

# RCS EXCHANGE

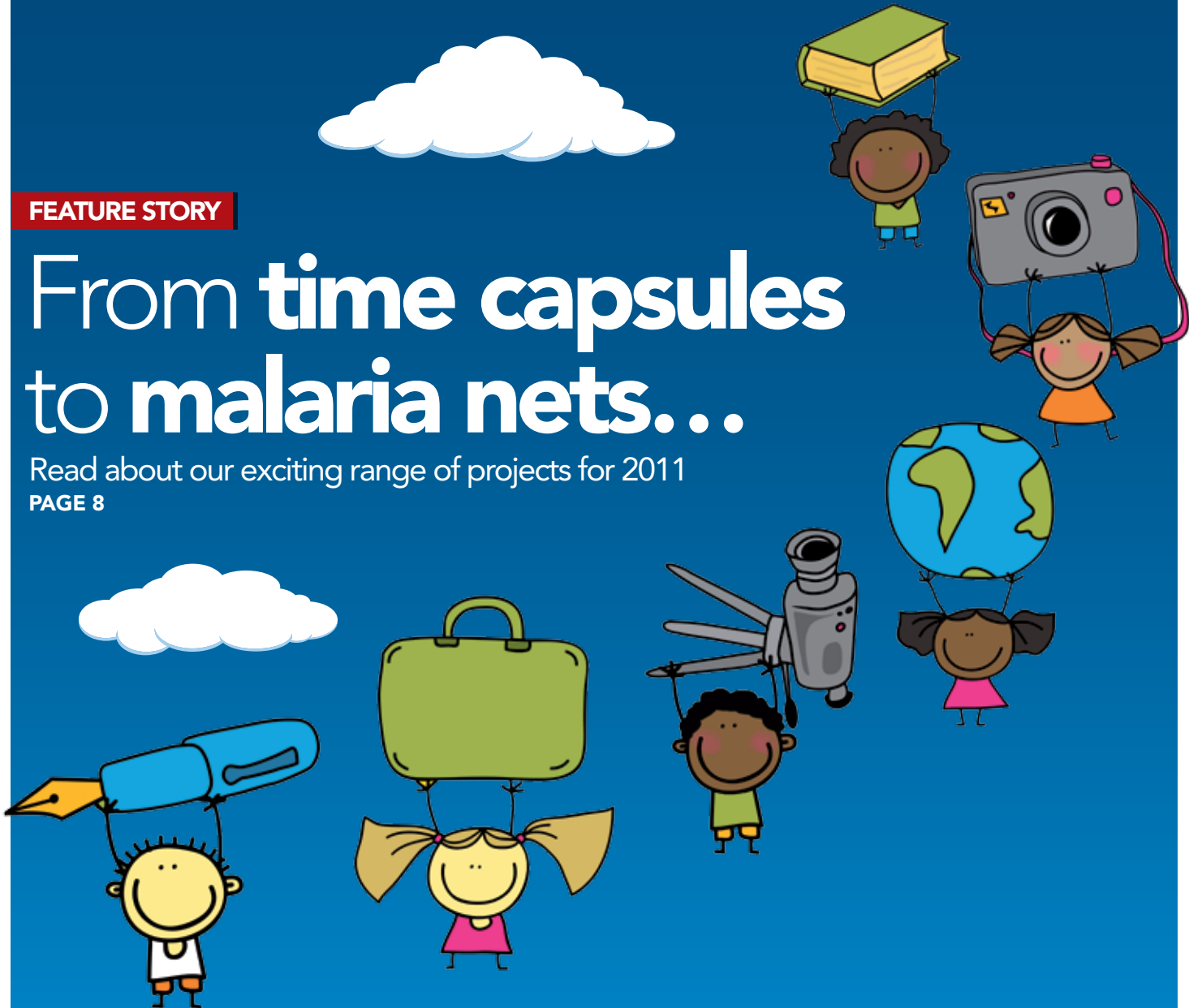
THE ROYAL COMMONWEALTH SOCIETY MAGAZINE

FEATURE STORY

## From time capsules to malaria nets...

Read about our exciting range of projects for 2011

PAGE 8



### GALA AWARDS WEEK

12 young creative talents spend an unforgettable week in London

### TRADE

Does a 'Commonwealth Effect' really exist?

### ZAMBIA

Discover Southern Africa's hidden gem

ISSUE 06  
JAN-APRIL  
2011



PRESIDENTS OF THE ROYAL COMMONWEALTH SOCIETY,  
1878 TO 1942



**H.R.H. EDWARD, PRINCE OF WALES, K.G.**, afterwards His Majesty King Edward VII (1841-1910)  
*President, 1878-1901*

Eldest son of Queen Victoria and Prince Albert. Accepted invitation to become President of the Institute 'without hesitation'. In 1882, as President, he signed the petition to Queen Victoria which led to the grant of a Charter to the Institute. He gave up the Presidency on ascending the Throne on 22 January 1901, but became Patron of the Institute.

**EARL GREY, G.C.B., G.C.M.G., G.C.V.O.** (1811-1917)  
*President, 1912-17*

A member of Parliament, 1830-6, he became Administrator of Rhodesia, 1896-7, Governor-General of Canada, 1904-11. He was succeeded in Canada by the Duke of Connaught, whom he followed as President of the Institute which he remained until his death.



**VISCOUNT BURY, K.C.M.G.**, later the seventh Earl of Albemarle (1832-94)  
*First President, 1868-71*

After service in the Army in India until 1853, he went to Canada as Civil Secretary and Superintendent-General of Indian Affairs, first under Lord Elgin, Governor-General of Canada, and afterwards under Sir Edmund Head. Member of Parliament, 1857. Under-Secretary for War, 1878-80 and 1885-6.



**H.R.H. GEORGE, PRINCE OF WALES, K.G.**, afterwards His Majesty King George V (1865-1936)  
*President, 1901-10*

Second son of King Edward VII and Queen Alexandra. As Duke of York, he had been a Vice-President of the Institute for seven years. During an Empire tour in 1901, he opened the first Commonwealth Parliament in Australia. On his accession to the Throne on 6 May 1910, he became Patron of the Institute.

**H.R.H. ARTHUR, DUKE OF CONNAUGHT AND STRATHEARN, K.G., E.T., K.P., G.C.B.I., G.C.I.E., G.C.V.O., G.C.B., G.C.M.G.** (1850-1942)  
*President, 1910-12 and 1918-42*

Third son of Queen Victoria and Prince Albert. Resigned from Presidency of Society in 1912 upon his appointment as Governor-General of Canada. On his return from there in 1918, he accepted office again and remained President until his death.



**DUKE OF MANCHESTER, K.G.** (1823-90)  
*President, 1871-8*

His principal overseas interest was New Zealand. Believing in the value of influence through personal contact, he made an extensive tour of Australia and New Zealand in 1881. When H.R.H. the Prince of Wales, later King Edward VII, accepted appointment as President of the Institute, the Duke assumed a new office, that of Chairman of the Council who would preside at meetings in the President's absence.

WELCOME

WELCOME...  
AND HAPPY NEW YEAR!  
I AM HUGELY EXCITED  
ABOUT THE YEAR AHEAD  
AND I HOPE THAT AFTER  
READING ABOUT OUR  
PLANS IN THIS EDITION  
OF RCS EXCHANGE,  
YOU WILL BE TOO.



