



NEW PRESIDENT OF THE PILGRIMS



At the Pilgrims' Annual Meeting held on 27 September, Admiral the Lord Boyce GCB OBE DL was elected President of the Pilgrims in succession to Field Marshal Lord Inge, who was standing down having been in post since 2002

Following a distinguished Naval career, Lord Boyce was Chief of the Defence Staff between 2001-03, and was appointed Lord Warden and Admiral of the Cinque Ports and Constable of Dover Castle in 2004. He is a keen sportsman and follower of opera and ballet.

NEW CHAIRMAN

Ronald M Freeman succeeded Sir Robert Worcester at the Annual Meeting, Sir Robert retiring as Chairman of the Pilgrims having been in post since 1993.



Ronald Freeman is a dual US/UK national and has been a member of the Pilgrims since 1995. A lawyer, he was previously head of the banking department of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development and managing director and co-chief executive of Salomon Smith Barney. He now serves on several corporate and NGO boards of directors.

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT AND THE CHAIRMAN

Field Marshal Lord Inge and Sir Robert Worcester elected to retire as President of The Pilgrims Society and Chairman of the Executive Committee, respectively, at the annual meeting.

On 16 November 2010, past and present members of the Executive Committee joined us at the Parliament Chamber of the Inner Temple to thank Lord Inge and Sir Robert for their respective eight and seventeen years of distinguished leadership of the Pilgrims Society. Under their direction, the Pilgrims have grown in number and have enjoyed annual programmes of distinguished speakers, visits and trips which they have organised for us and which have given us the occasion to enjoy each other's company and broad range of interests. Neither of your current President and Chairman anticipates exceeding our predecessors' term in office, but the example of their leadership will serve as a constant inspiration to us both.



We were delighted that Peter Inge and Bob Worcester both agreed to become Vice Presidents as they continue as members of the Pilgrims.

We were a bit overwhelmed as Bob added to seventeen years of his very generous contribution of time and effort by giving the Pilgrims a beautiful parting gift. This is a George III presentation two-handled silver cup, made in 1802, exactly 100 years before the founding of the Pilgrims. Bob's very kind gift will join the Pilgrims' small but much valued collection of three commemorative silver bowls (see p.2), that mark key dates in the history of our Society.

I am certain all Pilgrims join us in expressing our appreciation to Peter and Bob for their efforts on our behalf. Should you wish to add a personal word of thanks to them, you can do so by contacting Tessa Wells at her new office address (see p.3).



With the support of the Executive Committee, Peter and Bob passed their responsibilities to the two of us. We accepted on the understanding that the Executive Secretary, Tessa Wells, would continue in her indispensable role and agreed that we would endeavour, to the best of our abilities, to carry on the Pilgrims' traditions as embodied in our century-old Rules, especially the one of "promotion of Anglo-American good fellowship".

Among those traditions is this periodic Pilgrims Newsletter which we will continue to publish. In a concession to modernity and to the need always to watch costs, we will rely increasingly on email for distribution of the Newsletter and other written communication with our fellow Pilgrims. Thank you for responding to the recent questionnaire on this subject. Further details about the Pilgrims' website will be sent when available.

Before electing to retire, Bob Worcester and Peter Inge very kindly organised several "post-retirement" events to keep the Pilgrims' programme moving forward. These included lunch with Philip Ziegler talking about his biography of Sir Edward Heath; a panel discussion on the US Mid-Term Elections; dinner with Sir John Holmes; a return visit to the Supreme Court, and dinner with Air Chief Marshal Sir Jock Stirrup on 5 January. We have maintained the normal pace of Pilgrims' programmes by adding to these "Worcester-Inge events" several others scheduled for winter 2010-11 including James Wolfensohn, former Chairman of the World Bank, giving the *Reflections* lecture on 2 February and luncheon with Sir Winfried Bischoff on 3 March. We will look forward to seeing you at these events.

We held a Thanksgiving lunch at the Savile Club on 25 November at which our guest of honour was the Very Reverend Dr John Hall, Dean of Westminster.

