



## **SPRING 2014 NEWSLETTER**

Once again it is my pleasure to bring you all up to date with what we in the South West have enjoyed over the last year including the awarding of seven new Fellowships the details of which have already been sent to you in an attachment to a recent email. We are indeed fortunate to regularly receive so many Fellowships in this region. Bristol and the far West of Cornwall fared particularly well this year and all of these new Fellows are again to be congratulated. We wish them well on their travels and look forward to hearing them talk at one of our functions. Staff in the London office take great care to ensure that new Fellows are well equipped to obtain the most from their Fellowships and that includes putting them in touch with Fellows of the Royal Society of Arts and enabling them to engage with other Winston Churchill Memorial Trust Fellows.

## **UPGRADED WEBSITE AND THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT**

The Trust have upgraded the website and so I urge all of you to visit it as there is now a facility for Fellows to make contact with each other. Roger Granada is the technology guru at the Trust and is to be congratulated for his innovative work.

Thanks to all of you who have attended recent functions and we are all grateful to the speakers who have given up their time to entertain us. Without such support the Association would die and there would be no opportunity for us to share our experiences.

This Association covers an area from Gloucester to Penzance and comprises 248 Fellows of whom 148 are actively engaged with the South West Association. We do our best to arrange functions so that all have an opportunity to attend an event in their local area.

On the theme of enabling contact with other Fellows I am always happy to publicise stories from Fellows and indeed the Trust actively seek interesting information for publication in the National newsletter.

## **ANNIVERSARY NEWS FOR 2015**

It will not have escaped your notice that 2015 will be the Anniversary of the death of Sir Winston Churchill and the setting up of the Winston Churchill Memorial Trust and to mark this event it is hoped that we will all be invited to visit Blenheim Palace on Wednesday 27 May 2015. I am not yet in possession of all the facts but I have in mind to arrange a coach to take those interested to the venue. Hopefully the coach would commence its journey from the Penzance area and pick up at points through to Bristol. It would have to be an early start and a very late return for those in Cornwall. If you are interested please let me know at your earliest convenience.

## **WHAT HAVE WE BEEN UP TO!**

Our first event of 2014 was at the Redwood Hotel and Country Club at Failand, near Bristol where we were entertained by three excellent speakers Joanna Traynor, Tamasin Knight and Peter Jollands following which we all enjoyed a memorable buffet lunch and an afternoon visit to the nearby Tyntesfield House. Only twenty-three Fellows and guests attended but it gave us all a chance to catch up with friends. At the Annual General Meeting we discussed how we can assist the Trust with ensuring that Associations remain viable and relevant in this modern age. The Trust have asked for views on how this can be done and I have attached a document to this email in which I ask that your views are communicated to me in the first instance. I sent this document to everyone recently but received no responses! Please do read it and if possible put forward your views. Some Associations are sadly less than well supported and I would hope that we in the South West never fall into that category. It is certainly not for the want of trying by your Committee.

## **ANNUAL MEETING IN LONDON & FORTHCOMING FUNCTIONS**

On your behalf I recently attended the annual meeting in London at which Associations are represented and attach for your information a copy of the excellent minutes prepared by Julia Weston. I know how hard Trust staff work and indeed support Associations and congratulate them. There is much that goes on behind the scenes and I know that any Fellow visiting London would be made most welcome if they cared to visit the office which is enticingly close to the Commons and the War Rooms. Hopefully you all have your business card issued by the Trust that gives free admission to some areas.

From time to time I ask for suggestions on where we should arrange events and as the Bristol event was specifically arranged to attract those Fellows from the now defunct Severn Association we have booked the Godolphin Arms at Marazion near Penzance

for our next function on Saturday 20 September 2014. There will be talks, a buffet lunch, visits to local art galleries and an option to visit the nearby Telegraph Museum before a dinner at the Godolphin Arms in the evening. Sunday will give everyone a chance to visit the world famous St Michael's Mount albeit the gardens are not open. Accommodation in the area is booked up very quickly and so if you intend to join us I suggest you make your arrangements now. It should be clearly understood that Fellows and guests are welcome to attend any part of the weekend and do not have to commit to both days or indeed the dinner. Please feel free to contact me if you need further information before making a decision. It is hoped that the Director General Jamie Balfour and his wife Carolyn will attend thus giving you the opportunity to discuss any matters with him

### **ARE YOU WILLING TO GIVE A TALK ON YOUR FELLOWSHIP ?**

I shall need three Fellows to give talks on 20 September 2014 and so if you live in the area and would like to entertain us please contact me at your earliest convenience. It is not an onerous task and there is a 60 inch TV to which you can attach a laptop for illustrative purposes. Please contact me if you can help

### **CATEGORIES FOR 2015**

The categories for 2015 are now online and I attach the details which I hope you will do your utmost to publicise in local institutions, organisations, newspapers and even radio. I double as the Publicity Officer as no one offers to assist but I simply cannot cover all bases on my own. Use whatever medium you can. Blogs, Facebook ( we have a very underused page) or Twitter. In fact if you fancy setting up a Twitter page for this Association please contact me. I would even be interested to know who of you use Twitter or would 'follow' us. Only one Fellow at the AGM was a 'twitter' user.

### **2015 EVENT PLANNED FOR PLYMOUTH**

The Chairman of your Committee and myself are soon to meet with the new Lord Mayor of Plymouth Councillor Michael Fox with a view to arranging a special event in Plymouth in 2015 to mark the Anniversary of Churchill's death. Hopefully there will be a Mayoral reception, a visit to the University of Plymouth and an evening meal with a Guest of Honour and speaker.

### **FELLOWS OF THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF ARTS**

Last year we were part of a three Association trial scheme to put new Fellows in touch with Fellows from the Royal Society of Arts as previously mentioned. All of last year's Fellows agreed to take part and several were put in touch with FRSA's that we

felt might be of assistance to them. The system worked reasonably well but for me the most important assistance was given by 'connectors' being FRSA's in foreign lands in a position to help new Fellows with travel plans etc. This year the Trust will deal with all matters relating to new Fellows and FRSA's but thanks is due to both the Trust and Kathy Seddon, who is now the Chair in Wales and was instrumental in bringing Fellows and FRSA's together. Kathy was 'one of us' in the South West for many years.

### **GOOD NEWS STORIES**

The Trust are always looking for good news stories and so if a Fellowship has enhanced your life in a particular way then let them know so that they can give the matter some publicity. Don't forget that if you access the Trust website there is all sorts of information and a huge number of Fellows reports that can be read. It really is fascinating. I urge you to give it a try.

### **WHAT MORE CAN WE DO TO ENTICE YOU TO AN EVENT ?**

If there is anything that you feel this Association should be doing to ensure its longevity then please let me know. We on the Committee are passionately interested in ensuring that it remains a vibrant and relevant organisation.

Yours sincerely

*Bill Nicholson*

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