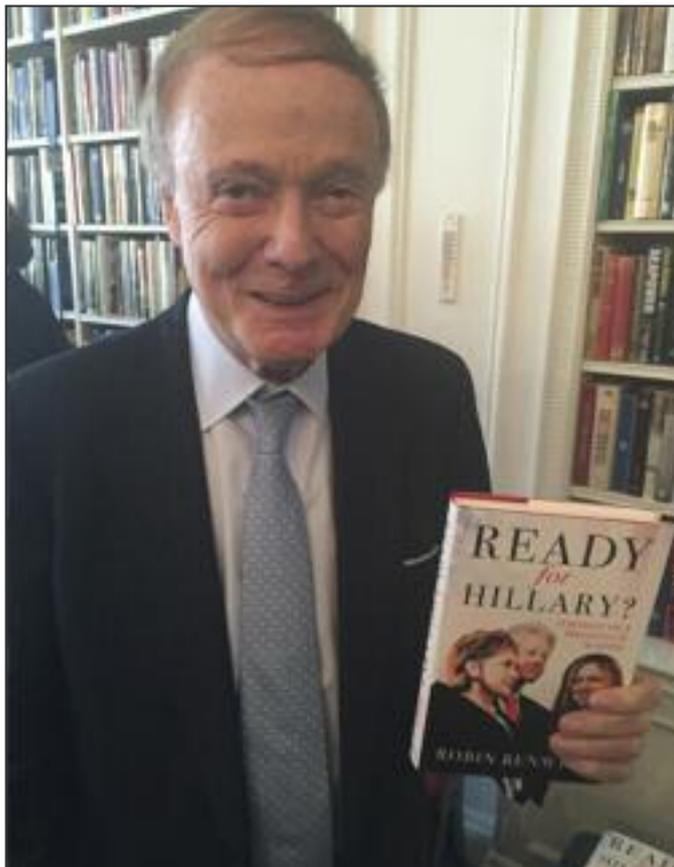




## ROBIN RENWICK IN PRAISE OF HILLARY CLINTON

Lord Renwick of Clifton, British Ambassador in Washington between 1991 and 1995, drew very close to Bill and Hillary Clinton, as shown in his recently published biography, *Ready for Hillary? Portrait of a President in Waiting*. Lord Renwick spoke about Hillary Clinton at a Pilgrims' luncheon at the Army and Navy Club on 17 March. Pilgrims' Vice President Sir Robert Worcester spoke briefly about the 800<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Magna Carta and introduced Lord Renwick.



Robin Renwick portrayed Hillary Clinton as chatty, generous and friendly, with a real sense of humour, who had made a definite mark as First Lady, Senator and Secretary of State. In 1992 when Bill Clinton seized the White House from George Bush Snr,

Hillary was put in charge of healthcare reform, with an office in the West Wing, but the subsequent Whitewater scandal did not improve her image. Ironically, it was the Monica Lewinsky scandal that rescued her when she stood firmly by her husband when he had lied publicly and was facing impeachment.

Hillary Clinton was elected as a New York Senator in her own right, but in 2008 her bid for the Democratic nomination failed against the Obama tidal force. Barack Obama chose her as Secretary of State both for her outstanding ability and to ensure that she could not stand against him in the 2012 Presidential race. Robin Renwick praised Hillary Clinton's achievements at the State Department, but was firmly of the opinion that she had been handicapped by Obama's indecision and his basic lack of interest in foreign affairs. He concluded by singling her out as the only credible Democratic candidate in 2016.

During questions Robin Renwick dealt with Hillary Clinton's likely running-mate in the 2016 Presidential Election; her state of health; her views on negotiations with Iran; her soundness on major foreign policy issues and the perception of her as a divisive figure in the eyes of right-wing Republicans and the Tea Party. Pilgrims' Chairman Ronald Freeman proposed a vote of thanks.



