



Life Peerages Act 1958: First Life Peers

Summary

This Briefing has been produced to mark the 60th anniversary of the enactment of the Life Peerages Bill on 30 April 1958. The Briefing provides biographical information on the first 14 life Peers who were created under the provisions of the Life Peerages Act. It provides an overview of their career before they received a peerage, and of a selection of speeches made and posts held while a Member of the House of Lords.

On 24 July 1958, the first 14 life Peers were announced in the *London Gazette*. The list included ten men and four women. Hugh Gaitskell, the Leader of the Opposition, nominated six people for a life peerage, six of the ten men nominated were former MPs, and one of the four women was a hereditary Peeress in her own right. The first 14 life Peers, as they appeared in the *London Gazette*, were:

- Dame Katharine Elliot (Conservative)
- Rt Hon Mary Irene, Baroness Ravensdale (Crossbench)
- Stella, Marchioness of Reading (Crossbench)
- Barbara Frances, Mrs Wootton (Labour)
- Sir Robert John Graham Boothby (Conservative)
- Victor John Collins (Labour)
- Lieutenant-Colonel Sir (William Jocelyn) Ian Fraser (Conservative)
- Sir Charles John Geddes (Labour)
- Victor Ferrier Noel-Paton (Conservative)
- Edward Arthur Alexander Shackleton (Labour)
- Sir John Sebastian Bach Stopford (Crossbench)
- Stephen James Lake Taylor (Labour)
- Sir Edward Francis Twining (Crossbench)
- Daniel Granville West (Labour)

Lord Fraser of Lonsdale was the first Peer to be created, by letters patent dated 1 August 1958. The first female Peer to receive her letters patent was Baroness Wootton of Abinger, created on 8 August 1958, who was also the first woman to chair proceedings in the House of Lords, as Deputy Speaker. The first female Peer to be introduced was Baroness Swanborough, taking her seat on 21 October 1958.

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1. Life Peerages Act 1958

1.1 Summary

On 21 November 1957, the Conservative Government, led by Harold Macmillan, introduced the Life Peerages Bill in the House of Lords to enable the creation of peerages bestowed on both men and women for life, allowing the recipient to sit and vote in the House.¹ The Bill was reported in the House of Lords without amendment and was given a third reading on 30 January 1958.² It also passed through the House of Commons without amendment, receiving royal assent on 30 April 1958.³

Prior to the Act, the House was exclusively male, dominated by hereditary Peers, with a limited number of Lords of Appeal in Ordinary—judges who had been granted life peerages under the Appellate Jurisdiction Acts of 1876 and 1887. Although under the provisions of the Life Peerages Act 1958 women could be conferred a life peerage, hereditary Peeresses in their own right were still excluded from sitting in the House.⁴ It was not until the Peerage Act 1963 that they were admitted. The 1963 Act also allowed individuals to relinquish inherited titles.

Further information about the Life Peerages Act 1958 can be found in the House of Lords Library Briefing, [Life Peerages Act 1958: 60th Anniversary](#) (28 March 2018).

1.2 Method of Appointment

The issue of both the method and criteria of appointment of the life Peers to be created under the provisions of the Bill was raised during its passage through Parliament. During the Bill's second reading in the House of Lords, the Labour Party raised the question of who would be responsible for compiling the list of nominees to present to the Queen for ennoblement, and how the number of Peers to be appointed would be decided.⁵ Although it was envisaged that the Prime Minister would construct the list, the Labour Party questioned to what extent other party leaders would be consulted when the list was drafted.⁶ According to Professor Peter Dorey, senior civil servants warned that while it might ordinarily be expected that the Prime Minister would discuss possible nominees with opposition leaders, it would not be advisable for ministers to “commit themselves to these consultations during the debate [on the Life Peerages Bill]”, and that it would be “impossible for any undertaking given by Her Majesty's Government to bind

¹ [HL Hansard, 21 November 1957, col 476.](#)

² [HL Hansard, 30 January 1958, col 328.](#)

³ [HC Hansard, 2 April 1958, col 1297.](#)

⁴ Further information about the history of women in the House of Lords can be found in the House of Lords Library Briefing, [Women in the House of Lords](#) (30 June 2015).

⁵ [HL Hansard, 3 December 1957, cols 622–3.](#)

⁶ Peter Dorey and Alexandra Kelso, *House of Lords Reform Since 1911*, 2011, p 108.

its successors”.⁷ However, it was highlighted that the Bill may receive more support from the Labour Opposition if it received some assurances regarding the issue.

In both the House of Lords and the House of Commons, the Government spokespeople sought to simultaneously address the concerns of the Opposition while avoiding the offer of definitive guarantees.⁸ For example, at the Bill’s third reading in the House of Lords, the then Lord Chancellor, Viscount of Kilmuir, stated that:

[I]t is beyond question that the duty and the responsibility for advising the Sovereign in matters of titles and honours must, and must necessarily, rest with the Prime Minister of the day; and also that it is the duty of the Prime Minister to decide what advice he will seek in order that he can discharge his responsibility in the public interest. That is the position from which we start [...] in regard to the particular problem of recruitment for the Opposition, the practice, the convention—except in the most rare and exceptional circumstances—would so work out that the suggestions of the [...] Leader of the Opposition, so far as that section was concerned, would be accepted [...] I cannot give an undertaking.⁹

During the debate at third reading in the House of Commons, Rab Butler, the Secretary of State for the Home Department and Lord Privy Seal, made a similar statement:

It will be for the Prime Minister, to make recommendations to Her Majesty, and when recommending someone who is not of his own political party he would consult the leaders of the party opposite to him or of the party not of his own colour. I have tried to make it clear, on this occasion and on previous occasions, that we cannot define exactly how that choice will be made.¹⁰

However, the Government made clear that the “emphasis” would be on the appointment of people who could “contribute to Parliament from their expert knowledge of this or that aspect of national life”,¹¹ and that life peerages would be offered to individuals of “distinction in the public service”.¹²

⁷ Peter Dorey and Alexandra Kelso, *House of Lords Reform Since 1911*, 2011, p 108; and National Archives PREM 11/2453, ‘Life Peerages Bill: Selection of Life Peers—Memorandum by the Official Group’, 29 November 1957; NA LCO 2/5220, ‘Life Peerages Bill: House of Lords—3rd Reading; and CAB 21/4940, ‘Life Peerages Bill: Selection of Life Peers—Revised Memorandum by the Official Group’, 6 February 1958.

⁸ Peter Dorey and Alexandra Kelso, *House of Lords Reform Since 1911*, 2011, p 108.

⁹ [HL Hansard, 30 January 1958, cols 324–5.](#)

¹⁰ [HC Hansard, 2 April 1958, col 1230.](#)

¹¹ [HL Hansard, 3 December 1957, cols 610–11.](#)

¹² [HC Hansard, 12 February 1958, col 407.](#)

As a result, a process for the Prime Minister to consult opposition parties before submitting the list of nominees to the Monarch was not contained in the Act. The Bill was also enacted with no specificity regarding the number of life Peers who would be created, either in the first tranche or in any subsequent lists.

