



DOUGLAS HURD CALLS FOR AMERICAN LEADERSHIP IN THE REFORM AND REPAIR OF WORLD INSTITUTIONS

The 2011 Annual Meeting was held in the US Embassy on 26 September, followed by the 18th Sir Harry Brittain Memorial Lecture delivered by Lord Hurd of Westwell. Ambassador Louis Susman paid tribute to Lord Hurd's achievements as a diplomat, politician and statesman and his skills as a writer of novels and historical biographies. The Ambassador congratulated the Pilgrims on being the principal custodians of the Special Relationship, thereby assisting him in his job.



Ambassador Louis B Susman and Lord Hurd of Westwell

Lord Hurd highlighted the United States' initial involvement in world affairs at the time of the Treaty of Versailles and the formation of the League of

Nations. He had been mistaken in his belief that the Americans would assume leadership in the newly-changed modern world after the collapse of the communist regimes in Russia and Eastern Europe in 1989. He drew attention to the need to repair and reform the United Nations, and felt there should be specialised agencies to deal with climate change and a number of the other current world problems.

Lord Hurd had spent the previous weekend at the British Embassy in Rome, through whose garden runs the 2,000 year old Aurelian Aqueduct. The poor state of the aqueduct could be compared with the current state of world institutions.

Lord Hurd saw the United States' role in the Iraq War of 1990-91 as a textbook example of how to deal with a rogue state under a rogue leader, and how the Anglo-US relationship should work. He contrasted this with the Suez Crisis of 1956 when the relationship broke down temporarily and the Bosnian crisis of the 1990s when the relationship came under strain.

Despite the rise of China, with a recorded civilisation of over 5,000 years and set to be the world's richest nation by 2020, Lord Hurd argued strongly for reconstitution and reform of the key world institutions, with the USA in the main leadership role. He remained convinced that the USA, aided by its principal European allies, Britain, France and Germany, could fulfil this role.

Pilgrims' President Admiral Lord Boyce offered Lord Hurd a very warm vote of thanks.



Admiral Lord Boyce, Ronald M Freeman, Sir Peter Bottomley MP and Ian Barlow at the 2011 Annual Meeting

2011 YEAR END REVIEW

Qui tacet consentit

As the first full year of our responsibility for The Pilgrims Society ends, your reaction to a review of where we are seems timely and appropriate, against the backdrop of the Pilgrims more than one hundred year old Rules.

The object of the Society shall be the promotion of Anglo-American good fellowship – Rule II of the Rules of The Pilgrims Society.

The translation of this mandate into reality, as The Pilgrims Society is now configured, has three interdependent operational dimensions: Programme, Finance and Membership. We also believe that *good fellowship* implies good, two-way communication between Pilgrims and those of us responsible for the conduct of the Society. Now at year end and always, we invite your comments, suggestions, criticism and applause on any and all details of each of these three operating dimensions. Under Roman Law, a traditional rule was *Qui tacet consentit*. We do not share the Roman lawmakers' decision to impose arbitrary meaning on silence which is necessarily ambiguous. You can reach us by email or post via the Pilgrims' office – see p.8.

Programme

The Rules offer no guidance on the nature or content of our programme of events. For this, we use our own judgment.

Since the summer newsletter, varying groups of Pilgrims members have enjoyed a variety of events, as described in the pages of this newsletter. Our current schedule of forthcoming events appears on p.7.

Our Programme Committee chairman, Peter Bottomley, and our indefatigable Executive Secretary, Tessa Wells, welcome suggestions and comments. Our programme of events is one of the two major benefits offered by our Society. For the other, keep reading. (Hint: it appears under *Membership*.)

This year's events have been held in central London locations. We keep event duration reasonably short with a minimum time for opening and closing and a focus on a good meal and an interesting speaker. We have varied from past practice only in varying the identity of those charged with the introduction, saying grace and thanking our speaker.

Attendance has been consistent with prior years' events. No trend is visible from the data, suggesting that at least a subset of Pilgrims found the current year's programme as congenial as that of prior years. But, like silence, the non-attendance of Pilgrims is ambiguous. We always invite your suggestions and comments on all aspects of the programme.

Finances

The Honorary Treasurer shall at each annual meeting render a statement of the accounts which shall have been duly audited – Rule XII.

Our Honorary Treasurer, Ian Barlow, has kindly agreed to serve another term in this important function and we thank him for his service, past and future.

