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PRESS RELEASE

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SOUTH WEST MEP TO ATTEND BRITAIN-AUSTRALIA CIVIC EVENTS BATH – 9 OCTOBER

The West Country Branch of the Britain-Australia Society will be holding civic events at Bathampton and Bath to celebrate on 9 October the birth of Admiral Arthur Phillip RN, the first Governor General of New South Wales.

Giles Chichester, MEP for the South West and Gibraltar, will join with dignitaries including Adam McCarthy, Deputy High Commissioner for Australia, and David Medlock, Deputy Lieutenant of Somerset at a civic reception given by the Trustees of the City of Bath and hosted by the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress, Colin and Pamela Barrett, commencing at 12.15 pm in the Guildhall.

Admiral Arthur Phillip RN (11 October 1738 to 31 August 1814) was appointed Governor General of New South Wales in October 1786. He established the first European Colony on the Australian continent and was founder of the site which is now the city of Sydney. At the time of his departure in 1792, the colony population totalled 4,221 of whom 3,099 were convicts. Admiral Phillip returned to his naval career and held a series of commands in the war against the French until his resignation. He retired to live in Bath in 1805 until his death in 1814.

MEP Chichester maintains close links with Australia which he has visited several times as a Member of the European Parliament Delegation for Interparliamentary Relations with Australia and New Zealand. He also regularly meets with parliamentarians from both countries visiting Brussels and/or Strasbourg to discuss important international social and economic issues of mutual interest. His father, Sir Francis Chichester, in December 1929, flew solo from England to Australia and he followed this in 1930 by making the first solo flight across the treacherous Tasman Sea from New Zealand to Australia. In 1966, Sir Francis made the only stop on his solo global circumnavigation under sail at Sydney. In 1979, Giles sailed from Cape Town to Perth in the *Parmelia* Race to commemorate the sesquicentennial anniversary of the arrival of the first group of settlers in West Australia in 1829.

ENDS

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Conservatives in the European Parliament