2. First Life Peers

On 24 July 1958, the first 14 life Peers, created under the provisions of the Life Peerages Act 1958, were announced in a supplement to the *London Gazette*.¹³ The list included four women and ten men. In total, six of the names included on the list were nominated by Harold Macmillan following consultation with the Leader of the Labour Party, Hugh Gaitskell. During discussions with Harold Macmillan about the Opposition's nominations, Gaitskell explained that he was unable to produce a list of ten nominees, due to the reluctance of many Labour MPs to sit in the House of Lords.¹⁴ In all, six of the ten male nominees were former MPs; two sat as Conservative Peers at creation and four sat as Labour Peers. In addition, one of the four women nominated was a hereditary Peeress in her own right.

Political scientist, Bernard Crick, and Chris Ballinger, lecturer in politics and Academic Dean at Exeter, have both noted that the first cohort of life Peers created under the Act were not “controversial”.¹⁵ Crick and Ballinger state that the nominees would have been “suitable candidates” for receiving a hereditary peerage, although not all of them might have accepted one in order to sit in the House of Lords.

Lord Fraser of Lonsdale was the first life Peer to be created under the Act, by letters patent dated 1 August 1958.¹⁶ The first female Peer to receive her letters patent was Baroness Wootton of Abinger, created on 8 August 1958. She was also the first woman to chair proceedings in the House of Lords, as Deputy Speaker.¹⁷ The first female Peer to be introduced was Baroness Swanborough, taking her seat on 21 October 1958, just ahead of Baroness Wootton who was introduced on the same day.¹⁸ All 14 Peers were introduced in the House on 21 October and 22 October 1958, except for

¹³ *London Gazette*, ‘[Supplement to the London Gazette](#)’, 24 July 1958. Hubert Lister Parker, who was created Lord Parker of Waddington by letters patent dated 30 September 1958, was not included in the first list of life Peers that was announced on 24 July 1958, and therefore has not been included in the Briefing.

¹⁴ National Archives, PREM1 1/2453: Harold Macmillan, ‘Extract from Prime Minister’s Note of his Meeting with Mr Gaitskell on 2 April 1958, 2 April 1958; and Peter Dorey, ‘[Change in Order to Conserve: Explaining the Decision to Introduce the 1958 Life Peerage Act](#)’, *Parliamentary History*, 6 May 2009, pp 246–65.

¹⁵ Bernard Crick, ‘The Life Peerages Act’, *Parliamentary Affairs*, 1 January 1959, p 463; and Chris Ballinger, *The House of Lords 1911–2011: A Century of Non-Reform*, 2012, p 94.

¹⁶ UK Parliament website, ‘[Ian Fraser, Baron Fraser of Lonsdale \(1897–1974\)](#)’, accessed 6 March 2018.

¹⁷ UK Parliament website, ‘[Barbara Frances Wootton, Baroness Wootton of Abinger \(1897–1988\)](#)’, accessed 6 March 2018.

¹⁸ [HL Hansard, 21 October 1958, cols 661–2.](#)

Lord Boothby, who was introduced on 12 November 1958, and Lord Stopford who was introduced on 10 March 1959.¹⁹

The average age of the first 14 life Peers, at the date of their announcement, was 58 years old. The average length of service was 22 years and the average age at death was 80 years old.

2.1 Lord Boothby (1900–1986)

Early Life

Robert Boothby was born in Edinburgh, and was the only child of Sir Robert Tuite Boothby, manager of the Scottish Provident Institution and a director of the Royal Bank of Scotland, and his wife Mabel Augusta.²⁰ Boothby was educated at Eton College and Magdalen College, Oxford. Between his time at Eton and Oxford, he trained as a guards officer. However, he was too young to take an active part in the First World War.

House of Commons

At the general election in 1923, Boothby contested the Orkney and Shetland seat on behalf of the Conservative Party.²¹ Although Boothby lost the election, he was then selected as the Conservative candidate for East Aberdeenshire in the 1924 general election, which he won. Boothby held the seat for nearly 34 years.²²

His constituents mainly worked in fishing and farming, and he often spoke on issues that affected both industries.²³ According to his biographer, Robert Rhodes James, he became a “passionate supporter of the herring industry” and a “champion of the farmers”, making it his “job to get them a better deal”.²⁴ He also often spoke in debates on the economy and advocated principles espoused by John Keynes. According to James, Boothby became a “sharp and painful critic of successive Chancellors of the Exchequer, regardless of party”.²⁵ However, despite this criticism, in 1926, Boothby was appointed as Parliamentary Private Secretary (PPS) to the then Chancellor of the Exchequer, Winston Churchill.²⁶ Boothby held the post until the

¹⁹ [HL Hansard, 21 October 1958, cols 661–2](#); [HL Hansard, 22 October 1958, cols 663–4](#); [HL Hansard, 12 November 1958, col 389](#); and [HL Hansard, 10 March 1959, col 843](#).

²⁰ Oxford Dictionary of National Biography, ‘[Boothby, Robert John Graham, Baron Boothby](#)’, accessed 6 March 2018.

²¹ Robert Rhodes James, *Bob Boothby: A Portrait*, 1991, pp 54–7.

²² Oxford Dictionary of National Biography, ‘[Boothby, Robert John Graham, Baron Boothby](#)’, accessed 6 March 2018.

²³ *ibid*; and Robert Rhodes James, *Bob Boothby: A Portrait*, 1991, pp 59–60.

²⁴ Robert Rhodes James, *Bob Boothby: A Portrait*, 1991, p 60.

²⁵ *ibid*, p 74.

²⁶ Oxford Dictionary of National Biography, ‘[Boothby, Robert John Graham, Baron Boothby](#)’, accessed 6 March 2018.

Government was defeated in the 1929 general election.

In May 1940, following Neville Chamberlain's resignation as Prime Minister, and Churchill's appointment as his successor, Boothby was made Parliamentary Secretary at the Ministry of Food.²⁷ Since the Minister of Food was Lord Woolton, Boothby was spokesman for the department in the House of Commons.²⁸ During his time in the Ministry, he developed and carried through the House of Commons the National Milk Scheme, which was "designed to provide milk for those persons most in need of it [...] namely, children under five, and expectant and nursing mothers".²⁹ In October 1940, he was suspended from his duties while a select committee investigated his activities the previous year in connection with émigré Czech financial claims of assets which had been frozen in Britain, following the Nazis invasion of Prague in 1939.³⁰ In December 1940, the Committee concluded that he had undertaken to render certain political services in return for a financial sum, and reported that his conduct had been "contrary to the usage and derogatory to the dignity of the House".³¹ Boothby resigned from his post in January 1941, but remained an MP.³²

After his resignation, Boothby served as a junior staff officer with RAF Bomber Command during the Second World War.³³ Later in the war, he worked with the Free French.³⁴ From 1949 to 1957, he was a British delegate to the consultative assembly of the Council of Europe, and from 1952 to 1956, vice-chairman of the Committee on Economic Affairs.

Following a series of heart attacks in 1957, Boothby decided to resign from the House of Commons.³⁵ However, in 1958, the then Prime Minister, Harold Macmillan, offered him a life peerage, which he accepted. He received his letters patent on 22 August 1958.³⁶

House of Lords

Lord Boothby was introduced in the House of Lords by Lord Brabazon of Tara and Lord Stanley of Alderley on 12 November 1958, and sat as a

²⁷ Robert Rhodes James, *Bob Boothby: A Portrait*, 1991, pp 247–9.

²⁸ Oxford Dictionary of National Biography, '[Boothby, Robert John Graham, Baron Boothby](#)', accessed 6 March 2018.

²⁹ [HC Hansard, 31 July 1940, col 1234](#).