**2010 SEEMED TO PASS BY IN A BLUR OF ACTIVITY. HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDED OUR COMMONWEALTH CONVERSATION PROJECT WHICH, OVER THE COURSE OF NINE MONTHS, ENGAGED THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE AROUND THE WORLD AND TURNED INTO THE LARGEST EVER PUBLIC CONSULTATION ON THE COMMONWEALTH. ANOTHER HIGH POINT WAS OUR NKABOM PROGRAMME WHICH TOOK PLACE IN RWANDA IN EARLY SEPTEMBER. I HOPE THE ARTICLE IN THIS MAGAZINE WILL GIVE YOU SOME SENSE OF JUST HOW INSPIRING THIS PROJECT WAS. I CERTAINLY WILL NEVER FORGET IT.**

These are all experiences which we will build on over the coming year. On pages 8 and 9, we have tried to give you a tempting taster of the ambitious projects we are planning for 2011. The Commonwealth theme for the year is 'Women as Agents of Change'. We will be using the Commonwealth Day Observance and our Carol Service to bring this to life, but the theme will also run throughout a number of our other initiatives.

Looking ahead to Her Majesty the Queen's Diamond Jubilee in 2012, I am delighted to announce that we have launched our Commonwealth Jubilee Time Capsule. We hope that this project will enable us to compile a truly unique collection of memories from all around the world. Together, these will tell the story of the last sixty years day by day. This people's history of the Commonwealth will be available online and used to create an innovative collection of schools' resources. Anyone can contribute a memory to the Capsule – so why not join in? Turn to page 8 to find out more.

2011 is also the year of the biennial Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting, or 'CHOGM' to those in the know. The Summit will take place in Perth, Australia in October. It may be nine months away, but our planning has already begun.

Finally, I'd like to thank all of you for your support during 2010. Without our members, our work wouldn't be possible. I hope our new member packages (see page 13) will enable you to get even more from your membership and I look forward to working with many of you over the coming year.

**DANNY SRISKANDARAJAH**  
DIRECTOR

RCS **EXCHANGE**  
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CHECK OUT  
OUR NEW  
FILM...IF YOU HAVEN'T VISITED  
THE RCS WEBSITE RECENTLY,  
MAYBE NOW IS THE TIME TO  
TAKE A LOOK ([www.thercs.org](http://www.thercs.org)).

We recently worked with RCS member, all-round media star and travel guru, Sankha Guha, to create a special video.

If you want to know who we are, what we do and why in less than 2 minutes, then this is the film for you! Our thanks to the team at Fuzzy Media for lending their creative genius, as well as to all those members (and colleagues) who were brave enough to take part.

## Get involved...

THE RCS RUNS A RANGE  
OF EXCITING AND  
INNOVATIVE YOUTH  
PROGRAMMES THAT  
SEEK TO ENGAGE THE  
COMMONWEALTH'S  
YOUNGEST CITIZENS  
AND PROMOTE  
THE VALUES THAT  
UNDERPIN THE  
ASSOCIATION.

These include our annual Young Commonwealth Competitions and our biennial Nkabom Commonwealth Youth Leadership Programme.

We'd love our members to become more involved in our youth programmes work. Would you be interested in becoming a judge for the Young Commonwealth Competitions in film, photography and essay-writing? Would you be willing to sponsor a young Commonwealth leader's participation in the Nkabom programme? **If you are interested in supporting our work, please email [joanna.bennett@thercs.org](mailto:joanna.bennett@thercs.org) or call 020 7766 9230.**

## RANDOM RESULT

9% of Britons reject the theory of evolution and believe the account of creation as told in the Bible. In the United States the figure is 34%.

YouGov

## RANDOM FACT

In 1894, the Council of the RCS (then known as the Royal Colonial Institute) invited a woman to deliver a paper at a meeting for the very first time. This caused such a stir that it secured two newspaper columns and an editorial in The Times newspaper.

COMMONWEALTH  
DAY 2011PLANNING IS ALREADY WELL  
UNDERWAY FOR THIS YEAR'S  
COMMONWEALTH DAY  
OBSERVANCE, SCHEDULED  
FOR MONDAY 14TH MARCH.

Organised by the Council of Commonwealth Societies, which is administered by the RCS, the Commonwealth Day Observance is an inter-faith service held annually at Westminster Abbey in the presence of Her Majesty the Queen.

For more information on the Observance, and a link to the website celebrating the Commonwealth theme for 2011, Women as Agents of Change, visit [www.thercs.org/youth/commonwealthday](http://www.thercs.org/youth/commonwealthday)



## Across our branches...

The Nicosia branch recently appointed a new Honorary Representative, Mrs Lella Hadjinehora. The Chairman of the Gibraltar branch, Mrs Cecilia Baldachino, and Mr John Verrall, the Secretary, attended the Gibraltar Day Celebration at Guildhall, London.

Sir Jayantilal Chande has now retired after serving as **RCS Honorary Representative in Tanzania** for many years. The Hon. Joseph Sinde Warioba has been appointed in his place. Prince Musa Abubakar, **the Secretary of the Commonwealth Society of Nigeria** (Abuja Branch), spoke at the

61st Independence Celebration of China in Abuja. Following the Commonwealth Conversation, the National Organiser of the Commonwealth Youth Organisation of Nigeria, Mr Blackson Bayewumi, has organised a Conversation on the future of Nigeria.

The Hong Kong branch held a joint lunch with the Royal Overseas League at which Lord Patten, the last Governor of Hong Kong, spoke. The Toronto branch held a Young Commonwealth Awards function on 28 September to celebrate local winners and participants.

## CONTACT US

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London, WC2N 5AP

RENEW AND  
UPDATE...

NEW!

FROM 1ST  
JANUARY 2011,  
ALL RENEWING  
MEMBERS WILL  
RECEIVE A RENEWAL PACK  
CONTAINING THE MOST  
UP-TO-DATE MEMBERSHIP  
INFORMATION INCLUDING:

- How to access third-party benefits
- What we achieved towards our charitable objectives in the last year
- Updated rules and regulations for club use
- Our up-to-date list of reciprocal clubs

Most members will receive this by email, so that you are able to save the documents that you find most relevant, but if we don't have your email address, a printed pack will be available from Reception for you to collect. You don't need a new membership card each year, your existing card will still work – but if you have lost your card or it fails to swipe at Reception, do let us know and we will produce another!

Get a FREE month of membership  
when you refer a new member!DID YOU KNOW THAT OVER  
200 CURRENT MEMBERS JOINED  
BECAUSE THEY WERE REFERRED  
BY AN EXISTING MEMBER?  
WE THINK THAT SHOULD  
BE REWARDED!

For every person that names you as their referral on their application form, you will receive a FREE month's membership for yourself. The person you refer will get their entrance fee waived, saving as much as £200!

Don't worry about remembering – we'll record all this information for you on the system so that when it's time to renew, you'll know how many months of free membership you are entitled to. Your next year of membership will then start at the end of the free membership period.

**New member application forms are available from Reception.**

Commonwealth  
Youth SummitsTHE NEXT ROUND OF  
COMMONWEALTH YOUTH  
SUMMITS IS ALMOST READY!

Events in Cambridge and – in the wings of the Commonwealth Local Government Forum – in Cardiff are now confirmed for this spring.



We are also likely to work with young people in Glasgow, the host of the next Commonwealth Games, and in Oxford. A team of international youth facilitators are currently being recruited to help run these exciting events. See [www.thercs.org/youth/summits](http://www.thercs.org/youth/summits) for more.

IN OCTOBER 2010, FOR THE VERY FIRST TIME, THE RCS WAS ABLE TO BRING TO LONDON **12 TALENTED YOUNG PRIZE-WINNERS** FROM OUR YOUNG COMMONWEALTH COMPETITIONS. **AN UNFORGETTABLE WEEK ENSUED...**



## YOUNG COMMONWEALTH COMPETITIONS: WINNERS' WEEK!

**Ranging in age from 12 to 24 and arriving from Commonwealth countries as diverse as Canada and Cameroon, the participants in Winners Week had been selected to travel to London having excelled in our 2010 writing, photography and film-making competitions.**

The prize-winners participated in a packed programme of skills-building sessions and talks, which included professional writing, film and photography workshops as well as educational tours of the BBC, the Commonwealth Secretariat and Oxford University Press. The prize-winners also managed to squeeze in tourist visits to sights including the London Eye, Westminster Abbey and the Houses of Parliament, and were hosted at several Commonwealth High Commissions.

