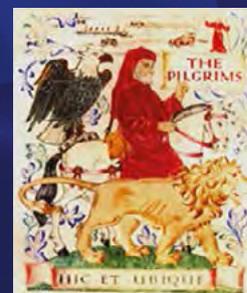


The Pilgrims Newsletter

A twice-yearly newsletter for Members of
The Pilgrims Society of Great Britain



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Sir Malcolm Rifkind's assessment of the special relationship



Sir Malcolm dismissed the view that Britain always subordinates itself to US foreign and defence policy. Criticism of Tony Blair that he was too close to George W Bush over Afghanistan and Iraq was valid, but in the 1960s Harold Wilson had refused Lyndon Johnson's request to send British forces to Vietnam and in the 1980s Margaret Thatcher criticised Ronald Reagan over the American-led invasion of Grenada. Sir Malcolm stressed the need for the UK to maintain a strong defence posture and to maintain close relations with France and Germany as well as the USA.

Sir Malcolm was questioned on the role of the House of Commons Intelligence Committee, the likely impact upon US/UK relations if the UK chose to leave the EU, the reasons for Blair's support for the Iraq war, and the UK's need for the renewal of Trident. He spoke about the effect on US/UK relations of Jeremy Corbyn's leadership of the Labour Party, of a possible independent Scotland and of the situation in Afghanistan and Pakistan.

Please note change of mailing address:

The Pilgrims, 54 The Street,
Mereworth, Maidstone, ME18 5NA
Telephone number and email
remain the same.

Following the Pilgrims' Annual Meeting, held by kind invitation of Freshfields at Northcliffe House, Tudor Street on 5 October, Sir Malcolm Rifkind delivered the Britain Memorial Lecture.

After an introduction by Pilgrims' Chairman Ronald Freeman, Sir Malcolm began by praising Sir Harry Brittain for his great contribution to Anglo-American relations. He made humorous and affectionate references to Henry Kissinger, Denis Healey, Geoffrey Howe and Margaret Thatcher and then traced the development of UK/US relations from the Second World War, taking in the foundation of the United Nations, the Marshall Plan, the establishment of NATO and the close partnership between the US and the UK. Sir Malcolm singled out geography, language, geopolitics and military intelligence as the reasons for the Special Relationship.

A DEAD SHEEP'S REVENGE

One of the best quips by the late Denis Healey was when he compared an attack from Geoffrey Howe to being savaged by dead sheep. Howe's response is less well-known, but addressing the Pilgrims Society this week Sir Malcolm Rifkind recalled Howe saying that being mocked by Healey was "like being nuzzled by an old boar". Sounds like a Piers Gaveston Society party game.

Extract from The Times Diary of 10 October. Members were saddened by the death of Lord Howe of Aberavon, a member of the Pilgrims for many years

New President



At the Pilgrims' Annual Meeting held on 5 October, Marshal of the Royal Air Force Lord Stirrup KG GCB AFC was elected President of the Pilgrims in succession to Admiral of the Fleet Lord Boyce. Lord Stirrup was commissioned into the Royal Air Force in 1970 as a fighter reconnaissance pilot, and subsequently served for three years on exchange with the United States Air Force. 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, foreign relations and the arts.

Letter from the Chairman

At the recent Annual Meeting, Admiral of the Fleet Lord Boyce retired as our President and Ian Barlow retired as our Honorary Treasurer. In their years of service, they gave generously to the Pilgrims of their time, their professionalism and their close attention, notwithstanding the many outside demands upon them. Mike and Ian were wonderful Executive Committee colleagues and well-known to all Pilgrims who regularly attend our events. All Pilgrims, I am confident, join me in thanking them for their contributions and for the example they have each set for their very able and highly qualified successors as President and Honorary Treasurer, Marshal of the Royal Air Force Lord Stirrup and Richard Reid. I personally look forward with the greatest pleasure to working closely with Jock Stirrup and Richard Reid.

