



THE LANSDOWNE CLUB

THE JOURNAL 2009/10

INSIDE:

A journey into space

Meet a Member: BBC antiques expert John Bly

London's hidden luxury

The Club's social scene

and more...

The Lansdowne Club is licensed to hold civil marriage or partnership ceremonies for up to 150 people.



The Adam Drawing Room

SAMPLE MENUS

Pressed Terrine of Somerset Chicken served with Leek and Wild Mushrooms and Truffle and Champagne Coulis

Scottish Smoked Salmon with Onion Bread, Glazed Button Onions drizzled with a Caper and Dill Dressing

Warm Tart of Artichoke and Butternut Squash with a Herb Mascarpone and Fine Herb Salad (v)

Seared Fillet of Scottish Beef with Horseradish Mash served with Parmentier of Seasonal Vegetables, Cepes and a Wild Mushroom and Truffle Jus

Herb Crusted Baked Salmon and Provencale Potatoes with Blistered Cherry Tomatoes, Celeriac and Carrots and a Sauce Vierge

Roasted Aubergine filled with Feta and Roasted Vegetables with a Tomato and Basil Fondue Sauce (v)

White Chocolate and Raspberry Cheesecake with a Compote of Seasonal Berries

Passionfruit and Mango Delice with Coconut Crème Anglaise

Apple and Caramel Crumble Tart with Vanilla Mascarpone

To hold your special event please contact **Lucy Mannering** our dedicated Wedding Co-ordinator on **020 7318 6117** or email **Weddings@LansdowneClub.com**.

LETTER FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Dear Member,

Your Club continues to flourish in spite of the economic climate. We have sadly lost some Members who have had to resign because of job losses (many of them do hope to return in due course) however on the upside the Club continues to attract new Members who recognise the Lansdowne as a fine social and sports club in Mayfair which offers remarkable value for money.

Our new Monthly Networking Breakfasts are proving popular with those who wish to discuss current issues and extend their contacts, and the numbers attending the family Sunday lunches have grown. Regular events such as reeling, dance classes, the music recitals, jazz, the Club suppers, the arts lunches and wine tastings all continue to attract their supporters, whilst newer groups such as the Book Club and the Debating Society are building up their numbers.

On the Sports side, the disruption caused by the pool ceiling replacement and associated works has had much less impact on the number of users than might have been expected. My congratulations to the sports, maintenance and administrative staff for dealing so successfully with this major setback. We still hope to begin the Sports area/new gym development project in 2010 if all goes well. I regret there will be some disturbance for about seven months and some sports users will need to use alternative venues which we

hope to arrange. However the pain should be offset by the far greater pleasure of using the new facilities.

Bedroom occupancy remains high, especially from Mondays to Thursdays. I apologise that we have had some difficulties with our telephones which has made booking harder but I hope these problems are now resolved.

The atmosphere in the Club is positive and lively. Our Dining Room, especially in the evenings, has a real buzz with people enjoying good food, wine and conversation. On fine days the Courtyard is often full and on Friday evenings the bar in the Round Room is very busy and happy – I'm sure the reduced prices have a part to play in the good atmosphere!

Lastly, on a sad note, I must report the death of Louis Sherwood one of our three Commissioners. (The Commissioners have a watchdog function to check that the Chairman and Council proceed in a proper way in the best interests of the Members). Louis was a supportive and wise friend of the Club who will be missed by all who knew him.

Please continue to use and enjoy your Club.

With best wishes,

David Whitehouse

David Whitehouse, Chairman



NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

2009 has definitely been the year of the credit crunch, although hopefully by Christmas those much-promised green shoots of recovery will begin to thrive. To counter the economic doom and gloom, Katie Thomas's article on London's Hidden Luxury (page 8) may inspire you to seek out the finer things in life (we can all window shop after all!), whilst a trip into space with Virgin Galactic (page 10) may whet the appetites of those of you with an adventurous spirit whose wallets have proved immune to the economic downturn!

For the rest of us, talk is cheap and Erik Brown's article on page 5 highlights the many opportunities there could be to make your own luck – or at least have fun – by talking to your fellow Club Members!

When putting this issue together we were delighted to receive so many contributions from Club Members – thank you to each and every one of you who wrote in! Anyone interested in contributing to next year's Journal should contact Alison Gourlay on 020 7318 6167 or send an email to AlisonGourlay@LansdowneClub.com with your thoughts and ideas.

Happy reading!

**Anne Wright, Editor
& Alison Gourlay,
Membership & Communications Manager**

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Cover picture courtesy of Virgin Galactic (see page 10)

CLUB SECRETARY'S LETTER

Dear Member,

Thank you for all your support in the last year, which has been quite challenging for both the Club and many of our Members given the current economic climate. Sadly, we said goodbye to more Members in the latter part of 2008 and the beginning of 2009 than we have in a long time. The overwhelming majority have stated their intention of returning when times get a little better.

The continued support for our "propose a new Member" programme is helping to replace the Members who have left for the time being. I would like to remind you of the incredible value Lansdowne Members receive in the UK and around the World with over 250 reciprocal clubs in all five continents and in thirty-six countries. If you would like to introduce a friend please see page 13 for more information.

Looking forward to next year, the Club will be celebrating its 75th anniversary in style. Watch this space for details of events we will be holding to celebrate this important milestone. In the meantime I wish you a positive and prosperous year ahead.



Yours sincerely,

Mark Anderson, CEO & Club Secretary

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CALLED TO THE BAR

ALL OF YOUR FUTURE LUCK LIES WITH OTHER PEOPLE. IT'S WHY WE NETWORK. ERIK BROWN EXPLAINS HOW HE FOUND OPPORTUNITY BEHIND A BAR AT THE LANSDOWNE CLUB, AND WHY HE'D LIKE TO DO IT AGAIN MORE OFTEN.

It was the bar staff that put me together with James Stokes, founder of Jenkota coaching. Marijke, Istvan and Jim kept telling me that I should meet him. And they kept telling James that he should meet me.

Quite why they thought a 58-year old publisher and 39-year old business coach should be brought together was never articulated. But their instincts were probably right.

James and I exchanged cards through Marijke and Jim and met one night, appropriately enough, at the bar in the Round Room. Me, grey-haired and pinstriped, with my usual slightly florid complexion (Yorkshire-farmer genes); James, long-haired, cool and Hugo Boss suited.

As it happened, we had some common interests – not least the study of the conscious and unconscious mind – as well as one or two overlapping business interests.

How long does it take to make a business contact? A few seconds. How long does it take to make a friend? Actually, not much longer. Two or three brief encounters later and James and I were talking about doing business together.

The Lansdowne Club is a sports and social club, that is true. But many of its Members are business people, and business people – if they're any good – keep their eyes open for new opportunities. New opportunities, in my experience, usually involve other people.

James subsequently introduced me to the effortlessly elegant, and extremely intelligent, Florence Eid, MD Middle East & North Africa, Passport Capital. And I was glad when Florence said she could make it to a private dinner I was hosting at the Royal Institution with the RI's director, neuroscientist Baroness Susan Greenfield.

I, in turn, introduced James to an old friend, leadership and development coach Lucy Close and a new friend, entrepreneur and alternative investment specialist J Mark Wiltshire. We are all Club Members. I met Mark on the piste in the Fencing Salle. We've been on the piste together a few times since.

Then another business friend, Matt Briggs, MD of Shining Wit, suggested we hold a kind of informal supper club at The Lansdowne.

Matt is not a Member yet – his business (events management) is pro-jean and anti-suit, and he struggles with the dress code – but I'd introduced him to Lucy Close and to another chum Jennifer Harris, founder of JRBH Strategy Management, and a former Times/Harpers & Queen Young Businesswoman of the Year.



James Stokes (left) and Erik Brown

The idea was that each of the four of us should bring a surprise guest to dinner to make a table of eight. Matt's surprise guest at our first meal was James Stokes. The network was expanding.

Now, I appreciate that there are Members, even Committee Members, who think that the introduction of "networking" (although I prefer the Edward de Bono term "opportunity search") is the last straw, the thin end of the wedge and the final nail in the coffin of the Lansdowne Club.

And I sympathise, really I do. What drew me to the Lansdowne Club in the first place is that it is not like the Institute of Directors (once memorably described as "chunky cuff-link territory"). To my mind, it's more homely, more friendly and altogether quirkier than that.

Apart from Members who have become friends, there are members of staff at the Lansdowne Club who have become real pals of mine, and – before you jump to conclusions – it's not just the bar staff.

At the recent, and on reflection, bizarre, Mayfair Park & Tower Race – around the Serpentine, under Park Lane and up all 28 floors of the Hilton by the back stairs – the Lansdowne Club was represented by me, Mark, Florence, James and his wife Lucinda, my personal trainer Gill Trozado and her fiancé Parag, and physios Sarah Lawson, Paul Martin and Nick Smith.

To outsiders, it might have looked like Lansdowne Club Members and staff doing a charity run together. But to me it felt like family. And that's something I'd fight hard to protect.

