

# Order! Order!

The Official Journal of the Association of Former Members of Parliament



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## ALSO IN THIS ISSUE

**4** CALL ME MADAM  
George Robertson  
remembers Betty  
Boothroyd



**9** RAIL200  
Guest speakers  
mark 200 years  
of rail history



**13** GETTING THERE  
EVENTUALLY  
Huw Edwards  
on devolution  
for Wales



**16** ACID KEYBOARD  
Jerry Hayes on Sarah  
Vine's look-at-me  
memoir



## For her, I'd take a bullet between the teeth

Sir Gerald Howarth on the Thatcher centenary p5



# WELCOMING NEW MEMBERS



## MIKE FOSTER

**Former Labour MP for Worcester, 1997–2010**

Mike was Worcester's first ever Labour MP, and made news just weeks into his first term by coming top in the Private Members' Bill ballot, introducing the Wild Mammals (Hunting with Dogs) Bill to ban hunting. A former lecturer, he served on the Education and Employment Select Committee; worked as a PPS in the Department of Education and Skills before moving in 2005 to support Peter Hain in Northern Ireland. He was a Government Whip in 2006–08, and Minister for International Development, from 2008 until the 2010 general election.



## PAUL HOWELL

**Former Conservative MP for Sedgefield, 2019–24.**

Paul was immensely proud to be elected as the first Conservative MP for Sedgefield in 84 years. Before entering Parliament, he had a 40 year career in manufacturing as a Financial and Logistics Director. In Westminster he chaired the APPG for Left Behind Neighbourhoods, which led on the need for a community wealth fund. He was a treasury PPS and spent time on both the BEIS and Transport Select Committees and completed two years on the AFPS. He particularly promoted the need for better local transport and support for local businesses in Sedgefield.



## STEPHEN KERR

**Former Conservative MP for Stirling 2017–19.**

Stephen was born in Dundee in 1960. He graduated from the University of Stirling in 1986 and joined Kimberly-Clark in 1986. In 1997, Kerr left Kimberly-Clark to become a director of Alexander Ross Holdings. In 2006 he re-joined Kimberly-Clark in a senior executive role. He left Kimberly-Clark in 2017 when he was elected as MP for Stirling.

Stephen is currently a Member of the Scottish Parliament for Central Scotland.

He married Yvonne Mairi Hood in 1983, and they are the parents of four children and the grandparents of thirteen grandchildren.



## DAVID MACKINTOSH

**Former Conservative MP for Northampton South, 2015–2017.**

In Parliament, David Mackintosh served on the Communities and Local Government and Petitions Select Committees and was chair of the APPGs on Ending Homelessness and for Sweden. He focussed on the Homelessness Reduction Act to update legislation on housing solutions.

He had previously served as Leader of Northampton Borough Council for four years and as a Northamptonshire County Councillor for eight years including as Cabinet member for Community Services. Since leaving Parliament, David has worked on UK-France relations.

David is Vice President of the Conservative Friends of Bangladesh.



## JUDY MALLABER

**Former Labour MP for Amber Valley 1997–2010**

Judy served on the Education & Employment, Treasury, Trade & Industry, Energy & Climate Change select committees, and the quadrupartite committee on arms export controls.

She was PPS to the Leader of House of Lords, but mostly she promoted issues from backbenches. A former trade union research officer, she served on the minimum wage bill committee, chaired select committee enquiry on women and work, and was co-convenor of the UNISON group; and vice-chair of the trade union MPs. She worked with charities on online safety and child abuse.



## TERRY ROONEY

**Labour MP for Bradford North 1990–2010**

I was delighted to serve as Member of Parliament for my home city of Bradford. The highlight was undoubtedly serving as Chair of the Work & Pensions Select Committee from 2005–10. My time these days is taken up by nine grandchildren and five great grandchildren. They have a very different perspective on politics and a great deal more common sense than most people. Sadly my wife is severely disabled so I am also a full-time carer, and watch with great interest debates and ideas on health and benefits issues for the disability community.



# ASSOCIATION NEWS

Nicola Rivis



## NICOLA RIVIS

**HELLO,** I wanted to share a quick update to say that my first six months in the Administrator role have gone very well - and I'm thoroughly enjoying it so far. It's certainly been a busy and rewarding period, encompassing the handover from Laura, the Summer Reception, the Rail200 event in York, the Association's five-year ballot, and several Executive Committee meetings. During this time, I've also supported the transition from the former Executive Committee to our newly elected Chairman and Executive Committee, ensuring they have everything they need to perform their roles effectively.

## MEMORIAL SERVICE RECEPTIONS

I was reminded recently that not many of our members are aware that they can organise & hold a Memorial Service Reception for a former member (who has passed away) in any of the House of Lords' function rooms (with or without a sponsoring HoL Member) or House of Commons' function rooms (a current MP is required to sponsor the event). These are usually organised to take place following a Memorial Service nearby and are relatively straightforward to set up.

## HERE IS THE FULL LIST OF OUR NEW EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

**CHAIRMAN:** Lawrie Quinn  
**VICE CHAIRMAN:** Dr Tania Mathias  
**VICE CHAIRMAN:** Adrian Sanders  
**JOINT MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY:** Andrew Bingham  
**JOINT MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY:** Linda Gilroy  
**TREASURER:** Sarah McCarthy-Fry

## MEMBERS

John Austin  
 Gordon Banks  
 Hugh Bayley  
 Nigel Evans  
 Fabian Hamilton MP  
 Richard Holden MP  
 Baroness Laing of Elderslie  
 Tim Loughton  
 Eric Martlew  
 David Morris  
 Baroness Winterton of Doncaster



**CHAIRMAN:** Lawrie Quinn  
**VICE CHAIRMAN:** Dr Tania Mathias

Nicola Rivis  
 House of Commons  
 Rm G-13, 1 Parliament Street  
 LONDON SW1A 2NE  
 Tel: 020 7219 8207  
 E-mail: rivisn@parliament.uk

# DATES FOR THE DIARY

## NEXT MEETING

The Association's next All-Member Meeting which will be from 16:30hrs – 18:00hrs on **Thursday 4 December** in Committee Room 4a, House of Lords. This will conclude the Rail200 celebrations, marking the bicentenary of the world's first railway journey, from Stockton to Darlington rail (see page 10), and give colleagues who were not able to travel to York and Shildon in September an opportunity to meet some of our expert railway speakers, including the veteran Lobby journalist, Paul Routledge, with a special contribution from Lord (Peter) Snape, a railway exile currently sitting in the House of Lords.

## CHRISTMAS DRINKS

Our Christmas Drinks Reception will be taking place in the River Room, House of Lords, (with kind permission from the Lord Speaker) on **Thursday 4 December** from 18:00hrs – 20:00hrs, immediately following the All-Member meeting.

If you would like to attend the Christmas Drinks Reception in the River Room, and haven't yet booked your place, please email Nicola ([rivisn@parliament.uk](mailto:rivisn@parliament.uk)). Also include whether or not you are bringing your partner, and their name when emailing. Then please also transfer £20 per head to the Association's bank account.

Look forward to seeing you there!'



## “CALL ME MADAM”

This is a slightly edited version of the tribute Lord Robertson of Port Ellen paid to her at her funeral, on 12 January 2024.

*It is 25 years since Betty Boothroyd vacated her role as the first – and, so far, the only Speaker of the House of Commons. On that same day – 23 October 2000 – she quit the House of Commons to become the Rt Hon Baroness Boothroyd of Sandwell. Betty Boothroyd died in 2023, aged 93.*

You didn't mess with Betty Boothroyd. A few tried; all failed. When she said, 'Call me Madam', it wasn't a quip, it was an order.

She may have been the nicest, the warmest of people, generous and loveable and personable to everyone, and indeed she was – but there was steel in her character which the unwary always underestimated. As she said herself, she had 'convictions set in concrete'.

When she decided to run for the Office of Speaker she meant serious business. When the then government tried to buy her off with the post of First Deputy Speaker, she was blunt with those of us in her small campaign team. Telling them to get lost, she said. 'I'm going for gold – nothing less'.

And so it was. She was elected by 372 MPs to 238, the first woman Speaker of the House of Commons in 700 years - and of course like that fact, the rest is history

Betty came from the humblest of roots in a loving working-class home which, as she said, gave her 'a strong constitution, insisted on a disciplined approach to life and gave me the confidence to fulfil my ambition.'

Her parents were poor, life was hard and

her father's constant unemployment was to fuel her life-long passionate concern for social justice and her sympathy with the plight of those left behind by human progress. She said that she 'came out of the womb into the Labour movement'.

Failing the 11 plus at school she went to be a shop assistant before training to be a shorthand typist and then, after a brief time as a dancer, to work as a secretary for Labour MPs Barbara Castle and Geoffrey de Freitas, and then her great friend Lord Harry Walston.

