



The Churchill Centre & Museum at the Cabinet War Rooms

Chartwell Bulletin



NUMBER 24 • JUNE 2010

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“Randolph is decisively better....All the same the guinea pigs have died and the doctors are much intrigued about what has actually happened to him....He has grown a beard which makes him look to me perfectly revolting. He declares he looks like Christ. Certainly on the contrary he looks very like my poor father in the last phase of his illness. The shape of the head with the beard is almost identical.”

—WSC TO HIS WIFE • CHARTWELL BULLETIN No. 12, CHARTWELL, 13 APRIL 1935



Above: Quadrant Conference, 18 August 1943, The Citadel, Quebec. L-R: Canadian Prime Minister Mackenzie King, Franklin Roosevelt, Winston Churchill and Canadian Governor-General The Earl of Athlone (Wikimedia).

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Old Headlines: How Bad a Student Was He — Really?

From the library of Jerry Kambestad



Mr. Davidson's Small House, Harrow, 1888-89. Winston Churchill at far left.

For some time historians have maintained that Churchill overplayed his "dunce" image at Harrow School: that not even Lord Randolph's son could have been admitted without knowing Latin, and that in several subjects he was actually quite good. Judy Kambestad found this clipping in one of the books of the late Jerry Kambestad, which shows that educator John Bartlett was on to the truth thirty-five years ago.

LONDON, DECEMBER 7, 1975 (AP)—The head master of a Sussex preparatory school has evidence that he says shatters a myth that the late British statesman was at the bottom of his class at Harrow School.

"The contemporary records show that he worked hard and that he had very real ability," said Head Master John Bartlett of Stoke Brunswick School in West Sussex. "In his last year he was top of the class in every subject

except geography in which he came second."

Sir Winston's own account in his autobiography *My Early Life*—in which he said he was considered unfit to learn anything but English—for years was the major document which contributed to the widely held belief that he had been a dunce—or at best an indifferent student. In connection with his school entrance exam for Harrow, for instance, Churchill wrote that he was unable to answer a single question of his Latin test:

"I wrote my name at the top of the page. I wrote down the number of the question 'I.' After much reflection I put a bracket round it thus '(I)'. But thereafter I could not think of anything connected with it that was either relevant or true. I gazed for two whole hours at this sad spectacle and then merciful ushers collected up my piece of foolscap with all the

others and carried it up to the Head Master's table. It was from these slender indications of scholarship that Mr. Welldon drew the conclusion that I was worthy to pass into Harrow. It is very much to his credit."

Bartlett produced old school reports, class lists and letters to prove that, on the contrary, Churchill was able to translate both Virgil and Caesar and was a prize student.

So what went wrong during the Harrow exam? "All that happened was that he had a very bad attack of exam nerves. It happens to all kinds of boys and has nothing to do with merit," said Bartlett.

Editor's note:

Harrow archivists have not found Churchill's exam paper bearing only the number (I). For more on WSC's Harrow scholarship see Jim Golland, *Not William—Just Winston* (Harrow: Herga Press, 1988) and our own "Leading Churchill Myths": <http://xrl.us/bhj4m2>. Stoke Brunswick School closed for insufficient enrollment in 2009. 📧

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Churchill in the News: WSC, Taxes, 1940 and the Vote

Richard M. Langworth

LONDON, APRIL 13TH— Writing in *The Independent* (<http://xrl.us/bhg5d4>) Dominic Lawson, son of Lady Thatcher's Chancellor of the Exchequer, argues that "the public want honesty, but not when it comes to their taxes." Voters, Lawson argues forcefully, will never undo the government entitlements that are bankrupting modern democracies. It is ludicrous, he adds, for British Conservatives to deplore the national debt, and then "to propose measures which would do nothing to reduce it, but actually increase it...as if Winston Churchill had declared, 'I have nothing to offer but blood, toil, tears, sweat and tax cuts.'"

