

Write of the Line

MARCH 2018

www.royalscotsclub.com

Royal Air Force Centenary Dinner

Saturday 24th March 2018 7.00pm for 7.30pm £30



On 24 March, the Club will be hosting Air Marshal Stuart Atha, CB DSO ADC, Deputy Commander Operations, RAF, at a dinner to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the formation of the Royal Air Force. Air Marshal Atha will talk about some of the events, key personalities and the challenges that have influenced the development of the RAF. Also attending the dinner will be Air Vice Marshal The Honourable

David Murray CVO OBE, who is the Controller of the Royal Air Force Benevolent Fund.

A silent auction will take place, which will include an opportunity to bid for a VIP escorted visit to RAF Lossiemouth.

This is a black tie event, which will start with a drinks reception followed by a three-course dinner, Mess kit and decorations can be worn where appropriate.

Outing to the Museum of Flight

EAST FORTUNE AIRFIELD, HADDINGTON

Tuesday 8th May 2018, 11.00am, £8

Club member Tony Bray has very kindly offered to give a tour of the Museum of Flight in Haddington on 8 May. Tony is a volunteer aircraft guide at the Museum and some of you will have attended his lecture at the Club back in 2016. Tony has had a life-long interest in aviation. He first flew in an RAF Chipmunk at 15, and then a year later flew solo in a glider after a week's gliding course at RAF Linton on Ouse. He has flown in most types of aircraft - fixed wing, helicopters, hot air balloon, an airship over the Boden See, and supersonic in Concorde.

If you wish to join Tony in May then please book your

space with the Membership Office.

You will need to

make your own way to the Museum for an 11.00am start. There is plenty of parking available and you will be asked to pay your £8 on the day. There is also the Aviator Café if you want to stay for lunch. The tour lasts as long as you want it to be - Tony will be available to show you around and answer questions. If you don't fancy walking around the site, the airfield explorer can move you from place to place. Helpful if it's cold or wet!



A Musical Supper with The Ragtime Dolls

Thursday 24th May, 6.30pm, £25

The Ragtime Dolls are a close harmony-singing group from Glasgow who specialise in 1940s songs by the Andrews Sisters, 1920s songs and also modern songs in a vintage style. The evening will start off with a glass of fizz followed by a two-course supper and then the girls will put on a musical extravaganza afterwards. This will be a really fun evening

and a great chance to get together a group of friends or family.



Breakfast & A Day at The Races

Pop a note in your diary for a tasty breakfast here at the Club and a trip to Musselburgh Race Course for the Support Your Services Race Day where you will be able to see all the action from the comfort of the Lothian Suite. More details in the next newsletter.





From the Chairman Colonel Clinton Hicks OBE

At this time of the year, when the weather can often be miserable, the saving grace for me is the marvellous display of colour presented by the first snowdrops and the winter aconites, which as I write

are both in bloom. They seem to herald the good things that are to come as the seasons change. In this, the first RSC newsletter of the year, I do hope you will find much to look forward to in 2018.

At the beginning of February I was a guest of the Chester City Club, which is one of our reciprocal clubs, at their 211th Annual Dinner held in the splendid

Chester Grosvenor Hotel. Well over two hundred members and guests were treated to a superb evening, which afterwards continued late into the night at the nearby Chester City Clubhouse.

Reciprocal clubs are an important aspect of who we are and what we can offer to our membership. It almost goes without saying that they must be treated with the utmost respect and courtesy. Use of a reciprocal club must always be for an appropriate reason.

Finally, it only remains for me to welcome ROSL Edinburgh members who are receiving a copy of this newsletter for the very first time. I hope you will enjoy your time with us and that you will join us for those RSC events that appeal to you.



THE ROYAL
EDINBURGH
MILITARY
TATTOO

Tattoo Evening with Supper

Thursday 2nd August 2018 | £39 for ticket and supper

An amazing evening's entertainment with wonderful performances from around the World. There are two supper sittings, 6.00pm and 7.15pm. Please indicate which you prefer when booking. The performance starts at 9.30pm and the audience is asked to be in their seats by 9.15 pm. There

is no transport provided – for advice on any mobility difficulties, please phone the Tattoo Office. These tickets are limited in number and always snapped up very quickly. We are therefore only able to offer them to full Royal Scots Club members.

