View highlights from the January 2019 update

The Oxford DNB from January 2019

From January 2019, the Oxford DNB offers biographies of 60,984 men and women who have shaped the British past, contained in 63,251 articles. 11,671 biographies include a portrait image of the subject—researched in partnership with the National Portrait Gallery, London.

As ever, we have a free selection of these new entries, together with a full list of the new biographies. The complete dictionary is available, free, in most public libraries in the UK. Libraries offer 'remote access' that enables you to log in at any time at home (or anywhere you have internet access). Elsewhere the Oxford DNB is available online in schools, colleges, universities, and other institutions worldwide. Full details of participating British public libraries, and how to gain access to the complete dictionary, are available here.

Introduction to the update by David Cannadine

Welcome to the forty-eighth update of the Oxford DNB which adds biographies of 226 individuals who died in the year 2015 (it also includes two subjects who died before 2015, and who have been included with new entries). Of these, the earliest born is Sir Nicholas Winton (in 1909) and the latest born is Sam Zaman (in 1965). Nicholas Winton is one of six centenarians included in this update, and Sam Zaman one of twenty-one new subjects born after the Second World War. The vast majority (175, or 77%) were born between 1918 and 1939. Fifty-eight of the new subjects who died in 2015 (or just over 25% of the cohort) are women.

Two men among the inter-war generation who eventually rose to high public office were Denis Healey, who never lacked for confidence in his own (undeniably considerable) abilities, but who failed to become leader of the Labour Party; and Geoffrey Howe, who was Margaret Thatcher's low-key, long-suffering and un-charismatic Chancellor of the Exchequer and Foreign Secretary, but who eventually turned against her to devastating effect. Leon Brittan was also a major figure in the Thatcher era, but he was brought low by the Westland affair, and was subjected in his final years to allegations of historic child abuse which were only recognised as un-founded after his death. By contrast, Charles Kennedy belonged to a much younger generation, and was born as relatively recently as 1959; but as leader of the Liberal Democrats, his public life was one of unredeemed promise, blighted by alcoholism and ended before he had reached the age of sixty. As Benjamin Disraeli once observed, 'the vicissitudes of politics are inexhaustible', and the roller-coaster rides that make up these four lives certainly bear that out.

As we move to the next stage of the no-less inexhaustible vicissitudes of Brexit, many of these new entries remind us that the United Kingdom has always been a nation of immigrants. Among the inter-war generation were many Jewish refugees, fleeing Nazism in the 1930s: one of them was Klaus Roth, who became the first British recipient of the Fields Medal in mathematics; another was Claus Moser, a leading statistician both in government and academe, chairman of the Royal Opera House and Warden of Wadham College, Oxford. Immigrants to the United Kingdom from elsewhere include the entertainer Val Doonican and the champion Jockey Pat Eddery from Ireland; the singer and songwriter Errol Brown, the weightlifter and medallist Louis Martin, and the pianist and pioneer of the Notting Hill Carnival Russ Henderson from the
Caribbean; and the lawyer, academic and advisor to Nelson Mandela, Sir Bob Hepple, from South Africa.

By the same token, the United Kingdom has also been a nation of emigrants, and they are also well represented in this update. Jackie Collins was born in Britain, but settled in Los Angeles in the 1960s, where she produced a succession of salacious novels which became best sellers. A writer in a very different genre was Professor Patricia Crone, who grew up and was educated in Denmark, worked in British universities, became a renowned if sometimes controversial expert on Islam, and ended her career at the Institute of Advanced Study at Princeton. Other scholars, while based in the United Kingdom, transformed our understanding of distant parts of the world, among them Sir Raymond Carr (Spain), Sir Christopher Bayly (South Asia), and Terence Ranger (Africa). Three pioneering British women also spent much of their lives overseas: Dame Anne Warburton was the first serving British female ambassador, Joyce Bennett, a head teacher in Hong Kong, was the first Englishwoman to be ordained a Church of England priest, and Sue Lloyd- Roberts was an outstanding foreign correspondent for ITN and the BBC. In what may well turn out to be the year of Brexit, it is important to be reminded that 'Global Britain' is nothing new.

David Cannadine, General Editor, *Oxford DNB*

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**Political friends and adversaries**

**Denis Healey, Baron Healey** (1917-2015), was one of the giants of postwar British politics, an MP for forty years, Labour secretary of state for defence (1964-70), chancellor of the exchequer throughout the tumultuous years of the Wilson and Callaghan governments (1974-9), shadow foreign secretary (1980-7), and deputy leader of the Labour Party (1980-3). His bushy eyebrows and jocular public persona endeared him to voters, but masked a steely ambition. Ultimately, though, his failure to build up a personal following in the parliamentary Labour Party ensured he failed in his ambition to win the top job. Unlike many politicians he had, as his wife Edna put it, a 'hinterland'; he published books of photographs as well as excerpts from his favourite literature.

Healey once famously described being attacked by **Geoffrey Howe, Baron Howe of Aberavon** (1926-2015) as akin to being 'savaged by a dead sheep', but it is a mark of the human values
transcending the political differences of the two men (who shadowed each other for much of their front-bench careers) that they became close friends. Howe entered parliament rather later than Healey, in 1964, but he soon rose in the Conservative ranks to become shadow chancellor (1975-9), a highly controversial chancellor of the exchequer (1979-83), foreign secretary (1983-9), and deputy prime minister and leader of the House of Commons (1989-90). Although he was at first an indispensable ally of Margaret Thatcher in her attempt to revolutionise the British economy, differences between them over leadership style and Thatcher's increasingly antagonistic attitude towards the European Communities led Howe to break with her and, in a memorable parliamentary performance, to set in train her downfall.

Another politician who made a memorable impact on British political and public life was Charles Kennedy (1959-2015), the Inverness-born leader of the Liberal Democrats who galvanised the opposition to the Iraq War in 2003 and in 2005 led his party in winning sixty-two seats (the greatest number for a centre party since the Liberals in 1923). His relaxed style of leadership and willingness to engage the media made him a familiar face and a much-admired politician, though critics derided him as 'Chatshow Charlie'. Sadly, his public performances and leadership became more erratic as a result of alcoholism, and in January 2006 he was forced to resign. Although he appeared to have conquered his demons, he died of a haemorrhage at the young age of fifty-five. From a much older generation, George Mackie, Baron Mackie of Benshie (1919-2015), was a farmer, Bomber Command veteran, Liberal MP, and Liberal Democrat peer, who rescued Caithness Glass and was a major figure in the public life of north-east Scotland.