The price of events, carefully monitored by Ian Barlow, combined with the Pilgrims' recently increased dues of £40 per annum, have generated revenues which just cover our administrative expenses and keep the Pilgrims debt-free with a small cash cushion – no small achievement in these debt-plagued times. We keep our overheads as low as possible and are greatly assisted in this by not having a physical facility to maintain and by Ian Barlow's rigorous oversight of our financial health. The central London venues for our events charge us a rising but vigorously negotiated price for the non-lavish catering we request.

Again, we invite your feedback on the “standard of living” we have embraced.

Membership

The Society shall be composed of members of British and American nationality prominent in public or social life, science, art or literature – Rule V.

Prominence occupies a position in semantics between the subjective and the ineffable, eg a variation on Pope's *All looks yellow to the jaundiced eye* and US Supreme Court Justice Potter Stewart's non-definition of pornography, *I know it when I see it*. The Rules are silent as to its meaning and also silent as to whether *prominence* is past, present or future. For our part, we find the company of our fellow Pilgrims agreeable, interesting and often stimulating. The Pilgrims we have had the opportunity to meet and speak with at length have invariably represented a broad spectrum of experience, interests and activities.

Therefore, we believe we are faithful to the Rules as we are currently constituted. As Robert Alston takes the chair of the Membership Committee we continue to seek new members consistent with Rule V, as well as members younger than our present average and also female members in their own right. We seek to do so with an application procedure more efficient and convenient than our current practice and will report to you on progress in the application process. Most importantly, as ever, we invite current members' suggestions of new applicants who qualify under Rule V. You know best who we will find both prominent and congenial.

As we opened with a Latin tag, we do so in closing: *Quis custodiet ipsos custodes?* In this case, the question mark belongs with Juvenal's quotation. We need your feedback, both for our guidance and for your benefit. Do let us hear from you.



Admiral Lord Boyce
President



Mr Ronald Freeman
Chairman, Executive Committee

ELECTIONS TO THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, SEPTEMBER 2011



Sir John Holmes GCVO KBE CMG, who joined the Pilgrims in 2011, has been Director of the Ditchley Foundation since 2010. He was Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency

Relief Coordinator at the United Nations, New York 2007-10 following a distinguished career in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, when he served as Ambassador in Paris 2001-07 and Lisbon 1999-2001.



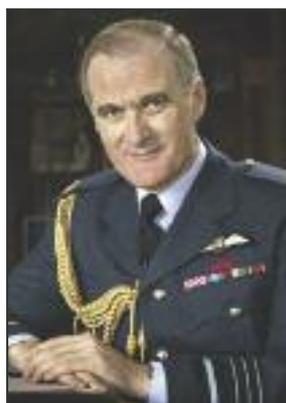
Lady Judge (Barbara) CBE, who has been a member since 1993, is Chairman of the UK Pension Protection Fund and has enjoyed a successful international career as a senior executive, chairman and non-

executive director in both the private and public sectors. She was Chairman of the Board of the UK Atomic Energy Authority 2004-10.



Alastair Macpherson of Pitmain, a member since 2005, was a partner in Ashurst Morris Crisp solicitors 1974-2003. He is currently Chairman of Boodle's and President of the Highland Society of

London. He served on the Transatlantic Council of BritishAmerican Business Inc 2001-02 and was a member of the Council of the National Trust for Scotland 2004-07.



Air Chief Marshal Lord Stirrup GCB AFC, who has been a member since 2004, was appointed Assistant Chief of the Air Staff in 1998 and Deputy Commander-in-Chief Strike Command and Commander of NATO's Combined Air Operations Centre 9 and Director of

the European Air Group in 2000. He became Chief of the Air Staff in 2003 and was Chief of the Defence Staff 2006-10.

Lady Judge and Lord Stirrup join the Membership Committee and Mr Macpherson of Pitmain joins the Finance Committee.

MARTIN BELL'S REFLECTIONS ON PRESENT-DAY CONFLICTS

During his time as a distinguished foreign correspondent for over thirty years, Martin Bell covered eleven conflicts and reported from eighty countries, including war zones in Vietnam, the Middle East, Nigeria, Angola and Northern Ireland. He was twice awarded the Royal Television Society's Reporter of the Year Award and has written several books, including a book of poetry, *For Whom the Bell Tolls*. He sat as an anti-sleaze independent MP for Tatton from 1997 to 2001, having defeated the Tory MP Neil Hamilton.



We were privileged that Martin Bell was the guest speaker at a dinner at the Savile Club on 11 October. After an introduction by Pilgrims' President, Admiral Lord Boyce, Martin Bell spoke about the Parliamentary expenses scandal and his time as BBC Washington correspondent during the Thatcher/Reagan years of the 1980s. He referred to the Bosnian conflict in which, of a total population of four million, 98,000 people died and two and a half million were displaced.

