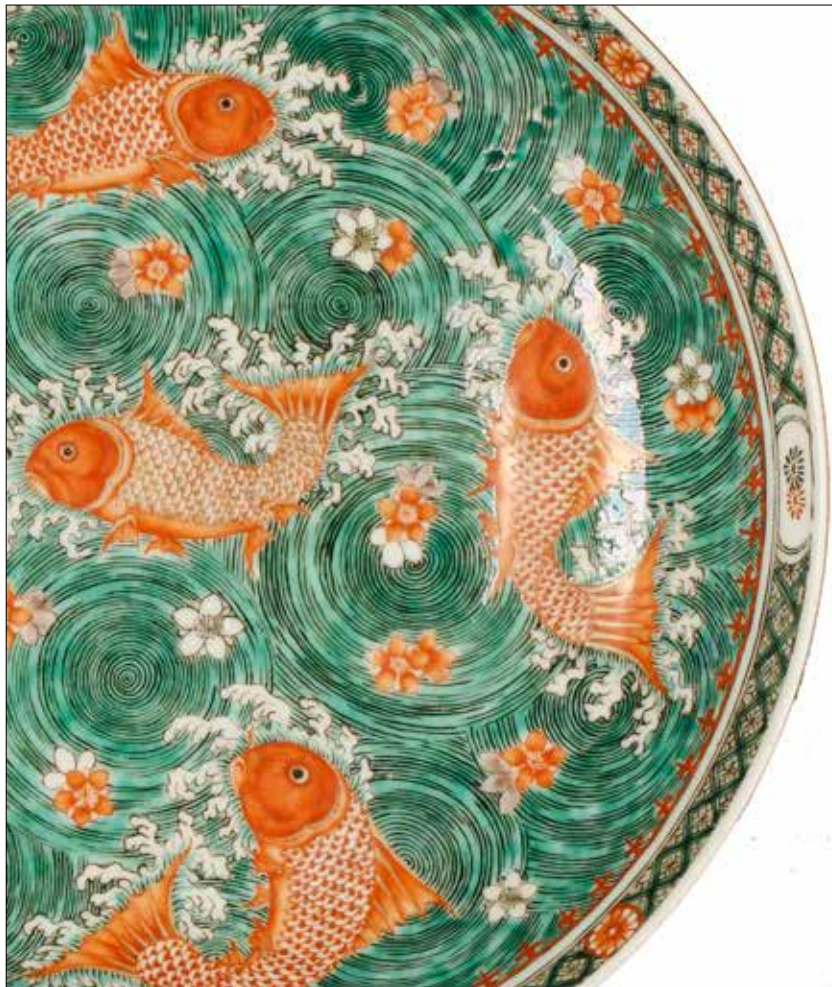
As part of our WWI Centenary programme, ROSL is offering members a tour through the Royal Parks to explore London's memorial art and celebrate the modern Commonwealth of Nations. Our Blue Badge guide will explore the monuments in Green Park and Hyde Park Corner, and recall the support given by Britain's colonies in defence of the Motherland when they answered 'the Lion's roar' in 1914. The tour includes a visit to the special exhibition 'We Will Remember Them: London's Great War memorials' in Wellington Arch. Tickets £20. Guests welcome.

Tuesday 4 November

Edinburgh film night

Over-Seas House Edinburgh, 5pm

An Oscar-winning biopic, with coffee, popcorn and ice-cream. Tickets for entry and refreshments £7.50.




# Duke's

AUCTIONEERS SINCE 1823

## VALUATION DAY

Wednesday 15th October  
11am - 5pm



To be held in the Rutland Room at:  
Over-Seas House, Park Place,  
St. James's Street, London,  
SW1A 1LR www.rosl.org.uk

For every item consigned for auction,  
a percentage of the commission will be  
donated to support the ROSL Charitable Trust

To register your place, please contact  
guestrelations@rosl.org.uk  
with your preferred time slot.