Co Antrim-born Jim Molyneaux, Baron Molyneaux of Killead (1920-2015), was an Ulster Unionist MP from 1970 to 1997, and leader of the Ulster Unionist Party from 1979 to 1995. A quiet man, strongly rooted in the Orange Order and the Royal Black Institution, who described himself as 'the dull old dog of Ulster politics', he was chosen for his emollient qualities, and for many years during the height of the Troubles he succeeded in keeping the different factions within his party together, and attracted politicians such as Enoch Powell. Nevertheless he was frequently criticised for a lack of direction, which contributed to the long-term decline of his party.

Roy Mason, Baron Mason of Barnsley (1924-2015), was the Labour secretary of state for Northern Ireland from 1976 to 1979 who abandoned the mediating role of his predecessor, Merlyn Rees, in favour of a closer alignment with the Unionists, and a more aggressive security policy which resulted in a gradual reduction in the number of terrorist incidents and deaths. Northern Ireland was the high point of a front-bench career which had lasted since 1964, such was his reputation as a safe pair of hands. By contrast, Brian Sedgemore (1937-2015) was a colourful and controversial Labour backbencher who described himself as 'a libertarian with a somewhat anarchic streak'; he largely ploughed his own furrow until in 2005 he spectacularly defected to the Liberal Democrats in the midst of the general election campaign. Michael Meacher (1939-2015) was a more conventionally earnest left-wing Labour politician who served on the frontbench for almost thirty years including as a strongly ‘green’ minister of state for the environment from 1997 to 2003, but he was never part of the Labour inner circle, and he never managed to shrug off the description of him as '[Tony] Benn's vicar on earth'. Welsh-born Illtyd Harrington (1931-2015) was the 'acceptable face of extremism' as deputy leader of the GLC during Ken Livingstone's turbulent leadership; a moderating influence, he later said of Livingstone's leadership that it was 'alarmiing to begin with, confusing after that, and then extraordinarily competent in the last phase'. Harrington himself had a wide range of outside interests, particularly in the theatre and conservation. Greville Janner, Baron Janner of Braunstone (1928-2015), was a barrister and Labour politician best known for most of his
lifetime for his support of Jewish organisations, but whose achievements were overshadowed by allegations of child sex abuse.

The Conservative politician Leon Brittan, Baron Brittan of Spennithorne (1939-2015), also came under a cloud of suspicion in his final years as a result of the investigation of historic child abuse; only after his death did it emerge that his accuser had fabricated his story. This was undoubtedly a sad end to the life of someone who was widely regarded as one of the most brilliant political minds of his generation, and who served as home secretary (1983-5), secretary of state for trade and industry (1985-6), brought down by the Westland affair, and an influential member of the European Commission (1989-99). He is joined in this release by Teresa Gorman (1931-2015), a notoriously feisty Tory backbencher who embodied the values of south-east Essex and became an advocate for hormone replacement therapy. Far more discreet in their support of the Conservative cause were Sir Anthony Garner (1927-2015), the Conservative Party organiser who helped Margaret Thatcher win the 1979, 1983, and 1987 elections; Sir Douglas Hague (1926-2015), an economist who advised Thatcher on monetarist and free market policies; and Andrew Alexander (1935-2015), a parliamentary sketchwriter and financial journalist at the Daily Telegraph and the Daily Mail who was a fierce critic of Edward Heath and 'Butskellism' and an early and loyal supporter of Thatcher.

Also now included in the dictionary (given its coverage of the British empire and decolonisation) is Lee Kuan Yew (1923-2015), first prime minister of Singapore from 1959 to 1990, who presided over the island city's adjustment to the withdrawal of the British naval base, and oversaw its spectacular growth as an entrepot and financial centre.

**Serving the state**

In constitutional theory politicians decide policies, civil servants advise and carry them out. This update includes several civil servants who made the most of their opportunities for influence. Sir Brian Cubbon (1928-2015) was permanent secretary at the Northern Ireland Office (where in 1976 he was injured in the IRA bomb explosion which killed the British ambassador to Ireland, Christopher Ewart-Biggs) and later at the Home Office. Sir Kenneth Stowe (1927-2015) was a private secretary to three successive prime ministers (Wilson, Callaghan, and Thatcher), noted for his loyalty and unflappability, before becoming Cubbon's successor as permanent secretary at the Northern Ireland Office at the time of the republican hunger strike at the Maze prison, and later the DHSS. Sir Peter Gregson (1936-2015) was a cerebral civil servant who advised Margaret Thatcher during the miners' strike and became permanent secretary at the Department of Energy and then the Department of Trade and Industry (serving under four secretaries of state). After a glittering career in signals intelligence, Sir Brian Tovey (1926-2015) became head of GCHQ from 1978 to 1983, leading it through the repercussions of the Geoffrey Prime spy scandal and the strike of 1981 which was a precursor to the banning of trade unions there; in later life he devoted his time to art history.

Dame Anne Warburton (1927-2015) became Britain's first serving female ambassador (Barbara Salt had been appointed much earlier, but had been unable to take up her post) in 1976, when she was appointed ambassador to Denmark; later she led a European Community investigation into the treatment of Muslim women in the former Yugoslavia, which uncovered harrowing evidence of war crimes. Sir Robert Wade-Gery (1929-2015) was a consummate diplomat who played a key role in the Anglo-Irish negotiations and was joint secretary of the war cabinet during the Falklands conflict. David Williamson, Baron Williamson of Horton (1934-2015), was a career civil servant at the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food who joined the European Commission, serving as its secretary-general from 1987 to 1997 (after a spell as head of the
European Secretariat in Margaret Thatcher's Cabinet Office); in retirement he fought hard to dispel myths about the European Union.

More directly servants of the state were those members of the armed forces now included in this update: marshal of the Royal Air Force Sir Michael Beetham (1923-2015), chief of the air staff who flew bombing raids over Germany and later oversaw the RAF's role in the Falklands conflict; admiral Sir Jeremy Black (1932-2015), in command of HMS Invincible during the same conflict; general Sir Edward Burgess (1927–2015), deputy supreme allied commander Europe, and later a leading figure in the Royal British Legion; and general Sir Robert Ford (1923-2015), who was commander of land forces in Northern Ireland on 'Bloody Sunday' in 1972, but largely escaped censure by the Saville enquiry.

Lives in the law

Included in this update are two law lords, Michael Mustill, Baron Mustill (1931-2015), who initially made his mark in commercial law but later developed his expertise in criminal law, and was notable for several libertarian judgements; and William Hugh Griffiths, Baron Griffiths (1923-2015), who won an MC as a lieutenant in the Welsh Guards, oversaw the enquiry into the Ronan Point disaster, and as a judge and law lord was noted for his humanity and common sense.

