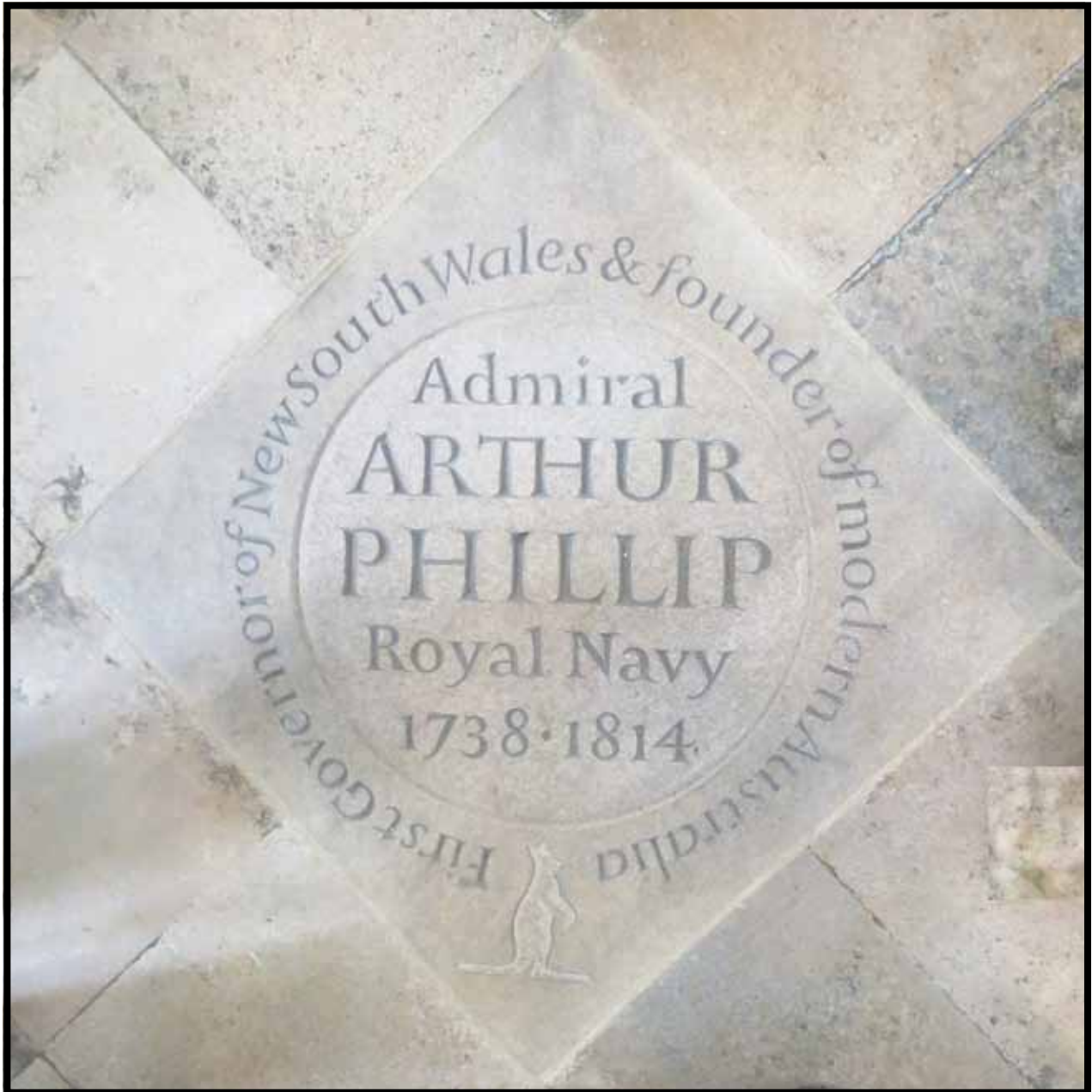




# Peerless Pilgrimage



Journal of a trip to Great Britain mainly to attend the  
dedication of memorials in Westminster Abbey, Bath  
and the New Forest on the  
200th anniversary of the death of Admiral Arthur Phillip



## CONTENTS

<b>INTRODUCTION</b>	
<b>WESTMINSTER ABBEY MEMORIAL</b>	
The Welcome	3
Unveiling in the Abbey	4
Aftermath in the Abbey Gardens	6
<b>FESTIVITIES IN BATH</b>	
Arrival and Welcomes	7
St Nicholas' Church Bathampton	8
Civic Reception	12
Unveiling the Admiral Arthur Phillip Memorial	12
19 Bennett Street, Phillip's Home	16
Number 1 Royal Crescent	16
Victorian Art Gallery and THAT Portrait	16
The Admiral Arthur Phillip Dinner	17
What else in Bath?	17
<b>FESTIVITIES IN LYNTHURST AND LYMINGTON</b>	
In Lynthurst	19
In Boldre near Lynthurst	23
At Lymington	24
<b>OTHER SITES OF FF SIGNIFICANCE VISITED</b>	
Bread Street & St Mary-le-Bow Church in London	25
In Plymouth	27
In and around the Solent	29
The Motherbank	29
In Portsmouth	30
The Bonds of Friendship Precinct	30
Porchester Castle and Dickens' Birthplace	32
Royal Marines Museum	32
Portsmouth Historic Dockyard	32
<b>FIRST FLEETER GRAVESITES</b>	
George Worgan, Liskeard	34
John White, Broadwater, Worthing, London	34
John Hunter, St John-at-Hackney, London	34
Philip Gidley King, St Nicholas', Tooting, London	35
Henry Lidgbird Ball, St Peter's, Petersham	36
<b>MATTHEW FLINDERS BICENTENARY STATUE</b>	
Introducing the Sculpture	37
The Preliminary Event	38
Unveiling the Statue	39
<b>GENERAL TOURING IN ENGLAND</b>	42
<b>THEN BACK IN SYDNEY</b>	43
<b>APPENDICES</b>	
1. Phillip in Bath	44
2. Speech by HRH Prince William, Duke of Cambridge	46

# PEERLESS PILGRIMAGE

**The Dedication of a Memorial to Admiral Arthur Phillip RN in Westminster Abbey, the unveiling of the Admiral Phillip Memorial outside the Assembly Rooms in Bath, both celebrating the bicentenary of his death: together with a tour of the New Forest and other sites within England associated with Admiral Phillip or of First Fleet significance, culminating in the Unveiling of a Memorial Statue of Matthew Flinders now erected in Euston Station, London, also recognising the bicentenary of his death.**

*by Ron Withington*

## INTRODUCTION

It is an irksome reality for members of the Fellowship that despite our dedicated efforts (notably strong in recent months) that the prodigious contribution of Governor Arthur Phillip to the founding of our nation is scarcely recognised by our governments and educationalists and therefore neglected by the general population of Australia.

Thus with the bicentenary of his death approaching it has been left to the people of England, specifically the UK arm of the Britain-Australia Society to spearhead a series of high profile celebratory events.

Foremost among these is the establishment of an enduring legacy in the form of the Admiral Phillip Scholarships and Grants. The scholarships will celebrate the values of rule of law, humanity, maritime studies, languages and foreign relations, all of which were defining characteristics of Governor Phillip. The size of the endowment will determine the amount which can be made available on an annual basis by the trustees to fund master's study or equivalent for UK students in an Australian University, and Australian students for master's study or equivalent at a university in the UK. The aim is that Arthur Phillip scholars, demonstrating a commitment to his civic ideals will carry them forward in their lives, thereby strengthening the UK-Australia bond on the future.

As a profound adjunct to this initiative, the Society obtained the consent of the Dean and Chapter of Westminster Abbey to have a memorial to Arthur Phillip carved from Sydney sandstone and embedded in the floor of the nave of the Abbey. It was dedicated in a major service on 9 July 2014.

Not content with this magnificent gesture the Society, with the support of the community of Bath commissioned an informative tribute sculpture in the garden of the Assembly Rooms in Bath. This was unveiled on 12 July 2014.

Then on 14 July the Society assisted in a range of celebratory activities at Lyndhurst in the New Forest and at Lymington, both of which towns had known Phillip as a resident.

The Fellowship of First Fleeters, led by the spirited negotiations of Vice-President Denis Smith and the President of the Arthur Phillip Chapter, Gillian Doyle, became an important participant in these three key festivities. A number of members of the Fellowship travelled to Britain specifically to be present and the role of 'FFF foreign correspondent' was given to the writer, Ron Withington.

Denis and Ron augmented the experience with an extended pilgrimage to sites of First Fleet significance on along the south coast of England and within London. They culminated their visit by attending the unveiling of a new statue to Captain Matthew Flinders at Australia House on 18 July 2014, in memory that he too died in that year.

## WESTMINSTER ABBEY MEMORIAL

### The Welcome

Celebrations began with a welcome reception on 8 July in Australia House, hosted by the recently-appointed The Honourable Alexander Downer AC, High Commissioner of Australia to the Court of St James. The great and the good, and many others besides, came to pay tribute to Phillip. Our own much-loved Governor was there, and the Governor of Victoria. So were the Attorneys General and High Commissioners of both countries. Lord May, the Australian physicist who became President of the Royal Society and Chief Scientist to the British Government was there. So was Baroness Gardiner of Parkes, the only Australian woman in the House of Lords – she took her title from 'Parkes' in the central west of New South Wales. Lord Carrington, who is about the same age as the Duke of Edinburgh, also paid his respects to Phillip. His offices have included High Commissioner in Canberra in the 1950s and he related how he used to ride his horse to the office, across the site of the new Parliament House.

The invitation was "for Sherry" but wines were in abundance with no soft drink and a poverty of finger food, possibly signifying the current budget restraints on the home front. The High Commissioner gave the large gathering a warm greeting, and the Governor of New South Wales, Professor The Honourable Dame Marie Bashir AD CVO, in looking forward to the ceremony of the morrow, paid the first of her many tributes to her illustrious predecessor. The Chairman of the Britain-Australia Society Education Trust, Sir Christopher Benson, (*pictured above*) outlined the aims and objectives of the Trust, not omitting to warn those present good humouredly that he would be seeking further very tangible financial support.



*At the reception in Australia House: Glenda Miskelly, Paul Miskelly, Robyn Ford, Petrea Doyle, Gillian Doyle, Ruth Ellis, Suzanne Cattell and Denis Smith*



From the Fellowship the attendees were Suzanne Cattell, Gillian Doyle, Petrea Doyle, Ruth Ellis, Margaret Hogge, Denise Jalbrit, Meg Murphy, Julia Wallace Walker, Robyn Ford, Glenda Miskelly, Paul Miskelly, Denis Smith and Ron Withington. Fae McGregor arrived in a lightning day trip from Scotland for the service. Accompanying these 14 folk there were 62 Britain-Australia representatives and 113 from the Cook Society.

#### Unveiling in the Abbey

The Fellowship had arranged that Denis and Gillian should place a bouquet of flowers at the memorial stone during the service of dedication. Accordingly on the morning of 9 July they arrived early for a rehearsal through the Great West Door of the Abbey, rather curiously managing to bypass security officers who were still attempting to establish what was happening. It was odd to find that the Precentor was putting not only our two folk through their paces and places, but also checking the Governor, the High Commissioner and most other participants for voice, positioning and volume. Denis and Gillian were seated directly beside the stone and I managed to seize the unallocated chair beside them.



*Denis and Gillian with the FFF bouquet at rehearsal.*

Speaker of the House of Commons and the Prime Minister. All were received by the Dean of Westminster, the Very Reverend Dr John Hall.

The Westminster Special Service Choir led the congregation in the John Marriot (1780-1825) hymn, *Thou whose almighty word, chaos and darkness heard* and the Dean gave the Bidding. Our Governor delivered a reflection on the life and work of Arthur Phillip in her familiar relaxed and intimate style. Vice Admiral David Steel, Second Sea Lord, Royal Navy, read appropriately from Isaiah 60: 1-11—*Lift up thine eyes all about, and see: all they gather themselves together: they come to thee: thy sons shall come from afar; and thy daughters shall be nursed at thy side. Then thou shalt see, and flow together; and thine heart shall fear and be enlarged: because the abundance of the sea shall be converted unto thee.* The High Commissioner sustained the sea-born image in reading just as relevantly from Matthew 8: 23-27, *But the men marvelled, saying, What manner of man is this, that even the winds and the sea obey him?*

In the actual act of dedication the Chairman of the Trust asked the Dean to receive into safe custody of the Dean and Chapter the memorial in honour of Admiral Arthur Phillip and the Dean replied:

*To the greater glory of God, and in thankful memory of Arthur Phillip, and of all that he achieved and contributed to Australia and to the United Kingdom, I dedicate this memorial, in the name of the Father, and of the son, and of the Holy Spirit.*

At this point the Duke of Edinburgh, who is in fact Patron of the Britain-Australia Society, moved in sprightly fashion to lay a wreath predominantly of red roses beside the stone. But he was afterwards heard to say that as the years go by the floor gets lower! Denis and Gillian then jointly presented the Fellowship wreath, a sumptuous arrangement of banksias and roses in Australian national colours.

Prayers were led by the Precentor; the Honourable George Brandis, Australian Attorney General and Minister for the Arts; the Right Honourable Dominic Grieve QC MP, Attorney General for England and Wales; the Reverend George Bush, Rector of St Mary-le-Bow Church and Chaplain of the Britain-Australia Society; and the Reverend Andrew Sempell, Rector of St James Church, King Street, Sydney.

