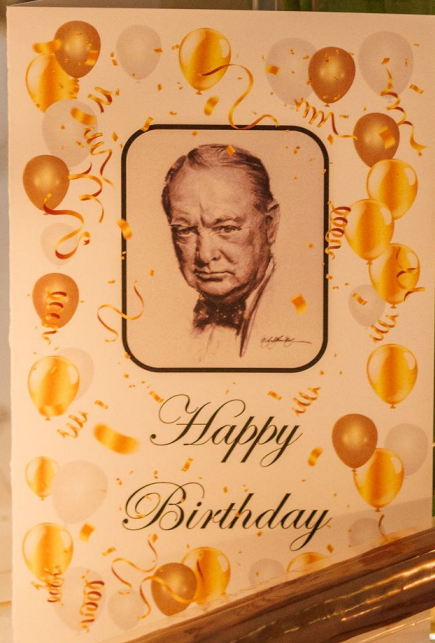


THE CHURCHILLIAN

Churchill Society of Tennessee



Christmas Issue 2024

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Inside this Issue of *The Churchillian*



On the cover: From our annual gala on
November 8, 2024

[Photo by Michel Gomez Photography](#)

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Churchill Society of Tennessee

2024 Sponsors

Dear Churchillians,

I would like to take this opportunity to give a special thank you to those members who contributed financially to the Churchill Society of Tennessee in 2024. Your cash contributions allow us to keep ticket prices for our events low while still presenting top notch speakers. These contributions also help make possible our splendid annual garden party and other free to events to our members.

We hope your generosity will continue into the new year. And we are already planning wonderful events for 2025!

Thank You!
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*Merry Christmas
and a
Happy New Year!*



*The Board of Directors wishes you all a
Happy Holiday Season!*

From The President



Dear Fellow Churchillians,

2024 has been a very productive year for the Churchill Society of Tennessee.

We held the most events ever in one year! There were three exceptional talks given by Chartwell's Curator, Katherine Carter, the Director of the Churchill Archives in Cambridge, Allen Packwood and Professor James Muller from the University of Alaska. We had our annual free garden party and a special birthday party for Sir Winston marking his 150th.

Two new members have joined the Board of Directors, Jack Bovender and Lee Baskerville. Additionally, our membership roles have increased with fifty-six new members joining us in 2024!

I am overwhelmed by the generosity, kindness and fellowship that the Churchill Society of Tennessee has become known for. We are a small organization hitting well above our weight. And you all are to thank for that.

As some of you know, I have been granted the honor of chairing the newly formed International Churchill Society, Conference Committee. We are responsible for planning our annual meetings. Next year it will be held in Washington D.C. I will have more information on the conference in the coming weeks.

Looking ahead to the coming year, we plan to continue our mission and build upon the strong foundation we have established.

A couple of save the dates:
June 1, 2025, Annual Garden Party.
November 14, 2025, Formal Gala at Belle Meade.

Your continued support is vital to our success. Tell your family, friends and neighbors about the CSOT. We welcome all who are interested in Sir Winston Churchill and our history.

I wish you all the happies of Holidays and looking forward to a bright 2025!

Best wishes,
Jim Drury

Churchill at 150: A Certain Splendid Memory

By Richard M. Langworth

<http://ricardlangworth.com/>



Parliament Square, 2017. (Photo by Brandon Wong, Creative Commons)

A memory of maiden speeches

On 18 February 1900, young Winston Churchill rose for his maiden speech in the House of Commons. At its end, acknowledging his thanks to the House for having listened to him, he invoked the memory of his father:

I cannot sit down without saying how very grateful I am for the kindness and patience with which the House has heard me, and which have been extended to me, I well know, not on my own account, but because of a certain splendid memory which many Hon. Members still preserve.

In 1990 I made my own maiden speech, not in the Chamber, if course, but nearby. Unlike Churchill's, it was not followed by two or three thousand more there. It was the only one. I was aware that such honors are fleeting. Once Churchill was shooting pheasants on the estate of his friend Bendor, the Duke of Westminster. "How many did you shoot?" the Duke asked him. "Two brace," he replied. "Indeed," said the Duke, "then you've shot enough, and I will have your carriage ordered for tomorrow morning."

So before my carriage was summoned I managed to invoke a memory—or three. So many superlatives have already been issued about Winston Churchill, it is scarcely necessary to create more. But that occasion long ago sticks in my memory—not because of what I said, but what three people I quoted said. All of them knew him well. Here is the transcript....