Tel: 01305 265080  
enquiries@dukes-auctions.com  
www.dukes-auctions.com



Wednesday  
5 November

Edinburgh Arts Lunch

Over-Seas House Edinburgh,  
12pm

Historian Eric Graham explores the origins of the classic adventure story *Treasure Island* in a talk on 'Robert Louis Stevenson and the Pirates'. A two-course lunch with wine and coffee follows.  
*Tickets £20; guests £25.*

Thursday 6 November

First Thursdays: film night

Duke of York Bar, Over-Seas  
House London, from 6pm

Movie nights come to ROSL, as this month's Younger Members drinks is paired with a special screening. Meet in the Bar from 6pm, followed by a film at 7.30pm. Cinema-goers can order delicious food and drink from the Bar.  
*Free. Guests welcome.*

Friday 7 November-  
Thursday 27 November

KCAC presents  
New Art Now



**Over-Seas House London, daily**  
Exhibition by Nepali artists Koshal Hamal, Manish Harijan, Mekh Limbu, Sanjeev Maharjan, Sunita Maharjan, Soni Shakya and Subash Thebe, celebrating Asian Art in London week. In association with the Kathmandu Contemporary Arts Centre ([www.kathmanduarts.org](http://www.kathmanduarts.org)). Contact +44 (0)20 7408 0214 x213 or [gharwoodsmith@rosl.org.uk](mailto:gharwoodsmith@rosl.org.uk) to attend the **Private View on Thursday 6 November**, 6-8pm.  
*Free.*

Monday 10 November

The Cenotaph

Over-Seas House London,  
7-8.30pm

At this Discussion Group talk, the social and political writer

Professor Norman Bonney will explore the history of the famous war memorial in Whitehall.  
*Free.*



Sunday 16 November

Peter Moore trombone with  
Joseph Middleton piano



Over-Seas House London, 7pm

Earlier this year, 18-year-old Peter Moore was appointed co-Principal trombone of the London Symphony Orchestra – the youngest ever player to join the orchestra in its 110-year history. This summer, he performed with pianist Joseph Middleton to sell-out audiences at ROSL's 15th Edinburgh Festival Fringe concert series. This concert at Over-Seas House is an opportunity for London audiences to experience exceptional music-making by one of the most gifted of the ROSL Annual Music Competition alumni.  
*Tickets £20; £15 Friends of ROSL ARTS. Includes sparkling wine on arrival, and wine and canapés afterwards.*

Monday 17 November

Paul Klee: Making visible  
through the model of music



Princess Alexandra Hall,  
Over-Seas House London, 3pm

In association with the Art Fund. This talk by Simon Shaw-Miller will explore the marvellous art of the Swiss-born artist Paul Klee (1879-1940). Spanning his entire creative output it will emphasise the role of music as a model for his drawing, painting and

ROSL WWI Centenary commemorations

ROSL's WWI Centenary programme begins this autumn with a series of events marking the Great War. On 4 November, we hold our own act of remembrance, led by the Dean of Westminster at the Vernon House Memorial site. On the afternoon of the same day, Members' Events holds a specialist walking tour to explore the war memorials around Green Park. Focusing on the arts, the London clubhouse will host a powerful spoken-word production on 31 October: *Anthem for a Doomed Youth*, a collection of the finest WWI poetry and accounts from both sides of no-man's land.  
*For further details and booking information see individual listings.*



pedagogy. Klee once said, "The art of mastering life is the prerequisite for all further forms of expression, whether they are painting, sculpture, tragedies or musical compositions." The music of Mozart, Fox, Weber and Bach, as well as musical techniques, will illustrate this process.  
*Tickets £14. To book, contact the Art Fund on +44 (0)844 415 4100. Includes tea and coffee served before the event.*

Tuesday 18 November

Chairman's Lunch



Hall of India and Pakistan,  
Over-Seas House London, 12pm

The biannual Chairman's Lunch, hosted by ROSL Chairman Sir Anthony Figgis, with reception drinks at midday and a three-course lunch at 12.30pm. Guest of honour and speaker to be confirmed.  
*Tickets £58. Guests welcome.*

Wednesday  
19 November

The War Behind the Wire  
with John Lewis-Stempel  
Princess Alexandra Hall,

Over-Seas House London, 7pm

From records of prisoners' diaries to letters home, military historian and author John Lewis-Stempel reveals the lives and deaths of soldiers in Prisoners of War camps during WWI.  
*Tickets £7; Friends of ROSL ARTS £5. Includes wine, served afterwards.*



Thursday  
20 November

The Life and Times of  
Dame Daphne Du Maurier  
Hall of India & Pakistan,

Over-Seas House London, 6pm

Lady Tessa Montgomery will give a fascinating insight into the life and works of her mother, Daphne Du Maurier. The British author was granddaughter of the brilliant artist and writer George Du Maurier and daughter of Gerald, the most famous actor/manager of his day. A drinks reception will follow.  
*Free; drinks reception £10 on entry. LG members, their guests and overnight guests at Over-Seas House only.*