The Dean, in his brief but perceptive address pointed out that the Phillip memorial was the latest of the 3301 graves and tributes within the Abbey. It was significantly sited in the centre



*The veiled stone at the rehearsal*



*The Nave before the dedication. The stone's barrier at left.*

The nave was full when at 11.00am His Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh arrived to a guard of honour provided by pupils of the Royal Hospital School, Holbrook, who were dressed in naval uniform. The official party contained our Governor, our High Commissioner, the Trust Chairman, the Lord Mayor of Westminster Locum Tenens, Her Majesty's Lord Lieutenant of Greater London and representatives of the Lord Speaker, the





*The Governor, the Dean and the High Commissioner at the lectern. And the official party in fine voice with the opening hymn.*



*HRH The Duke of Edinburgh about to place the floral wreath beside the stone. A photo famously infiltrated by Denis, Gillian and Ron Withington, obviously causing it to go viral!*



of the nave near the graves of David Livingstone and Thomas Cochrane, each of whom in their own way left a distinct mark on the 19th century. (Cochrane (1775-1860), 10th Earl of Dundonald, was a Scottish naval flag officer of the Royal Navy, a radical politician and a captain of the Napoleonic Wars, and like Phillip, ultimately an Admiral of the Blue. Phillip may even have known him). Not far from the new memorial are the grave and memorial to Isaac Newton whose influence on the 17th and 18th centuries and ever since has been profound. The design of the Phillip sandstone memorial is simple, nestling comfortably within the stone matrix of the surrounding pavement. The inscription: *Admiral Arthur Phillip, Royal Navy 1738-1814 First Governor of New South Wales and founder of modern Australia* is embellished only by a small image of a kangaroo.



*The two official floral tributes.*

### **Aftermath in the Abbey Gardens**

The Duke of Edinburgh had departed, but the official party, church dignitaries and invited guests were hosted by the Dean to refreshments of champagne, wine, soft drink and finger food in the Abbey Gardens. The First Fleet contingent, identical to



*Maureen and Brian Hall of the Britain-Australia Society, Portsmouth, Margaret Hogge, Robyn Ford and Gillian Doyle in Westminster Garden.*

*The official tributes, plus Glenda's from Southern Highlands Chapter*

In essence the location of the memorial stone is simply out of this world. Every major and minor procession in the Abbey must pass over it, even that of a royal coronation!

Following the singing of both National Anthems, the dignitaries processed to the west end of the Abbey to a movement of Sonata in G Op 28 by English composer Edward Elgar.

Then the bells of Abbey Church rang out.



*The Australian Flag flying above Westminster Abbey*



*Robyn Ford and Petrea Doyle with their celebratory champagne*





*The Governor and Sir Nicholas, in company with Australian and Somerset delegates, and a marquee that was far too glarey for this photographer.*

the day before, was becoming accustomed to the cocktail party scene and members were busy in circulation. Glenda Miskelly took the opportunity to place a floral offering beside the stone on behalf of her Southern Highlands Chapter.

The weather was sunny and mild and the Australian flag flew from the top of the Cathedral. Thank you speeches were made with particular focus on the members of the Britain-Australia Society Organising Committee, including Pauline Lyle-Smith, who had brought the auspicious event to such an inspiring fruition.

## **FESTIVITIES IN BATH**

### **Arrival and Welcomes**

At 11.30am on Friday 11 July the First Fleet contingent, accompanied by local and overseas delegates most of whom had been at the Abbey dedication, caught a bus from Mercure Bloomsbury Hotel in London for the drive to Bath. We were scheduled to arrive in Bath at 3.00pm, but following a comfort-coffee stop at a Services wayside the bus refused to start. A backup vehicle got us to the Hilton Bath City Hotel barely in time for the first function, a cocktail reception by the West Country Branch of the Britain-Australia Society in the Brunswick Room of the Guildhall.

The Guildhall is Grade 1 Listed Building, a stunning Georgian structure housing the City's Council offices. It was built between 1775 and 1778 to a design by Thomas Warr Atwood. The façade has four Ionic columns and is surmounted by a figure of Justice. The Guildhall forms a continuous building with the Victorian Art Gallery. And on 11 July it flew the Australian Flag!



The reception was followed by a welcome by the Mayor of Bath, Councillor Cherry Beath and her consort Mr Richard Beath, in the presence of our Governor. For this event we convened seated in the Council Chamber of the Guildhall, rendering the occasion suitably dignified, but at the same time very busy and convivial.



*The Guildhall, Bath, the Australian Flag sharing air space with the Union Jack*





*The Guildhall Council Chamber with the delegates in session!*

### **St Nicholas' Church Bathampton**

At 10.30 am on Saturday 12 July the party boarded a bus for the next leg of the "pilgrimage", a short ride to St Nicholas' Church in Bathampton. Bathampton is a village 2 miles east of Bath on the south bank of the river Avon. It has a population of 1603. Plasticine was manufactured in there between 1900 and 1983 by a company founded by resident William Harbutt. As Denis and I later discovered this was a journey which could have been more serene and picturesque had we travelled half an hour upstream on the Avon River by the Pulteney open top boat.

The Parish Church of St Nicholas has 13th century origins with 15th century alterations and tower. In the mid 18th century Ralph Allen added Gothic components after he acquired Bathampton Manor by marriage in 1731. The building was further restored and the north aisle built in 1858 by Henry Goodridge and the chancel was restored in 1882 by C.E. Davis. Phillip was buried in the church after his death in 1814 and although it was unnoticed for many years, the grave was discovered in 1907 and the Government of New South Wales had it restored.

The side chapel of St Nicholas was redesigned and dedicated as the Australia Chapel on 26 January 1975. It contains memorials to the Allen family and to Admiral Arthur Phillip. The Phillip gravestone just inside the entry porch was turned from its original east-west orientation to north-south, so that the visitors are greeted by the inscription as they enter the church. Stained glass windows were installed showing the coats of arms of the federal government and the six Australian states. The floor is of Australian Wombeyan marble and all the woodwork of Australian blackbean timber. The kneelers were given by Tasmania. The wooden chairs were donated by many Australian cities and organisations, and the donor is noted on the back of each one. The Fellowship contributed funds to the enterprise.

The gravestone is highlighted by a beautiful carved wooden memorial screen which contains this inscription:

ARTHUR PHILLIP

1739-1814

Founder of Australia  
and First Governor of  
New South Wales

The Fellowship Plaque, installed in 1985, is fixed to the base of the screen. Its inscription, and that of the gravestone are given on pages 405 and 408 of the Fellowship's publication, *Dispatched Downunder*.

The ceremony at St Nicholas' was overseen by Mr Keith Newton, the new Chairman of the Britain-Australia West Country Branch which embraces the counties of Bristol, Cornwall, Devon, Dorset, Gloucestershire, Somerset and Wiltshire. Keith, an Australian, was a reluctant replacement for Richard Pavitt, the former chairman who although present, was unable through ill health to preside. Richard with his wife Kay, had been instrumental in organising these bicentenary Arthur Phillip celebrations, especially at Bath. Denis and I had the pleasure of being their guests for lunch at their home in the village of Martock two weeks earlier. Our Governor was not in attendance at Bathampton: grabbing a well-earned break she was seen taking a stroll around the town of Bath.

The occasional speaker was the Reverend Paul Burden who up until April 2014 was rector of St Nicholas' for more than a decade. Paul is now Director of Ministry and e-learning at STETS ordination course based in Sarum College, Salisbury. As a very articulate academic, with abundant local knowledge he had engaged the redoubtable Australian barrister, author and media man, Geoffrey Robertson, in a "hypothetical" over the latter's assertion that Arthur Phillip's body should be returned to Australia.

Paul Burden, updated his lecture previously given at St-Mary-le-Bow in London. It was the most remarkable tribute to Arthur Phillip that one could hear. I put it up alongside Michael Pembroke's 2013 book, *Arthur Phillip, Sailor, Mercenary, Governor, Spy* for insights and forthright clarity, especially in its dealing





*The Church Chancel and Altar*



*St Nicholas' Church, Bathampton, the Australian Flag flying from the tower.*



*The entry porch, a later addition, which meant that Phillip's gravestone was no longer at the threshold to the Church.*



*Glenda in conversation with Paul Burden.*

with the so-called retirement activities of Phillip after his return to England. **Accordingly I have appended the full text of Paul's lecture to this journal. You are urged to read it.** (Incidentally, Michael Pembroke was a delegate at all of the events, both in London and in Bath)

Following the lecture, Denis and Suzanne Cattell of the Arthur Phillip Chapter placed a wreath, again in our golden wattle colours, at the gravestone on behalf of the Fellowship. The gathering then had a good hour to roam the church and take a look at the occasional Phillip display in the rear alcove: as well as to explore the churchyard and proudly take a photo of the Australian flag flying steadily from the grey, groaning Gothic tower.



*Paul and Glenda Miskelly with Denis and Ron*





*The nave of the Church. The Australia Chapel is at right.*



*The gravestone with FFF floral offering.  
The card reads:*

IN MEMORY OF ADMIRAL ARTHUR PHILLIP RN  
An exceptional leader:  
Commander of the First Fleet  
Frist Governor of the Colony of New South Wales  
Founding Father of the Australian Nation  
  
Fellowship of First Fleeters (Australia)  
July 2014



*The Australia Chapel. Phillip tablets are on the wall at right.*



*The Arthur Phillip display at the rear of the nave.*



*The Gravestone. The 1985 FFF plaque is at the centre/foot of the timber railing.*



*Ruth Ellis of Albury-Wodonga District Chapter*





*Denis and Suzanne Cattell make the floral offering on behalf of the Fellowship.*

*The lady at left is Pauline Lyle-Smith.*

*Pauline is Past Chairman of the Cook Society and Deputy Chairman of the Britain-Australia Society Education Trust. She is a member of the Organising Committees for both the Arthur Phillip and the Matthew Flinders bicentenary celebrations in England in 2014.*



## Civic Reception

Following lunch at sundry pubs in Bath, the delegates were given a rather hasty tour of Bath City. Then at 3.00pm we gathered at the Great Octagon Room of the Bath Assembly Rooms in Bennett Street for a one-hour Civic Reception. This event was hosted by the Chairman of the Bath and Northeast Somerset Council, Councillor Martin Veal, a delightful man whom we had previously met over champagne at the Westminster gardens.

The Assembly Rooms are owned by the National Trust but are administered by the Council. The stunning Grade 1 listed rooms, dating from 1771 are adorned with the original Whitefriars crystal chandeliers and house portraits by Gainsborough, Ramsey and Hoare. Governor Phillip who lived in the same street would have visited on many occasions.

*Great Octagon Room, entry (right) and the interior reception (below)*



## Unveiling of the Admiral Arthur Phillip Memorial

At 4.00pm the dignitaries and delegates together with members of the public gathered at the garden outside the north east corner of the Assembly Rooms diagonally opposite Admiral Phillip's home for 8 years at 19 Bennett Street. The gravel-paved formal garden with encircling box hedges was an ideal setting. Within the garden was the sculpture we had come to unveil: the armillary sphere with a Bath limestone carved pedestal, commissioned by the Britain-Australia Society Education Trust and constructed by international sundial designer David Harber and renowned local sculptor Nigel Fenwick.



With Keith Newton (left) again presiding, a naval cadet corps in attendance and a loan bugler, and in the presence of our Governor and Sir Nicholas Shehadie, the Chairman of the Trust, Sir Christopher Benson DL FRICSC, with the assistance

of the Lord Lieutenant of Somerset, Lady Elizabeth Gass DCVO, removed the flag from the sculpture.

The Reverend George Bush, Chaplain of the Britain-Australia Society invoked the blessing.



*The Reverend George Bush leading the prayer of dedication*





*Richard and Kay Pavitt*



*Lady Elizabeth Gass, the Governor and Sir Christopher Benson*



General applause gave way to minor bewilderment, as the memorial, although telling so very much of Phillip's life through its inscriptions and features, is essentially quite complex.

A hand-rotatable internal globe shows the track of the eleven First Fleet ships and the dates and places of the ports of call. Inscribed on the horizon band is the inscription:

Captain, Governor and later Admiral Arthur Phillip. Born London 11th October 1738; died Bennett Street, Bath, 31st August 1814. Buried in St Nicholas Church, Bathampton. and Appointed Commander of the First Fleet and Governor-designate of New South Wales in 1788.

The base plate tells the story of Philip's achievements:

- From May 1787 to January 1788, Phillip led the First Fleet of 11 ships, carrying just over a thousand souls, from the Solent 15,063 nautical miles via Tenerife, Rio de Janeiro and Cape Town to Botany Bay.
- Phillip had sailed the Arctic and Mediterranean Seas, the Indian and North Atlantic Oceans, and now traversed the South Seas to Australia. Finding Botany Bay unsuitable, Phillip investigated Port Jackson (now Sydney Harbour). He established the colony about Sydney Cove (now Circular Quay, Sydney), raising the flag there on 26th January 1788.
- Phillip overcame extraordinary physical and other obstacles, serious drought and loss at sea of supplies, to establish an eventually successful colony and conduit to freedom.
- Governor Phillip led and guided an enlightened and humanitarian regime with devotion, selfless determination, courage, prescience and vision; returning to England in his fifth year, for health reasons.
- Phillip wanted to return to New South Wales but instead served in senior Royal Navy posts before retiring to Bath, where he lived with his wife Isabella, and whence he advised on the development of New South Wales, from 1806 to 1814.
- Phillip's British Admiralty official biography records: "Admiral Arthur Phillip, Scholar, Seaman and Gentleman, who founded the great city of Sydney, and the Island Continent of Australia".

Inscribed on other bands of the armillary are quotations from Phillip and descriptions of his qualities:

- Arthur Phillip commanded the healthiest convict transport voyage ever.
- "The finest harbour in the world, in which a thousand Ships of the Line may ride in perfect security".
- "There will never be any slavery in this land": Phillip ensured that this, his precept, would prevail.
- He strove to live amicably with the Aborigines, establishing friendships with them, and instructing that all settlers should treat them with respect
- In a despatch from Sydney Cove on 3rd July 1788 to Lord Lansdowne, Phillip demonstrated his vision and prescience: "this Country will hereafter be a most valuable acquisition to Great Britain".

Made of bronze and oxidised to a subtle verdigris colour, the sundial is a highly accurate instrument allowing the observer to determine the time in Greenwich in one minute intervals, as well as local solar time in Bath and Sydney.

It incorporates a compass rose and a topograph indicating the true bearing and distance in nautical miles to key points on the journey of the First Fleet.