Indeed, Mr. Lawson continued, "it is an enduring myth that even as Prime Minister during the war itself, Churchill's offer of 'nothing but blood, toil, tears and sweat' was invariably welcome to the British people. As Angus Calder pointed out in his iconoclastic book *The People's War*, strikes were common, the government not especially popular, and Churchill himself an object of much public disparagement—even if that didn't find expression in the columns of the newspapers. This pent-up discontent was one reason why the great war leader received an overwhelming raspberry from the public as soon as they had a chance to express their opinion at the ballot box, in July 1945."

The last is oversimplified, but not all wrong. Churchill had his ups and downs in wartime polls, but remained well thought of individually. The people didn't

vote Churchill out in 1945; they voted the *Conservatives* out, and with considerable justification. Many actually thought they could vote Labour and retain Churchill as Prime Minister!

Mr. Lawson may also be right about public attitudes when Churchill became Prime Minister in May 1940. At our 1988 Bretton Woods, N.H. Churchill Conference, Alistair Cooke spoke of growing up in post-World War I Britain, where every village had its monument to a lost generation. Then, fixing his audience of 350 Churchillians with a steely eye, he added:

"The British people would do anything to stop Hitler, except fight him. And if you had been alive and sentient and British at that time, not one in ten of you would have been with him."

Remember too that the applause in the House of Commons was at first louder for Chamberlain than for Churchill. But that was on 13 May, and Churchill's speeches quickly

turned attitudes around. By June, after the French debacle and Dunkirk, there was a different mood. Churchill's postwar bodyguard, Ronald Golding, then an RAF Squadron Leader, recalled:

"After his 'Fight on the Beaches' speech, we *wanted* the Germans to come."

Dominic Lawson is wrong however about Churchill's proposals for the universal franchise, writing that he "had never been completely persuaded of the benefits of the universal franchise: in 1930 Churchill had published an essay, 'Parliamentary Government and the Economic Problem' [reprinted in *Thoughts and Adventures*]—which advocated its abandonment and a return to a property franchise (combined with proportional representation). I imagine that if he were dropped into our present predicament, as some political time-traveller, Churchill would argue that it is next to impossible to persuade a majority of the need for sharp public expenditure cuts, when millions of households would feel that such a policy would cost them more in benefits than they would ever get back by way of a reduction in taxes."

Coincidentally, *Finest Hour* 146 (Spring 2010) contains a similar Churchill article from 1934, "Restoring the Lost Glory of Democracy." Rare among politicians, WSC frequently floated "trial balloons," thinking out loud about the nature of >>



One of our favorites: the Arthur Pan portrait, 1941.

democracy. In both articles, he *did* ponder the benefits of a "bonus vote" for what he vaguely defined as the "more responsible" level of citizens; yet he never led a movement or tabled a bill for such a reform.

Moreover, in neither article did Churchill advocate "abandonment" of the universal vote or a "return to a property franchise."

Churchill *did* suggest (in the midst of the Depression) "...an Economic sub-Parliament debating day after day with fearless detachment from public opinion all the most disputed questions of Finance and Trade, and reaching conclusions by voting, would be an innovation, but an innovation easily to be embraced by our flexible constitutional system. I see no reason why the political Parliament should not choose, in proportion to its party groupings, a subordinate Economic Parliament of, say, one-fifth of its numbers and composed of persons of high technical and business qualifications."*

The House of Commons, Churchill believed, had the adaptability to organize this form of deliberation. But it is important to distinguish that he did see a "sub-Parliament" as representative of the electorate. Today, we see much less democratic forms in the boards or individuals ("Czars" in current American political parlance) who are unelected, yet sometimes possess plenary power. There is room to argue that Churchill would have been opposed to these. Certainly he never favored the "abandonment of Parliamentary Government." Quite the opposite, as he wrote in 1930:

