

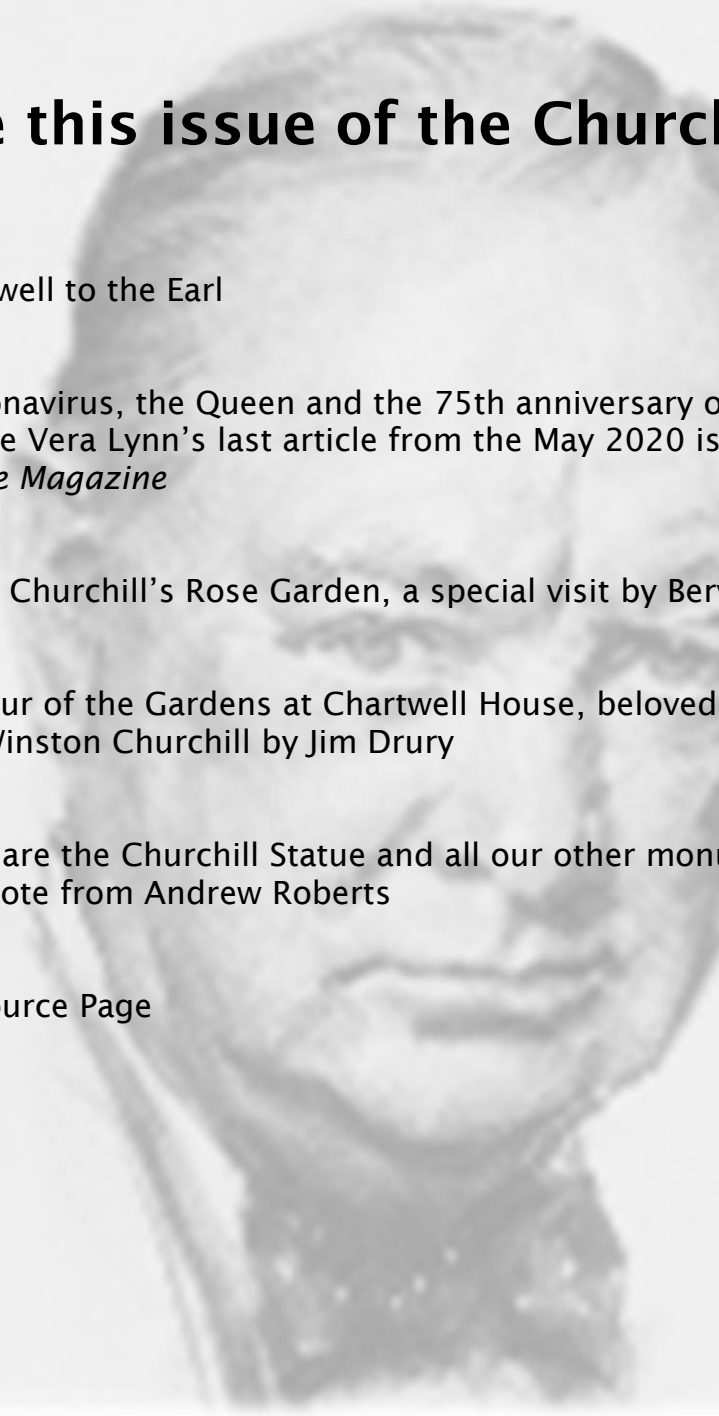
## Sir Winston Churchill's Statue Parliament Square London

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This 12-foot-tall bronze statue of Churchill in Parliament Square was designed by Ivor Roberts-Jones. The statue was dedicated in 1972 by Churchill's wife Lady Churchill at a ceremony attended by HRH Queen Elizabeth II and four Prime Ministers. The location of the statue was chosen by Churchill himself and was inspired by that now-famous photo of him inspecting the bomb-damaged Chamber of the Commons in Westminster on May 11, 1941.

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## Farewell to the Earl!



It is with regret that we must announce the departure of The Earl of Eglinton & Winton, the Rt. Hon. Hugh Archibald Montgomerie from the CSOT Board of Directors. Hugh will be returning to Scotland in August and taking up residence in Moffat, Dumfriesshire.

Hugh has been a member of the Churchill Society of Tennessee almost from the beginning. He had been a key member of the Board and his contributions to our efforts will be sorely missed by us all. Hugh's official capacity on the Board was as our Comptroller. A job at which he excelled! Hugh always encouraged spirited debate around the table especially when we came to budgetary items. Additionally, he was one of our regular speakers giving

many wonderful and well-received talks.

