



Open Mind

The Bulletin of Rosslyn Hill Unitarian Chapel

November 2014

*The thinnest yellow light of November
is more warming and exhilarating
than any wine they tell of.
The mite which November contributes
becomes equal in value to the bounty of July.*
Henry David Thoreau



November Services

Sunday 2 November (11.00am)

Guest Preacher Rev Peter Hewis
Food and Religion

We hear a great deal about fasting in times like Lent and Ramadan but what about the role of food and religion. What is your favourite food and if you knew that you were about to share a final meal what would you eat and drink and who would you invite?

Sunday 2 November (7.00pm)
Evening Gathering

Samhain Celebration
(pronounced sow-inn - also called Halloween)

A time to honour our ancestors and to say farewell to those that have passed this last year. The service is participatory and one of the eight great Celtic celebrations during the Wheel of the Year. Led by members of our 'Wheel of the Year' group

Sunday 9 November (11.00am)

Remembrance Sunday

Guest Preacher Ed Fordham

This year is unusual - not only is it Remembrance Sunday, but we hold it in the context of the 100th Anniversary of World War One. A conflict in which so many from this Chapel fought and died. This service will be evocative and thoughtful and will reflect the work, pain, anguish and struggle of all sides and in particular of the women who found themselves picking up the pieces as men went to war. We shall be recording the service and will share that as soon as possible. Our Chapel Choir will perform excerpts from Brahms' Requiem, as part of the service. This Mass, although written in the traditional form, has a 'Humanist' approach.

Sunday 9 November (7.00pm)
Evening Gathering

'Meditation'

'The essence of meditation is simply to reach a 'state of being' - Come and join us for silence, reflection, poetry and music. Led by Ingrid Tavkar

Sunday 16 November (11.00am)

Rev Dr Patrick T. O'Neill preaching

We welcome back our minister, Rev Dr Patrick O'Neill, who has been recovering from a knee replacement.

Sunday 16 November (7.00pm)
Evening Gathering

Led by Rev Dr Patrick O'Neill

Sunday 23 November (11am)

Rev Dr Patrick T. O'Neill preaching

Sunday 23 November (7.00pm)
Evening Gathering

Led by Rev Dr Patrick O'Neill

Sunday 30 November (11.00am)

Rev Dr Patrick T. O'Neill
and Rev Mark Morrison-Reed

Sunday 30 November (7.00pm)
Evening Gathering

'Ministry of Dance'
Led by Zoe Gerrard

We are dancing for enjoyment to beautiful music from many cultures and to support a chosen charity.

The Rosslyn Hill Unitarian Chapel
The Unitarian Chapel
in the heart of Hampstead



Unitarianism is spirituality without dogma and welcomes people of all religious faiths as well as those who are humanistic. Unitarians cherish and live by the values of love, compassion, a free mind, service to others, human dignity, and other similar values. It encourages each person to deepen their relationship with God, yet allows each person to understand God in their own unique way.

**The Chapel holds two services on Sundays,
at 11.00am and 7.00pm**

The morning service is more family-oriented, including activities for children led by professionally trained leaders, and a Children's Chapel is offered for children of all ages. The evening service is more intimate for those who prefer a more meditative tone.

Visitors and guests are always welcome!

The Chapel also offers a rich programme of social activities, covering a wide range of interests such as literature and poetry, Tai Chi, choir singing, monthly lectures, and a variety of monthly events for all age groups.

The Chapel is licensed for marriages, civil partnerships and other ceremonies.

**For more information, visit our website at
www.rosslynhillchapel.com**

Publisher's Statement:

'Open Mind' is a tool of outreach for Rosslyn Hill Unitarian Chapel. The views expressed in this publication reflect the spirit and substance of Unitarian values, as well as matters of concern to Unitarians, but are not necessarily shared by all members.

Submitting copy:

Unsolicited copy is welcomed and should be emailed to: RHUCbulletin@yahoo.com. All submissions may be edited for content and length (200 words) at the discretion of the Communications Team, who also reserves the right to reject unsuitable material. **Deadline** for submitting items for the **December** issue of 'Open Mind' is **Monday 17 November 2014**.

From the Editor

November brings the dawning of the 'dark' and the beginning of winter. Leaves are falling from the trees, birds are migrating, animals go into hibernation, days are getting shorter and nights longer.

