

## International Association Les Hénokiens - Château du Clos Lucé

### THE 2019 «LEONARDO DA VINCI PRIZE» AWARD

On September 2019 the 26th, the 9th « **Leonardo da Vinci Prize** » has been awarded in London in the prestigious Two Temple Place by Lord Wilson of Dinton, former Head of the British Civil Service to Mr. Christopher Thomson, Deputy Chairman of DC Thomson, member of the 5th generation of the Thomson family, in the presence of Mr. Tokuichi Okaya, President of the Henokiens Association, Willem van Eeghen, vice President of the Henokiens Association, François Saint Bris, President of the Château du Clos Lucé- Parc Leonardo da Vinci, Alexander Hoare and Rennie Hoare, partners of C.Hoare & Co., organizer of this event and the 2019 Congress of the Association.



Willem van Eeghen - François Saint Bris- Lord Wilson of Dinton- Tokuichi Okaya- Christopher Thomson- Alexander Hoare



DC Thomson is one of the leading media organisations in the UK. In the last decade, the company has evolved into a group of trading businesses, launching and acquiring businesses with interests complementary to its core media interests. It's primary Media business continues to publish newspapers and magazines, while diversifying into new media, radio and events. The wider Group includes global genealogy company Findmypast, leading IT and data business services provider

Brightsolid, premium gifting business Wild & Wolf, multimedia studio Beano Studios and magazine publishers The Stylist Group and Puzzler Media. The company is an entirely family run business and has been for five generations. It employs over 1,800 people across its seven subsidiaries in 15 different locations across the UK and overseas and achieves a turnover of 294 million euros.

In his speech, the vice President of the Henokiens, Willem van Eeghen, stressed that fidelity, commitment but also innovation and modernity have helped to build the reputation of the Thomson family whose name has become synonymous with an unmistakable brand and benchmark for superb craftsmanship. He also underlined that the Thomson family is proud of its heritage having working hard to preserve its legacy including an extensive private archive and recently the launch of a family internship program with a view to cultivate the spirit of transmission among the next generation. He concluded saying that this extraordinary company shares with Leonardo da Vinci a capacity to transmit essential values and abilities to successive generations by showing they are good at innovation, serving as a model and a booster to other family owned companies



Rennie Hoare, responsible of philanthropy at C. Hoare & Co., said that the bank shares with DC Thomson the willingness and the commitment to help the community. For Rennie Hoare, philanthropy is not a one-way street: by helping to improve the lives of the poor, the bank has found ways to place philanthropy at the heart of its success and development. In his speech, Rennie Hoare wanted to show how philanthropy, when integrated into all parts of the organization, can benefit everyone, shareholders, employees and customers, and conclude that a family's attachment to philanthropy is an important part of building mutual trust and cohesion and shared values among all family members.

For François Saint Bris, President of the Château du Clos Lucé - Parc Leonardo da Vinci, this Prize rewards DC Thomson for its outstanding contribution to pass on to future generations a set of cultural values and know-how that together make up an intangible and living heritage which are an essential guarantee for its continuity. He underlines the fact that there is a particularly strong echo between Leonardo da Vinci's research and his disruptive technical and mechanical innovations of the printing press, and the concrete, innovative technological solutions that DC Thomson has brought, keeping a pace with the times by transforming its original publishing business from mechanical printing to digital printing, and looking to the future of the digital age by investing in new sectors of the multimedia industry. François Saint Bris stresses that company has upheld its values of integrity and respect across 170 years and five generations and is renewing its commitment to its customers and employees by producing dynamic content. Harnessing its communications experience and unique DNA, he concludes by saying that DC Thomson brings a perfect balance of time-honoured tradition and constant concern for its environmental impact with sustained innovation at the cutting edge of audiovisual and digital technology.





Presenting the Leonardo da Vinci Award to Christopher Thomson, Lord Wilson of Dinton wishes to acknowledge DC Thomson's extraordinary ability to survive difficult times and, through it, family businesses while trying to understand how they were able to withstand time, succeeding in finding at each change of generation the good successor, in persuading their employees to remain loyal and their customers to remain faithful. Honoring DC Thomson gives Lord Wilson of Dinton the opportunity to pay tribute to all these amazing companies that are not only a tremendous engine for the economy but also have the enormous merit of giving a lot to the community. While presenting this award to Christopher Thomson, his family and his company, Lord Wilson of Dinton is willing to convey his admiration and his thanks for what he and his family have achieved over decades.

Receiving the Leonardo da Vinci Prize from Lord Wilson of Dinton, Christopher Thomson expresses his honor to accompany the prestigious laureates who preceded him. He adds being especially touched to be credited with a trophy bearing the name of a genius, pioneer of modern printing, as our founder DC Thomson was in his time. He is particularly proud to be recognized in the values embodied by the awards Innovation, Modernity, Fidelity and Commitment to which he wants to add tenacity, dedication and stability. Speaking of Innovation and Modernity, Christopher Thomson says that if we have not perhaps invented new technology, we have always been very early adopters, utilising and adapting technology and innovating constantly. Speaking of Fidelity, a word which might include Dedication, Rightness, Loyalty, Reliability, Stability, Firmness, and Tenacity, He says that even though we have a southern HQ here in Fleet Street, perhaps to some extent unusually, our main HQ is still where we started in the great small city of Dundee, Scotland, on the banks of the beautiful River Tay; and we invest back in our communities. He adds that his company has a set of cultural values constantly created and recreated by our businesses and by like-minded extraordinary colleagues and passed down through the business. These may be said to include: modesty, sincerity, integrity, foresight, understanding failure as well as success, simplicity, persistent curiosity, a wider ecosystem, and that having the opportunity to create, experiment and experience is a key motivation and a privilege. He concluded by seeing in the choice of le Château du Clos Lucé and the Henokiens Association a tremendous encouragement to continue the entrepreneurial adventure led by his family for more than a century.



The trophy of the Leonardo da Vinci Prize, designed by the Henokiens member Mellerio, is inspired by the flying helix invented by Leonardo da Vinci. It embodies the laudable values of superiority, advancement and vision that the "Prix Léonard de Vinci" was created for to recognize, promote and reward.