

# *Gala Luncheon*

*Celebrating Sir Edward Leigh's  
thirty years as a Member of Parliament*

**FRIDAY, 21ST JUNE 2013**

**THE OLD PALACE, MINSTER YARD, LINCOLN**

SIR EDWARD  
1983 **30** LEIGH MP  
2013  
YEARS





10 DOWNING STREET  
LONDON SW1A 2AA

THE PRIME MINISTER

June 2013

**Edward Leigh MP**

**30<sup>th</sup> anniversary as Member of Parliament for Gainsborough**

I am delighted to send my warmest congratulations and very best wishes to Edward and everyone present today who have come together to celebrate Edward's 30 years as Member of Parliament for Gainsborough.

For almost a third of a century, Edward has served his constituents with selfless dedication and commitment, standing up for their interests in Parliament and fighting for the causes and campaigns he cares most passionately about.

It may surprise you – and, indeed, maybe Edward himself – that we actually have quite a bit in common. We both started our professional and political careers in the Conservative Research Department at Conservative Central Office, albeit at different times. We both moved on to advise Prime Ministers – in Edward's case the late Lady Thatcher; in mine, Sir John Major. And we are both members of Inner Temple Court – although I have to confess, whereas Edward trained and graduated as a fully qualified Barrister, I was made an Honorary Bencher only a number of years ago!

Edward has occupied a number of key Parliamentary roles. Most significantly, he served as Chairman of the influential Public Accounts Committee for a whole decade from 2001, only standing down as he had served the maximum term. In this role he examined public expenditure and focussed on value-for-money across government, using his extensive knowledge and experience of financial matters to hold the Government to account. Edward remains on the Public Accounts Commission and serves as a member of the House of Commons Chairman's Panel, chairing Public Bill Committees and other general committees across Parliament.

I wish Edward many congratulations on reaching this significant milestone, following 30 years of dedicated public service. I know he will continue serving his constituents and Parliament with energy and commitment. I wish you all a wonderful lunch today.

*David Cameron*

# *Programme*

## TRIBUTE

**Rt. Hon. John Hayes MP**

Minister without Portfolio at the Cabinet Office,  
Member of Parliament for South Holland & the Deepings Constituency

## GRACE

**Mrs. Janet Parry**

## LUNCH

Two courses followed by tea or coffee and mints

## LOYAL TOAST

**Cllr. Mrs. Irmgard Parrott**

Chairman of West Lindsey District Council  
District Councillor for the Cherry Willingham Ward

## PRESENTATION

**Mrs. Stephanie Rouse**

Association Chairman

## TRIBUTE

**Martin Vickers MP**

Member of Parliament for Cleethorpes Constituency

## TOAST

**Cllr. Giles McNeill**

Association Secretary,  
District Councillor for the Nettleham Ward

## VOTE OF THANKS

**Sir Edward Leigh MP**

Member of Parliament for the Gainsborough Constituency

## DRAW OF THE RAFFLE

# Menu

## MAIN

Darne of Salmon with a Tarragon Beurre Blanc  
*served with*  
Minted New Potatoes, Carrots and Mange Tout

## DESSERT

Summer Pudding  
*served with*  
Vanilla Pod Ice Cream

## TO FOLLOW

Tea or Coffee  
*with*  
Mints

# *Sir Edward Leigh MP*

## **BIOGRAPHY**

Sir Edward Leigh was born in London in 1950. He was educated at St Philips School, London, the Oratory School, Berkshire, and the Lycée Français in London. He studied History at Durham University, where he was president of the Durham Union Society.

He is the younger son of Sir Neville Leigh KCVO, former clerk to the Privy Council. He is married, with three daughters and three sons.

Sir Edward is a qualified barrister and a member of the Inner Temple, and practised in arbitration and criminal law for Goldsmiths Chambers. He is also a Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators.

Sir Edward was a member of the Richmond Borough Council and, from 1974 until 1981, the Greater London Council. He worked in the private office of Mrs. Thatcher from 1976–77 as private secretary in charge of her correspondence as Leader of the Opposition.

Sir Edward fought Teesside Middlesborough in the October 1974 General Election. He was elected as a Member of Parliament for Gainsborough & Horncastle in the 1983 General Election. He was Joint Secretary of the Conservative Parliamentary Defence Committee and the Parliamentary Agriculture Committee from 1983-85.

Sir Edward was Chairman of the National Council for Civil Defence and was Director of the Coalition for Peace Through Security, until early 1985. From 1990-1993, He was a Parliamentary Under Secretary of State in the Department of Trade and Industry. Prior to that he was a Parliamentary Private Secretary in the Home Office.

In May 1997 he was elected Member of Parliament for the new seat of Gainsborough, with a majority of 6,826. After hovering around 8,000 in the 2001 & 2005 elections, his majority rose to 10,559 in the General Election of 2010.

Sir Edward is a former member of the Social Security Select Committee and was Joint Vice-Chairman of the Conservative Parliamentary Foreign Affairs Committee. Between 2001 and 2010 he was Chairman of the influential Public Accounts Committee — a role he relinquished after serving the maximum term.

In the 2013 Queen's Birthday Honours he became a knight bachelor.

# *Rt. Hon. John Hayes MP*

## **BIOGRAPHY**

Born in Woolwich, London in 1958 John Hayes was educated at Colfe's Grammar School and Nottingham University, where he graduated with a BA in Politics and a PGCE in History/English.

John joined the Conservative Party at the age of 14, chaired a Young Conservative branch at 15 and, as an undergraduate, was Chairman of the University of Nottingham Conservative Association. At university he was also President of Lincoln Hall JCR and Treasurer of the Students Union. Whilst a director of an award winning local computer company, John served on Nottinghamshire County Council from 1985 to 1999 where he was Conservative spokesman on education.

First elected to Parliament as the Member for South Holland and The Deepings in 1997, he has been re-elected - with increased majorities - at each of the three subsequent general elections. Before joining the Conservative front bench, John served as a member of both the Agriculture and Education Select Committees.

He was made Vice Chairman of the Conservative Party, with responsibility for campaigning, in 1999; became Shadow Schools Minister in 2000; and - following the 2001 Election - Assistant Opposition Chief Whip. From 2002 to 2003 he was a member of the Shadow Cabinet as Shadow Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, having initially headed the political section of the Office of the Leader of the Opposition for whom he was also a speechwriter.

From 2003 to 2005 he was Shadow Minister for Housing and Planning, and then Shadow Minister for Transport in 2005.

David Cameron made John Shadow Minister for Vocational Education in 2005, and from 2007 to 2010 he added higher education to his portfolio, serving as Shadow Minister for Lifelong Learning, Further and Higher Education.

Joining the new Government in May 2010, John was appointed Minister of State for Further Education, Skills and Lifelong Learning in the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills. In addition, in July 2010 he became a Minister of State in the Department for Education with particular responsibility for apprenticeships, careers guidance and vocational education, a position he held until March 2013.

John Hayes was appointed Minister without Portfolio on 28 March 2013.