Barbara Calvert (1926-2015) became a barrister only at the age of thirty-five, but soon established her mark in the area of family law and was the first woman head of chambers (in 1974) and the first woman QC to take a case to the European Court of Human Rights (in 1987). The charismatic Anthony Scrivener (1935–2015) was one of the best known barristers of his generation, both for his frequently high-profile court appearances and for his robust left-wing views on the British political and judicial system. Sir Richard Gaskell (1936-2015) was a solicitor and president of the Law Society who played an important role in winning advocacy rights for solicitors. Joe Beltrami (1932-2015) was one of the best known Scottish defence lawyers of his generation, the solicitor of choice for Glasgow's gangsters, instructing in more than 350 murder cases, saving twelve of his clients from the gallows, and ensuring the acquittal of numerous others. Also included in this release are the South African-born legal scholar Sir Bob Hepple (1934-2015), who advised Nelson Mandela before fleeing the country and establishing a second career in Cambridge as a leading expert in labour and anti-discrimination law, and, contrastingly, George Churchill-Coleman (1938-2015), head of Scotland Yard's anti-terrorist squad from 1985 to 1992, and the public face of its battle with the IRA.

Musical contrasts

This update includes a perhaps exceptional number of figures from the musical world, encompassing all tastes. Cilla Black (1943-2015) was a Liverpool lass who began singing while a cloakroom attendant at the Cavern Club [whose owner, Ray McFall (1926-2015), also appears in this update] and shot to fame as a pop singer after she was signed by Brian Epstein, reaching number one in the singles charts with 'Anyone Who Had a Heart' and 'You're My World' (both 1964). Her long career as a much-loved television celebrity began with her own variety show, Cilla (1968-76), and continued with such shows as Surprise Surprise (1984-2001) and Blind Date (1985-2003). Her near-contemporary Jackie Trent (1940-2015) also reached the top of the singles chart with 'Where Are You Now (My Love)' (1965), but she was more famous for her songwriting partnership with her one-time husband Tony Hatch, perhaps most successfully with the theme tune for the Australian soap opera Neighbours. Joy Beverley (1924-2015), one third of the Beverley Sisters, was of a slightly earlier generation of popular music stars, their close
harmony singing entertaining the public with classics including 'I Saw Mommy Kissing Santa Claus' (1953). Another and very different female singer, gifted with a beautiful voice and superb memory, Flora MacNeil (1928–2015), from Barra in the Outer Hebrides, became perhaps the best known performer of Scottish Gaelic music.

As the lead singer and songwriter of the soul and funk band Hot Chocolate, Jamaican-born Errol Brown (1943–2015) earned the distinction of making the top ten in three successive decades with one song, 'You Sexy Thing'. A supporter of the Conservative Party, he also sang at the wedding reception for Prince Charles and Diana, Princess of Wales. Irish-born Val Doonican (1927–2015) made his own impact on these islands through his crooning brand of 'easy listening' music and novelty songs, his onstage presence usually characterised by knitted jumpers and rocking chairs. It would be hard to find a more contrasting stage presence than that of Lemmy Kilmister (1945–2015), the guitarist and frontman of Motörhead, and one of the notorious bad boys of rock. His fellow guitarist, singer, and songwriter, Chris Squire (1948–2015), was for some thirty-five years a member of the leading progressive rock band Yes, known for their elaborate stage sets and lighting displays. Much harder to categorise was the highly influential guitarist John Renbourn (1944–2015), perhaps best known for his work with the folk group Pentangle and his collaborations with fellow guitarist Bert Jansch, though his work took in influences from classical music, jazz, blues, and other musical traditions. Coleridge Goode (1914–2015) was a Jamaican-born double-bass player who worked with Stéphane Grappelli and Django Reinhardt, and was an important fixture of the British jazz scene for almost seventy years. He is joined in this update by Don Rendell (1926–2015), a jazz saxophonist who played with most of the leading modern jazz players of his day, but was perhaps best known for his collaborations with Ian Carr. Trinidadian pianist Russ Henderson (1924–2015) founded the UK's first steelband combo, and was a key figure in founding that celebration of Caribbean culture, the Notting Hill Carnival. Much later, Sam Zaman (1965–2015), who performed as ‘State of Bengal’, was a key figure in the Asian Underground, combining elements of Western dance music with traditional Asian music, which burst into life in the late 1990s.

From the world of classical music, Peter Cropper (1945–2015) was a flamboyant violinist who founded and for forty years led the acclaimed Lindsay Quartet, based in Sheffield. The pianist Peter Katin (1930–2015) made a sensational debut at the Proms in 1953, playing Rachmaninov; later, after a period of reclusiveness, he became a renowned interpreter of Chopin and Liszt. Sandy Faris (1921–2015) made his name as a composer of light and incidental music, including the theme for the television series Upstairs, Downstairs. The light orchestral composer and conductor Ernest Tomlinson (1924–2015) also wrote several popular works and, as the popularity of the genre faded, set up the Library of Light Orchestral Music to preserve its legacy. By contrast the composer Ronald Stevenson (1928–2015) produced a series of challenging and strident works inspired by Shostakovich and his own wide-ranging musical scholarship. A long-term resident of Scotland, he was perhaps best known for his choral symphony Ben Dorain, based on Hugh MacDiarmid's translation of Duncan Ban MacIntyre's poem. John McCabe (1939–2015) was a pianist and prolific composer of ballets and symphonies as well as solo works for the piano; he was also a much-liked principal of the London College of Music. Sir David Willcocks (1919–2015) was perhaps the best known choral conductor and composer of his generation, particularly as a result of his long association with the choir of King’s College, Cambridge. Dennis Marks (1948–2015) was an equally influential figure in postwar British music, as head of music at BBC Television and general director of English National Opera. A writer rather than a performer, Andrew Porter (1928–2015) was widely regarded as one of the most perceptive, erudite, and exacting music critics of his generation, with an important impact on classical performances in New York as well as London.
Stage and screen

**Sir Christopher Lee** (1922-2015) enjoyed an acting career of more than sixty years, encompassing a wide range from comedy to heavy metal opera, but will forever be known for his portrayal of Count Dracula in a series of Hammer Horror films. His fellow thespian **Alan Howard** (1937-2015) was a towering figure in British theatrical life and a mainstay of the Royal Shakespeare Company and the National Theatre over many decades. Another RSC stalwart was **Richard Johnson** (1927-2015), who also became a star of the screen with MGM and later United British Artists. The Welsh actor **Roger Rees** (1944-2015) found fame in the UK in Shakespeare and the title role of the RSC's *Nicholas Nickleby* (1980) before moving to the US and appearing in *Cheers* and *The West Wing*. The actor and director **Robin Phillips** (1940-2015) was the golden boy of British theatre before moving to Canada to revitalise the Stratford Festival Theatre.

