



MIDSUMMER DINNER AT THE TOWER OF LONDON

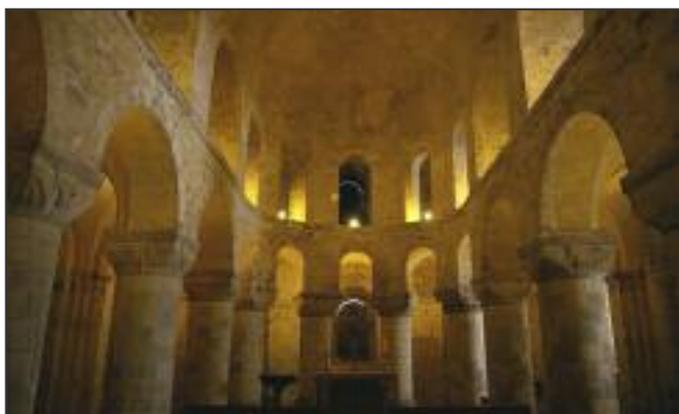
The Pilgrims were invited by General the Lord Dannatt, Pilgrims member and 159th Constable of Her Majesty's Palace and Fortress of the Tower of London, for a very special evening in the White Tower on Thursday 21 June.

Guests were welcomed with a reception in the Hall of Monarchs of the newly re-presented Jewel House, following a £2 million refurbishment, after which they were able to view the regalia itself, without the distraction of the day visitors.



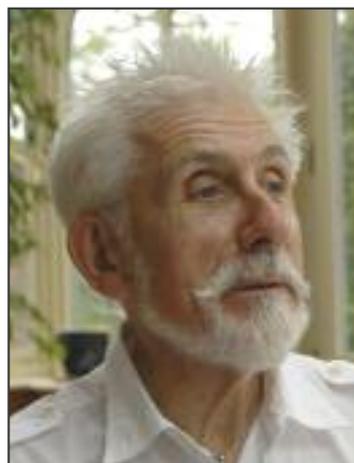
General the Lord Dannatt

The Tower has 2.5 million visitors each year, 75-80% of whom are from overseas, 30-35% of these from North America. On Good Friday 2012 there were a record 14,000 visitors to the Tower.



Chapel of St John the Evangelist, White Tower

Before dinner guests stopped briefly in the Chapel of St John the Evangelist, the oldest church in London, for a formal welcome by Lord Dannatt, who introduced the Choir of the Chapel Royal, under the direction of the Master of Music Colm Carey, before they gave a brief recital. The choir sang *Miserere* by Gregorio Allegri and *Ascendit Deus* by Peter Philips in the Chapel, and then *Grace* from *Laudi Spirituali* 1545 in the Banqueting Hall of the White Tower – the original Tower of London, built in 1086 – before dinner was served.



Sir Roy Strong

Following dinner, Sir Roy Strong, former Director of the Victoria & Albert Museum, spoke of the mapping of Britain's history in painting, sculpture, architecture, gardens and the decorative arts. In his view one of the greatest Anglo-American cultural achievements of the previous half century resulted from the meeting of the American millionaire Paul Mellon and the art historian Basil Taylor, librarian of the Royal College of Art. Through Taylor, Mellon discovered British art and embarked on putting together the collection now housed in the Yale Center for British Art in New Haven. Sir Roy paid particular tribute to the Paul Mellon Centre for Studies in British Art and its close relationship with the Yale University Press.

Ian Barlow, Pilgrims' Honorary Treasurer and Chairman of the Campaign Board of Historic Royal Palaces, the charity which cares for the Tower of London, thanked Sir Roy and invited the Pilgrims to return to any of the Historic Royal Palaces, at their leisure, for a closer look at what they have to offer.

Despite the rain, guests then enjoyed the Ceremony of the Keys, conducted by Number 7 Company, Coldstream Guards, when Lord Dannatt took the salute.

LETTER FROM THE CHAIRMAN

During this year of great events set among economic and political confusions and upheavals, the “rain-blessed” June Diamond Jubilee and the River Pageant on 3 June, with the twelve members of the Royal College of Music Chamber Choir, with sodden hair and dissolving song sheets, serenading Her Majesty from the final vessel to reach Tower Bridge, remains iconic. It epitomised the best of grace and grit, sixty years of it through thick and thin in the case of Her Majesty, sixty minutes in the rain for the Choir, setting a performance standard for London’s Summer Olympics and for us all.