## SAVE MAILING COSTS!

If you have received hard copy of this newsletter but would be content to receive it electronically, please contact the office

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE LETTER



The Pilgrims gathered together on 20 November for an early celebration of Thanksgiving at St Margaret's Church, Westminster. Like the original Pilgrims, we pondered challenges past and present while giving thanks for making it through the year with the support

of friends and family. We modern Pilgrims celebrate the maintenance of UK-US ties despite the presence of the North Atlantic and a few differences in vocabulary, and possibly a dispute about the best time to eat turkey (Thanksgiving or Christmas or both). Even after a separation of over two hundred years, we share so much – language, culture, political, economic and judicial foundations, military co-operation. A glance at the Society's events over the past few months bears out these ties.

- On the political side, in November we had a panel discussion on the US mid-term elections and in March former UK Ambassador to the US Lord Renwick asked if we are ready for Hillary.
- The January evensong and tour of Westminster Abbey reminded us not just of religious ties but also of the huge influence on English-language literature of Chaucer, Dickens and others. There's a US representative in Poets Corner: Henry Wadsworth Longfellow.
- In February (and again next September), the art tour at the Garrick Club illustrated the history of the theatre, an art form at which both the UK and US excel.
- Andrew Roberts's talk about his book on Napoleon reminds us that this period gave rise to the War of 1812. (Let's forget who burnt the White House.)
- In March, Lord Fellowes entertained us with stories of acting and writing for the big and small screens. It's possible that *Downton Abbey* is even more popular in the US than the UK. We anticipate Lord Fellowes's projected new series about the Gilded Age.

- In May and June we look forward to a visit to Runnymede and a celebration of 800 years of Magna Carta after a service at the Temple church.

If you haven't joined us at an event for a while is it time you did? And if you've been to everything, please help us with forward planning by suggesting a speaker, venue, or subject. Better yet – introduce a new member, possibly a young one?

We would like to invite nominations for the Executive Committee, on which a few positions will be opening in the next year. Service on the Committee is not onerous – we meet twice a year, generally in March and again in October before the Annual General Meeting. Members of the Executive Committee also sit on the Membership, Programme or Finance Committee. If you would like to join, or to nominate someone else, please jot down a few lines as to why you or your nominee would be a good addition to the Executive Committee, and specify whether your talents or theirs would lend themselves to sitting on the Membership, Programme or Finance Committee. Nominations please to Tessa Wells. Her email address is [sec@pilgrimsociety.org](mailto:sec@pilgrimsociety.org)

*Diane Simpson*

## EVENSONG AT WESTMINSTER ABBEY

The Pilgrims were invited by the Very Reverend Dr John Hall, fellow-Pilgrim and Dean of Westminster, to attend full choral evensong at Westminster Abbey on 27 January, an evening made more poignant by marking the seventieth anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau.

From special seats in the choir we observed the choir singing at their very best, and were then given a personal tour around the Abbey by the Dean. Westminster Abbey was the place of burial for the majority of monarchs between 1272 and 1760, and is also the resting-place for a large array of statesmen, scientists, writers, musicians and actors. New memorial plaques are still being added to Poets' Corner.

The evening concluded with a most enjoyable reception in the Jerusalem Chamber, where Henry IV died in 1413. Our grateful thanks go to our most convivial host, the Dean of Westminster.

## AN EVENING WITH JULIAN FELLOWES

Lord Fellowes of West Stafford, who has achieved a unique place in entertainment history as the creator and writer of *Downton Abbey*, was the guest of honour at a dinner held at the Cavalry and Guards Club on 5 March.

Following an introduction by Pilgrims' President Admiral of the Fleet Lord Boyce, Julian Fellowes said that the United States had played a large part in his life. Early in his career he had pretended that he had an American mother in order to be cast as an American character in a West End play. When Hollywood eventually beckoned, he tried to become the new Robert Morley. He hit the jackpot with his original screenplay for Robert Altman's *Gosford Park*, which won him an Oscar.



*Ronald M Freeman, Admiral of the Fleet Lord Boyce,  
Lord Fellowes of West Stafford and  
Lady Fellowes*

Julian Fellowes conducted a question and answer session, telling of the new series he was working on which dealt with post-Civil War America; the differences between the British system of hereditary monarchy and the American presidency; the pressures of the entertainment world; his own view of the British film industry and the shortcomings of the House of Commons. He paid special tribute to ITV's Peter Fincham for his unwavering support over *Downton Abbey*, and to Robert Altman for his refusal to compromise over the making of *Gosford Park*.

