

Twitter Thread by Fionna O'Leary, ■■■■



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What do a Tory Peer, Selwyn Gummer (Lord Chadlington), David Sumner (Sumner Group Holdings) and the Sanchez Perez family (drugs money, laundered through Gold mines) have in common?

It's another company-saving a £50 million PPE contract shaggy dog story

Connections, connections

The *staggering* tale of a Tory Peer and a £350m PPE contract. <https://t.co/SH2qxOmfQ4>

— Jo Maugham (@JolyonMaugham) [December 10, 2020](#)

What a start to the story

"A bulletproof truck trundled down the road in downtown Lima, guarded by 18 policeman
They were wearing body armour & wielding high velocity rifles

No-one was taking any chances

This was a Special delivery for Peruvian Prosecutor for an anti drug trial

Their target? A prominent local clan, the Sanchez Paredes family.

The news electrified Peru, for the business interests of the Sanchez Paredes are vast, running to luxury hotels, factories, farms, cattle ranches and 15 gold mines. With their wealth have come fame and political influence.

Six years later, five men went on trial, including the family patriarch, Orlando Sanchez Paredes, now 76.

They were charged with laundering millions, the proceeds, prosecutors claim, of trafficking cocaine – chiefly through gold mines, of which, more later.

The trial, repeatedly adjourned, continues after three years. The defendants protest their innocence: Mr Sanchez Paredes has always insisted his fortune is derived from legitimate business interests. If found guilty, they will go to prison for up to 18 years.

Cut to a very different scene, 6,000 miles away in the glorious Cotswolds, a year after that armoured truck trundled towards the Peruvian prosecutor's office.

On one of the happiest days of any father's life, Lord Chadlington – ex-president of the Witney Conservative Association – was celebrating his daughter Naomi's wedding in the gorgeous village which lent him his title. The sun shone all day.

Chadlington, now 78 – plain Peter Selwyn Gummer before his ascent to the Lords in 1996 – was in his element. There could have been no more vivid illustration of his influence than that day in May, 2012.



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That was in 2011, the same year that Lord Chadlington's daughter got married in Chadlington to Henry Allsopp.

Who was there?

Yes Kirstie Allsopp of Location, location, location and all this Covid nonsense fame) is his sister

Camilla, his Godmother

Jeremy Hunt

Cameron

Everyone who was anyone was there: the then PM David Cameron and his wife Samantha – who have a home in the village; Jeremy Hunt, about to be promoted to health secretary; and Chadlington's brother, the former cabinet minister John Selwyn Gummer. Camilla, Duchess of Cornwall, was there as godmother to the groom, Henry Allsopp; his sister, Location, Location, Location presenter Kirstie, was another famous guest.

What, though, connects these very different scenes, and these two septuagenarians, and what, exactly, is the relevance today?

A Daily Mail investigation can reveal firstly Sumner Group Holdings (SGH), the business empire now chaired by Lord Chadlington, is involved via a subsidiary in gold mining in Peru with the Sanchez Paredes family.

Well. Come on. Lord Chadlington had been chair of the local Witney Conservative Association. It's only fair.

Hang on. Julian Wheatland, Director of SCL Group/ Cambridge Analytica had also been chair of Witney Conservative Association...and campaigned for his mate Cameron

Are we sure Julian Wheatland and his side kick Alexander Nix were not there too [@JolyonMaugham](#) ?

I mean. They move in the same North Oxford circles.

Anyway.

Back to

-the Cotswold connection,

-Sumner Group Holdings with a history of financial crashes and

-that pesky Sanchez Paredes / Perez family with those lovely gold mines allegedly handy for laundering drug money.

10:20 Fri 11 Dec

daily mail.co.uk

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COTSWOLD CONNECTIONS

Chadlington has been disarmingly frank about his limitations. After studying theology at Cambridge, he went into public relations because, he said, 'I just wasn't clever enough to do anything else'.

But Shandwick, the firm he founded in 1974, was hugely successful, and the root of his political influence.

There was the odd misstep. In 1997, he stepped down as Royal Opera House chairman, after a report by MPs accused him and his board of 'incompetence, disastrous financial planning and misjudgement'.

Chadlington's social standing is as strong as ever – it may have been his connections that led to his association with David Sumner, chief executive and founder of Sumner Group Holdings.

MERCHANT OF DUBAI

Before he met Chadlington, Sumner, 49, had run several businesses, with mixed success. One dealt in solar-powered hot water systems in China. Sumner floated it on the AIM smaller companies section of the London stock exchange.

Its initial share price was 40p, making it worth £28million. But in 2014, it crashed, and when its shares were suspended two years later, they were priced at 0.5p. Sumner's investors had lost their money.

Sumner moved to Dubai. In 2015, he founded the SGH subsidiary that was to win the PPE contracts.

Working with wife Liezl he recruited nurses from the Philippines to work in the Middle East and NHS. By 2018, the firm made steady losses. Until the British taxpayer stepped in, he had other fish to fry.

