



## MICHAEL HOWARD LOOKS BACK ON A DISTINGUISHED LEGAL AND PARLIAMENTARY CAREER WITH STRONG AMERICAN CONNECTIONS

At the thirteenth of the annual *Reflections* lectures held in the Auditorium at Goldman Sachs's River Court premises in Fleet Street on Tuesday 9 March, The Right Hon Michael Howard QC MP, now Lord Howard of Lympne, quickly established his Anglo-American credentials by reference to his American son-in-law and American grandson.

In the eventful and fateful year of 1963 he travelled the length and breadth of the USA as a member of a Cambridge University Debating Team and was in the state of Idaho when news of the Kennedy assassination broke and in Dallas two weeks after the terrible event.



Lord Howard, in addition to being Leader of the Opposition, held the positions of Secretary of State for Employment, Secretary of State for the Environment and Home Secretary.

As Secretary of State for the Environment he had considerable dealings with the Administration of George Bush Snr over climate change and recalled his visits to the US State Department and other key Departments. At the State Department he was told that they received more calls from the British Embassy than all the other Embassies put together.

He also recalled key relationships between British Prime Ministers and American Presidents, particularly Reagan/Thatcher, Blair/Clinton and Blair/George W Bush. He admitted that as Leader of the Opposition he had fallen out with the George W Bush Administration over aspects of the war in Iraq.

He was convinced that both the US and Europe should work together to solve problems such as the economy, trade and climate change.

He admitted that American policy was shifting more towards the Pacific, especially with the rise of China, but Europe must stake its claim as a reliable partner. He was pleased to see that as far as British and American relations were concerned this was not the partisan matter it had been in 1983, when Michael Foot led Labour to a disastrous election defeat with policies of unilateral disarmament and anti-Americanism.

On a final note, Lord Howard deplored the 24/7 media concentration which made government very difficult and felt that the "instant news" culture was the curse of our times.

Question-time brought a range of topics including the likely impact of the Ashcroft case on the forthcoming General Election; the large number of experienced Members leaving the Commons at the General Election and their inexperienced replacements; the atmosphere in the US of 1963; his years at Cambridge; relations with the Commonwealth countries; the impact of technology on politics and US/European relations; Britain in the Eurozone; David Cameron's belief in the European Union; his own Euro-sceptical views; possible damage done to NATO over Afghanistan; the situation in the Middle East; changes in the Conservative Party over the years and his time at the Home Office.

When asked whether he would have done things differently looking back over twenty-five years, he did admit there were some things he would have handled in another way.

In his warm vote of thanks, Pilgrims' Chairman Sir Robert Worcester praised Lord Howard for an excellent speech and response to questions.

## LETTER FROM THE CHAIRMAN

**Well, it's time to go.** I have enjoyed my seventeen years as Chairman of the Pilgrims Society beyond measure. But I made a pact with our distinguished President, Field Marshal Lord Inge, that I would stay during his period of duty in the Presidency, and he and I have now decided it's time to call it a day.

The honour for me in the Chairman's role has been three-fold.

First, to contribute what I could to defending and promoting the special relationship, realistically for what it is, a consonance of mutual trust and shared aims, upholding the sole object of the Pilgrims Society, *the promotion of Anglo-American good fellowship*.

Second, having served with a distinguished group of Executive Committee members, none more distinguished than the two Presidents under whom I have served, the Right Honourable Lords Carrington and Inge, both well deserved Knights of the Garter.

Third, for the principal reason for stepping down just now. With the position of Chairman of the Pilgrims, I discovered, came the further honour of being *ex officio* a Trustee of the Magna Carta Trust. Why now? Because the Chairman of the Trust and its Trustees have asked me to chair the Committee to celebrate the 800<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the sealing of the Magna Carta in 2015. It's a big job, and I intend to give of my best to it between 2010 and 2015.

When I first came to this country in 1957, as a serving officer in the American Army, my first visit to a museum was to the British Museum to see the Magna Carta. And when my family moved to take up residence here in 1969, on our first weekend we went to Runnymede. I could hardly believe it when I found myself, some thirty years later, on the Magna Carta Trust.

And I have always believed that I should stand down when a strong team is in place and there is someone to succeed me whom I believe will carry the organisation forward. That person is now the Honorary Secretary of the Pilgrims in Great Britain, Ronald Freeman. And Admiral the Lord (Michael) Boyce, retired Chief of the Defence Staff and now Lord Warden of the Cinque Ports, has agreed to succeed Peter Inge as the President. Both

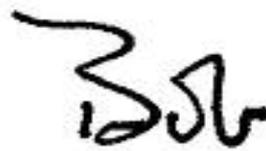
appointments are, of course, subject to a vote by members of the Executive Committee. They have been unanimously so endorsed and will be presented to the Annual Meeting at the American Embassy at 5.30 pm on Monday, 27 September, for the approval of those members in attendance at the meeting.