The pinnacle of the week came in the form of the Commonwealth Gala Awards Dinner on Thursday 14th October. A glittering black-tie event held at the Commonwealth Club, the Guests of Honour at the Gala Dinner were the Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago, The Hon.

Kamla Persad-Bissessar, the film director Gurinder Chadha OBE, and the Deputy Secretary-General of the Commonwealth, Mmasekgoa Masire-Mwamba. These three inspirational women were joined by over one hundred other guests who watched the prize-winners being formally presented with their awards.

### MY WINNERS' WEEK

"Of a week filled with interesting people, places, and fond memories, it's difficult to find those that stand out the most. Visits to the historic Oxford University Press and the beautiful Magdalen College brought us to parts of Oxford unfamiliar to me, even after having lived there for over a year. I was delighted to then be able to welcome the group to my school in Oxford, where we were given a creative writing workshop by the distinguished author William Fiennes. Opportunities to be spoken to by professional authors are truly invaluable to any aspiring young writer."

**Lars Gladhaug, age 18, UK: Senior Winner of the 2010 Commonwealth Essay Competition**

I'd like to thank you  
For you permitted me to fly  
And see places from the sky

I'd like to thank you  
For all the smiles I received in London  
On the day I was welcomed

I'd love to thank you  
For the care, the food, the shelter  
and the visits  
That I owe you

I'd love to thank you  
For all that I learned  
Was thanks to you

I'd like to keep on thanking you  
For you changed my life  
But I think words are not enough for you

So I will rather give you a smile  
This is my precious wealth  
For all that you did for me

**Mbia Mbala Victorine Ghislaine, age 20, Cameroon: Senior Winner of the 2010 Commonwealth Vision Awards**

For more information on Winners' Week, including photographs and participant profiles, visit: <http://www.thercs.org/youth/>

### WHO WON THE VISION AWARDS?

Whilst we announced the results of our Essay and Photography competitions in the last edition of RCS Exchange, exactly who had won our film awards remained a closely guarded secret until the night of the Gala Dinner.

In the event, we were delighted to award Mbia Mbala Victorine Ghislaine, age 20, from Cameroon, the gold prize in the Senior category. Lee Sheng Wang of Malaysia took silver in this category, whilst Max Edkins of South Africa shared bronze with Liz Wanjiku from Kenya.

Gold in the Junior category went to Makena and Andres Binker-Cosen from Canada (aged 11 and 16 respectively), while Canadian Adil Butt took silver. Elena Harris, from London, also received a silver prize.

Our thanks must go to the distinguished panel of judges, including Chairperson and former BBC anchor, Keshini Navaratnam; founder of Academy Award-winning Atlantis Films, Michael MacMillan; Australian filmmaker, Charlotte George; Jennifer Sobol, of the Commonwealth Foundation, and Melanie Tankard, representing the UK Foreign & Commonwealth Office.

### AN EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW WITH GURINDER CHADHA OBE

#### Would you encourage young people to go into film-making?

Absolutely. I cannot believe I get paid to make films. It is just fantastic! Making films is a way of communicating with the rest of the world – your innermost thoughts, politics, and cultural views. You can do so much and you can make it entertaining at the same time. Film-making is a higher form of politics.

#### In an incredibly competitive field, what would be your advice to young people seeking to make an impact?

It is incredibly competitive and expensive. If anyone is seriously considering going into film-making, they have to be really clear who they are making the film for and why they are doing it. Film-making is all about vision, focus, having an opinion and being passionate about communicating it to others.

#### You were born in Kenya to Indian parents and raised in Britain.

#### What does the Commonwealth mean to you?

Well, in some ways it still has pejorative connotations for me. It is a reminder of the Empire. But I believe that is all the more reason to reclaim it. It's like my OBE; I could have said no to it, but again, I thought it was important to reclaim it. My grandparents lived under Empire, so I know it would be hard for them to understand. But the Commonwealth is a different thing now. What I like about it is that it is a collection of very different countries with their own cultures and identities, but which also share a common language and culture.

Gurinder Chadha OBE is the acclaimed director of films including *Bend it like Beckham* and *Bride and Prejudice*. She presented the Commonwealth Vision Awards prizes at the Commonwealth Gala Awards Dinner 2010.

## COMING TOGETHER: NKABOM 2010

# Young people are not the leaders of tomorrow; we are the leaders of today

A FLAGSHIP INITIATIVE OF THE ROYAL COMMONWEALTH SOCIETY, THE NKABOM COMMONWEALTH YOUTH LEADERSHIP PROGRAMME AIMS TO **DEVELOP A NETWORK OF YOUNG LEADERS** WHO CAN PIONEER PEACE-BUILDING INITIATIVES IN THEIR OWN COUNTRIES.

BUILDING ON THE SUCCESS OF PREVIOUS NKABOM PROJECTS IN MALAYSIA, GHANA, THE UK AND CYPRUS, **NKABOM 2010 TOOK PLACE IN RWANDA** BETWEEN THE 5TH AND 15TH OF SEPTEMBER. THE 35 PARTICIPANTS, WHO WERE ALL BETWEEN THE AGES OF 18 AND 25, WERE **SELECTED FROM HUNDREDS OF OUTSTANDING APPLICATIONS**. HERE, WE TELL THE STORY OF NKABOM THROUGH THEIR EYES...



If you are interested in sponsoring the next Nkabom programme, please contact Claire Anholt at the Royal Commonwealth Society: [claire.anholt@thercs.org](mailto:claire.anholt@thercs.org) /+44 (0) 20 7766 9202.

## I LEARNT NEW SKILLS

Nkabom 2010 provided me with the requisite analytical and critical skills to unpack different triggers of conflicts, conflict-resolution approaches and the importance of engaging different parties and stakeholders. More specifically, my understanding of why conflict happens, and why young people get involved in conflict, was deepened. I also learnt about how young people can be agents for peace and developed skills for advocacy.

**Albert, Ghana, age 24**



## I CONFRONTED THE PAST

Learning about the genocide did not prepare us for what we saw on the visit to the Kigali Memorial Centre. Inside the building the taking of photographs was not permitted due to the sensitivity of the pictures and footage on view. It was here where several participants were brought to tears as we read, heard and saw the extent of the genocide. We also viewed a documentary of testimonials by young genocide survivors and our hearts ached even more.

**Vanessa, Trinidad & Tobago, age 20**



## I MET NEW PEOPLE

The highlights of the Nkabom programme for me would have to be the meeting with President Kagame, who impressed me with his thinking and commitment (even though I continue to be sceptical of governments in general!), and the session with Pastor Antoine, who spoke about the process of reconciliation

in Rwanda. At a more personal level, I would also consider the time spent talking with others over meals and in the numerous bus rides to be important highlights of my time in Rwanda.

**Andi, Sri Lanka, age 24**



## I BEGAN TO DREAM

Nkabom was a huge deal to me. I met the most outstanding bunch of people. They became my confidants, my mentors, my friends for life. They encouraged me with a wink and a nod and a smile to step out of my protective shell and breathe, live, be free. They beckoned me to step into the sunlight and to dream and to live that dream. Never in my life have I felt so energised, so motivated to do, be and have what I want.

I have learned that the only thing getting in my way is me. Being a staunch Muslim, I believe in the concept of fate.

To add flavour to my faith, I now believe that I am fated to make my own fate. Thank you Nkabom... I am forever indebted.