Jamaican-born actor **Lloyd Reckord** (1929-2015) demonstrated his versatility in a wide range of roles on stage and television in the 1950s and 1960s, and directed two shorts, *Bob in Winter* and *Dream A40*, which have subsequently acquired cult status. Punjabi-born **Saeed Jaffrey** (1929-2015) grew up under the Raj and made his name as an actor in New Delhi and New York before moving to London in 1965 and appearing regularly on television and in such films as *My Beautiful Laundrette* (1985) and several Merchant Ivory productions. The actor **Lance Percival** (1933-2015) found fame through *That Was The Week That Was*, the satirical show which transformed British television in the early 1960s; he also voiced 'Old Fred' in the Beatles film, *Yellow Submarine* (1968), and later appeared in several Frankie Howerd films. **Warren Mitchell** (1926-2015) was a talented and versatile actor who nevertheless will always be associated with his satirical character Alf Garnett, whose antediluvian beliefs contrasted strongly with Mitchell's own. (Mitchell enjoyed putting right those who failed to see that Garnett was indeed a satirical character.) **George Cole** (1925-2015) was another fixture of British television from the 1960s to the 1990s, though he had made his film debut as early as 1941 and was already known for his performances in several *St Trinian's* films, beginning in 1954. Later he was best known for the long-running comedy drama *Minder*.

The versatile and talented actress **Geraldine McEwan** (1932-2015) also had a range which encompassed high comedy and tense drama, but was perhaps best remembered as Miss Marple in the television adaptations of Agatha Christie's novels. **Nova Pilbeam** (1919-2015) was a leading child and teenage star in the 1930s, appearing in Alfred Hitchcock's *The Man Who Knew Too Much* (1934) and *Young and Innocent* (1937) but later tired of acting and after marriage retired from the profession. **Natasha Parry** (1930-2015) made her screen debut at nineteen and appeared in many British films of the 1950s and 1960s, but was best remembered for the theatrical partnership, based largely in France, that she formed with her husband, the influential director Peter Brook. The actress **Elizabeth MacLennan** (1938-2015) left an important mark on the cultural life of Scotland, most notably through her writings and performances for 7:84, the socialist touring theatre company she co-founded with her husband John McGrath and brother David MacLennan. **Anne Kirkbride** (1954–2015), by contrast, was famous for one, albeit very long-lasting, role, as Deirdre Barlow in the soap opera *Coronation Street*.

**Julia Jones** (1923-2015) trained as an actress with Joan Littlewood's Theatre Workshop but found her métier as a playwright and scriptwriter for television dramas and sitcoms. She is joined in this update by fellow actor and scriptwriter **Colin Welland** (1934-2015), who played Mr Farthing in the film *Kes* (1969) and went on to win an Oscar as scriptwriter of the film *Chariots of Fire* (1981); **Brian Clemens** (1931-2015), another prolific scriptwriter, best known for creating *The Avengers* and *The Professionals*; and the comedy writer **David Nobbs** (1935-2015), who wrote
material for many leading British comedians but was best known for creating the immensely popular sitcom, *The Fall and Rise of Reginald Perrin* (1976-9). **Julie Harris** (1921-2015) was a costume designer who, in a long career, created the look of many costume dramas and captured the essence of the Swinging Sixties for the Beatles films *A Hard Day's Night* (1964) and *Help!* (1965) and John Schlesinger's *Darling* (1965), for which she won an Oscar. Calcutta-born **Sarah Erulkar** (1923-2015) was an award-winning documentary film-maker who overcame both sexism and racism to pursue her career at the Shell Film Unit and then as an independent director. The film and television director **Jack Gold** (1930-2015) brought to the screen adaptations of Thomas Hardy and P.G. Wodehouse, and perhaps most memorably Quentin Crisp's memoirs, *The Naked Civil Servant* (1975). **Katharine Worth** (1922–2015) was the founder of Royal Holloway's renowned department of drama and theatre, and was herself an accomplished director and scholar of modern Irish theatre.

From the world of ballet, **Bryony Brind** (1960-2015) was a principal dancer with the Royal Ballet much praised for her work with Rudolf Nureyev and others but whose glittering career sadly faded, while the artist and stage designer **Yolanda Sonnabend** (1935-2015) was a pioneering force in ballet design, noted especially for her imaginative collaborations with Sir Kenneth MacMillan.

**Sporting triumphs**

Football lost one of its leading figures in 2015 with the death of **Jimmy Hill** (1928-2015), a footballer with Brentford and Fulham, who as chairman of the Professional Footballers' Association campaigned successfully for the abolition of the maximum wage, finally achieved in 1961; later he became manager of Coventry City (of which he was later still managing director and chairman), and from 1973 to 1988 the sport's best known commentator as host of BBC's *Match of the Day*. He is joined in this release by another footballing legend, **Dave Mackay** (1934-2015), the Scottish 'hardman' who played for Hearts, Tottenham Hotspur (with whom he won the 'double' of FA and League cups in 1961), and Derby, and later managed Swindon, Nottingham Forest, and Derby (with whom he won the League cup in 1975). Also included are two legendary club chairmen, **Sir Philip Carter** (1927-2015), a Littlewoods executive who oversaw one of Everton's most successful cup-winning spells, and **Sir Jack Hayward** (1923-2015), the ultra-patriotic developer of Freeport in the Bahamas, who devoted a considerable portion of his wealth to improving the footballing chances of his boyhood team, Wolves.

At eighteen, **Brian Close** (1931-2015) was the youngest man to play Test cricket for England; in a career that lasted thirty years he went on play twenty-two Test matches for England, captaining them seven times; and captained Yorkshire to four county championship titles. The batsman **Tom Graveney** (1927-2015), won seventy-nine England caps and enjoyed a long and successful career in county cricket, but frequently came into conflict with the authorities; notably, his international career ended when he played a benefit match on the rest day of a Test match.

Among other sports represented in this update, **Geoff Duke** (1923-2015) was a giant of motorcycling at a time when it attracted great national interest and huge crowds; among many other achievements he was six times world champion, and six times winner of the Isle of Man TT. **Louis Martin** (1936-2015), from Jamaica, began weightlifting to keep fit after he moved to Derby; he went on to represent Great Britain at the 1960 and 1964 Olympics (winning bronze then gold), and to win four world championships between 1959 and 1965. **Sir Peter Heatly** (1924-2015) was a Scottish diver who represented Great Britain at the 1948 and 1952 Olympics and won gold medals in three successive British Empire Games; he was later chairman of the
Commonwealth Games Federation, and was a key figure in the troubled 1970 Commonwealth Games in Edinburgh.