CLUB NEWS

George Arthur Duncan Christie



We were very sad to hear that George Arthur Duncan Christie died at the Western General Hospital, Edinburgh on Saturday 9 December 2017, aged 96. He was a former pupil of Melville College, Normandy veteran of the Royal Artillery and Knight of the Legion of Honour (France) as well as a member of many Edinburgh clubs and organisations. He will be sorely missed.

Update on reciprocal Clubs

Unfortunately we have to announce that the Royal Scots Club is no longer reciprocated with the Savile Club in London. The decision was made by the Savile Club as they are experiencing exceptionally high numbers of reciprocal visitors.

The RAF Club in London has also announced that RSC members may only visit them if they are booking accommodation.

May we remind all Club members that a letter of introduction must be requested from the RSC Membership Secretary for every reciprocal visit. It needs to state your membership number, the date and purpose of your visit. Turning up at a reciprocal club unannounced is not acceptable. We are very fortunate to have these agreements with reciprocal clubs and remind all members that they are for occasional use only. They are not to be treated as your regular 'home' Club.

The Antiquaries Dining Club



From 1831 until the end of the 19th century Fellows of the Society of the Antiquaries of Scotland held a dinner after the AGM on St Andrew's Day. In 1901 the Antiquaries Club was formed. From then on a number of dinners were held during the year after each meeting of the Society with a banquet on St Andrew's Day.

Today the Club meets in the Royal Scots Club and since this move, the Antiquaries Dining Club welcomes lady Fellows as members of the Club. Meetings are 7.30pm for 8.00pm to allow Members to attend the Society meeting at 6.00 pm. A banquet is still held after the Society AGM, which is a black tie event with an invited guest speaker. General discussion still takes place after the toast to the memory of St Andrew, Scotland's Patron Saint, and the formal talk.

The annual subscription is £10 and the Secretary is Mrs. Rachel Cadell, FSAScot. All Fellows are invited to contact Rachel if they wish to become Members of the Dining Club which has now been in existence for 115 years. Rachel's email address is: rachelcadell173@binternet.com

Use of mobile phones

Just a reminder for everyone about the use of mobile phones in the Club. Mobiles can be used for short calls in the Cocktail Bar and the Library but not in the Members' Lounge. If you need to have a lengthy chat please move to an area where other members will not be disturbed.



Agreement with The Royal Overseas League

An agreement has been reached between The Royal Scots Club and The Royal Overseas League (ROSL) London on

behalf of their Princess Street, Edinburgh property. The Royal Overseas League's Edinburgh Clubhouse requires significant upgrading and building works and will close its doors at the end of January 2018. Whilst these works are taking place The Royal Scots Club will provide a home from home for ROSL Edinburgh branch members who will become full members of the Royal Scots Club for a period of 3 months from 1st February 2018, with the option to extend that period until the end of July 2018. The ROSL Edinburgh committee will run its usual events including monthly coffee mornings, monthly Arts Lunches and celebratory dinners, hosted at the RSC. RSC members will also be welcome to attend these events, details of which can be found in this newsletter.

Peter Stewart and John Polson, 8th Battalion Royal Scots



"From the heath covered mountains of Scotia we come"

Some of you may have noticed a new addition to the decorations in the Abercromby Dining Room. The piece is

a small statuette of a Royal Scot in 1939- 45 battle dress inscribed

'In Memory of John Polson, died in November 2016'. The Daily Record reported that he died friendless, however, knowing he was an Former Royal Scot an appeal was sent out to the Royal Scots Association for members who would be prepared to attend his funeral. There was an excellent response from the Association and the story and a photograph was published in the Daily Record.

The statuette was commissioned and gifted to the club to the Club by Jim Stewart. Johnnie Polson was his "Uncle Johnnie" who served with his father Peter in the 8th Battalion Royal Scots and remained life-long friends. The Stewart family recently held a lunch in the Club and were very pleased to be able to present the statuette to Adrian for display in the premises.