"I see the Houses of Parliament—and particularly the House of Commons—alone among the senates and chambers of the world a living and ruling entity; the swift

vehicle of public opinion; the arena—perhaps fortunately the padded arena—of the inevitable class and social conflict; the College from which the Ministers of State are chosen, and hitherto the solid and unflinching foundation of the executive power. I regard these parliamentary institutions as precious to us almost beyond compare. They seem to give by far the closest association yet achieved between the life of the people and the action of the State. They possess apparently an unlimited capacity of adaptiveness, and they stand an

effective buffer against every form of revolutionary or reactionary violence. It should be the duty of faithful subjects to preserve these institutions in their healthy vigour, to guard them against the encroachment of external forces, and to revivify them from one generation to another from the springs of national talent, interest, and esteem."**

* Winston S. Churchill, *Thoughts and Adventures*, James W. Muller, ed. (Wilmington, Del.: ISI Books, 2009), 255.

** *Ibid.*, 246-47. ☞

Honorary Members 1968-2010

We recently compiled a list of all honorary members past and present, in order of appointment, for our website. We take the liberty of providing the hard copy. Honorary Members of the old Churchill Study Unit and International Churchill Society were dropped in 1995, and new honoraries elected. Those in bold face are current.

1. The Baroness Clementine Spencer-Churchill (1968-79)
2. Randolph S. Churchill MBE (1968)
3. Winston S. Churchill (1968-2010)
4. Jerome Husak (1968-75)
5. Archbold van Beuren (1968-75)
6. The Marquess of Bath (1970-90)
7. The Earl Mountbatten of Burma KG PC (1971-79)
8. Hon. Caspar W. Weinberger GBE (1981-2006)
9. The Rt Hon Lord Stockton OM (1982-86)
10. Governor W. Averell Harriman (1982-86)
- 11. Sir Martin Gilbert PC CBE (1982-)**
- 12. Duke of Marlborough JP DL (1982-)**
13. The Rt Hon Lord Soames GCMG GCVO (1982-87)
- 14. The Lady Soames LG DBE (1982-)**
15. Dalton Newfield (1982)
16. Sir John Colville CB CVO (1982-87)
- 17. Sir Anthony Montague Browne CBE DFC (1982-)**
18. Oscar Nemon (1982-85)
19. Sir John Martin KCMG CB CVO (1986-91)
20. Grace Hamblin OBE (1986-2002)
21. Mary Coyne Jackman (1986-97)
22. Yousuf Karsh (1986-02)
- 23. Robert Hardy CBE (1987-)**
24. James C. Humes (1987-95)
25. Ambassador Pamela C. Harriman (1989-97)
26. Wendy Russell Reves (1989-2007)
- 27. The Rt Hon The Baroness Thatcher OM FRS (1991-)**
- 28. Gen. Colin L. Powell KCB (1992-)**
- 29. Ambassador Paul H. Robinson, Jr. (1992-)**
30. William Manchester (1995-2004)
- 31. The Lord Heseltine (2003-)**
- 32. The Rt Hon David Cameron (2009-)**

☞

Chapters and Affiliates



Left: Vimy Ridge Memorial Monument Rededication, 9 April 2007 (90th Anniversary). Rear l-r: Bob Remple, Keith Maxwell (BC member), Bob Hall. Front l-r: Cam Cathcart (BC member and director), and Ted Hawthorne.

BRITISH COLUMBIA

VANCOUVER, APRIL 7TH— Over 100 members and guests welcomed retired Colonel Keith Maxwell, who addressed the BC Society on the World War I battles of Vimy Ridge, Hill 70 and Passchendaele, sacred ground for Canadians in the First World War, with special recognition of British Columbia Battalions.

In 1917 the Canadian Corps fought three major battles at these three locations on the Western Front, with an unprecedented level of success. The Corps took objectives that had confounded other Armies, and built a reputation as the most effective formation of its size on the front. In addition, exploits of the Canadian Corps in France and Flanders that year had a profound effect on the development of Canada as a nation.

By the end of the year the Canadian Corps was no longer operating as an integral part of the Imperial Army; rather, it had achieved a great deal of autonomy, and had become Canada's National Army. That transformation was the harbinger for the Statutes of Westminster in 1931, where Canada achieved full independence from the United Kingdom in areas of foreign policy and national defence. Col. Maxwell considered

the reasons for the success of the Corps, and why that success had such a significant impact.