**Mehwish, Pakistan, age 18**



## I SAW UNITY

It was amazing to start the Nkabom programme with the inauguration of President Kagame. It was a privilege and a great honour for all the participants to be invited to join 18 Heads of State and thousands of Rwandans at this historic event. It really was an interesting way for me to begin my understanding of the country. You could feel the strong patriotism amongst the Rwandans sitting in the audience; you could feel the strong sense of togetherness and unity amongst the people. I was really confused thinking about how this country had been torn apart and had faced such tragedy not too long ago. It made me very curious and interested to find out more about what has happened to change this country since 1994.

**Cindy, Singapore, age 21**



## WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

*So what next for the 2010 Nkabom delegates? Building on the participants' remarkable energy and enthusiasm, four regional Action Groups have been formed in Africa, Asia, the Caribbean and the Pacific. Working in partnership with the RCS and the Commonwealth Youth Programme's regional offices, each team is developing a series of strategies to disseminate their Nkabom learning to other young people in their countries and raise awareness of the vital role young people can – and should – play in conflict resolution. 5-day programmes are planned for Vanuatu, South Africa, India and Jamaica this Spring, and Nkabom alumni are also developing a Peacebuilding 'toolkit' and film to engage others. And after that, who knows? With its idealistic, impassioned and determined participants, it is impossible to shake off the feeling that the Nkabom story is only just beginning...*

The RCS is grateful for the generous support of the Rwandan Ministry of Youth, the Commonwealth Youth Programme, the Commonwealth Foundation and the Commonwealth Youth Exchange Programme.

# THE LAST SIXTY YEARS: A PEOPLE'S HISTORY

**AN ENORMOUS ARCHIVE ABOUT PEOPLE, PLACES AND EVENTS. A UNIQUE WAY TO MARK THE 2012 DIAMOND JUBILEE OF QUEEN ELIZABETH II AND HER 60TH YEAR AS HEAD OF THE COMMONWEALTH. AN EFFECTIVE MEANS OF PROMOTING CREATIVE EXPRESSION. A WAY TO HELP NARROW THE DIGITAL DIVIDE AND DEMONSTRATE THE POTENTIAL OF ONLINE EDUCATION TOOLS. A CHANCE TO LIFT THE PROFILE OF THE COMMONWEALTH.**



The RCS is delighted to announce the creation of an exciting new project, the Commonwealth Jubilee Time Capsule. This will be an innovative online time capsule made up of content generated by people around the Commonwealth and covering each day of the last 60 years. Intended to be the Commonwealth's largest-ever public engagement venture, the Jubilee time capsule will be a dynamic, accessible and informative project.

We believe the Jubilee archive will be of enormous significance to historians, academics and teachers as an accessible and unique snap-shot of an important period in the history of the Commonwealth. The project will form the basis of a selection of new teaching resources ensuring its long-term value. The project will connect individuals and communities all over the world in the construction of a shared narrative. It will encourage safe dialogue between young people, as well as peer-to-peer ranking and constructive cross-cultural engagement. Furthermore, the initiative will be used to narrow the digital divide, enabling more schools across the Commonwealth to get online.

The Commonwealth Jubilee Time Capsule will be powered by Capsool, a UK-based company that provides an online time capsule service. Capsool was founded with the intention of creating something truly innovative on the web; it is a company dedicated to building web systems for the biggest and most important moments in people's lives.

The Capsol team has experience of building specialist e-learning platforms, websites for schools, smartphone platforms, and pioneering Web 2.0 applications for government. Capsool are bringing their expertise to this project on a pro bono basis.

## HOW WILL IT WORK?

- Visitors to our bespoke website will contribute content relating to one of the 21,833 days between the Queen's accession in February 1952 and February 2012.
- They will be asked to write a story, take a picture, or make a video reflecting on what happened in their country or community on or around that day.
- For those without internet access, offline methods of collecting submissions will be available.
- Content will be collected throughout 2011 and each entry will be checked and graded by a network of volunteer monitors before going 'live' on the website.
- Prizes will be awarded for the best regional entries, the best under-25 entries and in overall categories, before the sealed time capsule is presented to Her Majesty the Queen on Commonwealth Day 2012 (12th March).
- After March 2012 the material will be safely stored online in the Commonwealth Jubilee Archive, and offline in teaching materials for schools created by the RCS.

## SO, WHAT'S NEW?

THE RCS HAS A NUMBER OF EXCITING PROJECTS PLANNED FOR 2011. HERE'S A TASTER OF JUST A FEW...



### A COMMONWEALTH GREEN INVESTMENT PLATFORM

#### WHAT?

- A Commonwealth-wide investment platform which will enable environmental entrepreneurs and companies all over the world to pitch to a range of international investors

#### HOW?

- Entrepreneurs will be sourced, screened and given appropriate support to build credible business models before being linked with potential investors
- Investors will have access to seminar series' designed to raise awareness of the climate change market in different geographical regions and promote best practice in green procurement

#### WHY?

- Climate change adaptation will require ambitious market-based solutions
- Current mechanisms to facilitate international technology sharing, enterprise creation and investment are inadequate
- The development of technological innovations designed to mitigate the worst effects of climate change in the world's most vulnerable countries (many of which are members of the Commonwealth) will be crucial
- At the 2009 Summit, Commonwealth leaders publicly pledged to "significantly increase technological and technology support to developing countries to facilitate the deployment and diffusion of clean technologies through a range of mechanisms"



### ME AND MY NET

#### WHAT?

- A creative competition to encourage young people to think about the importance of mosquito nets in the fight against malaria
- A ready-made tool for malaria campaigners to use around the Commonwealth

#### HOW?

- We will run a competition for young people across the 54 countries of the Commonwealth and promote it heavily in sub-Saharan Africa
- Entrants will submit photos, stories, or films involving a mosquito net
- They could be creative (a short story), instructive (a short film about why nets are important) or practical (a safe way of personalising a net)

#### WHY?

- Universal bed net coverage by the end of 2010 is a key element of the global fight against malaria. While coverage has dramatically improved, challenges remain around promoting a culture of effective bed net use
- Finding ways of personalising and making otherwise mundane activities fun can often be the most effective way of changing habits
- The competition will provide a unique evidence base on how young people think about nets, creating a useful resource for future campaigns



### A COMMONWEALTH SUSTAINABLE TOURISM ACADEMY

#### WHAT?

- A membership forum bringing together organisations with an interest in sustainable tourism practice and development throughout the Commonwealth
- An Academy offering training and certification, an annual awards programme and the opportunity for all members to exchange experiences and best practice

#### HOW?

- Membership will be open to National Tourist Boards, local tourism organisations, travel and tourism businesses and corporate organisations
- Activities will focus initially on four areas: policy and advocacy; standards and branding; training and learning; and marketing and awareness
- All members will be eligible to vote in the annual Commonwealth Sustainable Travel Awards

#### WHY?

- The Commonwealth has made firm public commitments to encouraging sustainable development across its 54 member states
- In economic terms, statistics show that the travel and tourism industry is twice as important to Commonwealth countries as the world average

**IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN FINDING OUT MORE ABOUT ANY OF THE PROJECTS ABOVE, PLEASE CONTACT JOANNA BENNETT AT [JOANNA.BENNETT@THERCS.ORG](mailto:JOANNA.BENNETT@THERCS.ORG) / 020 7766 9230**

# YES

**CAROLINE SEARLE, CHIEF PRESS OFFICER AND OFFICIAL SPOKESPERSON FOR COMMONWEALTH GAMES ENGLAND AT THE 2010 DELHI GAMES:**

Winning a Commonwealth Games medal – or merely being selected – still means a lot to most Commonwealth athletes. The Games give established stars the chance to shine. “It gave me confidence in myself”, said Rebecca Adlington at the conclusion of the 2010 Games, where she won double gold. As those stars shine and new ones emerge to great acclaim, the reflected profile falls on the Commonwealth itself. Yet the Games also provide invaluable experience for young athletes – think Sebastian Coe or Denise Lewis, for England, and multiply that for other

nations – on the path to Olympic glory. The Games are fiercely competitive on the playing field but retain their sense of family and the trappings (Village, Ceremonies etc) are not so intimidating as those at an Olympics.

