

CHURCHILL'S GREAT-GRANDSON, JONATHAN SANDYS



Jonathan speaking at an English Speaking Union dinner celebrating Veterans Day 2008

Jonathan Sandys, is the great-grandson of Britain's wartime Prime Minister Sir Winston Churchill, and is very much as described in a recent news article; *a chip off the old block*, when it comes to his determination in promoting positive changes in education, especially history.

"The educational systems around the globe are failing fast and without a practical solution today, tomorrow's generation will inherit a world of growing poverty and higher illiteracy; figures of which have not been seen since the creation of a mandated state education system."

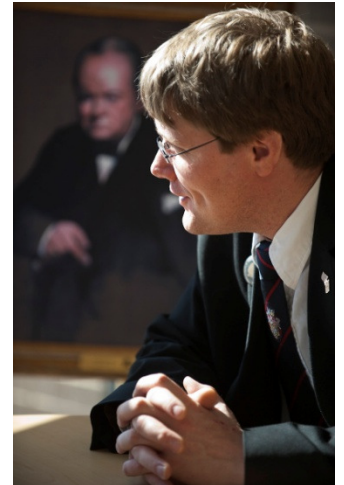
Jonathan is the Founder and President of Churchill's Britain Foundation, a non-profit (501c3) organization. Based in Houston, Texas, the Foundation is dedicated to global education and inspiration, utilizing the life lessons, moral, values and leadership skills of the "*Greatest Briton*" as its basis - Sir Winston Churchill.

Born in Surrey, England, in 1975, son of Churchill's grandson Julian Sandys and his wife Elisabeth, Jonathan was brought up on the exciting stories of his great-grandfather's life and the amazing contribution he made to England, Europe and indeed the world. Today at 35 years old, Jonathan shares those inspirational and historical stories with a wider audience throughout Europe and the United States of America.

"Many of my Great-Grandfather's talents have been passed to his descendents," Jonathan says. "I have been fortunate enough to share his ability for public speaking, his passion for art and writing, a love of Britain, America and their fascinating cultures, and a realisation of the importance of education and particularly a knowledge of history. My Great-Grandfather believed as I do: *'A nation that forgets its history is doomed to repeat it.'*"

Jonathan's fascination with education sprang from his own self-comparison between the school life of his illustrious great-grandfather, and his own negative educational experience. Jonathan was hampered with dyslexia throughout his educational life, and while at school he was put down and told he was '*stupid*' and '*thick*' and '*would never amount to anything*'.

"It was while reading *My Early Life* (Churchill's own account of his youth and miserable school years) that I began to draw parallels with similar experiences." On the one hand Jonathan was very angry, but on the other he felt "...elated and encouraged that someone as great as Winston Churchill could face similar challenges." Jonathan continued, "I was suddenly filled with an urge of great determination. Seeing my own failing school reports, reading the unhappy letters of my Great-Grandfather to his parents, and realising that there must be millions of children, and also adults, who've never heard Churchill's words, '*If you're going through hell, keep going*'. I decided there and then to find a way to help. That was the driving force behind what stands today as Churchill's Britain Foundation. I want every person today, or child of tomorrow, to be able to look forward to great motivating educational experience *today!*"



Jonathan speaking to students at Winston Churchill High School, San Antonio, Texas

Jonathan was educated at Millbrook House, Oxfordshire and Frewen College, East Sussex, where he sat his GCSE (*General Certificate in Secondary Education*). "Having become totally disillusioned with my own education, I dropped out of school at seventeen." With a basic examination result in English, no formal college degree and facing a working world where examination qualifications were favoured, Jonathan's future looked bleak. "It took some time, but having jumped into the freezing cold lake, I managed to swim around and found the surface."

In 1998, Jonathan opened his first business, In-Time Solutions, a computer training based organisation teaching his own self-studied computer skills to those who had little or no knowledge of computers or word processors. In-Time Solutions expanded quickly and Jonathan began to design business websites in addition to teaching the basic Microsoft Office packages.

In 2003, Jonathan began interviewing elderly war veterans about their memories and experiences, for a website known then as The Library of Life. "The project was very exciting and emotional at times." The Library of Life philosophy was a belief that everyone, no matter who you are, should leave their mark on history. "My experience with The Library of Life reignited a parallel belief in the value of history and benefit we can all have through the knowledge of others lives."

On a visit to the United States of America in 2005, Jonathan was invited to speak on the subject of his great-grandfather at two schools in Macon, Georgia. "I was surprised and overjoyed by the great level of interest in Churchill and the Second World War, but I was equally disheartened to discover that a vast population of American and British students have no idea who Winston Churchill was or what he did for the world."