Nor, if I'm honest, am I always comfortable with people tapping away at laptops – not even on trains, although I do it myself when pressed. (It's an auditory thing: if somebody was drumming their fingers on a table, you'd probably ask them to stop. Put a keyboard between their fingers and the table and you're not allowed to.)

On the other hand, it is perhaps just a little unworldly to expect Members who are in business not to talk together, to seek and find opportunities and perhaps sometimes even to do a little business together. Networking is natural for a tribal species like man. It's what happens.

So, with all of the humility I can muster, here are five – not entirely original – golden rules for gentle opportunity search in a social environment:

1. All of your future luck rests with other people – and often with people you haven't met yet.
2. So you must talk to as many people as you can, as often as you can.
3. And listen twice as much.
4. You must keep an open mind, because you don't yet know what you don't know.
5. And if you're asked to help and you think you can, you must.

Sounds like a decent manifesto for a very "social" club indeed, don't you think?

KEEPING IN TOUCH

As part of our commitment to providing the best possible service to our Members, we try to ensure that we remain as up to date as possible.

Enclosed with your copy of the Journal is a Members' update form. If your contact details have changed, we'd be very grateful if you would complete it with any new information. You can also download this form by going to www.LansdowneClub.com and click on 'Member Services' and then on 'Club Online'. Alternatively, and for overseas Members, it may also be returned by fax to +44 (0) 20 7318 6170 or by email to: Membership@LansdowneClub.com.

Please don't forget to email your current email address to us at SocialEvents@LansdowneClub.com to receive details of events taking place at the Club.

Finally, the website "Notice Board" is for your use, so if you have something to advertise simply send your text to AlisonGourlay@LansdowneClub.com.

MEET A MEMBER

THE WITTY AND ENTERTAINING ANTIQUES DEALER, AUTHOR AND BROADCASTER

JOHN BLY

BY ANNE WRIGHT

LANSDOWNE MEMBER JOHN BLY IS PROBABLY BEST KNOWN AS BEING THE RESIDENT FURNITURE EXPERT ON BBC ANTIQUES ROADSHOW SINCE 1978. HE ALSO HAS HIS OWN ITV PROGRAMME HEIRLOOM AND FAMOUSLY APPEARED ON THE HIGHLY POPULAR BBC1 CHAT SHOW WOGAN IN THE LATE 1980S, ENTERTAINING THE VIEWING MILLIONS BY PLAYING A PAIR OF ANTIQUE SILVER SPOONS AS MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS.

His career began with Sotheby's, where he worked for four years before joining the Tring-based family business, John Bly Antiques, established by his great grandfather at the start of the 19th Century.

John has written and edited 14 books relating to antiques including *Discovering English Furniture*, *Discovering Hallmarks on English Silver*, *Is It Genuine?* and *Miller's Silver and Sheffield Plate Marks*. His most recent book, entitled *John Bly's Antiques Masterclass*, advises people on dating and identifying period pieces.

In recent years John has become an acclaimed and highly successful charity auctioneer achieving thousands of pounds – or dollars – more than expected for national and international charities with his warmth and quick wit. He is also a popular and engaging after-dinner speaker and raconteur, drawing on his colourful ancestry of naval seamen, pottery decorators, horse traders, fellmongers, American Civil War soldiers, priests, architects and antique dealers.

John lectures in Britain, Europe and North America and writes for a variety of specialist magazines. He is a Liveryman of The Worshipful Company of Goldsmiths, a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts and was made Chairman of the British Antique Dealers Association (BADA) in July 1999. He is married with two sons, the fifth generation



John Bly

in the business; Julian is an interior designer and consultant, and James manages John Bly Valuations and overseas operations.

You are rumoured to have appeared in the horror film *Vampires* in 1986. Is there any truth in this or is it an urban myth?
Sadly it is an urban myth.

You must have come across some incredibly rare antiques over the years. What is your most exciting find?

I suppose top of the list would have to be when travelling with my father we bought the Kimbolton Cabinet, designed by Robert Adam for the Duke and Duchess of Manchester to take panels of inlaid marble from Italy. It is now in the Victoria and Albert Museum where several of our pieces are saved for the nation.

Is your home full of antiques and what are your most treasured pieces?
Not really. My wife and I have inherited a few things and over the years we have bought



John playing drums

the odd piece that has fitted our small 1922 Lutyens-style house. Like the cobbler I have formed wonderful collections for other people rather than for ourselves. I think school fees limited our resources but they have proved to be the best investment of all. My most treasured piece is an 18th century desk chair bought in the 1920s by my father for £2 10/-. My grandfather decreed it too expensive and used it in his office for the rest of his life. My father did the same and so, I hope, will I. To me of course it is priceless.

How do you find working with your sons in the business?

A great joy and a privilege. I am very lucky.

What achievements are you most proud of?

I persuaded my wonderful wife Virginia to marry me. Being a Liveryman of The Worshipful Company is quite an honour too.

What is your biggest regret?

Not appearing in the horror film *Vampires* in 1986.

What projects are you currently involved in?

I write a monthly article which is syndicated by 28 county and area magazines, and a quarterly contribution to a specialist magazine; I am marketing my latest 90 minute DVD entitled *Speed Dating your Antiques* and I am constantly giving talks and presentations in aid of our local Iain Rennie Hospice, national Cancer Research and any organisation connected with children with cancer as well as the NSPCC. I also work with the societies for M.E., M.S., Alzheimer's and Asthma. I am investigating using some of the amazingly talented young craftsmen and women to make furniture for infirm senior citizens. I am actively involved in the re-organisation of our



John & Michael Aspel at the Antiques Roadshow



John in their workshop (centre)

local theatre at Pendley and I am rehearsing for a band gig later in the year. I am a jazz drummer and with a group of friends we are organising a tribute to the great Gene Krupa at Johnnie Dankworth's music venue, The Stables, in November. At one point there will be a 12-piece band and four drummers. Luckily the hall is soundproofed.

What is your favourite food?

As I love cooking my favourite will change, sometimes from day to day. Generally any seafood prepared à la française, Italian, Chinese or good old fashioned plain English. I no longer eat as much meat as I used to, but there is nothing to beat a family Sunday roast.

What do you do to relax?

I don't think I do really, but I do enjoy a meal with friends and family, good food, good wine, and terrific craic as the Irish say. If we are at our home this often ends with us all playing music, James on piano, Julian on guitar,

somebody will always play bass – we have a few spare instruments for visitors – and I will bash away on the traps.

What's your favourite place in the world?

I might say wherever I am because I like to travel, but after a while away I get homesick for England, London and our home in the country.

What luxury would you take to a desert island?

A never-ending supply of energy pills.

What do you like best about The Lansdowne Club?

The congenial atmosphere, which in my opinion is created by a mixture of its romantic and intriguing history, its variety of decor and ambience and the clearly evident care and fondness for the Club and its staff emanating from the Chairman and Secretary to all levels. In my experience this makes it unique.



John's grandfather's first shop in Tring High Street

LONDON'S HIDDEN LUXURY



Scabal

KATIE THOMAS REVEALS THE HISTORY OF BOND STREET AND OFFERS AN INSIDER'S GUIDE TO SOME OF THE FINEST SHOPPING DESTINATIONS A SHORT WALK FROM THE LANSDOWNNE.

London seems to be forever bustling! Throughout the summer the air is full of the sing song of Spanish, Italian, French and countless other languages and, come Autumn, there is a buzz of excitement as stores proudly parade their new collections and fashion is at its highest peak. In no time the unmistakable romance of Christmas in London arrives with its thousands of sparkling lights, carol singers and late night openings. Highly polished cars line the pavements and shop windows have fabulous displays to tempt you in. Even the famous Bond Street flags, which adorn the impressive store fronts, fly with newly-spruced vigour.

London's Bond Street has long been a street of high distinction, dating back as far as 1700 when it became the fashionable home for nobility. Bond Street was named after Sir Thomas Bond, a distinguished royalist and comptroller of the Household of Queen Henrietta Maria, wife of Charles II. Bond, together with a syndicate of wealthy merchants and bankers, decided to design a new town and purchased the land from The Duke of Albemarle. Building began in 1686, before which time Bond Street was simple

swampland and Piccadilly was a muddy lane running to it. It is hard to imagine now, but duelling highwaymen frequented the area that is now Old Bond Street.

Sadly, Bond did not see his investment come to fruition, dying a year before its completion. The street at this point ran from Piccadilly to Burlington Gardens and there was not enough money to see the completion of Bond's original idea. In 1700 the street was extended to Clifford Street and was named 'New' Bond Street to distinguish it from 'Old' Bond Street, which had already become inhabited by nobility. It was not until 1721 that the street was finally extended to Oxford Street. It is a quirky fact that although known globally, Bond Street does not actually exist. The correct names are Old Bond Street and New Bond Street and are listed within the A to Z as such.