Whilst India's problems in getting ready for the 2010 Games were well documented, this should not detract other emerging nations from bidding to stage the Games. It is vital young athletes get the chance to experience different cultures, providing them and the event organisers the opportunity to share ideas and knowledge. Few of those involved in England's efforts in Delhi will forget the kindness of the volunteers and the enthusiasm of all concerned to provide the experience of a lifetime to visiting teams. They can rest assured that the everyday Indians that pulled out all the stops to help retrieve a difficult situation, not of their making, have done their country proud. For all the nations of the Commonwealth to draw together on their past and future heritages for a two-week festival of sport every four years can only enrich the sum of the parts.

THE BIG QUESTION...

## Are the Commonwealth Games **good** for the Commonwealth brand?

# NO

**GARY KINGSTON, JOURNALIST:**

The Games were not on the radar of many news organizations, never mind the general public, before reports began filtering out about the squalor at the athletes' village and whether it would be ready in time. Then there was the flooding, the collapse of a walkway outside the main stadium, terrorist fears and many other calamities. In India, where the media have been haranguing for months about the costs and the corruption, the competition once dubbed the Friendly Games are being called the Shame Games. Unlike other Games founded on geographic or climactic factors – the Asian Games or Winter Olympics – the Commonwealth Games, which began as the British Empire Games, are more a function of history, designed to create goodwill between United Kingdom outposts. Through the 1960s to '80s they did occupy a significant place on the sporting landscape. But with the Olympics moving to an alternating every two years schedule in the '90s and more frequent world championships taking on greater prominence, the Commonwealth Games have been pushed into second-tier status on a crowded calendar.

With 4,500 athletes from 71 countries, many will go on to compete at an Olympics. And Britain, which will host the 2012 Olympics in London, is using Delhi as a barometer of its high-performance programs. Like several other countries, however, Canada has had track athletes decline to participate because the Games fall during what is normally a down time between seasons. Star hurdler Perdita Felicien and 800-metre runner Gary Reed both passed. Among the international track and field pullouts are sprint star Usain Bolt of Jamaica and 800-metre world record holder David Rudisha of Kenya. Former Olympic champion Michael Johnson, an American now a commentator for the BBC, wrote that the Games have “struggled in past years to get the best athletes to take them seriously” and that in athletics “a Commonwealth title barely registers any respect on a global stage.”

This commentary is an abridged version of an article published as *'Are the Games still relevant?'* in the *Ottawa Citizen* on 3 October 2010. It is reprinted with the kind permission of the author.

**What's your view?**  
 We'd like to hear what you think about this debate.  
 Send your comments, criticisms, arguments or praise to the Editor at [joanna.bennett@thercs.org](mailto:joanna.bennett@thercs.org)

# COMMONWEALTH MEMBERS ENJOY UP TO 50% TRADE ADVANTAGE



BY DANNY SRISKANDARAJAH

**WHEN YOU THINK OF THE COMMONWEALTH, DO YOU THINK FIRST AND FOREMOST OF POLITICS, HISTORY AND CULTURE? OR OF BUSINESS, INVESTMENT AND TRADE? I WOULD SUGGEST THAT MOST OF US WOULD LEAN TOWARDS THE FORMER. BUT NEW RESEARCH SUGGESTS THAT THE ECONOMIC ADVANTAGES OF THE COMMONWEALTH MAY BE OF FAR GREATER IMPORTANCE THAN PREVIOUSLY RECOGNISED.**

Late last year, we published a paper entitled, 'Trading Places: the 'Commonwealth Effect' revisited'. The first and most notable attempt to analyse the significance of a 'Commonwealth effect' on trade and investment was made in the late 1990s by Lundan and Jones. They concluded that there is a tendency for high levels of intra-Commonwealth trade, even when factors such as regional trade agreements or geographical proximity are taken into account.

Our own research employed a different methodology, so is not directly comparable, but, like Lundan and Jones, we discovered a considerable trade advantage within the Commonwealth. Using data from the United Nations' COMTRADE database for the years 1990 to 2008 inclusive, and a regression model where the dependent variable is the value of trade in a calendar year between each pair of countries, we found that a Commonwealth country's trade with another member is likely to be a third to a half more than with a non-member. This effect remains even after taking into account other possible contributory factors such as proximity, level of development and language.

Our research also revealed that, contrary to expectations (and the predictions of Lundan and Jones), the importance of Commonwealth members to each other as sources of imports and destinations for exports has grown by around a quarter and third respectively over the last two decades. Intra-Commonwealth trade now accounts for one-sixth of total Commonwealth members' trade, with an average for each member of around one-third.

All this provides persuasive evidence that Commonwealth membership does offer some significant and tangible benefits. But of course, explaining causality remains a challenge. While the regressions we employed

account for factors such as language commonalities, they do not control for all factors which may favourably dispose the Commonwealth to trade and investment. These include attributes which are relatively prevalent in Commonwealth countries, such as multi-party democracy, human rights, good governance, similar legal and administrative systems, an open media and market-orientated economic policies.

Too often, these features of the Commonwealth have been directly linked to increased trade levels – a simple, but misguided conclusion to draw. It is impossible to say for sure what impact these political, legal and cultural factors have without a further, and more sophisticated, analysis. If future research could show that the Commonwealth Effect does not just reflect past relationships, but implies an under-utilised resource, then the possibilities of realising growth potential could be greatly improved. If promoted effectively, it could well be the association's economic ties, rather than its political bonds, that become its driving feature in the 21st century.

To read our research paper in full, visit: [www.thercs.org/society/news](http://www.thercs.org/society/news)

The RCS is grateful to the Worshipful Company of World Traders for their financial support of this research.

**TRADING PLACES**

- Between them, Commonwealth countries traded around US\$4 trillion worth of goods in 2008.
- Intra-Commonwealth trade accounts for about one-sixth of total Commonwealth members' trade, with an average for each member of around one-third.
- The share of intra-Commonwealth trade has grown steadily from around 12 per cent in 1990 to around 16 per cent in 2008.
- The value of trade between pairs of Commonwealth member states is between 38 and 50 per cent higher than between pairs of countries where one or both are not Commonwealth members, controlling for other factors.

# Up Close & Personal

**NAME:** Melissa Shales

**NATIONALITY:** British

**RCS MEMBER SINCE:** 2003

**OCCUPATION:** Travel Writer and Chairman of the British Guild of Travel Writers ([www.bgtw.org](http://www.bgtw.org))

**INTERESTS:** Books, Theatre, History – all of which fit in well with being a travel writer.



## WHY DID YOU DECIDE TO JOIN THE RCS?

The British Guild of Travel Writers was looking for a London base for our members; an organisation that married well with our own. Many of our members are from out of town, and need a London base, but our main priority was finding a club that possessed a global outlook and a travel connection. We felt that the RCS had great facilities, brilliant food and was an affordable choice (something that is important for working journalists!).

## WHAT DO YOU ENJOY MOST ABOUT BEING A MEMBER?

I like the mix of efficiency and informality. The facilities are excellent, and the location is very convenient. The club is a great place to hold business meetings, which is especially important for me as the British Guild of Travel Writers doesn't have an office space of its own.

## YOU'VE VISITED COUNTLESS COMMONWEALTH COUNTRIES. WHICH HAS BEEN YOUR FAVOURITE?

Well, I'd have to say Zimbabwe. I know that it has left the Commonwealth, and it's right that it

is outside the Commonwealth at the moment, but it was my childhood home and remains a wonderful country, where the vast majority of the population are generous, cheerful, resilient and such hard workers.