The imaginative stone pedestal 2.5 metres in diameter symbolises the unprecedented voyage and the transition, half a world away, from inhospitable, rugged, uncharted terrain to an aspirational society and successful colony and nation. It includes a dressed quayside bollard which supports the armillary sphere. A stone upstand with bronze plaque at the gate of the garden bears the inscription:

In tribute to and in memory of  
Admiral Arthur Phillip Royal Navy (1738-1814)  
First Governor of Australia  
Founder of the modern nation of Australia

There you have it, so intricate, such a mine of information, even if the sculpture appeared to me to lack a certain presence and solidity when viewed as it must be from the footpath.



*Mr Richard Beath; the Mayor of Bath, Councillor Cherry Beath; the Chairman of the Bath and Northeast Somerset Council, Councillor Martin Veal; the Lord Lieutenant of Somerset, Lady Elizabeth Gass DCVO; and Mrs Sarah Veal*

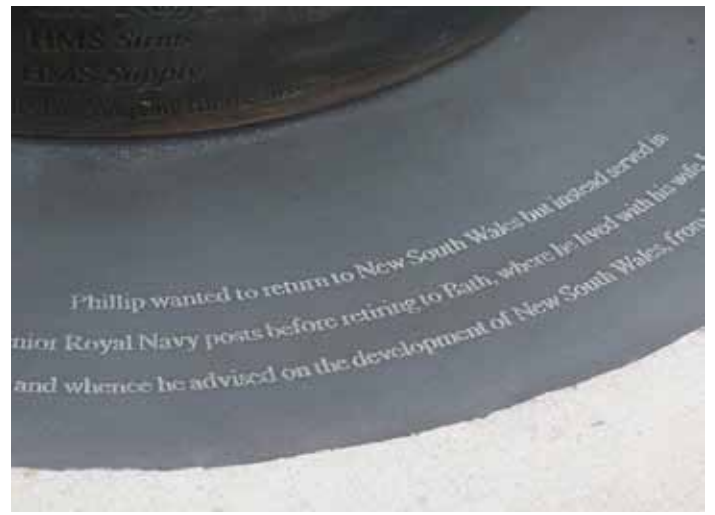


*Ron, Margaret, Glenda, Paul and Denis*



*The Assembly Rooms in Bath*







### 19 Bennett Street, Phillip's Home

One could not leave the Assembly Room garden without paying a visit to the home of Arthur Phillip diagonally across the road. The house is now privately owned, and cannot be inspected within, but it carries a White Ensign flag and two decorative metal plaques, one seemingly an afterthought, combine to record that:

HERE LIVED  
ADMIRAL PHILLIP  
1806 -1814  
FIRST GOVERNOR  
OF  
AUSTRALIA

William Pitt, Clive of India and Horatio Nelson all lived nearby. Phillip leased the house for £2200. Interest otherwise centred on the first floor windows from which the Admiral may or may not have fallen to his death.

### Number 1 Royal Crescent

From No.19 it was only a ten-minute walk to an inspection of the Georgian town house at No 1 Royal Crescent. The crescent, built between 1767 and 1774 is of course well known as one of the finest achievements of 18th century urban architecture and represents the pinnacle of Palladian architecture in Bath. No.1 with Henry Sandford as resident was the first house built in the crescent and originally provided luxury accommodation for the aristocratic visitors who came to take the waters and enjoy the social season. As had become our habit, we of the First Fleeters Fellowship mused that surely this was another place that Phillip had often visited!

### Victorian Art Gallery and THAT Portrait:

Our pre-diner drinks on this engrossing day were hosted by Heritage Services at the Victorian Art Gallery (1879) in Bridge Street, opposite Pulteney Bridge. Inverate travellers among us could not help comparing the bridge with the *Pont Vecchio*. This was no coincidence as the designer, Robert Adam, had visited that bridge in Florence along with the *Ponte di Rialto* in Venice. Built between 1770 and 1774, Pulteney is one of the very few bridges with shops across its full span on both sides. And yes, of course we surmised that Phillip had shopped there many times.

However as well as to imbibe a refreshing champagne, we were at the gallery for a viewing of the famous, nay omnipresent, Francis Wheatley portrait of Arthur Phillip which happily was on loan from the National Portrait Gallery. The portrait, painted in 1788, at 692mm x 902mm was smaller that I had imagined and so fresh in colour and texture that it has either been cleverly restored or heaven forbid was a counterfeit! Importantly, viewed in the original Phillip looked a touch more dignified than he appears in the many reproductions.

On the way around the corner to the Guildhall for our next function we passed a cast of a Pathenon Freize donated by the designer of the Gallery, John McKean Brydon, and an external statue of Queen Victoria by A.C. Lucchesi.





### The Admiral Arthur Phillip Dinner

The finale of the official events in Bath was the Dinner held in the Banqueting Room of the Guildhall. The President of the West Country Branch of the Britain-Australia Society, Sir Roger Carrick KCMG LVO welcomed the gathering and introduced a recital



by Australian Bridget Davies, mezzo soprano and graduate of the Melbourne Conservatorium of Music who was visiting England to perform at Covent Garden.

Following the Loyal Toast and the Grace by the Society Chaplain, the Reverend George Bush, the diners fell

about vichyssoise supported by white granery and beetroot rolls supplied by the curiously titled Thoughtful Bread Company. Baby gem, rocket and cucumber salad with red onion, red pepper, vine tomato and a light balsamic dressing were next, the size of the portion not quite equal to the length of its description. We then applied ourselves to a breast of Castlemead free-range chicken wrapped in Parma ham with a Marsala and sage sauce, crushed new potatoes and Wye Valley asparagus, and thus fortified, gladly welcomed the speeches.

Our Governor spoke briefly to warm applause, it again being obvious that she was as highly regarded in England as she is in New South Wales.

A highly relevant speaker was Alan Frost, Professor Emeritus at La Trobe University in Melbourne and author of such works as *Botany Bay Mirages* (1994) and *Botany Bay: the Real Story* (2011). For 35 years Alan has been collecting primary documents relating to the decision to colonise Australia, the mounting of the First Fleet and the early settlement of Sydney. Totalling about 2500, these documents have been drawn from locations scattered around the globe. Given the scope and range of sources, his archive offers a greater overview of these historical events than any single participant could have had at the time. The Frost Archive has vastly expanded the historical record readily available to other historians. His work is stimulating for anyone interested in the era. The archive is to be made available on a website of the State Library of New South Wales. Again in a very short speech Alan made reference to a sample of his key findings.

Then came the two National Anthems. Lemon tart with Cheddar strawberries and handmade fudge sweetened the final farewells among so many new associates and friends.

Thoroughly exhausted by the full-on day I went back to the hotel with Godiva — not a long-haired unadorned equestrienne, but a box of Belgium chocolates generously provided by BAS member Mohamed Elsarky, CEO of Godiva International.



*The Admiral Arthur Phillip Dinner in the Banqueting Room*

### What else in Bath?

The official events concluded it was left to one to investigate what other features could be explored in Bath. I have already mentioned the Avon River trip upstream from the semi-circular weir to Bathampton.



*The Avon River at Bath*



And one could not be forgiven for missing the Jane Austen Centre devoted to the “second” most famous resident. Jane paid two long visits here towards the end of the 18th century and from 1801 to 1806 Bath was her home. (Well OK, she may not have been there during Phillip’s tenure; she just missed him but they would have gone around the same traps, for Jane’s novels *Northanger Abbey* and *Persuasion* are largely set among the streets and buildings of Bath). For varying times Jane lived at 25 Gay Street, 1 The Paragon and 4 Sydney Place, the latter having been converted to prestige accommodation at \$1077 per night! However her excellent Centre is in a Georgian House at 40 Gay Street.

The museum was featuring a new full-size waxwork of Jane, said to be the most accurate representation of her ever produced. (it is in fact by the same sculptor who fashioned the new figure of Matthew Flinders at Euston Station). A “selfie” beside one of my favourite authors was a must. Denis and I had tea and scones in the Jane Austen Regency Tea Rooms: try as I might I could not get him to enrobe in costume dressups as Mr Darcy: Colin Firth still rules.



The Roman Baths have undergone extensive further excavation since I last visited them umpteen years ago, and now display an even greater civil engineering and sociological achievement.

And so we were drawn into the nearby Bath Abbey, its great window at the East End containing 56 scenes from the life of Christ. The Abbey itself was founded as a Norman church in the 1090s, and has suffered two partial demolitions, the latest being during the bombing of Bath in 1942. It is now fully restored.



*Bath Cathedral — Facade and stupendous interior*



On the left hand side of the nave on the interior wall is this permanent large tablet inset with a bronze relief portrait of Admiral Arthur Phillip, the whole surmounted by the Australian Coat of Arms and an Australian Flag. The inscription reads:

IN MEMORY OF  
ADMIRAL ARTHUR PHILLIP R.N.  
FOUNDER AND FIRST GOVERNOR  
OF  
AUSTRALIA  
BORN IN LONDON 11 OCTOBER 1738  
ENTERED THE ROYAL NAVY 1755  
DIED AT 19 BENNETT STREET BATH  
31 AUGUST 1814  
TO HIS INDOMITABLE COURAGE PROPHETIC VISION  
FORBEARANCE FAITH INSPIRATION AND WISDOM  
WAS DUE THE SUCCESS OF THE FIRST SETTLEMENT  
IN AUSTRALIA AT SYDNEY  
26 JANUARY 1788  
THE EARTH IS THE LORD'S AND THE FULLNESS THEREOF





## FESTIVITIES IN LYNDHURST AND LYMINGTON

After his marriage to Margaret Charlotte Denison, a rich widow, Arthur Phillip lived in Lyndhurst from 1763 until 1769, when the couple separated. Following his return from Sydney Cove he lived in Lymington with wife Isabella Whitehead from 1798 to 1804.

### In Lyndhurst

Many of the delegates went, two days after the Dinner, on 14 July 2014 to attend further celebrations of the Arthur Phillip bicentenary, this time in the New Forest, centring on the towns of Lyndhurst, Boldre and Lymington. Denis and I did not attend, but we had passed through the Forest two weeks earlier and had discussed the preparations and visited key sites with local Britain-Australia and Parish Council identities.

Lyndhurst has been known as the capital of the New Forest since William the Conqueror established it as a royal hunting ground in 1079. Kings and Queens stayed at Kings, or Queens House (the name changing according to the sovereign) in the Royal Manor. Towering over the skyline is the Pre-Raphaelite church of St Michael and All Angels where the grave of former Lyndhurst resident Alice Liddell Hargreaves, Lewis Carroll's inspiration for *Alice in Wonderland*, can be found.

The town displayed no fewer than five flags of New South Wales on significant buildings for the Arthur Phillip celebrations. There were 30 Australian flags and 10 lines of "Australia" bunting in the High Street. At 10.30am church bells of St Michael's greeted the delegates who assembled at Appletree Court, a modified Edwardian house on the edge of the Forest which since 1953 has been the offices of the New Forest District Council. They were welcomed by Mrs Gilly Drummond, Deputy Lieutenant of Hampshire, NFDC Chairman Councillor Maureen Holding, and Mark Rollé, Chairman of Lyndhurst Parish Council. Captain Steve Timms OBE RN, a local retired naval officer, presented a brief history of Arthur Phillip and delegates were also entertained by the Lyndhurst Community Choir singing of English folk songs.



*New Forest Centre, location of the main exhibition*



*The choral items on arrival at Appletree Court*



*St Michael and All Angels, Lyndhurst*



*The "Alice in Wonderland" Grave  
Alice Hargreaves née Liddell*



*The inscription reads Mrs Reginald Hargreaves —  
a sign of the time!*



Her Excellency Governor Bashir was welcomed by Ednyfed Hudson Davies, President of the New Forest Ninth Centenary Trust, and Hilary Marshall, New Forest Centre Manager. She was shown the Overseers Account and Rates Book, especially brought from Hampshire Record Office, for the period 1763 to 1776, containing Phillip's signature and showing he was appointed "Overseer of the Poor". The book lists some of the land and properties Phillip and his wife Margaret Charlotte leased in Lyndhurst, including *Glasshayes*, (now Lyndhurst Park Hotel), *Vernalls* House and farm, and Blackacre fields.

Under the inspiration and diligent work of local councillors Angela Trend and Len Cornell, strongly supported by their partners Paul Trend and Jennifer Cornell with Steve Timms; a quite superlative free exhibition "Celebrating Arthur Phillip" had been assembled in the Centre's Museum within the building. Key support for the exhibition was provided to the New Forest Centre and the Lyndhurst Parish Council through the award of a Heritage Lottery Fund grant by the Hampshire County Council



*Typical display board. Graphics were masterminded by Paul Trend together with John Brown of TLC Online.*

This tireless and extensive research into the life of Phillip and his association with the district, the exquisite draftsmanship of the maps and information panels and the memorabilia demand that it be granted the status of permanent exhibition in Lyndhurst! And in fact work on the project continues.

A very particular highlight for me was the painting by Roger King, commissioned by local Britain-Australia Society member Bev Major, of the eleven ships of the First Fleet passing the Old Lighthouse at the Needles on the Isle of Wight on 13 May 1787. It had even been reproduced for sale as a jigsaw.



*Roger King's painting*

Following coffee, the delegates set off across the meadows of the Council grounds and were surprised to encounter a mid-sized eucalypt within a timber enclosure. It had been planted on 10 May 1987 by the District Council to commemorate the

bicentenary of the sailing of the First Fleet, being commanded by Captain Arthur Phillip who had lived near this place. In a ceremony enacted by our Governor of New South Wales, a companion Australian wattle tree, *Acacia Dealbata*, was planted, this time in remembrance of the bicentenary of Phillip's death.



