



PETER KELLNER DEFENDS THE IMPORTANT ROLE PLAYED BY OPINION POLLSTERS IN THE UK AND THE USA

Peter Kellner, President of YouGov, delivered the 21st Sir Harry Brittain Memorial Lecture following the Annual Meeting on 6 October in the auditorium of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, by kind invitation of the President, Sir Suma Chakrabarti.

Following an introduction by Pilgrims' President Admiral of the Fleet Lord Boyce, Peter Kellner referred to John Prescott's advice to Ed Miliband to ignore opinion polls and do what he thought right.



In the debate in Parliament the previous year on proposed aerial action against Syria, a number of MPs had referred to opinion polls which showed that the public was opposed to such action, and the Government motion was subsequently defeated.

More recently, a poll in *The Sunday Times* had showed that the No campaign in the Scottish Referendum was losing its longstanding lead against the Yes campaign. Peter Kellner felt that polls reflected what people were saying at a particular moment, rather than being a free-standing alien life-force. Politicians should not look at majority opinion and slavishly follow it, while pollsters should seek to be as accurate as possible.

Political opinion polling began with the 1824 US Presidential Election, when Andrew Jackson was victorious over John Quincy Adams. George Gallup, the doyen of opinion pollsters, set up his British organisation in 1938, and in 1945 predicted

that Churchill would lose the General Election, when the other polls declared him to be the favourite. Over the past seventy years pollsters had achieved fairly accurate results, with the notable exceptions of the US Presidential Election of 1948 and the British General Elections of 1970 and 1992. In the recent Scottish Referendum the pollsters had enjoyed success: the YouGov poll taken just before voting showed 48% Yes and 52% No, while the poll taken just after voting showed 46% Yes and 54% No - only 1% out in terms of the actual result.

Peter Kellner believed it quite likely that there would be another hung Parliament following the General Election of May 2015, the complicating factors being the number of seats won by the Liberal Democrats, the SNP and UKIP. In answer to questions, he dealt with the wording of the question on the Scottish Referendum ballot paper; whether polls should be banned for several days before voting; the dormant right-wing vote and the exclusion from the voting franchise of Scottish-born people living elsewhere in the UK. Peter Kellner gave a very clear analysis of the UKIP voter who saw Nigel Farage as a vigilante at the barricades rather than as a political leader.

Pilgrims' Chairman Ronald Freeman proposed the vote of thanks and presented Peter Kellner with the customary Pilgrims' tie and official history.



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sec@pilgrimsociety.org

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE LETTER

On 20 August Ambassador Matthew Barzun kindly hosted the Pilgrims at Winfield House, his splendid residence in Regent's Park. Unusually for this past August, it was a pleasant summer evening. The Ambassador opened his house and garden to us, and he capped a wonderful occasion with some very thoughtful words about the transatlantic relationship. The relationship is, of course, the core rationale for the existence of the Pilgrims, but what does that mean for us in this second decade of the 21st century?

Later in the summer I was able to reflect further on the question when I spent a very pleasant few weeks in Boston. The American Revolution started there; it was from there that Paul Revere set out on his famous ride (only famous thanks to Longfellow, since Revere never made it to Concord); it was the site of the first major battle of the revolution; it was where Washington took command of the Continental Army, and it was to where the portly Henry Knox, in an astonishing logistical feat, dragged the captured cannon from Fort Ticonderoga, having crossed an enormous tract of untamed wilderness in the middle of winter. Those same cannon, when mounted on Dorchester Heights, made Boston indefensible and forced the British regulars to withdraw.

After standing on the North Bridge at Concord where the rebels fired the shot that according to Emerson was heard around the world, I was able to make a different kind of pilgrimage: to the Emerson family's Old Manse; to Walden Pond where Thoreau lived the good life; to the Alcott house; and to the graves of the key Transcendentalists at Sleepy Hollow Cemetery. Here was the heart of an American literature which, while separate from that of Britain, has remained closely intertwined with it over the ensuing years - intertwined because they both grew from a shared cultural and intellectual legacy. They both flowed, ultimately, from a wellspring of Ancient Greek and Roman thought, fused through Christianity and developed through the Enlightenment.

This was, ironically, equally true of the rebellion of 1775. Most colonists insisted that they were fighting for their rights as British citizens. Even when they later pursued independence from Britain, the principles behind their declaration were drawn from John Locke's *Treatise on Civil Government*, one of the great achievements

of the British Enlightenment. That raises an interesting question: if the two sides shared such fundamental values, how did they end up in a war against each other?

