



East Pennine Association of Churchill Fellows

Review of 2011



Chair's Report

It is always good to pause and ask **What are we here for?** and **How are we doing?** Our Constitution tells us we are here to:

- Provide a means for Fellows to maintain their interest in the Winston Churchill memorial trust, through social and cultural activities
- To support and publicise the aims of the Trust, and
- To offer assistance to new Fellows and provide a forum for them to present their Fellowship findings

Set against those aims, I think East Pennine had another good year in 2011, with two well-attended meetings in unusual venues, visits from the Trust and our President, and an excellent intake of 11 new Fellows.

March saw us at [Eden Camp](#), Malton for the Spring Meeting and AGM. Located on the outskirts of the market town of Malton in North Yorkshire, Eden Camp is a multi-award winning Modern History Theme Museum housed within the grounds of an original World War Two prisoner of war camp.



We were pleased to be joined by Jamie Balfour (Director General), Julia Weston (Fellowship Manager) and our President, Lady Masham. The Press were present and we featured in the Malton Gazette & Herald.

[Nassara Bostan, Fellow 2011, joins Churchill and the team at Eden Camp]

After an enjoyable self-guided tour of the camp and an excellent meal in the Officer's Mess the AGM was followed by the keynote presentation from **Lynette Robinson** (2010) on *Interventions to address teen violence against parents*. After short presentations from two 2011 Fellows (**Nassara Bostan** and **Marek Szablewski**) Jamie updated us on developments at the Trust, including e-updates, partnerships with external bodies and plans to increase the annual number of Fellowships to 150. Lady Masham gave us an entertaining "view from the House", including the clear links between the

benefits of Fellowship and the emerging Big Society theme.

In **October** we were hosted by the Library of the [Literary & Philosophical Society](#), Newcastle. Founded early in 1793 as a 'conversation club', with an annual subscription of one guinea, the Lit & Phil is the largest independent library outside London, housing over 150,000 books. The Grade II* listed building was opened in 1825 and the magnificent reading rooms remain largely unchanged. We were delighted to be in such a prestigious venue, for our first visit to the North-east for a long time (we won't leave it so long before we are back again).

After presentations from **Chris Calver** and **Les Jessop**, **Julian Kotze** enthralled us with an account of her Fellowship in East and North Africa. Her description of an encounter with an Egyptian airport official who is probably still waiting for the bribe he never got was particularly riveting. Finally, Chris and Les kindly hosted a tour of this excellent venue.

[Chris Calver's presentation, right]



Another highlight of 2011 has to be our [Facebook page](#). The first Association to go live on Facebook, the page links directly to the Trust's own page. We don't intend that it should replace existing communications by email and post but it has complemented those very effectively. It includes everything from photos, to Trust news, and Fellows posting details about their Fellowships or websites related to their Fellowships. Our goal is to get all new Fellows to 'like' our Facebook page and engage with us. We also try to

promote the page by putting our details on any invitations to future meetings. As I write this 30 people 'like' our page and there is a regular flow of posts both from us and from Fellows old and new. Please visit the page regularly to keep up to date with what we are doing.



Looking Ahead

We continue to maintain close links with neighbouring Associations and with the Trust itself. I was pleased to attend the recent Chair's meeting at the Trust Office and will report on that at the Spring meeting.

[Julia Weston, John Duncan and Jamie Balfour at the Chair's meeting]



We share information & meeting updates with our colleagues in East Midlands and North West where there are realistic prospects that they might attend. We have also reviewed what we do to see what we can learn from them – this Newsletter is a direct result of that review. In the other direction, East Midlands have also launched a Facebook page.

I'm also pleased to say that we are building links with our colleagues in the newly-formed North Cumbria Group (part of the North West Association). We routinely share all meeting invitations with them and are working towards hosting a joint meeting with them in the North East in 2013.

In 2012, invitations have already been issued for our **Spring meeting & AGM on May 5th at the Northern Ballet building in Leeds.** We will be inaugurating our new Chair, **Hazel Biggs**. We have also welcomed **Claire Ford** to the Committee; Claire will be our keynote speaker at the Spring meeting

We are still working on a venue for our Autumn meeting; more information during the summer and be sure to keep an eye on the Facebook page.



Challenges

Life is never short of challenges and it's no different for us. We operate on a very limited budget and are always searching for interesting low-cost venues; if you have a 'hidden gem' you'd like us to consider please let us know.