Within a few years the reputation of Bond Street grew and it became one of the most fashionable addresses in London. By the middle of the 18th century it had become the meeting place for elegant and fashionable ladies who took their daily strolls there. At the same time a group known as the Bond Street Loungers also appeared in the street, setting fashions and determining what was and wasn't 'acceptable'. They even created a fashionable way to stroll on the street, which became known as the 'Bond Street Roll'. During the

18th Century Bond Street was home to many distinguished people, notably Admiral Horatio Nelson and Lady Hamilton, William Pitt the Elder, Henry Fielding and Lord Byron.

Bond Street has a long relationship with The Royal Household and is holder of more Royal Warrants than any other thoroughfare. Even the tradition of 'Flicking' the switch on the Bond Street lights at Christmas was started by Diana Princess of Wales in 1994 and has been continued by a string of glamorous and stylish women ever since.

Today, renowned for its designer fashion, accessories, high jewellery, watches, art and antiques, Bond Street still attracts the discerning shopper from around the world. Whether you are a visitor to the capital or have lived in London all your life there are always new and innovative events, hip and happening goings-on, moments of high fashion and cultural drama to see and experience.

Minutes from the top of Bond Street, world-famous department store Selfridges remains a favourite destination. Its founder, Gordon Selfridge, lived at Lansdowne House (now the home of the Club) from 1921 to 1927 and is commemorated by a blue plaque outside. He was renowned for holding spectacular parties in the Ballroom with royalty and the famous dancers the Dolly Sisters!

Old Bond Street is home to the highest concentration of fine jewellers in the world



Smythson

and is one of the leading destinations for the current trend for coloured diamonds with multi-million pound price tags. Asprey, which has a spectacular jewellery room, is the oldest remaining store on Bond Street, having opened its doors in 1854, and along with brands such as Tiffany & Co, Graff and Garrard & Co, still houses its craftsmen within the store.

London's cultural history and timeless heritage ensure it is not just a place to sample luxury but is a curator of luxury, and Bond Street is its spiritual home; a haven for gracious living. Although now considered an over-used term given to describe everything from cream bath to Starbucks' fruit loaf – what does genuine luxury really deliver? Everyone has their own view of what it may cost or consist of, but few disagree it is about enriched experiences, unique and out-of-the-ordinary products, the highest standards of care, craftsmanship and service, access to the inaccessible, expertise passed on, knowledge shared and desires sourced.

To taste a flavour of this luxury why not take a Bond Bespoke tour focusing on designer fashion and accessories, exquisite jewellery or fine art and antiques? This newly launched service offers a custom-made insider's guide to luxury in London. Whether you are a first time visitor to the city looking for the inside track on where to shop, play and stay, or just love the idea of having your own savvy specialist sharing advice and expertise, these bespoke tours are a fabulous way to discover London's hidden treasures.

The fashionistas among us will rejoice in the opening of an exclusive Michael Kors boutique, the first in London, at 153 New Bond Street. Renowned for his jet-set lifestyle, this American designer has a relaxed signature style all of his own and the new store features luxurious sportswear and accessories from the Michael Kors collection.

Hip Brit brand Mulberry is always a treat and their new take on a classic favourite is the hot Bayswater clutch, available in a range of colours from classic cream, red and a fabulous metallic. Pop next door to Smythson of Bond Street where you can choose from a comprehensive collection of useful, knowledgeable and beautiful diaries for 2010 as well as take a peek at some of their new range of leather bags and purses.

Departing from Bond Street for a minute, those looking for fine tailoring should look no further than world-famous Savile Row, where the plethora of tailors, including Scabal and Gieves & Hawkes, offer classic and more contemporary tailoring to die for, whilst over in Jermyn Street some of the finest hand-made shirts in the world can be found. In Berkeley Square, just round the corner from the Club, Tanner Krolle has specialised in the art of English leathercraft since 1856 and offers an exquisite selection of luxury handbags, briefcases, luggage and bespoke leather goods – definitely worth seeking out!

After a hard day's shopping you'll be in need of refreshment and luckily the Club's surrounding areas house some of London's most talked about hotels, restaurants and bars. These include Gordon Ramsay at Claridge's, Artisan at The Westbury and The Albemarle at Brown's which specialises in fine British dining. Afternoon tea is a quintessentially British experience and nowhere does it better (possibly with the exception of the Lansdowne!) than the iconic London hotel The Ritz. If you're looking for a real indulgent treat, what could be more decadent than the new Chocolate Lovers Tea at The Ritz? Their chocolate tea menu guarantees to delight connoisseurs of fine chocolate and brings new meaning to teatime indulgence! Reservations are most definitely required.



Mulberry

FACT BOX

For information on all the shops and stores on Bond Street, the Bond Bespoke tours and Bond Street's Culture & Heritage Week please visit www.bondstreet.co.uk.

Chocolate Lovers at The Ritz

150 Piccadilly
Tel: 020 7493 8181

Gieves & Hawkes

1 Savile Row
Tel: 020 7434 2001

Selfridges

400 Oxford Street
Tel: 0800 123 400

Michael Kors Boutique

153 New Bond Street
Tel: 020 7409 0844

Mulberry

41 - 42 New Bond Street
Tel: 020 7491 3900

Scabal

12 Savile Row
Tel: 020 7734 8963

Smythson

40 New Bond Street
Tel: 020 7629 8558

Tanner Krolle

43 Berkeley Square
Tel: 020 7529 5822

Further reading for shopaholics:
Shopping, Seductions and Gordon S by
Lindy Woodhead.

A JOURNEY INTO SPACE

TO BOLDLY GO WHERE NO MAN HAS GONE BEFORE

BY ANNE WRIGHT

AS A CHILD I WAS TOTALLY CAPTIVATED BY STAR TREK. YET CAPTAIN KIRK'S ADVENTURES ON THE STARSHIP ENTERPRISE WITH SPOCK, SCOTTY AND THE REST OF THE CREW DID SEEM A BIT FAR-FETCHED TO ME EVEN THEN AND IT WAS HARD TO ENVISAGE THAT SPACE TRAVEL WOULD EVER BECOME A REALITY FOR ORDINARY PEOPLE IN MY LIFETIME. HOWEVER RICHARD BRANSON IS ABOUT TO CHANGE ALL THAT AS VIRGIN GALACTIC'S FIRST ASTRONAUTS (MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WHO HAVE PAID A MERE \$200,000 EACH FOR THE EXPERIENCE!) PREPARE TO TRAVEL INTO SPACE ON BOARD ONE OF HIS NEW PASSENGER SPACESHIPS. I CAUGHT UP WITH LANSDOWNE MEMBER, DAVE CLARK, WHO IS IN CHARGE OF VIRGIN GALACTIC'S ASTRONAUT RELATIONS TO FIND OUT MORE...

Dave Clark arguably has the best job in the world. A few years ago he met Richard Branson and some of his Virgin colleagues whilst kiteboarding in the British Virgin Islands. At the time Dave was working as a sailing and windsurfing instructor, but he was soon plucked from his laid-back beach lifestyle to take on the role of astronaut relations for Branson's latest pet project, Virgin Galactic.

When not attending Formula One events in Monaco (Virgin is one of the sponsors) or hobnobbing with Branson on Necker, the Virgin boss's private island in the Caribbean, Dave spends his time travelling the world meeting future astronauts who are keen to travel to space on one of Virgin's first passenger space flights. These individuals are a completely diverse bunch coming from many different countries and walks of life. They range from an 18-year-old boy to an 88-year-old grandmother. Some of them are multi-millionaires, whilst others have scrimped and saved and even remortgaged their houses. However what binds them together is a pioneering spirit, a thirst for adventure and



Dave Clark with Sir Richard Branson at the Bahrain Grand Prix where Virgin Galactic sponsored the Braun car



The earth taken by test pilot Brian Binnie during a test flight in 2004



Virgin Galactic's new spaceship and carrier craft

above all a shared dream of going into space.

Dave co-ordinates all the future astronauts' training over three days which includes centrifuge training and zero gravity parabolic flights. Surprisingly, health restrictions are not especially strict and only those with really serious heart conditions are excluded from the programme because the g-force may put their hearts under too much stress.

Virgin's space flights will depart from Space Port America in New Mexico and up to 10 flights a day are expected to operate. Each spaceship has the capacity to take up to six passengers and two pilots and a total of 500 people are expected to make the 2.5 hour trip in the first year of operation. So far 300 have already signed up to experience the thrill of seeing the sky turning from cobalt blue to black as they hurtle through the earth's atmosphere into the silence of space. Whilst enjoying breathtaking views of the earth, they will experience the freedom of floating (or somersaulting!) in mid air far from the earth's gravitational pull.

Virgin Galactic might well have been offering to take passengers to space a decade or more ago had it not been for one major limiting factor – safety. Now, thanks to technical innovations, its spaceship SS2 will be made of a carbon fibre composite material which gives the craft a huge amount of strength whilst remaining incredibly light in weight. As well as being supremely strong and therefore much safer than the spaceships that have gone before, this material's lightweight properties help minimise the usual costs and environmental impact associated with space travel.