But it took seventeen years, three byelections, two general elections and innumerable selection conferences before she was elected for West Bromwich West and into what was to be for her, her first love, the British Parliament. Many might wonder if a man would have had the same hurdles to jump, or indeed the same tenacity to keep going.

And once there, she was to rise to one of the highest positions in the land, preside with acclaim over the Mother of Parliaments, be chosen by the Queen to join the Order of Merit - described by one expert as 'quite probably the most prestigious honour one can receive on planet Earth' - and be appointed Chancellor of the world-renowned Open University.

And all the time she remained to her host of friends across the country and admirers across the world, the natural, human, warm, approachable and charming girl who literally danced away from Dewsbury so many years ago. From the

Tiller Girls to the National Executive Committee of the Labour Party. From the secretaries' room in Westminster, to casting a decisive vote on the Maastricht Treaty. From election failures to Parliamentary stardom, and being the Gold Standard for Speakers of the House of Commons. It was some career.

With her grasp of procedure, her unfailing good humour, her self-effacing dignity and her calm, supervision of that unruly bunch of law makers who make up the elected House of Parliament, one wag described her as 'a combination of headmistress, nanny and pub landlady'. No grandstanding for her, no toleration of windbaggy, no patience with long supposed questions without an actual question - as I was to find out to my cost one front bench afternoon - there was no messing with Betty.

In her autobiography she tells the story of how she insisted that Gerry Adams must take the oath of allegiance before taking his seat. He refused, and asked what he should tell the press. "Tell them exactly what I have told you. The fat old girl in there is immovable".

On the 23 February last year the Baroness Boothroyd of Sandwell finally left us. For her, as she might have said herself, 'Times up!'

But we will never forget the lady who said and commanded, "Call me Madam."

*George Robertson was MP for Hamilton, 1978-97, and Hamilton South 1997-99.*

# THE SALVATION OF THE NATION



Last month saw the centenary of the birth of Margaret Thatcher. Here Sir Gerald Howarth, one of her 'junior lieutenants' pays tribute to the Iron lady



Once asked one of Margaret Thatcher's personal protection officers, Bob Kingston, what it was like looking after her. He replied: "I would catch bullets between my teeth for the lady."

She was the salvation of the nation, who halted and reversed Britain's postwar decline. Moribund nationalised industries were reinvigorated in the private sector, the overweening powers of the trade union barons were curbed and returned to their members, markedly reducing industrial strife; regulation was cut, punitive taxes abolished, exchange controls limiting how much cash we could take abroad abolished overnight, and enterprise encouraged.

And she was someone who inspired tremendous loyalty among those who served her, which she in turn reciprocated. As Lord Jopling put it, whilst she enjoyed the Iron Lady image, 'it tended to shroud the intense sense of thoughtfulness and kindness which was an ever-present part of her character.' When Neil Hamilton and I were libelled by the BBC and sought her support, she listened to us for 25 minutes and then told the Chief Whip to make it known that we were Members of good standing.

One of her greatest successes was the sale of council houses, driven by Peter Walker. On her watch 1,500,000 houses were sold to their tenants, including sheepish Labour councillors who had vigorously opposed the policy. Drab homes were enlivened with bright new doors, porches, garages turned into living space but, above all, their new owners liberated from local authority control.

Whilst Michael Heseltine fell out so spectacularly, he played a part in those

tumultuous years, his revival of London's Docklands and Liverpool standing as monuments to the part sensible government can play in harnessing the power of the private sector.

Ahead of her time, she warned that we were being 'swamped' by immigration.

If domestic policy was a source of contention, Margaret Thatcher soon impressed on the world stage. Her determination to liberate the Falkland Islands from Argentine aggression demonstrated a steely resolve which both inspired the British people and signalled to the wider world that Britain had awoken from its postwar socialist slumber.

In recognising that Mikhail Gorbachev was 'a man with whom we can do business', she forged a vital alliance with President Reagan who became a close friend. Thus, she played a critical role in ending the Cold War, restoring Britain's global prestige and rendering the world a safer place. That relationship with 'Ronnie' was founded on mutual respect. When the US attacked Grenada, Mrs Thatcher was immediately on the phone to denounce the President for his failure to consult with the Head of State of the island, namely Her Majesty the Queen. After being given a severe reprimand, when the call was over and the doors to the Oval Office opened, a beaming President declared 'What a woman!'

She did listen and accept ideas if they were well argued. As Sir Malcolm Rifkind has written, whilst she was intolerant of the woolly-minded and those who argued that things could not be done because they were unpopular, 'when she met someone able to argue from a point of fact and whom she respected, she not only listened but could change her mind.'

When we published 'No Turning Back' 40 years ago, she dismissed our proposal that in school funding the money should follow the pupil, only to announce it as a policy commitment at the 1987 general election!

If her trenchant views on Europe contributed to her downfall, they emboldened the growing Eurosceptic movement. One day in 1992, in casual conversation I asked what her weekend plans were. She responded that she was going to Paris for dinner with President Mitterand, intending to tell him that if he signed the Maastricht Treaty, 'France est mort.' I observed that, to be grammatically correct, she should say 'La France est morte.' The following week, Mitterand called a referendum, in which just 51 per cent voted in favour.

The deposing of Mrs Thatcher was a shameful episode in the history of the Conservative Party from which it took 30 years to recover. As a friend and admirer of Nigel Lawson, it grieved me that the two fell out. Perhaps had she promoted kindred spirits like Peter Lilley earlier who were able to argue more robustly with her, things might have been different.

Margaret Thatcher was a committed Christian, a principled Conservative, and a true patriot. With the loyal support of her beloved husband, Denis, she led the transformation of our country. It was a privilege to serve as a junior lieutenant to a leader never rejected by the British people.

*Sir Gerald Howarth was Conservative MP for Cannock and Burntwood, 1983-92, and Aldershot, 2010-24.*

# DEPUTY SPEAKER: IT'S 'THE BEST JOB IN THE WORLD'

by Andy McSmith

**T**here is no better job in the world than occupying the Speaker's chair in the House of Commons – or so the summer meeting of the Association was told, when three former deputy speakers talked about what you need to know to function as a deputy speaker, what you gain, and what you have to give up.

They have to remember the name and constituency of every MP, they have to know the rules, and to have to listen carefully, and stay awake. Occasionally, and often reluctantly, they will have to penalise an MP who breaks the rules, and sometimes they can only sit and watch them behave badly, because what they are up to is not technically an abuse.

## Rule breakers

Sometimes, the problem is not what they hear, but what they miss. Nigel Evans, who was a deputy speaker for 11 years, recalled: "There was one time when Lee Anderson accused a Labour MP of being a thief, and for whatever reason I missed it. Clearly you can't do that in the Chamber. When it was brought to my attention, I looked to see where Lee was, and he had gone. I got somebody to find Lee and bring him back in."

The procedure then is to ask the culprit to 'withdraw' the offending comment. In this case, Lee Anderson asked: "Will that make your life easier, Nigel?" and when told that it would, he 'withdrew'.

Others might find a way to withdraw that skirted around the rules. "One of the best lines ever, I thought was from Dennis Skinner," Nigel Evans added. "When he pointed at the government side and said: 'Half the people over there are crooks', the Speaker stood up and said; 'You must withdraw that immediately!'

"Skinner said: 'I withdraw that



immediately: half the people over there are not crooks'."

## Suspension

Other MPs will stand their ground, knowing that suspension will follow, although that means taking a financial hit. Baroness Winterton of Doncaster had no choice but to suspend an SNP MP, but then rang him with a friendly word of advice: "If you're going to do this, it's a really bad idea to do it just before the recess because your five days loss of pay will now extend to something like four weeks," she said.

## Speaking for Tiktok

A difference between the Commons now and 20 or more years ago was that in those days someone who knew the subject under the debate might be allowed to speak for 20 minutes or more, while frustrated back benchers sat waiting for a chance to speak. "Many of us have sat there for hours and hours and never got called, and the only consolation was that you might be higher up the list when the next debate comes that you are interested in," Rosie Winterton recalled. Though, of course, officially there was never a 'list' to be higher up in.

These days, speeches are shorter because, as Nigel Evans remarked: “Now you want to make a sound bite, you want to do a Tiktok. You’re not going to speak for 25 minutes, because nobody’s going to watch that on Tiktok.”

### Time wasters

One way to accommodate everyone is to impose time limits on speeches, but some MPs assume you can breach that limit by being awarded a sort of parliamentary equivalent of injury time. Baroness Laing of Elderslie, a deputy speaker from 2013 until she quit the Commons in 2024, said: “One of the things that always annoyed us is that you would put on a three-minute time limit, but people who thought they were being clever would jump up and intervene on their friends. Some would even say ‘I don’t really want to intervene, I just want to give you the extra minute’.