Earl Alexander of Tunis

2 June 1990— Tonight marks the fiftieth anniversary of the final evacuations at Dunkirk. Fifty years ago at 3am tomorrow morning, General Sir Harold Alexander was the last soldier to leave, having cruised the beaches to be sure there were none left behind.

I think “Alex” as Churchill called him was one of the great generals of the war. Who can forget the famous exchange between the Prime Minister and Alexander as the latter prepared to take command in North Africa?

“Your prime & main duty,” Churchill wrote, “will be to take or destroy at the earliest opportunity the German-Italian Army commanded by Field Marshal Rommel, together with all its supplies and establishments in Egypt & Libya.

“2. You will discharge, or cause to be discharged, such other duties as pertain to your command without prejudice to the task described in paragraph 1.”

That order in Churchill’s own hand was given Alexander on 10 August 1942. And lodged in his memory was Alexander’s reply:

“Sir: The orders you gave me on August 10th, 1942 have been fulfilled. His Majesty’s enemies, together with their impedimenta, have been completely eliminated from Egypt, Cyrenaica, Libya and Tripolitania. I now await your further instructions.”

It was typical of Alex, a man of few words, who in a calm, orderly and unflashy way simply got the job done. Churchill of course replied in kind: “Well, obviously we shall have to think of something else.”

Churchill’s single-minded obsession with victory typified his order to Alexander. And that reminds me of a similar memory recounted by a former naval person.

Earl Mountbatten of Burma

In October 1941, after being nearly drowned in the sinking of his ship, HMS *Kelly*, Mountbatten was invited to Pearl Harbor. His task, he said, “was to address the American Pacific Fleet on what the war was like.” (This prompted laughter among his audience, at Edmonton, Canada. “Come on, come on!” he grinned. “That was before they came in.”)



Field Marshal Earl Alexander in 1946. (Archives Canada, public domain)

“While there,” he continued, “the Prime Minister recalled me. He said he wanted me for another job. I was horrified, took my time getting back, and was immediately summoned.

“‘Why have you taken so long to answer my summons?’ he demanded. ‘You realise what I want you for? You are to relieve Admiral Sir Roger Keyes, who is in charge of Combined Operations.’

“I said: ‘Sir, if this means a desk in Whitehall, I would sooner be back at sea.’

“He retorted: ‘Have you no sense of glory? What could you do at sea, except to be sunk in a larger and more expensive vessel?’

“Now just think of this for a moment. It was October 1941. Our backs were to the wall, all our allies knocked out, Russia apparently on the point of defeat, no sign of the United States coming in. He went on:

“‘You will devise the appliances, the appurtenances, and the techniques necessary to get back onto the continent. You will get the greatest brains among the three services as your planners. In Combined Operations you will plan as one service. The whole of the south coast of England is a *bastion* against invasion from the Germans. You will turn this bastion into a *springboard* for *our* invasion!

“‘Unless we can land on the continent and beat the Germans in battle, we shall never win the war. All our headquarters are thinking defensively, except yours. Yours will think only *offensively*. You will go ahead and plan the invasion of Germany and you will let me know as soon as may be convenient when you will be ready to invade.’”

Grace Hamblin

My final memory is by Grace Hamblin. From 1932, she was his secretary, and Lady Churchill’s. Later she became the first administrator of Chartwell under the National Trust. Grace’s memory was of January 1965, and the graveside ceremony at Bladon for his family and closest friends:

“At the end I went down with the family, and to me that quiet, humble service in the country churchyard was much more moving than had been the tremendous pomp and glory of the state ceremony in London.

“And I pondered what had made this dynamic but gentle character so beloved and respected, and such a wonderful person to work for. I think one found first of all that there was courage. He had no fear of anything, moral or physical. There was sincerity, truth and integrity, for he couldn’t knowingly deceive a cabinet minister or a bricklayer or a secretary. There was forgiveness, warmth, affection,



Admiral of the Fleet The Earl Mountbatten. (Photo by Allan Warren, Creative Commons)

loyalty and, perhaps most important of all in the demanding life we all lived, there was humour, which he had in abundance.

“One of those many, many letters Lady Churchill received in 1965 came from America, and it has always been in my mind: ‘That he died is unimportant, for we must all pass away. That he lived is momentous to the destiny of all. He is not gone. He lives wherever men are free.’”

To the greatest man in the world

The story goes (confirmed by Lady Soames) that a small boy eluded all security and arrived in Churchill’s bedroom at Chartwell. There he found The Presence, in bed riffling the newspapers and smoking an outsize cigar.

“My dad says you’re the greatest man in the world,” the precocious nipper said. “Is it true?”

“Certainly,” returned Sir Winston. “Now buzz off.”

