

A short history of The Printing Charity



1827 The Printers' Pension Society was founded by George and Charles Searle and their employer, John King, an independent printer, in the Kings Head Tavern in Poultry, London. It is the UK's second oldest occupational charity.

1828 The first dinner of the Printers' Pension Society took place with £310 16s being raised.

1843 Charles Dickens Esq elected as President of the charity.

1864 Charles Dickens Esq elected as President of the charity for a second term.

1865 The signing of the original Royal Charter by Queen Victoria took place. This formed the Printers' Pension, Almshouse and Orphans Asylum Cooperation.

1934 The Rt Hon. Winston Churchill attends the charity's Festival Dinner.

1964 The opening of Southwood Court by Queen Elizabeth, The Queen Mother.

2010 Charity's name changes to 'The Printing Charity', with an event held at 11 Downing Street.

2014 Granting of the charity's second Supplemental Royal Charter



A selection of images from our archives



The Printing Charity's Presidents

1828 Lord John Russell MP	1896 The Archbishop of Canterbury (Edward White Benson)	1957 Brigadier Sir George Harvie-Watt
1830 Viscount Morpeth MP	1897 The Lord Mayor (Sir George Faudel-Phillips Bt GCSI)	1958 Colonel Sir James Waterlow Bt MBE TD
1831 The Lord Mayor (Sir John Key Bt)	1898 G A Spottiswoode (Trustee)	1959 Angus Kennedy Esq. MC CA
1832 Viscount Mahon MP	1899 Lord Russell of Killowen GCMG	1960 Sir Guy Harrison
1833 Sir Edward Lytton Bulwer Bt MP	1900 Cecil B Harmsworth Esq.	1961 Roy Thomson Esq.
1835 The Lord Mayor (H Winchester Esq.)	1901 G F McCorquodale Esq. (Trustee)	1962 Sir Oliver Crosthwaite-Eyre DL MP
1836 Earl Stanhope	1902 Lord Glensesk	1963 HRH The Duke of Edinburgh KG KT
1837 Sir Lancelot Shadwell	1903 W Hugh Spottiswoode Esq. (Trustee)	1964 Sir William E Butlin MBE
1838 Viscount Sandon MP	1904 The Hon J H Choate, United States Ambassador	1965 Cecil H King Esq.
1839 The Earl of Durham	1905 Sir C Arthur Pearson Bt	1966 Sir Christopher Chancellor CMB
1841 Sir J Easthope Bt MP	1906 Franklin Thornasson Esq. MP	1967 David Ducat Esq.
1842 Richard Taylor Esq. FLS	1907 Lord Northcliffe	1968 Sir Max Aitken DSO DFC
1843 Charles Dickens Esq.	1908 The Hon W F Danvers-Smith MP (Second Time)	1969 HRH The Duke of Kent GCMG GCVO
1844 Lord Robert Grosvenor	1909 HRH The Prince of Wales KG	1970 Lord Hartwell MBE TD MA
1845 The Right Hon Benjamin Disraeli MP	1910 Sir G Wgatt Truscott Bt	1971 Sir Eric Clayson FCA
1846 Lord Dudley C Stewart MP	1911 The Lord Mayor (Sir T Vezev Strong KCVO)	1972 Lord Buckton
1847 Luke J Hansard Esq.	1912 Sir Horace B Marshall MA LLD JP	1973 Lord Goodman CH
1848 The Marquis of Northampton	1913 Jon Walter Esq.	1974 Eric W Cheadle CBE
1849 J A Roebuck Esq.	1914 The Lord Mayor (Sir T Vansittart Bowater Bt)	1975 The Hon Vere Harmsworth
1850 Frederick Peel Esq. MP	1915 Alfred F Blades Esq.	1976 Lord Feather/The Hon Vere Harmsworth
1851 William Ewart Esq. MP	1916 Kennedy Jones Esq. MP	1977 HRH The Prince of Wales
1852 Douglas Jarrold Esq.	1917 Capt Sir G Rowland Blades MP	1978 Sir William Butlin (second time)
1853 Viscount Mahon MP	1918 Sir George A Riddell Bt	1979 Lord Delfont
1854 A H Layhard Esq.	1919 Major The Hon Waldorf Astor MP	1980 Dame Vera Lynn OBE LLD
1855 The Lord Mayor (Sir F G Moon Bt)	1920 HRH The Prince of Wales KG	1981 HRH The Duchess of Kent GCVO