The answer is that, despite sharing a common heritage and common values, they saw the world from very different perspectives. As Fred Anderson points out in *Crucible of War*, his excellent history of the Seven Years' War, metropolitan Britain and the colonists, although then in common cause against the French, spent most of the 1750s and 1760s talking past one another. Even at that early stage they were two peoples separated by a common language. The different experience of life on the two sides of the Atlantic had created a gulf in understanding that neither side was able, or perhaps willing, to bridge.

Over the subsequent centuries our shared heritage has to some extent been diluted by the effects of immigration in both countries, and the subsequent cultural diversification each has experienced. On the other hand, shared experiences have helped to strengthen the bond between us. But we see and experience the world from different perspectives, so the risk of misunderstanding remains. If the transatlantic relationship is as important today as we all believe, then we need to work hard to avoid such misunderstanding. We have to make a conscious and determined effort to understand and account for the different perspectives we have on the world, if we are to have a secure and enduring relationship.

That takes me back to Winfield House last August, to the Ambassador's eloquent words, and to the role of the Pilgrims. We are a delightful association of like-minded people, but we can and should be much more. We have the capacity to be a major force for understanding - for ensuring that our common language does more to unite us than to separate us. How do we set about it? The Pilgrims have no existence beyond the membership; when I say the Pilgrims, I mean us. So the challenge is an individual one as much as it is organisational: the key question is what each of us can contribute to this important endeavour. It is a question that I believe each of us needs to think about, and to seek to answer as we take the Pilgrims forward in the 21st century.

Jock Stirrup

Marshal of the Royal Air Force the Lord Stirrup

ELECTION TO THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE SEPTEMBER 2014



Vice Admiral Sir Anthony Dymock KBE CB commanded RN ships around the world including conflict in the Falklands, the Gulf, Kosovo and Sierra Leone. During the 1991 Gulf War he was the British Liaison Officer to the US carrier force in USS MIDWAY, and he later became the NATO Deputy to the USN's Commander Sixth Fleet in the Mediterranean. As Defence Attaché in Washington he also led the British Defence Staff across the USA. Sir Anthony retired as the UK's NATO and EU Military Representative in Brussels in 2008 and founded the international maritime security policy consultancy, Wise Pens International, working with the European and African Unions.

MAGNA CARTA DINNER 12 JANUARY 2015

The Magna Carta 800th Anniversary Dinner will take place at the Guildhall on Monday 12 January at 6.30 for 7.30 pm.

The speakers will be the Right Hon Philip Hammond MP, Foreign Secretary, and The Hon Matthew Barzun, US Ambassador.

Guests for the black tie dinner will have a private showing of the City of London's 1297 copy of Magna Carta in the new Guildhall Heritage Gallery.

Tickets are available at £250 per person, or £2,000 for a table of ten. There will be both a live and a silent auction.

For more information, please contact Mark Gill: markgill@magnacarta800th.com,
10 Buckingham Place, London SW1E 6HX,
or 07879 632870.

RE-ELECTIONS TO THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE



Sir John Holmes GCVO KBE CMG is Director of the Ditchley Foundation, and also chair of the Board of the International Rescue Committee – UK. Sir John joined the Foreign and Commonwealth Office in 1973 and served in a wide range of diplomatic roles in London, Moscow, Paris, New Delhi and Lisbon.



Lady Judge CBE was Chairman of the UK Atomic Energy Authority 2004-10. She is Chairman of the Energy Institute of University College London, Deputy Chairman of the Tepco Nuclear Reform Monitoring Committee, Chairman of the UK Pension Protection Fund, and a Visiting Fellow at Oxford University. Lady Judge sits on the Membership Committee.



Alastair Macpherson of Pitmain was a partner in the international law firm Ashurst for 29 years and managing partner of the firm's New York office. He has served on the Council of the National Trust and the Membership Committee of MCC. He is Senior Chieftain of the Clan Macpherson and was recently Chairman of Boodle's Club. Alastair Macpherson sits on the Finance Committee.



Marshal of the Royal Air Force the Lord Stirrup KG GCB AFC was commissioned into the Royal Air Force in 1970 as a fighter reconnaissance pilot. He became Chief of the Air Staff in 2003, and Chief of the Defence Staff in 2006. In the House of Lords he is particularly involved in the areas of defence, security and foreign relations. Lord Stirrup sits on the Membership Committee.

