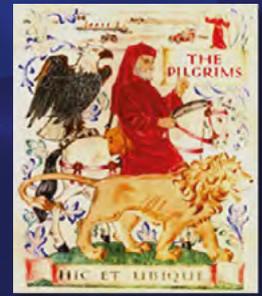


The Pilgrims Newsletter



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

VOL 24, NO 2
SPRING 2017

Executive Secretary Tessa Wells to retire

Ronald M Freeman writes:

Tessa Wells, our peerless and indefatigable Executive Secretary since 1999, has decided to retire in August. Tessa's graciousness and extraordinary ability to make every Pilgrims' event run smoothly and apparently effortlessly, while recognising and welcoming every member - the

"visible Tessa" - has been only a small part of her many contributions to the success of The Pilgrims.

Behind the scenes, Tessa has prepared our events, kept the accounts, maintained the database, managed correspondence, overseen committee meetings, fielded members' enquiries, published our newsletter, shepherded

nominations and on and on. To say that we shall miss her is to set a new level for understatement: she has been a wonderful colleague and friend. I am confident that members will wish to communicate their wishes to Tessa and that she will welcome hearing from us all.

The Executive Committee is now actively searching for Tessa's successor and would welcome Pilgrims' suggestions.

Letter from the Executive committee

Robert Alston writes:



My thanks go to Ron Freeman, both for his leadership as Chairman of the Pilgrims for the past seven years and for the chance to pen this valedictory reflection as I also prepare to stand down from the Executive Committee after seven years.

At the moment of Brexit the Pilgrims could not be more relevant. However we choose as individuals to describe the Transatlantic relationship over recent decades it will change as the nature of Britain's relationships with the world are redefined. The meeting with the US Ambassador to the EU just

before the referendum showed that those Pilgrims present at least were pretty representative of what followed, balanced numerically with strong views behind both positions. As we get on with it a year later we share as Pilgrims a particular interest in how it will interact with the evolution of the whole spectrum of relationships with the US bilaterally and in the wider world.

Beyond good company and enjoyment, perspectives on those relationships are something the Pilgrims provide us month in and month out. Here I offer just one further thank you, to Peter Bottomley for the quality and diversity of our speakers. The Pilgrims can have no common positions but can be an active forum for the public discussion of one set of issues which will be of real importance for the future. In this too our working relationship with the US Ambassador and his team is something which can be of real mutual value.

My particular responsibility within the Executive Committee has been Membership. I believe we should celebrate the age span not only of those who attend our events, but of our recruits. This helps to underline that for many of us of advancing years what the Pilgrims stands for and does remains a field of activity in which we want to take part. At the same time I think it is healthy that our average age has reduced modestly in recent years, showing that we offer an interest and a welcome to people still developing their professional lives. I very much hope that Pilgrims' membership will continue to appeal to more such people, reflecting diversity both of background and of activity, and with a strong cadre from the many Americans who make their homes and pursue their careers here. May they flourish both as a body and as individuals on a voyage to another new world.

Ambassador Matthew Barzun bids farewell to The Pilgrims

Pilgrims and guests attended a farewell dinner in the Livery Hall at Drapers' Hall in honour of Ambassador Matthew Barzun on 9 January.



Marshal of the Royal Air Force Lord Stirrup, President, with Ambassador Matthew Barzun

During his three years as Ambassador to London, Matthew Barzun made a considerable impact as a likeable, straightforward, sincere and down-to-earth diplomatic envoy who made people feel very much at ease and won many friends. He travelled widely across Britain meeting people from all backgrounds and occupations.

Following a laudatory introduction by Pilgrims' President Lord Stirrup, the Ambassador recalled the Pilgrims' dinner of welcome in September 2013. At that time the House of Commons had voted not to bomb Syria - a vote which had a very strong impact on both Houses of Congress - and the Scottish independence referendum was a year away. Since then there had been the surprising Brexit victory in the

EU referendum in 2016 and the equally surprising Donald Trump victory in the US Presidential election. Matthew Barzun sensed the populist mood that had gripped Britain, the USA and a number of European countries and which reflected a general distrust of the political establishment, big business and the media. However he remained optimistic, seeing the essential values of the Special Relationship as still of great relevance, especially in the economic, educational and social fields. These values had to be passed on to future generations.

