



## LORD STIRRUP OFFERS HIS CONCEPT OF MILITARY STRATEGY FOR THE SECOND DECADE OF THE 21<sup>st</sup> CENTURY

On 5 January Pilgrims and guests made a welcome return to the newly-refurbished Savoy (closed for almost three years between 2007 and 2010), the venue for some of the most notable Pilgrims events for over a century.



The guest speaker was Air Chief Marshal Lord Stirrup, former Chief of the Defence Staff. During a 40-year career with the RAF Lord Stirrup gained a reputation as a lateral thinker and as someone who could not just see the big picture but also the full picture in terms of overall military strategy with all its implications and consequences. Admiral Lord Boyce, President of the Pilgrims, paid full tribute to Lord Stirrup's ability and achievements as a top military commander.

Lord Stirrup always tried to look forward rather than backward but he wondered who could have predicted 9/11/2001, Afghanistan, Iraq and a huge international financial crisis from the vantage point of 1999/2000. He saw strategy in terms of defining a destination and the resources you needed to get there - it was essential always to be clear about the ultimate objective –

making reference to the Battle of Long Island/Brooking Heights in the American War of Independence and the Battle of New Orleans in the War of 1812.

Learning from the lessons of history was of vital importance and Lord Stirrup posed the key questions of how we should try to avoid strategic traps in the 21<sup>st</sup> century and where our true national interest should lie. He believed in a bedrock of economic strength and clear political purpose, combined with a true sense of moral purpose. All three were essential if a successful national strategy was to be pursued. He referred to the defence cuts of the previous year, brought about as a result of the dire economic situation, and declared firmly that when the economic recovery was complete there must be proper re-investment in the armed forces.

We were engaged in a never-ending battle of ideas and needed armed forces to deal with threats to our national security. Lord Stirrup advocated strategic flexibility across both the political and military spectra and stressed the importance of the role of the recently-established National Security Council. Flexibility was crucial in terms of being able to respond to the unexpected. Having run down our stock of power with the recent defence cuts, we must seek to rebuild it in terms of both economic and military power. As a country we must at all costs avoid finding ourselves with insufficient means to pursue a credible and cohesive strategy.

At question-time Lord Stirrup distinguished himself with the clarity and vision contained in his answers and he was thanked warmly by Pilgrims Vice-President Sir Robert Worcester.

### IN MEMORIAM

George B Adams

Andrew Dalton

The Hon Sir Desmond Fennell OBE

Professor Richard Holmes CBE TD JP

Julian B Paul

John B Sunley

Sir Ronald Waterhouse GBE

## LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT AND THE CHAIRMAN

Since we reported to you in the winter newsletter, we are pleased to announce good progress on some of the subjects we covered in that message.

The Pilgrims' activities programme has continued at its intended pace, confirming the smooth passing of the leadership baton by Field Marshal Lord Inge and Sir Robert Worcester to the two of us, for which we thank them sincerely. Attendance at Pilgrims' functions has been good and events, under the keen-eyed management of Ian Barlow and Tessa Wells, have covered their costs, collectively if not always individually. With Sir Peter Bottomley as new chair of the Programme Committee, we have a vigorous slate of functions ahead, see page 4.

As developing future activities is an on-going and indeed essential function, the Programme Committee welcomes members' suggestions as to future programme subjects, speakers and visits, especially those suggestions that you can actually assist in implementing.

We are delighted to have found a safe and distinguished venue for the storage of the Pilgrims' collection of silver. Thanks to the good offices of our Honorary Secretary, Sir Michael Craig-Cooper, the Drapers' Company have generously agreed to store the Pilgrims' silver in their vault with their collection, where it will be on view to some visitors to Drapers' Hall.

Members' understanding of and support for the recent subscription increase has been most gratifying. The Executive Committee will continue to ensure that the subscription level represents good value.

Membership now stands at 1,074. Under Lord Jopling's chairmanship, the Membership Committee has eased the application process by considering applications four times each year rather than the previous two. We will continue to examine the mechanics of the application process, possibly by having it conform more closely to contemporary trends in which the visit to the computer keyboard so often replaces the walk to the post office.

The list of new members appears on page 8. We particularly note the arrival of younger new members as the best guarantee of the Pilgrims' future vitality.