Afghanistan as a conflict zone was all too familiar to Britain. We had fought several wars there in the 19th century and Martin Bell quoted Field Marshal Sir Neville Bowles Chamberlain, a subaltern in the first Afghan war, who wrote home in 1878:

"Anyone who knows the native mind, whether Hindu or Mohammadan, must be alive to the fact that with all our desire to do justly and love mercy,

the great majority of the people would be glad to see us depart and would rejoice for a return to the state of things that we pride ourselves at having delivered them from."

Martin Bell was of the opinion that we should not repeat history and make the same mistakes with the current Afghanistan conflict.

As a former war correspondent and current UNICEF Ambassador, Martin Bell believed that intervention in a country required certain basic tests: legality under the UN Charter, sufficient support on the home front and the full resource base to do the job. From *For Who the Bell Tolls*:

*They rhyme, they scan, and you can understand
Iraq, Afghanistan, now Libya too
I learned one lesson and I learned it well
Going to war's the easy thing to do
But getting out of it is hard as hell.*

When Martin Bell became an MP in 1997, it was significant that no-one on the Government benches and a very few on the Opposition benches had any real combat experience. He praised the contribution of the British military but stressed that winning hearts and minds was at least as important as winning a military battle:

*The operation's winning minds and hearts
Or so we're told until the shooting starts
And then the hovering Apaches smother the
Taliban or not with cannon fire
And bombs and shells and missiles of all kinds
Under the euphemism of air cover.
Collateral damage, once it was called spillage
Disintegrates another Afghan village
The casualties, both theirs and ours, rise higher
And all it is ever doing for hearts and minds
Is blowing them apart from one another*

At question time Martin Bell showed that he was far more than a *Battlefield Thug* by dealing skilfully with the Anglo-French intervention in Libya, the similarities between Vietnam and Afghanistan, the need for more independent-minded MPs, the role of the war correspondent and the killing of Osama Bin Laden.

Martin Bell was thanked very warmly by Sir Peter Bottomley, Chairman of the Programme Committee.

ANDREW MARR LAUDS HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN

Andrew Marr has had an outstanding career as a writer, broadcaster and political commentator. The author of several important books, he is highly visible on our television screens every week presenting *The Andrew Marr Show*, BBC One's agenda-setting interview programme. He has been chosen by the BBC to present flagship programmes for Her Majesty The Queen's Diamond Jubilee Year in 2012. His latest book, *The Diamond Queen – Elizabeth II and Her People*, pays tribute to a remarkable monarch, the oldest to sit on the British throne, who is set in September 2015 to break Queen Victoria's record as the longest-reigning sovereign.



At a luncheon held at St Stephen's Club on 15 November, Andrew Marr was introduced by Executive Committee member, Lord Janvrin. After some introductory references to his early years in journalism, Mr Marr observed that the British tend to take the monarchy for granted. Arguments against it always seem to come from the Republican side, despite the obvious fact that without a monarchy the country would be landed with a series of unsuccessful politicians filling the role of President. The Queen is a repository of knowledge, having met a multitude of the world leaders over the past sixty years and having had twelve Prime Ministers, from Churchill to Cameron, serve under Her.

Despite all the social advances made during The Queen's reign, Andrew Marr declared that we were still not a meritocratic society and that there was less social mobility than previously. The Queen fulfils a vital role in going around and meeting ordinary people who are the backbone of our society. Her Majesty does not have a shred of ego, and takes Her role with the utmost seriousness without believing that She is there by divine right.

She can represent us all in a way that an elected President never could. The Queen has also played a vital role in modernising the monarchy and making it fit for its purpose in the twenty-first century, in the same way that her grandfather King George V did in the twentieth century, starting with the name-change of dynasty from Hanover to Windsor in 1917. We all owe Her Majesty an enormous debt for Her exemplary service to the state and Her devotion to duty.

Following questions, Andrew Marr was thanked warmly by Executive Committee member, Robert Alston.

VISIT TO KING'S COLLEGE LONDON MAUGHAN LIBRARY

We are most grateful to fellow-Pilgrim, Professor Sir Richard Trainor, Principal of King's College London, and to his staff at the Maughan Library, for making possible a fascinating and informative visit to the Grade 2* listed building in Chancery Lane on 13 September. Formerly the Public Records Office, designed in 1847 by James Pennethorne, it was the first purpose-built home for the nation's records. The architect placed special emphasis on the use of natural light and, as a consequence of the fire that had destroyed the old Houses of Parliament, fire doors and other precautions were installed.