*Denis with Len and Jennifer Cornell at the eucalypt. The memorial trees (and indeed the Council Offices) are on land once farmed by Arthur Phillip and this is the site of his ornamental garden, probably tended by Henry Dodd.*



*The plaque beside the eucalypt*



*The Governor, with Sir Nicholas in attendance, planting the *Acacia Dealbata* close by the eucalypt.*





*The Bench, Lyndhurst — more correctly Bolton's Bench, after the Duke of Bolton, Lord Warden of the New Forest in the 18thC.*

A short walk followed, led by costumed guides, taking in the Lyndhurst Phillip would have known: Crown Inn, Blind House, the church, and the Bench. The latter is open land, part of the New Forest scenery where Commoners' ponies, cows, donkeys and sometimes sheep and pigs are allowed to graze. Her Excellency, accompanied by Sir Nicholas, visited the Verderer's Court, which is the oldest operating court in the United Kingdom. It oversees interests of New Forest Commoners and their animals. The main responsibilities for development rest with the New Forest National Park Authority and the New Forest District Council.



*Verderers Court*

The delegates had the opportunity to visit Lyndhurst Park Hotel, which, as *Glasshayes*, was a small house on land Phillip leased while living at *Vernalls* House on Goose Green. In the foyer of the hotel is a memorial to Phillip, a large chunk of sandstone from the Gateway Plaza site on Sydney Cove mounted on a masonry pedestal. It was provided by Concrete Constructions and transported to England by Lufthansa. The memorial was unveiled in October 1986 by the Agent General for New South Wales, the Honourable Kevin Stewart. Len Cornell explained that it formerly stood in an inconspicuous position on the rear patio of the hotel. The inscription reads:

IN HONOUR OF  
CAPTAIN ARTHUR PHILLIP R.N.  
A FORMER RESIDENT OF LYNDHURST  
AND SOMETIME FARMER OF GLASSHAYES  
COMMEMORATING THE BICENTENARY  
OF HIS APPOINTMENT AS  
FIRST GOVERNOR OF NEW SOUTH WALES  
ON  
12TH OCTOBER, 1786 AND IN MEMORY OF  
HENRY EDWARD DODD

A RESPECTED SERVANT OF PHILLIP, WHO HAD WORKED ON THE  
LYNDHURST FARMS AND ACCOMPANIED PHILLIP WITH THE FIRST FLEET  
TO BOTANY BAY. HE BECAME THE FIRST AGRICULTURIST IN THE  
INFANT COLONY AND DIED AT PARRAMATTA, NEW SOUTH WALES  
29TH JANUARY 1791

Note: The life and grave of Henry Dodd is covered in the Fellowship of First Fleeters' publication, *Dispatched Downunder*.



*The Glasshayes memorial stone in the hotel foyer*





George Rose, Christchurch MP and Secretary to the Navy and known to Phillip, lived at the property *Cuffnells* from 1784 in Lyndhurst. From 1880 it was the home for many years of Alice Pleasance Liddell Hargreaves, the inspiration of Lewis Carroll's "Alice". Only the lodges remain, and Denis and I drove by the East Lodge in company with Len and Jennifer Cornell.



*Cuffnells East Lodge*

We also looked over the lands of Phillip's residence, *Vernalls* House and farm near *Glasshayes*. The house, situated in Gosport Lane, is no more, but it has been described as "about 100 years old, a rather plain fronted brick house, comfortable with white coated walls and square windows filled with small panes of glass". Phillip leased about 30 acres including *Glasshayes* from a Dinah Coleman. He spent the large sum of £2000 principally of domestic disbursements at *Vernalls*, but discovered that the New Forest soil was poor and more suited to grazing than to crops. This experience no doubt helped him to later realise that the Botany Bay soil would also not be suitable for cropping. The lease and all the household goods were sold at auction in 1770. The sale notice described a gentleman's residence, genteel, delightfully situated, with pleasure gardens, fish pond, stables, coach house, fire engine and buckets, dairy, brew house, forest rights and even a commodious pew at Lyndhurst Church.



*Countryside typical of Vernalls*

The Phillips' house and land changed hands several times. The Reverend Richard and Mrs Georgina Bowden Smith lived at *Vernalls* from 1856. Their son Walter Baird Bowden Smith died at *Vernalls* in 1932 when it passed to Brigadier General Edward Weyland Martin Powell CB CMG DSO.

Before Australia's Sesquicentenary in 1938 Powell was asked if *Vernalls* could be bought and rebuilt as a memorial to Phillip in Sydney. He declined. Brigadier Powell died at Lyndhurst in 1954 and in 1955 *Vernalls* was demolished to make a safer entrance to Booklands, Powells house in Gosport Lane. Bricks from *Vernalls* were used to make garden walls.

There is a remnant brick wall at the *Vernalls* House site which Denis and I inspected with Len and Jennifer. Sydney businessman Geoff Cottee hatched a plan to rebuild *Vernalls* House in Sydney for the Australian 1988 Bicentenary celebrations. He was disappointed to visit Lyndhurst and discover that the house had gone, although to his delight a Mrs Versey Fitzgerald directed him to the remnant garden wall. Advised by Richard Harris from the Weald and Downland Open Museum in Chichester, Cottee arranged for 600 bricks, weighing 15 tonnes to be packed in 21 wooden boxes for transport to Australia. Each of the 11 ships of the Bicentenary Reenactment which sailed from Portsmouth on 13 May 1987 carried a single brick symbolising Phillip's presence. Lord Linley, Queen Elizabeth's nephew, made four commemorative velvet-lined boxes for presentation bricks.

Geoff Cottee did not get his house, but he made good use of the bricks on their arrival in Australia.

There is a statue of Phillip by Achille Simonetti in the Royal Botanic Gardens, Sydney. Some 1400 of the *Vernalls* bricks form a commemorative wall nearby, close to the first agricultural plots established at Phillip's direction. More were used in a plinth for a bust of Phillip. The plaque reads:

THESE SEVENTEENTH CENTURY BRICKS  
CAME FROM THE RUIN OF  
CAPTAIN ARTHUR PHILLIP'S HOME  
AT VERNALLS FARM, LYNDHURST,  
HAMPSHIRE, ENGLAND.  
THEY WERE PRESENTED BY  
MR AND MRS G.L. COTTEE OF PYMBLE  
APRIL, 1988

At Middle Harbour Reserve near The Spit Bridge there is an incongruous detached and partly-rendered brick wall. The plaque explains:

ORIGINALLY THESE BRICKS WERE PART OF A 17TH  
CENTURY HOUSE AT VERNALLS FARM, LYNDHURST IN  
HAMPSHIRE, ENGLAND.  
CAPTAIN ARTHUR PHILLIP LIVED THERE BEFORE LEADING  
THE FIRST FLEET TO AUSTRALIA.  
THE BRICKS ARE A GIFT FROM MR GEOFFREY COTTEE  
AND HIS FAMILY TO THE  
BEAUTY POINT FORESHORE WALK & BICENTENARY TRAIL  
TO COMMEMORATE & RECALL  
PHILLIP'S EXPLORATION OF MIDDLE HARBOUR IN 1788.  
15 OCTOBER 1988.

Another 50 bricks were donated to Lyndhurst, in New South Wales. They are in the wall of the library's Kable Connection.

This plaque was presented by  
MR GEOFFREY COTTEE  
of Sydney on  
30 January 1988  
to commemorate the  
shipping of 50 17th century bricks  
from Vernalls Farm, Lyndhurst  
Hampshire, England  
Former home of Capt. Arthur Phillip  
First Governor of N.S.Wales

There were other installations of 50 bricks at Goldfields House and at No. 1 York Street Sydney: since removed.





*The remnant garden wall*

Her Excellency, accompanied by Sir Nicholas, was the Guest of Honour at a barbecue lunch at Lime Wood Hotel, generously sponsored by Lime Wood. Short speeches were made before dessert by Mark Rollé, Ednyfed Hudson Davies and the Governor herself. Other members of the party continued to explore Lyndhurst, some lunching at Lyndhurst Park Hotel.

### **In Boldre near Lyndhurst**

The village of Boldre is situated inside the New Forest National Park borders, near the Lymington River and about 3km north of Lymington. Boldre has a pub called the Red Lion; Boldre Club which is one of the oldest surviving clubs in the forest; the Church of England William Gilpin School on Pilley Hill; the old school house (located on Boldre Lane) and a Post Office. The 11th century Boldre church, St John the Baptist, has an idyllic setting on the edge of the New Forest.

On the afternoon of 14 July 2014 some of the delegates moved on to visit the Church. Denis and I had driven there with Len and Jennifer on 1 July. On arrival we were greeted by Lt Col. Peter Chitty of Boldre who was in the process of raising the Australian flag on the church flagpole. He was then joined by his wife, Penelope and by Bev Major, historian and Arthur Phillip Project activist from Christchurch, Dorset.

Our visit and that of the delegates were not specifically connected with Phillip (although he probably called at the church from time to time), but rather to his First Fleet and Sydney Cove Chaplain, the Reverend Richard Johnson. Richard was curate at St John the Baptist for two years 1784-1785 before departing on the First Fleet. A plaque in his honour reads:

THE REVEREND RICHARD JOHNSON

1755-1827

Curate of Boldre under the Revd William Gilpin

1784-1785

Sailed with the First Fleet and was first Chaplain  
to the Colony of New South Wales

1788-1800

This plaque was dedicated by the Bishop of North Sydney  
The Rt Revd Donald Cameron

14th August 1988

Peter Chitty has written two short papers, one on William Gilpin and one on Richard Johnson. William Gilpin was vicar during Johnson's curacy, a man whose life was summed up by his former colleague, "never did a clergyman more earnestly yearn for the spiritual welfare; or more sedulously strive to secure the moral improvement, and promote the temporal



*St John the Baptist Church, Boldre*



*Interior of the Boldre Church*

comfort, of those committed to his pastoral care." Gilpin was originally the headmaster of Cheam School in Surrey. Later, while vicar at Boldre, he founded the Gilpin School to educate poor local children who had no schooling. It is still functioning.

Chitty asserts with considerable credibility that the years Richard Johnson spent under Gilpin's tutelage were strongly influential to the approach, dedication and perseverance with which Johnson carried out his work in the Colony. Johnson went on to found schools in Sydney based on William Gilpin's rules and ideas of a fair chance for all children regardless of their background.

Every year an Aussie Sunday service at St John the Baptist celebrates the first church service conducted by Richard Johnson in the



*The Revd Richard Johnson*

Colony on 3 February 1788. Every year also, on the Sunday nearest to the anniversary to the loss of *HMS Hood*, a service of remembrance is held for the 1416 men who went down with their ship. Among those who died was Vice Admiral Holland, who, with family, had been a regular worshipper at Boldre for many years. After the War when it became clear that no official memorial was to be made, Mrs Phyllis Holland planned and carried through a scheme which brought the Hood Commemoration to Boldre.



## At Lymington

Lymington is a beautiful Georgian market town situated on the southern edge of the New Forest at the western end of the Solent. The town is of world renown as a sailing resort; there are two large marinas, Berthon and Haven and two sailing clubs.



*Lymington Waterfront*

After refreshments at Boldre the delegates moved on to Lymington, the home of Arthur Phillip and his second wife, Isabella Whitehead, from 1798-1804. Once again Denis and I had been there a fortnight before, for a visit under the guidance of Bev Major. In Phillip's time timber came to the Port at Lymington from the New Forest to be shipped along the coast to Portsmouth. The town had its own assembly rooms, sea-baths, theatre and circulating library and a mail coach to London every afternoon. His home was in High Street on the corner of Ashley Lane, leased from a Dr Nike. An 1842 brick building under lease as Clark's Shoe Shop now stands on the site.



*Site of Phillip's home on the corner of High St and Ashley Lane*

Following devoted representation to authorities and other parties over a long time, Bev Major was able to obtain approval for a plaque to be placed on the wall of the present building. This was unveiled by our Governor on the afternoon of 14 July, local coast guards and the Royal National Life Boat Institution providing a guard of honour. Afterwards, Her Excellency, accompanied by Sir Nicholas, attended a Civic Reception in her honour at Lymington Town Hall.



*The plaque in Ashley Lane unveiled by the Governor*

While in Lymington, Phillip, directed by Evan Nepean, became a commander of the local Hampshire group of Sea Fencibles, a sort of naval "Dads' Army" set up to guard the coastline of Britain from the threat of French invasion. He was also commissioned to undertake a thorough inspection and review of the Impress Service. By the end of 1803 Phillip was Inspector for the whole of the Sea Fencibles Service of some 70 groups, in addition to his role of inspector of the Impress Service. Using his long-honed analytical skills and insights he brought to light the fact that many Fencibles groups were under-resourced in weapons and that two services were competing for the same pool of men: those candidates suitable for the impressment joining the volunteer Sea Fencibles as the avoidance option. The Admiralty finally acted on his advice and the two services were amalgamated.



*The Impress Service building in Quay Street*

Bev Major took Denis and me to an old waterfront pub in Quay Street which he said his research showed was Phillip's headquarters for impressment in Lymington. The building and the street certainly looked the part: I expected Long John Silver to emerge through the scaffolding at any moment. However, all was well and we had a nice cup of tea in the High Street to complete the tour of Phillip's sites in the New Forest. Bev's enthusiasm for generating Arthur Phillip memorability was incredibly infectious.



## OTHER SITES OF FF SIGNIFICANCE VISITED

### Bread Street and St Mary-le-Bow Church in London

Having travelled with Arthur Phillip across four of the houses he had lived in England and inspected the home in which he died, it seemed only logical that we should attempt to take a look at his birthplace in London.



*The Watling Street Monument*

At the western end of Watling Street, by St Paul's Cathedral, stands a monument to Phillip. From a distance it looks a bit like the police-box time machine of Dr Who. There is a fine early 20th Century bust, showing the Admiral as a refined, rather thin man with a high forehead and fashionably curled hair, in his dress uniform. This bust fills a pediment, and below a plaque records that he was born in the City of London in Bread Street Ward and baptised in All Hallows Church, Bread Street, in 1738. (11 October) The memorial, of 1932, was originally at St Mildred's Church Bread Street, which was lost to bombing in World War II. The bust and accompanying plaques were salvaged from the ruins and re-erected by the Britain-Australia Society Bicentennial Trust in January 1992. The bust is by the sculptor Charles L. Hartwell and is a resin copy of the original.