Those Pilgrims who joined our visit to Westminster Abbey on 10 September 2009 will remember the Dean's kindness and also his erudition as he personally escorted us around the Abbey. The Thanksgiving lunch had slipped from our calendar of annual events in recent years. We shall try again to make it an annual fixture.

An important element of our responsibility is to ensure the continued financial health of the Pilgrims while not making excessive demands on the patience and the pockets of our members. We are delighted that our Honorary Treasurer, Ian Barlow, has agreed to continue to guide our finances with the attention to detail and solid judgement that belies the "Honorary" part of his title. Our financial modus operandi has been to cover ongoing overheads with annual dues and to make each event self-financing. These simple rules have kept the Pilgrims both liquid and solvent, debt-free and without financial or operational liabilities. We even enjoy a small and jealously guarded cash surplus.

But even with the benefits of Ian's guidance and Tessa's ability to secure attractive venues for us at keenly negotiated fees, upward cost pressures are making themselves felt. In response to these pressures, the Executive Committee will examine whether our annual dues, held constant at £25 per annum for the last seven years, need to be increased to cover our overheads. We can assure you that we will be attentive to all Pilgrims' concerns, including our own, for the rising cost of living. We will report back to you with the result of the Executive Committee's deliberations on these matters and seek your support for its conclusions.

In closing, we again thank Lord Inge and Sir Robert for all they have done for the Pilgrims and we thank you for your support of our Society.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Admiral Lord Boyce".

Admiral Lord Boyce
President

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mr Ronald Freeman".

Mr Ronald Freeman,
Chairman, Executive Committee

NEW HONORARY SECRETARY



Sir Michael Craig-Cooper CBE TD DL has succeeded our new Chairman as Hon Secretary.

Sir Michael completes his term as Vice Lord-Lieutenant for Greater London in January 2011.

He is a Director of the National Bank of Kuwait (International) PLC, a member of the

Court of the Drapers' Company and is active with many other bodies, including the Royal Hospital Chelsea.

NEW VICE PRESIDENTS

Following their retirement at the Annual Meeting as President and Chairman respectively, Field Marshal the Right Hon the Lord Inge KG GCB DL and Sir Robert Worcester KBE DL were elected Vice Presidents of the Pilgrims.



*Field Marshal
Lord Inge*



*Sir Robert
Worcester*

IN MEMORIAM

The Rt Hon the Lord Bingham of Cornhill KG
Ivor Binney

G Nicholas Corah OBE DL

The Rt Hon the Lord Lyell of Markyate QC
Jeffrey F Ruzicka

ELECTIONS TO THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, SEPTEMBER 2010

At the Annual Meeting nine members were elected to membership of the Executive Committee: Mr Robert Alston CMG DL, Mr Peter Bottomley MP, the Right Hon the Lord Clarke of Stone-cum-Ebony, Ambassador John J Danilovich, Mr Kenneth W Gardener, the Right Hon the Lord Janvrin GCB KCVO, Mrs Deborah Owen, David Skidmore OBE FRCS and Ms Barbara Stephenson.



*Robert
Alston*



*Peter
Bottomley MP*



*Lord Clarke of
Stone-cum-Ebony*



*Ambassador
John J. Danilovich*



*W. Kenneth
Gardener*



Lord Janvrin



*Mrs Deborah
Owen*



*David
Skidmore*



*Ms Barbara
Stephenson*

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NEIL MACGREGOR ON THE POLITICS OF WORLD MUSEUMS

Following the Pilgrims' Annual meeting held in the Auditorium of the American Embassy on 27 September, Pilgrims and guests were privileged to hear Neil MacGregor, Director of the British Museum, as the seventeenth Sir Harry Brittain Memorial Lecturer. Neil MacGregor's CV is impressive to a breathtaking degree, as outgoing Pilgrims' President Field Marshal Lord Inge emphasised in his laudatory introduction.



Neil MacGregor

Neil MacGregor argued that museums are a great deal more than the commonly assumed refuge from real life where scholars pursue their studies.

