

S E P T E M B E R 2 0 1 3

the NEWS



CHARTWELL BRANCH THE CHURCHILL CENTRE UK

NO 32

PRESIDENT MR RANDOLPH CHURCHILL



A REGULAR
NEWSLETTER

GIVING INFORMATION
AND

UPDATES TO THOSE
INTERESTED

IN ALL THINGS
'CHURCHILL'

PLEASE FEEL FREE TO
DISTRIBUTE TO

ANYONE YOU FEEL MAY
BE INTERESTED

SEASON OF MISTS AND MELLOW FRUITFULNESS -and TWO MEETINGS!

Delighted to report that our trip to Bletchley Park is fully booked.

A reminder of timings: meet at the main town car park in Westerham 10.15 for 10.30 departure. Suggest car sharing or a lift. Emergency mobile number if running late: **07983 686029**.

As mentioned previously, lunch can be obtained at Bletchley but suggest a pre-packed alternative, I look forward to seeing you all on the day.

Our second 'must attend' is our annual birthday luncheon on 29th November, this year to be held at Westerham Golf Club. It will be members only at a cost of £18 per head for a two course meal to include coffee and petit fours.

A formal notice with menu details will be forthcoming soon with full booking details.

**ANNUAL SUBS ARE DUE 30TH SEPTEMBER.
IF YOU HAVEN'T COMPLETED A STANDING ORDER PLEASE
SEND YOUR CHEQUES, PAYABLE TO "CHARTWELL BRANCH
TCC" FOR £7 TO:
MIKE LONG
FLAT2, SPRINGWOOD COURT
6 BIRDHIRST ROAD, SOUTH CROYDON CR2 2EA**



MISCELLANY

Hope you all managed to hear the BBC Archive on 4 programme regarding 'Churchill's Secret Cabinet' and see the BBC4 'Churchill's First World War'. Both programmes, I felt, were well put together and very informative and enjoyable.

Interestingly I recently gave a talk about WSC and the first three years of WW2 and very few of the audience were aware of his time at the front during the Great War, still a lot of educating to do I think!

Something you may also find of interest is an up coming BBC 2 (I think) programme about the 'Wipers Times' the satirical newspaper produced by British troops during the Great War.

Written by Ian Hislop editor of Private Eye and cartoonist Nick Newman, it has a great cast including Michael Palin, Ben Chaplin, Julian Rhind-Tutt and Emilia Fox.

I am sure you all know that 'Wipers' was the soldiers' nickname for Ypres, the Belgian town that was the centre of three intense and bloody battles over the course of the war. I have a family connection as my Grandfather was killed during the second battle.

I also have a copy of the book of the best bits of the wipers times which is full of rather gallows humour reflecting the obvious hardship of the trenches, but with a smile - bit like 'Blackadder' Goes Forth'

Whilst on the Great War, I have been reading a fascinating little book (not much else to do stuck in the armchair!) entitled 'With Winston Churchill at the Front' by Capt. X. This happens to be Andrew Dewar Gibb a Scottish politician and barrister. I rather enjoyed this comment he wrote on hearing of WSC's appointment:

"Everybody liked the old CO and nobody could see why any prominent outsider should come in and usurp his place so easily. Why could not Churchill have gone to the Argylls if he must have a Scottish regiment! We should all have been greatly interested to see him in a kilt..."

However he goes on to confirm what we all know, that WSC became much respected by the soldiers of the 6th Battalion Royal Scots Fusiliers.



PROFESSOR RICHARD TOYE @ CHARTWELL

Professor Richard Toye will be at Chartwell on 8th November at 11.30am in the Mulberry Room. To promote his new book: **"The Roar of The Lion"** and expand upon the topic:

"Churchills World War II speeches - Myth and Reality "

Limited places available

Tickets £12.50 for NT volunteers and £15.00 for non-volunteers to include tea/coffee & biscuits

Book on-line or call 01732-861161



I thought this may be of interest to our membership generally, as publication of this book caused some controversy. I do have a copy but haven't finished it yet. I feel Prf. Toye may well be regarded as on the cusp of 'revisionism' and whilst the book is well written I can't help thinking that to the man on the Clapham Omnibus his observations count for very little.

WINSTON ON THE RUN

I know that several members have seen 'My Darling Clemmie' and there is now a production purporting to be the true story of Churchill's great escape in 1899.

The performance will be followed by a presentation and Q&A session from writer/performer Freddie Machin on the letters, photographs and archive material that inspired the show's creation.

Looking at the tour schedule the nearest venue appears to be the Mill Studio, Yvonne Arnaud in Guildford on 26- 27-28 September (01483 440000)

FINEST HOUR

The branch library copy of 'Finest Hour' is now available. Please contact our Hon. Secretary, Marion Catt to find out how you can have access:

2 Crowhurst Oast, East Peckham, Kent, TN12 5NA

marioncatt@hotmail.com

MESSAGE FROM CELIA LEE

Dear Everyone

**JONATHAN WALKER IS SPEAKING AT THE POLISH HEARTH CLUB
55 Exhibition Road, London SW7 2PN. ON THURSDAY EVENING 24TH
OCTOBER 2013. Timings and cost TBA.**

Title of talk: *Operation Unthinkable' – Churchill's Plan to Free Poland in 1945.*

Jonathan Walker's eagerly awaited talk on behalf of the Women in War group, will take place at the Polish Hearth Club on the evening of Thursday 24th October. A dinner is included and it will be a pre-dinner talk.

Jonathan says:

"This will be an illustrated talk of approx. 30-40 minutes, followed by any questions, prior to dinner.

The title of my talk will be '***Operation Unthinkable' – Churchill's Plan to Free Poland in 1945.***

I attach an image of the book jacket for ***Operation Unthinkable.***"

Please put the date in your diary if you wish to attend and advise us. You are also welcome to include your family and friends - all will be made welcome.

Thank you.

Celia Lee and Paul Strong
Women in War group

**Nearest tube station South Kensington - walk through the tunnel, turn left at the street, and the club is a two-minute walk.
The entrance to the Polish Hearth Club is directly opposite the glass doors into Imperial College.**