The plaques on the sides of the monument are by different hands, originally both by W. Hamiton Buchan, but one now replaced by Sharon A. M. Keenan dating from 1976. The plaques are in low relief and have descriptions underneath. One shows the landing from the ship, which is simply delineated but evocative, with three tiny figures, Captain Phillip, Lieutenant Gidley King and Lieutenant George Johnston, being rowed ashore. The other shows the fixing of the site of Sydney, with five figures, the centremost being Captain Phillip, and the others, from left to right, Surgeon John White, Lieutenant



*The Landing plaque*



*The Site Establishment plaque*

George Johnston, Captain John Hunter, and Captain David Collins. This plaque is somewhat let down by the figures, which do not work well at this scale, though the windswept flag and tree in the background are convincing.

The original of the Phillip bust without the side plaques, but with a new inscription, stands in St Mary-le-Bow Church in Cheapside, not far away. Denis and I were invited by the Rector, the Reverend George Bush, to visit the Church, which is of course the home of Bow Bells. If born within in the sound of them you are defined as a cockney! The church was built





*Christopher Wren's tower of St Mary-le-Bow Church*

around 1087 by William the Conqueror's Archbishop, and was built from the same stone, imported from Caen, as William's Tower of London. It sits on an undercroft base/crypt, which survived the Great Fire of 1666, and no image of the upper interior before the fire survives. The Church was rebuilt by Christopher Wren (1632-1732) in an almost square shape and of notably modest interior design. The immense and elaborate tower is crowned by the City symbol of a dragon and houses the famous bells. Almost destroyed by bombing in May 1942, the church was not rebuilt until 1964.

The Phillip plaque pictured below, partly obscured by the photo flash, reads:

In Honour of  
ADMIRAL ARTHUR PHILLIP

Citizen of London, Founder and first Governor of Australia

Baptised in All Hallows Church, Bread Street 1738

Entered the Royal Navy 1755 and died 31st August 1814

"To his indomitable courage, prophetic vision, forbearance, faith, inspiration and wisdom was due the success of the first settlement in Australia at Sydney on Saturday, 26th January 1788.

This memorial originally erected at St Mildred's Church, Bread Street on 7th December 1932 was presented by the late Charles Cheers, Baron Wakefield of Hythe CBE, LL.D Alderman of the Ward of Bread Street, Lord Mayor of London 1915-1916

"To the citizens of London and the people of Australia as an enduring link between the Motherland and the Great Island Continent of Australia"

The Church was destroyed by enemy action in 1941 but the bronze bust was salvaged from the ruins

The memorial was restored and re-erected by The Britain-Australia Bicentennial Trust

Unveiled by Alderman Sir Brian Jenkins GBE, MA, DSc, Lord Mayor of London 1991-1992 and Alderman for the Ward of Cordwainer and dedicated by The Right Reverend and Right Honourable Dr David Hope, Bishop of London on 23rd January 1992

Chairman, The Admiral Phillip Memorial Trust & Alderman of the Ward of Bread Street Alderman and Sheriff Neil Young

Chairman The Britain-Australia Bicentennial Trust and The Order of Australia UK Europe, Alderman Sir Peter Gadsden GBE AC

Rector St Mary-le-Bow Church, The Reverend Victor Stock AKC

Deputy, Cordwainer Ward and Churchwarden St Mary-le-Bow, Thomas Wilmot



*The unusual interior of St Mary-le-Bow*



*The original Bust in St Mary-le-Bow*





*Plymouth Harbourside*



## In Plymouth

In many respects our pilgrimage across southern England had become a plaque (pronounced plack by the English) hunt, and in Plymouth we were successful in spades. On the land side stone wall of the Barbican in Plymouth Hoe we discovered five salient memorials, the chief among them bearing this message inscribed into grey granite:

FROM PLYMOUTH ON 13TH MARCH 1787,  
SAILED THE TRANSPORT SHIPS  
'FRIENDSHIP' AND 'CHARLOTTE'  
CARRYING MEN AND WOMEN CONVICTS  
BOUND FOR AUSTRALIA  
ON 26TH JANUARY 1788,  
WITH NINE OTHER SHIPS FROM ENGLAND  
THEY LANDED AT PORT JACKSON  
WHICH BECAME  
SYDNEY, NEW SOUTH WALES.  
THERE THEY ESTABLISHED  
THE FIRST BRITISH COLONY UNDER THE  
COMMAND OF CAPTAIN ARTHUR PHILLIP R.N.  
THE FATHER OF MODERN AUSTRALIA

*A wall of plaques near the Mayflower Steps*



*The signature plaque!*



Another plaque, in bronze on a wooden frame, identified the Plymouth men who had helped to found modern Australia: Tobias Furneaux, John Macarthur, William Bligh, George Arthur and Edward Lockyer. Unveiled by Mr Richard Smith, the Australian High Commissioner in September 1992, it carried the note that Furneaux and Bligh had sailed with Cook on the second of his three great voyages of discovery all of which had left from Plymouth.

A third similar plaque, unveiled in July 1988 commemorated the sailing of the six Plymouth company vessels which carried settlers from Cornwall, Devon and Dorset to establish the settlement of New Plymouth in New Zealand during the early 1840s. Mayors of both cities carried out the unveiling.

The fourth plaque, again inscribed into grey granite, was unveiled in September 1986 by the Cornish Association of South Australia and recorded the fact that thousands of Cornish people sailed from near the spot to South Australia during the 19th century. Their contribution to the colony's development particularly in mining and farming being acknowledged with pride.

The final plaque, in bronze, was set in the wall at the Mayflower steps in The Barbican and tells a comprehensive tale of the Pilgrim Fathers voyage to Plymouth Massachusetts. It was installed by the General Society of Mayflower Descendants (USA 1897) during their first pilgrimage by planes to the Netherlands and England in September-October 1955.

The Hoe was filled with the summer holiday crowds, but not nearly the number of 100,000 who welcomed home Sir Francis Chichester following his solo circumnavigation of the world. Sir Francis Drake did the round trip centuries earlier of course but his *Golden Hind* arrived unheralded. His fame in beating off the Spanish Armada in 1588 is celebrated by a swashbuckling statue in Hoe Park and a model in the museum of his legendary game of bowls while he waited knowingly for the propitious tide. Time to reflect that without his daring a certain *Capitán Arturo Phillip* may have been leading a fleet of Spaniards into Botany Bay!

*Tek my drum to England hang et by the shore,  
Strike et when your powder's runnin' low;  
If the Dons sight Devon, I'll quit the port o' Heaven  
An' drum them up the Channel as we drummed them long ago!*



*The Barbican Mayflower plaque*



## In and around the Solent

Bev Major drove us west from Lymington to a beach almost in Christchurch. Bev was skipper of the Needles Pilot Boat for ten years, so it was no surprise when he produced his rather better-than-average set of binoculars. So we were able to gaze across towards the western end of the Isle of Wight and spot the Needles. This is a row of three distinctive stacks of chalk that rise out of the sea close to Alum Bay. The Needles lighthouse stands at the outer, western end of the formation. Built in 1859, it has been automated since 1994.

The formation takes its name from a fourth needle-shaped pillar called Lot's Wife that collapsed in a storm in 1764. The remaining rocks are not at all needle-like, but the name has stuck. The members of the First Fleet would have passed this formation as almost certainly the last recognizable piece of England before they struck out into the Channel.

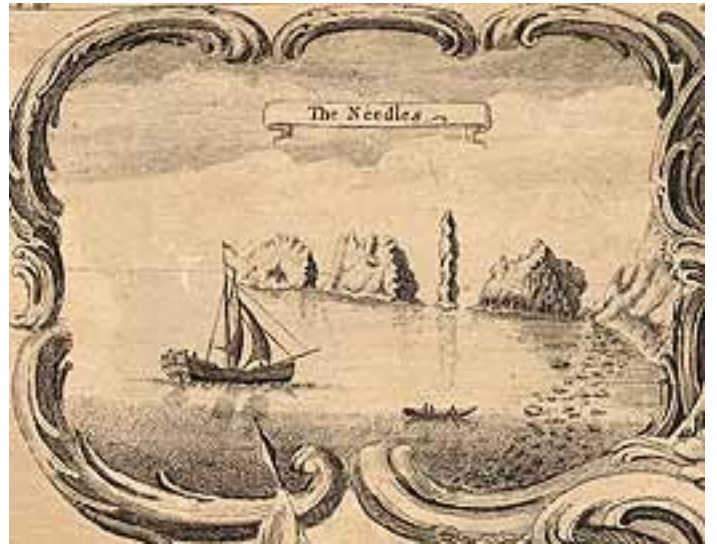
## The Motherbank

In planning the pilgrimage I had wanted to sail in the wake of the First Fleet out from Portsmouth via their assembly point at the Motherbank, (the shallow sandbar off the northeast coast of the Isle of Wight) before proceeding west in the Solent and into the Channel. Sadly the ferries were not available, so we did the next best thing. Having ferried to the Isle of Wight from Southampton and spent a couple of days exploring the island, Denis and I drove to Fishbourne, the terminal for the Portsmouth car ferry.

And so I did it in reverse, sailing into Portsmouth via the Motherbank. On this grey morning, I tried hard to make it a super signal experience, and almost succeeded — all I needed was a time machine to escape the shoreline trappings of the 21st century.



*The Needles*



*The Needles with the now-vanished Lot's Wife stack*



*The pilgrim setting out to cross the Motherbank from The Isle of Wight to Portsmouth. A long-awaited moment!*



*Looks boring, but this is The Motherbank*



*The Spinnaker Tower*



*Portsmouth Harbour*



## In Portsmouth

### The Bonds of Friendship Precinct

For our first day in Portsmouth we had the pleasure of being guided by resident Britain-Australia members, Brian and Maureen (Mo) Hall. Our first stop was the **Bonds of Friendship sculpture** set on a paved plaza at the intersection of Broad Street and White Hart Road, near to the Sea Wall and to the Sally Port through which Captain Phillip and many of his fellow voyagers passed on their way to embark.

It is coloured blue and otherwise the identical twin of the bronze Bonds of Friendship monument in Jesse Street Gardens, Sydney. The sculptures symbolise the closeness of the ties that were forged between Portsmouth and Sydney as a result of the voyage of the First Fleet — veritable links in the chain joining both cities.

A bronze plaque is attached to all four faces of the square base. They read:

Britain and Australia  
"Bonds of Friendship"  
unveiled by  
HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN  
11th July 1980

This Monument Commemorates the Sailing  
from Spithead on the 13 May 1787  
of the First Fleet Conveying Settlers to Australia  
A Great Nation was Born

This Block of Granite was Quarried in New South Wales  
and given by the Citizens of Sydney, Australia  
The Plinth of the Monument was Unveiled on 13 May 1976  
By the Honourable SIR DAVIS HUGHES  
Agent General for New South Wales

This memorial and its twin in Sydney Cove Australia  
was the concept of Austin C Spraggs Esq .  
'A man of Portsmouth'  
Sculptor: John Robinson

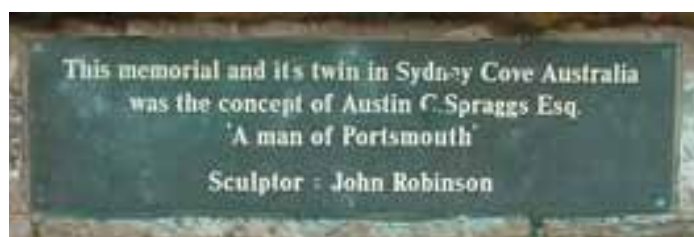
While the Portsmouth 'Bonds' is most appropriately sited, its surrounds are quite bleak, and I was led to think that perhaps the positioning of our Jesse Street version in Sydney within its nominal garden was not so bad after all. There is no doubt that these matters are tricky and controversial.



*The siting of the Bonds of Friendship looking east. It sits alone between the sea wall and a busy road. The three wall plaques are on the seawall near to the red floral offering.*



*The Bonds of Friendship looking west*



The adjacent sea wall displays three other plaques relevant to Australia. They read:

BIRTH OF A NATION  
UNVEILED BY  
HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN  
On 13th May 1787, a fleet of eleven ships under the  
command of Captain Arthur Phillip RN,  
set sail from Portsmouth's naval anchorage at Spithead.  
On board were the first of those sentenced to  
transportation to the recently settled coast of  
New South Wales.

Captain Phillip was commissioned to establish a penal colony and  
assume the role of Governor.





*The three concordant plaques on the sea wall.  
See more on Matthew Flinders memorials on page 37*



## FIRST NAVIGATION OF AUSTRALIA

Unveiled by  
Lord Mayor of Portsmouth  
Cllr Paula Riches  
19th November 2010

On the 18th July 1801, HM Sloop Investigator under the command of  
**Commander Matthew Flinders, Royal Navy,**  
set sail from Portsmouth's naval anchorage at Spithead. Commander Flinders had been commissioned to carry out a running survey and chart of the entire coastline of the then unknown continent of Terra Australis. The circumnavigation was completed between 6th December 1801 and 9th June 1803. On the return passage Flinders was detained on the Ile de France (Mauritius) for six-and-a-half years, returning to Portsmouth on 24th October 1810, giving Terra Australis the name of Australia.

## Memorial to the First Fleet Re-enactment Expedition 1987-1988

From onboard the frigate H.M.S. *Sirius*,  
at 1300 hours on 13th May 1987,  
Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II ordered the signal lowered to send the First Fleet Re-enactment on its voyage to Sydney. Eleven square-rigged vessels, anchored on the Motherbank between here and the Isle of Wight, departed on an expedition to commemorate the bicentenary of the founding of modern Australia by the First Fleet, which departed the same anchorage at the same time two hundred years before.

The Re-enactment Expedition was organised by Dr. Jonathan King, descendant of Philip Gidley King, second lieutenant in First Fleet flagship H.M.S. *Sirius* and third Governor of the colony of New South Wales, Australia. This plaque also remembers Hendrik Bak Neilsen, lost at sea during the Re-enactment.