The Pilgrims’ activities during this tumultuous year embrace a broad range of prevailing political and historic events, organised by the efforts of our splendid officers, committee members and fellow Pilgrims to whom we again express appreciation on behalf of us all:

Sir Peter Westmacott, Ambassador and fellow Pilgrim, provided a remarkable synthesis of UK-US relations, seen from the inside, most ably organised by Programme Committee chairman, Sir Peter Bottomley MP;

Sir Robert Worcester is again guiding and moderating our series of political panels leading to the upcoming US Presidential election;

General Lord Dannatt gave UK and visiting US Pilgrims a splendid midsummer evening at the Tower with the Crown Jewels, benefitting from a wonderful new display, for our exclusive and leisurely viewing, and the Choir of the Chapel Royal awed us with a moving concert and sung dinner Grace;

Pilgrims were invited to a spring reception in the impressive Drapers’ Hall by the Drapers’ Company and their Past Masters Sir Michael Craig-Cooper and Sir Peter Bottomley MP;

Members enjoyed summer visits to Strawberry Hill and Marble Hill House, both venues benefitting from recent extensive restoration programmes; and,

Shifting the focus to the 19th and 20th centuries, we will hear a lecture at Burlington House in September on the familiar but ever-inspiring story of those courageous artists who gave us a deeper and more subjective understanding of the world’s beauty, one that transcended the then entrenched academic view.

In the background, other historic events are in preparation, including the 800th anniversary of Magna Carta and the restoration of Westminster Abbey’s Triforium, both efforts led by fellow Pilgrims. We will look forward to seeing both on future Pilgrims’ events calendars.

We continue to recruit new and younger members to ensure the ongoing vitality of the Pilgrims. We welcomed a group of new members, co-hosted by several of their nominating Pilgrims, to a reception at the Palace of Westminster, followed by a tour.

We have also reinvigorated ties between UK and US Pilgrims, confirming that we are all welcome to Pilgrims’ events on the other Atlantic shore, simply by giving due notice of our wish to attend.

As we move into the autumn and, no doubt, more alarms and upheavals on the political and economic fronts, let us continue to embrace the Pilgrims’ goal of good fellowship and the pleasure of each others’ company. To this end, the officers responsible for our welfare continue to invite all Pilgrims’ suggestions and assistance in recruiting congenial new members consistent with our by-laws and in organising events, speakers and venues – all this under the ancient wisdom that one is never better assisted than by oneself. Pilgrims’ willingness to take an active part in the life of our more than century old Society is the best guarantor of the success of the second century on which we are now embarked.



Ronald M Freeman

IN MEMORIAM

The Lord Acton

T Roy Astley

Sir William Barlow

Charles H Brown

Joseph B King

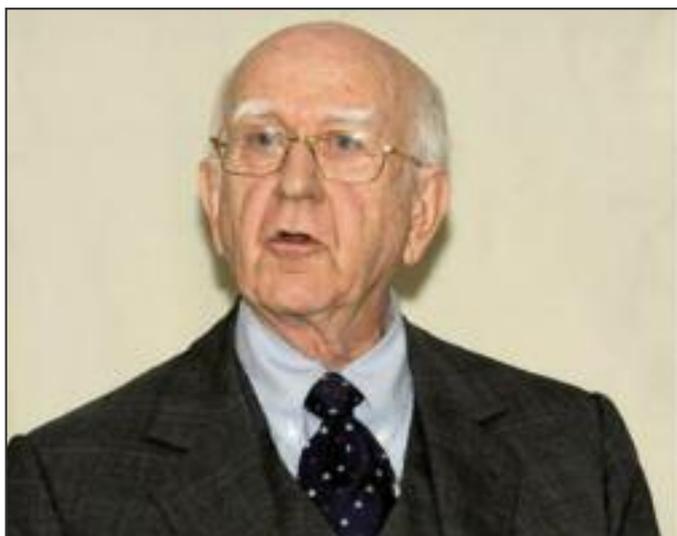
The Right Hon Sir Michael Palliser GCMG

His Honour John Toulmin CMG QC

Sir Derek Wanless

SIR ROBERT WORCESTER OFFERS HIS REFLECTIONS ON THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN BRITAIN AND THE USA