The British Museum, founded over 250 years ago, has a unique position in the world of museums, as does London which became the first truly global city in the 18th century as a result of sea-power and commerce.

The eminent physician Sir Hans Sloane, the father of the British Museum, made a fortune from promoting milk chocolate and utilised this fortune to full effect in building up a huge antiquarian and botanical collection. The British Museum originated from Sloane's stipulation that his collection must be kept together, could not be sold and should be exhibited to the public without charge.

We are most grateful to the American Ambassador and the staff of the US Embassy for their kindness in hosting the Pilgrims' Annual Meeting.

Embassy staff generously took photographs and recorded Neil MacGregor's Sir Harry Brittain Memorial Lecture. Members who would like to receive a copy of the transcription should please contact the office.

As in his landmark Radio 4 series *A History of the World in one hundred Objects*, Neil MacGregor offered his audience a series of objects. First, a piece of beautiful polished jade, six thousand years old, found near Canterbury, but originating from mountains in the north of Italy; next an arrowhead found in North America, four thousand years old; then the oldest African-American drum, taken on a slave ship from West Africa to Virginia in the 17th century; a Red Indian map made from deerskin, showing the junction of the Ohio and Mississippi rivers and made after 1763, the end of the Seven Years War; and an Indian costume from this period which had found its way to Stonyhurst College in Lancashire.

Another object of great interest was a porcelain plate from the Imperial Russian factory in 1901, reissued in 1921 after the Bolshevik Revolution as part of a series celebrating the triumph of the proletariat. Perhaps the most fascinating item shown by Neil MacGregor was a cylinder of clay discovered in excavations of Ancient Babylon in the 1860s, containing a decree from the Persian Emperor Cyrus, setting free the Jewish slaves of Babylon and allowing them to return home, thus making a reality of the pages of the Old Testament.

In answering questions, Neil MacGregor stated that history as taught in schools is too narrow and focused. He spoke on the concept of dialogue between museums of the world and what their future roles will be, as well as how museums retrieve their loans from museums abroad – basically through trust, supported by Government indemnities. He told us about the British Museum's involvement in justice operations and dealings with Iranians over exhibition items.

The outgoing Pilgrims' Chairman Sir Robert Worcester praised Neil MacGregor for his illuminating and erudite discourse in the very best traditions of the Sir Harry Brittain Memorial Lecture.

PILGRIMS' WEBSITE

www.pilgrimsociety.org is now live!

If you have received a paper copy of this newsletter and would prefer to save office time and costs by reading or downloading the newsletter on-line, please contact the office

PHILIP ZIEGLER'S NEW BIOGRAPHY OF EDWARD HEATH

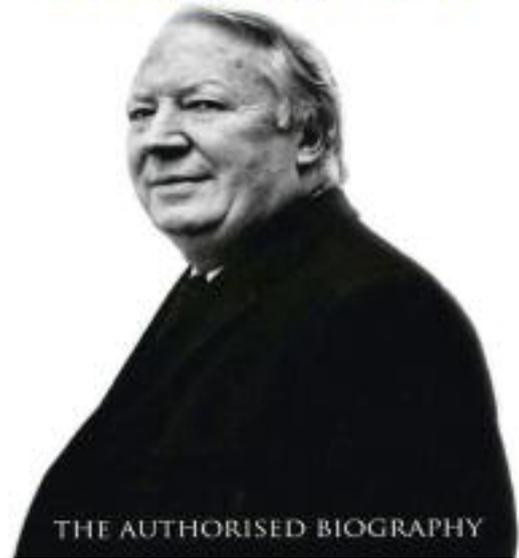
The distinguished biographer of Sir Edward Heath, Philip Ziegler CVO, was the guest speaker at a Pilgrims' luncheon held at the Savile Club on 19 November.