We thank the Executive Committee members who will be retiring at the forthcoming Annual Meeting at the end of their six-year terms of office – Lord Jopling, Sir Christopher Meyer, Lady Reid and Lord Robertson of Port Ellen. Candidates for election to the Executive Committee in their place will be brought before the Annual Meeting.

Finally, we thank members who have expressed their support to us by word and by deed as we assumed responsibility for Pilgrims' leadership. Leading the Pilgrims into its second century is an honour we recognise and embrace, with full awareness that the past is no guarantor of the future, and that the value and the pleasure of Pilgrims' membership resides in your interest in and support for its purpose and the Pilgrims Society's ability to illuminate interesting aspects of ever-evolving life in, and the relationship between, the United States and Great Britain.

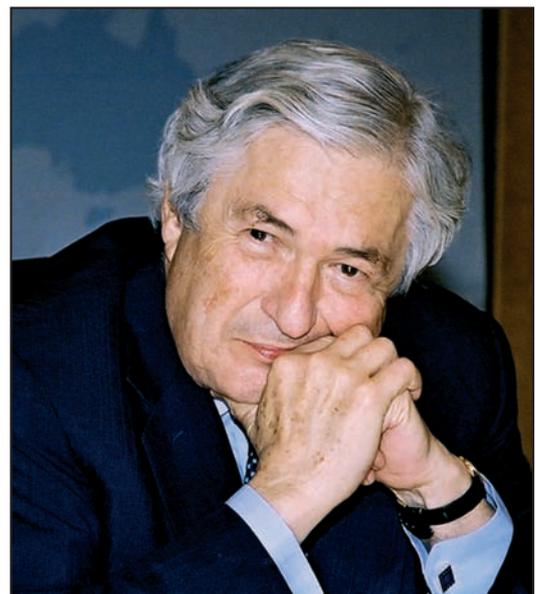


Admiral Lord Boyce  
President



Mr Ronald Freeman  
Chairman, Executive Committee

## SIR JAMES WOLFENSOHN PRESENTS A WORLD VIEW OF THE FUTURE



Sir James Wolfensohn held the Presidency of the World Bank Group from 1995 to 2005 during which time he visited over 120 countries to deal with such

## ROBIN NIBLETT GIVES AN OVERVIEW OF CURRENT BRITISH FOREIGN POLICY SET AGAINST THE BACKGROUND OF A RAPIDLY CHANGING WORLD SCENE

global issues as poverty, the environment, debt reduction, anti-corruption programmes and AIDS prevention/treatment. He also found time to tackle such matters as religion and culture and to act as a Special Envoy for Gaza Disengagement for the Quartet on the Middle East. His CV and his remarkable autobiography, *A Global Life*, would make most international bankers appear parochial. Sir James was, therefore, a wholly appropriate fourteenth Pilgrims' *Reflections* Lecturer, at the Inner Temple Hall on 2 February.

Sir James noted how much had changed over the past fifteen years. Not so long ago the USA and Europe represented 90% of world GDP, with the G7 countries alone having 65% of world GDP. In 2000 one billion people had 80% of world GDP, while the remaining five billion people had 20%. In the late 1940s China and India had less than 2% of world GDP. By now these two nations have at least 10% of world GDP and by 2050 China and India will account for 50% of world GDP. The balance of world economic power is now shifting to Asia, requiring massive readjustment for the successor generations in Western countries. By contrast, in 2050 Africa will have two billion people with a relatively low per capita income. World population overall will increase from seven billion now to nine billion in 2050.

Sir James gave a relatively short address to allow for a longer question time in which such topics as the rise of China and Brazil featured prominently. Africa's place in global security was also put under the spotlight, with some 750,000 ethnic Chinese working there and exploiting the vast resources of that continent. Sir James believed we should be granting scholarships for our students to study in China and India. He believed that grave dangers could arise in the Middle East, especially with the ousting of Mubarak from power, and that Turkey, given its unique geographical and cultural position, should be accepted as a bridge between East and West. Sir James felt that events were working in President Obama's favour. At present there was no credible Republican standard-bearer willing to oppose him in 2012, but he would have to deal successfully with the problem of unemployment to be absolutely sure of retaining office.

Ronald Freeman, Pilgrims' Chairman, thanked Sir James Wolfensohn very warmly for a *Reflections* lecture which looked to the future rather than the past and gave the audience much food for thought.