The board of directors has decided to bestow a lifetime membership upon Hugh as a small expression of our gratitude and respect for his service.

We wish Hugh and his family all success and happiness in their new life in Scotland as he assumes his duties as the Earl of Eglinton and Winton. Although Hugh is returning to Scotland, he will always have a home here in Tennessee with lots of friends and great memories.

So, until we meet again, 'Slainte mhath'!



# Coronavirus, the Queen and the 75th anniversary of VE Day

By Vera Lynn



I'll never forget the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary VE Day celebration at Hyde Park and Buckingham Palace in May 1995 – the last time I sang in public, aged just 78. I was a mere septuagenarian back then – still in my prime!

It gave me so much pleasure that the Queen Mother who, like me, had lived through World War II and the dark days of the Blitz, could be present at one of the highlights of my career.

Fifty years earlier, we had both been in London on VE Day, 8 May 1945 – although she had been with her family and I with mine – when thousands of people, civilians and servicemen, mingled happily on the

streets of London. Sadly, it's impossible to imagine such a 'party' happening in today's coronavirus-gripped world.

Despite the passing of the years, my memories of Victory in Europe Day, 75 years ago, are still vivid. None of us who were there on that momentous day could ever forget the sense of national rejoicing. It was a day when we could finally laugh, let our hair down and be ourselves again in the knowledge that the Nazi threat to our homeland had forever been extinguished.

I only have to close my eyes for it all to come flooding back...

I can picture the houses in the bomb-damaged streets around my parents' home in East Ham, London – where I saw in VE Day with my family – with the Union Jacks draped from their windows on that cloudy VE Day morning. If I recall correctly, a few drops of rain even fell.

But, in the afternoon, the sun shone on the crowds gathered in London's Trafalgar Square and along the Mall, and other cities across the land. Everyone in my neighbourhood, as elsewhere, had a smile on their face; they were just happy to be alive after the long years of conflict which had seen the British people endure so much. Some people were wearing red, white and blue rosettes, others silly hats and of course the crowds were thick with our brave soldiers, sailors and airmen and women who had made victory possible.

Yes, all of us – mothers, fathers, wives and children – knew someone who had been killed or injured in battle or in one of the terrible bombing raids. But we knew that, on this oh-so special day, those we had lost would have wanted us to celebrate the long-awaited moment of victory when life could finally start to return to normal. We knew too that they were celebrating with us in spirit...

At 3pm on VE Day, the Prime Minister Winston Churchill broadcast to the nation, and my family and I gathered around the Bakelite wireless set in my parents' sitting room. Once again, we listened to that wonderfully stirring voice which had helped sustain us as a nation through the Battle of Britain and beyond, when none of us could glimpse any light at the end of the tunnel. If only Winston could be with us today to help us see off today's terrible coronavirus threat!

The VE Day celebrations continued the rest of that long May 1945 day – and King George and Queen Elizabeth famously allowed Princesses Elizabeth and Margaret to mingle unseen with the crowds in the streets around Buckingham Palace. After the sun went down, fireworks were let off in celebration, searchlights danced a merry jig in the night sky and children in the East End celebrated victory round bonfires made with timber from bomb-blasted buildings.

It was a special day for British children everywhere, with thousands of boys and girls tucking into sandwiches, trifle and jelly, washed down with glasses of pop, at street parties throughout the land. And, believe me, none of those youngsters would ever forget that day, which marked the coming of peace.

I had a comparatively quiet VE Day. I'd had a busy war and no great desire to join the revellers in the fountains at Trafalgar Square. I was happy just being with my family in my parents' back garden after spending so much time apart from them during the war years.

I'd been 'singing for my supper', so to speak, ever since I was a girl and had first gone on stage. By the late 1930s, I was singing on records cut by Joe Loss's band ... but then, in September 1939, the month the war began, I recorded *We'll Meet Again*, which topped the hit parade. My life would never be quite the same again.

As soon I heard the song, I sensed there was something special about it. It was perfect for the times – and it's still my favourite of all the songs I've sung. Everybody hoped they would see their sweetheart again when the war was over and the boys were back home. And, while it might sound tame to some today, I think has a timeless quality.

I was so touched that the Queen echoed the words of my wartime hit in her address to the nation, when she declared, 'We will meet again.'