The RSC 200 Club Draw

As in previous years, we are adding the option to buy lots for our Club draw to the Events Booking Form, and this will be drawn at the AGM in April. Lots are only £10 and we are aiming to sell 200 lots, making a pot of £2,000. This is divided 30% to the Development Fund, 70% for prize money, so winnings will be substantial! But you have to be in it, to win it – send in your form now or phone the office to purchase your tickets.

If you'd like to take part in the RSC 200 draw, please contact the office before 13 April.

Spring Lunches at the Club

It's a new season so why not treat the family and come along to our Spring Lunches.

Mother's Day Lunch

Sunday 11th March 2018, from 12.00pm, £17.50

Spoil that all important lady in your life with a tasty three course lunch. Book a table of 4 and Mum's lunch is on the house! (T&Cs apply). **Lunch will be served in the newly decorated Hepburn Suite and advance booking required so please phone Lauren in the Office on 0131 525 6157.**

Book a table of 4 & Mum eats free!
T&Cs apply

Celebrate
Mother's Day
At The Royal Scots Club

Sunday 11th March 2018 | 12 noon-2pm | Non-members welcome!
Lunch served in The Hepburn Suite

Starters

Tomato consommé with green beans & basil V
Sea trout & monkfish terrine with a dill mustard mayo & sea salt crostini
Chilled melon & mango in a pineapple broth V
Avocado, chicken, mixed bean & lentil salad with Caesar dressing

Mains

Roast topside of Scottish beef with homemade Yorkshire puddings
Pauquettes of sole & spinach on an almond butter sauce
Roast gigot of Border lamb with rosemary, garlic & red currant sauce
Spring vegetable pistou with herb dumplings V

Puddings

Rhubarb Eves pudding with custard
Vanilla & brandy panna cotta
Cocoa bavaois slice with raspberry puree
Selection of cheese & biscuits

Coffee & tea

Freshly brewed filter coffee or tea with RSC wrapped chocolate mints

£17.50 for 3 courses & coffee

Please inform a member of waiting staff if you are allergic to any foods which may result in a severe reaction.

Regimental Day Lunch

Wednesday 28th March 2018,
Bookings available between 12noon - 2pm

A chance to catch up with old comrades - rally the troops and enjoy a meal together to mark Regimental Day. **Bookings for this one can be made with the Dining Room on 0131 556 4270**

Easter Sunday Lunch

Sunday 1st April 2018, Bookings available from 12noon - 2pm, £18.50

An egg-cellent menu will be available for you on Easter Sunday in the Dining Room. **Book with Lauren in the Office on 0131 525 6157.**





Afternoon Tea 'Queen of Fashion: What Marie Antoinette Wore to the Revolution'

Tuesday 13th March, 2.30 pm, £23

Let them eat cake! We are delighted to welcome back Julia Soares-McCormick for a talk titled 'Queen of Fashion: What Marie Antoinette Wore to the Revolution'. This talk draws comparison between the large elaborate court gowns worn by Marie Antoinette for formal court occasions and the Chemise a la Reine, which she preferred. This chemise dress caused quite a scandal and solidified hatred of Marie Antoinette. The display includes some reproduction 18th Century costumes, one of which is a very elaborate Pink Silk court dress Robe a La Francaise worn with large ornate pompadour wig and accessories. We will also see the Chemise a la Reine worn with a Bergere hat and powdered curled hair, and even some 18th Century underwear! Afternoon tea will follow with plenty of sandwiches and sweetmeats, not to be missed.

Speaker's Lunches

These lunches are held on the third Monday of the month are great value at just £17. For that you can enjoy a delicious two course lunch, good company and an interesting talk.

Monday 19th March 2018, 12.00noon for 12.30pm £17

This talk will be on the Royal Caledonian Horticultural Society - the history up to the present day, their current activities and plans for the future. We will welcome Robert Ross who studied Horticulture at Auchincruive in Ayrshire and then had a brief spell as a gardener at Duthie Park in Aberdeen during their Heritage Lottery-funded regeneration project. He is currently Regional Operations Coordinator for the Commonwealth War Grave Commission in Scotland and a Trustee with Royal Caledonian Horticultural Society.