The Virgin Galactic project was formally launched in 2004 after Virgin successfully flew to space three times to win the \$10,000,000 X-prize Foundation prize in a spacecraft funded by Microsoft's co-founder Paul Allen. Virgin is now in the process of fine-tuning its first spaceship which is likely to be unveiled in December 2009, with commercial flights



Dave Clark and future astronauts training on a zero gravity flight

expected to start operating as early as December 2010.

Whilst waiting for their trip of a lifetime, the would-be astronauts in the programme have exclusive access to Virgin's private on-line club – Spacebook – set up exclusively for them to facilitate networking. They have also enjoyed luxury trips to Necker Island hosted by Branson himself, dinners in London and even a trip to Branson's private game reserve at Kruger National Park in South Africa. It's turned out that they have signed up to much more than a couple of hours in space; they are in an exclusive club and are loving every minute of it.

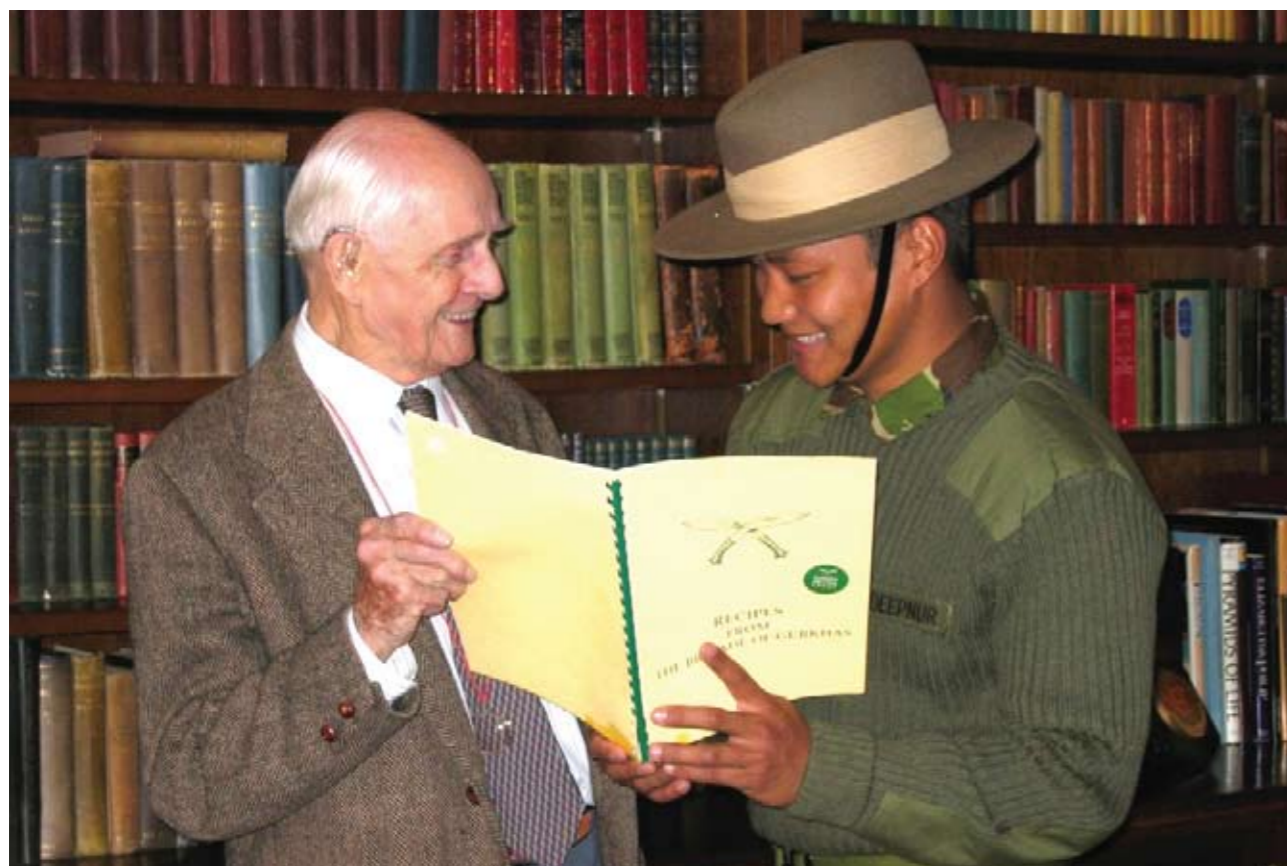
If you're interested in joining Branson's intrepid band of astronauts and have a spare \$200,000 burning a hole in your pocket, further information can be found at www.virgingalactic.com or Dave Clark can be contacted by email at dave@virgingalactic.com.



Virgin's spaceship in feathered position ready to re-enter the earth's atmosphere

THE COOKBOOK COLLECTION AT FITZMAURICE HOUSE

BY HUGO DUNN-MEYNELL



Hugo Dunn-Meynell and Rifleman Deepnursing Gurung of 1st Battalion, the Royal Gurkha Rifles, with Recipes from *The Brigade of Gurkhas*, each of which serves ten

I became interested in cookery as soon as I could toddle into the kitchen and witness the apparent magic that turned, to me, unpromising ingredients like flour, raw eggs, and strange marine life into biscuits, soufflés, fish cakes, and other goodies.

So it is that cooks' alchemy has always intrigued me. Once I learned to read, I quickly discovered the Bible according to Isabella Beeton and later evangelists like the creator of Popeye the Sailor Man and Edouard de Pomiane, and today have a collection of the best part of a thousand cookbooks.

I find that many Lansdowne Members share my fascination, so I thought it would be sporting to offer the Club the loan of some eclectic volumes, and in consequence, about six hundred of these, gathered during nearly eighty years of my worldwide travels, can now be consulted in the Business Centre. While eating my way round the globe, I have tasted a fair proportion of the unfamiliar dishes they detail, drawing the line at only a few curiosities such as Laotian Ant Egg Soup, some of the Japanese seaweeds, and, as not a great lover of 'steak' from whatever source, the crocodile filets I was offered in Zimbabwe. I was invited to dinner by an ancient man on a Caribbean island who claimed to be the son of cannibals; since I wasn't absolutely sure whether he'd specified 'to' or 'for' dinner, I made, as they say, an excuse and left.

The books now in the Club cover just about every diet in the culinary alphabet from Arabic to Zulu. There are formulae for transforming whale meat, dogs, jellyfish, and spiders into (it's claimed) toothsome delights, and enough Ancient Greek and Roman detail to instruct a novice in how to plan a respectable state orgy.

If your gastronomic tastes are grandly historical, you'll find the collection covers banquets from 330 BC onwards; I particularly

recommend the 1356 dinner served to five sovereigns at Vintners' Hall in the City of London and repeated during the 1940s shortly after the Hall was reduced to a near-ruin by the Luftwaffe.

The scientific principles of cookery are conveyed in several volumes, including one intriguingly titled *What Einstein Told his Cook*, and there are numbers of textbooks devoted to the basic foodstuffs: the Paris baker Lionel Poilâne on bread, Simone Prunier and Alan Davidson writing (separately) about fish, Anonymouse on Marmite, while not forgetting Elizabeth Luard's mouth-watering evocation of truffles. You can read culinary novels - as well as several naughties, like *Love Bites*, full of edible formulae for instant seductions.

Inevitably, 'great names' abound: Elizabeths Raffald and David, Marguerite Patten (Lord Woolton's right-hand girl in World War II, now in her 90s and still writing), James Beard, la Mère Poulard (whose famous omelette is still served from her old kitchen on Mont St-Michel), the Victorian chef Alexis Soyer, Betty Crocker, Escoffier. Delia Smith appears too.

You can leaf through two Gurkha cookbooks, and by the time you read this, the one that - almost - got away: on vacation in the Loire Valley this past June, I was entranced by *Cuisiner pour les Oiseaux*, a little book for enticing birds into your garden. Our French hosts were so taken with the recipes that I presented them with my copy, and expect what I believe is the original English version to fly through my letterbox at any moment.

Are you wondering whether I know how to cook? You'll have to ask my wife.

MASTERPLAN UPDATE

BY JAN MOORE,
CHAIRMAN OF THE MASTERPLAN COMMITTEE

During 2009 the MasterPlan Committee, in conjunction with the Finance Committee, has been working on one of the larger schemes to be undertaken during the redevelopment of the Club. Plans for the new Gymnasium, enlarged and improved changing rooms and additional treatment rooms have now been approved by English Heritage and Westminster City Council and we hope to take this work forward in 2010. We are currently putting together working drawings and designs for this long awaited project, which Members will be able to see when they are ready.

Much maintenance work has taken place this year, including the replacement of the Portland stone in the Courtyard, which would have been included in the future Courtyard plans, but was advanced as a result of essential work to the ceiling of the Swimming Pool which took place earlier this year. Improved air handling was also installed in the Gym area around the Pool at the same time.



Bathrooms 304 and 305 have been remodelled



Bedrooms 301 - 308 have been refurbished

INTRODUCE A FRIEND

Why not introduce your family & friends to the benefits of Club membership?