After a formal introduction by the new Chairman of the Pilgrims, Ronald Freeman, Mr Ziegler emphasised that Edward Heath had changed the lives of the British people more than any Prime Minister since Winston Churchill. As President of the Board of Trade 1963-64 he forced through the abolition of re-sale price maintenance, in the face of considerable opposition from his own party, bringing about the expansion of supermarkets and a much wider choice of goods. In 1965 he succeeded Sir Alec Douglas-Home as Conservative Party leader and in 1970, to everyone's great surprise, he defeated Harold Wilson in the General Election. This led to his second great achievement: bringing Britain into the European Community.

Edward Heath's premiership between 1970 and 1974, which started with high hopes, ended in failure with the second miners' strike and defeat in the General Election of 1974. Undoubtedly his failure to win sufficient personal support, both within his own Party and with the public at large, contributed to his defeat. As Chief Whip Edward Heath had been accessible, amenable, convivial and sociable. As Leader of the Party, however, he felt that he had to refuse favours from those who approached him. Rank and file Party members began to feel that they had made a mistake in selecting him as Leader, and as the country's economic problems worsened, Heath retreated into his shell. Philip Ziegler portrayed Edward Heath as a tragic figure with many gifts, but many flaws of character, which led to his downfall and his replacement as Party leader by a woman whom he disliked – Margaret Thatcher.

Philip Ziegler dealt with questions on Edward Heath's apparent unreasonable nature, his lack of social skills, the number of people working around him who succumbed to nervous breakdowns, his attitude towards the United States and his political vision. During the latter stages of the Second World War he became pro-European. Questions were also asked about the Conservative Party going back to its roots as the true supporter of Europe and comparisons were drawn between the Cameron/Clegg negotiations in May 2010 and the Heath/Thorpe negotiations in 1974, when the Conservatives had at least 250,000 more votes than

PHILIP ZIEGLER EDWARD HEATH



Labour and a coalition with the Liberals had considerable political justification.

Ronald Freeman thanked Philip Ziegler for his masterly and penetrating analysis of his subject. Mr Ziegler then autographed copies of his biography for those present.

PANEL DISCUSSION ON U.S. MID-TERM ELECTIONS

On 28 October we returned to Dartmouth House for a special panel discussion on the US Mid-Term Elections, due to be held the following week. The panel members were DeAnne Julius of Chatham House, Greg Katz of Associated Press and Jennifer Siebens of CBS News, with Pilgrims' Vice President Sir Robert Worcester in the chair.

After members of the panel had been welcomed by Pilgrims' Chairman Ronald Freeman, Sir Robert looked at the latest poll information, which suggested that President Obama's current job approval rating was about 45% and that the Senate race looked very close – 51 to 49 in favour of the Democrats. The House of Representatives seemed fairly close as well, with the Republicans projected to win 223 seats and the Democrats 212.

Greg Katz believed that Obama's basic mistake was to think that his charisma and general public appeal would carry him through after the Presidential Election. In fact Obama had been more effective as a legislator than as a communicator. Everything

was much more polarised and the political parties had become steadily weaker. This did not mean that Obama would lose the Presidency in 2012.

Jennifer Siebens said that CBS's poll gave Obama an approval rating of 47% while Congress enjoyed a rating of 10%. She believed that anti-incumbent sentiment was very high with many Americans in fear of losing their jobs and homes, with a very high level of foreclosure on property. Many people felt that Obama had tried to take the US into a kind of Euro-socialism, hence the growing level of support for the Tea Party Movement which had created major schisms within the Republican Party.

DeAnne Julius felt that the US had serious economic problems, both short-term and long-term. The US was out of recession but the recovery was not proceeding fast enough, with a very large fiscal deficit and a 10% unemployment rate. Tea Party followers believed that current economic policies were making matters worse for the future.

Discussion from the floor focussed on the true strength of the Tea Party, US-Chinese trade and economic relations, foreign policy differences between the Democrats and the Republicans, quantitative easing, the breadth of the economic recovery, the role of the media in the elections and the Middle East Peace Process. It was generally agreed that the Tea Party was too disparate to be really effective although a low level of electoral turn-out could help it. There could be a possible currency and trade war between the US and China, leading to a change in the dollar's status as the world reserve currency. Foreign policy issues hardly seemed to matter in the Mid-Term elections and the Middle East peace process was in the doldrums. Quantitative easing was effectively in the hands of the Federal Reserve rather than Congress while the breadth of the economic recovery was proceeding better than most people perceived it. The role of the media would continue to be of great importance in terms of electoral coverage and opinion gathering.