Sir Robert Worcester, Pilgrims' Vice-President and Chairman 1993-2010, gave the fifteenth annual *Reflections* Lecture at the Royal Overseas League on 26 January. In the words of Pilgrims' President Admiral Lord Boyce, Sir Robert needed no introduction. His record of achievement spoke for itself.



Sir Robert thanked the Officers, Executive Committee members and Executive Secretaries of the Pilgrims who had served with him over seventeen years, and paid tribute to the Pilgrims' membership which had grown from 700 in 1993 to almost 1,100 today. He recalled many notable functions that he had attended as Chairman, in particular the centennial dinner in 2002 at Mansion House; the receptions with Her Majesty The Queen, Patron of the Pilgrims, held at St James's Palace in 1994, 2002 and 2009, and the traditional dinners welcoming new American Ambassadors. The *Reflections* lectures had started with a conversation at Ditchley with Lord Sheffield, who became the first *Reflections* lecturer.

Sir Robert quoted from Ambassador Susman's speech to the Pilgrims: "In war and peace, in prosperity and in time of economic hardship, America has no better friend and no more dependable ally than the United Kingdom ... Our nations are deeply rooted in our enduring values of democracy, rule of law and tolerance, a shared history, culture and language ..."

The Special Relationship depended on solid bonds in four key areas – diplomatic, defence/intelligence, nuclear and business. Sir Robert recalled the high

points and low points of British-American relations over the previous century, a period in which the Pilgrims had played a key role in maintaining and sustaining this unique relationship. The harrowing events of 9/11 had served to underline and strengthen this bond between the two countries, with the subsequent war against terrorism and the intervention in Afghanistan.

Sir Robert drew strength and encouragement from the findings by the Pew Research Center, which provides information on the issues, attitudes and trends shaping America and the world. In 2008 the British Pew data found 53% favourable and 37% unfavourable in people's attitude towards the United States, with more than 70% having a favourable view of Americans. In 2011 Pew found that while 61% of the British had a favourable view of the USA as a country, 73% said that they had a favourable view of Americans.

Sir Robert concluded by quoting President Obama's remarks to David Cameron in 2011: "The United States has no closer friend and ally than the United Kingdom. I reiterate my deep and personal commitment to the special relationship between our two countries, a bond that has endured for generations across party lines and that is essential to the security and prosperity of our two countries and the world."

Admiral Lord Boyce paid tribute to Sir Robert's chairmanship which had given new life and a new sense of purpose to the Pilgrims, and presented Sir Robert with a Diamond Jubilee mug.

The Right Hon Sir Michael Palliser GCMG

Sir Michael Palliser, who died in June at the age of 90, had been a Pilgrim since 1979. He was a familiar figure at Pilgrims' events and attended Sir Robert Worcester's lecture in January 2012. He was a highly respected Permanent Under Secretary at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, and Head of the Diplomatic Service between 1975 and 1982. The principal focus of his service to that point had been Europe: he was the first British Permanent Representative in Brussels. But he also appreciated very clearly the importance of Britain's relationship with the United States and this was reflected in his loyalty to the Pilgrims.

Robert Alston

SIR PETER WESTMACOTT MOVES FROM PARIS TO WASHINGTON

Pilgrims and guests attended a dinner in honour of Sir Peter Westmacott, recently appointed British Ambassador to Washington, on 7 February. This took place at the Carlton Club, home of Sir William Orpen's portrait of Sir Harry Brittain, the founder of the Pilgrims.



Since his arrival in Washington, Sir Peter had attended President Obama's State of the Union address, had followed Republican Presidential hopefuls on the Primaries campaign trail, and had attended a National Prayer Breakfast and an Alfalfa Club dinner.

In 2014 Sir Peter's successor in Paris would be marking the bicentennial of the British Embassy, which had been bought by the Duke of Wellington in 1814, while in Washington 2014 marked the bicentennial of the burning of the White House by British forces in 1814.

