



## AMBASSADOR SUSMAN PLEDGES TO MAINTAIN AND STRENGTHEN THE ANGLO-AMERICAN RELATIONSHIP

On 16 September a capacity audience of almost three hundred Pilgrims and guests gathered in the splendid Great Hall at Lincoln's Inn to welcome the new US Ambassador to the Court of St. James's, Louis.



*Sir Robert Worcester, Mrs Susman,  
Ambassador Louis B Susman, Field Marshal Lord Inge*

Susman, to his first public speaking engagement in this country, a tradition that has been steadfastly maintained for over a century. Pilgrims' President Field Marshal Lord Inge in his introduction said that the very large turn-out for this event underlined the importance of the Special Relationship, despite recent negative speculation by the British media, welcoming the Ambassador and Mrs Susman most warmly.

Ambassador Susman declared that it was a great honour to deliver his first public speech as American envoy to the Court of St James's to such a prestigious group as the Pilgrims. As a mid-westerner he was proud of his origins and a steadfast believer that the American Dream was open to all.

The Ambassador looked back on his 45-year career as a senior partner in a law firm, as a public servant and as a philanthropist. He had even managed to find time to become involved with the St Louis Cardinals, the celebrated baseball team, and he was now working

hard to understand the finer points of cricket. During the 1980s he served at President Reagan's request on the United States Commission on Public Diplomacy and this, along with his other interests, had made him a frequent visitor to these shores.

He recalled that he had first met Barack Obama in 2002 when he was a candidate for the US Senate and regarded him as the most intelligent politician in the USA and as a superb orator in the tradition of Roosevelt, Churchill, Kennedy and Reagan.

We lived in challenging times, with problems such as global warming, international terrorism and the Middle East. He paid tribute to the performance of British troops in Afghanistan, and believed that the people of Afghanistan must take charge of their own future. The recent elections were part of a process that included training police and the armed forces, the building of schools and the improvement of sanitary and health facilities. He spoke of the nuclear arms threat posed by Iran and the Middle East, where the "two-state solution" of a Palestinian state alongside Israel had to become a reality. Climate change is a worldwide problem which should be solved by concerted international action, as had the economic crisis which had threatened to engulf the whole world system. He was very pleased that the USA and the UK were continuing to work together to surmount their economic difficulties. We could not let down our guard or afford to be complacent.

The Ambassador reserved his final words for the state of the Special Relationship which was in good shape and which he pledged to maintain and strengthen to the benefit of both countries

When asked if the Pilgrims could once again visit Winfield House for their traditional May visit, the Ambassador's response was that he would be "greatly honored".

## LETTER FROM THE CHAIRMAN

**In November** at the Oxford Union debate I enjoyed the challenge of opposing the motion that “This House believes that there is nothing ‘SPECIAL’ about the SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP”. My partner was supposed to have been Sir Christopher Meyer, the former British Ambassador in Washington and a member of the Executive Committee of the Pilgrims who unfortunately had to cry off at the last minute due to temporary ill health. Even without our star, we won, 143 – 114.

In the event, the Union was up to the challenge, and the President-elect of the Union, Stuart Cullen, led off with logic and force and Sir Christopher’s ‘pinch hitter’, Henry Curr, was sent in to bat to wind up. It was his first appearance at the dispatch box: he did brilliantly. Two to watch, and I hope to have them both at a Pilgrims’ event this year.

Speaking of young people and Pilgrims’ events, in this mailing is notice of our plan to have an event to mark the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the evacuees, with a panel of those who were sent to the States during the war, revealing the impact that experience has had on their lives.

But to return to the debate, I was helped in research for the event by a graduate Oxford Union member Geoffrey Hemphill who reminded me of the Bill of the US Congress (House and Senate concurring) which defined our ‘Special Relationship’ as *a close and unique economic, cultural and strategic relationship, with common law, language, literature, conceptions of what is right, impartial justice, regard for the weak and poor, love of personal freedom; the largest investment relationship in the world.*

I used the finding that when asked “Which do you think is Britain’s most reliable ally?” 73% of the British said America. In another poll, conducted for the Atlantic Partnership a year ago, 7 in 10 of the British said that the US/UK relationship is strong, and only 2 people in 100 said that it is not at all strong.

