

The Pilgrims Newsletter



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

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SPRING/SUMMER 2023

New US Ambassador to the Court of St James Jane Hartley gave her maiden speech

By Dee Dee Simpson

The new US Ambassador to the Court of St James Jane Hartley gave her maiden speech to the Pilgrims on 7 September in the majestic Egyptian Hall of Mansion House. The Ambassador is only the second woman to serve in this role, following Ann Armstrong by almost half a century. Ambassador Hartley previously served as US Ambassador to France, is on the Board of Trustees of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, is a member of the Visiting Committee of the Kennedy School at Harvard and of the Council on Foreign Relations, and served at the White House in the Carter Administration.

Before the speech, the Ambassador spent over an hour tirelessly shaking hands in a receiving line. She was then welcomed to Mansion House by its resident, the Lord Mayor of the City of London Vincent Keaveny, and they were rhythmically clapped into the Egyptian Hall, a longstanding City tradition.

Ambassador Hartley spoke of issues affecting the US and UK >





> *Cont. from page 7*

to 260-some guests. First, she paid tribute to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, her life of service and the significant role she played as a world leader. This tribute was meant to reflect the recent Platinum Jubilee but, in fact, was made the day before the Queen's death.

The Ambassador then described her role of strengthening the UK-US relationship based on shared values of democracy and opportunity for all. She spoke of the importance of transatlantic security, inclusivity, economic growth, and bold climate action. She emphasized the unshakeable UK-US bond and said the UK has been and remains the most important ally of the US. Specifically, the Ambassador said the US appreciates UK leadership resisting Russian aggression in Ukraine. She said that, as the 25th anniversary of the Good Friday agreement approached, the US continues to support a secure and prosperous Northern

Ireland. She said the US supports the agreements reached at COP 26 in Glasgow and the Cornwall G7 meeting to find a path forward for green and prosperous growth. She then noted that cumulative bilateral UK/US investment was a massive \$1.5 trillion in 2021.

The Ambassador concluded by stating that our two countries will continue to work together to protect what we hold dear: to defend freedom, to champion opportunity, to uphold universal rights, and to do so under the rule of law. She reiterated that our commitment to each other is not just government to government, but people to people.



NEW MEMBERS

Mr Paul Bagatelas

Air Commodore David Bentley

Mr Faiz Bhanji

Mr Nabeel Bhanji

Mr Christopher Box

Lieutenant Maxwell Cosby

Lt Gen Richard Cripwell CB, CBE

Lord Eatwell

Dr Mischa Engineer

Mr Christopher Fisher

Mrs Alison Griffiths

Mr Mumtaz Habib

Mr Will Heilpern

The Honorable Kevin William Billings

Ms Courtney Huggins

Mr Mark Irwin

Mr Robert Jenrick

Mrs Michal Jenrick

Professor Josu de la Fuente

Mrs Heledd Kendrick FRSA

Mrs Sara Khairallah

Mr John Kriegsman

Dr Dan Larsen

Mr Paul Livingston

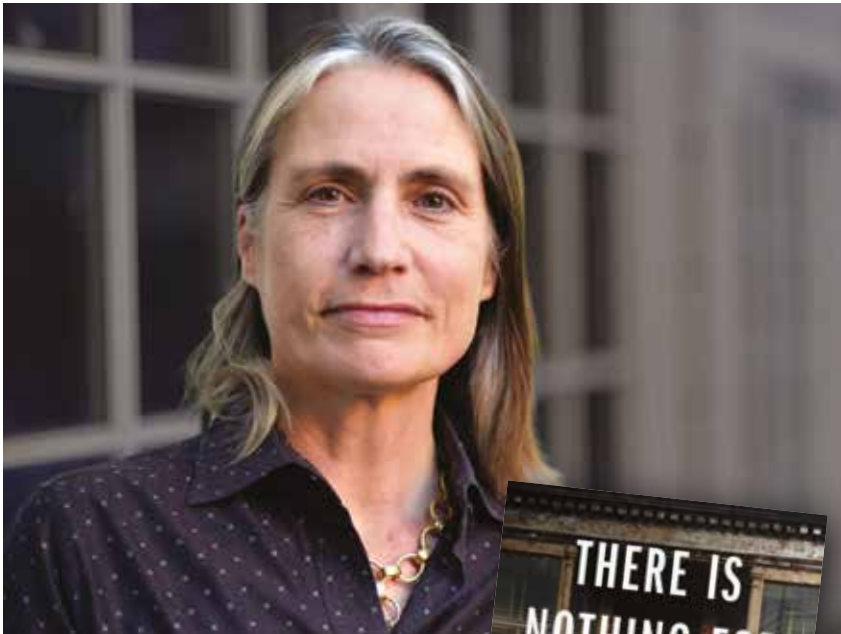
Alderman Professor Michael Mainelli FCCA FCSI (Hons) FBCS