Our excellent Executive Secretary Mrs Andrew Wells – Tessa to all – will continue. While the home of the Pilgrims these past seventeen years will remain the repository of the Pilgrims' archives, Tessa will be setting up the Pilgrims' office at her home not far from Allington Castle and will let the membership know change of contact details immediately following the Annual Meeting.

Over these years as your Chairman I have enjoyed meeting many members of the Society, have travelled with some to Jamestown for the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the first permanent English-speaking settlement in the New World, and attended many interesting meetings which have enriched my life.

Thank you all, for allowing me the privilege of serving as your Chairman.

Sincerely,



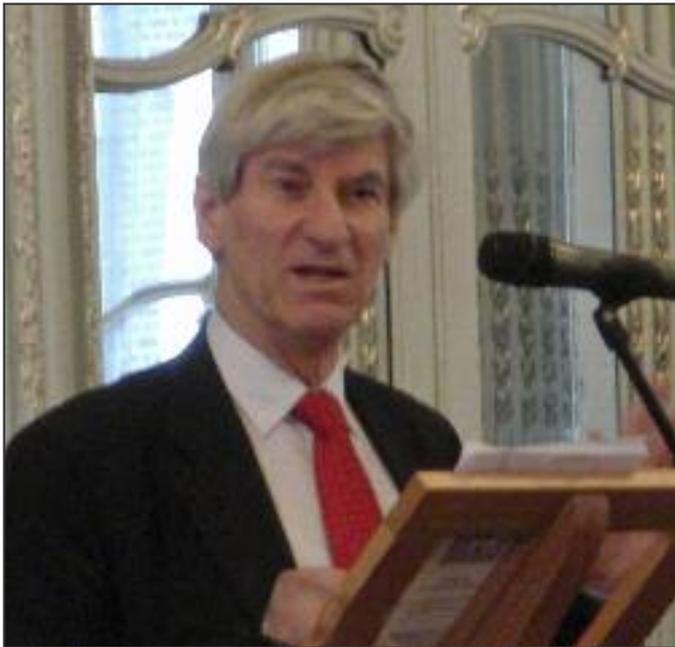
Sir Robert Worcester  
*Chairman, Executive Committee*

## SPRING RECEPTION AT WINFIELD HOUSE

**We are** much indebted to the Ambassador and Mrs Susman for their kindness and generous hospitality at a most enjoyable reception held Winfield House on 5 May.

The late Barbara Hutton, Woolworths heiress and international playgirl, never received favourable publicity during her life-time when her colourful private life provided continual fodder for gossip columnists and social commentators. Posterity should look far more favourably upon her, however. Her former husband Cary Grant felt she was never given credit for her generous gift to the US Government of a beautiful house with a superb garden, the second largest private garden in London after Buckingham Palace.

## VERNON BOGDANOR OFFERS HIS FASCINATING AND CONTROVERSIAL VIEWPOINT ON THE PROCESS OF BRITISH CONSTITUTIONAL REFORM



**Oxford Professor** Vernon Bogdanor was the guest speaker at the Pilgrims' luncheon at the Savile Club on 20 January.

Vernon Bogdanor is that truly rare bird – a political historian, a constitutional lawyer and a political scientist.

Wearing all three hats with consummate skill and with the true gift of the gab, he has published a major treatise *The New British Constitution* and staked his claim to be the natural heir of such great constitutional experts as Walter Bagehot and Albert Dicey.

After being introduced by Pilgrims' President, Field Marshal Lord Inge, Professor Bogdanor began by referring to the major British constitutional changes enacted since 1997, especially the Human Rights Act, the Freedom of Information Act and the devolution legislation relating to Parliaments/Assemblies in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. All this legislation has in effect limited the powers of the Westminster Parliament and established a quasi-federal constitution, as well as emphasising the separation of powers, both territorially and at the centre of government.

The sovereignty of Parliament, according to Vernon Bogdanor, has been further undermined by our membership of the European Union with all its powers, and the reform of the House of Lords which,

with the removal of the mainly Conservative hereditary peers, means that no one political party will ever have a majority in the House of Lords. Professor Bogdanor lamented the fact that at the General Elections of 2001 and 2005 the overall electoral turnouts were the lowest ever. Power, in his view, has been redistributed sideways and the old system, whereby every four or five years the electorate entrusted everything to the Government, was coming to an end. Open primary elections had been proposed to select Parliamentary candidates in individual constituencies.