I carried on working through the Blitz, presenting the popular wartime BBC radio show *Sincerely Yours*, reading out messages to troops overseas and singing their most-requested songs. I would often drive to work through the darkened streets of London during the blackout in my little green, soft-top Austin 10, with dimmed headlights and my tin helmet at my side. I'll never forget the 'pop-pop' of the anti-aircraft guns either.

But I was lucky in a way. Being an entertainer, I was allowed extra petrol coupons so I could get around. I suppose I was a 'key worker' of the day, just like all those brave doctors, nurses and other vital support staff helping Britain get through today's coronavirus pandemic which has already claimed so many lives. On one occasion, I had to take cover in

a public air raid shelter. It was so claustrophobic. After a while I thought, 'Anything's better than this,' and walked out. I knew I was taking my chances but I couldn't stand it any longer. Food was in short supply from 1939 to 1945, too: a tiny piece of butter had to last a week!

Later in the war, I travelled to the Far East to entertain the troops of the 14th Army in the mosquito-infested jungles of Burma – then a British colony – which the Japanese had invaded in December 1941. It was rare for an entertainer, and a woman at that, to go to a war zone to perform for the troops, but I felt the call of duty – just like those entertainers who are continuing to do their bit for Britain today. I performed concerts on makeshift stages in forward camps a stone's throw from the fighting. The boys – our British troops – would come out of the jungle and then quietly slip back in afterwards. Even after all these years, I think about the suffering they endured, and the soldiers who never made it back to see their beloved Blighty: they touched my heart.

The country deserved its big VE Day party in 1945 after we had all pulled together to see off a ruthless, deadly enemy. And I sense that we are again pulling together as a nation now, and drawing on that wartime spirit of solidarity, in the face of a very different but deadly modern enemy,



1917 - 2020

Coronavirus: the biggest threat to our way of life in decades. When we've finally emerged triumphant from the current crisis – as we surely will, although it might be hard to glimpse much light at the end of the tunnel right now – perhaps we can throw a similar victory party?

*This article was reprinted with the kind permission of Harry Mount editor of [The Oldie Magazine](#). This was Vera Lynn's final article before her death earlier this year.*



# Lady Churchill's Rose Garden, a special Visit

by Beryl Nicholson

Chairman of the International Churchill Society (UK) Chartwell Branch



Lady Soames in 2011 planting 'Churchill Roses' in Lady Churchill's rose garden.



Randolph Churchill and Jim Drury standing beside those same roses in recent times.

In the UK the month of June is recognized as being the time for roses. In my own garden my Churchill rose has come into full bloom. I posted a photograph on our Chartwell WhatsApp group which reminded us all of how much we are missing volunteering at Chartwell and this time of year we will not be able to enjoy the garden especially Lady Churchill's Rose Garden.

Roses have always been important in the lives of Sir Winston and Lady Churchill. Winston wrote to his mother from India telling her that he was tending the roses in the officers' garden. It was in the rose garden at Blenheim that the young Winston proposed to Clementine Hozier, and at their wedding there were roses in the bouquets of the bridesmaids. When they moved into Chartwell in 1924 Clementine wanted to have a rose garden and it is believed that Venetia Montagu, a close friend to Clementine, was involved in the design of the garden and it was Clementine's favorite part of the entire garden.

During the Second World War the garden was neglected, it was replanted and some German prisoners resurfaced the walls. Today you can see a plaque on one of the walls 'POW work. German. 1946.' Lady Soames always took great interest in the house and the garden and in the 1990s, with her suggestion the planting was altered to include roses in pastel colours more in keeping with Lady Churchill's taste. While the Churchill family lived there the



garden had always been known as the 'Grey Walled Garden' but after Lady Soames suggestion the name was changed to 'Lady Churchill's Rose Garden'

I am really missing walking through the garden on my way to steward in the house. I would enter the house via the Exhibition Room and Kitchen so that I could walk through the rose garden. It was on one of these occasions in 2011 that I saw Lady Soames. By the left-hand wall either side of the bench, Lady Soames, spade in hand, was digging two holes for two Churchill roses to be planted. I was so pleased to be there and it was very special that Lady Soames came to plant these roses in this garden linking Chartwell with Churchill College Cambridge. It was in 2010, as part of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations of Churchill College Cambridge, an apricot rose with a delicate perfume was bred and named 'The Churchill Rose'. You can see in the photographs Lady Soames was very 'hands on' and apparently was giving our Head Gardener instructions of how to look after these plants. They certainly have thrived and have grown to be large bushes and no doubt coming into full bloom.