³⁰ Oxford Dictionary of National Biography, '[Boothby, Robert John Graham, Baron Boothby](#)', accessed 6 March 2018.

³¹ Select Committee on the Conduct of a Member, *Report from the Select Committee on the Conduct of a Member with the Proceedings of the Committee, Minutes of Evidence and Appendices*, 1941, p 501.

³² Robert Boothby, *Recollections of a Rebel*, 1978, p 175.

³³ *ibid*, p 176; and Oxford Dictionary of National Biography, '[Boothby, Robert John Graham, Baron Boothby](#)', accessed 6 March 2018.

³⁴ Oxford Dictionary of National Biography, '[Boothby, Robert John Graham, Baron Boothby](#)', accessed 6 March 2018.

³⁵ Robert Boothby, *Recollections of a Rebel*, 1978, pp 213–14.

³⁶ [London Gazette, 22 August 1958, p 5211](#).

Conservative Peer.³⁷ Soon after his introduction, he was invited by a group of students to stand for election as Rector of the University of St Andrews.³⁸ However, the Conservative Party also put up an official candidate. After consultation with Macmillan, Boothby decided to leave the Conservative Party and stand as an independent candidate in the election for Rector. As a result, he then sat on the crossbenches in the House of Lords. Lord Boothby was successful in the election for the Rectorship.

Lord Boothby made his maiden speech on 25 November 1958, during a debate on agriculture, in which he argued that Britain's balance of trade was in "intermittent jeopardy".³⁹ He advocated an increase in production and a reduction in imports. He also suggested that the distribution of subsidies needed to be reviewed, arguing:

[T]oo much public money is being spent in agriculture on those who need it least and not on those who need it most.⁴⁰

Pointing to examples of farming in his former constituency, Lord Boothby argued that with more help some smaller farmers could be profitable if they "embarked on [...] tremendous enterprises in cooperative production and marketing".⁴¹

From the "very outset" Lord Boothby "enjoyed" the House of Lords.⁴² He often spoke on economic and international affairs, and according to his biographer James, he continued to "battle in the Lords for the fishermen and farmers of Scotland".⁴³ For example, in the House of Lords, Lord Boothby repeatedly advocated British entry into the European Economic Community (EEC), arguing that Britain was in "stagnant and almost impotent isolation".⁴⁴ He also spoke in favour of German reunification, the creation of a European central bank and a common European currency.⁴⁵ However, in 1971, when the Government were negotiating the fisheries policy of the EEC, he insisted that the twelve-mile zone for British inshore fishing be protected.⁴⁶

According to James, on foreign affairs, Lord Boothby called for a strong navy, and felt "vindicated" when the Falklands War in 1982 "revealed not only the importance" of sea power and a strong merchant marine, but also "certain shortcomings" in British "naval design and constructions".⁴⁷ Boothby also repeatedly called for an increase in the price of monetary gold, which he

³⁷ [HL Hansard, 12 November 1958, col 389.](#)

³⁸ Robert Boothby, *Recollections of a Rebel*, 1978, p 228.

³⁹ [HC Hansard, 25 November 1958, col 795.](#)

⁴⁰ [ibid, col 796.](#)

⁴¹ [ibid, col 797.](#)

⁴² Robert Boothby, *Recollections of a Rebel*, 1978, p 230.

⁴³ Robert Rhodes James, *Bob Boothby: A Portrait*, 1991, p 401.

⁴⁴ [HC Hansard, 19 January 1971, col 400.](#)

⁴⁵ Robert Rhodes James, *Bob Boothby: A Portrait*, 1991, pp 442–3.

⁴⁶ [HC Hansard, 2 July 1971, col 580;](#) and [HC Hansard, 9 February 1971, col 10.](#)

⁴⁷ Robert Rhodes James, *Bob Boothby: A Portrait*, 1991, pp 443–4.

stated was his “final political campaign”.⁴⁸ He argued that raising the price of bullion was the “only solution to our monetary problems”.

Lord Boothby died on 16 July 1986, at the age of 86, after suffering a mild heart attack.⁴⁹

2.2 Baroness Elliot of Harwood (1903–1994)

Early Life

Katharine Elliot (born Katharine Tennant) was the daughter of Sir Charles Tennant, first baronet of the Glen, Peeblesshire, Scottish industrialist and Liberal politician, and his second wife Marguerite Agaranthe.⁵⁰ As a child, she played in the nursery at 10 Downing Street, the home of her half-sister Margot, who was married to the Prime Minister, Herbert Henry Asquith.⁵¹ Katharine was initially educated by governesses at home, then at Abbot’s Hill School in Hemel Hempstead and finally in Paris.⁵² She was presented at the court of George V as a debutante. She then studied at the London School of Economics.

Public Service

On 2 April 1934, Katharine married Walter Elliot, Conservative MP for Glasgow Kelvingrove and Minister for Agriculture. He later became Secretary of State for Scotland and Minister of Health. Katharine Elliot campaigned for her husband in every election that he stood in, wrote speeches, and attended hustings.⁵³ She also helped to publicise the Milk Marketing Board, which had been introduced by her husband.⁵⁴ Following her marriage, she became involved in his family business of auctioneering livestock, and according to the writer Magnus Linklater, she became “expert in buying and selling farm animals and equipment”.⁵⁵

From 1939 to 1949, she chaired the National Association of Mixed Clubs and Girls’ Clubs, later known as Youth Clubs UK, which promoted the policy of leisure-time activities for young people.⁵⁶ She sat on the Home Office Advisory Committee on the Treatment of Offenders from 1946 to

⁴⁸ Robert Boothby, *Recollections of a Rebel*, 1978, p 236.

⁴⁹ Robert Rhodes James, *Bob Boothby: A Portrait*, 1991, p 453.

⁵⁰ Oxford Dictionary of National Biography, ‘[Elliot \[née Tennant\], Katharine, Baroness Elliot of Harwood](#)’, accessed 7 March 2018.

⁵¹ *Times* (£), ‘Baroness Elliot of Harwood’, 4 January 1994.

⁵² Oxford Dictionary of National Biography, ‘[Elliot \[née Tennant\], Katharine, Baroness Elliot of Harwood](#)’, accessed 7 March 2018.

⁵³ *ibid.*

⁵⁴ *ibid.*; and *Times* (£), ‘Baroness Elliot of Harwood’, 4 January 1994.

⁵⁵ Oxford Dictionary of National Biography, ‘[Elliot \[née Tennant\], Katharine, Baroness Elliot of Harwood](#)’, accessed 7 March 2018.

⁵⁶ *ibid.*

1962, during which time she visited every prison in the UK. She served on the Advisory Committee on Child Care in Scotland between 1956 and 1965, and chaired the National Union of Conservative and Unionist Associations between 1956 and 1967. She was a member of the UK delegation to the United Nations on three occasions; in 1954, 1956, when she denounced the Soviet Union's invasion of Hungary, and again in 1957.⁵⁷

In January 1958, Walter Elliot died.⁵⁸ In March 1958, she stood in place of her husband as a candidate for Kelvingrove at the by-election, which she lost by a narrow margin of votes.⁵⁹

House of Lords

In 1958, Katharine Elliot was included on Harold Macmillan's list of nominees for a life peerage. The title Baroness Elliot of Harwood was conferred on her by letters patent dated 26 September 1958.⁶⁰ She was introduced in the House of Lords on 22 October 1958, and sat as a Conservative Peer.⁶¹ Baroness Elliot was the first female Peer to speak in the House of Lords, the first to propose the loyal address to the Queen and the first to pilot a private member's bill through the House of Lords.