The Executive Committee, with its indispensable Executive Secretary Tessa Wells, is responsible for the smooth functioning of our Society. In my twenty years as a member of The Pilgrims, I have enjoyed the benefits of our active and varied events, our congenial membership and our healthy financial management. To assure the continuing evolution of Executive Committee operations, as Chairman I have carefully adhered to

the Rule-specified regular turnover of our officers and committee membership into new, qualified hands. I have assigned to the leaders and members of the Finance, Membership and Programme sub-committees real executive responsibility and this year the Executive Committee created the Nominations sub-committee in addition. I leave it to the membership to judge whether these initiatives are working effectively and serving the Pilgrims well.

Of the seventeen Rules which govern our Society, Rule VII should be read by all Pilgrims as an invitation to put their candidacy forward to replace retiring Executive Committee members. The explicit call to the membership this year yielded splendid candidates and three new Executive Committee members who have already demonstrated the benefit of regular and well-managed renewal in the responsibilities of governance. We will look forward to continuing this broad recruiting effort in the future.

While citing our Rules, I close with quoting my favourite, Rule II: "The object of the Society shall be the promotion of Anglo-American good fellowship". Good fellowship. Not a term one now hears often in current public discourse. The embrace of good



fellowship between the US and the UK has served the Pilgrims well for these 113 years since our founding. Long may it continue.

Ronald M Freeman

New Honorary Treasurer



At the Pilgrims' Annual Meeting, Richard Reid was elected Treasurer of the Pilgrims in succession to Ian Barlow. Richard retired in September 2015 as Chairman of KPMG in London, having been with the firm for 35 years. He was very involved in advising large international groups and in building stronger business links with emerging markets, particularly China and India. Richard sat on the Board of British American Business for many years.

Note from the Secretary

It would assist the smooth running of the office if members who book events and then find themselves unable to attend could give as much notice as possible of their change of plan.

Please keep the office informed of any change of address, and particularly of email addresses.

Tessa Wells

Elections to the Executive Committee October 2015



Piers Coleman was introduced to the Pilgrims by former Treasurer Sir James Butler. He is a long-standing partner in the global law firm K&L Gates LLP, specialising in two wholly unrelated subjects - complex commercial real estate transactions and the law on elections. He has been involved in many of the contentious election disputes of the last 30 years. Piers will sit on the Membership Committee.



Paul Dimond CMG was Ambassador to Manila 2002-05 during his career in the Diplomatic Service. He is Deputy Chairman of DAKS Simpson Group plc, and a Director of Baillie Gifford Japan Trust plc, Westminster Gardens Ltd and the Anglo-Netherlands Society. He also acts as an outplacement adviser at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. Paul will sit on the Finance Committee.



Tristan Elbrick is the grandson of US and British diplomats, and is married to Francesca, a Neapolitan. He specialises in business development in financial services, founding Aspen Capital in 2003. With strong US links, he has a New York house on land purchased by his family in 1786. Tristan sits on the Programme Committee and will join the Membership Committee.

Tour of the art collection at the Garrick Club

Following a successful visit to the Garrick Club in February, a small group of Pilgrims toured the club's impressive art collection on 10 September, guided by Mrs Frances Hughes.

The club houses the largest and most significant collection of British theatrical works of art with over one thousand paintings, drawings and pieces of sculpture on display. Artists represented in the collection include Johan Zoffany, Thomas Lawrence and John Everett Millais, and paintings of every British actor of note, from David Garrick to John Gielgud, hang on the Club walls.

Changing attitudes in American politics



Until 2009 Justin Webb was based in Washington, latterly as the North American Editor

for BBC News. He is now well known as a presenter of Radio 4's *Today* programme. He spoke to the Pilgrims following dinner at the Reform Club on 19 October.

After an introduction by Sir Peter Bottomley MP, Justin Webb spoke of the landmark election of Barack Obama as the first African-American President, and then examined the major doctrinal differences between

the Democrats and the Republicans and the consequent state of gridlock, and the role played by social media in American politics. Justin Webb paid tribute to the durability of the Special Relationship and at question-time dealt skilfully with Barack Obama's racial profile, Hillary Clinton's suitability for the Presidency, the relative merits of the Democrat and Republican Presidential candidates and any possible surprises in the Presidential race.