CALIFORNIA

MONTEREY, OCTOBER 17TH— A wonderful meal was created for us at the Greek restaurant Epsilon by Chef Peter, who cut short an Athens visit to prepare the feast. David Ramsay's talk on his book *"Blinker" Hall, Spymaster* was fascinating as was the question and answer period and book signing. Although Churchill is only briefly mentioned, many Churchillians will find its account of World War I British naval espionage a fascinating treatment.

Board members took with them as a current project copies of the History Channel's two-disc DVD set of Churchill's biography to distribute free of cost to schools and libraries from Carmel in the south to San Francisco in

the north. We are receiving appreciative thank you notes. We also had a successful fund-raising auction of books and Churchilliana donated by members.

CARMEL, MARCH 13TH— Professor David Freeman spoke on "Churchill and the Irish Free State" this morning, followed by a social hour and silent auction, at the Yankee Point Room, Highlands Inn, which offers a fantastic view of the Pacific.

—GREGORY B. SMITH

CHICAGO

MARCH 19TH— The Rickover Naval Military Academy welcomed members to the first annual Churchill Essay Medal Award Ceremony. Cadets in full dress greeted guests for the ceremony. In the recently renovated auditorium of the hundred-year-old building the entire school assembled to hear five finalist cadets read their submissions.

Mike Biela, the Academy Superintendent, served as Master of Ceremonies. Cdr. Donna Fournier challenged the five finalists with fifteen trivia questions to conclude the competition. Dr. Joseph Troiani, who was instrumental in the inception and planning of the >>



At Rickover Academy, 19 March: Philip Larson, Grace Leo, Susan Larson, Mike Biela, Cdr. Donna Fournier, CC Chairman Laurence Geller, Joseph Troiani.

event, along with Phil and Susan Larson, served as judges. Cadet Nicole Aleman, the winner, was presented with a medal donated by Joseph Troiani bearing The Churchill Centre logo. The Churchill Centre-Chicagoland will support this effort annually. Winston Churchill is a name well known and his legacy well appreciated within the halls of this Chicago Charter public high school.

GEORGIA

ATLANTA, NOVEMBER 20TH— The Winston Churchill Society of Georgia presented an original program at a luncheon meeting of members of two local Delta Kappa Gamma Districts, and fifty CC members. The organization's membership is made up of current and retired teachers.

Society President Bill Fisher and Vice President Gary Garrison spoke on "The Winston Churchill You Never Knew" and "The Relevance of Churchill" in a 45-minute program produced specifically for teachers.

Using an Apple Keynote presentation that incorporated words, audio and video, Bill took the audience through lesser-known facts about Churchill such as his political affiliation—Conservative, Liberal, Constitutionalist, Conservative—"though his wife always was a Liberal." The teachers got a chuckle out of that.

Bill noted that Churchill was the highest paid war correspondent in early 1900s Britain, midwife to the tank and creator of Iraq. He focused on Churchill as a soldier, political maverick, painter, bricklayer, animal lover, and man of principle, incorporating clips of WSC's famous speeches, and a video including his 1941 address to a joint session of the U.S. Congress.

Gary asked rhetorically how anyone born in 1874, and who passed away nearly half a



Atlanta ΔΚΓ Program, 20 November: Gary Garrison and Bill Fisher.

century ago, could have any relevance for future generations. The presentation went on to emphasize Churchill characteristics that are "as relevant today as they were in his time, and will be so for decades to come." He was a humanitarian, a man who worked to advance human society. Loyalty and leadership were noted, as well as his courage and determination.

Garrison cited Churchill's "Never Give In" message to the students of Harrow School as an insight to his determination, a trait that carried him through the ups and downs of life: "He was a believer, a human being, a dreamer, a thinker, a doer and giver. Through study of his life, achievements and accomplishments as well as his failures, our world can be a better place."