Geoffrey also told me something I certainly didn’t know before. Did you? **That there are tens of thousands of the great British public who don’t realise that they have recently been deemed to be and are in fact Americans!**

Congress changed the rules on citizenship to retroactively allow US citizenship to pass down through the female line whereas previously it was

only through a father who was an American citizen prior to 1934. Thus there are potentially tens of thousands of lost Americans here in the UK. This change in law didn’t attract any attention here in the UK so even the more well-informed British politicians and US spectators haven’t picked up on the consequences of this change in US citizenship law.

Sir Robert Worcester  
*Chairman, Executive Committee*

### WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS (elected September 2009)

Sir Peter Bonfield CBE  
Ben Brafman  
Charles Brown  
Peter Cadbury  
Robert Cecil  
Sir Tim Chessells  
Henry Davis  
Lady Dawtry  
Brian Dickie  
Mrs Susan Dickie  
Ms Noreen Doyle  
David Edwards  
Lady Emery  
Captain Philip Foxwood  
Bruce Fraser  
Admiral Sir Ian Garnett KCB  
John Kavanaugh  
Dr Randolph Kent  
Alex King MBE  
Anthony Lake  
Charles Longbottom  
The Right Hon the Lord Mance  
Bruce Mauleverer QC  
Mrs Joyce Parsons JP  
Brian Pearce CBE DL  
Nick Segal  
Daniel S Shapiro  
Gregory Smith TD DL  
Professor John Stopford  
Charles F Wardle  
Mrs Doreen Willis-Bailey  
Sir Stephen Wright KCMG

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

**CABINET SECRETARY  
GUS O'DONNELL REFLECTED ON THE  
PARALLELS BETWEEN THE GREAT  
DEPRESSION OF THE 1930s AND OUR  
CURRENT ECONOMIC TROUBLES IN  
THE SIR HARRY BRITAIN MEMORIAL  
LECTURE**

Following the Pilgrims' Annual Meeting on 28 September, a capacity audience in the American Embassy Auditorium greeted Sir Gus



O'Donnell, Cabinet Secretary and Head of the Home Civil Service, who delivered the sixteenth Sir Harry Britain Memorial Lecture. President Field Marshal Lord Inge praised Sir Gus for his outstanding record of service as a senior civil servant.

*Sir Gus O'Donnell and Field Marshal Lord Inge*

Sir Gus declared it a great pleasure to be standing in front of such an illustrious audience and warmly thanked the American Embassy for its hospitality. An economist by training, he stated his firm opinion that British and American global interests are very much aligned. Each country is the biggest foreign investor in the other, with a British investment of \$350 billion in the USA and an American investment of \$275 billion in this country. At present both economies were in recession with rising unemployment, and the overall global economic situation was still very grave.

Looking back to the Great Depression of the 1930s, Sir Gus pointed out that in the USA GDP fell by one third and the stock market fell by 90%, with industrial production declining by 50%. The economic effect on Britain was less severe, even though world trade had collapsed.

At the London Economic Summit in 1933, 66 countries met for a month but with little effect. There had been little relief from weaker exchange rates. In September 1931 Britain had left the Gold Standard with £1 worth \$4.86 and the exchange rate then fell to \$3.40 to £1. Interest rates fell to 2% and the general economic situation in Britain started to improve by the end of 1935 with unemployment falling and mass re-armament beginning.

By contrast 4,000 banks collapsed in the USA and in April 1933 the USA left the Gold Standard. The economy recovered but went back into recession in 1937 because of a relaxation of the fiscal stimulus.