Professor Bogdanor concluded his remarks by alluding to Woodrow Wilson's concept of self-government and self-determination, and by highlighting the movement of liberal constitutionalism now sweeping through the world. This, he believed, would present a big problem for Britain with its very old institutions.

At question-time Professor Bogdanor dealt with a wide range of topics including primary elections; the workings of grass-roots democracy; the Parliamentary expenses scandal; reform of the House of Lords; local government; bankers' bonuses; general taxation; the power of the EU Constitution; compulsory voting and the constitutional impact likely to be made by the newly-formed Supreme Court. All these questions were answered with the Professor's customary dexterity and depth of knowledge.

In his vote of thanks, Pilgrims' Chairman Sir Robert Worcester expressed his admiration for Professor Bogdanor's eloquence and forceful arguments which might not find favour with some constitutional experts.

### IN MEMORIAM

Lt Colonel T M Baring TD  
Michael B Boreham  
Winston S Churchill  
William O Clarke  
The Lord Cornwallis OBE DL  
Talbot N Hainault  
Alan D Macdonald  
The Hon Mrs Ann Money-Coutts  
Dr William Plowden  
The Hon Sir Peter Ramsbotham GCMG GCVO DL  
Mrs Rhodanthe Selous  
Keppel Simpson  
Richard C Wheeler-Bennett

## PRE-GENERAL ELECTION PANEL DISCUSSION

The Pilgrims' pre-General Election panel discussion was held at Dartmouth House on 23 March. Stryker McGuire of *International Quarterly* was Anchor Man, joined by Marc Roche of *Le Monde*, Ann MacMillan of the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation and Thomas Kielinger of *Die Welt*.

Sir Robert Worcester, in the chair, pointed out that hung parliaments were regular occurrences in Europe, New Zealand and the Irish Republic, either resulting in the formation of coalition governments or in minority governments staying in power by cutting deals with other parties.

Ann MacMillan, London Bureau Chief for the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, said that Canadian television no longer offered live coverage of British General Elections as British politics and politicians seemed less interesting than formerly. Minority governments in Canada had done well. She looked forward to seeing how the smaller parties fared and what the turnout would be.

Marc Roche berated the Conservatives for siding with what he saw as reactionary elements in the European Parliament and said that the recent Cameron/Sarkozy meeting had not gone well. He saw Labour as being far more pro-European and criticised Cameron and Osborne for not being meritocratic enough.

Thomas Kielinger thought that the German electorate was probably as Eurosceptic as the British electorate. The common currency had not been a great success. A hung parliament would be of interest to Germany where coalition governments have worked well since 1949. He emphasised that Germans did not want one party to have too much power, hence the present coalition government led by Chancellor Angela Merkel. He suggested PR might lead to a weak executive government and felt instinctively that the Punch and Judy style of British politics was not popular with the electorate.

Stryker McGuire felt that the Conservatives were not in the position they anticipated when Cameron became leader in 2005, and whatever the result of the Election there would almost

certainly be a weak government. The financial markets might well be running the country and he was concerned about the influence on European Policy of the Conservative Right Wing.

Questions included the relative importance of the poll and the opinions, electoral attitudes and voting patterns of pensioners and civil servants; the international perception of the Parliamentary expenses scandal; the number of independent candidates standing in the General Election; the likely size of the Liberal Democrat presence in the Commons; Gordon Brown's position as Labour leader if he lost the Election, and the public recognition factor of leading politicians apart from the Party leaders.

### FORTHCOMING EVENTS

#### Monday 27 September

#### Annual Meeting at 5.30 and Sir Harry Brittain Memorial Lecture at 6.00 pm

Neil MacGregor, Director of the British Museum  
*The Politics of World Museums*  
US Embassy, Grosvenor Square

#### Tuesday 19 October

Luncheon with Philip Ziegler: *Edward Heath*  
Savile Club, 69 Brook Street, W1K 4ER  
12.15 for 12.45 pm

#### Thursday 28 October

#### Discussion panel on Mid-Term Elections

Stryker McGuire, Greg Katz, Jennifer Siebens  
Dartmouth House, 37 Charles Street, W1J 5ED  
6.00 – 8.00 with dinner to follow