“Where did they think the extra minute would come from? There isn’t an extra minute. There are only so many minutes until ten o’clock, when you have to stop. So, it was an incredibly selfish, self-centre and kind of yucky thing to do.”

### The Budget

Eleanor Laing was the first woman ever to chair the Ways and Means Committee, and therefore the first woman to preside on Budget day. “Chairing the budget is actually quite interesting and quite fun,” she said. “There is something really quite exciting about being given a brown envelope marked ‘Absolutely Top Secret’ a couple of hours before the Chancellor stands up.

“But the main thing that you need to do is stay awake and interested for every single moment of the Chancellor’s speech. There would not normally be an awful lot of raucous behaviour - I could normally deal with that behaviour without too much fuss – but during an hour long speech, sometimes I would find it necessary to stand up for ten seconds and just say ‘Keep the noise down a bit there’ because that just makes the blood go round.”

### What they give up

But there are sacrifices that come with the job. As soon as Nigel Evans was elected a deputy speaker, in 2013, he was told by the chief Clerk: “Your name is coming

off every EDM you have ever signed. You cannot ask any written questions. You cannot stand up in the House and ask any oral questions.

“I remember once I received a letter from a constituent who said ‘Mr Evans, I have always thought you were useless, but I have just discovered that you can’t speak in the House, you can’t write any questions down, and you can’t ask any oral questions – so you are absolutely useless.’”

### John Bercow

It also helps for a deputy to have good relations with the Speaker. With Sir Lindsay Hoyle in charge, the Speaker and three deputies are a team, and though decisions are ultimately his to make, according to Eleanor Laing: “Ninety nine per cent of the time he had our solid backing.”

“It wasn’t quite like that when Speaker Bercow was in the chair,” she added.

“I don’t think I need to say any more....”

John Bercow, of course, entered the Commons as a hard-line Thatcherite MP, and left with fewer enemies on the Labour side than among the Tories. But Nigel Evans acknowledged that Bercow was a reformer, who first introduced the system under which deputy speakers are elected, rather than chosen by the party whips. Bercow also eased up on the rules about how to dress, tolerating men who did not wear ties.

### The Gallery

Another Bercow innovation was that he would acknowledge the presence of people he recognised in the public gallery, when before it was, in effect, breaking the rules even to hint that they were there. Reputedly, it was spotting the late Ozzy Osbourne that inspired Bercow to introduce this new practice. “There used to be a very definite rule but Speaker Bercow changed it, because if you want to play to the gallery, you want to have a gallery to which to play,” said Eleanor Laing.

### The world’s best job

But, to sum up, Eleanor Laing declared: “You’re right at the centre, you know what’s going on, and as long as you can put your own emotional involvement with any particular subject to the side and apply the impartiality that is required, which I didn’t find very difficult – as long as you can do that, it is the best job in the world.”

## THE CANDID CANDIDATE

Hugo Winterson

### Political Incident No. 10

The Whitebeam Tower, typical example of a 1960s tower block, stood 21 stories tall. When I arrived in Walthamstow in 1986 I had already gained enough experience to know that when canvassing such places you took the groaning, malodorous lift up to the top – hoping it wouldn’t break down with you inside it – and worked your way down via the stairs, equally malodorous, sometimes featuring used needles and excrement - both animal and human - but at least providing an escape route away from trouble if necessary.

So far that day, I had got down to the fifteenth floor, where I came upon what resembled a stable door, with separate top and bottom halves. I knocked, and was instantly assailed by such a barking, snarling, howling and growling as was made by a litter of the Hound of the Baskervilles. The top half of the door was flung open to reveal a burly young man stripped to the waist, covered in tattoos, head shaved, ears bristling with earrings.

A Conservative voter?? Only one way to find out...

He turned and shouted a string of obscenities. The canine racket died down.

“Er, good afternoon, sorry to bother you, my name’s Hugo Summerson and I’m canvassing for the Conservative Party.”

“Yer wha’?”

I realised I was starting to back away nervously towards the staircase.

“I’m canvassing for the Conservative Party.”

“Wha’, Fatcher’s lo’?”

“Er, yes, yes, Mrs. Thatcher is our leader”

I faltered even more nervously, glancing over my shoulder.

“Roigh’.”

At this point I was ready to flee, but no need, he had more to say.

“Oi’ll vote for Fatcher’s lo’, me an’ my fifteen pitbull terriers!”

“Thank you, sir!”

“Roigh’.”

Did he and his fifteen pitbull terriers turn up at the polling station? I don’t know, but I would have loved to have seen it.

**Hugo Summerson was MP for Walthamstow, 1987-1992. Between 1982 and 1994, he stood three times as a Council candidate, and three times as a Parliamentary candidate.**



John Gunnell Leader of West Yorkshire Council and Eric Martlew Chair of Cumbria Council starting the campaign to save the Settle to Carlisle line in 1983.

# THE SETTLE–CARLISLE LINE, AND ME

by Eric Martlew

The Settle-Carlisle line – widely acknowledged as the most scenic railway in England – has run like a thread through my life. In 1952, on my third birthday, my family moved from Wigan to Carlisle. My father George was transferred there by British Rail and became a driver on the West Coast Mainline.

We lived at Petteril Terrace, which used to be Midland Cottages. It was named after the Midland Railway Company, which built the Settle-Carlisle line. The houses were originally for employees of the line, and were now for rail workers in general.

The Settle line ran about 200 yards behind our house. It was steam trains in those days. You could smell the smoke. And they would hiss. In a way, steam trains are alive.

The railway was my adventure playground. There were no fences; you could walk straight in. A gang of us used to play on the line. We were all railway children: everybody's father in the street worked on the railway.

Not far from my house was a turntable, where the engines were turned to go from the line into and out of the nearby Durranshill maintenance sheds. We'd try to push the big levers, pretending to help the fireman push it around. He would give us a lift on the engine's footplate, dropping us off before the sheds. It was exciting, and scary, even though we were only going about half a mile very

slowly. I'd do this until I was 11 or 12.

My next involvement with the Settle line was years later. In 1974 I'd been elected to Cumbria County Council. From 1983 to 1985, I was its chairman. In 1983 British Rail declared its intention to close the line on economic grounds. We started the campaign to save it, along with West Yorkshire County Council. Its leader John Gunnell played a prominent role and later became an MP. A council colleague of mine, Bill Cameron, became spokesman for the opposition to the closure and did an excellent job.

The campaign grew legs. There were a lot of community protests. Friends of the Settle-Carlisle Line was set up. Ron Cotton, who British Rail put in charge of closing the line, helped to transform its fortunes and was happy to see it stay open.

I became an MP in 1987. Soon after, I had an adjournment debate on the proposed closure. I'd prepared the customary quarter of an hour's speech. But business collapsed early. Suddenly I had up to an hour and a half to debate the issue. Fortunately, Bob Cryer, MP for Bradford South, was a railway enthusiast. So, along with other MPs, we filled the time.

Despite all these efforts, we always thought we were going to lose the Settle Line. When a government consults on something, it is very rare that it changes its mind. In 1989 Minister for Transport Michael Portillo came to the House...

and announced that the line was to be kept open.

I was the first Labour MP to shake his hand, and I didn't often shake Portillo's hand in those days. He says that saving the Settle-Carlisle line was his most important act in government. The line sparked his passion for railways, leading to him travelling the world with his railway documentaries and transforming him into a national treasure. It was his rail ticket to Damascus!

Recently, when I visited the new South Carlisle GP surgery, I realised it was built on the site of the old Durranshill railway sheds, the beating heart of the Settle line. That's where the engines and the drivers were, but here was no acknowledgement that they had ever existed. I've asked the Friends of the Settle-Carlisle Line about putting up a board at the surgery. They're happy to do that, as is the surgery.

2025 is the line's 150th year of service. I don't think anyone would dare close it now. It's loved by tourists and valued by locals. I travel on it once a year, for a get together with some fellow ex-MPs. My father, my grandfather and my great-grandfather were all engine drivers. I was chairman of the All-Party Rail Group. I set up the West Coast Mainline Group and on the Transport Select Committee. So, I suppose I too did my bit for the railways.

*Eric Martlew was MP for Carlisle, 1987-2010*

# OUR LOCOMOTION EXCURSION

BY LAWRIE QUINN



Two hundred years ago, on 27th September 1825, the small County Durham market town of Shildon was the centre of an event of national and global significance: the first passenger train journey on George Stephenson's Stockton to Darlington railway.

To celebrate the role Parliament subsequently played in the evolution of this revolutionary mode of transport, the Association organised what we hope will be the first, but not the only, road trip away from our normal Westminster surroundings, to build on the excellent work of our Scottish Branch.