## HAVE YOU WITNESSED THE 'INVISIBLE GLUE' OF SHARED HISTORY AND CULTURE DURING YOUR COMMONWEALTH TRAVELS?

There really is an intangible link between Commonwealth countries. If you're not a product of it you might sneer at it, but it's incredibly valuable; it's really a family connection.

## SUSTAINABLE TRAVEL IS A HOT TOPIC AT THE MOMENT. WHICH COMMONWEALTH COUNTRIES ARE AT THE FOREFRONT OF THIS MOVEMENT?

Africa gets a bad press in almost every way, but on this it can lead the world; its tourist industry is very sophisticated in sustainable travel terms. In East and Southern Africa the safari industry's water conservation, reclamation of derelict farmland, and community programmes are streets ahead of what's happening in the developed world. It's coming from Africa because there it simply had to be done, for conservation reasons.

## WHAT ARE YOU WORKING ON AT THE MOMENT?

I'm writing a book provisionally titled *Steel Safari*, which is an examination of Africa's railways past, present and future ([www.steel-safari.co.uk](http://www.steel-safari.co.uk)). I was lucky enough to be awarded a Winston Churchill Memorial Fellowship ([www.wcmt.org.uk](http://www.wcmt.org.uk)), which has allowed me to travel down Africa and research the book. What's fascinating is that the story of Africa's railways is as much about colonial politics and social engineering as anything else. Railways are, literally, vehicles for history.

## BE PROFILED IN RCS EXCHANGE...

**Are you an RCS member? Do you have an interesting story to tell?**

Being featured on our member profile page is a great way to let other members know who you are and what line of work you're in. We're keen to build a greater sense of community amongst the people who use the Club regularly, as well as those who live farther afield. If you would be willing to be featured, please send an email to [joanna.bennett@thercs.org](mailto:joanna.bennett@thercs.org)



## A MESSAGE FROM THE MEMBERSHIP MANAGER

Last October, we launched our revitalised set of membership categories to the world at large and we have had a great response. In October alone, we had over 40 members whose membership had previously lapsed coming back to the Society to rejoin as a result of our new categories which met their needs more effectively.

We also had a launch event for our target market of young professionals, and 24 signed up in just one night! Having had 3 months of road-testing these new categories, we are now ready to ask renewing members to move to the new categories when they renew.

When your membership is up for renewal, you will receive a letter (not an email, so please make sure your address is up to date in the members area of the website) detailing your current category and fee and recommending which new category we would suggest you renew onto, based on your club usage statistics. We know that these are tough economic times and so we are promoting the option

of spreading the fee over the year by paying quarterly by direct debit. We are confident that these new categories are easier to understand and have clearer pricing which directly relates to the amount of time you wish to spend at the club.

We are particularly pleased with our new Supporter category of membership, open to those that don't wish to visit the club but wholly support our charitable objectives and wish to join us as a way of making a regular donation. For those members that do not wish to continue their membership because you find that you are not visiting the club often, you can choose to continue supporting us

as a charity and continue to receive this magazine and information on our public affairs events.

2011 is certainly going to be a year of growth in terms of membership – securing the future of our great Society is assured!

Kerrie Fuller, Membership Manager



## MEET THE TEAM

### RCS STAFF UNDER THE SPOTLIGHT

**NAME:** CLAIRE ANHOLT

**POSITION:** YOUTH PROGRAMMES MANAGER

Claire grew up by the seaside in the scenic English county of Devon. She was thrown into the deep end on her very first day at the RCS, joining as Public Affairs Officer on Commonwealth Day in 2008. In her (very limited) spare time Claire enjoys doing freelance graphic-design work, having gained her Masters degree in Visual Media. She also loves travelling; she has visited over 35 countries and the place she'd most like to visit next is Argentina.

## WHAT FIRST ATTRACTED YOU TO WORKING AT THE RCS?

I've always been interested in working with young people and had experience

in the area from interning at UNICEF in India. Even though I didn't know much about the Commonwealth, I've always been passionate about international affairs, so that side of the job seemed very attractive, and I liked the idea of using my creative skills on youth-focused projects.

## WHAT DOES YOUR JOB INVOLVE?

I run the Nkabom Commonwealth Youth Leadership Programme, which I've organised twice, in Cyprus in 2008 and in Rwanda earlier this year. In the past my role has included managing the Commonwealth Youth Summits. I've run workshops at events such as the

Commonwealth Youth Forum, which was held at the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in Trinidad & Tobago last year. I also help with general RCS project development.

## WHAT HAS BEEN THE HIGHLIGHT OF YOUR TIME AT THE RCS?

It's been truly inspiring to meet so many impressive young delegates on the Nkabom programme; they are so enthusiastic and dynamic. It's also been very exciting meeting various Commonwealth leaders; I've probably met about twelve current or former heads of state during my time here.

# Kitchen Wizardry

OUR CHEF, OLIVER TOBIAS, GIVES YOU A GUIDE TO MAKING THE PERFECT COMMONWEALTH DISHES.



**Ironbark pumpkin soup**, served with Scotch bonnet and lime crème fraîche

**Serves 6**



## INGREDIENTS

### FOR THE SOUP

500g ironbark pumpkin (or any available), peeled and diced into 2cm cubes

2 litres of milk

4 cloves of garlic, crushed

1 onion, finely sliced

100g of unsalted butter

Salt to taste

### FOR THE CREAM

50g of crème fraîche

Zest of 1 lime

Juice of 1 lime

Scotch bonnet peppers to taste, chopped

Salt and pepper to taste

## METHOD

### FOR THE SOUP

- 1) On a low to medium heat, sweat the onions and garlic in the butter with a little salt until they are soft and clear-coloured.
- 2) Add the pumpkin, another pinch of salt and continue to cook the mixture for 3-4 minutes.
- 3) Add the milk, bring to the boil and reduce down to a simmer.
- 4) Allow the mixture to simmer until the pumpkin is very well cooked; this should take no longer than 25 minutes.
- 5) Blend to a smooth soup and season further if desired.

### FOR THE CREAM

- 1) Whisk together all of the ingredients and allow to set in the fridge.
- 2) Spoon onto the soup.

## WINE AT THE COMMONWEALTH CLUB



Changes are imminent to the Commonwealth Club wine list. Already over the past few months you may have noticed that the wine list has been 'freshened up' with new wines from all over the world. (Of course, we're still prioritising wines from the Commonwealth. Look out for more coming soon from India, Australia, New Zealand and South Africa.)

Now we are planning to change the layout of the list. Previously, wines have been grouped by country, but we will now group wines by their character. In so doing, we are seeking to make it easier for you to choose the right wine for your palate, meal and occasion.

Please feel free to get in touch with Operations Manager Hans Schrader if you have any comments regarding the wine list, at [Hans.Schrader@searcys.co.uk](mailto:Hans.Schrader@searcys.co.uk).

## INTRODUCING THE COMMONWEALTH MARKET MENU



Our new Market Menu aims to present a flavour of the Commonwealth using traditional ingredients and cooking methods from all over the world. Every week you will see a new dish which brings to life the tastes, smells and textures of a different Commonwealth country.

Our Head Chef, Oliver Tobias, is tasked with carrying out the extensive research that goes into each new menu, before translating what he finds into the modern cuisine of our Commonwealth Kitchen. So far, Oli has featured Malta with marinated squid, stuffed olives and zalza picante. He has brought a little slice of Antigua and Barbuda to London with Wadaldi beer braised beef blade, sweet potato dumplings and all-spiced January king cabbage. And his latest mission is to give you a taste of Christmas with Satsuma trifle and pumpkinseed biscuits. Delicious!