Matthew Barzun dealt skilfully with questions on the various aspects of the UK/US Special Relationship; his regrets about retiring as Ambassador to a country whose people he had come to know so well; America's place in the world with a rising China and a resurgent Russia, and future exchanges of students between the UK and USA. He also covered Britain's place in the queue for a trade deal after Brexit and his view of our National Health Service.



Ambassador Matthew Barzun and Mrs Diane Simpson

In her very warm vote of thanks, Executive Committee member Diane Simpson thanked Matthew Barzun for all he had achieved as Ambassador and for the impact he had made on the people of this country, as had his own idol John Winant, who was Ambassador from 1941 to 1946.

NEW MEMBERS JANUARY AND MARCH 2017

David Ahern OBE

Adam Boulton

Mrs Elisabeth Braw

Ambassador Anthony Gardner

Right Hon Michael Gove MP

Nicholas Hine

Mark Hoban

Bernard Hunter

Major-General Seumas Kerr CBE

Christopher Lloyd

John Mann MP

Iain Martin

Mrs Lavinia Newman

Tim Oliver

Ms Carol Ryan Victor

The Marquess of Salisbury KCVO PC DL

Mrs Nancy Stewart

Dr Karin von Hippel

Ms Xenia Wickett

The Lord Wood of Anfield

Peter Hennessy writes the history of his and our own times



Admiral of the Fleet Lord Boyce, Vice President, Lord Hennessy of Nympsfield and Marshal of the Royal Air Force Lord Stirrup, President

Lord Hennessy of Nympsfield delivered the 20th Annual Reflections Lecture to a capacity Pilgrims' audience in the Ballroom at the Lansdowne Club on 24 January.

Fellow-Pilgrim Peter Hennessy has enjoyed a brilliant career as a journalist, historian and broadcaster. His knowledge of the inner workings of Westminster and Whitehall has put him in a league of his own.

After an introduction by Pilgrims' President Marshal of the Royal Air Force Lord Stirrup, Peter Hennessy said that 2016 had been a very eventful year, with the Brexit Referendum and the election of Donald Trump as US President. There was more uncertainty in this country and other countries than at any time since 1945, as reflected in Theresa May's Brexit speech at Lancaster House and Donald Trump's Presidential inaugural address.

There had been four seismic changes since 1945: the shedding of Empire in which some forty colonies were given independence between 1947 and 1980;

Britain joining the Common Market in 1973; the end of the Cold War in 1989, and the Brexit Referendum of 2016. Peter Hennessy paid tribute to Britain's achievements: the fifth largest economy in the world; the superb professionalism of our armed forces and intelligence and security services; our contribution to science and the excellence of our universities, and our civil and diplomatic services. However we were now confronted by a resurgent Russia, terrorism and the internal separatist threat posed by Scottish nationalism.

Peter Hennessy dealt masterfully with questions on the revival of the Conservative party in Scotland; the EU's chances of survival; the possibility of a second EU referendum; whether sovereignty still lies with Parliament; the shortcomings of the Remain campaign and the need for a co-ordinated industrial strategy to deal with productivity problems.

A vote of thanks was delivered by Executive Committee Member Sir Stephen Wright.

Forward Programme

Monday 5 June

Early summer reception, with an address by Peter Oborn, Chief Political Commentator of The Daily Mail

Drapers' Hall, Throgmorton Street, EC2N 2AN, 6.30-8.30 pm

Wednesday 21 June

Lunch with Professor Sir David Cannadine FBA

Margaret Thatcher: A Life and Legacy
Oxford and Cambridge Club, 71-77 Pall Mall, SW1Y 5HD, 12.15 for 12.45 pm

Thursday 13 July

All day visit to the Old Royal Naval College and National Maritime Museum at Greenwich

Depart Crown Pier, Victoria Embankment, EC4N 0DN 8.45 am, returning by 6.30 pm

Monday 9 October

Annual Meeting and Sir Harry Brittain Memorial Lecture by Dave H Williams and Mrs Reba White-Williams

members of the Pilgrims of the US: Separate Journeys, Shared Interests and a Life of Adventures

Annual Meeting at 6.00 pm, by kind invitation of Freshfields, at Northcliffe House, 26-28 Tudor Street, EC4Y 0AY followed by the Lecture and a reception, then an optional supper at the nearby Apex Temple Court restaurant

Wednesday 18 October

Talk by Nick Segal of Freshfields Corporate Collapse, Financial Failure and Fraud - Rights, Wrongs and the Role of the Law