**Rosalind Rowe** (1933-2015) twice won the doubles at the world table tennis championships, with her twin sister Diane (in 1951 and 1954), and collected another twelve medals in singles, doubles, and team world championship events. **Eileen Gray** (1920-2015) was a racing cyclist who conducted a long and ultimately successful campaign to have women’s cycling included in the Olympics and recognised through women’s world championships. **Dawn Wofford** (1936-2015) was the 'glamour girl' of British showjumping in the 1950s and 1960s, and later the first woman to be chairman of the Pony Club. Her fellow equestrian **Richard Meade** (1938-2015) was equally the 'glamour boy' of the sport, winning three European championships, three Olympic gold medals, and two world championships in either individual or team eventing. The Irish-born **Pat Eddery** (1952-2015) was eleven times champion jockey, the winner of fourteen British classics, and rode more than 4,600 winners in one of the most successful horseracing careers of all time. The commentator on many of those races was **Sir Peter O’Sullevan** (1918-2015), the 'voice of racing' who was the BBC's leading horseracing commentator from 1947 to 1997. Also included in this update is another legendary figure from the world of sports broadcasting, **Peter Dimmock** (1920-2015), who organised the coverage of the Coronation in 1953 before going on to become the face of BBC Sport and head of outside broadcasts, and later vice-president of ABC in the United States.

**The power of the pen and word**

Among the many literary giants included in this update is **Sir Terry Pratchett** (1948-2015), who exchanged life as a press officer at the Central Electricity Generating Board for that of a writer, best known for his hugely successful 'Discworld' series, which combined fantasy, profundity, and silliness in equal measure, made him the UK's best-selling author in the 1990s, and earned him the devotion of a legion of fans. Crime thrillers and psychological murder mysteries were the speciality of **Ruth Rendell, Baroness Rendell of Babergh** (1930-2015), creator of Inspector Wexford among other characters; while conscious of her place in the tradition of women mystery writers, she successfully pushed the boundaries of the genre in significant new directions. Also included in this update is **William McIlvanney** (1936-2015), 'the godfather of tartan noir', who created the fictional detective Jack Laidlaw, a witty and philosophical commentator on the badlands of Glasgow.

The Northern Irish playwright **Brian Friel** (1929-2015) now features in many school curricula, particularly for his acclaimed play, *Dancing at Lughnasa* (1990), though he produced a substantial body of work from the 1960s onwards, *Philadelphia Here I Come* (1964) transferring from Dublin to Broadway. Much of his work explored identities, and he was frequently described as the Irish Chekhov. He is joined in this update by **Christina Reid** (1942-2015), a fellow Northern Irish playwright, whose work, including the acclaimed *Joyriders* (1986), was more directly influenced by the Troubles.

**Charles Tomlinson** (1927-2015) was often described as a very English poet: his poetry informed by international perspectives and by internationalism, but rooted in the English landscape and vernacular. **Tessa Ransford** (1938-2015), on the other hand, was a champion of Scottish poetry, and the founder of the Scottish Poetry Library. **Martyn Goff** (1923-2015) was a bookseller and novelist who became the Machiavellian éminence grise behind the Booker prize. **P. J. Kavanagh** (1931-2015) was a multi-talented actor, broadcaster, and author, best known for his spare poetry and the remarkable memoir of his first wife, *A Perfect Stranger* (1966). **John Bayley** (1925-2015) was known to the world as the husband of the novelist Iris Murdoch (about
whom he wrote candidly, some said shockingly so, after her death) but he was a considerable scholar and literary critic in his own right. He is joined in this update by two children’s authors, Gene Kemp (1926-2015), author of The Turbulent Term of Tyke Tiler (1977) and other books, which gently subverted stereotypes, and Peter Dickinson (1927-2015), a prolific author of both children’s books (for which he was the first author to win back-to-back Carnegie medals) and mystery novels. They in turn are joined by Jackie Collins (1937-2015), best-selling author of such 'bonkbusters' as The World is Full of Married Men (1968) and Hollywood Wives (1983).

Wales also lost significant literary and cultural figures in 2015, among them Bryan Martin Davies (1933-2015), a poet who vividly evoked the landscapes and ways of life of the mining communities of South Wales and their decline in the face of de-industrialisation; Meredydd (Merêd) Evans (1919-2015), a broadcasting executive, collector, editor, historian, performer, singer, and political activist who made significant contributions to Welsh musical, cultural, and political life in many different areas; and Robert Geraint Gruffydd (1928–2015), a leading scholar whose research and seminal writings threw new light on Welsh literature from the sixth to the twentieth centuries.

A host of women journalists appear in this update, perhaps outstanding among them Sue Lloyd-Roberts (1950-2015), the fearless foreign correspondent for ITN and the BBC, who reported on wars and human rights abuses around the world: she was the first to report from China on the trade in human organs, and later, in 2011, the first journalist to reach Homs in Syria. Maggie Eales (1948-2015) rose from being a secretary at ITN to be the station's senior foreign editor and then international news chief at CNN; many journalists around the world flourished under her guidance and acknowledged their debt. Sandra Chalmers (1940-2015) worked in local radio before becoming editor of BBC Radio 4’s Woman’s Hour. Margaret Allen (1933-2015) was a features editor for The Times and a redoubtable and effective campaigner for women in journalism. Ann Barr (1929-2015) was a journalist for Harper & Queen and The Observer and was responsible, with Peter York, for first identifying ‘Sloane Rangers’. Mary Clarke (1923-2015) was a leading dance critic, and editor of Dancing Times from 1963 to 2008. Penelope Houston (1927-2015) was an equally renowned film critic, and edited the British Film Institute’s magazine, Sight & Sound, for almost as long, from 1956 to 1990.

Philip French (1933-2015), another of the giants of British film criticism as an erudite and wide-ranging film critic for The Observer for some thirty-five years, died just a few days before Penelope Houston. Loved and loathed in equal measure, Brian Sewell (1931-2015), a protégé of the art historian and spy Anthony Blunt, was an outspoken and acerbic art critic for the Evening Standard and on television, renowned for his flowery prose and his visceral dislike of modern art. Mike Marqusee (1953-2015) was a New York Jewish journalist who became an acclaimed and perceptive writer on cricket. The Normandy veteran and Sunday Telegraph travel journalist Nigel Buxton (1924-2015) became a cult figure in his seventies as ‘Baaaddad’, reviewing music videos, going on Club 18-30 holidays, and smoking cannabis at a pop festival.