Mr Edward Monckton

Mr Scott Noble

Ms Christina Paumgarten

Reception with Fiona Hill



By *Kweilen Hatleskog*

In February 2022, the Pilgrims were privileged to host a small gathering to hear Fiona Hill speak. Launching her book “There is Nothing for You Here,” Ms. Hill recounted her personal journey from England’s coal-mining country to Harvard and the United States’ National Security Council; advising Presidents George W. Bush, Barack Obama and Donald Trump on foreign affairs.

In a powerful, and deeply personal, account she shared what she had learned about the damaging impacts of populism in both Russia and more recently in the United Kingdom and the United States. Newly appointed as chancellor of Durham University, Ms. Hill’s comments focused on the rising divisions in access to university education. Noting

that while people look at the UK and US as the ‘superpowers of education’, we must actively work to address the inequalities of access and invest in skills-based social mobility if we are to preserve our democracies.

Questioned by the Pilgrims on Russia’s strategy and strengths in pursuing war in the Ukraine, Ms. Hill was thoughtful and frank. Indicating, she thought, that absolute victory over Russia was not likely possible, she emphasised the importance of effective leadership, suggesting

NEW MEMBERS (cont.)

Mr Sebastian Payne

Mr Thomas Pierpont-Grose

Mr Nathaniel Powell

Mr Hans Pung

Admiral Antony David Radakin, CB, ADC

Sir David Richmond KBE, CMG

Mrs Alison Rose

Mr Michael Strauss

Air Chief Marshal Sir Stuart Peach GBE, KCB, ADC, DL

Miss Serra Tezisler

Mr Gareth Thomas

Mr Ian Tough JP

Mr Collin Wallace

Mrs Ruth Westcott

Mr Benjamin Williams

that we must try to create the circumstances for a real negotiation, rather than aiming for complete capitulation. With her characteristic pragmatism and balance, Ms. Hill also reminded us that beyond Russia, there are even greater threats where an educated bureaucracy and a strong transatlantic democratic alliance will be essential in ensuring the West’s success.

As the formal part of the evening concluded, Ms. Hill stayed to converse with Pilgrims and all left more educated than they arrived.

Dinner with Alison Rose, Chief Executive of NatWest Group plc

By Mark Seligman

Alison Rose, Chief Executive of NatWest Group, was the guest speaker at the first dinner of 2022, appropriately held at the Army and Navy Club given her military upbringing. Alison is the first and only female head of a major British bank. Some 76 members and their guests attended what was a very lively evening. Alison was also the author of The Rose Review in 2019, undertaken for the Government to identify issues stopping women from becoming entrepreneurs, a subject very dear to her heart.

Introduced by Lord Stirrup, who declared himself a happy NatWest customer, Alison spoke of the unprecedented level of uncertainty in the economic outlook. The ongoing invasion of Ukraine had exacerbated significant existing inflationary pressures, as well as supply chain and labour challenges. NatWest was acutely aware of the issues its customers were facing. Some businesses were anecdotally facing energy price rises of 300-400%, and there was a concern that with post-COVID fatigue, many might choose to close rather than trade through another crisis.