Baroness Elliot made her maiden speech with "great trepidation" on 4 November 1958, during the debate in the House of Lords on the Queen's Speech.⁶² The theme of her speech was that of the growing importance of the under-developed areas of Asia and Africa, and the role of the Commonwealth. She argued that, in the context of both the rapid advancements in science and technology and the growth of the "communist world", it was important that the Commonwealth used its "know-how" in the "art of government" to "lead those countries into the free world".⁶³

In February 1960, Margaret Thatcher, who had been elected to the Commons as the MP for Finchley in 1959, used her maiden speech to introduce the private member's bill, the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Bill.⁶⁴ The object of the Bill was to allow the press and public to have access to all local authority meetings. After the passage of the Bill through the House of Commons, Baroness Elliot was asked to sponsor the Bill in the House of Lords, making her the first female Peer to carry legislation through the House. Opening the debate at second reading, Baroness Elliot argued that the Bill was an "important step forward in our

⁵⁷ Oxford Dictionary of National Biography, '[Elliot \[née Tennant\], Katharine, Baroness Elliot of Harwood](#)', accessed 7 March 2018; and *Times* (£), 'Baroness Elliot of Harwood', 4 January 1994.

⁵⁸ *ibid.*

⁵⁹ *ibid.*

⁶⁰ [London Gazette, 29 September 1958, p 5887](#)

⁶¹ [HL Hansard, 22 October 1958, col 664.](#)

⁶² [HL Hansard, 4 November 1958, col 160.](#)

⁶³ [ibid, cols 160–67.](#)

⁶⁴ [HC Hansard, 5 February 1960, cols 1350–8.](#)

democratic system”, and expressed a hope that it would lead to “greater interest in the work of local government”.⁶⁵ The Bill received royal assent in October 1960, and became the first piece of legislation to be piloted through both Houses by women.⁶⁶

In 1962, Baroness Elliot became the first female Peer to move the Humble Address.⁶⁷ In her speech, she emphasised the “importance of the development of the European Community”, arguing that Britain’s “influence can be effective only from within”.⁶⁸ She also spoke in favour of the Government’s policy to do “all in its power to strengthen” the United Nations and to continue to support the NATO Alliance.⁶⁹ In regards to the domestic policies contained in the Queen’s Speech, Baroness Elliott stated that she was “particularly glad” that legislation would be introduced to enable local authorities to undertake “preventive social work for children neglected in their homes”.⁷⁰ She acknowledged that the Government’s negotiations to secure an agricultural policy for the Common Market in which Britain could join would not be “easy”.⁷¹ However, she argued that the country’s “farmers and farmworkers are ready to try new methods—to use new machinery wherever it can be proved to be of value”.

Baroness Elliot made 135 speeches, and became known as the “despair of the whips” because she was “incapable of trimming” her contributions.⁷² Elliot was a regular attendee into her nineties.⁷³ However, in November 1993, she tripped over her parliamentary robes after attending the State Opening of Parliament. She was taken to hospital and died on 3 January 1994, aged 90.

2.3 Lord Ferrier (1900–1992)

Early Life

Victor Ferrier Noel-Paton was the son of Frederick Waller Ferrier Noel-Paton, secretary of the Bombay Chamber of Commerce and director general of Commercial Intelligence to the Government of India, and Joane Mary.⁷⁴ Victor Noel-Paton was sent to Scotland to be educated at Cargilfield

⁶⁵ [HL Hansard, 26 May 1960, cols 1302–5.](#)

⁶⁶ Oxford Dictionary of National Biography, ‘[Elliot \[née Tennant\], Katharine, Baroness Elliot of Harwood](#)’, accessed 7 March 2018.

⁶⁷ [HL Hansard, 30 October 1962, col 6.](#)

⁶⁸ [ibid, col 7.](#)

⁶⁹ [ibid, col 9.](#)

⁷⁰ [ibid, col 11.](#)

⁷¹ [ibid, col 12.](#)

⁷² UK Parliament website, ‘[Katharine Elliot, Baroness Elliot of Harwood \(1903–1994\)](#)’, accessed 7 March 2018; Oxford Dictionary of National Biography, ‘[Elliot \[née Tennant\], Katharine, Baroness Elliot of Harwood](#)’, accessed 7 March 2018; and *Times* (£), ‘Baroness Elliot of Harwood’, 4 January 1994.

⁷³ *Times* (£), ‘Baroness Elliot of Harwood’, 4 January 1994.

⁷⁴ *Who’s Who and Who Was Who 2018*, ‘Ferrier’, accessed 8 March 2018.

and the Edinburgh Academy. Towards the end of the First World War he volunteered for the Royal Engineers, and served between 1918 and 1919.⁷⁵

Career in India

After the war, Noel-Paton returned to India and, by 1920, he was established in the commercial and industrial firm of Kellick, Nixon and Co in Bombay.⁷⁶ He served on its legislative council and became a trustee of the Port of Bombay. During the Second World War he was commanding officer of the Bombay Light Horse.

Noel-Paton remained in India after it gained independence from Britain in 1947, becoming chairman of Kellick Industries.⁷⁷ He was appointed president of the Bombay Chamber of Commerce, and later vice-president of the Associated Chambers of Commerce in India.

Return to Scotland

In 1951, Noel-Paton returned to Edinburgh, where he was appointed chairman of several companies, including Edinburgh Pharmaceutical Industries, and appointed director of two insurance companies.⁷⁸ He also became Deputy Lieutenant of the county of Lanark.

House of Lords

Victor Ferrier Noel-Paton was nominated for a life peerage by Harold Macmillan in 1958. He was made Lord Ferrier, by letters patent dated 24 September 1958.⁷⁹ He was introduced in the House of Lords on 22 October 1958, and sat as a Conservative Peer.⁸⁰

Lord Ferrier made his maiden speech on 3 December 1958, during a debate on pensions and provision for old age. He stated that the issue was “one of the biggest problems of the moment”, which depended “essentially upon the ability to pay these pensions”.⁸¹ He argued that provision for the old could not be made without a “sound economy”.

⁷⁵ *Who's Who and Who Was Who 2018*, ‘Ferrier’, accessed 8 March 2018; and *Times* (£), ‘Lord Ferrier’, 10 June 1992.

⁷⁶ *ibid.*

⁷⁷ *Times* (£), ‘Lord Ferrier’, 10 June 1992.

⁷⁸ *ibid.*

⁷⁹ [London Gazette, 29 September 1958, p 5887.](#)

⁸⁰ [HL Hansard, 22 October 1958, col 664.](#)

⁸¹ [HL Hansard, 3 December 1958, col 1090.](#)

He also advocated a more proactive policy for encouraging people to take advantage of the National Assistance provision:⁸²

I do put forward for serious consideration the idea of linking up the development of a pension scheme such as this with an assurance that the fullest possible assistance will be given to the people who can properly claim National Assistance.⁸³

During his time in the House of Lords, Lord Ferrier often spoke in support of the National Health Service, and, in 1988, voted against the Government to protest charges for eye tests, arguing that there were “other ways of saving money”.⁸⁴ He was a proponent of manipulative therapy, and was in favour of the poll tax and electoral reform.⁸⁵ However, in 1968, he opposed voting rights for 18 year olds, stating:

I cannot bring myself to believe that they either want, need, or are entitled to expect a vote at a time when they are not actually making a contribution to the country, especially if they are students and [...] accepted by the community as not fully educated at that time.⁸⁶

He criticised aspects of the BBC.⁸⁷ For instance, on several occasions he questioned the scheduling of parliamentary programmes and whether they were given enough “importance” by the BBC.⁸⁸ He spoke against pornography, stating in 1972 that it was “increasing at an alarming pace”, and that the “weak and the immature” needed protection.⁸⁹

Lord Ferrier was a Deputy Speaker and a Deputy Chairman of Committees in the House of Lords between 1970 and 1973,⁹⁰ and was a “regular attender for nearly 30 years”.⁹¹ Lord Ferrier died on 4 June 1992, aged 92.