RETURN VISIT TO THE SUPREME COURT

Pilgrims and guests made a third visit to the Supreme Court on 15 November. Once again we were shown around the court rooms, library and exhibition area and Lord Clarke of Stone-cum-Ebony generously gave a detailed account of the role and responsibilities of the Supreme Court.

FROM THE FAUBOURG ST HONORE TO DARFUR – FOREIGN POLICY VIEWED FROM BELOW

Pilgrims and guests assembled in the Court Suite at Grosvenor House on 9 November to hear Sir John Holmes GCVO KBE CMG speak on the complexities and problems of international humanitarian aid.

In his introduction the new President of the Pilgrims, Admiral Lord Boyce, referred to Sir John's very distinguished diplomatic career, which included periods of service at 10 Downing Street working with Prime Ministers John Major and Tony Blair, service as Ambassador in Lisbon and Paris and his appointment as Under-Secretary for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Co-ordinator at the United Nations, New York. Sir John is now Director of the Ditchley Foundation.



*Admiral Lord Boyce, Sir John Holmes and Ronald Freeman
(photo by Dr Clive Handler)*

Sir John admitted that moving from the splendours of the British Embassy in Paris to the United Nations to deal with hunger and poverty in the Third World was a huge contrast. He stressed that humanitarian assistance is aimed at immediate relief for the victims of natural and man-made disasters and must not be subordinated to military or political needs. Above all, it must be given with full knowledge of what is involved. The main sources of aid are the United Nations and its agencies; the Non-Governmental Organisations, including Oxfam and Save the Children, and the Red Cross and Red Crescent family – and emphasised that such humanitarian aid does very largely reach those for whom it is intended, rather than going through the hands of recipient countries' governments on the way.

Sir John then covered the conflicts in Darfur, Myanmar and Sri Lanka. In Darfur, the largest single humanitarian crisis in the world, a billion

dollars a year is helping to keep alive up to four million people, in the wake of the conflict which began in 2003. Sir John questioned the effect on social and economic conditions in Darfur and whether or not the aid might be helping to prolong the actual conflict.

Myanmar had been devastated by the cyclone of 2008 and two million survivors had been left in dire conditions. The Burmese military regime had been unwilling to admit international aid agencies and the international community was not prepared to intervene militarily. Sir John had negotiated with the Myanmar government and as a result further unnecessary deaths were prevented.

The Sri Lankan authorities had decided to keep all outsiders away from the realities of what was happening on the ground in their long war with the Tamil Tigers. The humanitarian decision was made to stay in contact with the government and also the Tamil Tigers as far as possible.

One of the principal lessons to be learnt from these three examples was that governments do not like to be lectured by Western countries on democracy and human rights. Being right is not enough. Method, tone and language matter far more when it comes to dealing with problem governments. Frank and amicable private discussions can produce more positive results.

Sir John was questioned on a variety of topics. He felt that there were perhaps too many NGOs, with too much competition and duplication of effort. He also spoke about the contrast between immediate and subsequent disaster relief, David Cameron's recent visit to China and human rights in China.

The Chairman thanked Sir John for his stimulating discourse and made the customary presentation of a Pilgrims' tie and centennial history.

Sir John Holmes kindly gave a copy of his address to the Pilgrims. Copies are available from the office to those members who have not yet received a copy.

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The Editor is grateful to Dr Clive Handler for generously agreeing to take a photograph while attending the dinner with Sir John Holmes. Other members willing to bring cameras to Pilgrims' events and provide electronic photographs for use in the newsletter should please contact the office.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Wednesday 5 January, 7.15 for 7.45

Dinner with

Air Chief Marshal Sir Jock Stirrup GCB AFC, former Chief of the Defence Staff
Strategy in the Second Decade

Dinner will take place in the newly refurbished Abraham Lincoln Room at the Savoy, London WC2R 0EU, now open after a three-year restoration programme.