That too sticks in the memory. (Actually, Lady Soames said, he used an earthier phrase, but in deference to my surroundings I edited it.)

And so we toast the heroic memory of the Rt. Hon. Sir Winston Leonard Spencer Churchill, Knight of the Garter, Companion of Honour, Order of Merit, Fellow of the Royal Society. Never in the history of the Twentieth Century was so much owed, by so many, to one man.

Living in memory

[“Grace Hamblin, Total Churchillian,” 2015.](#)

[“At Bladon: Echoes and Memories,” 2024.](#)

[Bradley Tolppanen, “Harold Alexander: Churchill’s Favorite General,” 2020.](#)



Grace Hamblin, 1987.
(Photo by Barbara Langworth)



2024 International Churchill Conference

London, October 24-26, 2024



Celebrating Legendary Leadership

By Paul Forte, Ph.D.

London was the site of the 2024 International Churchill Society (ICS) Conference, and indeed there could have been no other city in which to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the birth of the greatest Briton of the 20th century, and arguably of all time. Here was the heart, the lifeblood of the British Empire, which Churchill served, loved, memorialized, and defended in momentous scenes at home and abroad throughout his long life: the monuments commemorating key moments in Britain's history; the Parliament, whose refurbished towers gleamed in the sunlight; the Thames, with its Elizabethan houses and river traffic; the British Museum, the Victoria and Albert Museum, and the many contemporary art galleries; the churches, not just St. Paul's and Westminster Abbey and St. Martin-in-the fields, but All Hallows by the Tower and the Temple, home of the legendary Knights Templars; squares such as Trafalgar, Lincoln's Inn Fields, and Bloomsbury; Hyde, Hampshire Heath, Regent's, Kensington Gardens, and other carefully maintained parks (more than 40 of them within Greater London alone); department store giants like Harrod's and Selfridge's, but also countless smaller shops and boutiques; the restaurants serving every kind of ethnic cuisine and the pubs, whose denizens spill out into the streets—all convey the splendor and variety of the world's premier city. Though the British Empire is long gone, London

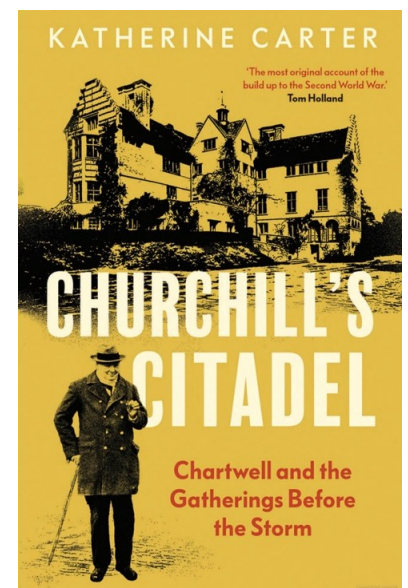
remains the undisputed capitol of its legacy: the Commonwealth of Nations. Large, vibrant, immensely diverse, an amalgam of old and new, rich in tradition and heritage but also energy and innovation, with people from all over the world coming and going, walking and riding in or on every means of conveyance, including the iconic double-decker buses, it is a place in which to be free to speak, write, and associate, free to transact business, free to pursue dreams under the brilliant Union Jack. Churchill would be proud of the city London has become.

The ICS rose to the occasion by a very well planned and executed conference. More than 350 persons, some 100 of them first time attendees, enjoyed lectures and panels by distinguished Churchillians at the J.W. Marriott Grosvenor House and at the Royal United Services Institute (RUSI), the world's oldest think tank and the premier U.K. security group; went to evening receptions at Dartmouth House and Lancaster House; had options for tours of the War Rooms and Blenheim Palace; sat down to a final Gala dinner in the salons of the National Gallery with masterpieces by Canaletto, Vermeer, Turner, and Gainsborough as backdrop; and heard words, powerful, moving, inspiring words, the only thing, according to Churchill, that lasts.

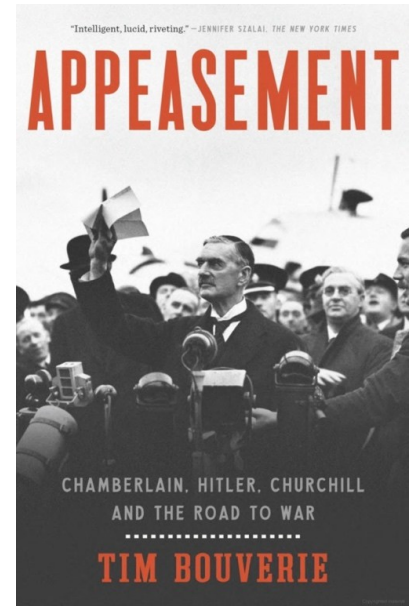
No summary can do justice to such proceedings, much less capture the many points of interest or the issues raised. But we may focus on the conference's dominant theme, which was leadership of the Churchill caliber and why it is needed. Unfortunately, such leadership is rare. The 2024 Conference clarified where the bar of true leadership should be set, as opposed to where it is often thought to exist in common parlance. This gives us all something to work towards.