⁸² The National Assistance Act 1948 set out to ensure that assistance was given to people, over the age of 16 years, who were not making National Insurance contributions and were ‘without resource’. The Act established the National Assistance Board which administered ‘National Assistance’ in the form of assistance grants or ‘assistance in kind’ in lieu of monetary assistance.

⁸³ [HL Hansard, 3 December 1958, col 1093.](#)

⁸⁴ [HL Hansard, 8 November 1988, col 574](#); and *Times* (£), ‘Lord Ferrier’, 10 June 1992.

⁸⁵ *Times* (£), ‘Lord Ferrier’, 10 June 1992.

⁸⁶ [HL Hansard, 31 October 1968, cols 96–7.](#)

⁸⁷ *Times* (£), ‘Lord Ferrier’, 10 June 1992.

⁸⁸ [HL Hansard, 13 July 1977, col 896.](#)

⁸⁹ [HL Hansard, 29 November 1972, col 1331.](#)

⁹⁰ *Who’s Who and Who Was Who 2018*, ‘Ferrier’, accessed 8 March 2018.

⁹¹ *Times* (£), ‘Lord Ferrier’, 10 June 1992.

2.4 Lord Fraser of Lonsdale (1897–1974)

Early Life

Ian Fraser was the son of William Percy Fraser of Johannesburg, a prospector and financier, and Ethel Maude.⁹² Fraser joined the cadet corps at Marlborough College at the age of 14, and passed on to Sandhurst in 1915. During the First World War, he enlisted in the King's Shropshire light infantry. After two months of fighting on the Somme in 1916, he was wounded and permanently blinded by a German sniper.

Welfare of the Blind and Ex-Servicemen

While in hospital in London he was visited by the personal assistant of Sir Arthur Pearson, Irene Gladys.⁹³ Pearson, who was also blind, founded and ran St Dunstan's, a hostel and training centre for blinded servicemen. In September 1916, Fraser went to stay in one of its annexes, where Pearson lived. In July 1918, he married Irene Gladys, who herself was appointed CBE for her work for blind people.

In 1917, he started to work as Pearson's assistant.⁹⁴ In 1921, after the death of Pearson, he became the chairman of St Dunstan's. He oversaw its expansion and the opening of a renovated home at Ovingdean, later known as Sir Ian Fraser House.

A founder member of the Royal British Legion, he was appointed its national president in 1947, and remained so until 1958.⁹⁵ He was also the vice-president of the Royal National Institute for the Blind.

House of Commons

In 1922, Fraser entered the London County Council and served for three years as a Conservative Member for North St Pancras.⁹⁶ From 1924 to 1929, he represented the same constituency in the House of Commons, and again from 1931 until 1936. He resigned in 1936 after accepting an invitation to become a BBC governor. In 1939, because of the war, the number of governors was reduced and Fraser resigned. He then returned to the House of Commons from 1940 to 1950, as the MP for Lonsdale, and from 1950 to 1958 he was the MP for Morecambe and Lonsdale. During his time in the

⁹² Oxford Dictionary of National Biography, '[Fraser, \(William Jocelyn\) Ian, Baron Fraser of Lonsdale](#)', accessed 8 March 2018.

⁹³ *ibid*; and *Times* (£), 'Lord Fraser of Lonsdale: A Life's Work for the Blind', 21 December 1974.

⁹⁴ *ibid*.

⁹⁵ *ibid*.

⁹⁶ Oxford Dictionary of National Biography, '[Fraser, \(William Jocelyn\) Ian, Baron Fraser of Lonsdale](#)', accessed 8 March 2018.

House of Commons he continued to represent the concerns of ex-servicemen, and campaigned for their pensions to be increased.⁹⁷

In 1958, Harold Macmillan nominated Fraser for a life peerage.

House of Lords

Sir Ian Fraser was the first Peer created under the Life Peerages Act 1958. He received his letters patent on 1 August 1958 and was made Lord Fraser of Lonsdale.⁹⁸ Lord Fraser was introduced on 22 October 1958 and sat as a Conservative Peer.⁹⁹

Fraser made his maiden speech on 6 November 1958, during a debate on the Queen's Speech. He commented on the pensions and retirement proposals contained in the Speech. Fraser argued that the scheme was "firmly and soundly based" because it was "solvent" and therefore would be sustainable.¹⁰⁰ He stated that:

It seems to me [...] there are but two ways in which the state can deal with this subject. One is to make its own payment from the Treasury into the fund—and we are already doing that at the rate of £125 million a year—and the other is to make sure that those on the basic rate who are in special need have their needs specially met through National Assistance. [...] It is much more economical for the nation to direct the help where it is needed than to spread it over all workers, whatever they may need.¹⁰¹

Speaking on the issue of war pensions, he suggested that the increase that had recently been made in pension provision for disabled former servicemen and war widows would be regarded as an "instalment", albeit a "generous" one,¹⁰² and proposed that:

They should rest a while from any national campaign, and at which they should study the whole subject and come again, perhaps next year or the year after, with further proposals [...] There are details which, when examined, will show anomalies and cases that should be dealt with [...] it would seem to me, that such anomalies as there are, and such amendments as it is thought should be made, should be brought to the notice of Ministers by way of deputation or by other means.¹⁰³

⁹⁷ Oxford Dictionary of National Biography, '[Fraser, \(William Jocelyn\) Ian, Baron Fraser of Lonsdale](#)', accessed 8 March 2018; and *Times* (£), 'Lord Fraser of Lonsdale: A Life's Work for the Blind', 21 December 1974.

⁹⁸ [London Gazette, 5 August 1958, p 4895.](#)

⁹⁹ [HL Hansard, 22 October 1958, col 663.](#)

¹⁰⁰ [HL Hansard, 6 November 1958, col 300.](#)

¹⁰¹ [ibid, col 303.](#)

¹⁰² [ibid, col 299.](#)

¹⁰³ [ibid.](#)

During his time in the House of Lords, Lord Fraser continued to campaign for increases in war pensions, often citing the rise in the cost of living.¹⁰⁴ He also campaigned for the rights of disabled people. For instance, in 1959 he questioned the Government on the action they were taking to ensure employers knew their obligations under the then existing employment legislation,¹⁰⁵ and he campaigned for wireless devices for the blind to be exempt from VAT in 1973.¹⁰⁶

Lord Fraser died on 19 December 1974, aged 77.¹⁰⁷

2.5 Lord Geddes of Epsom (1897–1983)

Early Life

Charles Geddes was the son of Thomas Geddes and Florence Mills.¹⁰⁸ He left Blackheath Central School at the age of 13 and became a Post Office boy messenger in 1911.¹⁰⁹ He also did part-time jobs for Deptford shopkeepers and went on to join the Union of the Post Office Workers (UPW). During the First World War he was commissioned in the Royal Flying Corps, becoming a pilot in 1918.