The program ended with an offer of Free Programs for a Limited Number of Active Teachers and Students. Two teachers volunteered to serve on the Society's committee developing a scholarship program.

DUNWOODY, FEBRUARY 6TH— Members gathered at the Duke of Wellington to hear film producer Bill VanDerKloot discuss the exploits of his father, Churchill's pilot for part of the war.

VanDerKloot showed clips from his PBS film, "Flying the Secret Sky," which described the RAF Ferry Command and his father's part in it. The senior VanDerKloot also flew a B-24 Liberator (tail number AL504), which took Churchill to Cairo, North Africa, and Moscow. His behind-the-scenes stories of these adventures were incredible and interesting.

Bill ended by describing his father's last meeting with Churchill, when WSC was in New York promoting The Second World War. That they had dinner in the Churchill's suite at the Waldorf-Astoria was unsurprising—but that Clementine Churchill cooked the dinner came as a surprise to most of the men and all of the ladies in attendance!

Bill VanDerKloot is a great speaker and we recommend him highly. He can be reached at bv@vanderkloot.com.

DUNWOODY, MARCH 4TH— Members gathered at the Duke of Wellington for the first in a new series of meetings named "A Pint with Winston." The purpose is to share informal conversation and discussion about WSC and other historical figures and events of their time, accompanied by a pint of ale and an informal dinner. Future meetings will be held on the first Thursday of every month. Invitations are standing: "come if you can."

Another objective is to discuss ideas and programs the Society might sponsor in its support of the mission of The Churchill Centre. The focus here is on the development of a local Churchill Scholarship program. The topic was to be included at the following "Pint with Winston" on April 1st, when we were joined by two high school history teachers to assist in development.

History topics discussed during the evening included the

humorous conflict between General George Marshall and Churchill over the latter's wish to see the film documentary "Why We Fight" before its public release. We also discussed conspiracy theories in connection with the assassinations of Presidents Lincoln and Kennedy.

This program provides not only a forum for Churchillian discussions but also generates free publicity for the Chapter in community newspapers that advertise only clubs meeting on a monthly basis. It is hoped that this will assist in spreading the word about the Society as well as the Centre.

—BILL FISHER, PRESIDENT

MICHIGAN

BIRMINGHAM, MARCH— Presentations were made to two world history classes at Groves High School by Dick Marsh and Bob Pettengill. This opportunity resulted from letters sent earlier in the year to twenty-one area high schools. Our letter offered the services of the Michigan Churchill Society to assist in introducing Churchill to the classroom. In consultation with a teacher, Geoff Wickersham, the material focused on the causes of World War II, Appeasement, and Churchill's warnings in his "wilderness years." We also discussed the "Great Man" theory of history and closed with excerpts from the "Iron Curtain" speech. In both presentations we "let Churchill have the last word," playing an excerpt from his first speech to as Prime Minister, "Blood, Toil, Tears and Sweat." This is timed to end just as the bell rings for the students to move on to their next class—inspired, we hope, by Sir Winston himself.

NEBRASKA

OMAHA MONTHLY— The Churchill Round Table of Nebraska meets at 2pm on the third Sunday of every month. Although other

chapters of The Churchill Centre have more members and are broader in scope, we are a book club that discusses a Churchill-related book, and have been since affiliating with The Churchill Centre.

The Churchill Round Table was founded in 1998 and affiliated with TCC in 2004. Right now we are discussing the Official Biography in a sequential fashion. We can't wait until *The River War* is republished.

Although we discuss other authors, a Churchill book is always in the mix. This has been our format since we became affiliated with the Centre.

Readers are invited to visit our website, which contains our monthly reading selections: www.wrldhstry.com.

—JOHN MEEKS

NEW ENGLAND

BOSTON, APRIL 8TH— Members attended "Healing Kashmir," a talk by journalist and author Justine Hardy, with a cocktail reception co-hosted by the Boston Branch of the English-Speaking Union at the Downtown Harvard Club. Hardy has long written about Kashmir, the exquisite Himalayan mountain state and scene of conflict between Pakistan and India since the 1947 partition. The current conflict of over 20 years' duration involves fighters backed by countries as disparate as the U.S., Iran and China.