Conference Highlights

The first panel, moderated by **Lord Michael Dobbs**, author of such classics as *Winston's War* (2002), *Never Surrender* (2003), and *Churchill's Hour* (2004), featured **Katherine Carter**, Curator and Historian of Chartwell, and author of *Churchill's Citadel: Chartwell and the Gathering Storms* (2024), and **Tim Bouverie**, author of the best-selling *Appeasement: Chamberlain, Hitler, Churchill, and the Road to War* (2019). The panel set the stage for the conference by recreating the environment of the 1930's, when he was out of political office and powerful forces were taking shape in Germany and the Far East. Churchill kept busy at Chartwell during this period, the lowest of his political career, by writing his *Life of Marlborough* and his biographical essays, some of which found their way into *Great Contemporaries*, building brick walls, dredging his pond, painting, and spending time with his family. But amidst these distractions he was receiving visits from important guests with valuable information on foreign affairs, including Albert Einstein, who had been forced to flee his home in Berlin and whose property and possessions had been confiscated; Major Ewald von Kleist, an anti-Hitler officer executed by Hitler in 1944; the



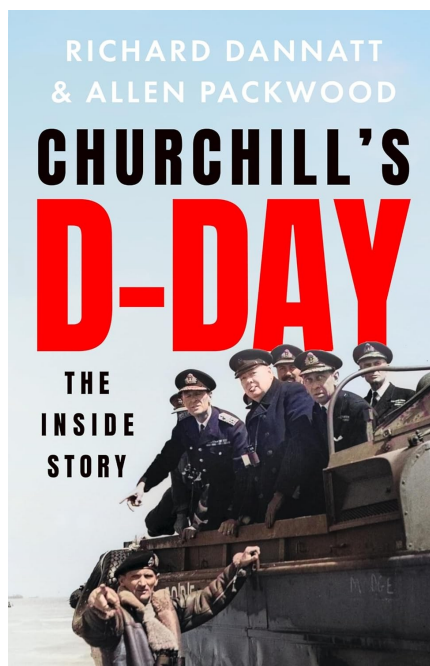
French socialist politician **Leon Blum**; the physicist Max Born; T.E. Lawrence , aka Lawrence of Arabia, famous for leading the Arab revolt against the Turks and an expert on Middle Eastern affairs; American ambassador Joseph P. Kennedy; the Belgian publisher Stephan Lorant; and the Chinese Ambassador Quo Tai-chi. Carter described how through such visits Chartwell “became the political command center “of Churchill’s campaign against unilateral disarmament and diplomatic outreach to Hitler. That campaign was needed, as Tim Bouverie explains, because in the late 1920’s and early 1930’s England was washed by a wave of pacifism in the wake of the Great War, which killed one million British and Commonwealth soldiers. Tragic memory was compounded by the publication of war journals and antiwar novels like Remarque’s *All Quiet on the Western Front* and Graves’s *Goodbye to All That*. Offering a few reasonable concessions to Hitler seemed the best way to avert a second, perhaps even more violent war. But sometimes restraint can make the risk of war more likely. Bouverie noted three lessons Churchill drew from the visits he received at Chartwell in this period: 1) recognize the world as it is, not as we wish it to be, 2) maintain armaments, the surest way to secure peace, and 3) cultivate allies vs. retreating into isolation. These lessons resonate today, as we witness the risks associated with, on the one hand revanchist regimes bent on increasing the buffers that exist between themselves and western powers, and on the other, democracies retreating into isolationist postures promising seeming protection but ultimately making themselves vulnerable.