From the Bonds, a Millennium Promenade leads on through the old town of Portsmouth, passing such treasures as the Round Tower, the Square Tower, the Spur Redoubt, the Saluting Platform, the 18 Gun Battery, the Long Curtain Battery, Capstans Square, King James' Gate and the modern additions to the city skyline, the Gunwharf Keys and the Spinnaker Tower.





### Portchester Castle and Dickens' Birthplace

We drove northwest of Portsmouth to the fort of *Portus Adurni*, the best preserved Roman fort north of the Alps. The medieval Portchester Castle was built within the fort. Maureen Hall explained that the grounds were now used for recreation, and that she played there as a child. On the way to the Portchester we passed the hills containing many limestone caves. Maureen said she took refuge in them during the bombing raids of Portsmouth.



*Portchester Castle and playground*

Also on the north side of Portsmouth at 393 Old Commercial Road is the birthplace of Charles Dickens, who arrived on 7 February 1812. Before road realignment the house stood at 1 Mill End Terrace. The house is now a museum. It is clear to all that Dickens was not a First Fleeter, but I nevertheless wished to visit the home for two reasons. Firstly he is a genius and my second favourite author. Secondly he was a great supporter of the new colony in New South Wales. He sent Magwitch, Artful Dodger, Wackford Squeers, Dan'l Peggotty, Little Em'ly, Mrs Gummidge, Wilkins Micawber and Alfred Jingle off to Australia, eight characters in all. His son Alfred emigrated at age 20, and Charles encouraged his younger son Edward (Plorn) to join him at the age of 16. Dickens' pretty accurate view of Australia was that it had "vast tracts of country where no man who is willing to work hard.....can ever know want".

### Royal Marines Museum

We took a taxi to the Royal Marines Museum. Denis' First Fleet ancestor, John Barrisford was a marine on *Prince of Wales* along with his wife, Hannah. The museum covered the full history of the marines from inception up to the very latest 21st century action in which they have been involved. There was a surprisingly good coverage of period of settlement of New South Wales.

I have read a lot about the vices and virtues of the marines during this period without actually exploring their origins. The museum set me right. The nature of war in the 17th century demanded that ships of war carry large complements of soldiers. Sea battles were fought amidst unbelievable confusion with opposing fleets approaching one another and firing as soon as range allowed. Once the ships were locked in a death grip, the soldiers largely fought the action with their pistols, muskets and grenades. By the middle of the century the Navy had decided that it needed its own regiment of soldiers specially raised for sea service.

On 28 October 1664 Charles II approved the formation of such a regiment, which became Britain's first Marines. It was called the 'Duke of York and Albany's Marine Regiment of Foot' after the Duke of York, Lord High Admiral, who later became James II. During the first three years of its history it fought with great distinction during the Second Dutch War. And then all the way down to John Wayne and beyond.



*Charles Dickens' birthplace*

It was a quite a surprise to suddenly come across the well-known artwork by Algernon Talmage (1871-1939) of the raising of the flag at Sydney Cove on 26 January 1788. However it was not a painting. It was a fine tapestry interpreting the art work, which had been woven at the Victorian Tapestry Workshop, Melbourne, by Irene Creden, assisted by Joy Smith. The project, under commercial sponsorship of the Tapestry Foundation of Victoria, took a total of forty weeks of weaving and used 14kg of Australian wool mixed with mercerised cotton. It was donated to the Royal Marines Museum by the Countess Mountbatten of Burma CBE CD on 28 May 1996.



*Royal Marines Museum tapestry*



## Portsmouth Historic Dockyard

This is a precinct devoted principally to the National Historic Fleet. We walked from top deck to bilge on the iron-hulled frigate *HMS Warrior*, built for the Royal Navy in 1859-61.



*HMS Warrior*

Then we inspected the Mary Rose Museum, only recently opened, and dedicated to the 16th century Tudor warship of King Henry VIII. She sank in the Solent. The wreck was rediscovered in 1971 and salvaged in 1982 in one of the most complex projects in the history of maritime archaeology. The surviving section of the ship, still undergoing reconstruction and thousands of recovered artefacts are of great value as a Tudor-era time capsule. The complete conservation of the *Mary Rose*, a fascinating technical challenge, is scheduled for 2016.



*Mary Rose still under reconstruction*

What followed was a quick pass through the Royal Naval Museum, where it was possible to see touch, see, hear and almost smell the history of the Royal Navy over the last 350 years through an esoteric collection of artefacts, paintings and permanent exhibitions. Interactively, could get one's hands on and captain a 74-gun ship of the line and try to win fame and fortune. The Trafalgar Experience brought the crucial battle vividly to life in an exciting walk-through format, and prepared us for the next highlight — boarding the *HMS Victory* herself!

This magnificent vessel is a 104-gun first rate ship of the line laid down in 1759 and launched in 1765, and famous as Lord Nelson's flagship at the Battle of Trafalgar in 1805. In 1922 she was moved to dry dock in Portsmouth and preserved as a museum. Since October 2012 she has been the flagship of the First Sea Lord and is the world's oldest naval ship still in



*A chance to seize the helm at the Royal Naval Museum*

commission. Having boarded the replica of Cook's *Endeavour* and studied drawings of Phillip's *Sirius*, my first impression was one of space, even allowing for the fact that she carried 850 men. Then one becomes aware of her strength and grandeur (two foot thick oak hull at the waterline, big opulent cabin for the senior officers). Next one is struck by the functionality, the speed and facility by which all of the cabins and deck spaces, including the admiral's hammock bay, can be converted to an active gun deck for full-sized cannons.



*HMS Victory in her dry dock*

Finally there is the poignant plaque indicating the spot where Nelson fell to a lucky shot. Elsewhere his actual uniform is on display, with the puncture hole high up on the left shoulder. But as the shot had been fired by a sniper high in the rigging of *Redoubtable* it passed though his spine and lodged in his back — a mortal wound. There is no doubt



that the *Victory* at Trafalgar contributed to stalling Napoleon's threatened invasion of England. If it had been successful then a *Capitaine de la marine française*, rather than Bligh, may well have followed Phillip, Hunter and King as *Gouverneur de New South Wales*!



## FIRST FLEETER GRAVESITES

In my book, *Dispatched Downunder – Tracing the Resting Places of the First Fleeters*, I recorded among many others the dedication of First Fleet Fellowship plaques at the Gravesites of George Worgan, John White, John Hunter and Philip Gidley King. At the time of writing I had not visited these overseas sites. So decided to catch up during this pilgrimage, with a view to recording any detail that may not have been included in the book. A previously unknown First Fleeter grave was discovered, that of Henry Lidgbird Ball.

### George Worgan, Liskeard

In the book I had been unable to specify the exact location of the headstone. We arrived at St Martin's Church in Church Street quite fortuitously on a Sunday morning towards the beginning of Morning Prayer. The curate indicated to us where he thought George Worgan's headstone might be and off we went to scout. The grave is quite close to the south side of the Church twenty-five metres east of that entrance then 25 metres south. It is in the first row of headstones adjacent to a large conifer tree and in fact almost appears on the left hand edge of the photograph on page 401 of *Dispatched Downunder*. There was little or no degradation of the headstone or of the Fellowship plaque since the latter was dedicated in June 2000.



*George Worgan's headstone immediately in front of Denis, complete with its FFF plaque*

### John White, Broadwater, Worthing, London

Again we arrived on a Sunday, this time during Morning Prayers in St Mary's Church, Broadwater, and we had a wait in the village until a lady of the congregation gladly took us within to view the grave with its inscribed white marble floor tablet in the centre aisle of the nave. As documented in *Dispatched Downunder*, the Fellowship plaque is on a small timber base attached to a column near the grave. Rather oddly, following publication of the book, I was asked to give the size of the timber and I had no idea. However I can now correctly report that the Fellowship bronze plaque is attached to a varnished timber base measuring 12 inches by 4 inches and half-an-inch thick. The base is mounted four feet above floor level on the column. The column is on the right hand side of the aisle immediately in front of the apse. Both the floor inscription and the Fellowship plaque are in tip-top order.

### John Hunter, St John-at-Hackney London

The gravesite is fully identified as to its location, inscription and signage in *Dispatched Downunder* so the purpose of the visit to extensive 4.5 acre churchyard gardens was simply to review the present-day state of his memorial. It was not



*The floor tablet*



*The timber plaque base at right*



*The Fellowship bronze plaque in excellent condition*



*The Fellowship plaque seriously corroded*





*Hunter's tomb in need of a thorough clean*

good. The inscription on the flat slab altar tomb had entirely disappeared, and as the tomb was surmounted by large shade trees, it was covered by mosses and lichen. The Fellowship bronze plaque at the base of the tomb was in an advanced state of weathering. The free-standing information panel in front of the tomb, similar to those used at monuments throughout the gardens, was in good order. It seemed to me that here was a situation where the Fellowship should consider replacing its plaque with a new identical unit.

#### **Philip Gidley King, St Nicholas', Tooting, London**

In 1988 the gravestone of Philip Gidley King in St Nicholas' churchyard, Tooting, was removed by his descendants and brought to St Mary Magdalene Churchyard in St Marys, New South Wales, where a Fellowship plaque was dedicated. Missing from the report in *Dispatched Downunder* was any reference to a residual memorial in at St Nicholas, no vault marker being in evidence.

We knocked on the main door beneath the church tower (on a Wednesday!) and were admitted to the church by the convenor of the parish crèche. Surrounded by babies at play, we were directed to two memorial plaques in the right hand rear corner of the ante-room at the front of the church. The larger marble tablet inscription read:

IN A VAULT NEAR THIS PLACE  
ARE INTERRED THE REMAINS OF  
PHILIP GIDLEY KING CAPTAIN R.N.  
LATE GOVERNOR OF HIS MAJESTY'S TERRITORY  
NEW SOUTH WALES  
DIED SEPT. 3. 1808  
AGED 49 YEARS.

The smaller brass plaque under it carries this inscription:

THE STONE COVERING THE VAULT TO WHICH THIS TABLET REFERS  
WAS INSTALLED AT THE CHURCH OF St MARY MAGDALENE  
St MARY'S, NEW SOUTH WALES IN 1988, AS A MEMORIAL TO  
CAPTAIN P.G. KING R.N. THE THIRD GOVERNOR OF THE COLONY  
(1800-1806) DURING THE BICENTENARY OF THE ARRIVAL OF THE  
FIRST FLEET IN JANUARY 1788 IN WHICH HE SERVED.  
BORN AT LAUNCESTON, CORNWALL 23rd APRIL 1758,  
DIED AT TOOTING 3rd SEPTEMBER 1808.

The Vault and Tablet were originally inside the ancient Church, demolished after the completion of the new Church in 1832.



*St Nicholas' Church, Tooting*



*The corner siting of the Gidley King memorial*



*The suitably ornate marble memorial*



### Henry Lidgbird Ball, St Peter's, Petersham, Richmond

At the Flinders Statue unveiling ceremony Denis fortuitously met up with Lt. Cmdr Ted Bourn RN (Rtd) of Hampshire, who had been to Australia in the 1980s as one of the officers on loan to the RAN and had been sailing on *HMAS Supply*. This had aroused his interest in Australian Colonial Naval history and in particular Henry Lidgbird Ball who was captain of *HMS Supply* in the First Fleet. Ted later began a long process of looking for the gravesite of Ball and in October 2011 had found it at St Peter's Church, Petersham, in the London Borough of Richmond upon Thames. What's more the tomb was still intact.

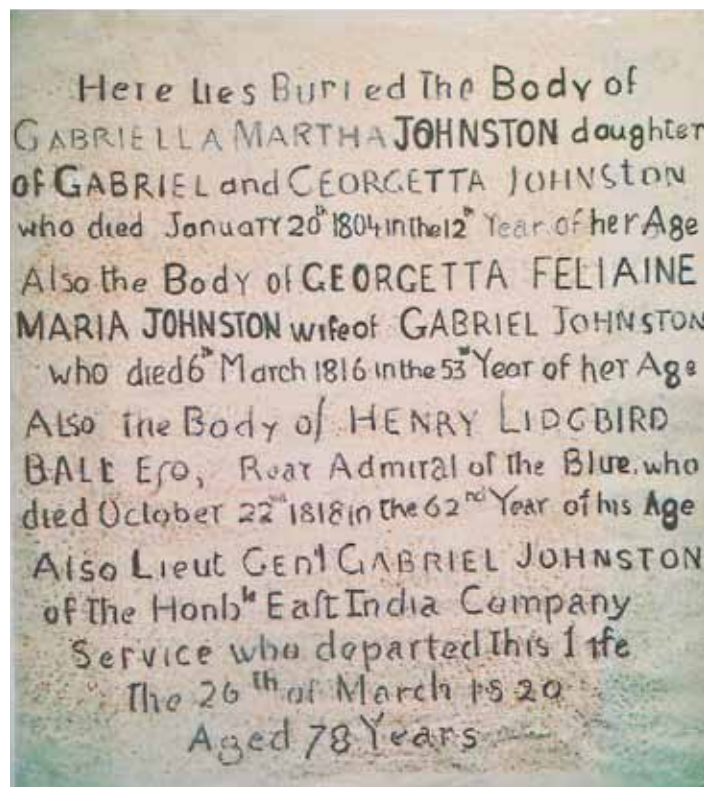


*St Peter's Church, Petersham, Richmond*



*Lt Cmdr Ted Bourn (Rtd) at the overgrown Ball's tomb following its discovery in October 2011*

At Ted's invitation, Denis subsequently visited St Peter's and met with Church historian, Jean Allsopp. Jean, with a team of three others had located the tomb in the churchyard after several weeks of research, made more difficult because in the church records Ball was buried under the name of his father-in-law. Jean took a wax impression of the badly-corroded inscription on the vault. This confirmed that Ball was buried there along with three others, Gabriella Martha Johnston, Georgetta Feliaine Maria Johnston and Lt. General Gabriel Johnston.