NatWest's approach is to provide a strong, practical support package, in particular for the most vulnerable customers. This is part of the purpose led approach of the bank. Alison is a firm believer that such

an approach drives long-term sustainable value creation for the bank - fulfilling its responsibilities not just to shareholders, but also to all of its stakeholders.

Another part of this approach has been the bank's focus on climate change, learning and enterprise. On climate, the bank will work with customers to accelerate the net zero transition through a £100bn climate finance target, and help to create an energy safe future where we are no longer reliant on Russian hydrocarbons.

On learning, 80% of young people believe they will never be financially secure. So, a financial literacy programme in partnership with the

footballer Marcus Rashford is being launched this summer.

Fostering enterprise is a key area of focus for NatWest as the leading business bank in the UK. On female entrepreneurship, research shows that if women were empowered to start and scale businesses at the same rate as men, then we could add £250bn to our national economy.

After speaking, questions poured in. It was clear that Alison's comments had rung true, and that there was widespread support for her efforts to have businesses, government and civil society join together to ensure that those who are in most need of support are given the practical, tangible toolkits they need to overcome the challenges ahead. The Chairman then thanked Alison and presented her with the customary history of the Pilgrims, together with a silk Pilgrims scarf.



Visit to Chiswick House

By *Dee Dee Simpson*

The Pilgrims visited Chiswick House on 13 July 2022, one of the hottest days of the year. Luckily, we spent some of the tour in the beautiful gardens, the birthplace of the English Landscape movement. We walked in the 18th century Italian Garden and saw the magnificent conservatory, home to the oldest collection of camellias in Britain.

The Roman-style Palladian Chiswick House villa is one of the most glorious examples of 18th century British architecture, designed by the 3rd Earl of Burlington with his friend, the architect and designer William Kent. The house and gardens have recently benefited from a major restoration project and the house contains a rich



collection of Old Master paintings and beautiful original furniture. However, the refurbishment was a long time coming. After Burlington's death, the house passed by marriage to the Dukes of Devonshire, who remodelled the house, and by the 1860s the house was let and its contents gradually moved to Chatsworth House, seat of the Devonshires. In 1892 the house became a mental health institution used by early pioneers of talking therapies. In the 20th century, the house and gardens were in decline

and in 1929 the reduced estate was sold to Middlesex County Council. In 1948, ownership of the house passed to the Ministry of Works, which embarked on a restoration campaign aimed at returning the villa to its original size and design and the gardens to their original layout. Eventually, funding from the National Lottery Heritage Fund, London Borough of Hounslow and English Heritage Trust enabled this wonderful transformation. If you haven't visited, you should!

Evening reception with Robert Harris

By *Peter Felix*

It was a pleasure to have Robert Harris, one of my favourite authors, discussing his work in our living room last December. As host I had asked him his name before realising who he was. But he wan't put out and as he talked to our attentive audience I came to like him even more.

This is a writer who is very aware of his own development process as an author and has built an approach to writing which not



only involves his personal discipline but an attention to historical detail that imbues authenticity. This has been particularly true of his political histories such as the Cicero Trilogy and Munich, his story of appeasement at the beginning of the Second World War.

I personally found him intellectually very authoritative and credible with a crowd pleasing ability to articulate and explain in a non arrogant way. Too often intellectuals forget how to explain to lesser mortals.

All in all a delightful evening which left me with a pile of surplus books, thrillers and spy novels as well as historical novels that I have since worked my way through. Thank you to the Pilgrims.

Memorial lecture for The Right Honourable The Lord Carrington, KG, GCMG, CH, MC, PC, DL by The Right Honourable The Lord Robertson of Port Ellen KT GCMG PC FRSA FRSE

By Dee Dee Simpson

Lord Robertson delivered the Carrington Memorial Lecture on 17 October. He paid tribute to Lord Carrington, “a truly great British figure and a man of enormous distinction, honour and achievement.” He referred to Carrington’s lifetime of public service, as a decorated warrior, a High Commissioner, Defence and Foreign Secretary, Party Chairman and Secretary General of NATO (and, of course, President of the Pilgrims Society).