#### Tuesday 9 November

#### Dinner with Sir John Holmes GCVO KBE CMG

Court Suite, Grosvenor House  
7.15 for 7.45 pm

#### Monday 15 November

#### Visit to the Supreme Court

Parliament Square, SW1P 3BD  
6.00 – 8.00 pm

#### Wednesday 5 January 2011

#### Dinner with Air Chief Marshal Sir Jock Stirrup

Abraham Lincoln Room, The Savoy  
7.15 for 7.45 pm

#### Wednesday 4 May 2011

#### Reception at the House of Lords

# WARTIME EVACUEES TO THE USA RECALL THEIR EXPERIENCES



*David Moller, Baroness Williams of Crosby, Sir Brian Fall, Patricia McAlpine, Denis Brown, Michael Henderson*

**A special event** studying the experiences of British wartime evacuees to the USA was held on 2 June at Dartmouth House. Sir Brian Fall, who has made a special study of the subject, was in the chair and the panel comprised former wartime evacuees and fellow-Pilgrims Denis Brown, Michael Henderson, Patricia McAlpine, David Moller and Baroness Williams of Crosby.

Sir Brian Fall began by referring to the ESU Sea Vac Project which was set up to collect memories and stories from people who had been evacuated from the UK between 1940 and 1945. In collaboration with the Imperial War Museum, the University of Reading and the Evacuees' Reunion Association, the Project collected written, audio and visual memories of over three hundred people. Sir Brian emphasised the importance of the Special Relationship, underlined by the experiences of the three thousand young people who were evacuated to the USA during the Second World War.

Patricia McAlpine was evacuated with her younger brother in June 1940 and found everyone she met in New Jersey very kind and welcoming. The whole experience made her feel very self-confident and she has kept in touch with the family with whom she stayed. Denis Brown went with his sister to Kansas City in June 1941, where he was a classmate of Sir Robert Worcester in the local grade school. He remembers it as an idyllic experience. Michael Henderson and his brother spent almost five years with a family in Milton, Massachusetts and wrote of his wartime experiences in *See You After the Duration*, which he wrote about the North American evacuation.

David Moller was only three when he went to New York State in August 1940 and his experiences had made him so pro-American that he often embarrassed his American friends. Baroness Williams went with her brother to Minnesota which was populated largely by people of German and Scandinavian origin, who regarded Japan rather than Germany as the principal enemy. She recalled that there were no school uniforms, teachers were called by their first names and there was no sense of status or class as in Britain.

The general discussion revealed that only 3,000 out of 30,000 original evacuee applicants ended up in the USA and it was suggested that Roosevelt used the evacuees as a political tool to win sympathy for the Allied cause. Many of the children ended up speaking with American accents that horrified their parents on their return to Britain. Furthermore, there was a certain degree of resentment towards the returning evacuees who were regarded as “rats returning to a ship that was no longer sinking” and who were seen as people who had run away from the war – “gone with the wind-ups”.

Reference was made to the current BP oil spillage and its possible detrimental effect on the Anglo-American relationship. A cautionary note was struck by Baroness Williams, who warned of the dangers of a new American isolationism, as manifested by the rise of the Tea Party Movement and the increasing divide between Democrat and Republican States.

Pilgrims' Chairman Sir Robert Worcester brought the proceedings to an end by thanking Sir Brian, the panellists and those members of the audience who had also made contributions to the discussion.

## US PILGRIMS' NEWS

General David H Petraeus, Commander, US Central Command, was the speaker for the 107<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting on 10 February. New York City was at a virtual standstill with schools and many businesses closed due to as much as a foot of snow on the city and environs. However, more than 200 stalwart souls made it to the Union League Club for lunch.



*General David H Petraeus, the Hon Paul A Volcker and President Miner H Warner*

On 2 February Lord Patten of Barnes, co-chair of the International Crisis Group, Chancellor of Oxford University and former European Commissioner for External Relations, spoke at an evening reception at the Racquet & Tennis Club.



*Lord Patten of Barnes and President Miner H Warner*

Nineteen members of the Executive Committee welcomed HRH The Earl of Wessex at luncheon at The Brook on 18 May when His Royal Highness spoke about the Duke of Edinburgh's Award scheme.

William Shawcross, British writer and broadcaster, addressed the Pilgrims about his new book, *Elizabeth, the Queen Mother* on 25 March.



*James D Zirin, William Shawcross and President Miner H Warner*

At the season's finale for members on 4 May, President Bill Clinton, 42<sup>nd</sup> President of the United States and Founder of the William J Clinton Foundation, addressed the Pilgrims. The capacity audience gave him a warm welcome.



