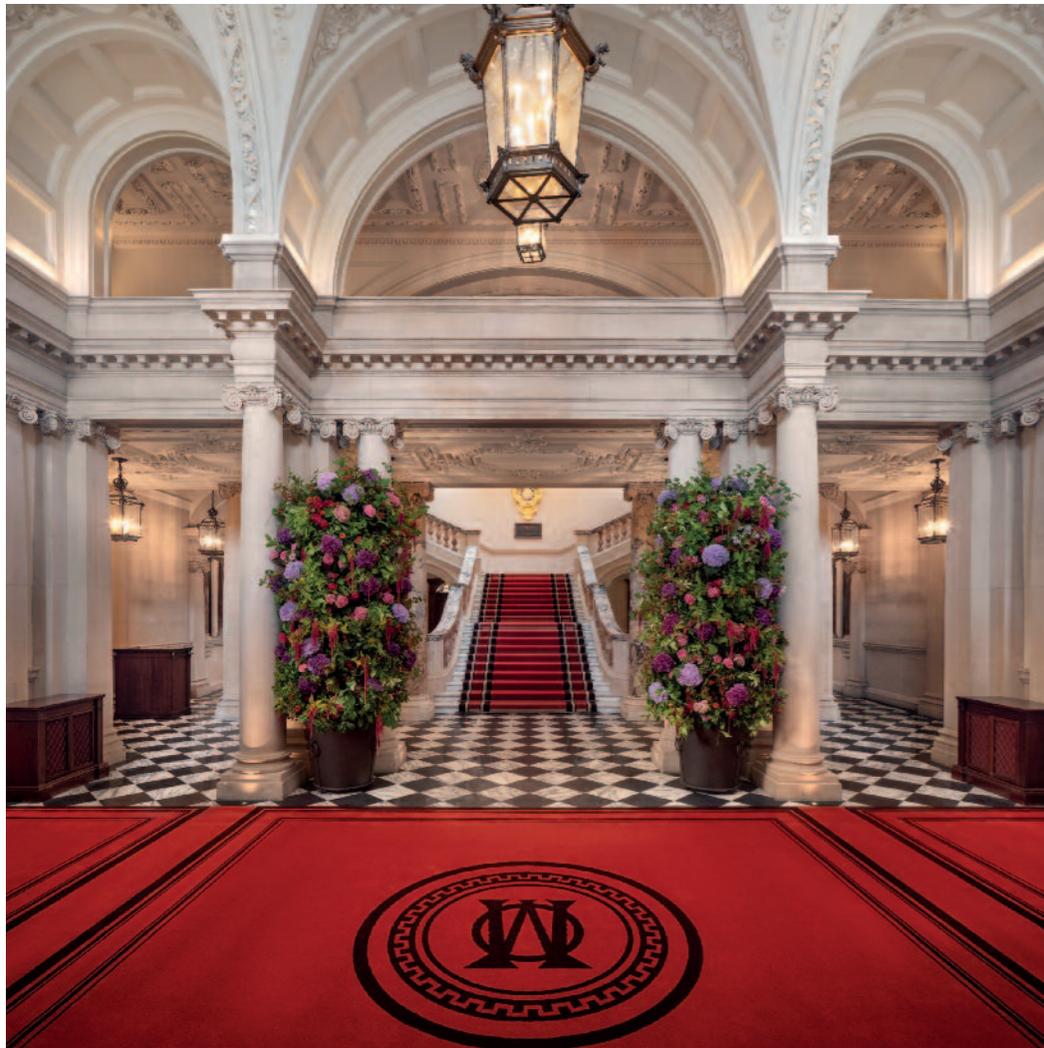




# Ambassadors' Ball

**RAFFLES LONDON  
AT THE OWO  
7 NOVEMBER 2024**



**The Old War Office, now known as The OWO, has undergone an extensive multi million pound restoration transforming the Whitehall landmark into a gleaming and glamorous masterpiece which includes Raffles London. From the grand staircase, dazzling chandeliers, mosaic-tiled floors and original oak panelling, the historic details of the famous building have been meticulously blended with contemporary refinement to create one of the Capital's most stunning and luxurious destinations.**