Robertson used Carrington’s example to refer to events in Ukraine today. In his memoir, Carrington quoted Lord Palmerston: “Russian expansionism is like water running downhill. Checked it may find another way, but it can be checked...to check it requires adequate strength and evident will. NATO provides both, and continues to do so. It will be a long haul – the Russians think historically, and they take a long view.” Robertson said those were prescient words and the sentiment applies again today.

Robertson speaks from experience. As NATO Secretary General in 2002, Robertson chaired the Rome Summit, at

which President Putin shared the table with 19 NATO leaders. “I wasn’t the only one round that table in Rome who harboured the thought – maybe the hope, that we might just have found that other way to check Palmerston’s downhill water and that Russia under Putin might perhaps have the vision to be part of a new spirit of cooperative security. Indeed, I stood beside Putin that same afternoon at the Press Conference and heard him say these words: ‘Ukraine is a sovereign, independent nation state and it will choose its own path to peace and security.’”

But Putin started to develop the classic signature of authoritarian leaders. Professor Sir Lawrence

Freedman describes it in his new book ‘Command’, as the ‘familiar theme of autocratic decision making, of leaders supremely confident in their wisdom and insight, egged on by sycophantic courtiers’. They make decisions easier; Freedman says – but also much worse. As indeed the Ukraine adventure is proving.

Robertson wonders whether there was a considered decision by Putin to go to war with the West. Also debatable is whether Putin actually has a Grand Strategy for his actions or rather a series of tactical manoeuvres designed mainly to disrupt and gain attention and ‘respect’. But he believes Putin was quick to capitalise on failures of Western

> *Cont. from page 6*

will: to enforce the red lines in Syria over the use of chemical weapons and the chaotic withdrawal of allied forces from Afghanistan last year. “For Putin, who I saw at close hand several times, there is a burning ambition to recreate the respect for Russia he believed was given to the second super-power, the Soviet Union. The emotional side of his character I saw occasionally across that long white table has now stewed into a messianic demand for equality with the US and the assimilation of Ukraine to be no more than a province of his ‘Greater Russia.’”

Robertson said the war Putin is waging is new – hybrid, multifaceted, under-the-radar, insidious. “...every day he systematically penetrates the cracks and fissures in our democratic life. In disinformation, election meddling, corruption, organised crime, extra territorial assassination, supply chain disruption and cyber interference,

he inserts his poison. Some of it is overt – but much of it is more subtle...Parliament’s Intelligence and Security Committee’s Report of 2020 was explicit. “The UK welcomed Russian money, and few questions – if any – were asked about the provenance of this considerable wealth.”

Robertson summed up by asking what we need to do about this assault on our liberal democratic west and in particular the heroic battle for survival of the Ukrainian people? He said that first we need to recognise that either Putin is defeated, or we are. If Putin wins in Ukraine, he will not stop there. Hence, we must accelerate supplies of weapons and ammunition to the front line. President Putin must realise the miscalculation he has made and he needs to know that Ukraine will get the help it needs for as long as it needs it. Second, we must stand up to the dangerously loose talk from the Kremlin on using nuclear weapons. Russia is not being



attacked; we are only helping Ukraine. There is no required defence of the ‘motherland’. Third, we have to permanently wean ourselves off Russian gas – and as is less well known, Russian wheat. Fourth, we need to remind the countries of the Global South that the changing of borders by force is not a European regional dispute issue but rather a fundamental issue of significance to many in South America, Africa and in South East Asia. Fifth, we need to step up the messages to the Russian people that this war is Putin’s and that we have no argument with them.