"The world is in desperate need of encouragement and firm leadership. Having extensively studied my Great-Grandfather, his life and works, I saw in him the opportunity to give something to the world, something that would improve all our lives. I saw in Churchill, his words and deeds, his misfortunes and greatest successes, one thing that in the 21st Century many of us seem to be lacking; hope."

Encouraged by friends and family members, especially his great-aunt Mary Soames, (*Churchill's last surviving child and Patron of Churchill's Britain Foundation*), Jonathan formed a *for-profit* business, Churchill's Britain, its aim was to educate American and British children and adults on both the history of, and surrounding his great-grandfather, but also, focusing on the importance of Churchill's main principle: **NEVER SURRENDER!**



Churchill inspecting the bomb damage to Parliament

Churchill was not born into greatness; he had a miserable childhood and school life. On leaving school with no formal qualifications, he joined the army with the intention of making a name for himself so he could enter politics at his father's side. Sadly, prior to his graduation from the Sandhurst Military Academy, Lord Randolph Churchill died leaving his son heartbroken but even more determined to continue his father's good works.

On entering the dog-eat-dog world of British politics Churchill once again faced overwhelming challenges that any normal person would have broken under. Standing up for what he believed in cost Churchill greatly. Throughout much of his political career he was rejected and isolated by many because of his belief in serving the country he loved and the people who elected him to Parliament. "My Great-Grandfather believed in himself, Britain and its people, and so with a self-generated determination he pushed forward and finally, on September 1, 1939, he was proved right as the forces of Nazi Germany invaded Poland."



Churchill's Britain Foundation logo

The amazing legacy that Sir Winston Churchill left us all led Jonathan to start a not-for-profit (*501c3 registered charity*), in the United States of America in 2008. "My Great-Grandfather loved this country and its people. Churchill saw the great potential of America and its people. He believed, as I do, that America has the ability to lead the world into a new era of prosperity."

On November 30, 2008, the occasion of Churchill 134th birthday, Jonathan formed Churchill's Britain Foundation with the sole determination to work with children and adults, passing on his great-grandfather's lessons in hope, leadership and self-determination.

Churchill's Britain Foundation's aims are to enact a positive change in education and the way students are taught and learn, and to work hard towards the total elimination of illiteracy and through that, poverty.

"I had a terrible educational experience and gave in, if I had known then what I know now about my Great-Grandfather I would have dug my heels in and refused to surrender. I am determined to ensure that no one gives up on education or life before they hear the powerful testimony of the 'Greatest Briton Ever', my Great-Grandfather, our Sir Winston Churchill."

To book Jonathan for a speaking engagement, or to make an enquiry or donation, please contact the Churchill's Britain Foundation office via email: info@churchillsbritainfoundation.org. Alternatively, please call us on: +1 (281) 617 2767 – Your support is gratefully appreciated.

JONATHAN'S PROFESSIONAL SPEAKING RESUME SINCE 2005



Anwell Rotary Club, London, United Kingdom
Arkansas State University, Jonesboro, Arkansas
Bacon County High School, Alma, Georgia
Bacon County Middle School, Alma, Georgia
Buford County High School, Buford, Georgia
Candlelighters Childhood Cancer Family Alliance, Houston, Texas



Champions of Literacy, Houston, Texas
Churchill Center, New Orleans, Louisiana
Churchill Center, San Antonio, Texas
Churchill Society, Washington DC



Cypress Creek Christian Church, Spring, Texas
Douglas County High School, Douglas County, Georgia
English Speaking Union, Buffalo, New York
English Speaking Union, Houston, Texas
Eton Manor Primary School, London, United Kingdom
First United Methodist Church, Statesboro, Georgia
Future Business Leaders of America, Minnesota
Future Business Leaders of America, New Orleans, Louisiana
Future Business Leaders of America, Washington DC



Georgia Southern University, Statesboro, Georgia
Houston Community College, Northwest Campus, Houston, Texas
Houston Community College, Southwest Campus, Houston, Texas



Knowledge Arts Foundation Dinner, Houston, Texas
Lonestar College, Montgomery, Texas
MDF The Bi-Polar Organisation, London, United Kingdom
Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, Texas
Paul Anderson Youth Home, Statesboro, Georgia
Right to Literacy Conference, Buffalo, New York
Southeastern Technical College, Glenville, Georgia



The British School, Houston, Texas
Toombs County High School, Toombs County, Georgia
United Methodist Women's Group, Statesboro, Georgia
Vidalia High School, Vidalia, Georgia



Weaver Middle School, Macon, Georgia
Westside High School, Macon, Georgia
Widby Elementary School, Houston, Texas
Winston Churchill High School, San Antonio, Texas