From Thursday, 11th September, until Saturday the 13th, 30 colleagues and some partners travelled from across the UK to engage in an energetic programme centered at the Grand Hotel, York. We explored the past two centuries of the railway legislation, the role of parliamentarians in the development of railways, at home and across the world.

After visiting the National Railway Museum - which is celebrating its 50th Anniversary - colleagues were treated to a 'Historic Pubs of York' walking tour, followed by supper at the Duke of York, Kings Square, York with guests from AtkinsRealis, who assisted with the agenda for events in York & Shildon.

Nicholas Bennett JP, Deputy Chairman of the Association, opened proceedings on Friday in the former North Eastern Railway boardroom by welcoming Madam Deputy Speaker, Judith Cummins

MP & Collette Carroll, MD of AtkinsRealis Transportation followed by Frank Paterson MBE, President, Friends of the National Railway Museum (NRM).

Frank delivered a memorable address on Rail200 & Parliament and impact of City of York in the development of railways followed by Craig Bentley, Interim Director for the NRM, to discuss 50 years of presenting the story of railways and the exciting upgrades to the NRM, alongside the York Central Project.

Madam Deputy Speaker presented the NRM with a commemorative plaque, which will be displayed in the Locomotion Museum at Shildon after the completion of the Rail200 anniversary events at the end of September.

After lunch, rail industry experts Dr Nicki Forsdike, University of York School for Business and Society, Tim Danvers, AtkinsRealis & Jim Steer, Greenguage21 formed a wide ranging panel.

A members' debate was followed by Rob Warnes, Northern Rail & Mark Fielding-Smith, AtkinsRéalisis who discussed future planned developments in the North's railways and the potential offered by new technologies in Rail Safety.

Colleagues were also invited to attend Friday Evensong at York Minister by our fellow member Conal Gregory, followed by dinner at The York Grand Assembly Rooms.

Early on Saturday morning, the Association's members met at York

railway station to travel north to Darlington on the TransPennine Express. Then we took the local Northern Trains service along the route of the Stockton to Darlington railway to Shildon, County Durham

Our group was welcomed by Sarah Price, Head of NRM's Locomotion museum, and the Association delivered our commemorative plaque on behalf of Mr Speaker to mark our historic journey to celebrate Rail200.

We were then treated to guided tours by volunteer guides from the Museum with colleagues showing special interest in the Locomotion Replica and the iconic Flying Scotsman locomotive, both to be featured at the Anniversary celebrations on 27th September.

#### Footnote:

*As we assembled for our return journeys home on Saturday afternoon, colleagues expressed their view that the Association should consider making an annual event outside of the Westminster village a regular occurrence. For this to become a reality we would ask for feedback / suggestions to be sent into Nicola, Association Secretariat by the end of 2025. Planning for these Rail200 proceedings took around 9 months, so we will need to set any plans for a similar 2026 Association out of Westminster Excursion to kick off in the early New Year!*

*Lawrie Quinn was MP for Scarborough and Whitby, 1997-2005*

# WHERE ARE YOU NOW?

We asked a selection of ex-colleagues to say what they have been doing since they stood down or lost their seats

## SIR ALAN MEALE MANSFIELD, 1987–2017



**WHEN I LEFT PARLIAMENT** after the 2017 General Election it wasn't exactly a surprise. As a committed pro-European I was a major target after my constituency returned a whopping 73.5% no vote in the previous year's referendum. I had indicated locally I would be willing to step down as a candidate, but was urged to run as it was

probably the best chance to retain the seat - a correct analysis as I managed to deliver over 22,000 votes, a figure no other candidate in the Constituency had achieved since 1997, but lost the seat. C'est la vie.

Luckier than most I was given a short reprieve, in that my full departure was in part somewhat delayed, as at the time I happened to be acting in the role of Labour Leader and Vice-President of the Council of Europe delegation. My term ran until the following January. Nevertheless, like the many others before me, I eventually suffered the same disorienting jolt of reality as delivered to those who had failed in their quest to continue on.

Thankfully over the course of the previous thirty years as an MP I had made contact with a wide range of people and organisations, some of whom asked me if I would be interested in helping them in an advisory capacity; firstly in the field of business on matters concerning material supplies, access to markets and the difficult topic of health and safety, secondly in the Charitable sector, helping with start-ups, operational and financial support: the National Brewers Heritage Trust and the Nottinghamshire Mining Museum to name but two registered bodies.

Thirdly as previous colleagues will recall, for most of my years at Westminster I was involved on a range of international matters. In particular, championing human rights, displacements and the establishment of democratic structures. ACA Cyprus, Iran, Armenia and Bangladesh, particularly dealing with matters such as missing persons, inhumane violations and undemocratic governance. With the help of a variety of international organisations I have since continued to be involved in these areas.

There is a saying that "life begins at forty". In my case it was that and more, working at Westminster in one capacity or another. Experiences I have since been able to find a purpose for "off stage".

## SIR BEN BRADSHAW EXETER, 1997–2024



**SINCE STEPPING DOWN** at the 2024 election we have been trying to get on top of some land and a house we bought near Noto in Sicily in 2019 as a retirement project. Most of my time and energy has been spent there, planting trees, installing solar panels, managing the land and taking care of our olives, as well as entertaining a near

constant stream of visiting family and friends.

I was brought up in rural Norfolk and, having spent most of my working life in cities, it has been wonderful reconnecting intensively to nature and a beautiful landscape with an extremely rich animal, plant and bird life.

I've been doing some work as an adviser for the global consultancy firm, Teneo, and have just joined the UK's main LGBT charity, Stonewall, as a Trustee. I have also been doing the occasional media slot as a former Minister, supportive of the Government, but free to speak my mind.

I've enjoyed 'keeping my hand in' politics a bit, not least as the current domestic and global context is so compelling, which makes it hard to step back completely. I enjoyed attending Labour's annual conference for the first time since Keir got the leadership, and as an ordinary member. I also phone canvassed for Bridget Phillipson during the recent deputy leadership contest.

We went on a two month round the world retirement trip last winter. I've been reading a lot more, added the gym to my yoga, swimming, walking and cycling regime and had time to enjoy a lot more culture than when I was Culture Secretary!

## GEORGE EUSTICE AMBORNE AND REDRUTH, 2010-24

**I HAD THE RARE GOOD FORTUNE** of being made



a Minister in the one Department that interested me most and then being left there long enough to get things done. I spent my nine years at DEFRA wrestling with its many intractable dilemmas and bonded with officials in the Department. It was a formative period as we left the EU and developed future policy programmes.

When I decided not to seek re-election, I wanted to pursue a final career in business, so I formed my own consultancy, Penbroath, with a view to developing a specialist regulatory affairs practice focusing on Defra sectors. I have built a portfolio of advisory roles which includes a digital waste tracking platform, a manufacturer of biofuel and producers of bio stimulants and organic fertilisers. I am also advising projects that seek to capture biomethane on dairy farms, make it easier to recycle vapes, bring private finance into natural capital and improve water efficiency in buildings.

Although I have stepped away from party politics, I support some single-issue campaigns such as animal welfare causes. I have become a Trustee of Animal Free Research and support the work of the Humane Slaughter Association. There is also unfinished business. I was closely involved in the debate around the Leveson Inquiry and helped construct the system of press accountability backed by a Royal Charter. Having encouraged the victims of phone hacking to have faith in that political compromise at the time, I was ashamed that my own party subsequently reneged on it, so I have become a Board member of the Hacked Off campaign.



### CHRIS REES NEATH 2015-2024

FOR ALMOST AS LONG AS I CAN REMEMBER two preoccupations - you might even say obsessions - have shaped my life: sport and politics. Over half a century ago, I was selected to represent Great Britain in the Youth Team at the Munich Olympics of 1972. For someone from my home village of Kenfig Hill that was beyond anything

we could have imagined. Money had to be raised to allow me to go. The fundraising was led by our local Labour councillor, Megan Butcher. After the terrorist attack at Munich, I returned to ask her to explain to me what I had seen. My fascination with politics had begun.

From then on, it was a juggle of both worlds. On the sporting side, I decided to concentrate on squash, having already been an international in Judo. Over 100 caps later, I decided to concentrate on coaching, something which I enjoy to this day.

In politics, I became a councillor, a job I thought was the best in politics. Oh, and by the time I became the Member of Parliament for Neath, in 2015, I had obtained an LLB (Hons), as a mature student, and qualified as a barrister.

Now, fifteen months on from life as an MP, my interests remain as they always have been. I start each day by training, even if these days it helps me most in keeping up with my two

young grandchildren. I've been able to help out in the Cardiff West office of former First Minister, Mark Drakeford, where my legal training is useful every day in responding to the challenges faced by lives in a busy inner city.

The context may change, but my beliefs remain. If it all works out, I hope to stand again as a Labour candidate for Bridgend County Borough Council, when elections come round again in 2027.