Saatchi Gallery visit

By Dee Dee Simpson

The Pilgrims visited the Saatchi Gallery in March 2022 to view its “America in Crisis” photo exhibition, which featured 40 leading American photographers and over 120 works exploring social change in the US from the 1960s to today. America in

Crisis was a ground-breaking group initiative originally conceived by Magnum Photos in 1969 to assess the state of the nation. The group turned a critical eye on the US at a time of great social, political and cultural change and examined key events in 1968

leading up to Nixon’s inauguration. The 2022 Saatchi exhibition created a dialogue between the original historical photographs and new works produced five decades later by diverse contemporary practitioners, highlighting themes present during both eras.



Visit to see Winslow Homer at the National Gallery

By Sir Nicholas Hilliard

In the late afternoon of 5th January 2023, a group of Pilgrims and their guests overcame rail strikes and met at the National Gallery to see the exhibition "Winslow Homer: Force of Nature." We were extremely fortunate to be accompanied on our tour by Chris Riopelle, who had curated the exhibition. Chris is the Neil Westreich Curator of Post 1800 Paintings, a title which does not begin to convey the easy and engaging way in which he shared his considerable scholarship with us. He did not just provide an introduction and leave us to it, but very generously accompanied us from start to finish.

Homer was born in Boston in 1836. He had very little in the way of formal training as an artist. He lived through the American Civil War and the abolition of slavery,

which provided the subject matter for a number of remarkable paintings. He travelled to England in 1881 and stayed in Cullercoats, a town on the North East coast, where his work reflected his preoccupation with scenes of heroism and resilience and the relationship between humankind and the environment. In 1883, he made his home in Maine. Until his death in 1910, the coast and the sea continued to provide the inspiration for some memorable work.

A further treat was in store for us as Peter Cadbury kindly hosted us afterwards for drinks at the Beefsteak Club in Irving Street. It was a great opportunity to get to know each other in splendid surroundings. All our thanks are due to Chris, Peter and Amy Thompson for a very special and hugely enjoyable occasion.

Viscountess Julie Hinchbrooke

By Peter Cadbury

Julie Montagu is a new member of the Pilgrims and an American



from Illinois, who married into the British Aristocracy when she became Viscountess Hinchbrooke and chatelaine of their beautiful home at Mapperton.

In an on-line talk, she spoke of her personal knowledge and unique perspective on America's love and fascination for the British Aristocracy.

Her talk included examples ranging from the love match between Mary Goelet and the Duke of Roxburghe at Floors Castle, many less successful marriages between impoverished Aristocrats and American heiresses, right up to her own modern day experience, where her enthusiasm and energy clearly contribute greatly.

She has a great gift for combining erudition with entertainment which her talk demonstrated excellently.

My only regret is that this talk was on zoom and we must make sure we ask Julie back to talk to us again, next time, in person.



Lunch with Jon Sopel at the Savile Club

By Mark Fox

In July 2022 we were very pleased to welcome veteran broadcaster and journalist Jon Sopel to speak to us on the theme of 'The Era of Biden, The shadow of Trump'.

Jon is a seasoned and experienced commentator and observer who spent a considerable period of time as the BBC's North America Editor covering, among many things, the White House during the Presidency of Donald Trump - that most extraordinary and unprecedented of Presidencies. Indeed on at least one famous occasion Jon became the focus of the President's ire at a White House press conference (*You can find the link here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ivqo5WfRCj0>*). In his resilient yet persistent handling of

President Trump he showed just how important it is that journalists should not be intimidated by a powerful politician.

Jon's talk was full of fascinating reflections, reminiscences and observations. The contrast between Joe Biden and Donald Trump as people as well as Presidents could not be starker. Given the nature of his insurgent and brutal victory over Hilary Clinton it is perhaps all the more remarkable that Donald Trump was beaten so comprehensively by Joe Biden just four years later. With a President who refuses to accept defeat and the legitimacy of an election which he lost perhaps it also demonstrates the usefulness of term limits?

It was an excellent talk and we all much enjoyed it.