At a Pilgrims' luncheon held at the Savile Club on 15 June, Pilgrims' Chairman Ronald Freeman introduced Dr Robin Niblett, Director of Chatham House (the Royal Institute of International Affairs) as the guest speaker. Dr Niblett has a great reputation as an expert on world affairs, both as a speaker who commands immediate attention and respect, and as a writer.

Dr Niblett referred to the changing world scene, with shifts of economic power from West to East and from North to South, and with the emergence of the G20 as a major international forum. As a result, British foreign policy was undergoing changes of direction and emphasis. At the top of the foreign policy agenda were open markets and economic growth and the over-riding importance of commercial diplomacy. The present government was also seeking to re-balance bilateral relationships, in particular easing back on its relationship with the USA. David Cameron had avoided using the phrase 'special relationship', although a joint UK/American National Security Committee was being set up. Relations with countries such as China, India, Russia, Brazil and Indonesia were being given greater emphasis and there was now a big focus on overseas development aid.

On the economic front, exports had increased and imports had gone down, but the bulk of British exports were still going to Europe and the USA. Britain was the second largest services exporter after

the USA but we still needed EU leverage to open up such key markets as China and India. Dr Niblett warned of the real risks attached to moving to an *à la carte* relationship with the USA, where different priorities were in place. The USA was moving more towards a Pacific orientation, focussing on such countries as China and India at the expense of Britain and Europe. Moreover, the UK and USA did not necessarily share the same views on topics such as Afghanistan, Israel/Palestine and Libya, not to mention the impact of the so-called Arab Spring on a country like Saudi Arabia.

Dr Niblett was questioned on the impact of the recent British defence cuts; the European contribution to NATO; the adjustment of British commitments to our capabilities, and the expansion of foreign aid at the expense of cuts in other areas such as defence, with a target of 0.7% of GDP being spent on foreign aid. When asked about Britain and Europe, Dr Niblett felt that neither the Norway nor NAFTA options were feasible or viable so far as Britain was concerned.

The Chairman of the Membership Committee, Lord Jopling, delivered a very warm vote of thanks to Robin Niblett and presented him with the customary Pilgrims' book and tie.

## SPRING RECEPTION AT THE HOUSE OF LORDS



Pilgrims and their guests were treated to a most enjoyable Spring Reception in the congenial surroundings of the Cholmondeley Room and Terrace of the House of Lords on 4 May. Members and guests were received by Pilgrims' President Admiral Lord Boyce, our host for the event, and Pilgrims' Chairman Ronald Freeman.

A very pleasant evening was undoubtedly helped by perfect weather conditions.

## FORWARD PROGRAMME

**Tuesday 13 September, 6.00 – 8.00 pm**  
**Visit to the Maughan Library,**  
**King's College London**

**Monday 26 September from 5.30**  
**Annual Meeting and Sir Harry Brittain**  
**Memorial Lecture**

Lord Hurd of Westwell CH CBE  
*The Power and the Will*  
**Embassy of the United States,**  
**Grosvenor Square**

**Tuesday 11 October, 7.15 for 7.45 pm**  
**Dinner with Martin Bell OBE**  
Dartmouth House, 37 Charles Street, W1J 5ED  
Black tie

**Tuesday 15 November, 12.15 for 12.45 pm**  
**Luncheon with Andrew Marr**  
*Diamond Queen: Elizabeth II and Her People*  
St Stephen's Club, 34 Queen Anne's Gate

**Thursday 24 November, 12.15 for 12.45 pm**  
**Thanksgiving Luncheon**  
Christopher Lockwood, US Editor,  
*The Economist*  
The Athenæum, 107 Pall Mall

**Thursday 26 January, 6.30 pm**  
**Reflections: Sir Robert Worcester KBE DL**  
*Reflections: Special and Essential*  
Royal Overseas League, Park Place, SW1A 1LR

**Tuesday 7 February, 7.15 for 7.45 pm**  
**Dinner with John Studzinski CBE**  
Carlton Club, 69 St James's Street, SW1A 1PJ  
Black tie

**Thursday 21 June, 6.30 pm**  
**Special dinner at the Tower of London**  
To be followed by the Ceremony of the Keys

## OLYMPIC PARK VIEWING GALLERY

On 6 June and 13 June the Pilgrims were given two opportunities to visit the Olympic Park Viewing Gallery on the 22<sup>nd</sup> floor of Holden Point in Stratford. The 1,500 acre Olympic and Paralympic site looked most impressive and the panoramic view took in the Olympic Village, Olympic Stadium, Aquatic Centre, the Fencing, Basketball and Hockey Centres, the Velopark and Media Centre, as well as Stratford International Rail Link.