Julian Fellowes spoke about contractual situations involving actors, with particular reference to Dan Stevens, whose departure for Hollywood

meant killing off his character in *Downton Abbey* in the Christmas Day 2012 special episode; television seen in contrast with cinema; the importance of Highclere Castle as the principal location for *Downton Abbey* and the need to write convincing dialogue with a modern ring to it.

Executive Committee Member Diane Simpson thanked Julian Fellowes for his witty and incisive view of the entertainment world and presented him with the customary Pilgrims' tie and centennial history.

### FORWARD PROGRAMME

**Wednesday 3 June**

**Special Magna Carta dinner with the US Ambassador, the Hon Matthew W Barzun**

Middle Temple Hall, preceded by Evensong at the Temple Church at 6.00 pm

**Tuesday 16 June**

**Reflections Lecture**

The Lord Neuberger of Abbotsbury

*Looking back – and forward*

Ernst & Young LLP, 1 More London Place, SE1 2AF, 6.30 pm, followed by reception

Optional supper at Hilton London Tower Bridge

**Tuesday 30 June**

**Visit to Hatfield House and St Albans Cathedral**

Transport provided from central London

**Thursday 10 September**

**Tour of the art collection at the Garrick Club**

Led by Mrs Frances Hughes, NADFAS lecturer

Preceded by coffee served in the Morning Room  
10.00 am until 12 noon

**Monday 5 October**

**Annual Meeting, to be followed by the**

**Sir Harry Brittain Memorial Lecture**

by the Right Hon Sir Malcolm Rifkind KCMG

QC Freshfields, Northcliffe House, 26-28

Tudor Street, EC4Y 0BQ, 6.00 pm meeting,

6.30 pm lecture, followed by a reception

Optional supper at Apex Temple Court,

1-2 Serjeants Inn, Fleet Street, EC4Y 1LL

**Monday 19 October**

**Dinner with Justin Webb**

*Changing Attitudes in American Politics*

Reform Club, 104 Pall Mall, SW1Y 5EW

7.15 for 7.45 pm, lounge suit

*Members will be sent programme updates by email:*

**please ensure the office has your correct email  
address**

**sec@pilgrimsociety.org**

## ANDREW ROBERTS PAYS TRIBUTE TO THE GREATNESS OF NAPOLEON

In the bicentennial year of the Battle of Waterloo, fellow-Pilgrim Andrew Roberts addressed a lunchtime gathering of the Pilgrims at the Travellers' Club on 12 February. Dr Roberts, generally acknowledged as one of the greatest biographers and historians of his generation, was speaking on his recently published and critically acclaimed book, *Napoleon the Great*.



*Andrew Roberts and Sir Peter Viggers*

After an introduction by Sir Peter Viggers, Andrew Roberts stated that one of the principal reasons for his writing a new biography of Napoleon was the 32,000 recently-published letters of Napoleon, in addition to the thousands that had been published since his death in 1821. Andrew Roberts stressed Napoleon's remarkable ability to deal with a whole range of matters at the same time – military, diplomatic, legal, educational, financial and social. The Code Napoleon, in which forty competing French legal codes were brought together in a clear and simplified format, had been his greatest and lasting achievement.

Contemporary propagandists and subsequent hagiographers had sought to vilify and demonise Napoleon, while the reality was that Napoleon was a man of enormous ability with a real sense of humour, a sense of proportion and a belief in meritocracy: ten of the twenty-six Marshals of France appointed by him were people of humble origin.

During questions Andrew Roberts dealt with Napoleon's complex and stormy relationship with

the Empress Josephine; his remarkable writing style (French was his third language after the Corsican dialect and Italian); his connections with Corsican nationalism through his father, and comparisons with such giant historical figures as Julius Caesar and Alexander the Great. Andrew Roberts agreed that the invasion of Russia in 1812 with an army of over 600,000 was Napoleon's greatest blunder.



*Extract from The Times Diary, 12 February*

Edgar Miller delivered a very warm vote of thanks to Andrew Roberts who, by his own admission, is the same height as Napoleon, confirmed by having lain on his deathbed while visiting Longwood House on St Helena.