The second panel, entitled “Churchill and his Political Rivals,” built on the first. **John Bew**, Former Chief Foreign Policy Advisor in No. 10 Downing Street and Professor of History and Foreign Policy at King’s College, moderated the panel featuring **Sir David Cannadine**, chief editor of major historical projects like the *Penguin History of Britain* and the *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography* and author of the *Decline and Fall of the British Aristocracy* (1990); and **David Reynolds**, broadcaster and author of *Mirrors of Greatness: Churchill and the Leaders who Shaped Him* (2023). Cannadine and Reynolds reflected on the philosophies and leadership traits of Churchill’s great contemporaries., who had difficulties dealing with the energetic, imaginative, often impulsive, and sometimes childish Churchill, a wild card whom Lord Alan Brooke described as “brilliant but having no judgment” and of whom even Lloyd George, Churchill’s partner in the liberal Asquith government and the minister who brought Churchill back into office after the Gallipoli disaster, said Churchill’s “steering gear is too weak for his horsepower.” Cannadine cites Neville Chamberlain as another important figure, a strong leader who had the backing of the post-Great War population and who also worked hard to get Churchill a second chance in 1938-1939. Some thought he was ill paid for his generosity, pushed aside by Churchill who usurped his place. But Churchill was focused on the danger presented by the Third Reich. He respected Chamberlain, treating him well in his *Second World War*, but could not allow appeasement to continue. Clement Atlee also looms large. Churchill’s relationship with the leftward leaning figure who would defeat him in the general election of 1944 was actually rather good: Atlee thought Churchill right about Gallipoli, when so many thought him wrong, and stood by Churchill solidly in the darkness of 1940, although they differed on India, Atlee favoring dominion status for India as early as the 1920’s and Churchill stoutly resisting any such notion. Atlee worked

for decolonization, while Churchill saw Ghandi's challenge, "the power of the powerless," as Reynolds framed it, as fatal to the Empire. Churchill could not separate Britain's greatness from the greatness of the British Empire. He paid a high price for his persistence on this point, but he was prepared to pay more, because, in his view, that was the cost of civilization.

Richard Dannatt retired British Army General and member of the House of Lords, and **Allen Packwood**, OBE, the leading Churchill archivist and scholar, gave an interesting talk that focused on the later years of Churchill's premiership. These years, captured in their new book, *Churchill's D-Day: The Inside Story* (Hodder & Stoughton), were not as significant for Churchill as 1940, but they were equally rich and important from the standpoint of victory: bringing the Allied coalition together, which involved repeated appeals to the U.S., outreach to the Soviet Union, revitalizing the British Army that had been hollowed out after WWI, and establishing the preconditions for success, such as allowing time to build up the 1.6 million serviceman force needed to match the scale of German rearmament, creating the facilities that the U.S. would need in the U.K., and disabusing people of the false assumptions under which they labored, e.g., that you could depress the morale of the German people by heavy bombing. Churchill did not exercise the power in the run-up to D-Day he had for a time enjoyed: Eisenhower and the Americans took control based on the immense resources America was bringing to bear via Overlord. Indeed, Churchill may have felt eclipsed and certainly dispirited because D-Day took the focus away from him, and it required continued sacrifices on the part of the British people that would move them away from the Conservatives at war's end, while by summer of 1944 German V-1 missiles and V2 rockets were striking parts of England. Further, D-Day was only the opening round of what would prove very tough Spanish Civil War as a dress rehearsal for WWII, when the U.S. and Europe stood back and Fascist and Communist dictators moved forward, Cleverly said you avoid problems at your own peril. Hope is not a strategy. Cleverly had high praise for Volodymyr Zelensky, who has obviously studied the example of Churchill and who has been recognized as a leader in Churchill mold. What Zelensky has learned, and what we need to keep in mind, is the choice we have, a rather stark one, between curling up and crying, or picking ourselves up, resolving to resist, and planning a strong response with allies who share our views and values.



The **RT Honorable Lord Boateng** served as moderator of a panel on Global Challenges, featuring **Suzanne Raine**, veteran British Foreign Service and Commonwealth Office expert and Visiting Professor at King's College, and **Sir John Scarlett, KCMG OBE**, a British Senior Intelligence Officer who was Chief of the Secret Intelligence Service (MI6) from 2004-2008. The panel discussed three

major situations of concern: Russia/Ukraine, Israel/Gaza/Iran, and China/North Korea. Boateng noted that certain values continue to guide the west: the Atlantic Charter of 1941, forerunner to the United Nations, freedom, justice, national sovereignty, and self-determination. Raine, however, observed that the Atlantic Charter is being replaced by non-western narratives that build their logical structures on fallacious assertions with elements of truth that give them a kind of legitimacy. Raine thinks it may not be possible soon to use terms like freedom, democracy, leadership, which have been hollowed out, debunked, worries about the use of extreme rhetoric aimed at disquieting religious constituencies who believe in Satan and God, which increases the existential threat. While there has no doubt been a breakdown in the language of diplomacy among states, with only hard-core interests prevailing, there is continuing justification for using such terms to describe conditions *inside* of states, where the actions of authoritarian governments are felt.