We are most grateful to the staff at the London Borough of Newham for providing an excellent commentary on current developments at the site.

## TERRY WAITE OFFERS HIS OWN UNIQUE UNDERSTANDING OF HOSTAGE-TAKING

Fellow Pilgrim Terry Waite's fortitude, faith and resilience during his captivity of 1,763 days marked him out as a truly remarkable person. The Pilgrims offered a platform to this charismatic figure at a special luncheon held at the Athenæum on 18 May.



After an introduction by Sir Peter Bottomley MP, Chairman of the Programme Committee, Terry Waite divided hostage-taking into two main categories, prime political interest and ransom.

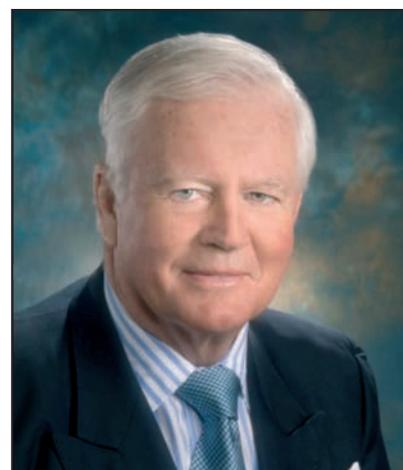
Some 650 people were still being held hostage by Somali pirates, and he also cited Nigeria, where there was considerable hostage-taking involving the oil companies and where widespread corruption would allow this state of affairs to continue.

In cases of political hostage-taking, Terry Waite saw the main problem as establishing the identity of the hostage-takers and being able to meet them. It was then a question of building up a relationship of trust and resolving the situation without violence, breach of law or the lowering of ethical standards. By way of illustration, he made reference to his own hostage negotiations in Iran and Libya and his period of captivity in the Lebanon in which he endured beatings, mock executions and long periods in darkness chained to a wall.

Terry Waite dealt with questions on how to avoid hating his hostage-takers and on what he said to hostages left behind. The vote of thanks was delivered with eloquence and sensitivity by Sir Peter Marshall.

## SIR WINFRIED BISCHOFF OFFERS SUPPORT TO HIS FELLOW BANKERS WHILE RECOGNISING THE LESSONS OF THE FINANCIAL CRISIS

Sir Win Bischoff is a leading figure in the world of banking. His CV says it all – Schroders, Citigroup Europe and Citigroup Inc, culminating in the Chairmanship of Lloyds Banking Group. He is Chairman of the Advisory Council of The City UK – the official body set up to promote the financial and associated professional services industry of the UK – and with the former Chancellor of the Exchequer, Alistair Darling, he was co-Chairman of the Report *UK International Financial Services – the Future* published in May 2009



Sir Win was welcomed warmly by Pilgrims' President Admiral Lord Boyce at a Luncheon held at the Savile Club on 3 March. Sir Win paid tribute to the work of the Pilgrims, echoing Churchill's remarks about a fraternal association of English-speaking peoples. He admitted that banks have never been loved and that people still felt let down, more than three years after the financial crash. He emphasised that banks wanted to keep on the right side of the customer and that no bank wanted to turn down loan applications without very good reason. Project Merlin was providing funds of £1.2 billion as credit for new business with the principal aim of boosting regional growth and the concept of the Big Society.

Regulation was at the heart of the banking sector with its main objective of promoting customer confidence, but such regulation could be counter-productive. Banks must have sound risk management practices, yet some institutions, which have emerged relatively unscathed from the

financial crisis, have been unwilling to adopt such strict measures. London's position in the international financial community could not be taken for granted. Sir Win was emphatic about the importance of London as a wealth-generator, remaining well placed to play its full role in the UK financial recovery. The banking sector had a long tradition of change – cash machines, credit cards, debit cards and on-line banking – and these changes had not been forced by the financial crisis or by governmental interference. Bankers had learnt their lessons from the financial crisis in terms of over-extension and too much free credit, but Sir Win wondered whether the politicians and regulators had learnt their lessons.