What we make of November in the United Kingdom depends a lot upon whether we are a class half empty or a glass half full sort of person. Yes, it is colder and darker and the days are shorter and the nights longer. It is a time of forced adjustments, which once accepted, reveal a new set of possibilities and opportunities.

The dark of winter offers precious time for cherishing friends and family, remembering and feeding the birds, and brings us moments for quiet reflection.

November offers opportunities to mark and participate in several holy days and festivals - All Saints' Day, All Souls' Day, Guy Fawkes Day, Remembrance Sunday, American Thanksgiving Day, and St Andrew's Day.

Here at Rosslyn Hill Chapel, we have opportunities to offer a 'helping hand' with several forthcoming events, as well as to be inspired by a variety of programmes. We can volunteer with the Children's Programme, with our 'Cold Weather Shelter' (starting on Friday 7 November); we can make contributions to the Food Bank, and we can offer a 'helping hand' during 'Coffee Hour'.

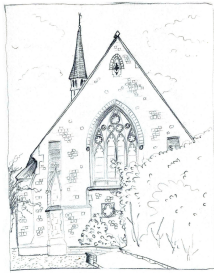
If we want inspiration, we can attend morning or evening services (see front page), support and enjoy various concerts (see p.4), or/and dance for enjoyment to beautiful music from many cultures and support a chosen charity - just a few suggestions. **Ingrid Tavkar**

*Darkness has been associated with fear and evil
in our culture for hundreds of years
but it was not always so.*

*To the Celts and the ancient civilizations,
the 'Dark' was celebrated as a place inside us
where we touch and experience our spiritual roots
and was known as the Mysteries.*

Glennie Kindred





Our minister, Rev Patrick O'Neill is convalescing from his knee surgery, and we will have no 'PO'nderings' for the time being. We thought you might like to ponder the readings below.

Flame of Remembrance

Our flame is lit.
As it burns and flickers
we remember lives
that danced and flickered
like tongues of fire
until snuffed out by war's cold fingers.
In our worship we remember and,
perhaps, rekindle them.
Rev Cliff Reed



Prayer for Memorial Day

Spirit of Life whom we have called by many names in thanksgiving and in anguish—Bless the poets and those who mourn. Send peace for the soldiers who did not make the wars but whose lives were consumed by them. Let strong trees grow above graves far from home. Breathe through the arms of their branches. The earth will swallow your tears while the dead sing 'No more, never again, remember me.' For the wounded ones, and those who received them back, let there be someone ready when the memories come, when the scars pull and the buried metal moves, and forgiveness for those of us who were not there, for our ignorance. And in us, veterans in a forest of a thousand fallen promises, let new leaves of protest grow on our stumps. Give us courage to answer the cry of humanity's pain. And with our bare hands, out of full hearts, with all our intelligence, let us create the peace.

Barbara Pescan

Fallen Leaves

Each year with the falling of the leaves
we shall remember them
As the years drift into the silence of longing –
The longing for the ones who never came back.

A photograph, dimmed by time, is all that remains;
A lock of hair, a memory, a name, each evoking
A man that lived and breathed and laughed.

Poets and dreamers, craftsmen and lovers,
Farmers and ploughmen, boys from the shires,
Fallen leaves in the autumn, returning to the soil.

Yvonne Aburrow

Chapel Activities



Weekly Activities

Children's Programme meets every **Sunday at the 11.00am service**. New children of all ages are always welcome. Infants are welcome in the creche.

Chapel Choir rehearses each **Wednesday at 7.30pm** in the Chapel. New voices are always welcomed into the choir. No audition necessary.

A **Tai Chi class** is held each **Wednesday at 5.45pm** in the Chapel.

Monthly Activities and Meetings

CHAPEL POETRY GROUP – meets on **Tuesday 4 November at 7.30pm**. For more information contact George Appleby (Tel: 020 7424 9733, email: gappleby@talktalk.net)

SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE meets on **Tuesday 11 November at 7.00pm**

CHAPEL MANAGEMENT BOARD meets on **Thursday 13 November at 7.00pm** in the Chapel Committee room. Members of the Chapel are welcome to attend but please contact the Chair, Kerry Reid (khornreid@hotmail.com), ahead of time as a courtesy.

