

## WHO WAS ARTHUR PHILLIP RN ?

Captain, later Admiral Arthur Phillip RN commanded the historic First Fleet that sailed to Australia. He was made responsible by the British Government for taking over 1400 souls in eleven sailing ships safely over 15,000 miles from England to New South Wales between May 1787 and January 1788. In his charge were officers crew, marines, a few wives and (the vast majority) convicts, some reluctant, some terrified, some eager. Phillip's orders were issued by the Viscount Sydney, then Home Secretary and responsible for the colonies. Phillip was made Governor-designate of the new colony he was instructed to establish.

Against huge odds, he succeeded, and became and the first Governor of modern Australia and the founder of New South Wales

Many in the United Kingdom and some in Australia believe that Arthur Phillip's achievements have never been fully recognised. The Britain-Australia Society Education Trust plans to right this wrong.

After extraordinary naval and diplomatic service to his nation in Australia and around the world, this great sailor, patriot, administrator, humanitarian and visionary lived in active retirement in Bath at 19 Bennett Street from 1806 until his death in 1814. He is buried at St Nicholas Church Bathampton.

The Trustees have put in place plans to commemorate Arthur Phillip's achievements and are launching a fundraising campaign to ensure the following in 2014, 200 years after Phillip's death:

- A significant memorial stone will be installed in the floor of the nave close to the tomb of the Unknown Warrior in Westminster Abbey.
- A memorial tribute sculpture in the form of an Armillary Sphere by Nigel Fenwick and David Harber (for which Planning consent has been granted) is to be placed in a garden adjacent to the Assembly Rooms in Bath across from the Phillip house. Bathampton Church is also to benefit. Bath Heritage Services, World Heritage Manager and the National Trust, all contributed to achieving full planning consent for this memorial
- An enduring bursary is to be established to make educational grants and to award scholarships in Phillip's name to young Britons and Australians qualified and keen to deepen their knowledge of the other country.

Chairman of the Trustees, Sir Christopher Benson DL, said " I am confident that the intention to recognise the huge contribution Arthur Phillip has made to the United Kingdom and to the great continent of Australia will resonate clearly with many, and that they will wish to donate and to be a part of this important anniversary celebration and commemoration. The West Country Branch of the Society is working closely with the Trust on this exciting programme".

The unveiling of the Westminster Abbey stone and the Bath memorial sculpture will be celebrated at major events in July next year when donors and supporters will be acknowledged and thanked.

<http://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/phillip-arthur-2549>

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