Sir Win faced questions on cheque-book replacement, the 2009 Report, a full inquiry into the credit-crunch, gender diversity in the board-room with 30% female participation as a realistic goal, Lloyds' development strategy over the next few years and the threat by a number of banks to leave Britain because of over-regulation and heavy corporation tax.

Sir Win, the bankers' banker, received a very warm vote of thanks from Pilgrims' Chairman Ronald Freeman.

## **PROFESSOR ALI ASANI PLACES ISLAM IN ITS PROPER CULTURAL AND HISTORICAL CONTEXT**



On 10 March Pilgrims and guests were given the opportunity of being addressed by a leading Islamic scholar at a special meeting held at the Carlton Club. Professor Ali Asani, Professor of Indo-Muslim and Islamic Religion and Cultures at Harvard University and Associate Director of the Prince Alwaleed bin Talal Islamic Studies Programme, has sought for over thirty years to help

other people achieve a better understanding of the rich subtext and diverse influences behind the religion of Islam.

Professor Asani challenged the media stereotype of the Islamic fundamentalist and terrorist who is totally intolerant of other religions and laid the blame for this inaccurate image at the door of the widespread global illiteracy about religion and culture. He believed that education was incomplete without a study of comparative religion and its full historical background, and that the present school curricula do not equip students to think about religion in a critical way. Religious illiteracy had helped foster a dangerous climate. The American example emphasised this. Democracy cannot function when ignorance breeds fear of fellow-citizens because of racial and religious differences.

Professor Asani examined the current situation in the Middle East where authoritarian regimes were propped up by the use of force. Religious and cultural illiteracy strips nations of their humanity. Western and Islamic religions share common historical and cultural concepts of both the Old and New Testaments – the Virgin Mary is mentioned more times in the Koran than in the Bible. Yet Islamophobia had spread all over the Western world and indeed in certain American circles it was considered almost patriotic. Professor Asani stressed that religion is a phenomenon deeply imbedded in the dimensions and contexts of human experience and that it requires multiple lenses through which to understand the nature of its complexity.

At question-time Professor Asani dealt with several contentious topics: the problems of promoting religious literacy in Europe because of the intelligentsia's inherent hostility to religion; the best ways of spending aid money in Afghanistan; the control of religion by Arab nation states for their own purposes; Islam's compatibility with democracy and Islam's attitude towards women. Professor Asani also commented on Pope Benedict's description of Islam as a "violent" religion, where the Pope was speaking on a faith basis.

Ronald Freeman, Chairman of the Pilgrims, offered a very warm vote of thanks to Professor Asani and echoed the thoughts and sentiments of all those present, who were grateful for the opportunity to hear from a leading Islamic scholar at a time of great worldwide turbulence, in which religious illiteracy played a major role.

## VISIT TO CHARTWELL AND SQUERRYES COURT

Our annual outing took us into the Kent countryside, to Chartwell and Squerryes Court, Westerham, on 15 July.



Chartwell, bought by Sir Winston Churchill in 1922 for its magnificent views over the Weald of Kent, and presented to the National Trust during his lifetime by a group of his friends, was his home and the place from which he drew inspiration until the end of his life. The rooms remain much as they were when he lived there, with pictures, books and personal mementoes evoking his career and wide-ranging interests, and many of Churchill's paintings can be seen in the Studio.

The hillside gardens reflect Churchill's love of the landscape and nature. They include the lakes he created, Lady Churchill's Rose Garden and the kitchen garden. The National Trust has embarked on a programme of work to restore the walled kitchen garden, which was a source of recreation for Churchill, who over a period of about seven years enjoyed building parts of the surrounding brick walls in his spare time.



After lunch at Chartwell we visited Squerryes Court, the home of the Warde family since 1731. This beautiful 17<sup>th</sup> century manor house has an outstanding garden in a parkland setting and was the location for the 2009 BBC adaptation of Jane

Austen's *Emma*. Squerryes Court houses an interesting collection of old master paintings from the Dutch, English and Italian schools of the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries as well as some remarkable English tapestries from the early 18<sup>th</sup> century.