If you have a friend, colleague or relative who you think would appreciate the benefits of Lansdowne Club membership, why not introduce them to the Club? As a token of our appreciation for proposing them, we will send you Club vouchers to the value of £50 if they become a Member. Should you propose three Members within a 12-month period, this amount will be increased to £100 for the third new Member who joins.

This does not apply to Junior Membership. For further details please contact the Secretary's office on 020 7318 6160 or email Secretary@LansdowneClub.com.

ANNOUNCING A FANTASTIC OFFER FOR 18 TO 24 YEAR OLDS!

The Lansdowne Club's new 1824 membership category was launched at the beginning of 2009. A one-off payment of £300, with no joining fee and valid up to the age of 24, entitles young people to all the benefits of Lansdowne Club Membership for up to seven years*. If you can find a better gift for a young person working or studying in London we'd like to hear it!

**This equates to a membership fee of less than £45 per annum if joining at 18!*



THE CLUB'S SOCIAL SCENE

BY ALISON GOURLAY



May Ball



November Ball - Moulin Rouge



November Ball - Moulin Rouge

We have enjoyed some amazing events at the Club over the past year and I hope this round-up will bring back many happy memories for those of you who attended. If you missed the fun, there's plenty to look forward to in the year ahead!

We continually try to come up with new ideas for events at the Club, whilst retaining our regular events which include the very popular Club suppers, monthly jazz evenings, with popular jazz trio Les Webb entertaining us in the Piano Bar and on Summer evenings in the Courtyard, the gourmet seafood buffets, ballroom and Latin dance classes, and of course the reeling evenings to name but a few.

In the run-up to Christmas we held some wonderful events to help Members get in festive mood. These included our Christmas charity carol concert – slightly different this year thanks to the powerful voices of the London Welsh Rugby Club Choir – the popular pantomime and the children's tea party with a visit from Father Christmas.

In November the Club was transported to Paris and the Moulin Rouge – the theme for the Winter Ball. Walking through red velvet curtains which adorned the entrance to the Club, guests were greeted by our very own Ringmaster, Alan Bush, and guided through to the Crush Hall where fluttering ostrich feathers adorned the balconies, can-can dancers dazzled Members as they sipped champagne cocktails and the Eiffel Tower twinkled majestically in the courtyard. In the Dining Room, stunning feathers sprouted from elegant tulip vases on the tables as guests dined on crab and lobster salad followed by magret of duck with a prune and chestnut farcie and pistachio and lemon brulée with raspberries and shortbread. Dancing continued into the early hours to the sounds of Booty.

Our Members certainly seem to have a taste for the finer things in

life as The Ruinart champagne tasting and dinner was a complete sell out! With a carefully planned menu by Executive Chef, Neil Ramsey, Members and guests tasted champagnes that complemented each course perfectly. Some of the selected champagnes included Dom Ruinart Blanc de Blancs 1998, Ruinart de Ruinart N.V. and the highlight, the luxurious Dom Ruinart Rosé 1996! This year Bollinger will be bringing some sparkle to end the year of the credit crunch.

Continuing on the subject of fine wines, we hold tasting evenings on a monthly basis, either with our Club Sommelier in the Thirties Room, where Members have the opportunity to comment on and select the next Club Wine of the Month, or themed tastings with dinner, tasting notes and a Q & A session. In the past year we have sampled wines from a range of countries including Spain, Argentina, Germany and France and have also held port and cheese tastings. In October we look forward to welcoming back Matthew Jukes on behalf of Quintessentially Wine and next February we will be delving into a mystery case with some interesting surprises!

The second May Ball was a great success with the scent of cherry blossom wafting through the Club, skillfully refrigerated by florist and Member Paul Thomas until the day of the ball. The central urn of flowers in the Crush Hall was stunning, and arrangements of pink hydrangeas, peonies and roses created beautiful centrepieces on the dining room tables.

On a slightly more serious note, those with a head for business have enjoyed the new monthly networking breakfasts on the first Wednesday of every month which started in May and have become popular with all ages. If you're interested in attending, please contact Danielle Smith at SocialEvents@LansdowneClub.com.

THE ARTS

We continued our music programme with some wonderful concerts from musicians at the Royal College of Music, including works by Liszt, Ravel, Schumann and Tchaikovsky-Pletnev. Roger Willson, CEO of Blüthner Pianos, is now organising our recitals through his contacts at the Royal Academy of Music, the Guildhall School of Music and of course the Royal College of Music. The Club continues to promote and encourage young artists, enabling Members to enjoy some truly wonderful music in the Ballroom.

At this year's annual Fine Arts Exhibition, which has become a permanent fixture, we displayed an impressive variety of works from Members' portfolios. Among the artists, photographers and craftsmen were members of the Willow Street Workshop who displayed a selection of handmade sterling silver boxes, jewellery and items for the home. The delightfully bright paintings by George Allen, whose work has some affinity with Lowry and Raoul Dufy, brought joy and sunlight to the Ballroom. Drinks parties were held during the exhibition week.

If you are interested in meeting like-minded artists, we hold quarterly artists' lunches in the Dining Room. Dates are advertised on the Club's noticeboards and website, as are dates for the Book Club and Debating Society which both meet on a regular basis. See page 19 for more details.



Summer Exhibition at the Royal Academy



George Allen painting - Battersea

Miss Pauline Chakmakjian, Founder & Director of The Japan Room, provided fellow Members with a fascinating insight into the history and detail of machiya – traditional wooden townhouses found mainly in central Kyoto. Members learned what machiya are and of the many charming architectural characteristics unique to these delicate homes.

Lila Rashidian, a specialist in naturopathy and allergy elimination, gave us a fascinating talk about the ways in which we can look after our most valuable asset – our health! And the carefully chosen menu and wines were delicious!

Richard Campbell, son of Lucie Campbell, the Bond Street Jeweller, gave us a most interesting talk, bringing with him some exquisite samples of diamonds from their current collection. Necklaces and earrings were modelled during the champagne reception and a discount was offered to Members towards their first purchase.

Quiz Master and Member Paul Pacifico challenged us with some interesting questions (they may have to be slightly easier next year!) and on film night *La Dolce Vita* was screened in the Billiards Room where Members were greeted with popcorn and wine and enjoyed interval canapés.

Politically-minded Members were given the opportunity of spending an evening in the Houses of Parliament where they listened to a series of debates in the Lords. This was followed by a drinks reception and dinner hosted by Lord Grenfell. Places were limited and sold out quickly, however we hope to be able to arrange a similar event in the future with a larger ticket allocation.

Maurice Cockrill, Keeper of the Royal Academy, Piccadilly gave us a behind the scenes talk about the renowned annual Summer Exhibition and we were delighted to be able to offer Members twenty tickets to The Marie Curie Cancer Care Private View, an exclusive opportunity to enjoy a champagne

and canapé reception catered by Mosimann's and held amongst beautiful works of art by artists including Ken Howard, Mary Fedden and Frederick Cuming.

THE UNDER 35s

Over 1,500 Members fall into the Under 35s age category and this group forms an important part of our membership. Whilst they participate in all Club events there is a dedicated U35s Committee which is responsible for their social events programme.

As well as the various regular occasions such as Winter and Summer drinks parties, balls and the annual Easter egg hunt, the Lansdowne Club U35s have become renowned for holding highly successful 'moveable feasts', so much so that this year they hosted the Inter-Club Moveable Feast where 160 young people wined and dined in the Ballroom. Other Under 35s' events included a Mixologist evening with two barmen of Mahiki fame demonstrating how to make the perfect cocktail, a treasure hunt around London ending with a buffet supper at the Club, and Cartier Polo at Smith's Lawn. This summer's ball – Summer Crush – was based around the mixology evening, each table having a themed cocktail and punch bowl to match!

We look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at Club events in the coming year.



Under 35s' Inter-Club Moveable Feast

COMING SOON TO THE CLUB... EVENTS

KURODA

WEDNESDAY 4th NOVEMBER

Kuroda is a new Japanese operetta set in the 17th century Edo period. Be the first to hear this exciting 'showcase' concert performance at the site where the Anglo-Japanese Alliance Treaty was signed in 1902. With music composed in the style of the best 20th century popular musicals, Kuroda features Western orchestration interwoven with traditional Japanese instruments and melodies with words in English.

KYOTO LIFESTYLE

THURSDAY 12th NOVEMBER

Mrs Tanaka Mineko, President of Tondaya, a kimono wholesaler in the famous Nishijin Textile area of Kyoto, will be hosting a Kyoto Lifestyle evening. She will give a presentation about Kyoto's culture, a kimono dressing demonstration and, as a professionally-trained fan dancer, we hope she will dazzle you with a beautiful traditional fan dance to conclude!