Militant groups fighting in the name of Kashmir now have global agendas, as was seen during the November 2008 attacks in Mumbai (Bombay) India. Justine Hardy, who is now running a mental health project in Kashmir, shared insights based on her experience in this crucial area that lies at the heart of the Afghanistan-Pakistan-India triangle.

NEWPORT, MAY 7TH— The New England Churchillians returned

today to the Naval War College, for a day-long event including a tour of the College museum and campus, lunch, and an illustrated presentation marking the 70th anniversary of Churchill's premiership. The presenter was Professor John Maurer, chairman of the NWC's Department of Strategy and Policy and a member of The Churchill Centre's Board of Academic Advisors.

SOUTH CAROLINA

CHARLESTON, MARCH 11TH— At a Bernard Baruch Chapter reception at Mills House, Craig Horn discussed the student-teacher education program he developed for the schools in his area of North Carolina. Horn stressed the importance of inspiring teachers and teaching young people about Churchill. His first session was held in spring 2009 with Union County Public Schools in suburban Charlotte, N.C. An updated 2010 program was implemented for Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools (CMS), the 20th largest public school district in the nation, and again for Union County. CMS has already signed up for next year and has asked that the program be expanded so they might send more students.

The second half of the meeting was a discussion on planning a Charleston regional meeting in Spring 2011. It was agreed to have Judy Kambestad, Ken Childs and Craig Horn formulate a proposal for further discussion and approval.

Judy and Craig met with representatives of local hotels and attractions and visited Hobcaw Barony, the expansive estate of Bernard Baruch, at which Churchill spent some time during his recovery from injuries incurred when he was nearly killed by a car in New York while on his way to visit Baruch's penthouse near Central Park. (See "My New York Misadventure," *Finest Hour* 138: 24.) >>

TEXAS

DALLAS, APRIL 20TH— North Texas Churchillians mourn the death of Nathan Hughes, a chapter stalwart for many years. He is survived by his wife Selma, three children and three grandsons.

A Welsh-speaking Welshman, born in 1924 into a close-knit agricultural and coal-mining community, Nathan was raised by his grandmother, Hannah Rees. Serving in the Royal Navy and Royal Signals from 1942 to 1947, he saw action in Italy. After the war he graduated in Physics and Applied Mathematics from the University of Wales at Swansea, and began a long career in the broadcast and communications industry. He supervised the first Eurovision transmission from the Vatican, and participated in some of the first closed-circuit television applications of medical and underwater operations. His work is cited in *The History of Independent Television* by Anthony Pragnell. He was senior engineer for Associated Rediffusion (the first London independent television company), chief engineer of Television Wales and West, and general manager of Teledu Cymru, the two latter stations producing a wide range of Welsh language programs, one of which "Gwlad y Gân" (Land of Song) was networked throughout the United States.

Nathan's career took him to Switzerland, working for RCA. In 1965, he and his family moved to Chicago, where he was broadcast technical manager for the city's two public broadcasting stations. A few years later he settled in Dallas, and was involved in developing the world's first computer-controlled, short wave high-powered transmitter. His many friends will miss this dedicated Churchillian, who did so much to advance the memory and legacy of Sir Winston in North Texas. ☘

Last Printed Edition of the *Bulletin*



The *Chartwell Bulletin*, named for Churchill's notes to his wife about life at Chartwell, was begun under President John Plumpton in 2001 as a four-page promotion for the commissioning of USS *Winston S. Churchill* and grew to a large newsletter/annual report. Our UK and Canada affiliates opted not to receive printed copies, so the cost was borne entirely by U.S. and overseas subscribers. Centre management has now opted to make the *Bulletin* digital, sending copies by email to all members with an email address, and posting it on our website, which we have already been doing.

If you are not sure the Centre has your email address, please send it to Mary Paxson in Chicago to verify her records: mpaxson@winstonchurchill.org.