Trade Unionist

Charles Geddes became district chairman of the London district council of the UPW and held several other offices before being appointed assistant-general secretary in 1941.¹¹⁰ Three years later, in 1944, Geddes became general secretary of the Union, and held that post until 1957. He joined the Trades Union Congress (TUC) in 1946.

In 1954, he was appointed to sit on the courts of inquiry into engineering and shipbuilding disputes.¹¹¹ These courts urged that the annual cycle of wage claims should be referred to an authoritative and impartial body to assess their effect on the economy. In 1957, two further courts of inquiry into similar engineering disputes were established and made similar recommendations. Geddes was the only member to serve on all these courts.

¹⁰⁴ For example: [HL Hansard, 23 May 1962, col 1048](#); and [HL Hansard, 12 November 1968, cols 418–20](#).

¹⁰⁵ [HL Hansard, 9 December 1959, col 172](#).

¹⁰⁶ [HL Hansard 25 July 1974, col 1825](#).

¹⁰⁷ UK Parliament website, '[Ian Fraser, Baron Fraser of Lonsdale \(1897–1974\)](#)', accessed 6 March 2018.

¹⁰⁸ *Who's Who and Who Was Who 2018*, 'Geddes of Epsom', accessed 10 March 2018.

¹⁰⁹ *Times* (£), 'Lord Geddes of Epsom: Force for Moderation within the TUC', 4 May 1983.

¹¹⁰ *ibid.*

¹¹¹ *ibid.*

In 1957, Geddes was knighted, and he resigned from the UPW.¹¹²

House of Lords

In 1958, after consultation with the Leader of the Opposition, Hugh Gaitskell, Harold Macmillan recommended Charles Geddes for a life peerage.¹¹³ On 4 August 1958, by letters patent, he was created Lord Geddes of Epsom.¹¹⁴ Lord Geddes was introduced on 22 October 1958, and sat as a Labour Peer.¹¹⁵

Lord Geddes made his maiden speech on 3 December 1958, on the issue of provision for the old. He stated that it was of “paramount importance that the state should make the resources available”, and argued that the growing ageing population and the increase in life expectancy should be viewed as a “challenge”, not a “burden”.¹¹⁶ He suggested there was an “obligation [...] to meet reasonable liabilities”,¹¹⁷ highlighting that the generation immediately affected by the Government’s policies were those that:

From 1914 to 1918, [...] were the men who fought to keep this nation great, who made the sacrifices, who slogged across the mud of Flanders and lived in the trenches. They were the men and women who, from 1939 to 1945, after working round the clock in many cases, donned the blue tunic of the Civil Defence and went out and damned Hitler to do his worst.¹¹⁸

According to his obituary in the *Times*, Lord Geddes’ interventions in the House of Lords were not “frequent”, and he “did not adapt himself happily to the procedures of the place”.¹¹⁹ His contributions included speeches on the economy and on improving industrial relations. Addressing the issue of unemployment in 1959, he advocated a round-table conference with representatives from the Government, employers and trade unions to discuss the question of a “planned, full employment, and of a planned economy”.¹²⁰ He suggested a “new approach” was needed. However, he cautioned that:

[A] round-table conference should be held, not on the basis of exhortation on the part of the Government, or on the basis of allowing the employers to tell the trade unions how wrong they have been in the past, but on the basis of seeing whether the three parties

¹¹² *Times* (£), ‘Lord Geddes of Epsom: Force for Moderation within the TUC’, 4 May 1983.

¹¹³ *Times* (£), ‘The First List of Life Peers’, 24 July 1958.

¹¹⁴ [London Gazette, 5 August 1958, p 4896.](#)

¹¹⁵ [HL Hansard, 22 October 1958, col 663.](#)

¹¹⁶ [HL Hansard, 3 December 1958, cols 1104–5.](#)

¹¹⁷ [ibid, col 1105.](#)

¹¹⁸ *ibid.*

¹¹⁹ *Times* (£), ‘Lord Geddes of Epsom: Force for Moderation within the TUC’, 4 May 1983.

¹²⁰ [HL Hansard, 11 March 1959, col 1050.](#)

cannot solve something which, if it is not dealt with and solved, will become a very, very serious problem indeed, not only for this country but for the world at large.¹²¹

In 1962, on the issue of improving industrial efficiency and increasing national productivity, Geddes argued that incentives should be given to workers. He stressed that if employers wanted cooperation from their workforce, they must “concede to them the right to have some reward and benefit in that increased productivity”.¹²² In 1963, he called for greater capital investment in the postal services of the Post Office.¹²³

Lord Geddes died on 2 May 1983, at the age of 86.¹²⁴

2.6 Lord Granville-West (1904–1984)

Early Life

Daniel Granville West was the son of John West and Elizabeth Bridges. He was educated at Newbridge Grammar school and the University College of South Wales in Cardiff, where he studied law and took the departmental first prize.¹²⁵ He qualified as a solicitor in 1929.

During the First World War he served in the RAF, becoming a flight-lieutenant in the RAF’s Volunteer Reserve.¹²⁶

House of Commons

West served as a member of the Abercarn Urban Districts Council between 1934 and 1938, and of the Monmouthshire County Council between 1938 and 1947.¹²⁷ He was elected Labour MP for Pontypool at a by-election in 1946, and continued to hold the seat until 1958.¹²⁸ He was Parliamentary Private Secretary to the then Home Secretary, Chuter Ede, between 1950 and 1951.

¹²¹ [HL Hansard, 11 March 1959, col 1050.](#)

¹²² [HL Hansard, 12 July 1962, cols 411–12.](#)

¹²³ [HL Hansard, 26 February 1963, col 53.](#)

¹²⁴ *Times* (£), ‘Lord Geddes of Epsom: Force for Moderation within the TUC’, 4 May 1983.

¹²⁵ Dictionary of Welsh Biography, ‘[West, Daniel Granville, Baron Granville-West of Pontypool](#)’, accessed 12 March 2018.

¹²⁶ *Times* (£), ‘Lord Granville-West’, 25 September 1984.

¹²⁷ Dictionary of Welsh Biography, ‘[West, Daniel Granville, Baron Granville-West of Pontypool](#)’, accessed 12 March 2018.

¹²⁸ *ibid.*

House Lords

In 1958, Daniel Granville West was included on Hugh Gaitskell's list of Labour nominees for a life peerage. He was created Lord Granville-West by letters patent dated 6 August 1958, and was introduced in the House of Lords on 21 October 1958.¹²⁹ He sat as a Labour Peer.

Lord Granville-West delivered his maiden speech on 26 November 1958, on the issue of compulsory teaching of the Welsh language in Welsh schools. He suggested that the matter could be “safely” left to the discretion of the local education authorities, who had “so faithfully discharged their responsibilities in the past”.¹³⁰

During his time in the House of Lords, Lord Granville-West raised issues that affected his former constituency and the surrounding areas. For instance, in 1959, during the debate on the British Transport Commission Bill, he spoke to the importance of maintaining the railway lines in South Wales. He highlighted the “sharp decline in industrial activity” in the area and stressed that transport links were “essential” if the valley towns were to “attract new industries”.¹³¹

Lord Granville-West also spoke on the shortage of housing in Britain, advocating the enfranchisement and modernisation of leasehold properties. He argued this would “improve the standard of hundreds of thousands” of houses, and allow more people to own their own home.¹³²

Lord Granville-West died on 23 September 1984, at the age of 80.