Sir Peter doubted that the United States was in a state of long-term decline. Despite the apparent rise of China, America was still the major player on the world stage as a military, economic and technological superpower. He reflected that he had left one country where the President was facing re-election and gone to another country where the President was also seeking re-election. President Obama could win if the economy continued to pick up and unemployment stayed below the 9% level.

The United Kingdom was still seen as the natural partner and most reliable ally of the United States.

Sir Peter dealt skilfully with questions on Syria; the impact of political polarisation on the USA's effectiveness on the world scene; the complex

relationship between Britain, France and Germany, and America's view of Britain's current relationship with the European Union.

Sir John Holmes, who had also served as Ambassador in Paris, delivered a warm and appreciative vote of thanks with the customary presentation of Pilgrims' tie and official history.

FORWARD PROGRAMME

Wednesday 12 September

Panel discussion on US Elections

Led by Sir Robert Worcester

Medical Society of London, 11 Chandos Street, W1, 6.00 pm

To be followed by reception and optional dinner

Friday 21 September

From Paris: A Taste for Impressionism

The Royal Academy of Arts, 9.30 am

Coffee on arrival, before lecture and exhibition

Monday 1 October

Annual Meeting

American Embassy, Grosvenor Square, W1A 1AE, 5.30 pm, to be followed by

Sir Harry Brittain Memorial Lecture

Professor Christopher Andrew:

The British-American Intelligence Alliance in the Twentieth and Twenty-first Centuries

To be followed by a reception

Wednesday 31 October

Panel discussion on US Elections

Same programme and venue as for Wednesday 12 September

Wednesday 14 November

Luncheon with Sir Peter Marshall KCMG CVO

Churchill in No.10 and Eisenhower in the White House: a Groundling's view sixty years on

Savile Club, 69 Brook Street, 12.15 for 12.45 pm

Wednesday 21 November

Thanksgiving Reception

88 The Panoramic, 152 Grosvenor Road, 7.00 pm
By kind invitation of Sir Paul and Lady Judge

Tuesday 12 March 2013

Reflections lecture

The Right Hon the Lord Butler of Brockwell KG GCB CVO: *Experiences with five Prime Ministers*

River Court, 120 Fleet Street, EC4A 2BB, 6.30 pm
By kind invitation of Goldman Sachs

International

Tuesday 7 May

Spring reception

Cholmondeley Room, House of Lords, 6.30 pm

U S PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION DISCUSSION FORUM

Pilgrims' Vice President Sir Robert Worcester donned his opinion pollster's hat to present a discussion on November's US Presidential Election in Portcullis House, Westminster, on 22 March. The event was hosted by Sir Peter Bottomley MP.

Sir Robert distributed his articles on the US election, the reasons for Barack Obama's election in 2008 and an analysis of the 2012 Republican delegates, and introduced his three panellists.



*Thomas Rogan, Greg Katz, Sir Robert Worcester
and Rob Carolina*

Rob Carolina, Chairman of Democrats Abroad UK, felt President Obama's current approval rating at about 50% reflected the American electorate's feeling of discontent and distrust of the two major parties. The Republican Party was in a difficult position, with none of its main Presidential contenders generating much enthusiasm and, on present form, a third party candidate could take 15-20% of the popular vote. Rob Carolina's home state of Ohio could once again be the fulcrum around which the election would be decided.

Thomas Rogan, a spokesman from Republicans Abroad UK, believed there was a very clear contest between Mitt Romney and Barack Obama, who had failed to deliver on his promises and to change the partisan tone of Washington politics. It was key to grow the economy and reduce the debt.

Greg Katz of *Associated Press*, a veteran political commentator, felt that Romney was well-positioned to move to the centre. Obama did not have good relationships with either Congress or the media and his people skills were somewhat deficient. Despite all this, his lead over Romney was 4-6%. Romney, embarrassed about his great wealth, needed to reconnect with the voting public.