Churchill Rose

It is good to keep in contact with everyone in the Churchill Society of Tennessee and may I send good wishes to all members from the ICS (UK) Chartwell Branch. During the past months we have all experienced a complete change in the way we live. I think when it happens, we will all appreciate our freedom and getting back to our usual busy lives. In the UK we have suffered lockdown since mid-March and unable to meet with family and friends. The Chartwell site also closed in March, and although some National Trust places are beginning to open their gardens and surrounding parks, at the moment Chartwell is still closed. The same as CSOT the Chartwell Branch has cancelled all events, including a talk by Emma Soames and a visit to the Archive

Centre in Cambridge. In November we are hoping to be able to hold our Annual Birthday Lunch, especially as this year is it will be the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Chartwell Branch, but all is uncertain. We were looking forward to meeting some of you at the Annual Conference in London in October, but hopefully we will be able to meet in 2021.

# A tour of the Gardens at Chartwell House, beloved home of Sir Winston Churchill

By Jim Drury

With all the travel restrictions and related Covid 19 issues currently in place, it is unlikely many of us will have an opportunity to travel abroad this year.

One of the many popular destinations for Churchillians like us is Churchill's country home and gardens at Chartwell in Kent. We thought it would be a fun idea to bring some of beauty of these gardens to you in the form of a pictorial tour in this second summer edition of the newsletter.

Most of the pictures were supplied with the kind permission of the Chartwell National Trust. Several other photo contributors are noted in the article.



©National Trust  
Chartwell House and the Kentish weald.

## A short history of Chartwell House

Before we look at the gardens, we should put Chartwell House into historical context.

According to local records, there has been a dwelling at Chartwell dating back to 1362. The name Chartwell derives from an old English word 'Chart' meaning rough ground. 'Well' was added because there was, and still is, a water well on the north side of the house that feeds the ponds on that section of the property. The house itself is in a valley overlooking a lake with the Wealden Hills in the distance.

The older section of the house that we see today dates to Tudor times. It was built between 1515 and 1546. The ceiling in Churchill's study is one of the few remaining indications of the house's Tudor origins. Originally constructed as a hunting lodge, it is believed that King Henry VIII stayed at Chartwell while he was courting Anne Boleyn who was living at nearby Hever Castle.

In the late 1700s the property became known as Well Street. It was during this time that the house was used as a foundling house for the Foundling Hospital in London. Then in 1836 the property came into the possession of the Drinkwater-Bethune family from Surrey. It was the next owner, Campbell Colquhoun a former MP, who greatly expanded the house and further developed the grounds.

Finally, in 1922 Winston Churchill purchased Chartwell from Captain Archibald John Campbell Colquhoun, a fellow Harrovian, for 5,000 pounds. Winston immediately began an expansion and renovation of the house. He hired the young architect Philip Tilden to help with the design and to manage the project. The process took two years and escalating costs rose from 7,000 to 18,000 pounds before completion. The renovations added new rooms, enlarged windows and removed most of the Tudor elements. Upon completion, the house featured nineteen bedrooms and dressing rooms, five reception rooms, eight bathrooms and occupied eighty acres of land.

By the end of the project the relationship between Churchill and Tilden had become highly contentious and the two were barely on speaking terms. Legal arguments continued between contractor and client until 1927!

During World War II, the Churchills had to leave Chartwell due to its proximity to the English Channel and German bombing raids. Bombs did land around Chartwell during this time. The Churchills spent most of the war in Ditchley, Oxfordshire and Chequers in Buckinghamshire. After the war Churchill would spend his time split between his home in London at Hyde Park Gate and Chartwell.