NEW MEMBERS JULY AND OCTOBER 2015

Rear Admiral David Bawtree CB DL

Guy Benn

Michael Birshan

The Hon Adam Bruce

Professor Mallory Factor

Mrs Elizabeth Weir Factor

Richard Fitzalan Howard

Logie Fitzwilliams

Dr Amanda Foreman FRSA

Benjamin Goldsmith

Mrs Kweilen Hatleskog

Curt Hess

Brent Hoberman CBE

Michael J Larsen

John Beauregard Lockhart

Patrick Long

Jonathan Lydiard-Wilson

Simon McIlwaine

Robert Morrisson Atwater

The Right Hon Lord Neuberger of Abbotsbury

Charles Plante

Miss Louisa Radcliffe

Jeffrey Rose CBE

Harry Scrope

Britt Shaw

Mrs Jacqueline Smith-Maxwell

Peter Stevens

Colin Stoneham

Dr Andreas Stradis

Francis Terry

Mrs Gretchen Trusted

Edward van Cutsem

Sir David Verey CBE

Miss Beatie Wolfe

Lord Neuberger reflects on his legal career

Pilgrims and guests assembled at Ernst & Young's building at More London Place on 16 June to hear Lord Neuberger of Abbotsbury, President of the Supreme Court, deliver the annual *Reflections* Lecture.

After an introduction by Pilgrims' President Admiral of the Fleet Lord Boyce, Lord Neuberger recalled that his legal career was not initially promising, with three separate pupillages in Chambers, where he did not make his mark with his superiors. His subsequent concentration on landlord and tenant law helped his career as a barrister and led him to the High Court, the Court of Appeal and to be Master of the Rolls.

Lord Neuberger was a firm believer that perseverance paid off and was convinced that luck played a large part in a successful career. All too often one came up against the law of unintended consequences. What might have appeared a waste of time often proved useful and disasters and disadvantages later turned out to be triumphs.

Lord Neuberger pointed out clear differences between the American and British governmental and legal system. The British Parliament can do whatever it likes, whereas the US Supreme Court can question



Lord Neuberger with Admiral of the Fleet Lord Boyce

and override legislation passed by Congress. There is no total separation of powers, executive, judicial and legislative, in the UK, unlike the USA's firm belief in the Montesquieu Doctrine. He stressed the importance of the Human Rights Act of 1998 which imposed a strong duty on judges and dealt with the power of Parliament, which could often be weakened by political divisions and indecisiveness, and gave his views on devolution issues; the ideological differences between the major parties and the diminishing influence of Christianity in this country.

At the time of the 800th anniversary of the sealing of Magna Carta, Lord Neuberger referred to its crucial significance to the rule of law and democratic government.

At question-time Lord Neuberger dealt very skilfully with the Human Rights Act; the legal effects of a possible British withdrawal from the EU; the effectiveness of the UK Supreme Court; the UN Declaration of Human Rights; the differences in procedure between the US Supreme Court and the UK Supreme Court, and the problem of refugees drowning in the Mediterranean.

Re-elections to the Executive Committee



Mrs Diane Simpson, known as Dee Dee, comes from Dayton, Ohio. She served as a US Foreign Service Officer with posts including London, and delegate to the Intermediate-range Nuclear Forces negotiations in Geneva, and was subsequently Managing Editor of Strategic Comments at the International Institute for Strategic Studies in London. Dee Dee is a UK board member of the International Rescue Committee. She chairs the Nominations Committee and is a member of the Programme Committee.



Sir Stephen Wright KCMG was a British diplomat with senior appointments as Minister in Washington DC, Director General in the FCO and Ambassador to Spain. He became CEO of IFSL, a promotional body for UK financial services, and Senior Adviser to its successor organization TheCityUK. He is Senior Adviser to Good Governance Group (G3) and to Mitsui & Co Europe plc. Sir Stephen sits on the Nominations and Programme Committees.