Arthur Brittenden (1924-2015) was a legendary Fleet Street journalist who was the last editor of the broadsheet Daily Mail before becoming deputy editor of The Sun under Bernard Shrimlesy, and then Rupert Murdoch’s head of public relations for most of the 1980s (including the infamous Wapping dispute). W. R. (Bill) Mitchell (1928-2015) was a journalist with a very strong sense of place, as editor for over twenty years of The Dalesman, serving the Yorkshire Dales but with readers worldwide; he also wrote around 200 books and booklets on aspects of local life. North of the border, Endell Laird (1933-2015) edited the Glasgow-based Sunday Mail and then the Daily Record, but was most proud of raising millions for a new children’s hospice. Another of the giants of Scottish journalism was Ian Bell (1956-2015), a political columnist for
the *Herald, Scotsman*, and other papers, a socialist and nationalist, widely respected for his integrity, winner of the Orwell prize, and author of acclaimed biographies of Robert Louis Stevenson and Bob Dylan.

**Pictures, shapes, and cities**

Fritz Wegner (1924-2015) arrived in Britain alone as a thirteen-year-old refugee from Nazism. He went on to become a prolific illustrator of book covers and children's books, among them a classic edition of André Maurois's *Fattypuffs and Thinifers*, his distinctive style combining quirky detail and gentle humour. The painter, collagist, printmaker, sculptor, and ceramicist Ivo

Abrahams (1935-2015), perhaps best known for his garden scenes and giant owls, was described by one art critic as 'our greatest interpreter of the suburban dream'. Albert Irvin (1922-2015), by contrast, was an abstract painter known for his bold use of bright colour. A dazzling use of colour also characterised the work of Sheila Girling, Lady Caro (1924-2015), wife of the sculptor Sir Anthony Caro, who was both an important influence on him and a significant artist in her own right, producing admired collages and acrylics. Anita Besson (1933–2015) was an art dealer specialising in ceramics whose gallery put on some 250 exhibitions and launched the careers of many young potters and other artists. The legendary art dealer and gallery owner Leslie Waddington (1934–2015) was a leading figure in promoting modern and contemporary art, including abstract expressionists, pop artists, and colour field painters.

James Gowan (1923-2015) was an influential and accomplished architect best known for his work with James Stirling, but whose influence within the profession went wider. The structural engineer Derek Sugden (1924-2015) developed a speciality in acoustics, and was responsible, inter alia, for the acoustic designs of the Snape Maltings concert hall in Suffolk and the Buxton and Glyndebourne opera houses. On a bigger scale, Derek Walker (1929-2015) was the chief architect of the new town of Milton Keynes, and later of the Royal Armouries in Leeds and the Happy Valley racetrack complex in Hong Kong.

**Scholars and educationists**

An almost astounding array of scholarly specialisms are represented in this latest update. Juliet Clutton-Brock (1933-2015) was a pioneer in the new field of archaeozoology, whose work shed light on the domestication and evolution of farm and working animals, and on the historical relationship between humans and other animals. Nancy Sandars (1914-2015) was an intelligence analyst at Bletchley before becoming an archaeologist and a leading authority on Bronze Age cultures, most widely known for her translation of the Epic of Gilgamesh and her works on the 'sea peoples' of Anatolia. Edmund Bosworth (1928-2015) was an historian specialising in the early (pre-Mongol) history of west and central Asia, especially Iran and Afghanistan, and early Islam, on which he wrote copiously but with scrupulous scholarship. He is joined in this update by Patricia Crone (1945-2015), another pioneering but sometimes more controversial scholar of Hagarism and early Islam. Sheppard Frere (1916-2015) was an archaeologist best known for his excavations at Canterbury and St Albans, which re-shaped our understanding of life in Roman Britain.

The scope of the plant pathologist and pioneering ecological historian Oliver Rackham (1939-2015) ranged from an in-depth study of Hayley Wood in Cambridgeshire to *The History of the Countryside* (1986); he also wrote extensively on the historical ecology and landscape of Crete. Lisa Jardine (1944-2015) was among the leading scientific historians and biographers of her generation, with acclaimed studies of Erasmus, Francis Bacon, Robert Hooke, and Sir Christopher Wren alongside more wide-ranging works; she was also an accomplished
broadcaster and an active public servant, chairing the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority for six significant years. **Sir Martin Gilbert** (1936-2015), the prolific historian and Churchill biographer, author of more than eighty books, also took on public roles, most notably as a member of the Chilcot enquiry into the UK’s involvement in the Iraq War (whose report appeared a year after his death).

It was often said that **Sir Raymond Carr** (1919-2015) was far better known in Spain than in Britain, such was the impact in that country of his hugely detailed and engagingly written histories of modern Spain. Similar things (albeit for different countries) could be said for **Sir Christopher Bayly** (1945-2015), who brought a cool eye to Indian history and networks before turning to more global themes, and for **Terence Ranger** (1929-2015), the pioneering (and politically committed) historian of Zimbabwe. The work of the Sovietologist **Robert Conquest** (1917-2015) also had strong political implications in the Cold War context, and he was the first to chronicle in detail the effects of the great famine and the Soviet purges. **David Cesarani** (1956–2015) was a Jewish historian whose work on the Holocaust led him to become actively involved in campaigns against anti-Semitism and Holocaust denial.

Eighteenth-century England was the specialist area of **Paul Langford** (1945-2015), with a series of influential books branching out from the politics of the first Rockingham administration to the formation of eighteenth-century culture. **Owen Chadwick** (1916-2015) was the most feted church historian of his generation, his studies ranging from a *Victorian Miniature* (1960), a study of the conflict between a nineteenth-century squire and parson, to *A History of Christianity* (1995), alongside substantial biographies of Cardinal Newman and others. The historian **Jenny Wormald** (1942-2015) applied a sharp analytical eye to early modern Scottish history, in the process rehabilitating the Stuart kings (whom she compared favourably to the Tudors in England), but conversely causing some controversy by her disparaging assessment of Mary, Queen of Scots.

**Martin West** (1937-2015) was the pre-eminent Greek scholar of his generation, recognised (as was Owen Chadwick) by his induction into the prestigious Order of Merit: through a series of ground-breaking studies, he revolutionised the study of early Greek culture by showing its debt to the Semitic cultures of the ancient near East. The Italian scholar **Barbara Reynolds** (1914-2015) was an expert on Dante, and through that shared interest became a close friend of the crime novelist Dorothy L. Sayers, whose biography she later wrote.

**John Peel** (1941-2015) was an anthropologist and sociologist who became an authority on the Yoruba people of south-west Nigeria. The social anthropologist **Sir Jack Goody** (1919-2015) conducted fieldwork in northern Ghana, but his interests soon ranged far more widely, encompassing the anthropology of literacy, the history of the family, and comparative studies of Africa, Europe, and Asia. **Donald Kenrick** (1929-2015) was among the leading Gypsy scholars of his generation, writing authoritative accounts of Romani language, folklore, and history. **Ranjana Ash** (1924-2015) was a major force in post-colonial literature, championing the work in particular of South Asian writers.

