

THE CHURCHILL CENTRE – UNITED KINGDOM

NOTICE BOARD – AUGUST 2013

In Memoriam. We regret to record the recent deaths of:

Member Christopher Mills (Edenbridge)

ex-Committee member Ernle Money CBE (formerly MP for Ipswich)

His Worship. Congratulations to ex-Committee member Smith Benson (Colne) on his election as Mayor of Pendle, his home district in Lancashire. Allen Packwood attended the impressive installation ceremony on 17th May. Good luck for your year of office, Smith.

Jack Darrah. To mark the impending departure of Jack Darrah's wonderful museum from Bletchley Park, a lunch was held on 5th June at nearby Milton Keynes, at which the Hon Celia Sandys extended her thanks, and those of the whole of TCC, for his dedicated work in keeping the achievements of WSC in the public eye and in educating younger generations; he was also presented with three magnums of Pol Roger champagne. Later, at Bletchley Park, he was given a new exhibit for his collection - a large-scale version (provided by the Bank of England) of the new £5 banknote, bearing WSC's image based on the famous Karsh photograph. Jack has not yet decided on the future of his collection, which must leave Bletchley by the end of this year.

Membership Meeting. A small number of members managed to attend this meeting at Churchill College on 18th June and later to witness a performance of Rohan McCullough's superb one-woman show, *My Darling Clemmie*. A summary of the meeting is enclosed with this mailing.

WSC Bronze. The bronze commissioned by the Ministry of Defence for presentation to the Pentagon has been completed by leading sculptress Vivien Malloch (whose short talk on her project members will remember hearing at TCC-UK's WSC Birthday reception on 28th February 2012). It is not yet known when it will be flown to Washington DC for unveiling, but it is intended that it will be exhibited in London before departure, when TCC members will be able to see it. Watch this space.

BBC Radio Broadcast. Some of you may have heard the recent BBC broadcast on Radio 4. This was entitled *Churchill's Secret Cabinet* and was based around the contents of Churchill's own gramophone cabinet, now deposited in the Churchill Archives Centre, Cambridge. It was expertly presented by Andrew Roberts, with contributions from Piers Brendon, Peter Martland, Phil Reed, Celia Sandys, Nicholas Soames, and the staff of the Archives Centre. It gave details of WSC's taste in music and played some of his favourite records. Definitely an original topic.

BBC Television Broadcast. A well conceived and executed 90-minute programme was shown on BBC 4 on 30th July: this was *Churchill's First World War*, the title giving a concise statement of its contents. All WSC's principal activities between 1914 and 1918 were covered, starting with his time as First Lord of the Admiralty, moving on to Antwerp and, of course, including the Dardanelles; his involvement in the introduction of the tank was not overlooked. After his loss of office in 1915, we followed him to the Army in Flanders; particularly good was a re-enactment of a well-documented episode when, in command of 6th Battalion, The Royal Scots Fusiliers in 1916, he crawled into no-man's land by night to inspect his barbed-wire defences. The Actor Adam James, tall and slim and with plenty of hair, made no attempt to mimic his subject's well-known appearance, mannerisms or voice; strangely, this made the episode seem more authentic. Finally he is shown as Minister of Munitions at a critical moment in 1918; the presenter opined that this achievement was second only to that of his time as prime minister a quarter of a century later. It was of interest that very few of the speakers were well-known Churchillian commentators; this allowed for some fresh angles to be addressed. Some of the opinions expressed might not receive universal approval, but no fault could be found with the accuracy of the story. Allen Packwood made a number of appearances, stressing such thoughts as that the Dardanelles disaster was not WSC's sole activity during the war. If you missed it, it's well worth keeping a lookout in case there is a repeat.

140th Anniversary of the Meeting of Lord Randolph Churchill and Jennie Jerome.

This anniversary is being marked at Cowes during August. Fifteen of the descendants and family of WSC will congregate on the Isle of Wight. On 12th August there will be a Gala Dinner at the Royal Yacht Squadron (tickets are £70 plus wine, but nearly all have been sold). On 14th August Dinner guests may also attend an informal picnic celebration in the gardens of Rosetta Cottage (bring your own victuals and glasses etc). Details and applications via churbarry@aol.com [Short notice only recently received.]

Churchill War Rooms, Lecture. Clare Mulley, author of *The Spy Who Loved*, will give a talk on Tuesday 17th September from 7.00 pm till 9.00 pm. The subject of her book is Anglo-Polish Countess Christine Granville, a leading British spy during the Second World War. Advance bookings cost £17 (adults) and £13.60 (concessions). Details: www.iwm.org.uk/churchill-war-rooms/the-spy-who-loved

Northern Branch Reception. TCC-UK's Northern Branch will hold a Reception at the Cedar Court Grand Hotel, York on Thursday 10th October at 7.00 pm. TCC-UK member Lord [Michael] Dobbs, author of *House of Cards* and a number of WSC-themed novels, will speak; Randolph Churchill will also speak and give a brief talk on future plans for TCC-UK. All members are welcome to attend, also friends and members of the public. Cost is £20 per head, which includes a glass of wine. Contact Derek Greenwell via derek.greenwell@ftcg.co.uk

The Sir Winston Churchill Award Dinner. This event will take place at 8 Northumberland Avenue, London WC2 on Tuesday 19th November. There may be a small number of discounted or free tickets available to TCC-UK members by award of the Trustees. Interested parties should register their applications via TCC.Membership@chu.cam.ac.uk or by contacting Noelle Caulfield at Cambridge on 01223-336190. Details of the Award recipient are not being announced at this time.

New Book. Look out for an important new book due to be published by Faber on 3rd October. It is by TCC-UK member Graham Farmelo, a leading physicist, with the title *Churchill's Bomb*. It gives a revealing account of WSC's involvement in the conception and development of the nuclear weapon, and will undoubtedly attract a great deal of interest.