Northcliffe House, 26-28 Tudor Street, EC4Y 0AY Reception at 6.00 pm; talk at 7.00 pm, then optional supper nearby

Tuesday 7 November

Tour of the Old Bailey, followed by reception

5.15-8.00 pm Numbers strictly limited

Robin Renwick throws the spotlight on the Anglo-American alliance from Churchill and Roosevelt to May and Trump



Lord Renwick of Clifton was the guest speaker at a luncheon on 27 February at the Cavalry and Guards Club. Robin Renwick, with his gift of perception and understanding of world events, has enjoyed an outstanding career, culminating with the Washington Ambassadorship 1991-95. He is the author of several fascinating books, his latest being *Fighting with Allies: America and Britain in Peace and War*.

of Anglo-American relations since the war of 1812. He focused on the crucial Prime Ministerial/Presidential relationships - Churchill/Roosevelt, Macmillan/Kennedy, Thatcher/Reagan and Blair/Bush - all of these based on common values and interests rather than sentiment. Britain, despite the ill-thought out and unjustified defence cuts of the Cameron/Clegg coalition years, is still regarded as America's closest ally and will remain so regardless of Brexit.

Administration; Donald Trump's attitude towards NATO and the fact that most members of this military alliance have not been pulling their weight in terms of defence expenditure, and the differences between Britain and the USA over certain aspects of international affairs.

After an introduction by Executive Committee member Paul Dimond, Lord Renwick looked at the development

Lord Renwick tackled questions on the role of "experts" in the Trump

In his vote of thanks Pilgrims' Chairman Ronald Freeman paid tribute to Robin Renwick's discourse and understanding of the true essence and significance of the UK-US relationship.

Michael Gove reflects upon the possible consequences of the US Presidential election



The Right Hon Michael Gove MP, fresh from his reporting trip to the US for *The Times*, addressed a packed Pilgrims' meeting in the Palace of Westminster on 17 November.

Clinton had been the best-qualified Presidential candidate for at least two generations, while Donald Trump had never held any office, either elected or unelected. Trump had succeeded by tapping into widespread fears concerning globalisation, the fall in living standards, lack of opportunity for future generations, terrorist threats and mass immigration. Trump had become the spokesman for forgotten white working-class Americans, and was compared by Michael Gove to President Andrew Jackson.

uncomplimentary comments about the President-Elect; Trump's likely economic policies; Nigel Farage's contact with Trump, and the new President's impact upon Supreme Court membership. Michael Gove also covered the possible end of the post-war consensus on matters diplomatic, economic and military; the possible re-emergence of isolationism in America; the Democrats' attitude towards working with Trump; the relationship between the Brexit verdict in the UK and Trump's success, and Trump's dealings with a biased media.

Michael Gove was surprised but not astonished by Donald Trump's victory in the Presidential Election. Hillary

Michael Gove was questioned on a range of topics: Trump's attitude towards NATO; Boris Johnson's

Executive Committee member Sir Peter Bottomley MP proposed the vote of thanks.

Xenia Wickett

In March, a small group of young members gathered for 'drinks and discussion' at the home of Executive Committee member Kweilen Hatleskog and her husband Knut to hear new member Xenia Wickett, director of the US Project at Chatham House and Dean of the Queen Elizabeth II Academy for Leadership in International Affairs.

Following a six-week tour of the US, Xenia shared her first-hand reflections on the Trump Presidency. Discourse centred on changes in the style and substance of US international engagement together

with the potential ramifications of proposed policies - intended or unintended - for its allies.

The intimate forum provided a format for positive debate with members challenging the speaker on the effect of technology and the new style 'diplomacy.' Focus was given to the devolution of decision-making and the increasing importance of both businesses and social networks in formulating policy.

Xenia forecast that, despite the perceived increase in volatility, the President's foreign policy would



most likely be forced to conform, constrained by identifiable domestic and international challenges.

A series of further 'drinks and discussion' events is planned in the forthcoming months and members are invited to suggest topics of interest.

The Patron's lunch

The Editors regret that space considerations meant that this article was omitted from the Autumn 2016 edition of the Newsletter

Paul Dimond writes:

Three Executive Committee members and their wives represented The Pilgrims, as one of the 600 organisations of which HM The Queen is Patron, at The Patron's Lunch for ten thousand held on The Mall on Sunday 12 June 2016.