CHAPEL BOOK GROUP – will meet on **Thursday 20 November 19.30pm** in the Skylight Room at The Holly Bush. This is located at 22 Holly Mount, just up the hill from Hampstead Tube station. We will be discussing *The Plague* by Albert Camus. For further information, please contact Bill Ellington at ellingtonbill@aol.com

STITCH & STORIES GROUPS – meet on **Thursday 13 November (1.00-3.00pm) & Thursday 27 November (7.00pm-9.00pm)** - to knit and crochet for various charity projects, and to share personal stories. The group is open to anyone who would like to learn to knit or crochet as well. Everyone is welcome. For more information contact: Ingrid Tavkar (Tel: 020 8455 0162; email: ingridtavkar@gmail.com)

POT LUCK LUNCHESES - The next 'Pot Luck Lunch' will be on **Sunday 30 November** in the side aisle at 12.30pm (after the morning service). This is an informal, friendly occasions - all are welcome and the request is to bring some food to share or make a financial contribution (£2.50 minimum). We look forward to seeing you there. Margaret Perry

OUR CHAPEL COMMUNITY

Music at Rossslyn Hill



Shadwell Opera presents a series of concerts at Rosslyn Hill Chapel, featuring the best of the art song repertoire. Exciting young singers will be accompanied by Rosslyn Hill Chapel's director of music, Matthew Fletcher, and Finnegan Downie-Dear (who many of the congregation may recognise from his performances in chapel). These concerts will raise funds for future Shadwell productions.

Tickets are £10 (£8 for students) and can be bought at www.wegotickets.com/ShadwellOpera, or on the door.

You can learn more about Shadwell Opera here: <http://www.shadwellopera.co.uk/>

Thursday 6th November (7.30pm)

Robert Schumann - Dichterliebe,
Frauenliebe und -leben and duets

Joanna Songi - soprano
Aidan Coburn - tenor
Matthew Fletcher - piano

Friday 14th November (7.30pm)

Songs by Hugo Wolf
and a selection of English song

Olivia Warburton - mezzo-soprano
Michael Mofidian - bass-baritone
Finnegan Downie-Dear - piano

Thursday 4th December (7.30pm)

Songs by Schubert and Ravel

Angharad Lyddon - mezzo-soprano
Ross Ramgobin - baritone
Finnegan Downie-Dear - piano



Coffee & Tea money during November

will be in aid of '*Combat Stress*'
and our Sunday collection basket
will also be divided with '*Combat
Stress*' during November.

Other events in the Chapel Events

Saturday 8 November (2.00-5.00pm)

'Master-Class' - The 2014 London Song Festival Master Class will be given by Ian Partridge CBE. The master class this year will be combined with the new Schubert Society Lieder Prize Competition held under the auspices of the Schubert Society of Britain and the German YMCA (www.german-ymca.org.uk/schubert-society.html)

Saturday 8 November (6.00pm) - Concert: Nigel Foster (The London Song Festival). In 2014 The London Song Festival's concerts display a thought-provoking and exciting range of music in programmes that illuminate important and recurring facets of twentieth century and earlier history. Tickets - You can buy tickets on-line or at the door. (<http://www.londonsongfestival.org>)

Tuesday 11 November (6.00pm) - Concert by Nigel Foster (The London Song Festival)

Saturday 15 November (7.30pm) - Concert by Geoffrey Saba - 'The Lure of the East'
Tickets £22 and £18 in advance from Carnegie Concerts, 11 Consort Road, London SE15 2PH (www.geoffreysaba.com)

Tuesday 18 November (6.00pm) - Concert by Nigel Foster (The London Song Festival)

Thursday 20 November (6.00pm) - Concert by Nigel Foster (The London Song Festival)

Friday 21 November (6.00pm) - Concert by Nigel Foster (The London Song Festival)

Sunday 23 November (8.00am) - Hampstead Christmas Fair Art Exhibition in Hall

Thursday 27 November (6.00pm) - Concert by Nigel Foster (The London Song Festival)

Saturday 29 November (9.00am-6.00pm)
Hampstead Women's Club Annual Christmas Market

“Music

speaks what cannot be expressed
soothes the mind and gives it rest
heals the heart and makes it whole
flows from heaven to the soul.”