**Send Oli your feedback and ideas:** Oli is keen to hear from members. Have you eaten in the restaurant recently? What did you think? Is there anything you would like to see on the menu? Send your feedback directly to Oli at [Oliver.Tobias@searcys.co.uk](mailto:Oliver.Tobias@searcys.co.uk).

# Inside Zambia

**THE REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA IS A LANDLOCKED COUNTRY IN SOUTHERN AFRICA AND JOINED THE COMMONWEALTH UPON INDEPENDENCE IN 1964.**

## PEOPLE AND PLACE

**CAPITAL:** LUSAKA

**LANGUAGES:** ENGLISH

**PEOPLES:** BEMBA, NYANJA, TONGA, KAONDE, LUNDA, LUVALE, LOZI

**RELIGION:** CHRISTIAN (63%), TRADITIONAL BELIEFS, SOME HINDUS AND MUSLIMS

**SIZE (SQ KM):** 752,614

**POPULATION:** 11,500,000

## WHEN TO GO

The weather is cool and dry between May and September and hot and dry in October and November. The rainy season is between December and April.

## HIGHLIGHTS

### Victoria Falls and the Zambezi

**River:** This magnificent river – which also passes through Zimbabwe and Mozambique – boasts some of the most outstanding terrestrial and riverine wildlife and landscape in Africa. Its many tributaries and wetlands are home to an array of animal and plant species. Victoria Falls is a sight of phenomenal beauty as up to 546 million cubic metres of water per minute plummets into the gorge below. To fully appreciate the Falls' magnitude and power, it is suggested that visitors see them from the air by small plane, microlight or helicopter. Livingstone Town, by Victoria Falls, is rapidly becoming the adventure capital of southern Africa, named after the man that trekked across the area in search of the source of the Nile.

**Kafue National Park:** Situated in central western Zambia, the park is the size of Wales and is home to more than 400 species of wildlife.

### Lake Bangweulu:

A lake of breathtaking beauty, where the grey-blue waters disappear into the horizon so that you can't distinguish the sky from the water. Used as a fishing source rather than a tourist trap, it's well worth seeing.

### Lake Tanganyika:

The longest freshwater lake in the world is also the second deepest (after Lake Baikal in Russia). The clear waters play host to more than 350 different species of fish and make for excellent angling.

**Lusaka:** The capital has a bustling charm and energy that typifies the country, though it's not an obvious tourist destination. The city is undergoing a facelift following economic liberalisation.

## CONSUMING PLEASURES

**Food & Drink:** Local food specialities include bream, Nile perch and other freshwater fish. Local and imported beers are popular.

**Shopping & Souvenirs:** Carvings, pottery, copperware, beadwork, gemstones.



## The RCS and WEXAS

The RCS has negotiated for members to receive free WEXAS White membership, which

entitles you to a host of travel benefits during your time as a member, listed below:

- **Access to WEXAS' expert travel consultants**
- **FREE UK airport lounge access**  
Book long-haul flights and two nights' accommodation or short-haul flights and seven nights' accommodation with WEXAS and you will receive FREE airport lounge access at your UK departure airport. Access is subject to availability.
- **Exclusive travel offers – for members only**
- **Members-only events programme**
- **Password protected access to the content-rich [www.wexas.com](http://www.wexas.com)**
- **The best cover-for-cost in travel insurance**

To register for this complimentary benefit, please call WEXAS on 020 7664 2256 quoting '10RCS' or visit [www.wexas.com/rcs](http://www.wexas.com/rcs). To discuss a tailor-made trip anywhere in the world, please call WEXAS on 020 7664 2257.

# THERE'S MORE TO ZAMBIA THAN BEER



**CHI KAVINDELE,**  
A PROUD ZAMBIAN NATIONAL, IS EVENTS MANAGER AT THE RCS.

**WHEN I WAS ASKED TO WRITE A PIECE ABOUT MY HOME COUNTRY ZAMBIA, I WAS INITIALLY FLATTERED, AND THEN PERTURBED WHEN I DISCOVERED I HAD TO WRITE IT IN FOUR DAYS.**

This feeling was short-lived, and I began to think of ways to get even. That's when it dawned on me: I could write a piece about Zambian beer, yes, you read it right the first time, beer...

Mosi lager has been the most popular beer in Zambia for as long as I can remember (post my 18th birthday, of course). Mosi takes its name from Mosi-oa-Tunya, literally meaning 'the smoke that thunders', the indigenous name for Victoria Falls, located just outside the tourist capital of Zambia, Livingstone (4-5 hours drive from Lusaka).

Very much the jewel in our national crown, Victoria Falls is simply breathtaking. The visual spectacle of the mighty Zambezi River plunging with a force that can be heard miles away, and a rising mist that can be seen from even further afield, is truly something special.

The Falls and its surrounding area offer a range of activities for everyone from thrill-seeking back-packers on a budget to those in search of quality rest and relaxation. Whether its bungee-jumping, white-water rafting, abseiling, museums, cultural centres or nature walks, Livingstone has it all. And of course there's the Mosi-oa-Tunya National Park nearby, which is home to elephants, hippos, crocodiles, giraffes, zebras, buffalos and many more animals besides.

There's been a lot of investment in Livingstone over the past decades; numerous hotels, safari lodges and guest houses have sprung up. Yet somehow Livingstone still manages to come across as being off the beaten track, which is one of its greatest assets. I would recommend visiting in rainy season (March-April), when the full majesty of the Falls is on show. The locals are friendly and welcoming, the food's delicious, and, of course, I can personally vouch for the beer.



# Did you know?

Before the Commonwealth Club...  
the Constitutional Club



**AT THE TURN OF THE 20TH CENTURY, LONDON HAD MANY GENTLEMEN'S CLUBS AND ONE OCCUPIED THE SITE ON WHICH THE COMMONWEALTH CLUB NOW STANDS. BUILT IN 1883, THE CONSTITUTIONAL CLUB WAS THE CONSERVATIVE PARTY'S ANSWER TO THE NATIONAL LIBERAL CLUB STARTED BY GLADSTONE IN 1882.**

I still recall the Constitutional's grand marble-lined staircase that you see in illustrations of the time. The rooms of the Constitutional were lofty, airless mausoleums, witnessing the comings and goings of the political greats of the time. The Club was the centre of several P.G. Wodehouse stories with Bertie Worcester using the Club and the Turkish baths next door. The Club also attracted minnows like me, who, as a cub reporter, listened to Churchill, MacMillan and others speaking, via the press, to the nation. The stately morning room of the Club was always full of my sharp-elbowed colleagues trying to get the story to their paper.

The Constitutional had many memories for me, so I was appalled, sometime in the 1980's, to see the wrecking-ball breaking down its walls. Gradually the white stone buildings of today rose up. Still a scribe, I later reported some of the goings-on of the RCS in its new building. Sir David Thorne was Director then; he was a man whose quiet military bearing radiated authority. He impressed us hacks so much we began to speculate among ourselves as to whether he headed a branch of MI6 from his office in the Society's building!

The years went by and I found my niche in the newspaper world and gradually lost touch with the RCS.

I found a couple of European publications that accepted my contributions and was advised to join the Foreign Press Association by my colleague Peter Ustinov. Carlton House Terrace, which was the previous home of the FPA, was impressive but the cost of maintaining its elegant but crumbling rooms drove us to find another home, and the FPA Director found the Commonwealth Club.

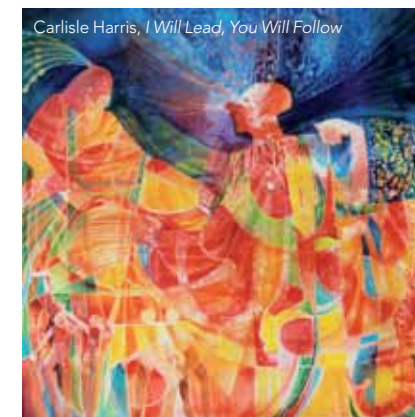
I cannot associate the Commonwealth Club with the old Constitutional; the rooms are too light and airy and the marble too clean! The staff is also too pleasant; some of the servants of the Constitutional, dressed in Edwardian livery, were curmudgeons. Still, I remember the old place as I push on the stiff front door.