But the most significant challenge for us this year is likely to be sharply rising postage costs. Most of our communications with Fellows are now by email (153) but we still have 54 Fellows we communicate with by post. We are committed to continuing to do that for Fellows without an email address. However, we may have to revisit our approach of sending 'early warning' notifications as well as proper invitations. Once new prices have come in, four mailings a year = £108 just on postage.

Finally, we will be looking for a new Treasurer at this year's AGM. Our thanks go to **Patricia Sadio** who has held the reins for the last three years. Patricia is standing down as Treasurer but I'm pleased she is remaining on the Committee. We are also saying goodbye to **Lilian Greenwell-Bliss** who is standing down after an astonishing 30 years of service to the Committee. We are very grateful to Lilian for her contribution over such a long period, and hope for her continued attendance at our meetings in future. Many thanks, Lilian.



New Fellows

We are pleased to welcome nine new Fellows this year (3rd highest nationally, behind only London and Scotland). They are:

- **Samina Tariq**, 31 from Bradford, is going to USA and Canada to examine how to empower people with disfigurements, building resilience through non-medical interventions.
- **Dr Catherine Bladen**, 37 from Leeds, is going to the USA to research the biological outcomes and responses to orthopaedic surgical implants.
- **Garreth Murrell**, 42 from Spennymoor, is travelling to Canada & the USA to research Neuro Linguistic Programming and its effective use for Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder and war veterans.
- **Helen Ward**, 47 from Crook, will visit South Korea, Laos, China and Japan to observe young people's filmmaking projects and youth film festivals in action on behalf of 'Kids for Kids UK' in Asia.

- **John McGregor**, 42 from Blyth, is going to New Zealand to research how to help make UK credit unions sustainable.
- **Martin Wright**, 55 from Cramlington, is travelling to USA and Canada to assess employment opportunities for people with learning difficulties.
- **Olivia Ahmad**, 25 from Newcastle-upon-Tyne, will visit Japan, USA and Germany to examine illustration as an accessible and relevant creative discipline through public exhibitions and events.
- **Nadia Clarke**, 19 from Halifax, will visit the USA to assess Leadership in Alternative Communication Aid for the disabled and deaf.
- **Rev Dr Barbara Glasson**, 55 from Bradford, will travel to Nepal and Indonesia to discover economic regeneration through local enterprise with regard to Bradford's weaving industry.

We hope to see as many as possible at meetings in future and extend our very best wishes for successful and enjoyable Fellowships.

Finally, If you find yourself with time on your hands (eh?), you may like to attempt these **Churchill Trivia** questions from our Australian colleagues in the Churchill Fellows' Association of Queensland.

1. How old was Churchill when he was hit by a car in New York City?
2. What pony did he love to ride as a boy at Blenheim?
3. What childhood toys of Churchill's are displayed at Blenheim?
4. What Noel Coward song did Churchill listen to aboard HMS Prince of Wales en route to meet with Roosevelt?
5. Who shone for Churchill "like the Evening Star"?
6. What was Churchill's best subject in school?
7. Madame Tussaud's first Churchill appeared on his wedding day, 12 September 1908. How many effigies were there throughout his life?
8. What did Churchill call his bouts of depression?
9. While in Khartoum, what did Churchill's servant Scrivings die from, which might have also killed Churchill himself?
10. What is significant about the date of Churchill's death (January 24)?

Follow us on Facebook – link [here](#)

Answers (don't cheat!)

1. 57, 1931
2. Rob Roy
3. Lead soldiers
4. Mad dogs and Englishmen
5. His Mother
6. History
7. Seven
8. The black dog
9. Food poisoning
10. It is the same date as his father died.

I hope you have found this Review useful and interesting. It's the first one we have done so we would be pleased to hear any feedback or receive contributions. Short articles from recent Fellows, or from past Fellows whose Fellowship continues to bring positive developments, would be very well received. Please send feedback or contributions to our indefatigable Secretary, Gordon Mason (contact details below).

For the moment though let me just end with my thanks to Fellows old and new who continue to support us and spread the word about the Trust and Fellowships. Best regards to all of you.

John Duncan

Chair
East Pennine Association of Churchill Fellows

East Pennine Association contact

Gordon Mason
94 Old Park Road, Sheffield, S8 7DT
Tel – 0114 237 7870
Email – gordonmason94@btinternet.com