SIR RICHARD TRAINOR OFFERS A MID-ATLANTIC PERSPECTIVE ON THE CHANGES AFFECTING BRITISH UNIVERSITIES OVER THE PAST FORTY YEARS



Sir Richard Trainor, Sir Robert Worcester, Vice President, and Mrs Deborah Owen, Executive Committee

Pilgrims and guests gathered in the Garden Room at the Athenaeum to hear fellow Pilgrim Professor Sir Richard Trainor, Principal of King's College London, deliver the 17th Annual Reflections Lecture on 3 June, after a formal introduction by Pilgrims' President Admiral Lord Boyce.

Sir Richard Trainor, a true Mid-Atlanticist with dual American and British nationality, has achieved an outstanding academic career as a social historian. An undergraduate at Brown University, he did the preliminary stage of his history PhD at Princeton University where he met his wife, fellow-historian Marguerite Dupree. He went on to complete his doctorate as a Rhodes Scholar and a junior research fellow at Oxford. He taught at Glasgow University from 1979 to 2000 and achieved the positions of Professor, Dean of Social Sciences and Vice-Principal. In 2000 he became Vice-Chancellor of Greenwich University and in 2004 went to King's College London.

Sir Richard outlined the great changes that had occurred in British universities since the 1960s, when there were some 250,000 students in 47 universities, to the present day when the number of universities had expanded vastly along with the number of students, as a result of the Thatcherite revolution. University tuition fees had risen from £3,000 per year in 2000 to £9,000 in 2012.

Sir Richard praised the very favourable staff/student ratio in this country, especially at Oxford and Cambridge, and was pleased that there was now a higher proportion of working-

class students and that female students made up over 55 per cent of all students - with this percentage rising. The number of foreign students at British universities was at an all-time high and more than 80 per cent of students expressed satisfaction with their academic institutions. Sir Richard stressed the importance of both public and private funding in British universities, which compared very favourably with their American counterparts.

Sir Richard dealt with questions on the pressure on research funding; the division between teaching and research; the merits of young people going to university; the economic/consumer-driven impact on academics; fund-raising and balancing the books; the differences between the elite Russell Group and the other British universities, and the current ranking of British universities in the world - eighteen of the top hundred places, with Oxford and Cambridge in the Top Ten.

A very warm vote of thanks was delivered by Executive Committee member Deborah Owen who wished Sir Richard well in his new role as Rector of Exeter College, Oxford - another glittering jewel in the crown of a brilliant academic career.

NEW MEMBERS JUNE AND SEPTEMBER 2014

Commander Rodney Agar
Christopher Beazley
Mrs Elizabeth Bonham
Professor David Caron
Mr Lawrence Clarke
Miss Theodora Clarke
Sir Michael Ferguson Davie Bt
Mrs Philippa Foster Back CBE
Zeeshan Hashmi
Sanford G Henry
Calvin Jackson
Oliver Lister
Mrs Andrea Lowe
Andrew Sharpe
Miss Lilibeth Solajes
Mrs Carolyn Toulmin
David Wickham
Ms Lilly Wollman

Membership application forms, and additional copies of the 2014 List of Members, are available from the office

sec@pilgrimsociety.org

FORWARD PROGRAMME

Thursday 13 November

The US Mid Term Elections

Panel discussion chaired by Sir Robert Worcester, University of Notre Dame, 1 Suffolk Street, SW1Y 4HG
To be followed by optional supper. 6.00 pm

Thursday 20 November

Celebration of Thanksgiving

An American themed event, followed by a reception, St Margaret's Church, Westminster Abbey, 6.45 pm

Tuesday 27 January 2015

Evensong and tour of Westminster Abbey

Thursday 5 February

Tour of the art collection at the Garrick Club

Led by Mrs Frances Hughes, NADFAS lecturer
Preceded by coffee, 10.00 am until 12 noon

Thursday 5 March

Dinner with Lord Fellowes of West Stafford

An Evening with Julian Fellowes
Cavalry & Guards Club, 127 Piccadilly, W1J 7PX
Black tie, 7.15 pm

Tuesday 17 March

Ready for Hillary? Portrait of a President in Waiting

Luncheon with Lord Renwick of Clifton KCMG

Monday 20 April

Reception at Drapers' Hall,

Throgmorton Avenue, EC2N 2DQ, 6.30 pm

Tuesday 12 May

Tour of the Old Bailey

Led by Charles Henty, Secondary of London and Under Sheriff, 6.00 pm

Thursday 21 May

Visit to Runnymede

Morning visit, transport provided, followed by lunch at the nearby Great Fosters, Egham with Sir Robert Worcester talking on Magna Carta

Monday 5 October

Annual Meeting, to be followed by the Sir Harry Brittain Memorial Lecture

by the Right Hon Sir Malcolm Rifkind
KCMG QC MP, 6.00 pm

*Members will be sent programme updates by email:
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SUMMER RECEPTION AT WINFIELD HOUSE

Three hundred Pilgrims and guests attended a reception at Winfield House, the official residence of the United States Ambassador, on 20 August - thus contradicting the widespread belief that August is a bad month for holding events as many people might be away.