Back on the horse again!

### SELAINÉ SAXBY NORTH DEVON 2019-2024



I WASN'T FULLY PREPARED FOR LOSING MY SEAT IN 2024, but as someone who has rebuilt their life a couple of times in the past went into overdrive. With 20 years remaining on my mortgage and being single, retirement was not an option!

My first position was with the North Devon Biosphere working on

Biodiversity Net Gain, which was fascinating given it was linked to legislation we had passed at Westminster, and I had led the debate on Biospheres.

I am naturally entrepreneurial, and have gone on to join the Quilter Financial Academy. I have just finished my final exam to become an Independent Financial Advisor. The Academy programme is intensive (6 exams in 6 months), but again so much of personal finance links back to government policy, and the prospect of setting up my own business again is a challenge I am looking forward to.

I am also thoroughly enjoying being a Director at a Multi Academy Trust here in North Devon; Director on the Internationalisation Board for the Great South West, and being an Ambassador for the West Country Women Awards as well as a Parish Councillor, which has again led me to campaigning against solar farms and battery energy storage facilities (particularly those that don't even have a grid connection!).

I'm not sure my time in politics is fully done! I am also Deputy Director for Conservative Policy Forum with responsibility for the Aspiration Generation, which has held some great online discussions – as well as joining Devon Area as a Deputy Chair. It's great to be back out campaigning!

But I am loving being home full time in North Devon, with my loyal Labrador, Henry, who also seems to be enjoying the sea air!



## NEWS FROM THE PARLIAMENTARY OUTREACH TRUST

An update from the Chair, John Austin

It is with sadness that we record the death of one of our Patrons, Lord (“Ming”) Campbell of Pittenweem, described by the Scottish First Minister as “one of the most distinguished and well-liked political figures of his generation”. Ming was a good friend who was always willing to offer support and advice and will be much missed.

### FUNDING

We are disappointed that our request for funding from the House of Commons Finance Committee was unsuccessful on this occasion. A savings and improvement programme has been set up by the House of Commons Commission, with teams currently being asked to identify savings of at least 10%, with 5% to be reinvested in future services or demands. Because of that, the Committee is not able to

consider a request for a new grant at the current time, but we are hopeful that such a request can be reconsidered in the future.

### SCHOOLS

Provision of speakers for state secondary schools continues through our partnership with the social mobility charity, Speakers for Schools, who have expanded their work experience programmes and rebranded themselves as Futures for All. The Speakers for Schools Programme continues as part of their overall objectives.

With the impending lowering of the voting age to 16, we believe that our educational role with the younger generation becomes even more important and we are in discussion with the Electoral Commission to explore a possible partnership whereby our members

could be a resource for their work with young people.

### UNIVERSITIES

We have two online speaker sessions planned with Nottingham Trent University: Ian Lucas will be speaking about parliamentary scrutiny and the work of Select Committees, and Helen Jones will be speaking on the role of the Whips.

Regrettably, as university staff have moved on, we have lost some of our regular contacts. If any former MPs have contacts with universities, we would be grateful if you could let them know of the work of the Trust or pass their details to me at [admin@parlyoutreach.org.uk](mailto:admin@parlyoutreach.org.uk)

**JOHN AUSTIN**

Chair, Parliamentary Outreach Trust

## SCOTTISH BRANCH UPDATE

Gordon Banks, Chair of the Scottish branch

I am delighted to be part of the Executive Committee of the UK Association again following the recently completed election and co-opting process. Thank you to everyone involved.

Following the completion of the UK process we are now well underway with our own process to create a new Executive Committee for the Scottish branch.

The outgoing Executive prepared for this process and Linda Gilroy agreed to act as an independent scrutineer as she would not be putting her name forward via self-nomination. I am grateful to Linda for this. We worked closely during October to ensure our process is in line with branch Standing Orders and as clear and straight forward as possible.

Depending upon the number of self-nominations and whether there will be elections due to triggering the self-nominated threshold,

the timetable plans for a new Executive to be in place by the week commencing 15th December. This timetable has been issued to all branch members who are paid up UK Association members and therefore eligible to take part in the process.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank members who have previously served with me on the Executive since I was asked to establish the branch in 2018, namely: Sir David Hamilton, Lindsay Roy CBE, Sir Robert Smith, Gavin Strang, John Corrie, Ian Davidson, Dame Anne McGuire, Sir Michael Hirst and again Linda Gilroy in her scrutineer role. Their support and assistance has been very much appreciated.

A newly formed Executive will inherit a healthy membership of 38 (3 members have fallen by the wayside – but we are endeavouring to entice them back into the UK Association and thereafter the

Scottish branch), a healthy bank account and recognised processes for meetings, speakers and engagement with the UK Association.

I hope to be part of our new Executive going forward, but irrespective of its make up can I thank everyone who attended our events, including our speakers (such as Professor Sir John Curtice, Brian Taylor, David Clegg and Baron Offord of Garvel),

Also, big thanks to the UK Association - especially current UK Association Chair, Lawrie Quinn who has regularly supported us in an IT role, our previous Chair, Eric Martlew, our past and present UK Administrators, Sally Grocott, Laura Blake and Nicola Ravis and of course Andy McSmith the Editor of Order! Order! without whom you wouldn't be reading this!

Finally, can I thank all our members for supporting the branch and I look forward to seeing you at future events.

# THE SLOW MARCH TO WELSH DEVOLUTION

BY HUW EDWARDS

*Huw Edwards, former Labour Member for Monmouth, is currently undertaking doctoral research at the University of Wales Trinity Saint David on the parliamentary history of Welsh devolution from the 1880s to the passing of the Government of Wales Act 1998. He fully supported devolution but represented the area of Wales that recorded the highest 'No vote' in the 1997 referendum. In this article he outlines some of the key questions in his research and invites former members to contact him to offer their reflections on being involved in the debates and their insights into the history of Welsh devolution.*

The parliament from 1997 to 2001 was arguably the most significant period for constitutional change in the UK in modern times. The political context was the election of the Labour Government under Tony Blair with a large majority and the commitment to 'modernise our democracy'. Devolution for Scotland, Wales and N Ireland, the Human Rights Act and reform of the House Lords were matters of prime constitutional importance attracting considerable debate.

During the Government of Wales Bill 1997, many Welsh Members spoke about the 'historic achievement' of legislating to create the National Assembly for Wales. But where is that history recorded?

How many of us knew that Tom Ellis, Liberal MP for Merioneth from 1886-1899, is regarded by historian John Davies as the first politician in modern times to propose that Wales should have its own legislature. Who subsequently proposed Bills that were doomed to fail?

In 1892 Alfred Thomas, Liberal MP for East Glamorganshire proposed a

National Institutions (Wales) Bill) to appoint a Secretary of State for Wales and a parliament which would be established in Aberystwyth. E.T. John, the pacifist Liberal MP for Denbighshire from 1910-18, describing himself as an 'ardent federalist', introduced a Government of Wales Bill under the 10 Minute Rule procedure, which failed -as did Merthyr MP S.O. Davies's Bill in 1955, which gained just 14 votes. Government legislation did not come until the 1970s.

The Government of Wales Act 1998 was truly surely an historic achievement. It was passed with a large measure of cross party support. This followed the earlier referendum when Labour, Liberal and Plaid Cymru leaders raised their arms together with Welsh Secretary Ron Davies, after the historic though narrow victory for the 'Yes' campaign. Interestingly, Ron Davies had been an opponent of devolution in the past.

Every Welsh MP supported the Bill, though many had reservations that were expressed in debates and in conversation. These included criticism of the limited powers of the Assembly, the element of PR in elections and concerns and the fear, mainly in north Wales, of a Cardiff-centred dominance. The Conservatives, who had no MPs in Wales at the time, voted against the Bill.

Key questions to ask those MPs involved include: What are your reflections now of being involved in the campaigns and debates at the time? What conflicts arose in reconciling the interests of party, constituency and personal conscience? What reservations did you have? Did your views on devolution change over time and for what reasons? Does history see the Conservatives as the anti-devolution party?

Some former members were also involved in the devolution debates of the 1970s when the political context was far different. The Labour government under Callaghan held a small majority dependent on Liberal support. The 'winter of discontent' dominated the public mood. There were no women MPs in Wales at the time. Within the Welsh Labour movement there were bitter divisions and in opposing the government's plans, Neil Kinnock, made numerous speeches that deserve to be analysed.

The overwhelming 'No vote' in the referendum was disappointing for many pro devolutionists in Wales. In Scotland, where there was a narrow 'Yes vote' it must have been devastating to be denied a Scottish Assembly due to the failure to secure the support of 40 per cent of the electorate as required by the 'Cunningham amendment'.