Friday 21 November

Inter-Club Scottish ceilidh

Caledonian Club

The Caledonian warms up November with a dram and a wee jig. Don your kilt and take your lassie, let the sound of bagpipes brighten the night.  
*Visit [www.inter-club.co.uk](http://www.inter-club.co.uk) for details and booking information.*

Sunday 23 November  
– Sunday 14 December

To Sail Beyond the Sunset



Generator Projects, Dundee,  
12-5pm daily

2013 ROSL Visual Arts Scholar Mehreen Murtaza will exhibit her latest work at Generator Projects ([www.generatorprojects.co.uk](http://www.generatorprojects.co.uk)). Last year, Mehreen took part in a ROSL ARTS/Hospitalfield Arts residency in Arbroath, Scotland with two other Commonwealth artists. To find out more about her creative processes, see the interview with Mehreen and other ROSL ARTS scholars on page 8. Contact +44 (0)20 7408 0214 x213 or [gharwoodsmith@rosl.org.uk](mailto:gharwoodsmith@rosl.org.uk) for more information.  
*Free.*

Monday 24 November

Gustav, Gustav and Co



Over-Seas House London, 3pm

In association with the Art Fund. Klimt and Mahler dominated the arts in Vienna at the turn of the last century, both within Imperial-endorsed institutions and as part of the breakaway culture of modernism and the

Secession. Writer, broadcaster and cultural historian Gavin Plumley will place these totemic talents in context and question what fundamentally links and divides them.  
*Tickets £14. To book, contact the Art Fund on +44 (0)844 415 4100. Includes tea and coffee served before the event.*

Friday 28 November

Inter-Club Thanksgiving  
dinner

The Reform Club, time tba

In the stately surrounds of the Reform Club, Younger Members give thanks before tucking into a cracking holiday dinner.  
*Visit [www.inter-club.co.uk](http://www.inter-club.co.uk) for details and booking information.*

Saturday  
29 November

St Andrew's Night dinner



Over-Seas House Edinburgh,  
7pm

Three-course dinner with a reception drink, wine and tea or coffee. The guest speaker is Councillor Eric Milligan, former Lord Provost of Edinburgh.  
*Tickets £30; guests £35.*

DECEMBER

Until Sunday  
14 December

To Sail Beyond the Sunset

Generator Projects, Dundee,  
12-5pm daily

See November listing for details.  
*Free.*

Until Sunday  
25 January

The Grand Tour exhibition

Over-Seas House Edinburgh,  
daily

See October listing for details.  
*Free.*

Monday 1 December

C19th Russian Art in the  
Search for National Identity



Over-Seas House London, 3pm

In association with the Art Fund. After the Crimean War, Russia turned its artistic and political attention inwards. From the 1850s, the arts pursued 'Russianness', defining it as much as investigating it. The liberation of the serfs led to schools that focused on the countryside, such as the 'Wanderers'; while composers including Borodin and Balakirev incorporated folk tunes in their music. In this lecture, Roderick Swanston will explore the interconnections between these developments.  
*Tickets £14. To book, contact the Art Fund on +44 (0)844 415 4100. Includes tea and coffee served before the event.*

Tuesday 2 December

London Group  
Christmas lunch  
Princess Alexandra Hall, Over-  
Seas House London, 12.30pm

Enjoy a wine and soft drinks reception, and a three-course lunch with wine and coffee at this popular annual London

Group celebration. There will be musical entertainment and a free prize draw, with some excellent prizes. To attend, apply to Celia Goh, London Group, c/o Porters' Desk, Over-Seas House London, enclosing a stamped, addressed envelope and noting dietary requirements and seating requests. If you have any queries, call +44 (0)20 8567 1525.  
*Tickets £53; LG members £48.*

Wednesday  
3 December

Edinburgh film night



Over-Seas House Edinburgh,  
5pm

Watch a seasonal classic, with coffee, popcorn and ice-cream.  
*Tickets for entry and refreshments £7.50.*

Thursday 4 December

YM Christmas mince pies  
and mulled wine  
Duke of York Bar, Over-Seas  
House London, from 6pm

The last First Thursdays of the year brings special mince pies and mulled wine, and obligatory Christmas jumpers.  
*Free. Guests welcome.*