Webmaster John Olsen has been designated to produce future *Chartwell Bulletins*, so this final print edition marks the end of my editorship. Throughout the past ten years and twenty-four issues I have had much enjoyment in doing this newsletter and hope that some of it has been of interest or benefit to readers, to all of whom I now say thank you for your loyalty and goodbye.

—RICHARD M. LANGWORTH



BRING 'EM BACK ALIVE

The last four issues of *Finest Hour* included articles on the Irish question, dragging on endlessly from the Boston conference eighteen months ago. If ever there was an argument for reverting to the widely admired and missed *Churchill Proceedings* booklets, this is it. *Finest Hour* has been the jewel in our crown for nearly thirty years. We miss the feedback from international chapters and societies, their fundraising ideas, their topical subjects in debates, the contacts etc. Please let us abandon this pseudo-academic, heavy and expensive version and return to the much loved smaller format. It will be more enjoyable to read and will certainly save money in recessionary times. I am a consumer not a producer and a year's worth of issues full of Irish hype is too turgid and yawn-making. I have a copy of every *Proceedings* I could get my hands on over twenty years, which are more pertinent and accessible than magazines.

I hope you will print my letter to test the views of readers. A questionnaire completed this year in the UK showed over 30% of UK members taking part would like *FH* to be shorter and less scholarly. Further, only 45 percent of members read the entire contents of the magazine. [That many? —Ed.]

The 64-page high gloss colour version was bankrupting TCC UK and the *Chartwell Bulletin* would have been an added burden. (Only 40 percent of UK members have access to the web.) Fundraising is fine for funding education projects but not to make it viable, that is a poor business model.

I sincerely hope that there are no further plans to expand and embellish the format, rather I believe it imperative to assess feasible ways to reduce costs. A survey of prestigious societies in

the UK, e.g. Nelson, Waterloo, etc., show member costs around half ours with admirable sustainable magazines.

BRIAN SINGLETON, BASLOW, DBY.

• *Editor's response:* Publications belong to the Centre and these questions are best addressed to management. However, much of this was addressed by readers worldwide in *FH* 146. More is answered by the page 8 announcement, opposite.

OUR WORK ISN'T DONE

Part of this editor's job involves answering hundreds of questions about WSC that come to The Churchill Centre over the internet. The following will give an idea of their range...

1. It is amusing to note your web page devoted to dispelling myths about Churchill. He wasn't responsible for the Bengal Famine. Of course he wasn't; as head of the British Government he was merely responsible for the death of a few million "primitive natives," perhaps through inaction, prejudice or circumstance.

2. Segregation and sterilisation of the vulnerable was merely for their own benefit, as was the bombing of Dresden.

3. Voting against Indian Independence was again due to his benevolence to help those awful primitive natives from degrading once more.

4. It might come as a surprise to some that the very presence of your website is a monument to all who committed atrocities [sic] but were fortunate enough to be on the winning side. Stalin, Pol Pot, Pinochet, and the great British Empire (including genocides and massacres in North America), the Ottoman Empire (managing to skirt the issue through its strategic importance), the Spanish Empire (much better documented as a result of

ceasing to be a first-rate power), and the French (committing atrocities [sic] as both an Empire and a Republic. Recognising the role Churchill played in these unfortunate events may raise the ethical outlook of Britain, giving it a place amongst the moral nations. To present people as saints who committed crimes degrades their humanity and remains an insult to those who suffered. Ruling other people's lands and livelihoods by force, being directly or indirectly responsible for unnecessary deaths, is immoral whether endorsed by great leaders or not. The public, or at least a proportion of it, can acknowledge their greatness in certain areas as well as recognising their shortcomings.

FURHAN IQBAL, VIA EMAIL

• *Editor's response:* 1. Well, he wasn't. If you want a villain, the Japanese are highly eligible.

2. Paul Addison's *Churchill on the Home Front* (1992): "Churchill's belief in the innate virtue of the great majority of human beings was part and parcel of an optimism he often expressed before the First World War. In his view, sterilisation was a libertarian measure intended to free unfortunate individuals from incarceration....Churchill's intentions were benign, but he was blundering into sensitive areas of civil liberty."