*Editor's note: further congratulations to Andrew Roberts, whose "Napoleon the Great" won the LA Times biography prize in April.*

## VISIT TO THE GARDEN AT HIGHGROVE

A small group of Pilgrims and guests paid a visit to Highgrove on 30 April. Having first watched a video of HRH The Prince of Wales explaining the environmental philosophy which he had sought to put into practice at Highgrove since acquiring the house in 1980, we were given a two-hour guided tour of the garden.

Prince Charles and his gardeners have succeeded in creating an idyllic pastoral landscape that is ever-changing. Our garden guide Jane Carter deserved full praise for her expert knowledge and her understanding of the complexities of such a gardening project. Following the tour we had a most enjoyable lunch in the Orchard Restaurant and visited the Highgrove shop.

*It is hoped that the Pilgrims may visit the garden at Highgrove during 2016. If you wish to express an interest in such a visit, please contact the office.*

## THE AMERICAN MID-TERM ELECTIONS

Pilgrims and guests attended a special meeting on the American Mid-Term elections on 13 November at the University of Notre Dame in Suffolk Street, with a panel chaired by Pilgrims' Vice-President Sir Robert Worcester. The expert panellists were Gregory Katz, acting Bureau Chief of the Associated Press, Mark Mardell, Presenter of *The World This Weekend* on BBC Radio 4 and Stryker McGuire, formerly Bureau Chief at *Newsweek*.



*Sir Robert Worcester*

*photograph by Michael Burland of The American*

After a formal introduction by Robert Conway, a Trustee of Notre Dame, Sir Robert Worcester gave a masterly survey of the voting patterns and electoral turnout of the 2012 Presidential Election. Greg Katz saw the Presidential election of 2016 as being wide open with more and more people turning to the Courts to combat such controversial measures as Obamacare. Obama was clearly a 'lame duck' President with the Republicans dominant in both Houses of Congress. A 2016 Presidential contest between Jeb Bush and Hillary Clinton seemed likely at this stage. Mark Mardell felt it had been a very good night for the Republicans but that victory for them in 2016 was not necessarily indicated. Stryker McGuire stressed the influence of money in American politics. The 2012 Elections had cost over \$7 billion. Wealthy individuals had been allowed to finance special interest groups, in particular Michael Bloomberg who was spending vast sums on causes and candidates.

Question time took in such topics as broken government in the USA; the possibility of a 'blame game' after the US Mid-Term elections; similarities between UKIP and the Tea Party; the effect of billionaire backers on both Democratic and Republican parties, and how a Hillary Clinton

Presidency would deal with a Republican-dominated Congress. Also under consideration were such matters as the influence of mass media on both British and US elections; tripartite government in the US; the huge number of small donations made by private citizens in US elections; the importance of key political issues in deciding electoral outcomes; the likelihood of a political comeback by Mitt Romney, and the possible breakdown of the whole US political system.

Sir Peter Marshall thanked the distinguished panellists for their clear analysis and understanding of the very complex American political system.

## THANKSGIVING CELEBRATION AT ST MARGARET'S, WESTMINSTER

Pilgrims and guests attended a special Thanksgiving service at St Margaret's Church, Westminster Abbey on 20 November. The service was conducted by Canon Andrew Tremlett, Rector of St Margaret's, with Thomas Trotter at the organ. There was a strong American flavour in the hymns, choral singing, readings and organ pieces. Valerie Humphrey, Director of the Westminster Abbey Foundation and a member of the Pilgrims' Programme Committee, gave an illuminating reflection on the true meaning of Thanksgiving, and the Rector gave a witty and informative address on the historical relationship between St Margaret's, Westminster Abbey and the USA. The US Minister, Ms Elizabeth Dibble, Executive Committee member Diane Simpson, Pilgrims' Chairman Ronald Freeman and Sir Peter Bottomley MP, St Margaret's Parliamentary Warden and Chairman of the Pilgrims' Programme Committee, read a variety of lessons.

We were delighted to be joined for the evening by the Reverend John A D'Elia, Senior Minister at the American International Church, and by the Choir of the American School in London, under the inspirational direction of Lisa Ross.