2.7 Baroness Ravensdale of Kedleston (1896–1966)

Early Life

Mary Irene Curzon (referred to as Irene) was the eldest daughter of George Curzon, first Marquess Curzon of Kedleston and former viceroy of India, and his first wife, Mary Leiter.¹³³ When George Curzon was appointed viceroy of India in 1898, and created Lord Curzon of Kedleston, Irene, her sister Cynthia, and her mother sailed to India. She returned in 1904, and her father resigned as viceroy in 1905. In 1911, George Curzon was created Earl Curzon of Kedleston and Lord Ravensdale, with reversion to his daughters as well as heirs male.

¹²⁹ [London Gazette, 8 August 1958, p 4930](#); and [HL Hansard, 21 October 1958, col 662](#).

¹³⁰ [HL Hansard, 26 November 1958, col 877](#).

¹³¹ [HL Hansard, 25 June 1959, col 247](#).

¹³² [HL Hansard, 23 March 1959, cols 181–2](#).

¹³³ Oxford Dictionary of National Biography, ‘[Curzon, \(Mary\) Irene, suo jure Baroness Ravensdale, and Baroness Ravensdale of Kedleston](#)’, accessed 12 March 2018.

In 1925, on the death of her father, she inherited the barony of Ravensdale.

Social Welfare Work

In 1917, according to her biographer, Anne de Courcy, Irene Curzon began “what was to be a lifetime of voluntary work” when she first went to talk and sing to the boys of the Broad Street Club in East End London.¹³⁴ In 1918, during the First World War, she went to work for the YMCA in France.

After the war, Irene Curzon worked with a number of organisations. In 1936, she became chairman of the Highways Clubs Inc, which aimed to provide young people with access to activities that they would not otherwise have been able to do, such as music, physical training and handicrafts.¹³⁵ She was also the vice-president of the National Association of the Girls’ Clubs and Mixed Clubs, and she was the joint president of the London Union of Youth Clubs.¹³⁶

Irene Curzon was an Anglican. However, according to Anne de Courcy, she had been impressed during her travels by eastern religions and philosophies.¹³⁷ In 1936, she cooperated with Sir Francis Younghusband in the formation of the World Congress of Faiths, which aimed to bring together religious leaders from around the world. Following Younghusband’s death in 1942, Curzon was made chairman, and at her death she was its president.

House of Lords

Irene Curzon had been a “long-standing campaigner” for the right of hereditary Peeresses to sit in the House of Lords in their own right.¹³⁸ However, it was not until the Life Peerages Act 1958 that she was able to take a seat there, when she was created one of the first four female life Peers. She was made Baroness Ravensdale of Kedleston, and was introduced on 22 October 1958.¹³⁹ She sat as a Crossbench Peer.

Baroness Ravensdale made her maiden speech on 4 February 1959, on the issue of funding youth services. She stated that there was an increasing need for grant aid because it was becoming harder to recruit volunteers.¹⁴⁰ She called for greater facilities and equipment, and for “more highly-trained, experienced leaders than before”.

¹³⁴ Oxford Dictionary of National Biography, ‘[Curzon, \(Mary\) Irene, suo jure Baroness Ravensdale, and Baroness Ravensdale of Kedleston](#)’, accessed 12 March 2018.

¹³⁵ Mary Irene Curzon, *In Many Rhythms*, 1953, p 102.

¹³⁶ *ibid*; and *Times* (£), ‘Lady Ravensdale: Work for Social Welfare’, 10 February 1966.

¹³⁷ Oxford Dictionary of National Biography, ‘[Curzon, \(Mary\) Irene, suo jure Baroness Ravensdale, and Baroness Ravensdale of Kedleston](#)’, accessed 12 March 2018.

¹³⁸ *ibid*; and Mary Irene Curzon, *In Many Rhythms*, 1953, p 95.

¹³⁹ [HL Hansard, 22 October 1958, col 664](#).

¹⁴⁰ [HL Hansard, 4 February 1959, col 1090](#).

In 1959, Ravensdale criticised the Government's Street Offences Bill for its "double standard against one sex", because it penalised the prostitute and not the client.¹⁴¹ In 1960, during a debate on magistrates' powers to control clubs, she suggested that the Street Offences Act had the effect of "pushing" prostitution "under the carpet".¹⁴² She argued:

The street-woman of 1959 has become the clubwoman of 1960. These women have been driven by this legislation into drinking dens—and what a boom these shocking places are having! Huge sums are made out of them. Criminals, pimps, ponces, call-girls, are all in this sordid racket.¹⁴³

Speaking of the prostitutes who operated in the East End, she described how they would charge a "fiver (your Lordships will forgive my being so sordid and vulgar) for a long spell and £1 for a quick bash".¹⁴⁴ These comments made headlines in the press, with one paper stating that her elegant appearance was a "strange contrast to the deliberately strong language with which she jolted the men Peers into attention".¹⁴⁵

Baroness Ravensdale died on 9 February 1966, at the age of 70.

2.8 Lord Shackleton (1911–1994)

Early Life

Edward Shackleton was the son of Sir Ernest Shackleton, commander of the 1909 national Antarctic expedition, and Emily Mary.¹⁴⁶

Shackleton was educated at Radley College and then at Magdalen College, Oxford, where he arranged the 1932 Oxford expedition to Sarawak.¹⁴⁷ Having achieved the first known ascent of Borneo's Mount Mulu, he led the 1934–35 Oxford expedition to Ellesmere Island. In 1940, Shackleton joined the RAF's Coastal Command as an intelligence officer and anti-U-boat planner.

House of Commons

By the late 1930s, Shackleton had joined the Labour Party.¹⁴⁸ He was beaten

¹⁴¹ [HL Hansard, 5 May 1959, col 102.](#)

¹⁴² [HL Hansard, 1 June 1960, col 240.](#)

¹⁴³ *ibid.*

¹⁴⁴ [ibid, col 244.](#)

¹⁴⁵ Anne de Courcy, *The Viceroy's Daughters*, 2001, p 426.

¹⁴⁶ Oxford Dictionary of National Biography, '[Shackleton, Edward Arthur Alexander, Baron Shackleton](#)', accessed 12 March 2018.

¹⁴⁷ *ibid.*

¹⁴⁸ *ibid.*

by Roy Jenkins in the selection for the Labour candidate for Solihull, and stood for Epsom and Ewell in the 1945 general election, which he lost.

In 1946, he won the Preston seat at a by-election.¹⁴⁹ In 1949, he became Parliamentary Private Secretary (PPS) to the Minister of Supply, George Strauss. Subsequently, between 1950 and 1951, he was made PPS to Herbert Morrison, first as Lord President and then when he was Foreign Secretary.

When Shackleton's seat was divided into two seats, he narrowly won Preston South in 1950.¹⁵⁰ He lost his seat in 1955, and subsequently became a director and deputy chairman of the John Lewis Partnership.

House of Lords

In 1958, after consultation with the Leader of the Opposition, Hugh Gaitskell, Harold Macmillan recommended Edward Shackleton for a life peerage. He was created Lord Shackleton, by letters patent dated 11 August 1958,¹⁵¹ and he was introduced in the House of Lords on 21 October 1958.¹⁵² He sat as a Labour Peer.