*President Bill Clinton with the Hon John Brademas and Pilgrims Treasurer the Hon Robin Chandler Duke*

## RETURN VISIT TO THE COLLEGE OF ARMS

On 2 February British Pilgrims and guests made a return visit to the College of Arms, following two highly successful visits during 2009. As before, our guides were Henry Paston-Bedingfeld, York Herald, and Peter O'Donoghue, Bluemantle Pursuivant, who gave a full picture of the College's history and range of activities in an erudite and illuminating way, mixed with a keen sense of humour.

## VISITS TO THE SUPREME COURT

Pilgrim member Lord Phillips of Worth Matravers, President of the Supreme Court, generously hosted two special visits to the Supreme Court on 24 May and 14 June.



*Lord Phillips of Worth Matravers*

The Supreme Court replaced the Appellate Committee of the House of Lords as the highest Court in the United Kingdom in October 2009. The Court hears appeals on contested points of law of the greatest public importance, for the whole of the United Kingdom in civil cases, and for England, Wales and Northern Ireland in criminal cases and is also the venue for the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council which hears final appeals from a number of Commonwealth countries.

Lord Phillips pointed out the symbolism of the location of the Court in the former Middlesex Guildhall to the west of Parliament Square, balancing judiciary and legislature across the open space of Parliament Square, with two other sides occupied by Parliament and Westminster Abbey. Lord Phillips stressed that the UK Supreme Court at present did not possess the power of its United States counterpart to question and strike down legislation but he hinted that this might change in the future.

Pilgrims were also shown the court rooms, library and exhibition area and were treated to a most enjoyable reception. We are most grateful to Lord Phillips and the staff of the Supreme Court for their hospitality.



*Court Room 1 at the Supreme Court*

### **WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS (elected March 2010)**

Dr John Baits  
Henry Bedingfeld  
Mrs Marjorie Bowden  
Brigadier Mark Carleton-Smith CBE  
Sir Robert Finch  
Angus Goswell  
Paul Goswell  
Mrs Morny Grace  
John Grierson  
Lord Griffiths of Fforestfach  
Geoffrey Hemphill  
Manley D Hudson Jr  
Mr Larry Keith  
Michael Lake CBE  
Sir Murdo Maclean  
Alfred Magnus  
Mrs Muriel Marsh  
James Mates  
Jeremy Mayhew  
The Right Hon Lord McNally  
Richard Moore  
Alan Rind  
Raymond Salter  
Timothy Sanderson  
Mrs Damaris Sanderson  
Mrs Mary Brown Sandys  
Duncan Sandys  
John Sharkey  
Stuart Shilson LVO  
Timothy P Siegfried  
Air Chief Marshal Sir Glenn Torpy  
GCB CBE DSO  
His Honour Judge Van Der Bijl

*Membership application forms are available from the office. The Membership Committee will next meet in mid-September.*

## VISIT TO KEW GARDENS AND RICHMOND UNIVERSITY

**The Royal** Botanic Gardens Kew covers a total area of 132 hectares, is a World Heritage Site and contains the world's largest and most diverse botanical collections. Our annual summer excursion took us to Kew Gardens on Wednesday 21 July, over fourteen years since the previous visit there by the Pilgrims.

Over coffee at the former Royal residence, Cambridge Cottage, we were welcomed by Marcus Agius, Chairman of the Board of the Royal Botanic Gardens before we joined the Kew Explorer tour around the Gardens, expertly led by Nigel Taylor, Curator.

Following a most enjoyable lunch at Cambridge Cottage, Professor Stephen Hopper, Director, gave a brief talk about table displays of plants of interest from Kew's nurseries, including the world's smallest waterlily, *Nymphaea thermarum*, brought back from the brink of extinction at Kew.

There was then a choice of most interesting afternoon tours to the Princess of Wales Conservatory, the Davies Alpine House, the Rock Garden and the Order Beds, all led by knowledgeable and enthusiastic members of the Royal Botanic Gardens staff.

We progressed to Richmond, the American International University in London, where we were welcomed over tea by fellow-Pilgrims Chancellor Sir Cyril Taylor and President Dr Ian Newbould, and were told about Richmond's adherence to the American liberal arts tradition and the British system of academic specialisation. Students at Richmond come

from over one hundred countries to study an international curriculum, giving them a world perspective and a comprehensive understanding of cultural differences. We were then shown around the campus by students.

One of the most enjoyable Pilgrims' outings ever, with perfect weather. Thanks are due to staff members at both Kew Gardens and Richmond University.



*Enjoying lunch at Cumberland Cottage*



*Listening to words of welcome from Marcus Agius*



*Learning about the Order Beds*

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