The steady rain when we arrived failed to dampen the atmosphere of keen anticipation. Once inside we collected our hampers and took up our places at the tables to enjoy the packed lunch. From midday a

carnival-style parade kept guests entertained, segments reflecting a decade of HM The Queen's reign and the categories of patronage.

Soon after 2.00 pm younger members of the Royal Family joined the crowds lining the barriers, walking the length of The Mall and chatting to the crowd. With superb choreography by the event organisers, under the chairmanship of Peter Phillips, this prepared the scene for the slow drive of HM The Queen and HRH The Duke of Edinburgh in an open top motor-car to the stage at Admiralty Arch.

HRH The Duke of Cambridge spoke of HM The Queen's unwavering commitment to the charities' work,

and then in a clearly heartfelt address Her Majesty thanked all the organisations represented for their support and encouragement.

It was an honour to represent The Pilgrims at this memorable event.



Lillemor Gardener, Paul Dimond, Carolyn Dimond, Abbey Wright, Stephen Wright and Kenneth Gardener

Steven Erlanger, *New York Times* London Bureau Chief, addresses The Pilgrims

Ronald M Freeman writes:

Steven Erlanger, London Bureau Chief of *The New York Times*, was the guest speaker at a dinner at the Cavalry and Guards Club on 27 March.

Steven Erlanger enjoys an outstanding reputation as an international journalist, having reported from more than 120 countries. Before coming to London he served as *The New York Times* Bureau Chief in such diverse locations as Bangkok, Moscow, Washington, Prague, Berlin, Jerusalem and Paris. He has written for such prestigious publications as *The Economist*, *The New Republic*, *The Financial Times* and *The New Statesman* and is a governor of the Ditchley Foundation.

While serving as London Bureau Chief for *The New York Times*, Steven Erlanger is also very much

a working journalist, one who covers UK and European matters intensively from his London posting. Most recently, his byline has appeared over stories covering such topics as the role of far-right populism in the French election; the Prime Minister's snap election and her Brexit strategy, and Millicent Fawcett's statue in Parliament Square.

Following an introduction by Pilgrims' President Lord Stirrup, Steven Erlanger spoke extemporaneously sharing incidents from his wide-ranging career. He recalled his first meeting with Donald Trump in 1988, when the future 45th President of the United States showed him around his newly-purchased yacht.

Steven Erlanger outlined Donald Trump's views on globalisation and climate change and his goals of job creation, a key factor in his chance to



Steven Erlanger with Marshal of the Royal Air Force Lord Stirrup, President of the Pilgrims

be re-elected in 2020, while noting his changing views, for example on Syria, North Korea and Russia. Like many of his predecessors, Trump was very much learning on the job.

Steven Erlanger dealt adroitly with questions from the floor on Trump being the creator of news; the likelihood of his being forced to resign; his fondness for the military; the possibility of old age catching up with him and his finding the duties of President onerous. Executive Committee member Diane Simpson thanked Steven Erlanger warmly for his excellent discourse and presented him with the customary Pilgrims' history and tie.

Visit to the garden at Highgrove

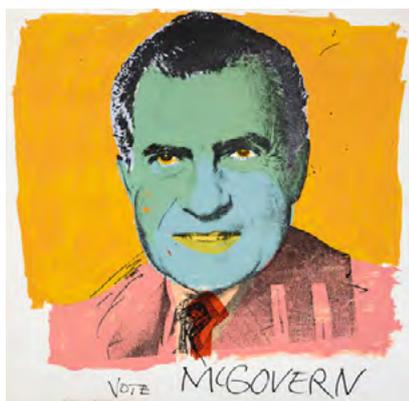


The group in front of Highgrove. Ronald M Freeman, Chairman, far left. Debbie Fitzcharles seated.

A small group of Pilgrims and guests visited Highgrove on 3 May, travelling by coach from central London. Despite the unseasonal cold wind, we enjoyed seeing the garden in its spring glory in the company of our guide, the entertaining and informative Debbie Fitzcharles. Our tour was followed by lunch and a visit to the gift shop.

American Dream: Pop to the Present

On 27 April, following a delicious buffet breakfast and an illuminating introduction by Catherine Daunt, one of the museum curators, the Pilgrims had a private view of the exhibition *American Dream: Pop To The Present* at the British Museum. The group was privileged to be given room to explore this fascinating and challenging exhibition before opening-time.