QUICK BOOKING INFORMATION

For full booking and  
contact details, see page 38

ROSL ARTS

+44 (0)20 7408 0214 ext 219;  
[culture@rosl.org.uk](mailto:culture@rosl.org.uk)

ROSL Scotland

+44 (0)131 225 1501;  
[www.rosl-edinburgh.org.uk](http://www.rosl-edinburgh.org.uk)

Members' events

Book online at [www.rosl.org.uk](http://www.rosl.org.uk);  
[membersevents@rosl.org.uk](mailto:membersevents@rosl.org.uk)

London Group

Clive Carpenter;  
+44 (0)7798 824193; [clivedavidcarpenter@compuserve.com](mailto:clivedavidcarpenter@compuserve.com).  
For outside visits: Doreen Regan  
c/o Over-Seas House London

Younger Members

Book online at [www.rosl.org.uk](http://www.rosl.org.uk);  
[membersevents@rosl.org.uk](mailto:membersevents@rosl.org.uk)

Discussion Group

No advanced booking required.



Sunday 7 December

Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols

St James’s Church and Over-Seas House London, 3.30pm

The annual ROSL Christmas service, followed by a delicious festive tea in the Hall of India and Pakistan, with a visit from Father Christmas himself.

Tickets £22.50. Guests welcome.

Monday 8 December

Britain, Northern Rhodesia and the Great War

Over-Seas House London, 7-8.30pm

Dr Edmund Yorke, Senior Lecturer in the Department of War Studies at Sandhurst, explores the East Africa Campaign at this Discussion Group talk. Free.

Wednesday 10 December

Carol singing

Over-Seas House Edinburgh, 3-4pm

Carol singing with Brigitte Harris, Choirmaster of St Andrews and St George’s West, followed by tea, coffee and mince pies. Tickets £8.

Black-tie dinner and ceilidh

Friday 30 January 2015, Over-Seas House London, 7pm

In honour of Burns Night, the London clubhouse will host a lively Scottish dinner, complete with traditional dance and music. Members and guests will be welcomed at a drinks reception in one of our beautiful function rooms, before sitting down to a sumptuous three-course meal, including haggis and whisky. Afterwards a folk band and caller will lead the crowd in a ceilidh. Tickets £70. Guests welcome



Burns Night supper

Saturday 31 January 2015, Over-Seas House Edinburgh, 7pm

Celebrate the life and work of the great Scottish bard in style at this black-tie dinner. Tuck into the traditional three-course meal, including wine and a glass of whisky, with the Immortal Memory given by the Rt Rev Brian Smith, former Bishop of Edinburgh. Tickets £33; guests £38.

Friday 13 December

Inter-Club Christmas Ball

Royal Automobile Club, time tba

The Inter-Club Christmas Ball will come around before you know it, and this year it’s taking place in the roaring RAC.

Visit [www.inter-club.co.uk](http://www.inter-club.co.uk) for details and booking information.

Tuesday 16 December

Clubhouse carols



Central Lounge, Over-Seas House London, 6.30pm

Join us for carols as the whole club community comes together and gets into the festive spirit. You will be spoilt with tasty mulled wine and a feast of home-baked mince pies. So start dusting off those vocal chords! Free. Guests welcome. Drop-in, no booking required.

FULL BOOKING INFORMATION & CONTACT DETAILS

■ ROSL ARTS

For bookings contact: +44 (0)20 7408 0214 ext 219; [culture@rosl.org.uk](mailto:culture@rosl.org.uk)

■ ROSL Scotland

For bookings contact: Over-Seas House Edinburgh; +44 (0)131 225 1501; [reception@rosl-edinburgh.org](mailto:reception@rosl-edinburgh.org)

■ Members’ events

Book online at [www.rosl.org.uk](http://www.rosl.org.uk). Booking confirmations will be sent within 14 days of payment. To reserve a ticket for popular events or if you have trouble booking online, contact Sara Brouwer. To pay by cheque, please send separate cheques (sterling) for each event, payable to ‘ROSL’, to Members’ events, Marketing Department, Over-Seas House, Park Place, St James’s Street, London SW1A 1LR. Contact: Sara Brouwer, [membersevents@rosl.org.uk](mailto:membersevents@rosl.org.uk); +44 (0)20 7016 6906.