The geographer **Michael Wise** (1918-2015) wrote some classics of industrial geography and became a leading figure in the academic discipline (and one of only two geographers to have been president of the Institute of British Geographers, the Geographical Association, and the Royal Geographical Society). **Michael Barratt Brown** (1918–2015) was a radical economist involved in the New Left in the 1950s and subsequently a pioneer in the fair trade movement. **Ajit Singh** (1940–2015) was an equally radical and iconoclastic economist whose work on stock markets, corporations, and de-industrialisation were widely influential. **Georg Kreisel** (1923-
2015) was an Austrian-born mathematical logician who was one of Wittgenstein's favoured students and was later a model for several of Iris Murdoch's characters.

Also included in this update are Sir Chris Woodhead (1946-2015), the highly controversial HM chief inspector of schools in the 1990s who waged war not only on progressive teaching methods but seemingly also on a large proportion of the teaching profession; Sheila Browne (1924-2015), a more emollient but arguably no less effective senior chief HMI at the Department for Education, later principal of Newnham College, Cambridge; and Peter Cox (1918-2015), the educationist and founder-principal of Dartington College of Arts.

Pioneers in science and medicine

Raymond Gosling (1926-2015) was a self-effacing physicist who spent much of his career at Guy’s Hospital developing medical devices, but he also played a crucial role in the DNA story in the early 1950s by taking the crucial x-ray photographs of a DNA fibre, including the famous ‘Photograph 51’. Sir Sam Edwards (1928-2015) was a Welsh physicist whose contributions to condensed matter physics and the theoretical understanding of complex materials such as polymers, gels, and colloids earned him numerous international prizes. Roger Cowley (1939-2015) was a versatile physicist who made important contributions to the understanding of the motion of atoms in solids and liquids. The physical chemist Dan Eley (1914-2015) worked on a wide range of problems bridging chemistry, physics and biology, and among other things made the important discoveries that organic compounds can act as semi-conductors, and that molecules of DNA can conduct electricity. The chemist and spectroscopist Norman Sheppard (1921–2015) developed new types of rapid precision spectroscopy, and in doing so helped pave the way for the development of nanotechnology.

The mathematician Klaus Roth (1925-2015) escaped with his family from Germany in 1933 and went on to make important contributions to number theory; in 1958 he became the first British recipient of the Fields medal, the mathematical equivalent of the Nobel prize. Claus Moser, Baron Moser (1922-2015), also escaped Nazi Germany as a child, and contributed enormously to British national life, as a leading statistician, reforming director of the Central Statistical Office, financier, academic administrator, and public servant; his great love was music, and for many years he was chairman of the Royal Opera House.

Beryl Platt, Baroness Platt of Writtle (1923-2015) was a trailblazing engineer specialising in aeronautics and aviation safety, and a leading promoter of opportunities and advancement for women in science and technology. Mary Kendrick (1928-2015) was a coastal engineer who specialised in tidal estuaries; she led the early research underpinning the Thames barrier, and was later the first woman to be conservator of the Mersey. David Cartwright (1926-2015) was a leading authority on ocean waves and ocean tides, and in later life turned his attention to the tides of the solid Earth (the small changes in the Earth’s shape caused by the push-pull gravitational effects of the Sun and Moon). Sir John Mason (1923-2015) was a towering figure in meteorology, whose own work focused on the physics of clouds, and who transformed the Meteorological Office into a world-leading centre for weather and climate research. Sir John Horlock (1928-2015) was a mechanical engineer who worked on jet engine design, was founding director of Cambridge’s Whittle Laboratory, and went on to be vice-chancellor of Salford University and the Open University. The metallurgist Ray Smallman (1929-2015) was noted for his contributions to the understanding of metals and alloys, his leading textbook, Modern Physical Metallurgy, and his role as a reforming vice-chancellor of Birmingham University. Aeronautical scientist Geoffrey Lilley (1919-2015) worked with Barnes Wallis and went on to found the new discipline of aeroacoustics, with significant practical implications for aircraft noise suppression.
and design; he led the team which persuaded the Port Authority of New York to accept Concorde. Roy Dommett (1933-2015) was Britain’s chief missile scientist, who worked on the Blue Streak, Black Knight, and Chevaline programmes. He was also a leading figure in the world of Morris and stave dancing, but few of his colleagues in that world knew of his day job.

The zoologist and conservationist Norman Moore (1923-2015) made lifelong studies of dragonflies, but it was for his work identifying the toxic effects of organochlorine pesticides such as DDT, Aldrin, and dieldrin on birds of prey, leading to their subsequent phasing out, that he will be best remembered. Dick Balharry (1937-2015) was a Scottish kennel boy-turned-conservationist with sometimes controversial views on estate management, who became a leading authority on the wildlife of the Highlands, and chairman of the National Trust for Scotland.

The parasitologist Ralph Lainson (1927-2015) devoted his life to studying leishmaniasis, founding the Instituto Evandro Chagas in Belém, Brazil, where he spent most of his career, and where he made several breakthroughs in the pathology of the disease. The influential cell biologists Alan Hall (1952-2015) and Chris Marshall (1949-2015) were both notable for their collaborative work on the Rho GTPase signalling field, with enormous implications for many areas of biological research. The research chemist Sir Gordon Hobday (1916-2015) played a key role in the development of the anti-inflammatory drug ibupofen and later became chairman and chief executive of Boots. Joel Elkes (1913-2015) was a pioneer of psychopharmacology whose work on chlorpromazine led to breakthroughs in the treatment of people suffering psychotic illnesses.

Oliver Sacks (1933-2015) was perhaps the best known neurologist of his generation, with a series of extremely readable books on neurological conditions such as The Man Who Mistook His Wife for a Hat (1985), which inspired both a play and an opera. The psychologist and public health campaigner Jane Wardle (1950-2015) was a pioneer of health psychology, including the behavioural and genetic aspects of eating disorders, and the contribution of psychology to public health, and in her final years wrote frankly and perceptively about her own cancer diagnosis. The developmental psychologist Barbara Tizard (1926-2015) produced a series of challenging and ground-breaking studies of early childhood education, and later of racialised differences in primary school settings. The experimental psychologist Nicholas Mackintosh (1935-2015) studied intelligence and animal learning, and wrote a book on the controversial figure Cyril Burt.