Sir Gus emphasised the lessons to be learnt from the Great Depression – the need for financial stability, the need for global co-operation, the light domestic policies for stimulating the economy and the absolute necessity for not relaxing the fiscal stimulus. Both Britain and the USA had taken on board these lessons and were attempting to find a solution that worked both domestically and globally. The G20 Summit in London earlier this year had underlined the need for effective global co-operation and the dangers of protectionism. He praised the contribution of President Obama who had played a crucial role at this summit, unlike FDR who was conspicuous by his absence from the London 1933 Summit. The recent G20 Summit in Pittsburgh had also produced some positive results. Sir Gus was at pains to stress that the present crisis had started in the financial sector where financial services are far more important than in the 1930s. The overall situation had changed markedly since that time with the Bretton Woods Agreement setting up the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund.

At question-time Sir Gus dealt with such topics as the problems of investment banking; the relationship between civil servants and the principal opposition parties; comparisons with the 1930s in terms of the level of public spending and the political effects of the economic crisis; the relationship between civil servants and special advisers (500,000 as against 80) and even the Prime Minister's state of health. Pilgrims' Chairman Sir Robert Worcester thanked Sir Gus O'Donnell warmly and presented him with the customary Pilgrims tie and copy of the official history.



*Sir Peter Marshall, Membership Committee Chairman; Sir Robert Worcester, Executive Committee Chairman; Field Marshal Lord Inge, President; Dame Mary Hogg, Programme Committee Chairman, and Ian Barlow, Hon Treasurer at the Annual Meeting.*

## LIBERAL DEMOCRAT DR VINCE CABLE ISSUED A STRONG AND EFFECTIVE PRESCRIPTION FOR THE BRITISH ECONOMY

On 28 October Dr Vincent Cable, Liberal Democrat Deputy Leader and Shadow Chancellor of the Exchequer, addressed a capacity Pilgrims' audience at luncheon at the Savile Club.

Lord Watson introduced Dr Cable, and alluded to his skills both in the ballroom and on the floor of the House of Commons.

Dr Cable began with some humorous recollections of going round his constituency during the 2005 General Election, before dealing with more serious matters.



*Dr Vincent Cable MP*

In his opinion the British economy had undergone a massive heart attack. The patient had been treated in intensive care with a cocktail of powerful economic drugs. Such strong measures as the printing of much money, a massive devaluation and the drastic lowering of interest rates had resulted in a degree of stability, but the overall prognosis was that the patient was still in a very vulnerable condition. Rises in both the Stock Exchange and London house prices had created a certain degree of confidence but British households were still weighed down with enormous personal debt and the whole banking system had almost collapsed, with major banks going from reckless lending to a position of extreme conservatism. The end result was a huge budget deficit.

Dr Cable admitted that some positive things were happening, with a number of British companies doing very well, but there remained some major structural problems. How could you reinvent manufacturing with less reliance on financial and service systems? There was also the danger that the big global banks could bring down the British economy. Three out of the five biggest banks in the world are British-owned. The present Government had to take the major share of blame for sheer carelessness in not recognising the perils confronting us.

After the coming General Election in spring 2010, Dr. Cable thought that a hung parliament was as strong a possibility as a strong Conservative majority and he felt that in either scenario Britain could find itself no longer a success story in terms of economic achievement and self confidence.

Dr.Cable was questioned about the likelihood of his joining a more broadly based Conservative government or a rainbow coalition on the German model; Britain joining the Euro in perhaps five years' time; Europe on the world stage; the possibility of a bipolar world dominated by the USA and China; the controversial million pound household tax and the sources of possible wealth generation in the future. In his vote of thanks Pilgrims Chairman Sir Robert Worcester complimented Vincent Cable on a remarkable performance and his excellent economic and political analysis before presenting him with the customary Pilgrims tie and official history.