IN MEMORIAM

Admiral of the Fleet the Lord Boyce KG GCB OBE DL

Alan M Rind Esq CVO

Field Marshal Sir John Chapple GCB CBE DL

Field Marshal The Right Hon The Lord Inge KG GCB DL

General The Lord Ramsbotham GCB CBE

Lady Layfield

Mr Christopher Robson

Mr Clive Bowring

Mr David Moller

Mr Denis G Brown

Mr Humphrey Wood

Mr Michael A Bardsley

Mr Michael N M Boyd CBE

Mr Robert M Conway

Mr William H Yates MBE

Mr William Say

Mrs Dena Lee Crooke

Mrs Elizabeth Scott

Foundling Museum visit



By Dee Dee Simpson

Pilgrims were delighted to visit the Foundling Museum in February 2022 to learn about the eighteenth-century foundling and sailor George King, whose first-hand account detailed his journey from being press-ganged into the Navy and surviving the Battle of Trafalgar to his death at the Royal Naval Hospital. The Foundling Museum was established in 1739 by Thomas Coram to help abandoned children, and original fundraising was helped by the artist William Hogarth and composer George Frideric Handel.

George King (10 June 1787– 31 July 1857) was child number 18,053 at the Foundling Hospital, where he was taught to read and write – a rare skill for working-class people in the eighteenth century. Originally apprenticed to a confectioner in London, George ran away and was press-ganged into the Navy in 1804, with his journeys taking him across the Mediterranean to the Caribbean, Brazil and Argentina. His memoir provides both a humorous and harrowing account of life below deck, on shore, and in the thick of battle, including his account of the Battle of

Trafalgar, where he fought aboard HMS Polyphemus, which took 200 French prisoners and then towed HMS Victory, bearing Nelson's body, back to Gibraltar. After 24 years in the Navy and with his health starting to decline, George travelled to Charleston in recently-independent America, where he worked as a teacher before returning to England on a ship laden with cotton. In England, having tried dock work, haymaking, hop-picking and being a policeman, King fell on hard times, but was lucky enough to gain a place at the Royal Naval Hospital in Greenwich, where he died on 31 July 1857.

To bring George's story to life, the Foundling Museum featured the original manuscript of King's autobiography, a rare fragment of the flag from Nelson's coffin, letters between the Hospital's matron and Lady Emma Hamilton – annotated by Nelson himself – and two rare Naval General Service Medals, of which only 221 were awarded retrospectively when the medal was first issued in 1849. The medals belonged to George King and the foundling William South, who served aboard HMS Victory.

Forthcoming events

Event: Dinner “*Looking at the past to look to the future*” by Charles Moore, Baron Moore of Etchingham

Date: Tuesday 26th September 2023

Time: 6.00 for 6.30pm

Cost: £72

Location: The Cavalry and Guards Club, 127 Piccadilly, London, W1J 7PX

Event: “*The Strange Survival of Liberal Britain and the Origins of the Special Relationship*” by Professor Vernon Bogdanor who will talk to us about his latest book

Date: Wednesday 4th October 2023

Time: 6.30–8.00pm

Cost: £40.00 including drinks and canapés.

Location: The Library, The Rag - Army & Navy Club, 36 Pall Mall, London SW1Y 5JN

Event: The Pilgrims of Great Britain Annual Meeting, Sir Harry Brittain Memorial Lecture by Chancellor of the Exchequer, Rt Hon Jeremy Hunt MP and drinks reception

Date: Monday 16th October 2023

Time: 6.00 – 8.30pm

Cost: Free to members (£25 non-members)

Location: PwC, 1 Embankment Place, London, WC2N 6RH

Please also note that Baroness Kate Fall will talk to The Pilgrims at 6.30pm on the 8th November 2023 - location TBC.

Mansion House visit

By Dee Dee Simpson

In December Pilgrims visited Mansion House, home of the Lord Mayor of London and also home to The Harold Samuel Collection of Dutch and Flemish 17th century paintings, considered by some to be the best collection of Dutch art in Britain. Lord Harold Samuel of Wych Cross, a wealthy property developer and entrepreneur, left his collection to the City of London in 1987. The Merry Lute Player by Frans Hals is the best-known piece in the collection but there are many other fine paintings, sculpture, and a noted collection of gold and silver plate.