Discussion from the floor centred on such topics as who would be suitable running-mates for Obama and Romney; Hilary Clinton's suitability for the

role of Vice-President; the viability of the American political system; the negative influence of Washington lobbyists; campaign finance and freedom of speech; the likelihood of a third party candidate; the importance of the Hispanic vote to Obama, and the need for Republicans to unite behind Romney. The panel felt the Tea Party movement was driven largely by fear of the unknown and by fear of the future. China's rise was irresistible, now being set to overtake the US economy by 2015. All these topics, including foreign policy issues, especially in the Middle East, provided grist for the general discussion mill. It was generally agreed that, on present form, Obama would be facing Romney in November in what could be a tight race. If the economy deteriorated, the unemployment rate worsened, or there was an Israeli air-strike on Iran's nuclear facilities, any of these could prove very difficult for Obama.

Sir Robert Worcester was thanked for his masterly presentation and control of the general discussion.

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS (Elected January, April and July 2012)

Lady Bischoff

Guy Brennan

Lt Colonel Michael Campbell OBE

Andrew Coyle

Ms Melissa Crawshay-Williams

Mrs Elizabeth H Dare

Peter Day-Milne

Paul Dimond CMG

Tristan Elbrick

Mrs Mary Barton Freeman

Varel D Freeman

Major Mark Goymer

Mrs Sarah Herzog

Hon Bernard Jenkin MP

Rt Hon David Lammy MP

David Mackilligin CMG

Simon Martin-Redman

Dr Jef McAllister

Jesse Norman MP

Peter O'Donoghue

Charles Reiss

Mark Richards

Major Stephen Simmons

Mrs Diane Simpson

James Sproule

Alexander Trotter

Ms Susan Wedlake

Andrew West

Robert L Willoughby

William Winters

LADY YOUNG'S ACCOUNT OF THE LIFE AND WORK OF HER FATHER OSCAR NEMON

Pilgrims and guests were privileged to attend an illustrated lecture about the sculptor Oscar Nemon by his daughter Lady Young at the National Liberal Club on 27 March. Lady Young included many touching anecdotes of their family life, as well as a number of superb photographs.

Oscar Nemon ranks alongside Jacob Epstein and Henry Moore as one of the greatest sculptors of the twentieth century. Since his death Aurelia Young has done much to ensure not only that Nemon's full achievements and qualities have been appreciated by a wide public, but also that her audience is told the story of Nemon and his family.

Nemon was born in Osijek, East Croatia, into a Jewish family, most of whom later perished in the Nazi holocaust. As a young man Nemon modelled in clay and took part in local exhibitions. He then won a Gold Medal in 1925 at the Academie des Beaux-Arts in Brussels. In his earlier years Nemon sculpted Sigmund Freud, Charles Lindbergh and King Albert I and Queen Astrid of Belgium.

It was Princess Marie Bonaparte who persuaded him to move to London in 1935, where he met his future wife, Patricia Villiers Stuart. One of his first British commissions was a bas relief of Sir Harry Brittain, founder of the Pilgrims, of whom he made a sculpture in 1972.



Sir Harry Brittain with the bas relief completed by Nemon for the Belgrade Exhibition

Nemon was given English lessons by Sir Max Beerhohm and was patronised by Sir John

Rothenstein, Director of the Tate Gallery and Sir Karl Parker, Keeper of the Department of Fine Art at the Ashmolean Museum. Nemon sculpted busts of King George VI, The Queen Mother, The Queen, Prince Philip and Earl Mountbatten.



Nemon with his bust of Churchill and Churchill's bust of Nemon

Nemon met Winston Churchill on a family holiday in Marrakesh in 1951. At the request of The Queen and in opposition to the Royal Academy and the art establishment, Churchill commissioned Nemon to produce a sculpture of him for display at Windsor Castle. Among other sculptures of Sir Winston, Nemon sculpted his statue at the Guildhall and the famous likeness in the Central Lobby of the House of Commons. Churchill returned the compliment by modelling a sculpture of Nemon's head, his only piece of sculpture.



Sir Harry Brittain in 1973, aged 100, with Nemon's sculpture

Nemon's other famous subjects included President Eisenhower, Viscount Montgomery, Lord Beaverbrook, Harold Macmillan and Margaret Thatcher. At the time of his death in 1985 he was starting work on a sculpture of Diana Princess of Wales.