Members toured key parts of the Library including the Foyle Special Collections Library, with books signed by Benjamin Franklin and T S Eliot. *To Make A Good One Better; Translating The Bible* was the special exhibition in the former Rolls Chapel, marking the 400th anniversary of the publication of the King James Bible. It contained what is believed to be the only surviving copy of the first complete book of the Bible to be printed on North American soil.

CHRISTOPHER LOCKWOOD'S ASSESSMENT OF AMERICA'S PROSPECTS IN THE NEW AGE OF AUSTERITY

The Athenaeum was the venue for a most convivial Pilgrims' Thanksgiving Day luncheon on 24 November at which the guest speaker was Christopher Lockwood, US Editor of *The Economist*.



After an introduction by Executive Committee Member Sir Peter Bottomley, Christopher Lockwood began by examining the historical significance of the

Thanksgiving Day celebration, taking in the Mayflower Pilgrims and the Indian tribes of Massachusetts, Abraham Lincoln and the Civil War, as well as Franklin Roosevelt and the New Deal. America had always been good at adapting to changing circumstances and to difficult situations.

The US was currently \$15 trillion in debt, increasing by \$1.2 trillion a year. The US was confronted with the perennial dilemma of having to take care of a wide range of people and at the same time levy low taxes. The US Government was currently raising 15% of GDP but spending about 25% of GDP, about which Democrats and Republicans were engaged in continual conflict.

When it came to the American political and electoral system, money was the key factor. Politicians spent most of their time campaigning and fund-raising, with an average of \$10 million needed for a successful Senate campaign. He believed that the Primary system had encouraged polarisation. Relatively few seats in both Houses changed hands in US Elections, with Primary voters having great influence on the outcome. The filibuster was still used in the Senate as a means of blocking or preventing legislation. Medium wages had been stagnant for almost three decades and any economic growth in this period was very much to the benefit of the highly-paid and very wealthy.

Health insurance and education costs were increasing steadily. As in the UK, young people leaving college in the US were burdened with heavy debts. It was alarming to recognise that half the children in the US reach the age of eighteen with divorce in the family. The unemployment rate of 9% was in reality about double this if the number of people in part-time employment was taken into account. Moreover, a recent poll showed that 75% of Americans thought that the country was on the wrong track.

Mr Lockwood concluded by looking at the factors which worked in favour of the United States – a population of over 300 million which was increasing without the age problem besetting other countries; dynamism within the fifty individual States of the Union and technological factors working in America's favour. The US currently dominated industries that will dominate the 21st Century, above all software and all other areas of scientific research. Despite the current era of austerity, America still had a very bright future provided it could continue to re-invent itself and use its vast technological resources to the best effect.

Christopher Lockwood was thanked warmly by Executive Committee member, David Skidmore, and presented with the customary Pilgrims' tie and official history by Pilgrims' Chairman Ronald Freeman.

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS (Elected September 2010)

Douglas Black

Mrs Yvonne Cannell

Mrs Elizabeth Holmes

Robert F Mabon Jr

Professor Anthony Mellows OBE TD

Richard Meredith

General Sir Michael Rose
KCB CBE DSO QGM DL

Mrs Jean Tammenoms Bakker

Andrew Watt

*Membership application forms are
available from the office*

FORWARD PROGRAMME

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

Sir Peter Westmacott KCMG LVO

Carlton Club, 69 St James's Street, SW1A 1PJ

Black tie

Thursday 21 June, 6.30 pm

**Special dinner at the Tower of London with
Sir Roy Strong**

To be followed by the Ceremony of the Keys
Black tie

**Wednesday 11 July and Thursday 17 July
Visits to Strawberry Hill House
and Marble Hill House**

9.00 am departure from central London

Monday 1 October

**Annual Meeting and Sir Harry Brittain
Memorial Lecture**

American Embassy, Grosvenor Square

NEWS FROM THE PILGRIMS OF THE UNITED STATES

Wall Street Journal columnist, Peggy Noonan, spoke to the Pilgrims of the United States on 20 September at the Racquet & Tennis Club.



*Ms Peggy Noonan, President Miner H Warner
and James D Zirin*

Ms Noonan's essays have appeared in *Forbes*, *Time*, *Newsweek*, *The Washington Post*, and *The New York Times*, to name a few. She was nominated for Emmy Awards for the writing of a post-9/11 television special, and for her television drama *The West Wing*. She is the best-selling author of eight books on American politics, history and culture. Her first book, *What I Saw at the Revolution*, was called, by *Time* magazine, "a love letter to the American political process".