*A pink patterned silk scarf was left behind at the Savile Club following the lunch with Dr Vince Cable. Please apply to the office.*

*An updated **List of Members and Rules** will be produced early in 2010. Please check your entry in the 2008 edition and let the office know of any changes. At the same time, please keep the office informed of any changes to contact details, including email addresses.*

### IN MEMORIAM

Basil C Bicknell TD  
C Dixon Kunzelmann  
Commander Sir Miles Rivett-Carnac Bt DL  
Robin G Newman  
Professor Sir David Williams  
Sir Oliver Wright GCMG GCVO DSC

## PANEL DISCUSSION ON PRESIDENT OBAMA'S FIRST YEAR IN OFFICE



*Greg Katz, Stryker McGuire, Sir Robert Worcester, Jennifer Sieben and Clifford Young*

A **Special** panel discussion on President Obama's first year in office took place on 5 November at Dartmouth House. The panel of expert pundits comprised Greg Katz of *Associated Press*, Stryker McGuire, Editor of *International Quarterly*, Jennifer Siebens of *CBS News* and Clifford Young, Ipsos Public Affairs pollster, with Pilgrims' Chairman Sir Robert Worcester presiding.

There was general agreement amongst the panel that President Obama had done a great deal to improve America's image abroad but that he was confronted by serious domestic problems, in particular the state of the economy and the vexed question of healthcare. Afghanistan was also a major problem, but at present this did not register with the vast mass of the American people despite the loss of American military lives in the effort to sustain an unstable and very corrupt government in that country. Healthcare, which accounts for 17% of the US economy, was a ticking time bomb for President Obama which could have disastrous economic and political effects.

Questions from the floor took in such topics as the press treatment of Iraq and Afghanistan; the current state of the Republican party; Obama's view of Europe; the possible effect on Pakistan of a pull-out from Afghanistan; the full effects of the economic recession; the scrapping of the US defence missile shield in Eastern Europe and the very high expectations placed on Obama's shoulders. Also discussed were Obama's Nobel Peace Prize; the role of the internet in present-day politics; the Palestinian and Iranian problems and the thorny problem of climate change, with the upcoming international conference in Copenhagen.

All-in-all a useful and constructive exchange of ideas and views. The general consensus from the panel and from the range of questions was that President Obama was now confronted with a range of major issues which would define the whole nature of his Presidency.

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS RE-ELECTED 28.9.09

### THE HON DAME MARY HOGG DBE (2004)



Dame Mary's grandmother was a girl from Tennessee and her father, proud of his wife, was a Pilgrim. She is also a sister of a Pilgrim and wife of another. She qualified many years ago as a barrister and in due course took Silk. In 1995 she was appointed to the High Court, being assigned to

the Family Division, where she continues and intends to remain until age catches up with her. She has two grown-up children and a four-legged friend for whom she is well known.

Dame Mary Hogg chairs the Programme Committee.

### SAM YOUNGER CBE (1996)



Following a 20-year career at the BBC, culminating in the role of Managing Director of the World Service from 1994-1998, Sam was Director General of the British Red Cross for two years before becoming the inaugural Chair of the Electoral Commission from 2001 until 2008. He has

chaired the University of Sussex and the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education, and is currently a member of the Standards Committee of the Greater London Authority and interim Chief Executive of the Housing charity Shelter.

Sam Younger sits on the Programme Committee.

**Holiday arrangements:** The office will be closed between Friday 12 February and Monday 8 March. Messages left on the ansaphone or by email will only be responded to occasionally. Kerry Colville, the Chairman's secretary, can be contacted during this period on 020 7347 3066.

## BRITISH PILGRIMS' EVENTS

**Wednesday 20 January, 12.15 for 12.45**  
**Luncheon with Professor Vernon Bogdanor**  
*Is Britain becoming more like America?*  
*The New British Constitution and the Rise of Liberal Constitutionalism*  
Savile Club, 69 Brook Street

**Tuesday 2 February, 6.30 pm**  
**Visit to the College of Arms**  
with York Herald Henry Bedingfeld  
Queen Victoria Street, London EC4V 4BT

**Tuesday 9 March 2010, 6.30 pm**  
**Reflections lecture**  
**The Right Hon Michael Howard QC MP**  
Goldman Sachs, River Court, Fleet Street