Mrs Tanaka Mineko

BOLLINGER TASTING AND DINNER

MONDAY 14th DECEMBER

'I drink my champagne when I'm happy and when I'm sad. Sometimes I drink it when I'm alone. When I have company I consider it obligatory. I trifle with it if I'm not hungry and drink it when I am. Otherwise I never touch it – unless I'm thirsty' Madame Jacques Bollinger

Since Bollinger champagne is first and foremost a wine before becoming champagne it is the perfect accompaniment to our delicious three-course dinner.

U35s RETOX/DETOX

THURSDAY 28th JANUARY

After Christmas, New Year and the dreaded detox month of January, we are holding a seriously unhealthy evening of hot dogs, chips, chocolate, doughnuts, beer and wine to bring cheer to body and soul! And if your stomach can take it you can take part in our eat-as-much-as-you-can competition to win a session with a personal trainer!

GRAPHOLOGY

THURSDAY 11th FEBRUARY

Come and discover what your handwriting reveals about you! During the evening Susie Johns, an intuitive counsellor, writer and TV presenter, will be covering topics such as Do you have big ideas? Are you a risk taker? What does it mean when your signature is different from your handwriting? Can you trust someone with a secret? All this and much more...!

BALLS

NOVEMBER BALL - BLACK TIE & DIAMONDS

FRIDAY 6th NOVEMBER

There may still be tickets available for this year's ball. If you haven't already booked your ticket, please contact Danielle Smith on 020 7318 6115.

Black Tie & Diamond Ball
Friday 6th November 2009

Cocktail Reception 7.30pm
Dinner 8.15pm
Carriages 2.00am

Tickets: £90 Members £100 Guests
After Dinner Tickets: £35 Members £40 Guests
Black Tie

For further information and to book please contact the Events Department
020 7318 6115 or email SocialEvents@LansdowneClub.com

MAY BALL 2010

NEXT YEAR'S MAY BALL IS ON FRIDAY 7th MAY

Club events should be booked through Danielle Smith, Club Events Co-ordinator on 020 7318 6115 or email: SocialEvents@LansdowneClub.com. Please remember to keep us up to date with your email address so we can send you details of forthcoming events or you may miss out.

R&R STATESIDE

RECIPROCAL CLUBS IN THE USA

2009 will go down in history as the year the world caught Obama fever. To commemorate the inauguration of the first black American president, here is a selection of reciprocal clubs in the USA with stunning views and leisure facilities, perfect for some good old-fashioned rest and relaxation in the land of opportunity.

CALIFORNIA

THE BALBOA BAY CLUB & RESORT

www.BalboaBayClub.com

The club's illustrious past combines with inviting waterfront surroundings to provide a rich coastal paradise inspired by Mediterranean architecture and stunning bay views on California's renowned gold coast. Located on 15 fabulous bay-front acres in the heart of the Golden State's Riviera and set against a backdrop of spectacular views, the Club offers the only full service hotel where guests can enjoy innovative cuisine, bayside dining, nightly entertainment and dancing, an exclusive spa, water sports and spectacular sunset views. With a prestigious four diamond rating, this waterfront resort is the perfect romantic escape and is only a short drive from Fashion Island South Coast Plaza, 14 miles from Disneyland/ Anaheim and is half way between Los Angeles and San Diego.



FLORIDA

THE FISHER ISLAND CLUB

www.FisherIslandClub.com

The Club was created on a wedge of land with coconut palms and mangroves cast adrift in Biscayne Bay. Today it has become a world class private island residential community and exclusive club where members enjoy the lovely Vanderbilt Mansion's main club, its charming ocean-side private beach club and a number of intimate restaurants. With the superbly Mediterranean-inspired tennis centre, circa 1925 cottages and guests suites, an elaborate deep sea marina, a stunning championship golf course and a spectacular spa, there is something for everyone.



THE SURF CLUB

www.MiamiBeachSurfClub.com

Since 1930 the Surf Club has been Miami's premier address for the very finest in dining and dancing in an atmosphere of elegant sophistication. Located close to the famous Bal Harbour shops, the newly renovated Club enters the twenty-first century as Miami's most elegant address, hosting major charity balls, wedding receptions and intimate dinner parties. Facilities include a luxury swimming pool, fine beachside dining, resort-style accommodation and an impressive clubhouse all only steps away from the Ocean.



THE HILLSBORO CLUB

www.HillsboroClub.org

The Hillsboro Club stands on its own private peninsula covering over 15 acres at the entrance to the Hillsboro Inlet. At the end of the peninsula is the historic Hillsboro Lighthouse which guides the parade of fishing boats and luxury yachts that sail from the Caribbean. There are few places left in Florida that can offer such extensive and mature tropical gardens. Everywhere you go in the Club you are surrounded by lush vegetation. The paths wind through grounds banked by bougainvilleas and hibiscus, while overhead there is a cooling green canopy of sea grapes and palms. Out at sea the Gulf Stream keeps the water and air warm throughout the winter and provides a consistent cooling breeze to the land during even the hottest summer days. With a stunning private beach, a spa and fitness centre, tennis, golf and a children's programme and playground, there's something for everyone at The Hillsboro Club.



We recently updated our list of reciprocal clubs which you can see either by going to the website or by contacting The Secretary's office.

APOLOGY

We would like to apologise again for the disruption to the swimming pool and gym area during the essential works which had to be carried out at the beginning of the year and thank you all for your understanding.

NEW STAFF

We are delighted to welcome the following new members of staff to the Club:

Robert Anderson, swimming instructor and lifeguard

Fraser Hilton, Personal Trainer

Ryan O'Loughlin, Personal Trainer

Rachel Westerback, Sports Receptionist

CONGRATULATIONS

BOWLING

The Association of London Clubs organised a bowling competition at the Trocadero in Leicester Square. Out of 24 participating clubs we won this year's bowling competition beating the Carlton Club in the final. Well done to staff members Amine Hailoul, Nick Altmuller and Phil Moore!

FENCING

The past year has been filled with so many highlights it's hard to know where to begin! Last November the Polish team came to the Lansdowne Club for an exhibition match filmed by Channel 4 when we witnessed an evening of spectacular fencing. Richard Kruse and Laurence Halsted showed us why they are now considered real contenders for medals at the 2012 Olympics as Great Britain won the Lansdowne International Challenge convincingly and then Richard went on to win the Olde-Thomson Individual Challenge, with Laurence Halsted coming second.

Congratulations to Richard on his continued international success. He made the podium in the first three senior competitions, winning the World Cup in Copenhagen, second in the Grand Prix in Paris, and winning the Grand Prix in Venice. This is the first time in British foil fencing history that one fencer has won a Grand Prix and a World Cup in the same season. Richard is now ranked in the world's top ten.

And well done to another Lansdowne Club Member, Edward Jefferies, who won the Under 20s World Cup in Laesno, Poland last



Edward Jefferies at the World Junior Championships in Belfast

December and has gone on to win silver at the World Junior Championships in Belfast this March. Yet again, these are ground-breaking results, as the last time we won medals at this level was in 1976.

Finally, our congratulations to John Troiano, who won the European Veterans Foil Championships at Balatonfured, Hungary.

The Fencing Club now has 201 members with many joining via James Chambers' popular Beginners' Classes. Whatever the standard of fencing, once the last hit is won or lost, it's the drinks in the Aqua Bar that sets the convivial tone!

RUNNING

IRONMAN TRIATHLON

Congratulations to Stephen Kelly who competed in an Ironman triathlon which took place in Nice on the 28th June. An ironman consists of a 2.4-mile swim, a 112-mile bike ride and a 26.2-mile run.

FLORA LONDON MARATHON

Congratulations to all those who ran in this year's race.

MAYFAIR PARK AND TOWER RACE

Congratulations to all Club Members and members of staff who managed the remarkable feat of running round the Serpentine, under Park Lane and up all 28 floors of the Hilton by the back stairs in aid of Galvin's Chance, a new charity which aims to help kids at risk of gun and knife crime.



Club Members and staff after the race

GOLF

We recently created a Golf Society at the Club and as numbers increase we will be holding regular events and society days. The first Association of London Clubs Golf Challenge took place at the beginning of October at Dulwich and Sydenham Hill Golf Club. After bacon rolls and strong coffee, teams made up of one staff member plus three Members played Four Ball Better Ball and Stableford with lunch and prizes. If you would like more information on the Golf Society at the Lansdowne Club please contact AlisonGourlay@LansdowneClub.com.

SQUASH

Men's Ladder - The squash ladder is running smoothly with an average of eight games being played weekly. The Lansdowne squash championships take place in September/October and results will be published on the Sports noticeboard.

SWIMMING

The Lansdowne vs the RAC annual gala

Now in its sixth year it was the turn of the RAC to host the gala and after a fiercely contested swim it ended in a draw at 5-5. This result was largely due to their choice of obstacle race which was 'swimming with a water pool ball' which they had obviously been practising mercilessly. We had not! However, having won last year's event by one race only, we continue to hold the trophy but for how much longer?

British Masters Championships 2009

Well done Calum McKinlay who came first in the 200m and 400m freestyle and second in the 100m freestyle in his age group. He will be competing in the European and World Championships in Sydney later this year.