The service was followed by an enjoyable reception in the side aisle of the church.

### IN MEMORIAM

Mrs Joan M C Baillie  
George Cathles  
William D Park  
Alan Rawley QC  
Harold W Sands

## RECEPTION AT DRAPERS' HALL

Pilgrims and guests attended a spring reception at Drapers' Hall on 20 April, enabling members and their guests to enjoy a social evening in prestigious and impressive surroundings.

Admiral of the Fleet Lord Boyce, President of the Pilgrims, Sir Michael Craig-Cooper, Sir Peter Bottomley MP and John Padovan are Past Masters of the Drapers' Company. The Drapers' Company generously care for The Pilgrims' silver, which was on display at the reception.



*Admiral of the Fleet Lord Boyce and Lady Boyce*

The Livery Hall contains the Company's collection of royal portraits and Herbert Draper's magnificent ceiling paintings depicting Shakespearean scenes, as well as the statue of Venus by John Gibson and the statue of Hypatia by Richard Belt. The Court Dining Room dates back in part to the late 1660s and was renovated in 1869, when the ceiling painting of Jason and the Golden Fleece by Felix-Joseph Barrias was added.

### 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.

Thank you

*Tessa Wells*

## TOUR OF THE ART COLLECTION AT THE GARRICK CLUB

A small group of Pilgrims visited the Garrick Club to view the club's impressive art collection on 5 February.

Founded in 1831, the Garrick Club moved to its present premises in 1864, where it houses the largest and most significant collection of British theatrical works of art. Artists represented in the collection of more than one thousand paintings, drawings and pieces of sculpture include Johan Zoffany, Thomas Lawrence and John Everett Millais. Paintings of every British actor of note, from David Garrick to John Gielgud, hang on the Club walls. Many of the major literary, theatrical and artistic personalities of the last two centuries have been members, including Charles Dickens, William Makepeace Thackeray, Henry Irving, W S Gilbert, Arthur Sullivan and A A Milne.

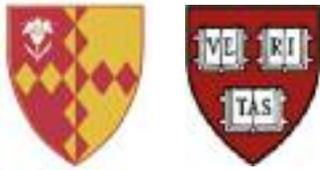
We were most fortunate to have Mrs Frances Hughes as our guide. Her knowledge and understanding of the theatrical world and its people is unsurpassed and we owe her a considerable debt of gratitude.

*Editor's note: Henry Irving, the first actor to be knighted, was a founder member of The Pilgrims and a member of the Executive Committee until his death in 1905.*

### NEW MEMBERS DECEMBER 2014 AND APRIL 2015

Dr Wai Chen  
Miss Louisa Cottrell  
Hugo Hanham-Gross  
Dr Theodore Malloch  
Ms Elizabeth A McMahon  
Mrs Jennifer Millar-Smith  
Mrs Cecilia Neal  
Edward Osterwald  
Dr Michael J Owen  
Henry Smith MP  
Lady Staughton OBE DL  
Christian Sweeting  
Philip Taylor

*Membership application forms, and additional copies of the 2014 List of Members, are available from the office*  
**sec@pilgrimsociety.org**



## Southwark Cathedral and Harvard Club UK Fundraising Dinner 21 September 2015

The Harvard Club of the United Kingdom and Southwark Cathedral are hosting a Gala Dinner in aid of Southwark Cathedral at which Mark Carney, Governor of the Bank of England, will speak.

The dinner will be held at the Mansion House, by kind permission of the Lord Mayor, on Monday 21 September from 6.45 pm. The cathedral has many connections with the USA: John Harvard, who sailed with his wife to Massachusetts in 1637 and became the first benefactor of Harvard University, was baptised in St Saviour's church, later Southwark Cathedral, in 1607. The John Harvard Memorial chapel has a memorial window by the American artist John LaFarge and houses a memorial plaque to Oscar Hammerstein II, the librettist and regular visitor to the cathedral.

Dress for the dinner is black tie and tickets are £300.00 per person. It will be a wonderful occasion to support Southwark Cathedral by raising funds for disabled access to the John Harvard Memorial chapel as well as vital renovation works.