Scarlett, who made several trips to Moscow just three days before Russia's invasion of the Donbas, noted the cost to Russia and its people. It has already lost more than 200,000 personnel in combat, with some 400,000 casualties, and its economy is in a shambles, with inflation of 8%, the value of the ruble continuing to drop, and enormous loans outstanding on which it will almost certainly default. Yet it shows no indication of letting up, importing soldiers from North Korea and energy and material from other non-western powers. This is because Russia cannot conceive itself as a world power without Ukraine, even though Ukraine became an independent country more than a century ago after the Bolsheviks designated it a Soviet Republic under the old USSR. So, things are likely to drag on. Palestine is another problem area not likely to be resolved anytime soon. Whether Iran, which has served as underwriter of proxy enemies across the Middle East, including Hamas, Hezbollah, and Houthis, can be brought to the negotiating table is uncertain, although Israel's November show of strength may make that possible. Israeli strikes and targeted attacks, not to mention its infiltration of fighting through Normandy to the River Seine and the liberation of Paris. Losses were high and there were fears in London and elsewhere of another Gallipoli. But lessons learned from the Great War, such as better integrated planning of all branches of the military by a Joint Chiefs of Staff, improved Command and Control, use of information management and deception operations prevailed. Churchill had his differences with Eisenhower and the American General Staff, backed by Roosevelt and Marshall: Churchill kept looking for ways to secure the Mediterranean, undertaking long and dangerous trips to see things for himself. The Americans persisted in their belief that the best and fastest way to end the war was by invasion through northwestern France. Churchill was already anticipating post-war scenarios and worried about Britain's eastern colonies. He could sense the geopolitical scenario already taking shape, with the British Empire in the East lost, the United States dominant in Europe militarily and financially, and the Soviet Union occupying central Asia and the capitals of southeastern Europe. A new world order was emerging in which the British Empire, if it even survived, would play a decidedly smaller part.

The Conference Keynote Address was given by the **Rt. Hon. James Cleverly**, Member of Parliament, former British Foreign Secretary and Home Secretary under the Conservative government of Rishi Sunak and Liz Truss, and an Army Reserve officer. Cleverly called upon the audience to reflect on the similarities between events of the 1930's and 1940's and those happening today. The latter will require Churchillian resolve and strength. Cleverly regrets the absence of strong leaders who helped to bring down the Iron Curtain, reunify Germany, and establish the conditions for two decades of economic prosperity. Such leadership is needed today, with Russia occupying Crimea, Belarus, and now the Donbas, defense budgets increasing, more nations looking to be admitted to NATO, and people all over Europe apprehensive. Cleverly argues that UK support of Ukraine, while significant--it has sent Challenger 2 tanks, large supplies of 155 mm ammunition, and long-range missiles--has not been sufficient, as the Russians continue to target schools, hospitals, and civilian areas. Quoting the former ambassador who described the ger and other mobile technology, have certainly backed up Tehran. But the game is not over. China and North Korea continue to furnish weapons to Iran's proxies, either directly or indirectly through dark channels. And neither is likely to drop its support of Russia, strengthening the axis.



Lord Andrew Roberts of Belgravia gave the 2024 Stephen & Jane Poss Distinguished Lecture. The author of numerous books, including *Napoleon: A Life* (2014), the now classic *Churchill: Walking with Destiny* (2018), and *The Last King of America: The Misunderstood Reign of George III*, Roberts has a feel for larger-than-life figures and the history in which they moved. He is moreover well attuned to character, how it is revealed in both the high and low moments. He began by reminding us that while Churchill made many mistakes during his time as Home Secretary, Chancellor of the Exchequer, and First Lord of the Admiralty, most infamously in the catastrophic Dardanelles Campaign, and at other

times in his life, as with his public support for Edward VIII on the threshold of abdication and his opposition to Indian independence, his career could hardly be called a study in failure, even if it had ended before 1940. For he was an experienced and accomplished soldier who had seen action on three continents, had been immensely productive as a journalist and author, and had served as an MP responsible for key pieces of legislation affecting the security of the average Briton, establishing with Lloyd George the basis for the welfare state. Of course, Churchill did survive a decade of neglect and marginalization in the 1930's to emerge in 1940, his *annus mirabilis*, as the savior of his country, compiling the greatest wartime record of any prime minister in British history.