SPRING RECEPTION AT DRAPERS' HALL

Pilgrims and guests attended a spring reception in the prestigious and splendid surroundings of Drapers' Hall on 30 April.



The Court Dining Room and (below) the Drawing Room

The Drapers' Company, incorporated by Royal Charter in 1438, is one of the Great Twelve Livery Companies in the City. Drapers' Hall featured prominently in *The King's Speech*. Guests were shown the Company's magnificent collection of Royal portraits and Herbert Draper's superb 1903-10 ceiling paintings of Shakespearian scenes in the Livery Hall, as well as the ceiling paintings in the Court Dining Room of *Jason and the Golden Fleece* by Felix Joseph-Barrias.



SAVE MAILING COSTS!

Postage rates rose in April 2012. If you have received hard copy of this newsletter and would prefer it electronically, please contact the office.

CHECK THE WEBSITE! www.pilgrimsociety.org

Some members have no access to the internet. For those with internet access, please apply to the office for login and password for the website.

VISITS TO STRAWBERRY HILL AND MARBLE HILL HOUSE

Two visits were made to Strawberry Hill, Twickenham and Marble Hill House, Richmond on 11 and 17 July.



Strawberry Hill was created over twenty years from 1750 by Horace Walpole, son of the first Prime Minister, with assistance from a 'Committee of Taste'. It is famous as Britain's finest example of Georgian Gothic revival architecture. The Strawberry Hill Trust, supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund, reopened the building in late 2010 following a £9 million restoration. After a guided tour and an excellent lunch, we travelled to Marble Hill House, to experience a sharply contrasting neo-classical style from which Walpole had broken free.



Marble Hill, a Palladian villa, is the first major house designed by Roger Morris and the 9th Earl of Pembroke for Henrietta Howard, Countess of Suffolk, and mistress of King George II when he was Prince of Wales. We were given details of Henrietta Howard's life at Court and admired the attractively detailed plasterwork, fine contemporary pictures and the handsome curved mahogany staircase before enjoying a cup of tea and returning to central London.

NEWS FROM THE PILGRIMS OF THE UNITED STATES

Sir James Wolfensohn, former President of the World Bank, spoke to the Pilgrims of the United States on 25 January at the River Club.



*James D Zirin, Sir James Wolfensohn and
President Miner H Warner*

Sir James was President of the World Bank Group 1995-2005. Under his leadership, the World Bank redoubled its efforts to combat corruption, give voice to clients living in poor communities and increase the return on development investments. Born in Australia, Sir James became a US citizen in 1980, and now lives in New York.

The 109th Annual Meeting took place on 1 May at the Union League Club. The Pilgrims of the United States medallion for service to the nation was presented to the Hon William J vanden Heuvel, former Deputy US Permanent Representative to the United Nations.



Hon Thomas H Kean and Hon William J vanden Heuvel

Ambassador vanden Heuvel is Chair Emeritus of the Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt Institute, and currently serves as Chairman and CEO of the FDR Four Freedoms Park LLC and the Four Freedoms Park Conservancy Inc.

Richard N Haass, President of the Council on Foreign Relations, spoke to the Pilgrims of the United States on 17 May at the River Club.



Richard N Haass, President Miner H Warner

Richard Haass became President of the Council of Foreign Relations in July 2003. Formerly he was director of planning policy for the US Department of State, where he was principal advisor to Secretary of State Colin Powell on a broad range of foreign policy concerns.

To celebrate the Diamond Jubilee of Her Majesty The Queen, the British Societies in New York held a choral evensong at St Thomas Church Fifth Avenue on Tuesday 5 June, followed by a reception at the Peninsula Hotel.



*E Jean Ward, President, British Schools & Universities
Club; James W Thomas, Past President, St David's
Society of the State of New York; Jill Spiller, Executive
Director, the Pilgrims of the United States; Keith M
Taylor, Chairman, British Soldiers' Fund; Paul
Beresford-Hill, Director-General, Mountbatten Institute;
Vicki Downey, National President, Daughters of the
British Empire; John Shannon, Executive Director, St
George's Society of New York*

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