■ Younger Members

For members aged 35 and under. Book online at [www.rosl.org.uk/](http://www.rosl.org.uk/) events. Inter-Club events must be booked independently; visit [www.inter-club.co.uk](http://www.inter-club.co.uk) for details. For information about the ROSL YM programme join the YM Facebook page at [facebook.com/groups/roslym](https://facebook.com/groups/roslym) or contact: Sara Brouwer, [membersevents@rosl.org.uk](mailto:membersevents@rosl.org.uk); or Ross Lima, [ross.lima@gmail.com](mailto:ross.lima@gmail.com)

■ London Group

Talks and outside visits are open to London Group members, their guests and ROSL members staying at Over-Seas House London. To become a member, request an application form from Clive Carpenter (details below).

Talks are drop-in and held once a month at Over-Seas House London on Thursday evenings at 6pm.

Outside visits can be booked by sending a cheque payable to ‘London Group, Royal Over-Seas League’ and a stamped, addressed envelope to Doreen Regan (details below). Cancellations and refund requests must be made at least two weeks before the event.

Please note that the London Group is a voluntary organisation and cannot take outside visit inquiries and bookings by email or telephone, only by post. Tickets are sent approximately 10 days in advance. Contact: Clive Carpenter, +44 (0)7798 824193; [clivedavidcarpenter@compuserve.com](mailto:clivedavidcarpenter@compuserve.com). Outside visits contact: Doreen Regan, London Group, c/o Porters’ Desk, Over-Seas House, Park Place, St James’s Street, London SW1A 1LR.

■ Discussion Group

Meetings are held monthly at Over-Seas House London on Monday evenings. There is no charge, no need to book and all ROSL members and guests are welcome.

Contact: John Edwards, +44 (0)1732 883556; [johncoatesedward@aol.com](mailto:johncoatesedward@aol.com)

Visit [www.rosl.org.uk/events](http://www.rosl.org.uk/events) for more information on the full programme of events.



KIRKER HOLIDAYS  
MARRAKECH



Marrakech is an exhilarating, enthralling experience, which should be at the top of every discerning traveller’s wish list. Over the summer months, visitors can expect sunshine and warm evenings, whilst some of our favourite hotels and riads offer exclusive special offers for Kirker clients. In addition, all Kirker holidays include a private guided tour of the historic medina and its souks with a local expert – an invaluable introduction to this intoxicating city.

After experiencing this feast for the senses, one of the pleasures of a holiday in Marrakech is to escape from the crowds into the private oasis of an elegant hotel, traditional Moroccan riad, or perhaps a relaxing countryside retreat. We have selected three of our favourite properties, each of which provides a different experience.

COMPLIMENTARY WALKING TOUR OF THE MEDINA

All Kirker holidays to Marrakech include a half day walking tour with an expert local guide

Villa Des Orangers  
★★★★★ Deluxe



Villa des Orangers is a stylish boutique hotel, located on the edge of the medina in the centre of Marrakech. There is a swimming pool and sun terrace where dinner is served by candlelight. A complimentary light lunch is served in one of the courtyards and there is another small rooftop swimming pool. The 27 rooms and suites are all beautifully furnished and some offer private terraces and views of the Koutoubia Mosque or the distant Atlas Mountains. The stunning master suite – perfect for a special occasion – is set over two floors with a balcony overlooking the gardens and pool.

3 night price from £975

Includes complimentary light lunch and hammam access for all Kirker clients

Riad El Cadi  
★★★★ Superior



In the heart of the medina, just five minutes from Djemaa El Fna Square, the El Cadi is our favourite Marrakech riad. The traditional riad design consists of an open air courtyard, decorated with plants and fountains, and surrounded by rooms which face inwards, creating a tranquil, cool environment even during the heat of the day. The El Cadi combines several original riads, to create a series of connecting courtyards which are decorated with the former owner’s remarkable collection of antiques. Each of the 12 individually furnished rooms is unique, and there is a small swimming pool, a hammam and a rooftop terrace.

3 night price from £689

The Capaldi  
★★★★ Deluxe



For those who prefer the peace and tranquillity of the countryside, this luxurious retreat is set amid immaculately kept private gardens, 45 minutes from central Marrakech in a peaceful location between the desert, city and the Atlas Mountains. The property has two large swimming pools in the gardens, an atmospheric roof terrace with panoramic views, a spa with traditional Moroccan hammam and an excellent restaurant. For the more adventurous, there are many activities on offer in the surrounding countryside and the owners take great pleasure in sharing their intimate knowledge of the area.

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