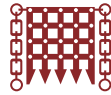
How do those colleagues involved in the 1970s now reflect on that experience? How did the debate then compare to that in the 1990s? What impact did the lack of women MPs have? Did Neil Kinnock read public opinion accurately? How did the failure of devolution contribute to the fall of the Callaghan government?

Sadly, we have lost many colleagues involved in these debates - the proponents and opponents, the famous and the forgotten. For their memory, their friends and loved ones we should seek to record the parliamentary history of devolution.

Please contact Huw with any reflections and contributions: [huwedwards53@btinternet.com](mailto:huwedwards53@btinternet.com)

*Huw Edwards was Labour MP for Monmouth 1991-2 and 1997-2005*





# 'THE 175 DINNER'

## *In Aid of The Lord's Taverners*

Celebrating 175 years of the Lords & Commons Cricket Team Tuesday,  
28th October 2025 Venue: The Long Room, Lord's Cricket Ground

*Guest Speaker: The Rt Hon Sir John Major KG CH*

### *Parliamentary Cricket Team celebrate 175 years in style*

Parliamentarians past and present from across the House mingled with cricketers and famous personalities in the iconic Long Room at Lords cricket ground at the end of October to celebrate 175 years of the Lords & Commons Cricket Team

Political divisions were put aside as over 200 people sat down for dinner in anticipation of the speaker for the evening, the former Prime Minister Sir John Major. Culture Secretary, The Rt. Hon Lisa Nandy MP was amongst the gathered audience all brought together by a love of cricket.

Jointly sponsored by Codurance and Gunnercooke, the evening was introduced by former High Peak MP. Andrew Bingham, Secretary of the Lords & Commons Cricket team and organiser of the event. A grace was said by Sir Bill Cash.

Following dinner Sir John Major spoke eloquently about the game of cricket, its history and the impact it can have on people lives.

Chairman of the L&CC Graham Stuart MP responded with a vote of thanks. He paid tribute to former MP and keen cricketer Oliver Colville, who sadly passed away the week before. He also articulated the thoughts of many towards the people of Treasure Beach in Jamaica, an area where the Lords & Commons have provided support & equipment to in the past and now

was facing devastation by Hurricane Melissa hitting the island at the time. He went on to recall anecdotes from the Lords & Commons recent history paying tribute to former MP Nigel Adams who holds the distinction of scoring a century at Lords during a game against the MCC.

As well as MP's and Peers former England cricketers David Gower OBE and Monty Panesar were in attendance, with Monty at one point seen comparing who had the biggest hands between himself and Sir John Major.

A silent auction ran throughout the evening with many fabulous prizes donated by a variety of private individuals and companies with all proceeds going to The Lords Taverners charity who do so much for disabled and disadvantaged young people through their Super 1's, Wicketz and table cricket programmes the length of the country.

The president of The Lords Taverners, David Gower then spoke about the work that the 'Tavs' do and how it gives young people so much more than just cricket. He went on to entertain the audience with cricketing anecdotes from his long and illustrious career.

All the guests received a souvenir brochure that contained a copy of the first available scorecard of the Lords & Commons team playing at Vincent Square on 22nd June 1850. It contained various photos from the history of the team including one from the same date 22nd June this year, the exact 175th anniversary, when the team played Lord Carnarvon's XI at Highclere Castle.

All guests were given a complimentary copy of a special commemorative edition of the 2025 Wisden Cricketers Almanack. Andrew Bingham said, "as an avid Wisden collector myself, this is a genuine collectors item that people will keep as a great memory of a fabulous evening".

Chairman of the Lords & Commons, Graham Stuart said, "it's been a fabulous evening and whilst it's too early to know exactly, the early indications are that the event has raised over £10,000 for the Lords Taverners which is a fantastic result".

#### **Notes**

More information on the Lords Taverners can be found at <https://www.lordstaverners.org/>

There are a small number of the commemorative Wisdens still available.

They are £60 +p&p. Anyone wishing to purchase a copy should contact Andrew Bingham either by **Whatsapp 07968 109336** or email [Bingham.bingham@btopenworld.com](mailto:Bingham.bingham@btopenworld.com)

#### **Andrew Bingham**

Hon. Secretary – Lords & Commons Cricket Team

*For further enquires email  
[bingham.bingham@btopenworld.com](mailto:bingham.bingham@btopenworld.com)  
or call 07968 109336*

## A GOOD READ

### A CRAVING FOR RECOGNITION - AND AN ACID KEYBOARD

Jerry Hayes

*How Not to Be a Political Wife, A Memoir*

by Sarah Vine

Published by HarperCollins

YOU WOULD HAVE TO HAVE A HEART OF STONE, the empathy of Keir Starmer and the emotional intelligence of Boris Johnson not to feel compassion for Sarah Vine, whose monster of a father still writes the narrative of her life.

"I've never met a man who could more accurately pinpoint a person's weakness and then exploit it entirely ruthlessly, often sadistically...my father instilled in me at young age an unshakeable sense of inferiority and worthlessness... there would always be a moment when the fat awkward child within me would rear her head and whisper, you're a failure, you don't belong here".

Vine is not a failure. She is a funny, talented and insightful writer about everyone except herself, where her understandable craving for recognition, worth and belonging becomes so obsessive that it destroyed her friendship with the Camerons.

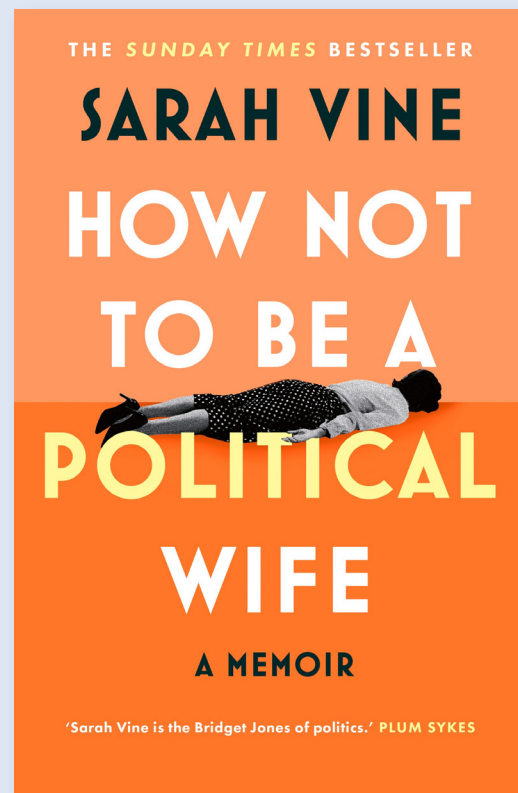
Her acid keyboard can be delightful.

On Carol Vorderman, when she was a guest speaker "when in her pro Tory phase (as opposed her sucking up to Labour phase) ...rarely have I seen such a heavily cantilevered bosom". And Gavin Williamson who allegedly leaked a preposterous story that Gove was having an affair with Dominic Cummings. "(Gavin) the man with the intelligence of a prawn and the integrity of a rotten banana, but blessed with a fox's cunning". She even lived a little dangerously when she vicariously made fun of Paul Dacre, by quoting other writers. "A drill sergeant's delight in public humiliation". "Staff called the Mail's morning conference the vagina monologues because of the Master's habit of calling everyone a cunt".

Her time at Conde Nast was good preparation for the Mail. "The most backstabbing and generally unpleasant place I have ever worked. Chief Vipers was the Tatler's celebrated editor, Proctor, the trickiest woman I have ever bumped into in the swill and slurry of magazine media".

Finally, a little vignette of when her husband was in excruciating pain and had been waiting in A & E for five hours, only to hear Rory Stewart asking nurses which one of them, "wanted to stick their finger up Michael Gove's arse".

But when we get to the relationship with the Camerons, which was once very, very close and warm, common sense and objectivity became soured by the snarling monkey on her back created by her father. From sharing idyllic holidays as families, things began to go wrong when Gove was demoted to Chief Whip. The humiliation. The loss of £36,000 a year. And the insult of being offered a beautiful grace and favour apartment. All was agreed until Govey changed his mind. And then the cheek of Cameron texting. "You must realise that I divide the world into team players and wankers. You've always been a team player. Please don't become a wanker".



It didn't help when Cameron phoned her about Brexit. "Everything's going to be ok isn't it...with Michael I mean". "Oh, I think so ... you know what he's like ... ultimately he's onside".

Really? Her excuse was: "I had forgotten two critical factors... Michael's family and his need to make a difference, to have a legacy". Forgotten? All of Fleet Street knew about how his dad had suffered because of the fisheries policy.

And another lame excuse was that she and Michael, "didn't talk much about politics". Lord give me strength.