Ambassador Matthew Barzun's speech of welcome gave guests a snapshot of his first year as Ambassador, the plans for the new Embassy in Wandsworth, due to open in 2017, and the importance of the special relationship. Ambassador Barzun referred to the War of 1812, including the Battle of New Orleans, and pointed out that we were approaching the bicentenary of the burning of the White House - the last time that Britain and the USA had been at war. The Ambassador emphasised the closeness of the relationship in the subsequent two centuries and concluded by toasting the Pilgrims and Anglo-American good fellowship. Pilgrims' President, Admiral of the Fleet Lord Boyce, responded.

We are most grateful to Ambassador Barzun and his staff for their generous hospitality.

Extract from The Times Diary 25 August 2014

Barzun yanks Boris's chain

If Boris Johnson wants to be Prime Minister he will have to get better at dealing with mischievous diplomats. When Matthew Barzun arrived as US Ambassador last year, Boris greeted him with an unpaid bill of £7.2 million, accrued by US diplomatic cars traversing the London congestion zone.

In April, Barzun tried to mollify Johnson with a £4,000 bid for a portrait of the Mayor at a charity auction, but he continues to rib Boris about the unpaid cash. At a party for the prestigious Pilgrims Society at his vast Winfield House residence last week, Barzun said he couldn't wait for the Embassy to move to its new home in Nine Elms. He teased: "The great thing is, we'll be outside the congestion charge area."

BARBARA JUDGE PRESENTS A FASCINATING ACCOUNT OF HER CAREER

Pilgrims and guests gathered in the auditorium at Eversheds LLP to hear a talk given by Executive Committee Member Lady Judge on 20 October.



As a corporate lawyer and businesswoman, Barbara Judge has broken through all the glass ceilings that might have restricted the career paths of women. Her portfolio of important jobs is impressive: former Chairman of the UK Atomic Energy Authority; Chairman of the Pension Protection Fund and UK Business Ambassador on behalf of UK Trade & Investment. She is also deputy chair of Tokyo Electric Power Company Nuclear Reform Monitoring Committee and the head of its task force on nuclear safety.



After an introduction by Pilgrims' Chairman Ronald Freeman, Lady Judge emphasised that her talk was aimed primarily at young people. She paid tribute to her mother who believed firmly that women should use their abilities and fulfil their true potential, and who dissuaded Barbara Judge from a career as an actress: a legal career offered more promising prospects.

Lady Judge believed that the business

environment of the late 1960s and early 1970s was similar to that depicted in the television series *Mad Men*, where women were placed in very subservient jobs. She told how she was initially urged to concentrate on family law rather than corporate law when employed by a major law firm. Barbara Judge related some of the biggest mistakes she had made in her career in business, and the lessons in life she had learned. The job which changed her life was being appointed Commissioner of the US Federal Exchange Commission.

Barbara Judge received a very warm vote of thanks from Executive Committee Member Kenneth Gardener who presented her with a Pilgrims' silk scarf.

UNPLANNED JOURNEY: from Moss Side to Eden - the Memoirs of Sir Alcon Charles Copisarow

Present at many of the key events of the 20th century, Alcon Copisarow has played not one but many important roles in shaping the course of British and international affairs. His aptitude has taken him from vital World War II service in the application of radar technology to the world of international diplomacy as Scientific Counsellor and Government Laboratory director.

While his talents and a lifelong love of new challenges have enabled him to excel in many fields, his intelligence, energy and charm shine through just as strongly in his entertaining accounts of both fleeting encounters and lasting friendships, meeting the great, the good and the notorious, from Winston Churchill, Margaret Thatcher and the Royal family to Roald Dahl, Paul McCartney and Richard Nixon.

Unplanned Journey is available to members of the Pilgrims at the special price of £18.00 plus £3.95 UK P&P, quoting code COP001, from

www.jeremymillspublishing.co.uk/bookshop
or tel 01484 463341.