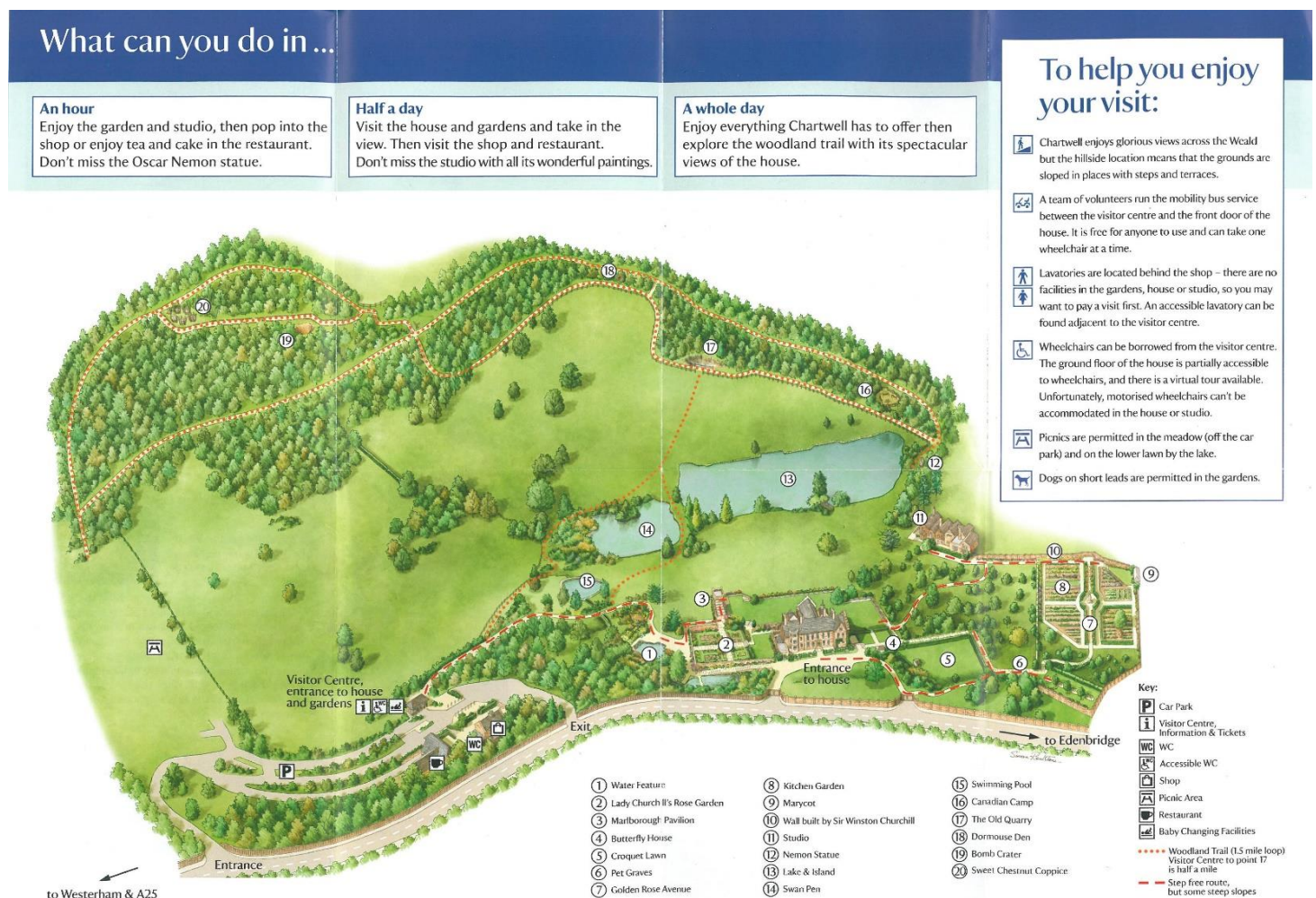
In 1938 the Churchill's were experiencing financial difficulties. They were almost forced to sell Chartwell. Fortunately, several of Churchill's wealthy friends lead by Lord Camrose, purchased Chartwell in 1946 for 55,000 pounds with the condition that the property be donated to the National Trust after their deaths. One year after Churchill's death, in 1966, Chartwell was given over to the National Trust.



Today Chartwell stands as a gift to the nation and a monument to the Churchill family. It is open to the public for much of the year and attracts tens of thousands of visitors annually. The house contains innumerable historical artifacts, paintings, (Churchill was a prolific artist with 500 paintings) a library and all manner of family memorabilia. You can visit Churchill's study where he spent much of his time. He even had a bed placed in the study to be close to his work. The dining room, the art studio and sitting rooms are all there to see as well.

And yes, Clementine's rose garden is still there along with all the other wonderful gardens. The house and grounds are meticulously maintained by the extraordinarily talented and dedicated staff.

Now on to the gardens...