Dresden was demanded by the Soviets while Churchill was en route to Yalta. Stalin's first question there was, "Why haven't you bombed Dresden?"

3. He voted against the India Act, not Indian Independence. Last week, Professor Dwarka Bose, nephew of Subhas Chandra Bose (1930s advocate of total independence) observed that Gandhi and Churchill were both great men whose faults were outweighed by their virtues. Professor Bose was interested to know of >>

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES

Contact Mary Paxson mpaxson@winstonchurchill.org

XXVII: Washington, D.C. Four Seasons Hotel, 28-30 October 2010
"Churchill's Relevance to Achieving a Secure 21st Century."

XXVIII: London, UK, Marriott Grosvenor Square Hotel, October 2011

XXIX: Ottawa, Ontario, September or October 2012

Correspondence, continued...

Churchill's message to Gandhi after the Act passed: "...use the powers that are offered and make the thing a success....you have got the things now; make a success and if you do I will advocate your getting much more." To which Gandhi observed: "I have got a good recollection of Mr. Churchill when he was in the Colonial Office and somehow or other since then I have held the opinion that I can always count on his sympathy and good will."

4. How convenient that Churchill left his entire files and papers to a college, where we can all pour through them, looking for feet of clay. We keep looking for the Pol Pot Archives, but so far, no luck.

5. Have you tried drinking a little more decaf?

JAPAN IN THE WAR

Is there a 1941 letter with eight questions for Japan to answer before entering the war on the side of Germany?

—J.D. TRIBBLE, VIA EMAIL

• *Editor's response:* Sir Martin Gilbert referred us to WSC's message to Japanese Foreign Minister Yosuke Matsuoka in March 1941 (while the latter was returning from visits to Berlin and Moscow) in Sir Martin's *Churchill: A Life* (1991), 693-94:

"1. Will Germany, without the command of the sea or the command of the British daylight air, be able to invade and conquer

Great Britain in the spring, summer or autumn of 1941? Will Germany try to do so? Would it not be in the interests of Japan to wait until these questions have answered themselves?

"2. Will the German attack on British shipping be strong enough to prevent American aid from reaching British shores, with Great Britain and the United States transforming their whole industry to war purposes?

"3. Did Japan's accession to the Triple Pact make it more likely or less likely that the United States would come into the present war?

"4. If the United States entered the war at the side of Great Britain, and Japan ranged herself with the Axis Powers, would not the naval superiority of the two English-speaking nations enable them to dispose of the Axis Powers in Europe before turning their united strength upon Japan?

"5. Is Italy a strength or a burden to Germany? Is the Italian Fleet as good at sea as on paper? Is it as good on paper as it used to be?

"6. Will the British Air Force be stronger than the German Air Force before the end of 1941 and far stronger before the end of 1942?

"7. Will the many countries which are being held down by the German Army and Gestapo learn to like the Germans more or will they like them less as the years pass by?

"8. Is it true that the production of steel in the United States during 1941 will be 75 million tons, and in Great Britain about 12½, making a total of nearly 90 million tons? If Germany should happen to be defeated, as she was last time, would not the 7 million tons steel production of Japan be inadequate for a single-handed war?

"From the answers to these questions," Churchill added, "may spring the avoidance by Japan of

a serious catastrophe, and a marked improvement in the relations between Japan and the two great sea Powers of the West." As an added inducement to caution, Sir Charles Portal had already given instructions, he told Churchill, "that a heavy attack should be made on Berlin on the night that we expect Matsuoka to be there."

Actually, Germany entered the war on the side of Japan, not the other way round, after Pearl Harbor, by declaring war on the U.S. How Japan got to that point is explored from many fresh angles by Ian Kershaw in his *Fateful Choices: Ten Decisions that Changed the World*. See our book review, "Sometimes, all it takes is a shrug," *Finest Hour* 138: 53. **RML** 🇬🇧

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