We are indebted to Alice Martin, House and Collections Manager, and her staff at Chartwell, and to Mr and Mrs John Warde and their staff at Squerryes Court, for making our visits most enjoyable. In addition, we had the advantage of perfect weather conditions.

A visit to Strawberry Hill House is planned for July 2012, and further details will be available in due course.

## NEWS FROM THE PILGRIMS OF THE UNITED STATES

His Excellency Shaukat Aziz, who as Prime Minister of Pakistan 2004-07 presided over impressive economic growth and became the first Prime Minister to complete a full term in office, spoke to the US Pilgrims on 2 January.



*Sir Mark Lyall Grant receiving the Pilgrims' certificate of appreciation from US President Miner H Warner*

Sir Mark Lyall Grant, UK Permanent Representative to the United Nations since November 2009, addressed members on 9 February.



*The Hon Paul Volcker with Miner H Warner*

At the 108<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting luncheon on 4 April, long-standing member and Vice President of the Executive Committee, Hon Paul A Volcker, was presented with the Pilgrims of the United States Medallion for Service to the Nation.



*James D Zirin, Miner H Warner and Frank G Wisner*

The Hon Frank G Wisner, former United States Ambassador to Egypt and Executive Committee member, was the speaker on 27 April, providing a brilliant country-by-country overview of the Middle Eastern region.

## RONALD REAGAN PRESIDENTIAL FOUNDATION



On 4 July, in front of a crowd of nearly 2,000 including George Osborne, Dr Liam Fox, Iain Duncan Smith, Eric Pickles and a delegation of United States Congressmen and Senators, a statue of President Reagan was unveiled in Grosvenor Square. The Foreign Secretary William Hague, former United States Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, United States Ambassador Louis B Susman, United States Congressman Kevin McCarthy and former US Ambassador Robert H Tuttle all spoke at the ceremony, which was followed by a celebration in Grosvenor Square with the US Army Europe Band.

That evening a celebration dinner for 700 was held at the Guildhall. William Hague, Condoleezza Rice, Liam Fox, and Ambassador Tuttle reflected further on the legacy of President Reagan and Baroness Thatcher and their role in ending the Cold War and securing freedom for millions around the world.

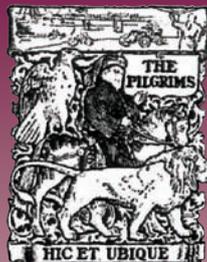
### NEW MEMBERS ELECTED FEBRUARY AND MAY 2011

Abdul Bhanji  
 Christopher Clark  
 Mrs Catherine Clark  
 Benjamin Corah  
 Dr Alexis Crow  
 Mrs Penny Egan  
 Ms Susanna Fitzgerald QC  
 Dr Kenneth Gray  
 Very Revd Dr John Hall  
 The Hon Robert Hepburne Scott  
 Professor Steven Hirsch  
 Sir John Holmes GCVO KBE CMG  
 William Kerr  
 Naguib Kheraj  
 Kenneth Leet  
 Mrs Melissa Leet  
 Nicolas Maclean of Pennycross CMG  
 Noel G H Manns  
 Brian McBride  
 Reid Miles  
 The Hon Sara Morrison  
 Nigel Newton  
 Rupert Phelps  
 Sir Francis Richards KCMG CVO DL  
 Dame Marjorie Scardino DBE  
 David R Simpson  
 Mrs Claire Smith  
 Admiral Sir Mark Stanhope GCB OBE ADC  
 Mrs David Suratgar  
 Robert Swannell  
 Mrs Susan Walton  
 Stephen L Waterhouse  
 Sir James Wolfensohn KBE OA  
 Lady Wolfensohn

### AMERICAN FRIENDS OF THE ROYAL HOSPITAL CHELSEA

The 4<sup>th</sup> of July was celebrated at the Royal Hospital Chelsea by both the British Friends and the newly-founded American Friends of the Royal Hospital Chelsea, which was launched in New York in June. Its programme, *The Prime Minister Scholar*, will send six American students to Oxford for a year to study 20<sup>th</sup> Century Anglo American relations.

The Pilgrims  
 PO Box 1289  
 Maidstone  
 ME18 5WQ



Tel 01622 817780  
 sec@pilgrimsociety.org  
 Secretary: Mrs T M Wells  
 Newsletter Editor: Christopher Robson