It gets worse. When dining with Boris, when he and Michael were discussing Brexit. "As I look back ... my naivety or maybe my stupidity that I chose this moment to be a good political wife to hear no evil and see no evil at precisely the moment when I should have been paying close attention". Matron the liquid cosh pleeeeee, I can't take any more.

But according to Madame, it's all Cameron's fault. When he, "through gritted teeth and daggers in his eyes", told her that he was fighting for his political life, "he spoke to me as neither a friend nor an equal but as someone who clearly felt he had an absolute right to his superior position ... that's the thing about the British class system". She had previously tried to explain that "none of this was personal and that we could, if the will was there, remain friends".

But that monkey on her back won't stop snarling. "Michael and I were not quite good enough for the public school nabobs who made up the inner circle of Dave's ruling elite."

Actually, they were. It is just that close friends don't like to feel betrayed in their hour of need.

Jerry Hayes was MP for Harlow, 1983-1997

## A GOOD READ

### FRIENDLY, CLUBBABLE, BUT LACKING A PATRON

Denis MacShane

#### *The End of an Era. The Decline and Fall of the Tory Party*

By Mark Field

Published by Biteback

APRÉS MOI, le deluge is a common enough feeling as a political career ends and all seems darkness and gloom ahead for the party that has been left behind. But this well written biography is not an essay on the future of the Tory Party. Just as the BBC promoted the 1980s Gang of Four and their SDP into the new giants of British politics, so the BBC is now telling us on all its outlets the one man show called Reform will sweep into power before long.

Leave that to the future. Field should have been one of the ruling elite in the post New Labour era after 2010. He had been a Tory student at Oxford with David Cameron, Michael Gove, William Hague, Jeremy Hunt and Nick Robinson. In 2001, he entered the Commons after time as a corporate lawyer for the safest of safe Tory seats – the Cities of Westminster and London and invited constituents with a problem to see him in Portcullis House for a coffee – a better way to impress voters than the normal scruffy, dingy office of MPs outside of London.

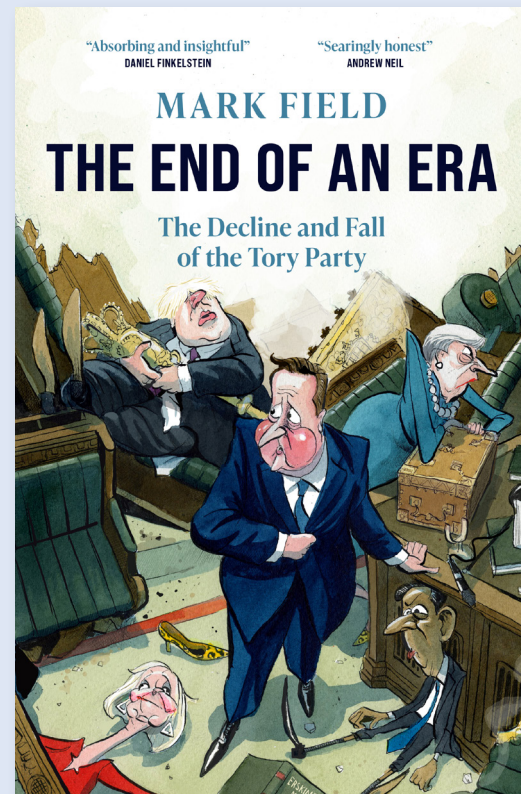
Andy McSmith, a veteran Lobby correspondent, tipped him as a possible future leader, but he had three strikes that blocked his rise to high office in the manner of his Oxford contemporaries. Firstly, perhaps under the influence of a German mother he could not buy into the rising hostility to Europe openly indulged by William Hague, Iain Duncan Smith, Michael Howard and then David Cameron.

Under the influence of Rupert Murdoch's and Lord Rothermere's editors the press became more and more openly anti-European. Even the Guardian's economics editor, outdid his right-wing confrères on the openly Europhobe press. To Field, a City professional, with growing interest in Britain's role in the world, cutting links with Europe made no sense. But that moved him away from mainstream conservative and rightist thinking.

Secondly, he had no patron, he was friendly, clubbable but not part of an in-crowd that in Parliament is needed to propel MPs towards office and the illusion of power. He criticised non-London MPs who were helped by the Fees Office with covering the cost of a second home which was hardly a way to burrow his way into tea-room favour.

Then, thirdly, Field had an affair with a hugely ambitious Tory MP.

She asked him for advice on how to advance her career, and he responded in the time-honoured political male manner. To his credit Field doesn't duck the Liz Truss affair. Of all the political autobiographies I have read of men and women I was in the Commons with, this is the most honest. Unlike many, it does not seek to settle scores. If Field thinks a fellow MP is smart, and up to the



job like his Oxford contemporary Jeremy Hunt, he says so. If he finds Alan Duncan amusing, which he is, Field notes that. If he thinks David Cameron made a disastrous error in holding the Brexit plebiscite, he laments the fact. If he considers Boris Johnson to be a scoundrel, he lets you know

And avoiding hindsight Field argues in his book that the Brexit vote could have been won. Given immigration was the No 1 topic in European Parliament elections with the BNP and UKIP winning seats and given every referendum in a European country on the EU, notably on the EU constitutional treaty in 2005 in France and the Netherlands, surely there was an official in No 10 who read the occasional newspaper.

Theresa May, whom Field found impossible to talk to – a feeling shared by just about every MP who tried to engage Ms May in conversation – declared as Prime Minister she would “Make Brexit Work”. In 2002, unveiling his Europe policy at the Irish Embassy in London, Sir Keir Starmer, then Leader of the Opposition used the same phrase about making Brexit work. Alas, so far, all the evidence is that cutting links with Europe has damaged the UK across the board. Field refused to join the Gadarene rush to anti-Europeanism, and makes no secret in this memoir he considers it a mistake.

If I had to give one book to a graduate politics student to understand the Tory Party in the last decade Field's accessible, highly readable account would be a good choice.

Denis MacShane was Labour MP for Rotherham for 18 years and is the author of several books on European politics including “Brexot. Why Britain Will Leave Europe” written in 2014.

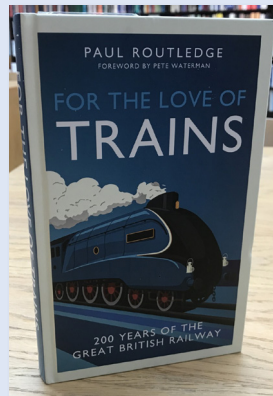
## A GOOD READ

### A HYMN TO RAIL TRAVEL

Lawrie Quinn

*For the Love of Trains*  
by Paul Routledge

Published by Reach plc



THE CURRENT EDITION OF ORDER! ORDER! has used a fair few words on the Rail200 anniversary celebrations of our railways! I hope this review of the new Paul Routledge work: "For the Love of Trains" gives our readers an appropriate nod to these historic times and is a spur to those colleagues to one more literary journey down the tracks of our Nation!

Paul will be well known to former MPs as a well-respected member of Parliament's Lobby, a journalist for nearly 60 years and Daily Mirror columnist for 27 of those.

This love-letter to trains is a well penned joyful read. Paul's hymn to train travel is a delightful tale of the folk who delivered the railway's permanent way, the titans of steam locomotives and the changes that delivered a global Industrial Revolution.

Early in the book Routledge hails that 25,000 books have been published about railways.

Grabbing the reader's attention with his first childhood memories of 15 Railway Terrace, Normanton, in God's own

county of the West Riding, explaining as a son of railwayman working in the "Crewe of the Yorkshire coalfields" he lays out why this is the book he was always destined to write!

If that isn't enough to get us moving on a scenic steam filled journey, whizzing through towns and fields across our green pleasant landscape, this poem to the last 200 years merits a flag waving "all aboard" from Pete Waterman, music publisher and national treasure, to those who delight in past glories of rail and are cheerleaders for the potential for future success of this sustainable speedy mode of travel.

I'm also delighted to invite you along to hear from Paul Routledge and Lord Peter Snape on Thursday 4th December 2025 from 4.30pm one of the House of Lords Committee Rooms followed by the Association's end of year reception in the River Room to arrive at a fitting destination for Rail 200 and the part Parliamentarians past & present have made to the UK's railways.

Please contact our Administrator Nicola on rivisn@parliament.uk if you'd like more details about the Association's 4th December event and would like to book your place at the River Room Reception.

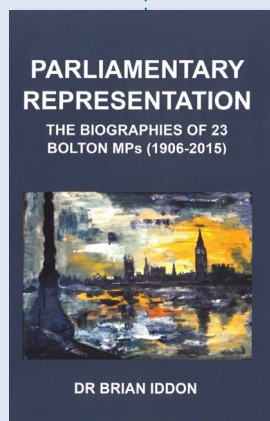
**Lawrie Quinn is Chairman of the Association of Former Members of Parliament.**

### SPEAKING FOR BOLTON

*Parliamentary Representation:  
The Biographies of  
23 Bolton MPs (1906-2015)*

by Brian Iddon

Self-published\*



THIS BOOK IS UNIQUE in that it covers 23 MPs who represented the same town during a century of British politics from 1906 to 2015, who were carpenters/joiners, coal miners, cotton workers, steel workers, shop workers, tannery workers, Post Office engineers, sailors, officers in trade unions, businessmen, draughtsmen, schoolteachers, university lecturers, solicitors, economists or youth workers before they became politicians.