PERUVIAN PARTNERS

Enter the Sanchez Paredes family. Whatever may happen in the Lima trial, there is little doubt certain members of the family have had links to the drugs trade.

On December 10, 1987, Orlando Sanchez Paredes's brother Simón was gunned down at his farm in Mexico. Police found a large cocaine processing lab in the basement.

In 2008, the American Drug Enforcement Administration opened inquiries – leading, in 2012, to a case in New York in which family assets worth £25million were seized.

The gold mines, it was claimed, were the main way the clan was suspected to be laundering trafficking profits. They denied the allegations, and some assets were later unfrozen after an appeal.



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What's that got to do with Lord Chadlington?

Well his firm, GPW (he was chairman & Director) was asked by David Sumner to produce a business intelligence report on

the risks of Sumner Group Holdings Ltd doing business with the Sanchez Peredes/ Perez family.

10:41 Fri 11 Dec

dailymail.co.uk

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A GOLDEN DEAL?

How David Sumner first encountered the Sanchez Paredes is unknown.

But in the autumn of 2017, his mining subsidiary asked a business intelligence firm, GPW, to produce a report about the possible risks of doing business with members of the family.

Chadlington was not yet on the board of SGH. He was, though, chairman and a director of GPW, though it is unclear what knowledge – if any – he had of the report.



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It concluded that although Orlando Sanchez Peredes had not been not convicted of any money laundering crimes, nor appear on any law enforcement sanctions list he WAS listed as a “special interest person” by the Dow Jones register of business risk data..and was currently on trial



Everyone who was anyone was at Lord Chadlington's daughter's birthday in 2012, including the then PM David Cameron and his wife Samantha (pictured) – who have a home in the village

The GPW report stated that the clan 'is a large, high-profile Peruvian family, members of which have been publicly associated with money laundering and cocaine smuggling.'

It noted that Orlando Sanchez Paredes had not been convicted of any trafficking or money laundering crimes and did not appear on any public sanctions or law enforcement lists.

But it added he was 'listed as a "special interest person" by the Dow Jones global register of business risk data... due to considerable negative media coverage in relation to alleged financial crime and drug trafficking'.

GPW had been asked to look into several family members involved in mining. Of them, 'four have been investigated by Peruvian authorities on suspicion of laundering the proceeds of drug trafficking'.

None had been convicted, the report said. But Orlando and others were 'currently on trial... facing charges of having used their gold mining businesses for money laundering purposes'.

Many investors would have run a mile. But in February 2018, Sumner agreed to buy two gold mine concessions from the family, and paid millions to Orlando, his wife Isabel and various firms believed to be controlled by members of the family.

A month later he floated SGH's mining business on the NEX London stock market. It was priced at £5 per share, suggesting the firm was worth £535 million.

The deal he made with the family does not seem to have gone well. Sumner agreed to pay the Sanchez Paradeses a total of £10million in cash and shares, as a 'down payment' for two mining concessions, and the firm was supposed to pay a further £32million to complete the purchase of the mines.

But Sumner later announced that 'following a review of strategy' the company had determined that continuing with the projects and paying the outstanding money 'was not in the interests of shareholders'.



4 members of the same family also under investigation for drugs/ money laundering through the gold mines offences.

So SGH ran a mile, surely?

Nope

They bought into the mines, paying Orlando Sanchez Perez and his family a shedload of money.

Then floated SGH on the stock market

They had already paid £10 million to the Sanchez family as a down payment with a £32 million still to pay.

Someone with some sense in SGH decided that continuing to do business with the Sanchez family still on trial, was too big a risk, waving goodbye to the £10 million.

Naturally, the newly SGH recruited shareholders were not too happy and sued them.

Knowing all this Lord Chadlington wouldn't touch them with a barge pole, would he?

Nope.

He ended up the company Chairman.

So whilst SGH mining company ran into trouble with its shareholder, the public money purse this Government seems to use to line the coffers of its mates sprang to the rescue with 2 PPE contracts (£23.8m + £26.1m) awarded to another SGH subsidiary.

11:35 Fri 11 Dec

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PPE TO THE RESCUE

Secondly, SGH has struck a new gold mine: another subsidiary has landed enormous PPE contracts this year as ministers scrambled to shore up supply shortages as the pandemic struck.

Thanks to taxpayers, the firm's first PPE contract, for £23.8million, was awarded on April 28 – at least 18 months after Chadlington had joined Sumner Group Holdings as chairman. The second, for £26.1 million, followed a month later.

The firm says its profit is modest, but it is impossible to tell from publicly available information. Just as well, for the subsidiary was struggling at the time. It ended the last financial year £376,000 in debt.

With one £50million leap, it joined that long list of lucky beneficiaries of ministers' largesse.

£470m 'doled out to tax haven firms'

Ministers have awarded PPE contracts worth £470million to seven companies linked to tax havens, it is alleged.

Analysis for Labour highlights £50million paid in two deals to Sumner Group Health, a subsidiary of Sumner Group Holdings, chaired by Lord Chadlington.