Mansion House has its own interesting history. Until the mid-18th century, Lord Mayors used their own houses or livery halls

for their work as head of the City's governmental, judicial and civic functions. The idea of creating a permanent residence came after the Great Fire of 1666. Almost a century later, the first stone was laid in 1739 and the house was completed in 1758. Palladian in style, Mansion House features a ballroom, private apartments of the Lord Mayor and family, and meeting rooms and staff rooms. The cellars have storage space and once held prisoners' cells, reflecting the former use of the Mansion House as the Lord Mayor's Court. The house also features the great Egyptian Hall on the first floor, the room where the Pilgrims welcomed incoming US Ambassador Jane Hartley for her maiden speech in September 2022.



N MEMORIAM (CONT.)

Mrs Sheila P Brittain

Professor Peter A D Giblin

Sir Derek Thomas KCMG

Sir Nicholas Bonsor Bt DL

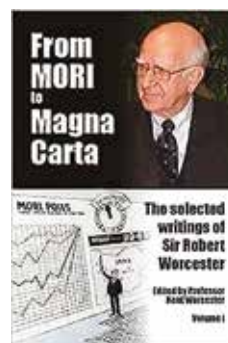
***Sir Peter Marshall KCMG
CVO***

Sir Richard Giordano KBE

The Pilgrims is sad to report that Pilgrims' Newsletter Editor, Mr Christopher Robson of 23 years passed away in February 2023. We are so grateful for the dedication and support he has shown over the 34 years he was a member.

Should any member wish to get involved in the production of the Newsletter or write up a review of an event please do get in touch with Amy Thompson.

For six decades Sir Robert Worcester KBE DL, Pilgrims Chairman for eighteen years has been the face of British public opinion research: founder of MORI, advisor to Prime Ministers and the Royal Family, and a regular on election night specials. Now the very best of his writings have been gathered together for the first time by his son, Professor Kent Worcester. The collection ranges from practical guides on polling, the media and reputation to explorations of public attitudes towards the environment, science and trust in national institutions. All are written in the clear and accessible style that has led Sir Robert to be in such demand in the media. Sir Robert's own journey is every bit as fascinating as his insights on UK politics and society. He was born in Kansas City and served with the US military in Korea before settling in London. Since then, he has served in a host of public and charitable roles, from Trustee of the WWF to deputy Lord Lieutenant of Kent, and led the world-wide celebrations of the 800th anniversary of the signing of Magna Carta.



Benjamin Franklin and the Craven Street Bones

By Amy Thompson



In March 2023 Dr Paul Knapman (Coroner of Westminster for 31 years) and Dr Márcia Balisciano (Director of Benjamin Franklin House) shared

their fascinating story of the Craven Street bones, which were discovered in the basement of Benjamin Franklin House in 1998. The discovery of the bones was reported to Dr Knapman, as coroner, as a potential mass murder but the bones were actually from an anatomy school of a good friend of Benjamin Franklin at the time he was living there. Dr Knapman talked about the discovery of the bones and all the fascinating medical dimensions and Dr Balisciano talked about Benjamin

The Pilgrims

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Feedback

In an effort to improve future events we kindly invite you to send any feedback to the Executive Secretary.

Save mailing costs and the environment



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Franklin and his role in the story. Attendees also toured Benjamin Franklin House, just a few minutes' walk from The Farmers Club, where guests met for a light sandwich lunch.

MEMOS:

All members are encouraged to register personal details about themselves, for the information of other members only, in the Members' Area of the Society's website

http://www.pilgrimsociety.org/members/index_please_login.php

Please let the Executive Secretary know if you would prefer to sign up to the electronic distribution list. We encourage you to receive electronic communications as this is by far the quickest way to keep up to date on news and events.