As the Foreign Press Association gets its feet under the Commonwealth Club's table we begin to feel more at home, particularly as we are also members of the RCS. There begins to be a feeling of coming home as we get briefings in the Club from politicians. Though this new bunch are not a patch on how they used to be in the old days...

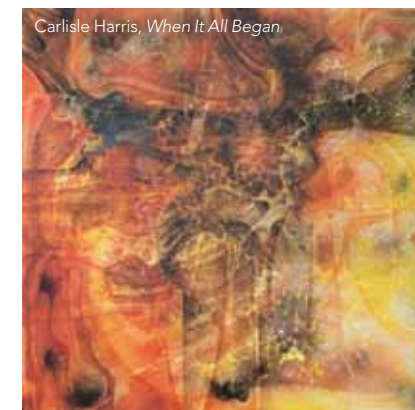
Peter Matthews is Honorary Secretary of the Foreign Press Association. The line-drawings of the interior of the Constitutional Club are photographed and reproduced by kind permission of Westminster City Archives.



Carlisle Harris, *Pangs and Pleasure*



Carlisle Harris, *I Will Lead, You Will Follow*



Carlisle Harris, *When It All Began*

## Perspectives: Memory and Desire

### RECENT PAINTINGS BY CARLISLE HARRIS, GLENN ROOPCHAND AND KENWYN CRICHLAW

Autumn 2010 saw the Commonwealth Club host a stunning, once-in-a-lifetime joint exhibition by three of the Caribbean's most talented and successful artists, Carlisle Harris, Glenn Roopchand and Kenwyn Crichtlow. Entitled *Perspectives: Memory and Desire*, the exhibition was launched in October with a private viewing and reception hosted by the RCS and

the High Commission of Trinidad & Tobago and attended by all three artists. Through the rest of the month and into November the beautifully vibrant collection of paintings enchanted both members and guests visiting the Club.

"This exhibition marks an important juncture in my career, in that it helps me to revisit the working experiences and results of my past artistic endeavours, and heralds a distinct path for my future work."  
Carlisle Harris

"The desire to assert my memory into visual perspectives has led to this union of three visual artists in a similar quest." Glenn Roopchand

"In this collection of paintings, I have worked to shed light on atonement as it alludes to a process of searching the nature of painting, and on the meaning of redemption in the reclamation of the spiritual in art."  
Kenwyn Crichtlow

# Events at the RCS



## LOOKING BACK...TO AUTUMN 2010

We had a busy autumn of Public Affairs events at the RCS. Damian Green MP kicked off September with his inaugural address as Minister of State for Immigration in front of 200 guests. A panel debate on the Millennium Development Goals followed a couple of days later, attracting a similar number of attendees. Keynote addresses on the post-conflict future of Sri Lanka by Professor Rajiva Wijesinha MP and corruption in Kenya by John Githongo saw us through October. In addition, journalist Tim Llewellyn educated members and guests on the political situation in Lebanon and broadcaster Humphrey Hawksley lectured on the occasional dangers of democracy!

Aside from exploring current affairs, the RCS played host to a dinner for Antonio Guterres, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees; celebrated Nigeria's 50th year of independence; and, last but certainly not least, was honoured with the presence of the Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago, Kamla Persad-Bissessar, and the acclaimed film director Gurinder Chadha for the Commonwealth Gala Awards Dinner in mid-October. We also had time to enjoy the vibrant Trinidadian artwork on display in the Club in October and November with a 'Trini' flavoured private viewing and reception.



## LOOKING FORWARD...TO WHAT'S ON

For full, up-to-date details of all our events, please subscribe to our monthly e-newsletter or visit our website.

### 4 January – 18 February 2011

#### NHA Africa Art Exhibition

Self-taught artist Lito Silva exhibits great talent in art, craft and music. His oil paintings in this exhibition are themed around war, with strong colours which capture his West African upbringing.

### 21 February – 28 March 2011

#### The Sreepur Village Photography Exhibition

Ian Spratt is an award-winning photographer. This exhibition focuses on the photographer's return to a Bangladeshi community he first visited in 1986.

### 14 March 2011

#### The Commonwealth Day Observance

Attended by more than 2,000 guests, the Commonwealth Day Observance is the largest multi-faith service held in the UK. The Head of the Commonwealth, Her Majesty the Queen, attends this very special event, accompanied by other senior members of the Royal Family as well as politicians and dignitaries from all 54 Commonwealth countries. Performers from across the Commonwealth add music, dance and testimonies into the mix. The 2011 theme of the Observance will be 'Women as Agents of Change'. The RCS has a special allocation of tickets for members. If you would like to be entered into the ballot, please email [eventsteam@thercs.org](mailto:eventsteam@thercs.org).

#### Women as Agents of Change

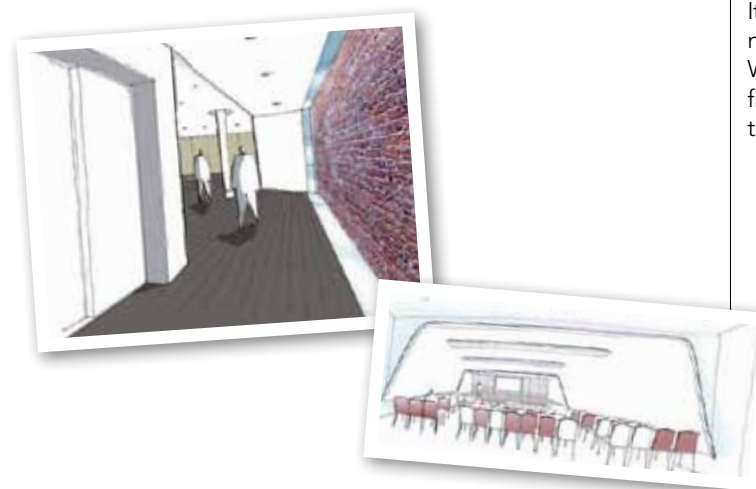
The RCS is planning a series of gender-themed debates to mark the Commonwealth theme for 2011. Stay tuned for more information.

## DON'T MISS OUT!

Please note that this What's on Guide gives only an indication of the range of events we have planned for the coming months.

To receive full details of our events programme, plus important membership news and information, please subscribe to our monthly e-newsletter by sending your email address to [membership@thercs.org](mailto:membership@thercs.org).

You can book places at all of our events through our website, but if you have any questions, please contact our Events Team, [eventsteam@thercs.org](mailto:eventsteam@thercs.org) / 020 7766 9210. We look forward to seeing you soon!



## DID YOU KNOW?

Late last year, we asked you – our members – to suggest new names for our auditorium, conference room and downstairs reception space. In 2011, we will be delighted to welcome you to The Mandela, Nehru and Gladstone Rooms!

All of these men have played a pivotal role in the life of the Royal Commonwealth Society. Following his release from prison, Nelson Mandela gave his first public address in Europe at the RCS. Jawaharlal Nehru, Prime Minister of India from 1947 to 1964, was one of the founding fathers of the modern Commonwealth and William Gladstone, four-time British Prime Minister between 1868 and 1894, gave the address at the RCS' inaugural dinner.

It's easy to forget that beneath the clean façade of our modern 21st century Club, there lies a rich and varied history. We hope that by reflecting some of the most important figures from our recent past in the make-up of our building today, we can ensure that their memory will live on.



Want to take part in our  
Young Commonwealth Competitions?  
visit [www.theres.org/youthcompetitions](http://www.theres.org/youthcompetitions)