It links Sumner Group Health to the tax havens of the British Virgin Islands and Dubai.

Also included in the ten contracts is Ayanda which won a £252million deal to supply masks and is linked to Mauritius.

The research identifies firms listed in a tax haven or with a parent company listed in a tax haven.

The National Audit Office last month underlined how a lack of transparency – including missing documents, backdated contracts and information published months late – was a serious flaw in the procurement process.

The NAO report said a bid for a Government contract referred via a minister or MP was ten times more likely to be successful than one which was not.

The highlighting of 'VIP access' has led to allegations of cronyism.

Shadow cabinet office minister Rachel Reeves said: 'Taxpayers deserve to know their money is being handled with great care – and that any risk of its misuse through tax havens is carefully handled by this Government.'

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Where's the problem between mates with a company with £376k debt, after all?

I mean, that's what mates and that VIP line to success are for, surely ?

Interesting colleagues on the Sumner board.

<https://t.co/qcJVOM2Lfp>

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Sumner Group team comprises seasoned professionals with a firm stance on sound corporate governance.

Lord Chadlington - Chairman

Lord Chadlington's career spans politics, public relations and journalism. A serial entrepreneur, he founded two of the largest global public relations networks: Shandwick and Huntsworth.

Lord Chadlington has advised various Prime Ministers – including Sir John Major and David Cameron. He was made a member of the House of Lords in 1996.

Most recently he founded his most recent strategic communications firm - The Chadlington Consultancy. He is Chairman and advisor to various international companies.

Lord Chadlington is Life President of the charity Action on Addiction.

David Sumner - Founder & Chief Executive Officer

David is a long-term investor based in the UAE. He has over 20 years of experience in developing successful global business platforms focusing on the healthcare, security & defence and mining sectors with a specific interest in UK capital markets.

He has been instrumental in seeding, developing and managing the growth of many of the Sumner Group operating businesses and oversaw the public listings of both Sumner Group Mining and SG Recruitment. He founded Sumner Group in 2018 to consolidate and build upon his business interests.

He has served on numerous private and public company boards in both an executive and non-executive capacity and has a track record of raising capital through debt and equity fundraising.

Jonathan Sumner - Chief Financial Officer

Jon brings over 15 years of international experience in financial reporting, forecasting, audit, tax, and M&A project management. During his career to date Jon has held CFO positions with private and publicly listed companies in the UK, Europe, and Asia, where he has a track record of developing businesses and executing capital market transactions including public listings, privatizations, group restructuring and raising capital through debt and equity fundraising.

Jon has been working for companies within the Sumner Group for 10 years and he remains a key member of the Company's Executive management team that is leading the development of the business. Prior to this Jon received a BSc Honours degree in Mathematics from The University of Bristol before qualifying with and holding senior positions at PricewaterhouseCoopers and Deloitte.

Jide J. Zeitlin, Non-Executive Director

Mr. Zeitlin spent the first 20 years of his career at The Goldman Sachs Group, Inc., where he held a number of senior management positions including serving as Global Chief Operating Officer of their investment banking businesses. He also served in the firm's Executive Office. Over the next decade, Mr. Zeitlin was a private investor overseeing the Keffi Group Ltd, an investment office that has life science and natural resource interests in the Middle East, the United States, and Africa.

Mr. Zeitlin is a member of a number of corporate and charitable boards, such as Affiliated Managers Group, Inc. (US\$800 billion in assets under management) and the Nigeria Sovereign Investment Authority (where he is Chairman). He is Chairman Emeritus of Amherst College and formerly served on the boards of a range of institutions, including Teach for America, Harvard Business School, and the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation.

Mr. Zeitlin holds an A.B. degree in Economics and English from Amherst College and an M.B.A. degree from Harvard University.

That 28 Esplanade, St Helier, Jersey registered address rings a bell with me.

Does it you [@Turloughc](#) ?

11:51 Fri 11 Dec

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SUMNER GROUP HOLDINGS LIMITED

Company Number EXTUID_363585

Native Company Number 125839

Status Live

Incorporation Date 20 February 2018 (almost 3 years ago)

Company Type RC - Registered Private Company

Jurisdiction Jersey

Registered Address 28 Esplanade St Helier Jersey
JE2 3QA
Jersey

Registry Page <https://www.jerseyfsc.org/registry/do...>

Recent filings for SUMNER GROUP HOLDINGS LIMITED

16 Sep 2020	SPECIAL RESOLUTION
20 Aug 2020	ANNUAL RETURN 2020
4 Feb 2020	CHANGE OF REGISTERED ADDRESS
28 Feb 2019	ANNUAL RETURN 2019
21 Dec 2018	CHANGE OF REGISTERED ADDRESS
13 Aug 2018	SPECIAL RESOLUTION
10 Aug 2018	SPECIAL RESOLUTION
12 Jun 2018	SPECIAL RESOLUTION

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The full SGH/ Lord Chadlington/ Sanchez Peredes story is here

<https://t.co/GQoj8P0HpS>