**Tuesday 23 March 2010, 6.00 pm**  
**Panel discussion on forthcoming British General Election**  
Stryker McGuire (ex *Newsweek*, now *Editor, International Quarterly*), Marc Roche *Le Monde*, Ann MacMillan *CBC*, Thomas Kielinger *Die Welt*, Sir Robert Worcester, Chair  
Dartmouth House, 37 Charles Street

**Wednesday 5 May, 6.00-7.30 pm**  
**Reception** with the American Ambassador and Mrs Susman, Winfield House

**Wednesday 21 July**  
Visit to Kew Gardens and Richmond American University

**Monday 27 September from 5.30**  
**Annual Meeting and Sir Harry Brittain Memorial Lecture**  
Neil MacGregor, Director of the British Museum  
US Embassy, Grosvenor Square

## DIARY NOTE

Because we are invited to Winfield House on 5 May, the reception at the House of Lords arranged for 19 May will not now take place.

## US PILGRIMS' NEWS

The fall season was kicked off by sportswriter, author, raconteur, Frank Deford, an honored and versatile American writer, who tackled a difficult topic, *British and American Sports: Divided by a Common Obsession*. There were 140 in attendance at the Racquet & Tennis Club on 17 September 17. Deford is the author of 15 books, a weekly commentator for *Morning Edition* on NPR, a correspondent for *Real*

*Sports* with Bryant Gumbel on HBO, and a Senior Contributing Writer at *Sports Illustrated*. A native of Baltimore, Maryland, he has received journalism honor awards from the University of Missouri and Northeastern University, as well as many honorary degrees. For 16 years he served as national chairman of the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, and remains Chairman Emeritus.



*James D Zirin, Frank Deford, Miner H Warner*

The Honorable John M (Mike) McConnell, second Director of National Intelligence, drew a standing room only crowd to the River Club on 17 November. Mike McConnell was sworn in as the nation's second Director of National Intelligence on 13 February 2007, before which he served as a Senior Vice President with Booz Allen Hamilton, focusing on intelligence and national security issues. In 1996 he retired as Vice Admiral in the US Navy after 29 years' service, 26 as a career Intelligence officer. In addition to many of the nation's highest military awards for meritorious service, he holds the nation's highest award for service in the intelligence community. He was born and grew up in Greenville, South Carolina.



*Miner H. Warner and the Hon John M (Mike) McConnell*

## EVENSONG AT WESTMINSTER ABBEY

On Thursday 10 September, at the invitation of the Dean of Westminster, Pilgrims and guests attended full choral evensong at Westminster Abbey, an unforgettable experience and the unbreakable link with a religious and historical tradition going back to 1065, when the Abbey was consecrated at the very end of the reign of its founder, King Edward the Confessor. The combination of prayers, reading of lessons and choral singing creates a unique and almost mystical atmosphere.

Following evensong and a welcome from the Dean, the assembled Pilgrims were then split up into smaller groups for a special tour of the Abbey. The sheer weight of history seems overwhelming. Every British King and Queen from Harold II in 1066 to Elizabeth II in 1953 has been crowned in Westminster Abbey, with the exception of Edward V and Edward VIII, both of whom never received coronations, and many monarchs are buried there, along with a host of great figures from British history. We were shown the Tomb of the Unknown Warrior, the Chapel of St George, the Lady Chapel of Henry VII, the Chapel of Edward the Confessor, the Coronation Chair, the Royal Air Force Chapel and Poets' Corner, to name but a few. In a very real sense Westminster Abbey enshrines the whole story of a nation over a period of almost 950 years.

The evening ended with an enjoyable reception in the Abbey museum. We are most grateful to the Very Reverend Dr John Hall, Dean of Westminster, and his staff for their kindness and hospitality.