Introduction to 'Showcase of Chapel Activities' – Julia Reid

Last week, Roberta Wedge who led the service, asked us to think of something that we are thankful for, and amongst other important things, I thought, 'I am thankful for this chapel and for our chapel community.'

Before I started to come to Rosslyn Hill Chapel, every Sunday morning, I felt that something was missing in my weekend. I realised that that something was 'community'. Up until the age of 18, I attended a C of E church, and although it did not fit with my own beliefs as I got older, I did love that sense of community and that I belonged to it. Every Sunday, I would enjoy meeting up with friends – caring people who looked out for each other, welcomed new people and worked together to help the wider society. I was actively involved with the Sunday School, and it helped to lead to my love of teaching and choosing teaching as my career.

Wanting to be part of a 'community' – separate from work and where I live – is what led me to Rosslyn Hill Chapel; and what a diverse community we have here – people from different religious backgrounds and atheist backgrounds, people from many different countries and people of all ages. From the beginning – about 6 years ago I think, I felt welcomed into this special community; like my experiences as a child and teenager, I was met with a group of friendly people who worked together to care for others. As well as the community I was longing for, I also found I could develop my spirituality alongside others. As the years have gone by, I have become more and more involved in Chapel life, and I have enjoyed coming to Chapel more and more and I have got to know people even better – through stewarding, doing the teas and coffees, then joining the Worship Group, volunteering at the Cold Weather Shelter, joining the Social Action Group and going to Ingird's wonderful Stitch and Stories.

Today's service is all about our Chapel community and being part of it. So many of you contribute in so many ways to our community, and we would like to thank all of you. After the service today, you will have the chance to find out more about the many different groups and activities that happen at Rosslyn Hill. If you would like to be more involved, or try something different, then today is a fantastic opportunity. To quote from a Call to Worship, 'Let the beloved community be at home in this place, and be made real in this hour'.



Christmas at Rosslyn Hill Dates for your diary!

Sunday 14 December (11.00am)

Carols, readings & reflections

A celebration of the season with carols and readings, led by Rev Patrick O'Neill, Matthew Fletcher (Organist & Choir Director) and the Chapel Choir.

Sunday 14 December (12.30pm)

Festive Pot Luck Lunch

Thursday 18 December (10.00am-2.00pm) Decorating the Chapel for Christmas

Can you lend a hand to make the Chapel bright and beautiful for the winter festivities? Mulled apple juice and cookies for helpers. Contact Janna (j.williams16@virginmedia.com) or just come along.

Sunday 21 December (7.00pm)

Winter Solstice Service

Drawing from Celtic and other traditions we will celebrate the darkest time of the year and the return of the Light. Led by members of our 'Wheel of the Year' group.

Wednesday 24 December (6.30pm)

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

Lessons and Carols - Our minister leads us in a Candlelight Service of Lessons and Carols at 6:30 pm. It is strongly suggested you arrive early to assure seating, as this is the most crowded service of the year.



Worship Assistant

2 November	Zoe Gerrard
9 November	James Chiriyankandath
16 November	Leighton Cole
23 November	Julia Reid
30 November	Janna Williams

Stewards

2 November	Ken Levy & Derek McAuley
9 November	Leighton Cole & Victoria Ellington
16 November	George Appleby & Christopher Mason
23 November	Janna Williams & Fiona Stoppard
30 November	Jim & Britta Burtles

NEWS FROM THE MANAGEMENT BOARD

Any member of the Chapel is welcome to attend the Management Board meetings as an observer. If you would like to attend, as a courtesy, please contact Kerry Reid (Chair) in advance. The next meeting will be on **Thursday 13 November 2014 at 7.00pm**, in the Cottage Basement Science room.

Meeting held on 9 October 2014 Kerry Reid as chair.

Staffing: Our Administrator and Operations Manager, Sharron Conduit, has recently had her annual review. Following the Staffing Committees recommendations, we are seeking administrative help for Sharron. A suitable candidate has been offered a month's trial, working for one day a week. Discussions about a pay rise for Sharron, as recommended by the Staffing Committee, are also taking place. A suitable candidate to run the crèche on Sunday mornings is still being sought.

Administrator's Report: We received our monthly report from the Administrator. We were updated on the maintenance being carried out on our buildings and grounds. All spaces in our car park are currently rented out and we are grateful to Sharron for managing this, and the income that it brings the Chapel. Sharron has been working with Claire Julian, Erich Wagner and the Caretaker to insure that the Hall is ready for the forthcoming Cold Weather Shelter.