Ms Noonan is a member of the board of the Manhattan Institute. From 1984 to 1986 she was Special Assistant to US President Ronald Reagan, and in 1988 she was chief speech writer for George Bush when he ran for the Presidency.

Owing to his busy overseas schedule, John Studzinski is no longer available on 7 February. We are delighted that Sir Peter Westmacott will be speaking at dinner that evening instead.

Having served as Ambassador in Paris since 2007, Sir Peter replaces Sir Nigel Sheinwald as Ambassador in Washington in January 2012.

IN MEMORIAM

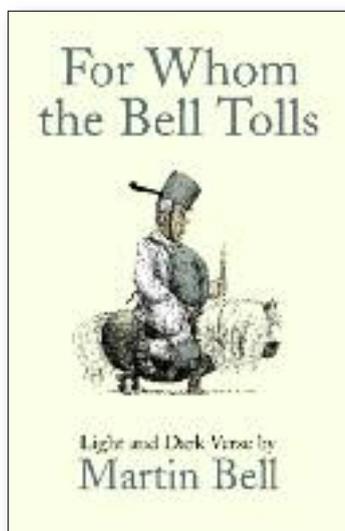
Major General Giles H Mills CB CVO OBE
Harold H Sebag-Montefiore

PILGRIMS' 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.

To save postage and mailing costs, please confirm by email that you would be happy to receive mailings electronically.

If you have received a paper copy of this newsletter and would prefer to download the newsletter or read it on-line, please contact the office.

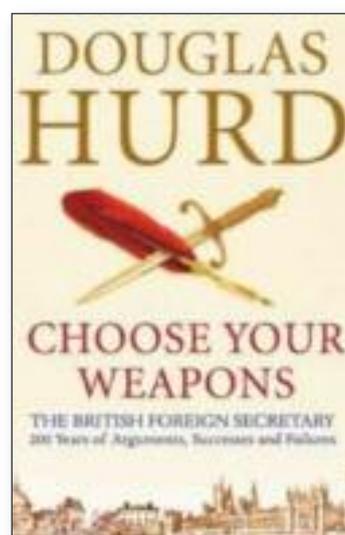
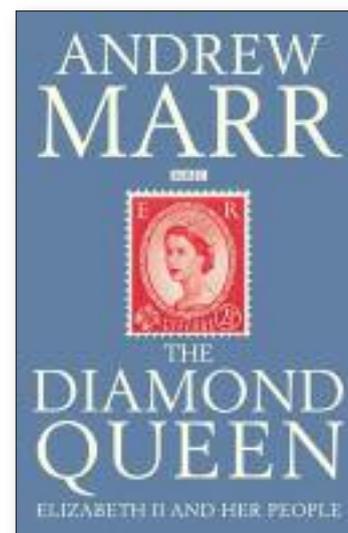


Martin Bell OBE has been many things – a war reporter, an independent MP and UNICEF ambassador. But, as his new book reveals, he's also a talented poet. This light and dark collection of poetry is a funny, honest and often moving account of Martin's life and experiences.

Topical, timely and with Bell's irrepressible voice, *For Whom The Bell Tolls* is the perfect poetry companion from the man convinced that 'life begins at three score years and ten.'

Sir Peter Bottomley MP
Chairman of the Programme Committee

"Andrew Marr's absorbing new book leaves no doubt about the pivotal role played by The Queen herself ... As a leading broadcaster, Marr has been able to watch The Queen at first hand, and the more he has seen of Her the more impressed he has become. As you would expect, he is particularly acute on the political aspects of constitutional monarchy, but he also writes perceptively about individual members of the Royal Family, notably Prince Philip". (*Mail on Sunday*)



"Douglas Hurd has done the impossible ... he has produced a page-turning book about the history of British foreign policy." (Denis MacShane, *The Independent*)

"Hurd elegantly profiles eleven British Foreign Secretaries ... Written with a lightness of touch despite its serious message, one only hopes David Miliband buys a copy." (*GQ*)

"Highly readable ... I enjoyed *Choose Your Weapons* immensely, particularly the magnificently colourful account of the Bevin and Eden years ... it is also a timely book ... Any future Foreign Secretary would be well advised to read this engrossing book on their first day in office." (Jack Straw, *The Observer*)

"One of the great achievements of this thoughtful and elegant book is to emphasise the thread of continuity running through British foreign policy from the age of Napoleon to the cold war ... a book of great authority and insight." (Dominic Sandbrook, *The Sunday Times*)

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