Wednesday 2 February, 6.30 pm

Reflections lecture

James Wolfensohn, President of the World Bank Group 1995-2005

The lecture will take place at the Hall of the Honourable Society of the Inner Temple, to be followed by a reception.

Thursday 3 March, 12.15 for 12.45 pm

Luncheon with Sir Winfried Bischoff, Chairman of Lloyds Banking Group PLC

Banking after the Financial Crisis
Savile Club, 69 Brook Street, London W1K 4ER.

Wednesday 4 May, 6.30-8.30 pm

Reception at the House of Lords.

Monday 26 September from 5.30

Annual Meeting and Sir Harry Brittain Memorial Lecture

Embassy of the United States, Grosvenor Square.

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

(Elected September 2010)

Marco Baccanello
Mrs Ashley Berry
Mrs Alison Boreham
Martin de Heaver
Raoul Fraser
Rex Harrington TD
David Howard
Dr James Hudson
Sir Roger Jackling KCB CBE
Sir Ronald McIntosh, KCB
Sir Bryan Nicholson GBE
The Hon Lady Ramsbotham
Richard Reddaway
Edward Shipton
Ms Holly Smith
Nigel Wheeler JP

Membership application forms are available from the office.

THANKSGIVING LUNCH

The Very Reverend Dr John Hall, Dean of Westminster, was our guest speaker at a Thanksgiving Luncheon held at the Savile Club in Brook Street. The chef at the Savile Club provided us with festive food: butternut squash soup, roast goose and pecan pie.



The Very Reverend Dr John Hall, Dean of Westminster

The Dean of Westminster is responsible to the Sovereign alone since the Abbey is a Royal Peculiar. He oversees the spiritual life of the Abbey and gives leadership to the Abbey community which includes 200 staff and 400 volunteers. John Hall, who was appointed in 2006 and is the 38th Dean of Westminster, has already made a strong and favourable impression in this role.

The Dean stressed the strong links that the Abbey has with both the Commonwealth and the United States, mentioning especially the memorial to Franklin Delano Roosevelt and the Congressional Medal of Honour over the Tomb on the Unknown Warrior. He spoke of a visit he had made to New York City the previous year and of another visit to be made in June 2011.

The Dean talked about the plans he had for encouraging more visitors to the Abbey by displaying many of its ancient artefacts and developing an education centre, and emphasised that the Abbey symbolises the links between this country and so many parts of the world. On his recent State Visit, Pope Benedict paid homage at the shrine of Edward the Confessor, the founder of the Abbey, and the Dean stressed the growing friendship between the Anglican and Roman Catholic churches.

Along with so many people the Dean was looking forward to the wedding of Prince William and Catherine Middleton at the Abbey on 29 April 2011. The Dean concluded by affirming that we are all Pilgrims through life.

Chairman of the Pilgrims Ronald Freeman thanked the Dean for his warm words and presented him with the centennial history (but not the Pilgrims' tie!).

U.S. PILGRIMS' NEWS

On Tuesday, 16 November, the Pilgrims of the US were privileged to hear the Honorable Ban Ki-moon, Secretary-General of the United Nations, speak to a very large group at the River Club.



The Honorable Ban Ki-moon, accepts the Pilgrims' certificate of appreciation from President Miner H. Warner (right) and James D. Zirin.

At the time of his election as eighth Secretary-General of the United Nations, Mr Ban was the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade for the Republic of Korea. He has long-standing ties with the United Nations, dating back to 1975, when he worked for the Foreign Ministry's United Nations Division. He later became First Secretary at the Republic of Korea's Permanent Mission.

Between 2001 and 2002, as Chef de Cabinet during the Republic of Korea's Presidency of the General Assembly, he facilitated adoption of the first resolution of the session, condemning the terrorist attacks of 11 September, and undertook a number of initiatives aimed at strengthening the Assembly's functioning, helping a session that started out in crisis into one in which a number of important reforms were enacted.

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