*Jean's wax impression of the badly corroded inscription.*

As recently as 20 October 2013 a Church dedication service was held at the tomb, the accompanying stone plaque being inscribed as follows:

Within this vault lie the remains of  
**HENRY LIDGBIRD BALL**

7 Dec 1756 – 22 Oct 1818

Rear Admiral of the Blue

Commanding Officer of *HMS Supply*  
and a Founding Father of Australia

The plaque, adorned with the Australian Coat of Arms, was unveiled by the vicar of St Peter's, the Reverend Canon Tim Marwood, and the Australian High Commissioner, the Honourable Mike Rann. Ted later provided Denis with documentation and photographs covering the event.



*The Australian High Commissioner, Mike Rann, and the Reverend Canon Tim Marwood unveiling the memorial on 20 October 2013*



## MATTHEW FLINDERS BICENTENARY STATUE

### Introducing the Sculpture

The year 2014 is also the bicentenary of the death of Matthew Flinders and a memorial commemoration in England centred on the unveiling of a new bronze statue of Flinders to be erected at Euston Station in London. Denis Smith is a member of the Matthew Flinders Society in New South Wales and was keen to attend the celebrations. He invited me to accompany him.

The sculpture is the undertaking of the Matthew Flinders Memorial Statue Committee, supported by Flinders University, the Government of South Australia, sponsors, public and private companies and individual contributors. The key sponsors are Asphaltic Rail (for installing the statue on the station), Grant Burge Wines (for wines for the unveiling ceremony), Network Rail (in agreeing to site the statue on the main concourse of Euston Station), Virgin Trains (for naming a locomotive *The Matthew Flinders*), Anglo Pacific Minerals and Aspire Designs for building the website. Although the Committee originally intended a bust or plaque for the commemoration it soon came to the conclusion that something more was required for this great man. They ultimately settled on a 1.25 life size statue, with a budget cost of around \$150,000.

The many financial contributions, together with the sale of the limited (75) edition of quarter-size bronze marquettes of the statue at £4500 each, generated a surplus to the project and this will be applied to activate the 'Matthew Flinders Memorial Statue Scholarship', whereby from 2016, the 50th anniversary of Flinders University, funds will be provided for British students to study at the University.

Flinders is largely unknown in England. In Australia he is a national hero with almost a hundred memorials to commemorate him and his achievements, although he on no occasion named anything after himself. In the UK there is just one memorial to him, a relatively recent statue erected in his birth town of Donnington in Lincolnshire. Thus the chosen sculptor, Mark Richards FRBS, set out to create a work that explained who Matthew was and what he did. The statue was to be as much an introduction as it was a commemoration.

While reading and talking about Matthew, Mark says he was struck not so much by his representing the grand ambitions of king and country as by the day-to-day reality of his seafaring life; the discipline, organisation, unimaginable privations and determination. Aside from being ship-wrecked, starved and attacked, while charting the coast of Australia, he pursued a rigorous and monotonous daily routine for months. The now famous map progressed at a snail's pace and with extraordinary accuracy.

Mark Richards travelled in Australia and has a brother who is a citizen here. Among the many aspects Mark admired about the Australians were the absence of stifling formality and opaque under-currents. People were pretty straight with him. Moreover, he found that taking the initiative was held in high regard. With all this in mind, Mark Richards presents Matthew not as a distant heroic figure, but as a man among us.

The design shows Matthew out of official uniform and absorbed in his work charting the coastline of Australia. Leveling Matthew's head with that of an adult viewer further enhances the informality of the composition. His cat, Trim, is by his side and this adds a slightly surreal and playful dimension to the composition. The work reflects Matthew's determination, steadfastness and dynamism.



*The handsome tablet with the Australian Coat of Arms*



*Denis visiting the tomb on 19 July 2014*

*Dispatched Downunder* correctly records that Ball died at Mitcham, but at the time of publication the Fellowship had no knowledge of his place of burial.

**It is to be hoped that the Fellowship will open negotiations to have our own plaque also attached to the tomb, quite possibly a marble or stone carved version.**

Captain George Vancouver (1757–1798), the famous maritime explorer, is also buried in the churchyard and has a memorial tablet in the church. He sailed with Captain Cook on his second and third expeditions to the Pacific Ocean and was with him when he was killed in Hawaii in early 1779. Vancouver is celebrated for conducting the first detailed survey of the northwest coast of America from California to Alaska in 1792–1794.



## The Preliminary Event

In recognition perhaps of the desirability of introducing Flinders to the community before the actual unveiling, a preliminary lecture cum reception was arranged at Australia House on the evening of 17 July 2014. This event was jointly mounted by Flinders University and Gresham College which has provided free public talks within the City of London for over 400 years. The speaker was David Hill, the well known Australian economics journalist, investment banker and serial CEO. He was introduced to a crowd of over 250 (which had already been sustained, nay stimulated, by South Australian wines and bottomless trays of party pies and sauce) by Alderman Professor Michale Mainelli, Emeritus Professor of Commerce at Gresham College.



*Caption superfluous!*

David Hill has in recent years written a number of books with a colonial flavour including: *The Gold Rush, 1788*, and *The Great Race*. The latter explores the so-called race between Flinders and Baudin to chart the south coast of the Australian mainland. I am in no way an admirer of his work which I consider very lightweight and derivative. In dealing with Flinders he faces formidable competition, all the way from Ernestine Hill (1941) to Miriam Estensen (2002) and even Rob Mundle (2012) among the number I have read.



*David Hill at the dais*

Hill duly produced a populist boys-own lecture with a mega-title, *Discovering Australia: The legend and the reality of the navigator-explorer Matthew Flinders*, the thinness of which was exposed during question time which was hosted by Professor Michael Barber, Vice Chancellor of Flinders University.

Bill Muirhed AM, Agent General for South Australia, proposed the vote of thanks and over coffee and chit chat David Hill signed a number of copies of *The Great Race*.

The statue remained under its scarlet wrap, but also on sale were the residual 17 marquettes. All things considered the gathering was well prepared to return the morrow morn for the unveiling.



*'The Great Race' book signing*



*The marquette*





*The arrival of HRH Prince William at Australia House, escorted by the High Commissioner, Alexander Downer*

### **The Unveiling of the Statue**

A gathering of 300 invited guests, including 40 descendants of Flinders, assembled at Australia House at 9.30am on 18 July 2014 to await the arrival of HRH, The Prince of Cambridge, who was to perform the unveiling. Prince William is connected through his mother, HRH Diana, Princess of Wales, with George John Spencer, the second Earl Spencer, after whom Spencers Gulf in South Australia was named by Flinders in March 1802.

Prince William arrived at 10.45am. In the 75-minute interim the guests stood about in a fairly dense throng, and would have been entertained by the Eloise Prouse String Quartet if these musicians had any chance of being heard above the continuous clatter of coffee cups and the cacophony of conversations.

Matt Johnson, Deputy Chairman of the Matthew Flinders Memorial Statue Committee and also Deputy Agent General of South Australia somewhat nervously welcomed the guests.

After the singing of both National Anthems led by South

Australian-born baritone Grant Doyle, His Excellency, High Commissioner Alexander Downer spoke with tenderness about Matthew Flinders and his role in creating modern Australia. He also initiated a period of silent reflection for the appalling tragedy that the previous day befell passengers on the Malaysian airliner in the skies above the Ukraine.

John Allen, Chairman of the Committee and Bill Muirhead, the Agent General, made consecutive speeches, both adding little except to thank all and sundry who had contributed to the project. Anyway, we were all there to see and hear His Highness, who proceeded with the unveiling. The sculpture produced gasps of admiration. And we loved Trim the cat.



*The moment of unveiling*

Prince William's speech showed a warm and sincere empathy with the insights of the sculptor in his portrayal of the life and achievements of Flinders. The speech of course achieved wide circulation but I have included it in full as an Appendix to this journal. Specifically, he said that he very much appreciated the sensitivity of the inscription around the outer circumference of



*The crowd at Australia House. Puzzle: Find Denis!*



the bronze disc, which sits on the circular stainless steel base of the statue. This is what it says:

In commemoration of CAPTAIN MATTHEW FLINDERS RN 1774-1814 who named Australia and charted its 'unknown coast' with the help of Bungaree and the crew of HM Sloop Investigator.

*And on the inner circle:*

Trim, his close companion. Sculptor: Mark Richards FRBS

Unveiled by HRH The Duke of Cambridge in July 2104.

There are clearly a great many words to fit into a limited space, but the lettering captures something of Matthew's era. It has a hint of the swashbuckle in places and the design is peppered with nuances that delight the eye: for example his telescope lying by his side.

His Royal Highness was presented with a marquette of the statue and Matt Johnson made a light-hearted plea for the guests to buy up the residual marquettes. Then followed a flurry of photography around the sculpture and the official and non-official guests.



*A marquette fit for a Prince*



*Matt Johnson introducing HRH The Duke of Cambridge*



*A Dame and a Prince*



*HRH Prince William with the sculptor, Mark Richards*

Prince William mingled with the crowd, most impressively, taking 45 minutes to traverse the length of the hall before finally being farewelled at the door by High Commissioner, Alexander Downer and Mrs Nichola Downer.

The guests departed Australia House and the removalists immediately moved in. Flinders was buried at St James, Hampstead Road, though the grave has since been lost due to alterations to the churchyard. The grave site is thought to lie under what is now Platform 15 at Euston Station. The statue and its base were uplifted and by 4.30am the following day the complete sculpture was in place close by the burial site on the main concourse of the Station.



*The High Commissioner and his wife bid farewell*





Midway between platforms and beneath the arrivals and departure boards, the statue looks out at, and will inevitably become a resting seat for, some of the 104,000 travellers passing through the station each day. With people sprawled

at its base, bags haphazardly resting around it, an abandoned coffee cup left on its top, and somewhat bizarrely, a small flower pot having been placed at its centre, by 10am the sculpture looked well and truly at home.



*Contrast and compare? The Donnington, Lincolnshire Flinders and the State Library, Sydney Flinders*



## GENERAL TOURING IN ENGLAND:

Apart from the above events and destinations, Denis and I enjoyed a good touring holiday around southern England and London reflecting our joint and several interests. Here is a partial listing, in no particular order:

Great Western Railway Museum, Swindon  
Meetings of Rotary in West Bristol, Plymouth and London  
*SS Great Britain*, Bristol  
Cabot Tower, Bristol  
Canterbury Cathedral and Leeds Castle, Kent  
White Cliffs of Dover, Cliffe, Kent  
Royal Shakespeare Theatre and Shakespeare's birthplace, Stratford  
Hughes Hall, Cambridge  
Shrewsbury Castle, Shrewsbury  
Charles Darwin's childhood home, Severn River, Shrewsbury  
Agatha Christie Museum, Torquay  
Solent Sky Aviation Museum, Southampton  
Osborne House, Isle of Wight  
Cowes and Carisbrooke Castle, Isle of Wight  
Royal Pavilion, Brighton and Brighton Pier  
St George's Royal Air Force Chapel, Biggin Hill  
Biggin Hill Heritage Hanger  
Eye in the Sky, Globe Theatre, St Paul's Cathedral, London  
Charles Dickens home, 48 Doughty Street, London  
Red Lion Bust of Dickens, 48 Parliament Street, London  
Savoy Hotel, London for high tea  
Arsenal's Emirates Stadium, London  
St Clement Danes Central Church of the RAF, Strand, London  
National Maritime Museum, Greenwich  
Royal Observatory, Greenwich



*Royal Marines Museum, Portsmouth*



*Breakfast at Biggin Hill*



*Leeds Castle*



*The White Cliffs*



*Cleansing Ales?*



*High Tea at the Savoy*



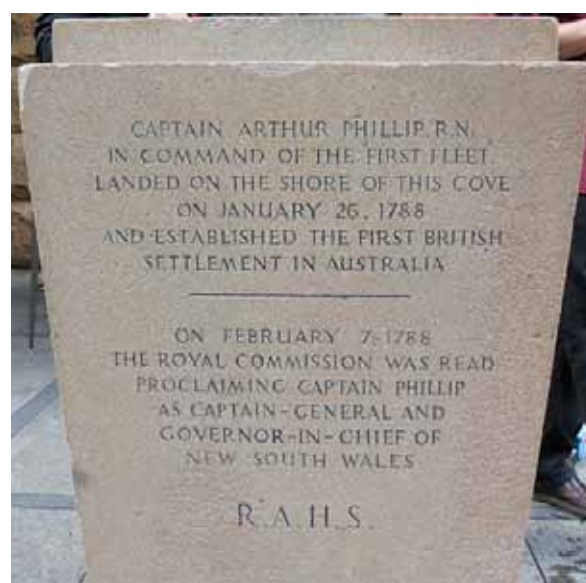


### THEN BACK IN SYDNEY

Back in Sydney I felt drawn to revisit the Arthur Phillip Memorial Fountain in the Royal Botanic Gardens. We may have many, many fewer tributes to Phillip than there are in England, but at least this is the biggest!

And stimulated by all that had transpired in the past month, I could not lose the opportunity to attend the re-positioning of the 1952 Jean Hill bust of Phillip to his home, the Museum of Sydney in Phillip Street, on Thursday 28 August, 2014.

*Ron Withington, 5527 William Parish/Phebe Norton*



This memorial, originally sited in front of the former Maritime Services building in The Rocks, was first unveiled in 1954 by His Excellency the Governor Lieutenant-General Sir John Northcott KCMG KCVO CB. It was relocated to First Government House Place with the generous support of the Friends of the First Government House Site, the Kathleen Hooke Memorial Trust and the Sydney Harbour Foreshore Authority. On 28 August 2014 it was unveiled by Her Excellency Professor The Honourable Dame Marie Bashir AD CVO, Governor of New South Wales, to commemorate the bicentenary of the death of Admiral Arthur Phillip RN, first Governor of New South Wales.



## APPENDIX 1: *PHILLIP IN BATH* by the Reverend Paul Burden

Just over two years ago, I had the privilege to be asked to speak on Arthur Phillip at St Mary le Bow, the church that encompasses the parish of his baptism. That invitation came because I was then the Rector of this benefice of Bathampton and Claverton, a position I held for 18 years until leaving earlier this year, and of course this church being the place of Phillip's burial. The juxtaposition of moving from the place of his burial to the place of his baptism caused me to consider the whole of Phillip's life, not just the Australian focus, and it was a reminder that, dying just short of his 76th birthday, he had a long life considering the attrition of his naval service and the bad health he suffered after his return from the new colony.