©National Trust



## Welcome to the Gardens at Chartwell!



©National Trust.org.uk

Winston Churchill was Lord Warden of the Cinque Ports from 1941 to 1965. The Cinque Ports flag still flies over Chartwell today. This is a view of the back of the home.



©National Trust/Chris Jonas

Springtime and the 'Churchill daffodils' are in full bloom!





©National Trust/Sally Haile

The terrace lawn. Once the location of the greenhouses, Clementine had them moved in 1960. The views for the terrace are some of the best on the property.



©National Trust/Sarah Haile  
To the gardens...





©National Trust

### The famous Chartwell roses.

Many of the original rose bushes in the garden have died off over the years. In 2015, a major effort was undertaken to reintroduce many of the older rose varieties back into the garden. Unfortunately, many original plants were out of cultivation and substitutes had to be found. Fortunately, suitable replacements were procured and the impact of the original garden design has been preserved.





©National Trust/Sarah Haile  
Golden Rose Avenue.



©National Trust/Sarah Haile

The sundial in the middle of the garden bears the inscription  
“Here lies the Bali dove” Clementine’s beloved pet dove from a 1936 visit to Bali.





©National Trust/Sally Bartlett

The Marlborough Pavilion was built in the 1920s. The artwork was added in 1932 by Winston's nephew John Spencer Churchill. It commemorates the First Duke of Marlborough, John Churchill's, victory at the Battle of Blenheim on August 13, 1704.



Photo courtesy of Catherine Churchill

James Spencer-Churchill, the 12<sup>th</sup> Duke of Marlborough, with Randolph Churchill in the Marlborough Pavilion.





©National Trust/Sarah Haile

Roses everywhere! Originally the garden had 28 different varieties of roses.



©National Trust/Sarah Haile

Lady Churchill's Rose Garden.





©National Trust/Sarah Haile  
Gateway at the walled garden.



©National Trust

Playtime! Churchill built the 'Marycot' play cottage for his daughter Mary. In 1928, at the age of 5, Mary laid the foundation stone with her father. She then made her first ever speech. She even hosted Charlie Chaplin for tea at the Marycot in 1931.





©National Trust

The Churchill's were well known animal lovers. Winston and Clementine had a cat named Jock who was at the great man's bedside when he died. The tradition of having a family cat at Chartwell is carried on by Jock VI pictured above. He was retired from public life in June of this year due to failing eyesight.



©National Trust/Eilidh McIntosh

Little Jock VII has now taken on the public role as Chartwell's house cat and mascot.





Photo by Jim Drury

Tucked away next to the garden wall is the family pet graveyard.



©National Trust/Sarah Haile

The walled garden overlooking the Kentish Weald. You can see why Churchill loved this place.





©National Trust

While serving with the 4<sup>th</sup> Hussars in India, Churchill developed a lifelong fascination with butterflies. He built this butterfly house to conserve native English species.



©National Trust/Sarah Haile

A peaceful spot to reflect and receive inspiration.





©National Trust/Tim Parker

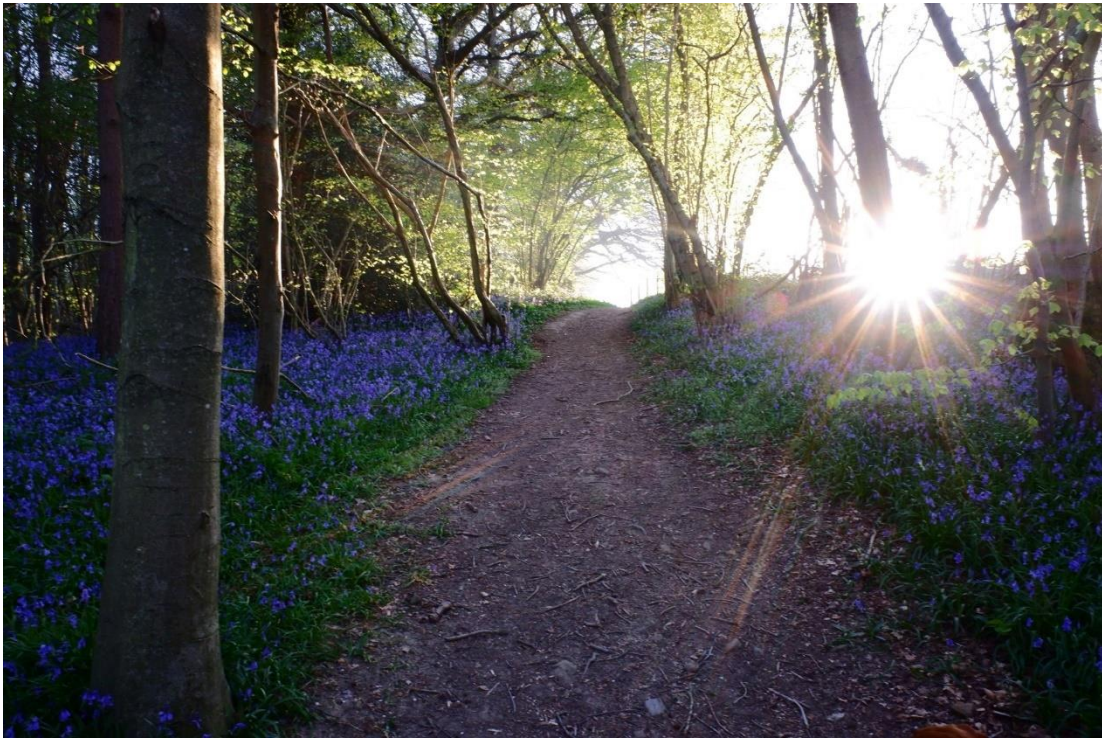
The potting shed with one of Churchill's paintings of the estate.