Monday 9th April 2018, 12noon for 12.30pm £17



This talk entitled "The Backhouse Heritage Daffodil Collection at Rossie-Estate, Fife, Scotland - A Unique Insight", provides insight into the Backhouse Family of Quaker daffodil raisers spanning three generations over 150 years, interwoven with information from family diaries,

garden notes and letters to locate and preserve the family's work for future generations. Illustrated with many photos of the restored Victorian Walled garden, we will see the National Collection of Daffodils as well as views of the gardens.

Our speaker, Caroline Thomson, runs the Scottish National Daffodil Festival, which is being held on the 14th and 15th April in Fife. She is the founding director of the Backhouse Rossie Heritage and Education Centre and chair of the environment group Green Link. Caroline is currently founding the Quaker Garden Trail across the UK, advertising and gathering member gardens with past or current Quaker connections. Caroline worked as an interior designer founding her own interior design company in 1990 but realised she was often asked for advice on the garden space beyond the curtains, thus the beginning of a lifetime's interest in gardens, their importance to our wellbeing and the delights of good garden design.

Ladies Business and Inspirational Liaison Lunches

This series of lunches is open to members and non-members and start at 12 noon. Come on your own or bring some guests, you'll all be made very welcome.

Thursday 22nd March 2018, 12noon, £22



**Merryn Sommerset Webb,
Editor in Chief of Moneyweek**

Merryn Somerset Webb is the editor in chief of MoneyWeek, writes for the Financial Times, the Sunday Post and Saga Magazine and is a radio and television commentator on financial matters. In 2000, MoneyWeek was launched and Merryn took the job of editor.

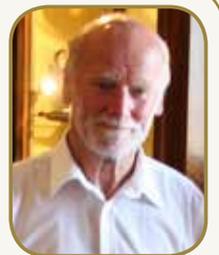
Thursday 12th April 2018, 12noon, £22

Ann Budge, Owner, CEO and Chairwoman



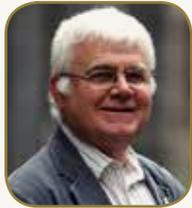
Graduating with a psychology degree, Ann Budge became the first woman appointed to a senior position in Scottish & Newcastle after starting her career there as a trainee programmer. After leaving F International - now Xansa - Ann Budge set up a business working from home and launched Newell & Budge, which specialised in making bespoke software and IT systems. Ann then became Chief Executive of Hearts football club and is principally responsible for setting strategy.

We will be sad to say farewell to Jack our Hall Porter who is retiring after over a decade at the Club. Jack is well known to many members, as he started working at the Club on 26 March 2007. Born in Edinburgh in 1942, Jack attended Pennywell Primary, Criagmillar Primary and Ainslie Park Secondary (all of which have since been demolished!) Jack enlisted in the Royal Scots in 1959 and served in Benghazi, Tripoli and Aden. He then left for civilian life in 1965 and worked with the Post Office for 32 years. Now that he's retiring, Jack is looking forward to a lie in and will keep busy playing golf, gardening, and walking the dog. And in between all that, there's always time for a trip to the pub!



Evening Lectures at the RSC

Lectures start at 7.00pm and last for approximately one hour. All lectures are free to attend for members and their guests. Why not also have something to eat in the dining room and make a night of it? This is the final lecture in our winter/spring series but there will be more to come in the autumn.



Monday 5th March 2018

'The Kremlin's Geordie Spy'

Mark Rylance won the 2016 Best Supporting Actor Oscar for his portrayal of the Soviet Spy Rudolf Abel in Steven Spielberg's Bridge of Spies. But who was 'Rudolf Abel'? And

why did Rylance play him using what many said was a Scottish accent? Discover the answers in this lecture by Vin Arthey.

Vin Arthey is a former TV producer. An Edinburgh resident, he is a biographer, an active member of the nonfiction writers' group 'Stranger Than Fiction', and reviews espionage and Cold War books for 'The Scotsman'.