Forward Programme

all details TBC

February/March 2016

Reflections Lecture

March/April

Panel discussion on the US Elections

Monday 17 October

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

end November

Thanksgiving event

Members will be sent programme updates by email: please ensure the office has your correct email address

sec@pilgrimsociety.org

Visit to Hatfield House and St Albans Cathedral



The new polychrome statues of martyrs in the medieval nave screen, given to St Albans Cathedral by Pilgrim member Richard Walduck and his wife Susan

Salisbury. The incumbent Lord, Robert Gascoyne-Cecil, who has overseen lots of renovation work in recent years, reportedly told visitors that shortly before his father's death in 2003, the sixth marquess told him to celebrate his succession, but added a word of warning about the beautiful old house. "There's plenty of champagne and claret in the cellar" he said, "but no hot water".

Pilgrims and guests visited Hatfield House and St Albans Cathedral on 30 June.

At Hatfield House, the Cecil family home for over 400 years, the Marquess of Salisbury talked about the history of the house and estate and how it fits into today's world, stressing the

importance of contributing to the life and work of the local community.

The Times Diary of 7 July recorded the visit: *Estate of Disrepair: Living in an ageing stately home doesn't always mean a life of luxury. The Pilgrims Society, the Anglo-American group, made a recent visit to Hatfield House, the Jacobean seat of the Marquess of*

We had a guided tour around the state rooms before a most enjoyable lunch.

St Albans Cathedral has been a place of worship for over nine hundred years. We were welcomed by the Very Reverend Jeffrey John, Dean of St Albans, before a guided tour, afternoon tea and then Evensong.

800th anniversary of Magna Carta

Pilgrims and guests attended a special evening, in the presence of the Honorable Matthew W Barzun, Ambassador of the United States, at the Temple Church and Middle Temple Hall on 3 June to mark the 800th anniversary of the sealing of Magna Carta.

Evensong had some strong American ingredients, including Thomas Jefferson's A Prayer for the Nation of 1801, and George Washington's Thanksgiving Proclamation, New York 1789. The lessons were read by Pilgrims' President Admiral of the Fleet Lord Boyce and by the American Ambassador Matthew Barzun.

Following a reception in Middle Temple Gardens and dinner in Middle Temple Hall, former Lord Chief Justice Lord Judge spoke on the historical background to Magna Carta and the remarkable people associated with it, emphasising the true significance of the Great Charter and the impact it has had throughout the world. Ambassador Barzun concentrated on the effect that Magna Carta had on the Declaration of Independence, the US Constitution and the Bill of Rights, as recognised by the Memorial at Runnymede, concluding his remarks by toasting the Special Relationship and Anglo-American good fellowship.

A happy and memorable evening concluded with a very warm vote of thanks from Pilgrims' Chairman Ronald Freeman.



Mrs Anthony Mellows, Sir Michael Craig-Cooper, Lady Judge, Ambassador Matthew W Barzun, Admiral of the Fleet Lord Boyce, and in the foreground Mr Ronald M Freeman



The Times Diary, 9 June 2015



The Revd Robin Griffiths-Jones, Hon Chaplain, and Stephen Hockman, Treasurer of Middle Temple

Messages from the Editor:

The newsletter has a new look, as a result of help we have received from **Crooked Door Design** - www.crookeddoordesign.co.uk Any comments on the new design would be most welcome.

Our thanks to Sir Peter Bottomley MP for his photographs of Lord Rifkind, Justin Webb, Lord Neuberger and the dinner on 3 June.

Visit to Runnymede



In perfect weather, Pilgrims and guests visited Runnymede on 21 May, where we were shown the Magna Carta Memorial and Professor Tony Badger, Chairman of the Kennedy Memorial Trust, spoke on the John F Kennedy Memorial.

At the Commonwealth Air Forces Memorial we were met by Peter Francis of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission. The Memorial commemorates the men and women of the Allied Air Forces who died during the Second World War and records the names of the 20,456 service people with no known grave.