Interclub Swimming Tournament

The first Interclub swimming tournament between the Hurlingham, Roehampton, RAC, Harbour and Lansdowne clubs took place at The Hurlingham Club in September.

REFLEXOLOGY

If you are struggling with minor health problems and nagging aches and pains, reflexology could be the answer you are looking for. Rosanna Bickerton, our highly-experienced resident reflexologist, can be found in the Sports Area on Wednesday afternoons and evenings.

PHYSIOTHERAPY AT THE CLUB

Welcome to our new physiotherapist Nick Smith! Nick has over 15 years' experience and is a specialist in golf injuries. Nick works closely with golf professionals, so if you want to improve your swing and get rid of those aches and pains book in to see him. Nick is available on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. Nick joins Paul Martin who, when not working at the Club, is chief physiotherapist for the GB Paralympic Swimming Squad. Paul was in Beijing last year, and the team successfully came back with 41 medals, 11 of which were gold. He also works with Britain's best middle distance runners.

Physiotherapy is available at the Club Monday to Friday from 8.00am - 7pm and is covered by all major health insurers.

NEW TO THE CLUB - ALTITUDE TRAINING!

Sarah Lawson successfully climbed Mont Blanc and completed a triathlon after using the Club's Altitude Equipment to improve her fitness levels. She has now introduced Altitude Training to the Club (also known as hypoxic training) which involves exercising in, living in or otherwise breathing oxygen-reduced air. Sarah's training sessions are ideal whether you are intent on climbing Mount Kilimanjaro or just want to improve your general fitness.

To book physiotherapy, reflexology or altitude training please contact the Sports Reception on 020 7318 6176/6183.

ARTS

BY DANIELLE SMITH

The Arts Group has gone from strength to strength since forming in 2004. The Art Exhibition Week in November has become a permanent fixture in our social diary when the Ballroom is transformed into our own little West End Gallery for one week to showcase our Members' talented contributions of visual art and design. Members enter a wide variety of art from ceramics, drawings, jewellery, paintings, photography and textile design to name but a few.

The Arts Group also meets for drinks and lunch every four months in the Dining Room where Members have the opportunity to share their mutual interests accompanied by a delicious meal created by our Executive Chef.

We hope many more of you will join our regular lunches and we look forward to seeing you at this year's exhibition which runs from Monday 16th to Thursday 19th November.



Debating Society

BOOK CLUB

BY HELEN LEISER

The Book Club meets every two months, usually on a Wednesday from 6.30pm to 8pm. After a glass of wine to fuel our inspiration, we begin our joint review of the nominated book. Then we conclude by discussing Members' various suggestions for the next book - and if need be, take a vote. Our choices have ranged widely and have included books on history (William Hague's biography of William Wilberforce) and politics (Barack Obama's 'Audacity of Hope'); 'literary memoirs' (Hugo Hamilton's 'The Speckled People'); and of course, fiction (including Michael Frayn's 'Spies', and Kazuo Ishiguro's story-cycle 'Nocturnes - Five Stories of Music and Nightfall', to name but two.) But, for anyone tempted to join us, a word of warning: if, like me, you're already struggling to keep up with a backlog of 'must-read' books recommended by well-meaning friends, you may certainly expect the size of that bedside pile to double! Please look at noticeboards for details of forthcoming books.

BRIDGE

BY MERLE SASSOON

The Bridge Club continues to thrive and bridge evenings are popular regular events in the Club's social calendar. We recently introduced the idea of holding supper evenings every few weeks which are well supported and we also competed in an inter-club match as guests of the Hurlingham Club and were delighted to be the proud winners - just! Our annual bridge weekend away is enjoyed by all who attend. This year's weekend takes place at the Denham Grove Hotel, Buckinghamshire from 23rd to 25th October. Duplicate bridge is held every Wednesday at 7pm for 7.30pm with sandwiches and light refreshments. For anyone who has played bridge in the past but is feeling a little 'rusty' we have supervised bridge on

Thursday evenings at 7pm. Rubber bridge is played by arrangement - please phone Marsie Taylor on 020 7987 8791.

If you would like more information on the Bridge Club please contact Merle Sassoon on 020 7586 9907 or email merlersassoon@hotmail.co.uk.

DEBATING SOCIETY

BY KERRY HOPKINS

The debating society, in the nature of all the best things in life that are an acquired taste, began as a list languishing in the Crush Hall for some time while it slowly accumulated names. However, 'Men are too metrosexual' was just one of the motions voted for by Members of the Lansdowne Debating Society whose inaugural debate was in March this year. From power corrupting to the global recession, from metrosexual men to Michael Jackson, the Debating Society holds both formal debates and informal arguments to suit anyone. The informal arguments are fun as Members sit around the table getting opinions off their chests! In fact, the society is made up of people in their twenties to sixties so it really does offer a widespread opinion. They meet monthly on either a Thursday evening or a Saturday morning. The group's hard core followers can often be found in the Adam Room bar post Thursday's debate, rather tired and emotional until 1.30am! New Members and guests are welcome. Why not come along once and try it? You just might love it! Please email mwarry@wingrave.co.uk for more information.

REELERS

BY LUCY STUART LEE

Scottish Reeling evenings take place once a month from September to May in the Ballroom. At the start of the evening (from 7pm) there is a walk-through of the dances enabling novices to get to know them. We enjoy a meal at about 8pm and then continue

dancing until 10.30pm. We dance all the reels that are danced at the main London reeling balls and an enjoyable evening is had by all. In December and June, a ball is held in the Ballroom with a full dinner and a live band. These have been well supported and have given everyone an opportunity to dance the night away dressed in all their finery. If you would like to come reeling, please look at the Club calendar for details of when these evenings take place. All are welcome whether or not you have reeled before and you do not need to come with a partner to enjoy this sociable evening.

UNDER 35s

BY ANDREW ROBINSON

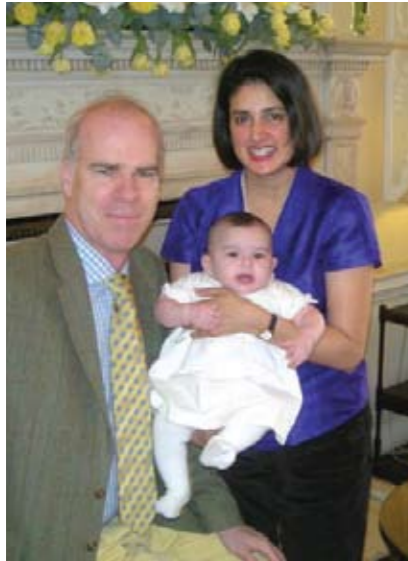
The past year was another busy year for the Under 35s. Our most popular event continues to be the Moveable Feast - we held three this year - one of which saw 120 guests arranged on three long tables in the Ballroom. It proved to be quite a logistical feat! These are always fabulous evenings and a good way for Members to meet other Members. A new event was the Treasure Hunt where several teams spent a Saturday afternoon in March running around interesting places in London, competing for a Jeroboam of Champagne. It was great fun (and a little educational) and we will definitely be repeating it next year. Another highlight was the Cocktail Party - in January we invited two award-winning mixologists from a top London nightclub to show us the art of cocktail making. Demonstrations were followed by the obligatory critical tasting! We advertise our events via email, so do make sure you are signed up to our list. For more information on our activities, or to contact the Committee, please speak to Danielle Smith at SocialEvents@LansdowneClub.com. We are always keen to hear suggestions for the future and look forward to seeing you at one of our events soon.

MEMBERS' NEWS

BIRTHS

Congratulations to:

Adrian and Archana Hogarth on the birth of their daughter Emily Maya Laura on 3rd October 2008 (below).



Osmund and Lucy Stuart Lee on the birth of their son Oscar who was born on 19th December 2008, a brother for Rupert (below).



Sebastian and Clare Church on the birth of their daughter Heather who was born on 2nd May 2009.

MARRIAGES

Congratulations to:

Andrew and Catherine (née Seed) Denye who were married at Farm Street and progressed to the Club by horse and carriage for their wedding reception on 16th August 2008 (below).



Charles and Ruth (née Woolven) Hicks who held their wedding reception in the Ballroom on Friday 3rd October 2008.

Richard and Joanne (née Mulvaney) Norgate who held their wedding reception in the Ballroom and Adam Room on Saturday 1st November 2008 (below).

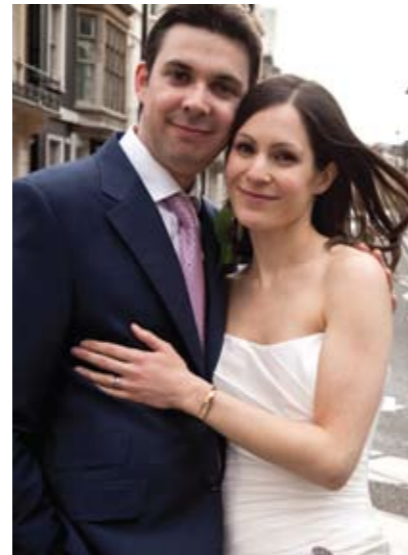


Mrs Jennifer Vince who organised a wedding reception for her sister Lynn who married Rowan Downing QC in the Shelburne Room on Saturday 13th December 2008.