Treasurer's Report: The year end financials show that the Chapel has run a surplus of £18 883.00. The investment account has performed well with a total return of £161 413.00 (20.2%). Our accounts have now been reconciled, although James Sefton (Treasurer) and Trevor Slack (Board member) are working to find the source of a small glitch that occurred in this process.

Committee Reports: Reports from the Flower Group and the Communications Team were gratefully received. The Board approved the Flower Group's annual budget of £500.00. Their report expressed the group's gratitude for the sponsorship of the flowers by members.

We were pleased to hear from the Communications Team that the Open Chapel event was a success and that we had many visitors. We hope to be listed in next year's Open House book.

Mid Term Review: The Board discussed our year's priorities.

We now have job descriptions for all staff and contracts for the Administrator and Operations Manager, Organist and Choir Director and Caretaker.

We are close to changing our auditors, as requested by members at the AGM. We have received one quotation and are waiting for two more before making a decision.

We are looking at cloud storage options where various documents relevant to the Board and Committees can be stored. The purpose of this is to ease the transition between new and old committee and Board members.

Music at the Chapel was discussed. The upkeep of the piano and organ is an ongoing and expensive concern. Various ways of increasing revenue from concerts at the Chapel were discussed. If any members of the Chapel have an interest in this, please contact Board member Chris Mason.

The growth of our membership is also a priority. The Chair of the Membership Committee recently stood down and we hope that once it has a new one, we can work with the committee to grow the Chapel's membership.

The 'refreshment' of the Chapel interior was discussed, and is covered under the SGM below.

SGM: An SGM was held after the morning service on Sunday the 12th of October. The minutes of the March SGM and AGM were approved with some amendments.

The options for renovating the Chapel Hall were put forward and discussed. A motion 'To allow the Board, or its delegates, to negotiate, with the Academy School and the Rona Hart Dance School, an intensified use of the Hall for one or both parties' was proposed and passed. The final decision will be voted upon at a General Meeting of the members.

A lively discussion then took place about the impression that the Chapel's interior furniture and accoutrements makes. While the majority were not in favour of removing any items, such as the pews, which are in any case listed, the general consensus was that certain areas could be improved by reconfiguring their layout.



Donations to Good Causes

Thank you for your generosity in contributing to recent charity collections – half the Sunday morning plate collection and all the coffee/tea money. We are please to let you know that, so far, we sent donations to the following good causes:

June & July – Chalk Farm Food Bank - £812.57
 August – Simple Gifts - £262.87
 Combat Stress - £285.88
 DEC Gaza Crisis Appeal - £185.39
 September – Macmillan Cancer Care - £214.19
 September – Chapel Cold Weather Shelter £735.09

Our Larger Unitarian Movement



**'Help to Correct Me' -
William Ellery Channing and British Unitarians'**

The 2014 Channing Lecture by Rev. Dr Ann Peart

Saturday 1 November at 6.00pm

Golders Green Unitarians, Hoop Lane, London NW11 8BS

This year's lecturer, an historian with a particular academic interest in the achievements of Unitarian women, Rev. Dr Ann Peart is a former Principal of Unitarian College Manchester and chair of the GA Social Responsibility Panel and of the Ministry Commission.

The quotation in the title of Dr Peart's lecture comes from a letter Rev Channing wrote to Lucy Aikin: 'In looking over my letter, I see that I have written too dogmatically. I rather intended to give you my views that I may obtain yours. I am too far from you to judge the true state of your country, and perhaps my error is always that I overlook details, and judge too much by general principles. Help to correct me'.

Admission Donation of £5, which will be donated to the Clara Barton Disasters Emergency Appeal (British Red Cross Iraq Crisis Appeal) and the Golders Green Unitarians organ restoration fund.



**A weekend by the sea filled with Celebration,
Inspiration, and Education**

20-22 February 2015

This year's theme: 'Inspired Leadership'

For Unitarians and other seekers with a passion for the future. Sponsored by the London and South-East District and open to all.

More than 20 workshops on personal spirituality, congregational health, and worship.
Multiple worships: traditional, contemplative, and contemporary.

Short Fuse programme for children and youth and special pricing for weekend!