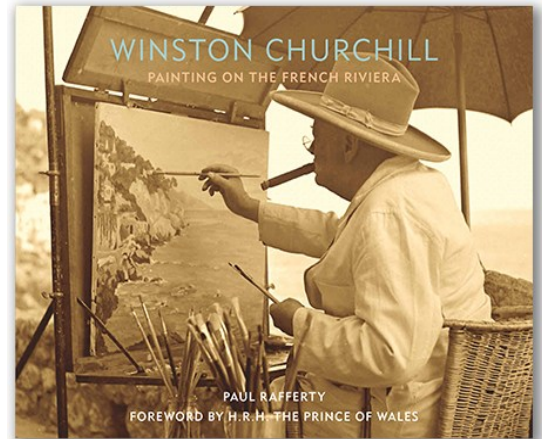
Roberts urges us to focus on two aspects of Churchill's achievement, 1) what he did to win WWII, and 2) what he said. Both were immensely important to the outcome, not just for Britain, but for the world and the millions involved. Churchill's actions in WWII are legendary: his many attempts to alert others to the threat posed by German rearmament, which was carried on illegally and in secret; his efforts to save France from early surrender and after it had fallen and the Royal Expeditionary Force had been rescued from Dunkirk, to fight on alone; his outreach to the Roosevelt administration, which was hesitant about entering another war in Europe; his direct handling of military planning as Minister of Defense in addition to his role as Prime Minister; his travels to distant allies to conduct briefings, putting himself at risk numerous times in ships stalked by U-boats and in planes that flew over vast expanses of ocean and desert; his efforts to calm nerves even in 1944 and 1945 as thousands of German V1 missiles and V2 rockets rained down on London and its environs. But it was his words that we most remember. Echoing Churchill's official biographer, Sir Martin Gilbert, Roberts rightly emphasized the power of Churchill's words, and the rhythms of those words, given via countless speeches, letters, and essays, but especially radio, which mobilized the nation to fight, gave assurance that the cause was just and that the tide would eventually turn, bringing the long-sought after victory. Above all, Churchill's words instilled the courage needed in those dark times, lifting the spirits of those lying in dark cellars, makeshift shelters, and subway stations during air raids, reaching those exiled or forced to hide in the corners of Europe and beyond. For it was courage that was needed, the courage for which Churchill was himself personally famous. Courage was the greatest virtue, as he often said, because it made it possible all the other virtues, which could not otherwise be brought into action. *Withhold no sacrifice, grudge no toil, seek no sordid gain, fear no foe.* Courage indeed.

Former Ambassador Mitchell Reiss served as moderator for a special panel that was held at the Royal United Services Institute (RUSI). Panelists included **Sarah Sands**, former Editor of the London Evening Standard, **Jan Hall**, Founding Partner of No. 4, a leadership and Board advisory business working with CEO's and Chairman, and **Matthew Parker**, Deputy Chief of Mission at the American Embassy in London. The panel, acknowledging that Churchill had set the leadership bar very high, asked the audience whether we are likely to follow leaders like Churchill today. Parker observed that social media has changed leadership, making it popular to take leaders down, not raise them up. Leadership often requires an ability to work within the rule of law, which means working with regulations, which slows execution down. This does not suit autocratic leaders, nor their followers, who often choose efficiency over legitimacy. Sands and Hall noted that large numbers of young people seemed to be looking away from democracy, as if autocrats were our effective leaders. Can social media be channeled so as to serve democracy? Would it help if more women, who have a capacity to listen and are often better at working together, were brought into positions of leadership? Is not democracy itself a natural thing, because all people want a say in their lives? These are some of the questions the audience was asked to consider.

Sessions on the last day of the conference, which were held at RUSI headquarters, included **Tim Riley** of America's National Churchill Museum, who reported on recent the activities of the Museum, the principal organization supporting Churchill's legacy in the United States; an excellent debate exercise by the top students of the **English Speaking Union**, whose mission



is to foster language and leadership skills in high school students; and a brilliant presentation by artist **Paul Rafferty**, author of *Winston Churchill: Painting on the French Riviera* (2020), in which Rafferty explained his research on the actual sites Churchill painted in the south of France and elsewhere, drawing expertise, changes in Churchill's use of color, and Churchill's thoughts about painting as a pastime.



The conference ended with a very fine reception and dinner at the National Gallery and remarks by the Distinguished British Actor Simon Callow, who gave an account of films in which Churchill has been portrayed and spoke about the power of Churchill's speeches to move us, their almost incantatory effects, even today, some 80 years after they were delivered. It was a very fine tribute given by one well fitted to the task.

The 2025 ICS Conference will take place in Washington, D.C. The 2026 Conference will be back in London.