William Tyson Wilson, elected for Westhoughton (part of the current Bolton MB Council area today) in 1906, was one of 29 founders of the Parliamentary Labour Party. George Tomlinson was the Minister of Education (equivalent to a SoS today) who implemented the landmark Butler Education Act of 1944. He also played an important role in drafting the UN Charter in San Francisco. Ruth Kelly, quite a controversial MP in her day, was also a Secretary of State for Education, and the youngest Cabinet Minister ever appointed up to that time.

John Lewis met Christine Keeler in a nightclub and learned of her relationship with John Profumo, which led to his downfall as SoS for Defence. William Tyson Wilson enabled Local Authorities to provide free school meals for the first time. When Rhys John Davies retired in 1951, he was the longest serving MP ever at that time. He had taken part in most of the debates that led to the modern welfare system in Britain.

John Henry Jones steered through Parliament the Bill which nationalised the steel industry in 1948. The chapter

on Ernest Thornton describes in detail the decline of the cotton industry. John Francis Hodgess Roper quit the Labour Party to become a founding member of the SDP and became a Life Peer after his election defeat in 1983. Winifred Ann Taylor was also made a Life Peer and was the Labour Party's first female Chief Whip.

This single volume is based on six volumes of detailed biographies of Bolton's 23 Labour MPs, which Brian Iddon, who was MP for Bolton South East in 1997-2010, presented to Bolton Central Library in 2022.

**\*Price £25.00. Copies can be obtained by contacting Dr Brian Iddon - iddonb@hotmail.co.uk or mobile tel. no. 07710 464325 - who will to send a copy of his book in a cardboard package and indicate the payment method (BACS available).**

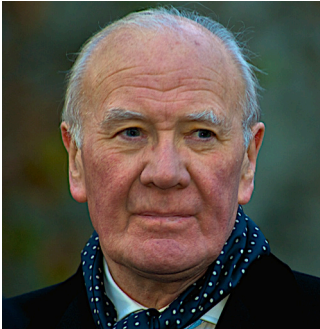
## TRIBUTES

### SIR MING CAMPBELL, BARON CAMPBELL OF PITTENWEEN

22 May 1941 – 26 September 2025

Liberal Democrat MP for North East Fife, 1987-2015

*Remembered by Adrian Sanders*



Walter Menzies “Ming” Campbell was a medal winning athlete, an advocate and a leading Liberal politician. Ming grew up in Glasgow, was educated at Hillhead High School and went on to the University of Glasgow, where he was

a contemporary of both John Smith and Donald Dewar, studying Law and debating in the Union.

Ming ran the 200m for the GB team at the 1964 Tokyo Olympics and became captain of the UK Athletics Team 1965-66. He held the British 100m record from 1967 to 1974.

In his professional legal life, Ming was called to the Scottish Bar as an Advocate in 1968, but continued an association with the Scottish Liberal Party which he had held since University. In 1975 he became Chairman of the Scottish Liberal Party, and in 1982 a Q.C.

In 1987 Ming won the constituency of North East Fife, for decades a safe Conservative seat, with a majority of 1,447. Ming and the local team achieved large Liberal Democrat majorities as his local, national and international profile grew.

In Parliament he served as a defence and foreign affairs spokesman, becoming Shadow Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs in 1997, Deputy Leader of the Liberal Democrats in 2003 and Leader of the Liberal Democrats from March 2006 until October 2007.

From 2006 he was Chancellor of the University of St Andrews, and from 2015 a member of the House of Lords. Knighted in 2004, he became a member of the Order of the Companions of Honour in 2013, bestowed on just 65 people by the monarch.

He was married to his wife Elspeth for more than 50 years of marriage until her death in 2023, describing her as “my constant political companion, always my encouragement and forever my first line of defence”.

Ming passed in London after a period of respite care, before planning to return to Scotland, at the care facility Kyn Hurlingham. He died peacefully in the presence of his grandson. One of his final days was spent watching the Liberal Democrats Party Conference, and enjoying watching video messages from political friends.

### TIM BOSWELL, BARON BOSWELL OF AYNHO

December 2, 1942 - August 30, 2025

Conservative MP for Daventry 1987-2010

*Remembered by Nicholas Bennett*



Tim was one of the older members of our 1987 Conservative intake. As MP for Daventry, he replaced Reg Prentice who had formerly been a Labour MP, but abandoned Labour after a Trotskyite takeover in the Newham North East constituency.

At the time of his election, Tim looked a little like a taller version of Billy Bunter - but unlike Bunter, he was an astute and intelligent addition to the Commons. Coming from a farming family, educated at Marlborough and New College Oxford, he had a degree in Classics and a diploma in Agricultural Economics. After Oxford, he joined the Conservative Research Department. In the February 1974 General Election, at the age of 31, he unsuccessfully fought the marginal seat of Rugby.

His farm at Lower Aynho, which he purchased in 1974, was in the Daventry constituency, where Tim became Conservative Association Treasurer in 1976 and three years later, chairman. From 1984 to 1986 he was political advisor to Michael Jopping, Minister of Agriculture. Elected to Parliament in 1987, with a comfortable majority of 19,690, he was a natural choice for the agriculture select committee, and was PPS to Peter Lilley, Financial Secretary to the Treasury. He joined the whips' office in John Major's first administration, moved to the Department of Education, as Parliamentary Under Secretary, two years later, then in 1995 to a similar position in Agriculture. A competent minister, he would have progressed to Minister of State had the Conservatives won in 1997. In opposition, he held shadow briefs in a number of departments under successive Conservative leaders.

Tim retired at the 2010 General Election and entered the Lords as Baron Boswell of Aynho. He chaired the European Union Committee. He made his valedictory speech in the Lords on June 30th 2024 shortly after his daughter, Victoria, the former MP for Banbury made her maiden speech as the newly ennobled Baroness Prentis.

Tim was well respected on all sides of the House as a decent man of integrity. During the expenses scandal he was described by the Daily Telegraph as ‘one of the saints’ for claiming the minimum. A committed Christian, he voted against the return of capital punishment, and in favour of tightening the abortion law. Emollient almost to a fault he was a pleasant, affable colleague and good company.

He met Helen, his wife to be, when both were in their teens. Sadly, Helen died in the fiftieth year of their marriage, in 2019. They are survived by their daughters, Victoria, Emily, who is deputy headmistress of Wycombe Abbey school; and Caroline, who works for the NHS.

# THE HOUSE OF COMMONS MEMBERS' FUND



## Greetings from the Chair

Greetings to all former Members. My name is Clive Betts, and I am the Chair of the Trustees of the House of Commons Members' Fund (HCMF).

I wanted to let you know that if you are a former member, and consider yourself to be in financial hardship you are able to make a hardship application to the HCMF. Please note making an application does not guarantee a payment will be made as payment is subject to Trustee approval.

This article provides further information about the Fund, and the application process.

## What is the HCMF?

The HCMF is a benevolent fund that assists former Members of Parliament and their dependants who are in financial need.

## How is the HCMF funded?

All current Members automatically contribute 0.03% of their salaries to the Fund. Currently that equals approximately £2.35 per month. Member contributions and investment income then fund any payments made.

## How is the HCMF managed?

The HCMF is managed by a board of Trustees, of which I am the Chair. Legislation requires the board is made up of one former Member and six serving Members appointed by the House.

## Who may benefit from one-off payments?

Any former Member or any person who appears to the Fund's Trustees to be, or to have been, a financial dependant of a former Member.

## How do I apply for assistance?

To apply for financial assistance from the HCMF, please contact the HCMF Secretariat. You will be sent an application form requesting further information about your financial situation and reasons for applying. You will also be required to provide documentary evidence of your finances.

The Trustees will consider your case, and you will be notified of their decision in due course. The Trustees only grant awards after they have looked at and considered all of the circumstances of the applicant, particularly their financial circumstances. A completed application does not ensure a grant will be made.

Please note, applications can take a number of months, dependant on urgency and the time taken to resolve any queries. All matters related to the Fund are handled on the basis of utmost confidentiality.

## Enquiries and further information

House of Commons Members' Fund  
Members' Pensions Team  
House of Commons  
LONDON SW1A 0AA

E-mail: [hcmf@parliament.uk](mailto:hcmf@parliament.uk)  
Phone: 020 7219 6481