Indeed, most of the talks I've hear given on Phillip naturally and rightly pay great attention to the few years that he spent with the First Fleet, perhaps taking note of some of the experiences of his earlier life that prepared him for the rigours of that work. But thinking of Phillip's life up until his death, I want to repeat the focus of my talk at St Mary le Bow on his later life, the time spent living in Bath. I believe it gives some additional insights into the nature of the man. It also allows me to address the issue of how and why he came to be buried in the porch of a small country church. In my time here I dealt with numerous enquiries about why Phillip is not buried in Bath Abbey or a similarly grand place but instead, and I quote from an internet article, he 'was relegated to a small village church'. I will argue later why I profoundly disagree that being buried here was a relegation, but as someone who has given almost 18 years of ministry to this small village church, you may rightly think me biased.

Bath represents a very settled period at the end of Phillip's life. In Georgian times it was no backwater, and the surprise is that the journey from London to Bath that many of you have made to get here is one that Phillip would have been familiar with, and made on numerous occasions. Indeed, one very significant occasion was when he travelled up from Bath to marry Isabella Whitehead in 1794, an elegant partner for him in the Bath scene of the late 18th Century.

Indeed there was more long distance travelling going on in Georgian England than we may imagine, and Phillip travelled a lot both socially and with his work. You may have come across "The Diary of a Country Parson" which is a delightful insight into the England of Phillip's day. It's a diary written by James Woodforde, a Rector near Norwich, from his student days through to the end of his life in 1802. When I mentioned this at St Mary-le-Bow I was delighted to find that one of his descendants was sitting in the congregation. It's well worth reading, and we get a good idea of the London to Bath journey that Phillip would have been familiar with.

In June 1793 Woodforde records staying at "the Angel Inn at the back of St Clements near the Strand", and then writes about his cramped stage coach journey with his niece to Bath: "We got up about 4 o'clock this morning and at 5 got into the Bath coach from the Angel. The coach carries only 4 inside passengers. We had a very

fat woman with a dog and many boxes, which much incommoded us, and also a poor sickly good kind of a man that went with us. We were very near meeting with an accident in Reading passing a wagon, but thank God we got by safe and well. About 10 o'clock this evening we got safe and well to Bath, to the White Hart Inn, where we supped and slept – a very noble Inn." Incidentally, the White Hart Inn still exists in Widcombe, in case you wish to call in there in the interests of historical investigation. The added connection here is that when James Woodforde the next day walks a short distance through Bath to meet his friends, he passes the house where Phillip at that very moment was living, in 3 South Parade. It was a house built 50 years before during the building boom in the city when the population of Bath increased by 10 times in the mid 18thC. Phillip was a year on from his return from Sydney, recuperating and doubtless bathing in the spa waters for which Bath had become famous, and drinking the same spa waters for their curative qualities, the minerals being especially good for working on stomach pains and urinary problems. But Bath was changing, and for two reasons.

The first was that the brash rich and the socialites that had inhabited Bath in that first flush of its popularity had moved on, following the Prince Regent in his fascination with Brighton. Bath, as Phillip knew it, was becoming more a place for the wealthier middle classes, more genteel. One feels from what we know of Phillip that this would have been to his liking.

The second reason for change was the declaration of war with France. Only a few months before his trip to Bath in 1793, James Woodforde writes "Newspapers from Norwich. The King of France Louis 16 inhumanely and unjustly beheaded on Monday last by his cruel, blood-thirsty subjects. Dreadful times I am afraid are approaching to all Europe. France the foundation of all of it." Money was suddenly diverted to the war effort, with income tax being raised for the first time in 1799. Britain lurched into recession. Whilst Phillip returned to wartime naval service, house prices in Bath fell and many builders were bankrupted. The fashions of the time reflected the recession too, as men began to turn from expensive wigs and have natural hair instead, and the brighter silks of the rich gentleman were replaced with more sombre coloured woollen garments. However, every cloud has a silver lining, and it meant that when Phillip retired and bought his final house in Bennett Street in 1805, though he paid a substantial amount for it, he got rather more house for his money than he would have done a decade before.

Bath had sobered up a little by 1805, though Jane Austen, living there at the same time, is summarised as portraying Bath as a "petty city that is only good for gossip and parties and balls." Phillip bought his house directly across the road from the Assembly Rooms, the place in Bath where the gossip and parties and balls took place. The house would certainly have had a price premium for its position, so it would be remarkable if Phillip didn't take advantage, perhaps playing at cards in the Octagon



room or attending the dances and concerts that Austen describes in her Bath based books, *Northanger Abbey* and *Persuasion*.

Such a social life in the genteel society of Bath would have been in great contrast to his naval service immediately before retirement. Phillip had been charged with working with the Sea Fencibles. These were effectively the naval home guard of the day to defend against French invasion, which was widely considered imminent. Again, James Woodforde gives witness to the national state of alarm when in 1801 he says that all clergy received papers "concerning what is to be done in case of an invasion of the French on this country." I think this part of Phillip's career can be somewhat undersold because here again, as with the convicts in Sydney, he used great skill in bringing the best out of what society might have felt was unpromising material. Many who enlisted into the Sea Fencibles were smugglers, who worked on the premise that if they volunteered for a naval force that kept them close to home, they could still ply their smuggling trade as a sideline. This was Britain's final line of defence against a French invasion, and it relied on Phillip moulding such men into a realistic fighting force, though it was never tested. Michael Pembroke in his recent and very readable book on Phillip notes the astonishing distance that Phillip travelled on dirt roads around the coasts of Britain in the course of this work, as I mentioned earlier.

Two fascinating letters were found from this period of Phillip's life, written by him to Isabella. One relates how he is about to move from Plymouth to Appledore but, during the writing of the letter, he is told about the peace (sadly only temporary) declared by Napoleon in 1801 and thinks he may not move after all. Another from 1803 finds him with a cold, house hunting as he stays in Bath, perhaps with good friends in Bathampton who hosted the Phillips on a number of occasions. For me, the fascination is more what can be read between the lines of this letter, that Isabella is in all probability suffering acute anxiety. Phillip is at pains to assure her of his affection, and of the good wishes of her many friends, again witnessing to a full social life.

Other letters after retirement testify to Phillip's ongoing concern for the colony in Sydney. We have a letter from Phillip and the 2nd Governor John Hunter, petitioning for pardon for Lieutenant Colonel Johnstone. Despite this petition, Johnstone was eventually court-martialled for his part in deposing the 4th Governor of Sydney in 1808. We also have evidence of Phillip's friendship with Francis Greenway, a Bristol builder and architect who was bankrupted by recession and transported. Greenway was given a letter of reference from Phillip to Governor Macquarie, and by virtue of this, on his arrival in Australia, he became the first notable architect in the colony, responsible for a number of significant buildings in Sydney including St James's Church.

So we see Phillip in Bath, despite ill health enjoying polite social society after years of working ably across the classes both in Sydney and in the Sea Fencibles, as indeed on board ship. We see a man involved in domestic affairs, concerned for his wife and house hunting for retirement. We also see a man still involved

in the progress of the colony at Sydney, up to his death in 1814.

Michael Pembroke in his book debates the normally held view that Phillip died tragically falling from his open window, questioning the historical basis for this. It has to be said however that it's not as unlikely as it might seem. Later today, have a look at the house and you'll see now metal guards across the first floor windows that once fronted Phillip's main room. If Phillip did fall, he was not the first person to die falling from a fashionably low Georgian windowsill, and he was not the last. Indeed, tragically deaths still occasionally occur in that fashion where guards are not in place. If that was the way Phillip died, I see no reason to conjecture that it was anything else but an accident on a warm August day through sleep or a loss of balance. Indeed, others record that Phillip had had what seems to have been a stroke some years earlier. He was buried in the porch of this church, with a brief note in the burial register of a service taken by Thomas Hale, Curate. This is what causes questions - was this a slur on Phillip?

The answer is that funeral etiquette in Georgian times was very different to today and stressed simplicity, in large part because funerals, particularly of children, were all too commonplace.

Again James Woodforde is helpful here, telling us of the womenfolk staying at home in mourning, whilst the men attended the burial. A burial was considered private, so only those invited attended, the closest of which would be invited to be pall bearers. It took a decision of parliament in 1806 to honour William Pitt with a public funeral that anyone could attend without invitation. Woodforde records his father's funeral, which he wants to make as grand as possible, and he does this by making sure the men have black silk hatbands and shammy gloves. Although his father was a clergyman, and Woodforde and other pall bearers are clergy, the burial is taken by the parish clerk, not ordained but tasked to take services in the church. On other occasions he tells of the Curate taking that role.

So Phillip's burial by the Curate, with not much note, falls exactly into the custom of the times. However, there are two aspects of his burial that show him to be highly esteemed, which unfortunately we interpret differently today.

The first is that he was buried in the porch of the church. Today, after Victorian extensions, the grave is now included within the church building, but you can see a difference in the ceiling which gives away where the Victorian extension is. A burial in the porch was honourable because it meant that any one entering or leaving church would be reminded of that person. It also protected the grave from the dangers of a churchyard burial, such as grave robbers or dogs.

Secondly, Phillip is buried in one of the villages surrounding Bath. Bath's rapid expansion had been around medieval churches with small churchyards. The Abbey at this point had no useable churchyard at all. The poor would have unmarked graves, whilst the middle class might have a gravestone in one of those increasingly crowded churchyards. This was true for Jane Austen's father, buried in 1806 at Phillip's parish



church at St Swithin's Walcot (which, incidentally, means it isn't too fanciful to imagine the Phillips and Jane Austen attending church together).

However, those with influence were buried in the more spacious churchyards of the outlying villages, and so we find Lord Nelson's sister buried in the neighbouring parish of Bathford, and Ralph Allen, a wealthy Georgian entrepreneur, buried at the sister church to here in Claverton. Phillip's connection through friends in Bathampton meant this church was chosen as the place to show him honour in his burial, with Isabella buried with him some years later. This was no slur, quite the opposite in the traditions of the day, though admittedly nothing like the state funeral accorded to Britain's hero Admiral Nelson.

Is Phillip honoured? Categorically, yes. However, there is something else that I feel is of much greater importance in Phillip's burial. It's the fundamental fact that, whoever we are and whatever our status, death claims us all. It's the ultimate statistic that levels all humanity before God our Creator and our Saviour. St Nicholas Church is proud of Phillip, and are delighted to honour him, including through the display in the tower area created with help from the West Country Branch of the Britain-Australia Society, which also helped light his stone. This has had great appreciation from many visitors.

But I must balance that with a recognition that, buried in this church and churchyard, there are many others who have also shown compassionate, wise and, yes, Godly and Christ focussed lives. I could tell you of some that it has been my privilege to know. Though their achievements receive little or no recognition in this world, they are known by God and their lives celebrated by him.

The last panel of the Phillip display points to the Christian faith that this village church has stood for over many centuries. It reminds us that all of us are important before God as we seek to serve Christ in our lives. That desire is alive and well. A number of this congregation work in Bath to provide food for those struggling, they go through the difficult process of raising funding to employ a youth worker to work with the teenagers of the area, and there is much work pastorally in the community. I have been very privileged to have spent so long working with such a faithful group of people.

Phillip did great things and, wonderfully, they have been noticed and are honoured amongst us. But he is buried in a church where he is in the company of those, living and departed, who have also done great things but many are known only to God. So as we honour Phillip today, may we be those who serve Christ in our day and, when our time comes, receive God's "well done, good and faithful servant", which is the greatest honour any of us can have.

*Paul Burden July 2014*

## ***APPENDIX 2: Speech by HRH Prince William, Duke of Cambridge***

High Commissioner, Agent General, distinguished guests, Ladies and Gentlemen, thank you for your very warm welcome.

I know that I speak for all of us here when I acknowledge our deep sadness following yesterday's disaster in the Ukraine. For all of us who have lost fellow countrymen and women in the tragedy, words cannot do justice to our sense of loss. For Australians, and for our Malaysian brothers and sisters in the Commonwealth, the crash is a particularly cruel tragedy coming so soon after the loss of MH370. Please be assured of my family's thoughts and prayers at this time.

Earlier this year, you will know that Catherine and I had the great pleasure of spending time, with George, in Australia. In South Australia, we visited an organisation that will long live in our memory called the Northern Sound System. There, we met young people – some from very difficult backgrounds – who were turning their lives around through the power of music. The place was Australia at its very best: young, innovative, caring, cool ... it was a truly uplifting place. Australia is a very dear country to me and Catherine, and so I am particularly honoured to have been invited today to celebrate a man who did far more than anyone to place Australia – quite literally – on the map. I am aware that this statue, and its eventual placement at Euston station, involved a lot of hard work by a committed group of supporters, but there are some

who deserve a particular mention.

First, I should like to congratulate the sculptor, Mark Richards, for producing a beautiful statue and for telling the story of Captain Flinders with such elegance.

I should also like to acknowledge and thank the many people and organisations who have contributed financially to the project. Although backed by the Government of South Australia, this has been a privately funded initiative.

Finally, I should like to congratulate the Steering Committee for achieving so much. You have truly honoured the memory of Captain Flinders in London.

In closing, I would like to make two brief observations about the figure ... I should say figures ... not to forget Trim the cat, who apparently isn't bolted down.

First, I appreciate the way this work communicates Captain Flinders as a man of action, strength and determination.

Second, I very much appreciate the sensitivity of the inscription around the base of the statue.

Some of you may know that Matthew Flinders had an indigenous Australian on board HM Sloop Investigator ... an indigenous Australian with whom he clearly had a close rapport. His name was Bungaree, a person Flinders described as "worthy and brave". "Worthy and brave" is a description that is just as apt for Captain Flinders himself.

Thank you for inviting me to commemorate this great man with you all.