Churchill Society of Tennessee

2024 Year in Review

March 25, 2024 - Katherine Carter, curator at Chartwell, home of Sir Winston Churchill, presented a wonderful talk on her new book 'Churchill's Citadel' to a full house.



June 2, 2024 - Our annual Garden Party at the beautiful Tennessee home of Theresa Menefee!



Our members enjoying the perfect weather for a garden party!



July 7, 2024 - Allen Packwood, Director of the Churchill Archives, Cambridge, England, gave a spirited talk about 'Churchill's D-Day', his new book co-authored with General Sir Richard Dannatt. The luncheon was at the Belle Meade Country Club.



Allen Packwood pictured with board member Jack Bovender and Admin Officer Lynne Siesser.



September 25, 2024 - Professor Jim Muller, University of Alaska, gave us a scholarly talk on his new book, a re-edit of Churchill's 'My Early Life'.

See the 'Bookshelf Picks' section for a special members discount on Professor Muller's new book.



November 8, 2024 - Our annual gala dinner marking the 150th anniversary of the birth of Sir Winston Churchill was a resounding success! Held once again at the Belle Meade Country Club, British actor David Payne, presented his captivating 'An Evening with Sir Winston Churchill'.





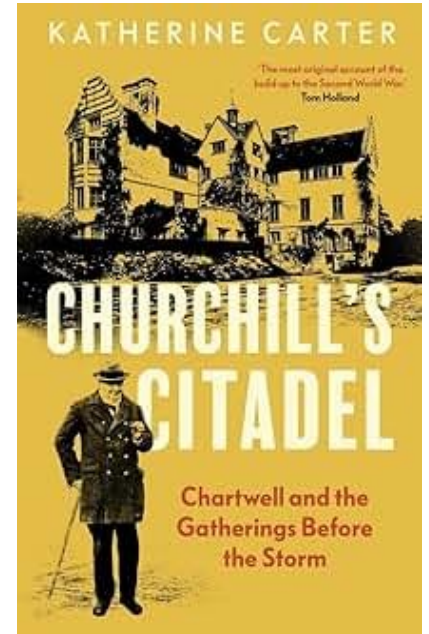
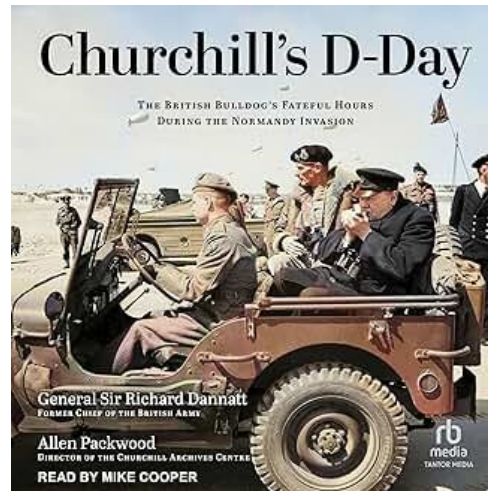
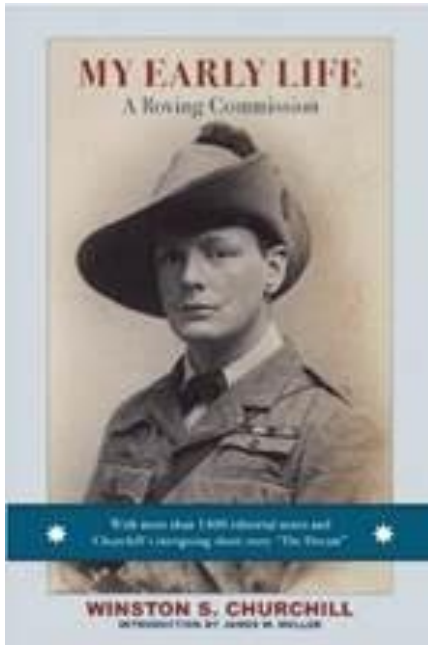
November 30, 2024 - We celebrated Winston Churchill's birthday. The CSOT gathered at he beautiful home of Arlyn and Ted Cherney. We were also treated to their unique and fabulous art collection!



The Bookshelf Picks

Click on book image for purchase information on these new titles!

Special offer for CSOT members!



Winston S. Churchill, *My Early Life: A Roving Commission*, ed. James W. Muller (South Bend, Indiana: St. Augustine's Press, 2024). ISBN 9781587315367 (hardback), U.S. \$50.00. Pre-order now from publisher's website: [St. Augustine's Press](https://www.staugustinespress.com/); the code CS35 offers a discounted price of U.S. \$35.00.