### **PILGRIMS' MERCHANDISE**

*Members can now purchase **silver weather stations** – not only a clock but a thermometer and hygrometer too, which folds away or stands on a desk when extended, surmounted by the Pilgrims' logo. These cost £35 each, measure 45 x 40mm closed or 160 x 40 open, and will make exceptional stocking fillers.*

*We stock pure silk ties depicting the Pilgrims' emblem and costing £20; pure silk scarves for £80; lapel pins for £2 and enamelled cufflinks for £10, both decorated with crossed UK and US flags surmounted by a P.*

*Please direct any enquiries to the office.*

## PILGRIMS' FAREWELL LUNCHEON FOR LORD HALIFAX 9 JANUARY 1941

In December 1940 Lord Lothian, the British Ambassador in Washington, died suddenly and unexpectedly at the age of 58, leaving Winston Churchill, Prime Minister and war-leader, with an extra problem to add to those already confronting him. David Lloyd-George declined the appointment on the grounds of age and health and Anthony Eden, Foreign Secretary 1935-38, felt that he could be of greater use staying at home and serving in the War Cabinet.

Lord Halifax, who had been Foreign Secretary since 1938, finally accepted the position, to the great relief of Churchill. Edward Halifax had achieved most of life's glittering prizes – Fellow of All Souls, Chancellor of Oxford and Viceroy of India. In May 1940 he was the Establishment choice to succeed Neville Chamberlain as Prime Minister but he felt instinctively that Churchill was the man of the hour and gracefully stepped aside. His appointment as Ambassador in Washington sent out all the right signals.

At the Pilgrims' Savoy luncheon held on 9 January 1941 to wish the new Ambassador godspeed and good luck Churchill praised Halifax as the right man for the job.

The Editor is grateful to the Churchill Archives in Cambridge for access to Churchill's speech at the Pilgrims' Luncheon from which we take the following extract:

*"The future of the whole world and the hopes of a broadening civilisation founded upon Christian ethics depend upon relations between the British Empire and the United States of America ... We stand therefore – all of us – upon the watchtowers of history."*

Churchill's faith was fully justified. Halifax achieved great success as Ambassador from 1941 to 1946, and his speech to the American Pilgrims at their dinner of welcome created a sensation throughout the United States and the whole English-speaking world.

## SPECIAL VISIT TO BOSTON, VERMONT AND NEW YORK

A year ago, on the anniversary of our departure to New York from Heathrow to travel together to Jamestown to celebrate the 400th anniversary of the founding of the first permanent English-speaking colony in the New World, the latest 'intrepid travellers' gathered in the Hurlingham Club and heard Lady Baxendell propose we go again in 2009, this time instead of starting in New York and travelling south to Virginia, start in Boston, and travel north and west, joining with American Pilgrims and visiting War of Independence battlefields and other places on the way.

So in early October we flew into Boston, were met by Jeff Driscoll, our mentor and guide during the Jamestown trip, rejoined our bright yellow Mercedes bus with *Yankee Lines* emblazoned on it (better here than in Southern Virginia) and after visiting Bunker Hill battlefield, travelled to Concord and Lexington where harvest festivities were the theme, learning our American colonial and military history on the way. Then to dinner at the elegant Somerset Club in Boston with 24 Pilgrims, Brits and Yanks, and a visit to the JFK Presidential Library the following (Sunday) morning.



*Fellow travellers Peter Harper and Michael Fowle and friend*

Then onto battlefields of Fort Ticonderoga and Saratoga where local guides gave us a good review of how these battles helped to determine the outcome of the Northern campaign, blocking road and water access to Canada.

Throughout the tour in mid-October we were treated to a vista of autumnal colours for which New England is renowned.



*Saratoga Battlefield, with the French trapper/guide to the British forces showing us the way*

Towards the end of our trip we drove down the East Coast, stopping first at West Point, America's Military Academy, named for being high on the bluff where the Hudson River splits, with the bright fall (sic) sunshine glinting off the foliage adorning the river's banks with scarcely any building to be seen. Finally, a wonderful tour of Hyde Park, FDR's home, as the guests of US Pilgrim Mrs Franklin D Roosevelt Jr, and then a US/UK dinner in The Brook Club.



*Awed by the West Point Chapel: Peter Harper, Robert Schuettinger, Lady Baxendell, Sir Peter Baxendell, Linda Harper, Lady Worcester*

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