Bursaries available to make this event accessible to all, regardless of distance or financial circumstances
NEW "Bright Spark Awards"

Pre-conference ministerial workshop and main worship service led by Galen Guengerich, the Senior Minister of All Souls Unitarian Church in New York City and author of 'God Revised: How Religion Must Evolve in a Scientific Age'

Registration opens 1st October. Early bird discount if you register before 1st December.

For more information and to register, go to <http://fusefest.org.uk/>

**National Youth
Programme**

'Lean on Me'

Senior Weekend for the 14-17 age group

14 – 16 November 2014

**The Nightingale Centre, Great Hucklow,
Buxton SK17 8RH**

Join us for a weekend of creative activities, fun, discussions, outdoor trips and time to make friends in the heart of the Peak District.

'Footprints in the Sand'

Inter Weekend for the 11-14 age group

14 – 16 November 2014

**The Nightingale Centre, Great Hucklow,
Buxton SK17 8RH**

Come and join us for a weekend of fun, games and activities exploring the theme of trust.

For more information contact John Harley at Tel: 07985 900935 email: jharley@unitarian.org.uk



NOVEMBER DIARY

(* = further details elsewhere in Bulletin)

Sunday 2 November

11.00am – Morning service – *Food and Religion* *
Led by Guest Preacher Rev Peter Hewis

7.00pm – Evening service – *Samhain Celebration* *
Led by members of our 'Wheel of the Year' group.

Tuesday 4 November

7.00pm – Chapel Poetry Group meets *

Wednesday 5 November

5.45pm – Tai Chi class in the Chapel*
7.30 pm – Choir rehearsal in the Chapel *

Sunday 9 November

11.00am – Morning service – **Remembrance Sunday** *
Led by Ed Fordham

7.00pm – Evening Gathering – *Meditaton* *
Led by Ingrid Tavkar

Tuesday 11 November

7.00pm – Social Action Committee meets *

Wednesday 12 November

5.45pm – Tai Chi class in the Chapel*
7.30 pm – Choir rehearsal in the Chapel*

Thursday 13 November

7.00pm – Management Board meets in the Chapel *

Sunday 16 November

11.00am – Morning service – Led by Rev Dr Patrick O'Neill

Sunday 16 November

7.00pm – Evening Gathering - Led by Rev Dr Patrick O'Neill

Wednesday 19 November

5.45pm – Tai Chi class in the Chapel*
7.30 pm – Choir rehearsal in the Chapel*

Thursday 20 November

7.30pm – Book Group meets at the 'Holly Bush'*

Sunday 23 November

11.00am – Morning service – Led by Rev Dr Patrick O'Neill

7.00pm – Evening service – Led by Rev Dr Patrick O'Neill

Wednesday 26 November

5.45pm – Tai Chi class in the Chapel*
7.30 pm – Choir rehearsal in the Chapel*

Sunday 30 November

11.00am – Morning service – Rev Dr Patrick O'Neill & Rev Mark Morrison-Reed

12.30pm – 'Pot Luck Lunch' *

12.30pm – Chapel Flower Group meet in Basement Cottage 3

7.00pm – Evening service – Ministry of Dance *
Led by Zoe Gerrard

Chapel Directory

Chapel Office

Sharron Conduit
Tel: 020 7433 3267
Fax: 020 7435 7457

Chapel E-mail

admin@rosslynhillchapel.com

Chapel Online

www.rosslynhillchapel.com
www.facebook.com/rosslynhillunitarianchapel

Chapel Address

Rosslyn Hill Unitarian Chapel, 3 Pilgrims Place
London NW3 1NG United Kingdom

Care & Support

Deborah Frankel
Tel: 020 8209 1000
Email: debfrankel@totalise.co.uk

The Minister

The Rev Dr Patrick O'Neill, The Manse, 3 Pilgrim's Place,
London NW3 1NG Tel: 020 7435 3506
E-mail: revponeill@aol.com

Children's Programme

Contact Chapel Office
email: admin@rosslynhillchapel.com

Bulletin Team

Ingrid Tavkar, Editor
Editorial Team:
Margaret Perry,
Janna Williams, Erich Wagner
Layout: Ingrid Tavkar
Tel: 020 8455 0162; Email: RHUCbulletin@yahoo.com

Registered Charity 1131346
Registered Co. No. 05992717