Following lunch in the Orangery of Great Fosters Hotel at Egham, Sir Robert Worcester, Vice-President of the Pilgrims and Chairman of the Magna Carta 2015 800th Committee, recalled that Runnymede was the first place he had visited on his arrival in the UK in 1969. Sir Robert looked at the historical background to the events of June 1215 and referred to some of the events taking place to mark the anniversary. He concluded by referring to President Obama's visit to the UK in 2011 in which he stressed the common bonds of freedom, respect for the rights of



the individual, the rule of law and human rights which bind Britain and the USA together. Magna Carta is indeed the common heritage of both countries.



Editor's note: our thanks to Terence Mallinson for the use of his photographs in this article. Clockwise from left: Professor Tony Badger; the view over Runnymede meadow from the top of the Commonwealth Air Forces Memorial; Sir Robert Worcester, and the John F Kennedy Memorial.

Applications for membership

The Membership sub-committee report to the Annual Meeting showed that we are successful in keeping membership of the Pilgrims at around 1,100, and that we have welcomed several younger members. Much of this has been down to the efforts of Tristan Elbrick, himself one of the new generation. It would be excellent if we could spread this investment in the future of the organisation more widely. I invite all Pilgrims to ask themselves if there are people, especially but not exclusively people in their 40s and 50s, with a stake and an interest in Anglo-American relationships, who might be interested in membership. The fact that there is no obvious secondar should not be a deterrent - please consult Tessa Wells if that is the case. Proposals for women, US or dual citizens, and candidates of black or other

ethnicity would be particularly welcome. We have a reasonable record in the first two categories but an aspiration to improve. On the last we are effectively still on the starting line which is inappropriate for the United Kingdom of the 21st century.

In addition, if you do propose or second someone, may we encourage you not to stop at that point but to play an active part in introducing them to the Pilgrims and our activities and events? It can be daunting to come into a group like ours knowing no one and it is the proposer and secondar who are usually best placed to introduce new Pilgrims to other members, so that they quickly have other friendly and familiar faces to join.

Robert Alston
Chairman of the Membership Committee

Tour of the Old Bailey

Pilgrims and guests were invited to make a special tour of the Central Criminal Court of England and Wales on 12 May.

Occupying the site of the medieval Newgate Prison, the Old Bailey deals with major criminal cases from Greater London and from parts of Surrey, Kent and Sussex. F W Pomeroy (1856-1924) sculpted the bronze figure of Justice above the building, and also the figures of the Recording Angels and Fortitude and Truth over the main entrance. The present building was opened by King Edward VII and has eighteen courts and seventy-four cells.



Charles Henty, Secondary of London and Under Sheriff, who is in charge of the day-to-day operation and management of the Court, gave a fascinating tour and an informative account of the history of the Old Bailey.

IN MEMORIAM

Captain Martin W Busk

Robert Enslow

John Ferree

Mrs Mary Barton Freeman

Sir Philip Goodhart

The Right Hon the Lord Howe of Aberavon CH QC

Mrs Pauline Hyde

Geoffrey P Jenkinson

The Lord Montagu of Beaulieu

Sir Paul Newall TD DL

Raymond Salter

Alastair Smith-Maxwell

News from The Pilgrims of the United States

The New York British-American Societies Annual Summer Garden Party took place at the Union Theological Seminary cloister on Wednesday 15 July, attended by members of the Pilgrims of the US.

Matthew Rycroft CBE, UK Permanent Representative to the United Nations since April 2015, spoke at a reception at the River Club on Tuesday 20 October.

Since joining the Foreign and Commonwealth Office in 1989 Matthew Rycroft has spent four years at the British Embassy in Paris, served in the British Embassy in Washington, was Private Secretary for Foreign Affairs to the Prime Minister, then British Ambassador to Bosnia and Herzegovina. Before serving in the UN he was FCO Director, overseeing the running of the network of 270 posts around the world.



Matthew Rycroft and President Miner H Warner

The Pilgrims



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