ROSL Events Calendar

Monday 12th March 12.00noon for 12.30pm

Commonwealth Day Lunch

The Queens Commonwealth day message will be read by our Chairman and Col Clinton Hicks OBE, Chairman of the Royal Scots Club will address us.

Saturday 7th April 2018, 10.15am

Coffee Morning

City in a Landscape' Stewart Conn, poet, playwright and former Makar, presents a selection of his poetry, describing Edinburgh and the changing seasons.

Saturday 5th May 2018, 10.15am

Coffee Morning

Martin Cornish on antiques. A senior auctioneer and valuer, Martin Cornish brings over twenty five years' experience. He trained for the first fifteen years of his professional life with Lyon and Turnbull of George Street, Edinburgh. A grand lady of Edinburgh auctioneering, Lyon and Turnbull taught Martin Cornish skills which have underpinned his professional life. Integrity, care for the customer and the value of long term professional relationships are key to his work ethic. Martin Cornish oversees the Valuations Department with specialist interest in furniture, contemporary design and oriental works of art.

Wednesday 16th May 2018, 18.30pm

Royal Overseas League Edinburgh Branch AGM

Chairman of the league, Sir David Brewer and the Director General Dr Diana Owen, will join us.

Saturday 2nd June 2018 10.15am

Coffee Morning

Catherine Steyn, Volunteering Adventures

Friday 22nd June 2018, 6.30pm

Royal Overseas League Scottish Members' Dinner

Speaker to be announced

THE YOUNG MUSICIANS AND THE NEW CUMNOCK TRUST



Our Young Musicians represented the Club, when they played, individually and together, at a Saint Andrew's Night Dinner on 30 November organised by the New Cumnock

Tryst. A very appreciative audience included Sir James and Lady MacMillan the Scheme's principal sponsors.

THE YOUNG MUSICIANS MASTERCLASS

Tuesday 1st May 7.00pm

Suggested donation on the night £5 (no charge for sponsors)

Come along to the Hepburn Suite at the beginning of May and show your support for our young musicians, Lucy and Ryan. They will be joined by their mentors and you will be able to see exactly what happens during a teaching session between each mentor and pupil. A real treat for the ears!

Accordianist Ryan, whom many of you will remember from his excellent performance at the St. Andrew's Night dinner, will be joined by his mentor, Sandy Brechin. Lucy, who played the violin beautifully at the most recent Burns Supper, will be joined by her mentor, Paul Anderson.

Please come along for this interesting evening of musical education.

We are exceptionally grateful to all those who have sponsored the scheme so far. All donations of any size are welcome throughout the year. To book a place, please contact Lauren in the office on 0131 525 6157.

Waterloo Dinner

Friday 15th June 2018

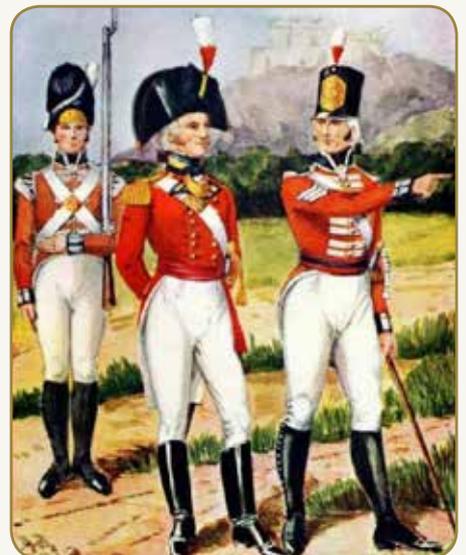
6.30pm for 7.00pm £40

On Friday 15th June the Club will host a dinner to mark the anniversary of the Battle of Waterloo. The intention is to commence the evening with a cocktail party which will be followed by a Beating retreat. After which dinner will be served.

Waterloo was a significant event in the distinguished history of the Royal Scots. Our guest

speaker will describe the strategic significance of the battle and the part played by both the Royal Scots and the other Scottish regiments which took part in the battle.

This is a black tie event. Mess kit and decorations can be worn where appropriate.



Events Calendar

You can now book your events online. Just head to the Club website and click on Members Events. You can also book over the phone or send in a cheque with the booking form.