FIGHTING ON THE HOME FRONT

Kate Adie, one of the most outstanding news correspondents of her generation with a record of reporting from war zones all over the world, is the author of five books, the most recent being *Fighting on the Home Front - the legacy of Women in World War One*, published in 2013.



Kate Adie addressed a capacity Pilgrims' audience at a dinner held in the ballroom of the Savile Club in Brook Street. After an introduction by Executive Committee Member Alastair Macpherson of Pitmain, Ms Adie said that the contribution made by the women of Britain in the First World War had been overlooked by historians, whereas their contribution in the Second World War, as Land Girls, factory workers and women in the armed forces, had been well recorded. Kate Adie hoped that her book had helped to make up for this neglect and to throw full light on the achievements of women during the conflict of 1914-18.

In 1914 women were still vastly inferior to men in terms of being denied the vote, despite the efforts of the suffragettes, and the type of employment they could obtain, as clerks, cooks and cleaners. In 1914 only five hundred British women were qualified as general practitioners. With millions of men away at war, women were offered hitherto undreamt-of opportunities to work in factories of all kinds, including the very dangerous munitions factories, on the railways, in offices and in communications. The First World War gave women a new sense of well-being and self-worth.

After answering questions on women's rights today, the need for women's education and the rights of women in Muslim countries, Kate Adie received a warm vote of thanks from Executive Committee member David Skidmore and was presented with a copy of the Pilgrims' centennial history and a Pilgrims' silk scarf.

VISIT TO BROUGHTON CASTLE AND BLENHEIM PALACE

The Pilgrims visited Broughton Castle and Blenheim Palace on 23 July.

At Broughton Castle we were shown around by Lord and Lady Saye and Sele, who were responsible for major restoration work in the late 20th century. Broughton is a moated and fortified manor house, the main part of which was built in 1306 by Sir John de Broughton, one of Edward I's leading military commanders, set in parkland. During the Civil War Broughton Castle was a major centre of resistance to Charles I and was taken by the Royalists after the Battle of Edgehill in 1642.



Lord Saye and Sele in the Great Hall at Broughton Castle

We were welcomed at Blenheim Palace by Chief Executive John Hoy and after lunch in the Spencer Churchill Room were given guided tours of the Palace, built between 1705 and 1726 as a mark of the nation's gratitude to John Churchill, first Duke of Marlborough. The Palace is the fruit of the combined labours of Sir John Vanbrugh and Nicholas Hawksmoor, and the extensive gardens are the creation of Henry Wise, the royal gardener, and the legendary Lancelot "Capability" Brown.

A most enjoyable day spent in fascinating surroundings, with the bonus of good weather.

IN MEMORIAM

The Right Hon Sir Edward Eveleigh
Sir Christopher France GCB
David M Holman
Robert I MacDonald
John D Philipsborn
Sir Nicholas Scheele KCMG
Lt Colonel A P Spooner MBE
The Right Hon Sir Christopher Staughton

NEWS FROM THE PILGRIMS OF THE UNITED STATES

The Right Hon Sir John Major KG CH, Prime Minister of the United Kingdom 1990-97, addressed US Pilgrims at a reception in his honour on 12 May at the Racquet & Tennis Club.



Miner H Warner, the Right Hon Sir John Major and Cary A Koplin

James D Zirin, litigator, host and TV producer, author of *The Mother Court, Tales of Cases that Mattered in America's Greatest Trial Court*, addressed US Pilgrims at a reception in his honour of 17 September at the Racquet & Tennis Club.



James D Zirin, Miner H Warner and David T Schiff

The New York British-American Societies Annual Summer Garden Party on 16 July at the Union Theological Seminary cloister



Michael A Boyd, Hugh A A Williamson-Noble and Peter Buffington



Camilla Hellman MBE and Victor E Stewart

Subscription increase

In order to keep the society's funds in surplus going forward, at the meeting of the Executive Committee on 1 October, the decision was taken to raise the annual subscription by £5.00 per annum to £50.00 from 1 May 2015.

No action need be taken by the majority of members who pay their annual subscription - and indeed for events - by direct debit. Those who continue to pay by cheque or by standing order should revise their instruction to ensure that £50.00 is received when the subscription falls due on 1 May. Direct debit forms are available from the office.

Please take this as the formal notification of an increase in the subscription rate.

Ian Barlow
Hon Treasurer

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