Churchill: Celebrating a life

32nd International Churchill Conference
Heythrop Park Hotel and Blenheim Palace 26-29 May 2015
The 32nd Annual International Churchill Conference affords a special opportunity to mark the 50th anniversary of the passing of Sir Winston Churchill, to reflect on his accomplishments and commemorate his memory.

This occasion also offers a moment to celebrate Churchill’s life; to get to know the man behind the legend. By examining the whole of Churchill’s life, including the controversies surrounding him such as his role in the battle of Gallipoli and consolations in which he took refuge such as painting and bezique, the conference will illuminate much about the man voted Greatest Briton.

The conference also aims to explore the ways in which we remember and celebrate his accomplishments by considering how he is portrayed in the media and what it means to play Winston Churchill. Does placing him in a historical context alongside people like Napoleon help or hurt his memory? Through the conference we ask you to reflect on how we, the next generation of Churchillians can continue to remember his legacy as we look toward the future.

However, as we celebrate the life of Winston Churchill we must be sure to pause and remember those who have helped commemorate his legacy through the years. The losses of Lady Soames, Sir Martin Gilbert and John Spencer-Churchill the 11th Duke of Marlborough this last year will be felt and remembered during the conference.

Perhaps the most important aspect of the conference is that it unites Churchillians around the world and provides an occasion for us to meet, share ideas, reflect and raise a glass to the memory of Sir Winston Churchill.
### Tuesday 26 May

1.30 pm  Coach departs from central London bringing VIP party to Heythrop Park Hotel

3.00 – 5.00 pm  Arrival and registration at Heythrop Park Hotel

6:45 pm  Coach departs for Ditchley Park from Heythrop Park Hotel

7:00 pm  Reception and Dinner at Ditchley Park
  Lounge suit/business attire
  Hosted by: Randolph Churchill and Tina Flaherty
  Guest speaker: Professor Ashley Jackson

### Wednesday 27 May

10:00 am  Coaches depart from Heythrop Park Hotel for Blenheim Palace

- 12.00 pm  Churchill Memorial Day at Blenheim Palace and/or free time in Woodstock

5:30 pm  Coaches return to Heythrop Park Hotel from Blenheim Palace

7:00 pm  Drinks Reception and Conference Buffet Dinner
  Heythrop Park Hotel
  Lounge suit/business attire
  Hosted by: Celia Sandys
  Entertainment: Gerri Smith, Vera Lynn tribute act

### Thursday 28 May

8:00 am  Conference registration opens

ALL SESSIONS AT THE HEYTHROP PARK HOTEL ARE IN THE MAIN THEATRE UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED

9:00 am  Welcome
  Celia Sandys
  Conference President
  Derek Greenwell
  Conference Chairman

9:15 am  Tribute to the late Lady Soames
  Craig Horn

9:20 am  Session 1
  Why celebrate Churchill’s Life?
  Jonathan Dimbleby Chairman
  Professor Sir David Cannadine
  Professor Margaret Macmillan

10:30 am  Tea/Coffee

11:00 am  Session 2
  The Churchill Factor
  Keynote presentation:
  Boris Johnson
  Lord (Jonathan) Marland to introduce

12:00 pm  Lunch

1:00 pm  Consolations 1:
  Churchill and Animals
  Dr Piers Brendan

2:00 pm  Try your hand at bezique
  Breakout room

1:45 pm  Controversies 1
  Churchill and Islam
  Paul Courtenay Chairman
  Imam Ahmed Abdel-Rahman al Mahdi
  Professor James Muller
  Dr Warren Dockter
3:00 pm  Consolations 2  Churchill and Painting  Minnie Churchill
4:00 pm  Controversies 2  Churchill and the Dardanelles  Dr David Freeman Chairman  Harry Atkinson  Professor Antoine Capet  Dr Mark Hamilton
6:30 pm  Coaches from Heythrop Park Hotel to Blenheim Palace
7:00 pm  Pol Roger Champagne Reception
7.30 pm  Gala Dinner  Blenheim Palace Orangery  Black tie, decorations optional  Hosted by: The Duke of Marlborough  Entertainment: Celia Sandys and Mr Robert Hardy  Harrow Songs
10:30 am  Churchill and Napoleon  Dr Andrew Roberts
11:01 am  Tea/coffee
11:40 am  Playing Churchill  Christian McKay
12:15 pm  Celebrating Churchill in fact and fiction  Lord (Michael) Dobbs
1:00 pm  Close of formal sessions
2:15 pm  Coaches depart from Heythrop Park Hotel for Blenheim Palace
3:00 pm  Memorial Service, St Martin's, Bladon or tour of Soldiers of Oxfordshire Museum
4:00 pm  Memorial Service, St Martin's, Bladon or tour of Soldiers of Oxfordshire Museum
5:15 pm  Last coaches depart for Heythrop Park Hotel
6:30 pm  Blenheim Memorial Concert  PLEASE NOTE: This is optional and delegates will need to make their own booking

Friday 29 May

ALL SESSIONS AT THE HEYTHROP PARK HOTEL ARE IN THE MAIN THEATRE

9:00 am  Tribute to the late Sir Martin Gilbert  By Laurence Geller
9:05 am  Remembering Clementine Churchill  Celia Sandys  Sonia Purnell
9:50 am  Churchill and Cuba  Professor Hal Klepak

Saturday 30 May

10:00 am  Coaches depart from Heythrop Park Hotel to take VIP party to central London