Andy Warhol screenprint, 1966

Historians have laid stress on the post-1945 emergence of America as a military, financial and industrial superpower but few have placed any real emphasis on America as a cultural superpower. By the beginning of the 1960s this supremacy was reflected in the vogue for American *pop art* as exemplified by such artists as Andy Warhol, Roy Lichtenstein and Robert Rauschenberg, against a background of civil rights for the African Americans, political assassinations - JFK, RFK and Martin Luther King - Vietnam and women's rights.

This exhibition demonstrated the self-confidence of these imaginative artists, who took their inspiration from billboard advertising, global politics, Hollywood and household objects and projected their work to a huge worldwide audience

- something which no previous generation had achieved. The downside to the American Dream was reflected in racism, the AIDS crisis and economic and social problems. The exhibition which ran at the same time at the Royal Academy, *America after the Fall*, dealt with the 1930s Depression and the apparent shattering of the American Dream.

IN MEMORIAM

The Hon Sir Clive Bossom Bt
Rear Admiral Sir Nigel Cecil
KBE CB

Lawrence F Crooke Jr

Colonel Michael Dewar
of that ilk and Vogrie

Sir Ewen Fergusson
GCMG GCVO

Ivor Hockman

Michael Johnson

John H Lydiard-Wilson

Neil Mills

Douglas E Nordlinger

Mark Sellers

J Michael Younger

The Hon Sir Clive Bossom Bt

John Fingleton writes:

Sir Clive Bossom, who died in March in his 100th year, was a proud member of The Pilgrims for 71 years, since 1946. A man of many parts during his action-filled life - including soldier, politician, businessman, motor racing enthusiast - he was MP for Leominster for 15 years, during which he was PPS to Margaret Thatcher; former chairman of the Royal Automobile Club and the British Racing Drivers' Club; past Master of the Grocers' Company: the list could go on and on.

By coincidence, Clive grew up at Allington Castle, now the home of our immediate past chairman, Sir Robert Worcester. He and Lady Barbara, his delightful wife of over 65 years, were regular attenders at Pilgrims' events until recently. Their eldest son Bruce and nephew Doric maintain the family name within our membership.

The son of a life peer and baronet and an American mother, Clive was enormously proud of his Anglo-American pedigree - and could break into a perfect American accent at the drop of a dime. As an MP, he was responsible for steering



Sir Clive Bossom when MP for Leominster promoting Hereford cattle to a Texan delegation

through the Commons the Antarctic Treaty, thereby helping to protect that continent's environment.

A true Pilgrim, he will be much missed.

Rear-Admiral Sir Nigel Cecil KBE CB

Sir Hugh Cubitt writes:

Rear-Admiral Sir Nigel Cecil (always known as Os) became a member of The Pilgrims when he was stationed in Washington DC in 1951, on the introduction of his uncle Jack Cecil of Biltmore.

His outstanding quality was his innate courtesy which led him to become an excellent leader and trainer of men, especially those in bell bottoms, as is

evident by the high naval rank that he attained. In World War II Os served on Russian and Atlantic convoys and in operations in support of the Normandy landings. In 1958 he was asked to deal with the minor mutiny on board HMS Apollo and within days had transformed the ship's morale and had the crew eating out of his hand. Os's social and diplomatic skills were also widely employed, as Senior Naval Officer in South Africa, NATO Commander South



Eastern Mediterranean, the last Flag Officer, Malta, and then as Lieutenant Governor of the Isle of Man.

News from the Pilgrims of the United States



James D Zirin, Miner H Warner, President of the Pilgrims of the US, and Professor Nicholas Burns

Professor Nicholas Burns, Former Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs and Former Ambassador to NATO and to Greece, was the guest of honour at a reception at the River Club on 24 January.

The 114th Annual Meeting of the Pilgrims of the United States took place on Monday 1 May at the Union League Club. The society was addressed by Raymond W Kelly, former New York Police Department Commissioner,



Peter Lawson-Johnston, Treasurer of the Pilgrims of the US, presenting the medallion to Raymond W Kelly, with James D Zirin

who was presented with the Pilgrims of the United States' medallion for service to the Nation.

Message from the Secretary

Group tours of the garden at Highgrove (see p.6) become available only on an occasional basis. Any member, including those who have visited on a previous occasion, who would like to join any future Pilgrims' tour of the garden should inform the office, please.

The Pilgrims



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