Also included in this update is Irvine Loudon (1924-2015), a dedicated Wantage GP with a speciality in obstetrics, who pursued a parallel career as a medical historian and produced groundbreaking books on the history of childbirth fever and maternal mortality. He is joined by Sheila Kitzinger (1929-2015), the leading advocate of ‘natural’ childbirth, who campaigned against the medicalisation of childbirth; and by the medical politicians Sir Anthony Grabham (1930-2015), who led the successful opposition to Labour plans to phase out private hospital beds under Harold Wilson, and oversaw reform of the British Medical Association, and his near-contemporary Robert Kilpatrick, Baron Kilpatrick of Kincraig (1926–2015), who had a similarly reforming impact on the General Medical Council.

**Slices of business life**

The food industry is unusually well represented in this update. Ena Baxter (1924-2015) was the driving force and for many years the public face of soup manufacturers Baxters of Speyside, overseeing its growth into a multi-million pound business, exporting Scotch broth, cock-a-leekie, and Cullen skink to virtually every corner of the world. Caroline Jeremy (1961–2015) was the
creative force behind the New Covent Garden Soup Company and later Green and Black's chocolate company. Robyn Jones (1961–2015) was a major figure in the hospitality industry who began Charlton House in her spare bedroom and saw it achieve a turnover of more than £100 million by the time of her death. Gulam Noon, Baron Noon (1936-2015) was an Indian-born entrepreneur known as the ‘Curry King’ who created a multi-million business supplying supermarkets with ready-made meals, and invented ‘Bombay mix’; a Labour supporter, he inadvertently became caught up in the ‘cash for peerages’ row which undermined Tony Blair’s leadership. These businessmen and -women are joined in this update by Marguerite Patten (1915-2015), a cookery writer who began her career as a home economist for the wartime Ministry of Food, went on to write some 170 cookery books, and sold more than two million copies of Cookery in Colour (1960).

Sir Naim Dangoor (1914–2015) was an Iraqi Jewish businessman who fled to Britain in the 1960s, built a property empire, and more than returned his debt to the country through his wide-ranging philanthropic endeavours. Harry Hyams (1928-2015) was a more reclusive and controversial property developer notorious for leaving Centre Point in London unoccupied for many years while capitalising on rising property prices, who nevertheless left to the nation an art collection worth nearly half a billion pounds. Equally controversial was the head of the investment group Slater Walker, Jim Slater (1929-2015), who developed a reputation as a ruthless asset-stripper in the 1960s and 1970s, but came to grief in the stock market collapse of the mid-1970s; he later turned his hand to writing children’s books.

More conventionally, Sir John Read (1918-2015) was a leading figure in the corporate world, serving as chairman of EMI (where he was embarrassed by the antics of the Sex Pistols) and later TSB. The industrialist Allen Sheppard, Baron Sheppard of Didgemere (1932-2015), once described as 'Britain's toughest boss', left his mark firmly on Ford and British Leyland before overseeing the radical restructuring of Grand Metropolitan. Derek Ezra, Baron Ezra (1919-2015), spent almost his whole working life in the coal industry, becoming chairman of the National Coal Board between 1971 and 1981; although he had to contend with a good deal of industrial unrest he forged a close relationship with Joe Gormley, president of the NUM, and later emerged as a fierce critic of privatisation. After a distinguished naval career, Sir Robert Atkinson (1916-2015) tried and failed to save British Shipbuilding, underestimating the Thatcher government’s determination to run down the nationalised industry. The trade unionist Bill Sirs (1920–2015) was general secretary of the Iron and Steel Trades Confederation, who led the resistance to steel closures under the Thatcher government but publicly clashed with Gormley’s successor Arthur Scargill during the miners' strike, over the supply of coal for his own industry.

Among other figures from the world of business included in this update are Sir Donald Barron (1921-2015), chairman of Rowntree and a major figure in the civic life of York; Sir Adrian Cadbury (1929-2015), of the rival confectioners and chocolate manufacturers Cadbury’s, who became a pioneer of good practice in corporate governance; Bob Gavron, Baron Gavron (1930-2015), a printing tycoon and one of the major funders of Tony Blair’s 'new' Labour; Charles Notcutt (1934-2015), who transformed Notcutts garden centres into a major chain; and Derek Pugh (1930-2015), an academic based at Aston University who was one of the world's leading experts on organisational psychology and its implications for business management.

For the good of others

As always, this update includes several individuals whose lives were characterised by what they did for others. Sir Nicholas Winton (1909-2015) played an important role in the Kindertransport which rescued young Jewish children from the clutches of the Nazis.
immediately prior to the Second World War; though he came to be feted later in life as the ‘British Schindler’ he always made clear that he played a lesser role than others in this humanitarian venture. Ken Leech (1939-2015) was a radical Anglican priest and theologian who as a curate in 1960s London founded the homeless charity Centrepoint; later he campaigned for gender equality and an end to racial discrimination. Margaret Harrison (1938-2015) was a full-time mother in Leicester before founding Home Start, the charity which provides support to families under stress; it was estimated that more than a million children worldwide had benefitted from its help by the time of her death. Mary Cherry (1926-2015) was an agricultural journalist and consultant who became the first female chair of Oxfam, guiding it through a difficult period when its campaigning and lobbying brought it into conflict with the Charity Commission.

Matters of faith

Yet another first for women was registered by Joyce Bennett (1923-2015), a head teacher in Hong Kong who in 1971 became the first Englishwoman to be ordained a Church of England priest; returning to Britain a decade later she continued to minister to London’s Chinese Christian community a decade before the Church of England officially embraced the ordination of women. She is joined in this update by Ronald Gordon (1927-2015), an important clerical politician who was bishop of Portsmouth during the Falklands conflict and later served as Ronald Runcie’s chief of staff at Lambeth Palace, and Charles Cranfield (1915-2015), a leading New Testament scholar known in particular for a magisterial two-volume commentary on Romans.

And finally…

The UK’s national life would have been much the poorer without Edward Montagu, third Baron Montagu of Beaulieu (1926-2015), whose quiet dignity after being jailed for conspiring to commit ‘unnatural acts’ in a high-profile trial in 1954 was widely reckoned to have been an important milestone towards the decriminalisation of homosexuality in 1967; he was also immensely influential in the museum and heritage world, as founder of the National Motor Museum and chairman of English Heritage. Public school-educated John ‘Hoppy’ Hopkins (1937-2015) was a photographer and music promoter, and a colourful figure in the 1960s counter-culture whose jailing for cannabis possession in 1967 again became a cause célèbre. Finally, one of the highlights of this update is the life of Cynthia Payne (1932-2015), the ‘Streatham madam’ whose entanglements with the law and high-class clientele enlivened the newspapers of the 1970s and 1980s.

A full list of new subjects can be found here.

Future updates

We will be continuing to publish monthly updates to the dictionary. Next month’s update will feature urban planners and authors with strong local connections.