1856 Sir Roderick I Murchison DCL	1921 Sir William A Waterlow KBE	1982 Lord Matthews
1857 The Duke of Wellington	1922 HRH The Duke of York KG	1983 Gordon C Brunton Esq.
1858 HRH The Duke of Cambridge	1923 Sir William E Berry BT	1984 HRH Princess Alexandra GCVO
1859 The Earl of Shrewsbury and Talbot	1924 Major The Hon J Astor MP	1985 Rupert Murdoch Esq.
1860 Tom Taylor Esq.	1925 Sir Herbert Morgan KBE	1986 The Duke of Atholl
1861 Thomas Chandler-Haliburton Esq. MP	1926 Viscount Burnham CH	1987 Peter W Gibbins Esq.
1862 Lord Stanley	1927 HRH The Prince Henry KG	1988 The Earl of Stockton
1863 Viscount Enfield MP	1928 Sir George Berry Bt	1989 HRH The Princess of Wales
1864 Charles Dickens Esq. (second time)	1929 HRH The Duke of Gloucester KG	1990 The Rt Hon Sir Geoffrey Howe QC MP
1865 The Rt Hon W E Gladstone MP	1930 CH St John Hornby Esq.	1991 Eric Tanger Esq.
1866 The Hon Arthur Kinnaird MP	1931 HRH Prince George KG	1992 Victor H Watson CBE DL
1867 Earl Russell KG (second time)	1932 W Lints Smith Esq.	1993 Harry Roche Esq.
1868 Dr Stanley, Dean of Westminster	1933 Lord Iliffe CBE	1994 Frank Barlow CBE
1869 Viscount Goschen	1934 J S Elias Esq.	1995 Norman J Garrod CBE
1870 The Lord Mayor (Robert Beasley)	1935 The Earl of Derby KG	1996 Sir Frank Rogers
1871 Earl Stanhope	1936 The Earl of Athlone KG	1997 Jeremy J S Marshall Esq.
1872 Lord G F Hamilton MP	1937 Lord Portal	1998 Sir David English
1873 The Lord Mayor (Sir S H Waterlow Bt)	1938 Sir Edgar L Waterlow Bt MA	1999 The Rt Hon Lord Wakeham
1874 John Walter Esq. MP	1939 Sir Emsley Carr	2000 Ian Park Esq.
1875 Earl Cadogan	1940 The Rt Hon C W Bowerman JP	2001 Ian Park Esq.
1876 HRH The Duke of Cambridge	1941 R A Austin-Leigh Esq.	2002 Ian Park Esq.
1877 The Rt Hon W E Gladstone MP (second time)	1942 Maj-Gen The Hon EF Lawson CB DSCO MC	2003 Richard Lambert Esq. BA Hons
1878 The Earl of Roseberry KG	1943 Walter Hutchinson Esq. MA	2004 Sir Jeremy Elwes CBE ACIS FRSA
1879 W Spottiswoode Esq. LLD PRS	1944 The Hon Rupert E Beckett JP	2005 The Bishop of London (The Rt. Hon. Rt. Rev. Richard Chartres)
1880 The Lord Mayor (Sir F Wgatt Truscott)	1945 Viscount Kemsley (second time)	2006 The Rt Hon Jonathan Harmsworth (Viscount Rothermere)
1881 Earl Spencer	1946 Sir Walter T Layton CH CBE	2007 Sir Clive Martin
1882 Sir T Brassey KCB MP	1947 Arthur Cousins Esq. CBE	2008 Barry Hibbert Esq.
1883 HRH The Duke of Albany	1948 Ralph C Hazell Esq.	2009 Michael Johnson Esq.
1884 J S Gilliat Esq. Governor of Bank of England	1949 Sir Frank Newnes Bt	2010 Michael Johnson Esq.
1885 The Lord Mayor (Sir R N Fowler MP)	1950 The Hon David J Smith JP	2011 Sir Christopher Meyer, KCMG
1886 Earl Beauchamp	1951 Geoffrey L Tillotson Esq.	2012 Murdoch MacLennan
1887 George Augustus Sala Esq.	1952 J Bowes Morrell Esq. JP LLD	2013 Lord Black of Brentwood
1888 The Lord Mayor (Sir Peter De Keyser)	1953 The Hon Lionel Berry	2014 Lord Black of Brentwood
1889 The Lord Mayor (Sir J Whitehead Bt)	1954 Charles H Crabtree Esq.	2015 HRH The Duke of York, KG
1890 John Evans Esq. DCL LLD	1955 Victor E Walker Esq.	2016 The Rt Hon. Lord Blunkett
1891 Sir Edward Lawdon	1956 Lord McCorquodale of Newton	2017 The Rt Hon. the Baroness Dean of Thornton-le-Fylde
1892 Ralph D M Littler Esq. QC CB		2018 Lionel Barber Esq.
1893 The Hon W F Danvers-Smith MP		
1894 The Lord Mayor (Sir George Tyler Bt)		
1895 HRH The Prince of Wales		