Enquiries to Alice Willington: 020 7367 6729, [alice.willington@southwark.anglican.org](mailto:alice.willington@southwark.anglican.org)

### **TURBULENT TIMES: The memoirs of Ronald McIntosh with a foreword by Peter Hennessy (Biteback £20.00)**

From his wartime service in the Merchant Navy to the corridors of power in Whitehall and the Yeltsin years in Russia, Sir Ronald McIntosh has never been far from the centre of exciting events. As Director-General of the National Economic Development Office in the 1970s he was intimately concerned with the industrial disputes and inflationary pressures which brought the British economy to the verge of collapse. His memoirs give a compelling account of those days.

Sir Ronald was born in 1919 and his working life continued until he was almost eighty. His career in the public service at home and abroad, and later in the City and Russia, spanned a period of almost unparalleled turbulence. Peter Hennessy describes him as a sensitive and knowledgeable guide to the achievements and vicissitudes of Britain since 1945.

## Guest Article: The Order of the Garter

As mother of a St George's Chapel chorister, who spent Sunday morning services praying for the good health and wellbeing of our Sovereign's Knights of the Most Noble Order of the Garter, I have remained in awe of the fifteenth century chivalric ideals they represent. The Order was founded during the Hundred Years' War, when Edward III defeated a larger French force at the Battle of Crécy in 1346. The King awarded the order to those considered to have shown exceptional valour in battle – himself and twenty-four knights.

We are honoured that ten members of the Pilgrims are Knights of the Garter.

St George is the patron saint of the Order, whose spiritual home is St George's Chapel, Windsor Castle. Every living knight displays a banner of his arms in the Chapel, with a sword, helmet, crest and an enamelled stallplate. The stallplates remain as memorials and form one of the finest collections of heraldry in the world. The Order is awarded as a mark of Royal favour to honour those who have held public office, contributed in a particular way to national life or who have served the Sovereign personally.



New appointments to the Order are announced on St George's Day, and every June the knights gather at Windsor Castle where the new knights are invested with the insignia. Following lunch in the Waterloo Chamber, the knights process to St George's Chapel, wearing their blue velvet robes and black velvet hats with white plumes. The Queen and other senior members of the Royal Family attend the service.

*With thanks to the Dean and Canons of Windsor, St George's Chapel Archives and Chapter Library and to Lord Carrington.*

*Melissa Crawshay-Williams*

## NEWS FROM THE PILGRIMS OF THE UNITED STATES



The Right Honourable Lord King of Lothbury, former Governor of the Bank of England, spoke at a reception on 6 November at the Racquet & Tennis Club.

*Lord King of Lothbury KG GBE*

Lynne Olson, author of *Citizens of London: the Americans who stood with Britain in its darkest, finest hour*, spoke at a reception on 3 December at the River Club.



*James D Zirin, Lynne Olson and President Miner H Warner*

General Michael Hayden, former Director of the Central Intelligence Agency and National Security Agency, spoke at a reception on 26 March at the Racquet & Tennis Club.



*James W Gerard V, General Michael Hayden and President Miner H Warner*

Darren Walker, President of the Ford Foundation, spoke at a reception on 2 April at the River Club.



*James D Zirin, Darren Walker and President Miner H Warner*



*William J vanden Heuvel, Senator George J Mitchell and President Miner H Warner*

At the 112<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Pilgrims of the United States, held on 14 April at the Union League Club, the society was addressed by the Honorable George J Mitchell, former Majority Leader of the

United States Senate and United States Special Envoy to the Middle East. The Pilgrims of the United States medallion for service to the nation was presented to the speaker.



John Shannon, photographer of Pilgrims' events for many years, is moving to Charleston, South Carolina.

*Jill Spiller, Executive Director, presents a certificate of appreciation to John Shannon*

The Pilgrims  
PO Box 1289  
Maidstone  
ME18 5WQ



Tel 01622 817780  
[sec@pilgrimsociety.org](mailto:sec@pilgrimsociety.org)  
Secretary: Mrs T M Wells  
Newsletter Editor: Christopher Robson  
[www.pilgrimsociety.org](http://www.pilgrimsociety.org)