Photo courtesy of Catherine Churchill

Randolph Churchill and the Duke of Marlborough walking the grounds.





©National Trust

Originally, the grounds at Chartwell consisted of 800 acres. In 1921 the land was split into smaller parcels. Today Chartwell house sits on 82 acres, much of it is wooded.



©National Trust

Just below the terrace lawn. A favorite spot for Churchill to sit and smoke one of his fine cigars. The distinctive trellising seen here was installed by Clementine. She planted a *Magnolia grandiflora* which climbed all the way up to Winston's bedroom.





Photo by Jim Drury  
The goldfish pool in 2018.



By permission of Randolph Churchill  
This is Churchill's painting of the goldfish pool from 1932. He captured it perfectly!





©National Trust

The goldfish pool, steppingstones, and Churchill's chair. Winston spent many hours here and made several paintings of the pool. His final painting was in fact of the pool in 1962.



©National Trust/Tim Parker

Inside the walled garden. A large part of the wall was built by Churchill himself between 1925 and 1932. He was also a proud member of the Bricklayers Union.





©National Trust/Viki Austen

A waterfall flows down into the round swimming pool below. In 1948 Clementine attended the Chelsea Flower where she saw this water feature. She enjoyed it so much that Gavin Jones, the designer, and gold-medal winner that year gifted it to her.



©National Trust/Sarah Haile

The round swimming pool was constructed in the 1930s with the assistance of close friend and scientist Frederick Lindemann. The pool was originally heated.





Photo by Jim Drury

Oscar Nemon's statue of Winston and Clementine at Chartwell.  
The statue was dedicated in 1990 by HM Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother.

I hope you have enjoyed these photos of the Chartwell gardens. This is just a small sample of its beauty. Perhaps this will inspire you to make a visit. You will not be disappointed. The staff are always friendly, helpful and knowledgeable.

Chartwell is our sister branch and if you are a CSOT member they will arrange for a tour if we coordinate it in advance.

Once again, I would like to thank the Chartwell National Trust, in particular Beth Walker, for their outstanding support in allowing to use so many of their photos.

For more information visit the National Trust website: <https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/chartwell>



©National Trust



## Why are the Churchill Statue and all our other monuments so important?



Churchill Bulletin - August 2020

“If we allow our monuments and statues and place-names to be torn down because of our present-day views, and claims of people being offended by our built environment that has been around for decades and sometimes centuries, it speaks to a pathetic lack of confidence in ourselves as a nation. We are on the way to a society of competing victimhoods, atomized and balkanized into smaller and smaller communities, which ironically enough is something racists want too.” — **Andrew Roberts**



# Resources Page

[Click on Links](#)

## Join the ICS Virtual Conference 2020

### 37TH INTERNATIONAL CHURCHILL CONFERENCE: CHURCHILL IN ADVERSITY

This online conference is free of charge. Registration is required.



Churchill Society of Tennessee

Maj Gordon Corrigan MBE

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The Oldie Magazine, UK

**A Blog on Winston Churchill**

**National Churchill Museum, Westminster College, MO**

**Churchill War Rooms, London UK**

**Chartwell House, Kent UK**

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