Please note that cancellations can only be refunded more than 48 hours in advance.



Monday 5th March 7.00pm

EVENING LECTURE WITH VIN ARTHEY

Sunday 11th March 12noon – 2.00pm

MOTHER'S DAY LUNCH £17.50

Tuesday 13th March 2.30pm

AFTERNOON TEA WITH JULIA SOARES £23

Monday 19th March 12.00noon

SPEAKER'S LUNCH WITH ROBERT ROSS £17

Saturday 24th March 7.00pm

**RAF CENTENARY DINNER
WITH AIR MARSHAL ATHA £30**

Tuesday 28th March 12.00noon

REGIMENTAL DAY LUNCH £17.50

Sunday 1st April 12noon – 2pm

EASTER SUNDAY LUNCH £18.50

Monday 9th April 12.00pm

SPEAKER'S LUNCH WITH CAROLINE THOMSON £17

Wednesday 18th April 7.00pm

RSC AGM

Thursday 24th May 6.30pm

MUSICAL SUPPER WITH THE RAGTIME DOLLS £25

Friday 15th June 6.30pm

BEATING RETREAT & WATERLOO DINNER

Saturday 28th July 1.00pm

QUEEN STREET GARDEN PARTY

Thursday 2nd August 6.15/7.30pm

TATTOO AND SUPPER

WEDDING FAIR

The Royal Scots Club together with The Scottish Wedding Directory present a wedding fair with a difference! Tickets are only £5 each to include entry, a glass of fizz and some delicious canapes plus some of the best suppliers Edinburgh has to offer. Join us on Thursday 8th March from 6.00 pm – 9.00 pm for an evening of fun, fizz and wedding inspiration.



T: +44 (0)131 556 4270 F: +44 (0)131 558 3769
membership@royalscotsclub.com
www.royalscotsclub.com

STAFF PROFILE

Lauren and Laura are doing a swap! Just as Laura is going off on maternity leave, Lauren will be returning from maternity leave and will take over as the Membership Secretary. Most of you will already know Lauren from her time spent running RSC events so it will be a familiar face in the office dealing with new members, renewals, letters of introduction and of course members' events. Do pop in to welcome her back.



Edinburgh Fringe Festival

There is a wide variety of shows this August at the Club to suit all tastes.

6th to 11th AUGUST

In the mornings we have the Little Shakespeare group with the Bard for little people and not so little people, providing their light-hearted take on Macbeth. Fun for all the family and a great introduction to Shakespeare for a younger audience.

In the afternoons, Wednesday to Saturday, Coraghy Lane Productions will present David Harrower's superb one-woman play 'Ciara'. Looking back as well as forward in the life of a respectable Glasgow art gallery owner.

In the evenings, the Edinburgh Grads theatre company will have 'Much Ado About Nothing' a classic Shakespeare comedy romp with all the expected twists and turns. Followed by Claire Wood's new piece 'Skirt', a sharp take on the political ambitions of a single mother in Scotland.

Also at lunchtimes in the first week we have from Thursday to Saturday the 'Divas of Oz'. Three ladies of a certain age from Australia singing standards and hits from the shows, a great fun hour.

WEEK TWO - 13th to 18th

Wednesday to Saturday there are four more performances of 'Ciara'. Each evening, Monday – Saturday, the Arkle Theatre Company's two plays will be 'Laugh Out Loud, (Cry Quietly)' by Stacie Letts which enters the world of internet dating and where text and email messages can mean very different things. After that we have Matthew Capidacosa's amazing play 'You Remind Me Of You' which centres on the world of those with prosopagnosia.

WEEK 3 - 20th to 25th

Monday to Saturday at lunchtime Euan Kirkpatrick, a local young writer from West Lothian, brings his piece 'Yer Aul Da' charting the turbulent relationship of a father and a son.

Every evening, Monday to Saturday, the Edinburgh Makars group will stage the timeless Neil Simon classic 'Plaza Suite'. The mistakes of an evening run rampant in this brilliant comedy set in the famous New York hotel.

Full details and timings of all these shows will be in the Fringe Programme which will be out in early June.