Richard and Caroline (née Chambers) Lloyd who held their wedding reception at the Club on Saturday 13th December 2008. Caroline's mother has since become a Member!

Patrick and Fiona (née Grainger) Larkin who were married at the Guards Chapel, Birdcage Walk and held their reception in the Ballroom and Adam Room on Saturday 7th February 2009.

Matthew and Susannah (née Cannon) Nixon who were married at a ceremony in the Adam Room, with a wedding breakfast in the Ballroom on Sunday 29th March 2009 (below).



David and Maggie (née Rickford) Plant who held their reception in the Ballroom on Saturday 23rd May 2009.

Rupert and Kate (née Inman) Barnes who held their reception in the Ballroom on Saturday 30th May 2009.

SPECIAL OCCASIONS

Congratulations to:

Prof Denis J McCaldin who celebrated his Golden Wedding Anniversary in the Shelburne Room on Saturday 13th September 2008.

Andrew and Fiona Brannon who held their wedding reception at the Club in 1988, their 10th wedding anniversary in 1998 and their 20th wedding anniversary and Fiona's 50th birthday on 13th September 2008 (below). We look forward to their Ruby anniversary!



Stanley Holder who celebrated his 90th birthday with a party in the Shelburne Room on Saturday 20th September 2008.

Jessica Dean-Smith who celebrated her birthday with a dinner in the Shelburne Room on Saturday 8th November 2008.

Mrs Isobel Carter and her husband Nigel who celebrated their joint birthdays with a 121st birthday party in the Ballroom on Saturday 6th December 2008 (below).



Roger Pryor who hosted a 60th birthday dinner party for his wife Jane in the Findlay Room on Saturday 10th January 2009 (below).



Benjamin Nicholls who celebrated his 21st birthday in the Shelburne Room on Saturday 10th January 2009.

David Goldstone who celebrated his 80th birthday with a party in the Ballroom on Saturday 21st February 2009. (The photo below shows Joyce Didonato, the internationally-renowned mezzo soprano who has sung at all the great opera houses of the world and will be appearing in Covent Garden again shortly, singing "Happy Birthday" to David à la Marilyn Monroe/Jack Kennedy).



Chris Powell who hosted a 50th birthday party for his wife Jane in the Ballroom on Saturday 25th April 2009.

Peter Marsh who celebrated his 70th birthday with a party in the Ballroom on 6th June 2009 (below).



Alice-Lara Waterman who held a themed dinner and dance in the Ballroom to celebrate her 21st birthday on 22nd June 2009.

Dr Michele Badenoch who held a dinner and dance in the Ballroom to celebrate her son Thomas's 21st birthday on Saturday 27th June 2009.

OBITUARIES

Louis Sherwood 1941 – 2009

Louis Sherwood, one of the Club's Commissioners since 1999, sadly died in March this year. As a successful businessman Louis was, among many other appointments during his business career, chairman of HTV, the West Country broadcaster, a director of Clerical Medical and the Halifax Building Society. A long-term resident of Bristol, his involvement benefited many organisations in the city, both commercial and charitable. Louis's support of the Lansdowne and his shrewd advice during the last ten years, a time of great upheaval and advancement for the Club, were greatly appreciated, and we send our commiserations to his wife Nicole and their family.

Jan Moore



Helen Suzman 1917 – 2009

Helen Suzman was born in the Transvaal in 1917. She attended Witwatersrand University, studied economics and became interested in labour law. She was elected to the House of Assembly in 1953 and served there for 36 years. It was in the 1950s that she joined the Lansdowne Club which was a useful base for her on her visits to London. For many years she was a lone voice in Parliament who opposed apartheid. She was a powerful critic of the Nationalist Government. She defended Nelson Mandela and subsequently visited him in prison. In 1989 she was made an honorary DBE and in 1997 she was appointed the Order of Merit (Gold) South Africa. In her later years she was a critic of Mandela's successor, Thabo Mbeki.

AND CONGRATULATIONS TO:

Hugo Cassidy who successfully completed a gruelling charity cycle ride from Gibraltar to Nordkap in Norway, coping with sweltering heat and arctic winds in the process! He raised £5,000 for Spinal Research – an outstanding achievement (below).



Annelie Green, her husband David and son Chris (all Members) who recently cycled from Casablanca (Morocco) to London in aid of Motor Neurone Disease. 1,000 miles in 100 hours on bicycles! Mad? A challenge? Yes to both but this is a small challenge compared to the challenge people living with MND have to face! They set off from Casablanca on 27th August and, on schedule, crossed the finishing line at Westminster Bridge on 13th September, raising over £12,000. To support their quest please visit www.justgiving.com/casablanca2london (below).

Charles Spencer whose new book 'Bakst in Greece' will be published later this year. It describes the famous designer's visit to Greece in 1907 which inspired such famous ballets as L'Après midi d'une Faune, Narcisse and Daphnis et Cléo, as well as other stage productions.

James Chambers, the popular historian, writer and Fencing Club captain, whose 13th book 'The Horse Who' includes fifty of the most notable, charming and important horses from history. Funny, informative and moving, this could be the perfect Christmas present for anyone who likes horses or history.

Diane Banks whose literary agency, Diane Banks Associates, represents debut novelist Sasha Wagstaff. Sasha's first novel 'Changing Grooms' made the bestseller lists earlier this year.

Dr Robin Godsall, Consultant Psychiatrist, on his election to Fellowship of The Royal College of Psychiatrists on 25th February 2009. He has returned to practise in Sydney.

Rosanna Bickerton on her election to Fellowship of The Association of Reflexologists in May. Out of 35,000 reflexologists in the UK, only eight are granted this level of award!

Justin Turner who was appointed Queen's Counsel on 13th March 2009 following a ceremony at Westminster Hall.

Kieron Moll, the Club's chef de partie, on winning the CMSA's (Club Managers and Secretaries Association) Young Chefs competition 2009 Award. He received this spectacular trophy awarded by the Worshipful Company of Cooks (below).



MISCELLANEOUS

Many thanks to Rachel Parry for her invaluable contribution to organising social events at the Club over the last three years, and congratulations to Diane Banks who took over from Rachel as Chairman of the Social Committee in April 2009. Diane was previously Chairman of the U35s Committee.

Welcome back to Pamela Campbell-Johnston who returned to the Council in January following her maternity leave.

Club Member Jane Rasch runs a charity to support an exiled Tibetan monastery, now based in South India, and organises tours

of the masked dances and chant in the UK and Europe to help support the monks. As well as dance performances, the monks run workshops for children and adults and hold exhibitions making sand mandalas. In November 2009 the monks will return to the UK to perform at the Queen Elizabeth Hall. To find out more, please visit www.tashi-lhunpo.org.uk or call 01722 782265.

New York fashion designer and Club Member, Marisol Deluna, has designed two exquisite ladies' silk scarves for the Club. Framed examples of both hang outside the Ladies' Powder Room on the mezzanine floor or see the website. If you would like to buy one please contact Alan Bush, Head Concierge. The scarves cost £65 each.



Marisol Deluna modelling the Club's silk scarf

MUSINGS...

Courtyard Fountain

We recently asked if any Members had photos of the old fountain in the Courtyard. Sadly no photos came to light but James Chambers told us this amusing story...

'The pond around the fountain was crammed with huge goldfish. When the pond was removed, one of the fencing members, Anthony Cooper, loaded the fish into a tank, put it in the back of his open Lancia and drove them down to Surrey to a temporary home in the pond in his garden. When the Council decided not to replace the fountain, Anthony was saved the embarrassment of having to tell them that all their goldfish were no more. Despite the fine net that covered his pond, a brace of herons had devoured every one of them!'

David Farquharson (aged 101) is our oldest Member and lives in New York, or is he? Photo taken on his 100th birthday on 12th March 2008 at the wheel of a 100-year-old model T Ford (below).



STAFF LONG SERVICE AWARDS

The Staff Long Service Awards lunch was held on 22nd May to recognise the long and loyal service of the following Club employees

Steve Ronan The Barber	21 years
Brian Shepherd Back of House Supervisor	17 years
Richard Chatterley Sous-Chef	16 years



Sous-Chef Richard Chatterley receiving his award

Eunice Kahira Deputy Head Housekeeper	16 years
Richard Anson Kitchen	13 years
Isaak Frimpong Housekeeping	13 years
Alan Bush Head Concierge	12 years
Natasha Gouseinov Housekeeping	10 years



The Staff Long Service Awards lunch

EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR



Andrea Maxan was born in Jamaica and has lived in the UK for eight years where she enjoys her favourite pastime, shopping! She joined the Club's Housekeeping Department in November 2001 and can be recognised by her delightful smile, not always easy when cleaning up after us all! Congratulations Andrea!

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