## **Ambassadors' Ball** **Thursday 7 November 2024**

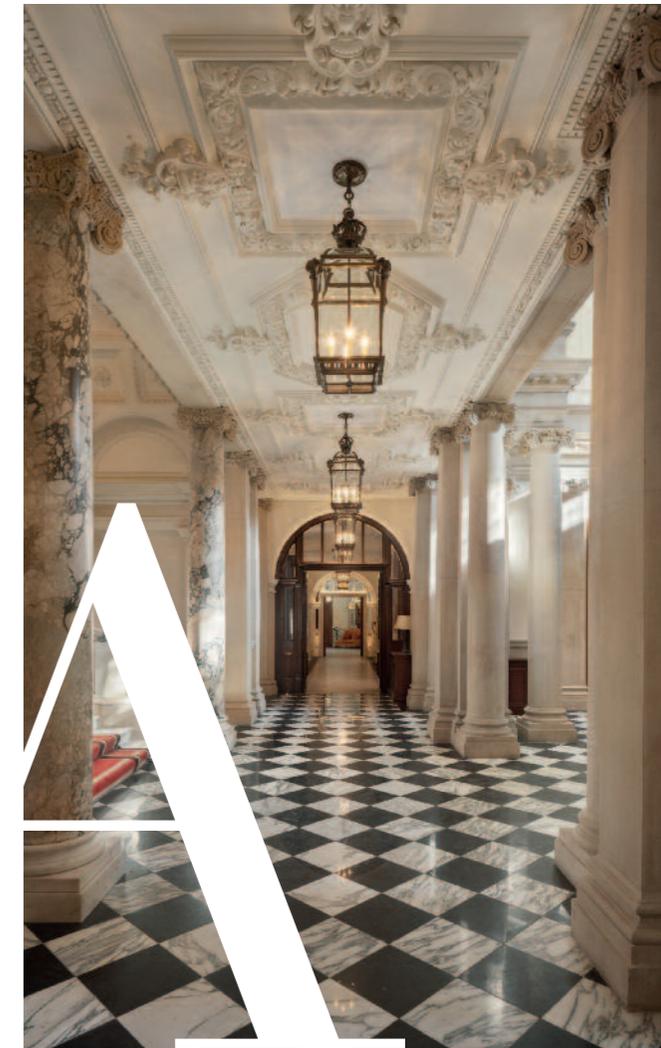
**Celebrating the Centenary of the Fleet Air Arm**

**With Guest Speaker Michael Portillo**

**T**he Charity Navy Wings warmly invites you to an extraordinary and unforgettable evening at Raffles London at The OWO celebrating the Centenary of the Fleet Air Arm.

Raffles is known the world over for its timeless elegance and luxury and the Ambassadors' Ball, in Britain's former Old War Office, one of the most historic addresses in London, will be a spectacular and dazzling event with echoes of the glamour and splendour of Naval and Military Balls of yesteryear.

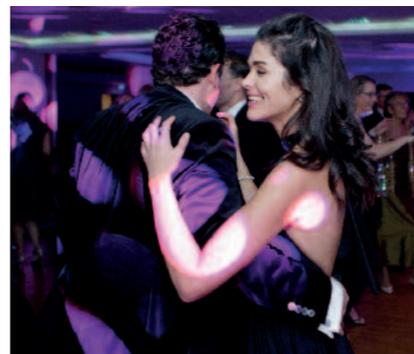
Celebrating the history, innovation and technological advancement of British Naval Aviation, proceeds from the evening support the critical work of Navy Wings restoring and flying a unique collection of iconic historic naval aircraft on behalf of the Nation.



**T**he Ambassadors' Ball will be held in the sumptuously elegant and sophisticated Whitehall Ballroom where guests will be bathed in the soft glow of warm lights and old world glamour.

The evening starts at 18.00 with a glittering champagne reception in The Lawrence foyer, with Mess Beatings performed by His Majesty's Royal Marines Corps of Drums, followed by the celebrated Raffles dining experience inspired by the culinary artistry and sensorial flair of some of the best masters of gastronomy in the world.

With Guest Speaker Michael Portillo, extravagant auction prizes, outstanding entertainment and after dinner dancing to a sensational live band of top jazz musicians, led by the band leader of Ronnie Scott's, the evening will be the quintessential black tie Centenary Ball! And add in a surprise guest singer and late night cocktail bar with Raffles renowned mixologists, there will be no better night club in town!





## Guest Speaker Michael Portillo

The Guest Speaker will be the journalist and broadcaster, Michael Portillo, well known for his Great British and International Railway Journeys documentary series. Michael, who was a former Member of Parliament and Secretary of State for Defence in the mid-nineties, is a highly entertaining and engaging speaker. His personal experience of the work of the Defence Council and wealth of knowledge of military history and heritage is inimitable, and his speech in such an apt historic setting will be a highlight of the evening.

**T**he OWO has a rich and storied history and as Churchill's War Office during WW2 and the work place of some of the most important Defence Chiefs and political leaders of the past Century, it could not be a more fitting setting in which to mark the Centenary of the Fleet Air Arm. Throughout two World Wars and the Cold War the lights stayed on in the War Office, shaping history.

By the very nature of its operations, the War Office was also a place of secrecy, espionage and intrigue with strong links to MI5 and MI6. Indeed, Ian Fleming, personal assistant to the Director of Naval Intelligence and creator of James Bond, would have been a frequent visitor during WW2. His boss was an inspiration for 'M' and the building would later feature in five James Bond films including *Skyfall* and *Licence to Kill*.

**Dress Black Tie**

**Tickets £350 a head | Table of Ten £3,500**

**10% Discount on the room rate including breakfast for guests who wish to stay overnight.**

**To book your table please email [sue.eagles@navywings.org.uk](mailto:sue.eagles@navywings.org.uk)**





# Thank You For Supporting Us

Britain's naval aviation heritage is respected worldwide. From its earliest beginnings in 1909, to the F35 jets and helicopters of the Fleet Air Arm today, the story of naval flying is one of epic achievement, pioneering ingenuity and world leading innovation. Funded by public donations, Navy Wings brings the excitement of this story to life by flying a unique collection of historic naval aircraft on behalf of the nation. Your vital support helps keep these classic naval aircraft flying, inspiring future generations.