Lord Shackleton delivered his maiden speech on 11 November 1958, during a debate on the Wages Councils (Amendment) Bill, which provided for the statutory fixing of minimum wages of certain industries. Shackleton welcomed the Bill.¹⁵³ However, he argued that “in a better organised type of society”, the legislation should have been “unnecessary”, and called for “an improvement and a greater degree of understanding and agreement between workers and management”.¹⁵⁴

In 1964, after Labour had won the general election, Lord Shackleton was made Minister of Defence for the Royal Air Force.¹⁵⁵ He was sworn into the Privy Council in 1966, and became Deputy Leader of the House of Lords in 1967. He was a member of the Ministerial Committee on the Powers of the House of Lords, which examined proposals for reform of the House, and promoted the idea of cross-party negotiations in order to achieve consensus.¹⁵⁶ In April 1967, he was briefly sent to Aden, as Resident

¹⁴⁹ Oxford Dictionary of National Biography, '[Shackleton, Edward Arthur Alexander, Baron Shackleton](#)', accessed 12 March 2018; and *Times* (£), 'Lord Shackleton', 24 September 1994.

¹⁵⁰ *ibid.*

¹⁵¹ [London Gazette, 15 August 1958, p 5077.](#)

¹⁵² [HL Hansard, 21 October 1958, col 662.](#)

¹⁵³ [HL Hansard, 11 November 1958, col 367.](#)

¹⁵⁴ [ibid, cols 367–70.](#)

¹⁵⁵ Oxford Dictionary of National Biography, '[Shackleton, Edward Arthur Alexander, Baron Shackleton](#)', accessed 12 March 2018; and *Who's Who and Who Was Who 2018*, 'Shackleton', accessed 13 March 2018.

¹⁵⁶ Oxford Dictionary of National Biography, '[Shackleton, Edward Arthur Alexander, Baron Shackleton](#)', accessed 12 March 2018; and Chris Ballinger, *The House of Lords 1911–2011: A Century of Non-Reform*, 2012, pp 131–3.

Minister, to help phase out the British presence.¹⁵⁷

In April 1968, he was made Leader of the House of Lords (1968–1970) and Paymaster General (April–October 1968).¹⁵⁸ He was again a member of the Government’s ministerial committee responsible for House of Lords reform, and was also a delegate on the sub-committee which was responsible for conducting negotiations with the opposition parties.¹⁵⁹ On 19 December 1968, the Government introduced the Parliament (No. 2) Bill in the House of Commons, which would have introduced a two-writ system of voting and non-voting Peers, and would have reduced the House of Lords’ ability to delay legislation to six months.¹⁶⁰ However, in April 1969, the then Prime Minister, Harold Wilson, announced that the Government was dropping the Bill “in order to ensure that the necessary parliamentary time is available for priority Government legislation”.¹⁶¹ According to Peter Dorey, Lord Shackleton had been in favour of continuing with House of Lords reform, and was concerned that abandoning the Bill would exacerbate the Government’s difficulties with its other legislation.¹⁶²

In November 1968, Shackleton was made the minister in charge of the civil service, and was responsible for implementing a number of the recommendations made by the Committee on the Civil Service.¹⁶³ According to his biographer, Andrew Roth, Shackleton widened entry to the civil service and improved the career prospects for its scientists.¹⁶⁴ Following Labour’s defeat in the 1970 general election, Lord Shackleton became the Leader of the Opposition in the House of Lords, and remained so until 1974.

In 1976, the then Prime Minister, James Callaghan, commissioned Shackleton to investigate the economic future of the Falkland Islands. He concluded that, given sufficient investment, the Islands were economically sustainable.¹⁶⁵ He also highlighted that the majority of Islanders wanted to remain British, and called for the retention of the ice patrol ship HMS Endurance in the South Atlantic. His report was updated for Margaret Thatcher six years later, after the Falklands War. The report underlined his recommendations for an adequate airport, new banking facilities and the retention of HMS Endurance, which had been withdrawn before the war.

¹⁵⁷ Oxford Dictionary of National Biography, ‘[Shackleton, Edward Arthur Alexander, Baron Shackleton](#)’, accessed 12 March 2018; and *Times* (£), ‘Lord Shackleton’, 24 September 1994.

¹⁵⁸ *Who’s Who and Who Was Who 2018*, ‘Shackleton’, accessed 13 March 2018.

¹⁵⁹ Peter Dorey and Alexandra Kelso, *House of Lords Reform Since 1911*, 2011, p 146.

¹⁶⁰ House of Lords Library, [House of Lords Reform: Chronology 1900–2010](#), 21 July 2011, p 3.

¹⁶¹ [HL Hansard, 17 April 1969, col 1338](#). Over 80 hours had been spent on the Bill in Committee. Only the Preamble and five out of 20 clauses in the Bill had been discussed.

¹⁶² Peter Dorey and Alexandra Kelso, *House of Lords Reform Since 1911*, 2011, p 165.

¹⁶³ The Committee on the Civil Service was set up in 1966, and was established to examine the structure, recruitment and management of the service. It was chaired by Lord Fulton. It recommended a unified grading structure, greater professionalism among specialists and generalists and the establishment of a civil service college.

¹⁶⁴ Oxford Dictionary of National Biography, ‘[Shackleton, Edward Arthur Alexander, Baron Shackleton](#)’, accessed 12 March 2018; and *Times* (£), ‘Lord Shackleton’, 24 September 1994.

¹⁶⁵ *ibid.*

Between 1976 and 1992 he chaired the Political Honours and Scrutiny Committee, and between 1988 and 1989, he was chairman of the House of Lords Science and Technology Committee.¹⁶⁶

Lord Shackleton died on 22 September 1994, aged 83.¹⁶⁷

2.9 Lord Stonham (1903–1971)

Early Life

Victor Collins was the son of Victor and Eliza Collins.¹⁶⁸ He was educated at the Regent Street Polytechnic and London University. He entered the family business of J Collins and Sons, a furniture and basket making firm, at the age of 20.

Collins held a 70 acre farm at Earl Stonham, where he grew willows for his factory.¹⁶⁹ He held office as president or chair of various organisations, such as the National Basket and Willow Trades Advisory Committee. During the Second World War he acted on behalf of the Ministry of Supply in buying and distributing willows.

House of Commons

Collins joined the Labour Party in 1942.¹⁷⁰ In the 1945 general election, he contested and won the Taunton constituency. He lost the seat at the 1950 general election, but returned to the House of Commons in 1954 after winning the Shoreditch and Finsbury by-election.

House of Lords

In 1958, after consultation with the Leader of the Labour Party, Hugh Gaitskell, Harold Macmillan recommended Victor Collins for a life peerage.¹⁷¹ He was created Lord Stonham by letters patent dated 2 August 1958, and was introduced in the House of Lords on 21 October 1958.¹⁷² He sat as a Labour Peer.

On 19 November 1958, Lord Stonham made his maiden speech on the subject of racial prejudice and violence. Stonham argued that the issue could not be cured by legislation and that it was society's responsibility to ensure

¹⁶⁶ *Who's Who and Who Was Who 2018*, 'Shackleton', accessed 13 March 2018.

¹⁶⁷ *ibid.*

¹⁶⁸ *ibid.*

¹⁶⁹ *Times* (£), 'Lord Stonham: Industrialist who Worked for Prison Reform', 23 December 1971.

¹⁷⁰ *ibid.*

¹⁷¹ *Times* (£), 'The First List of Life Peers', 24 July 1958.

¹⁷² [London Gazette, 5 August 1958, p 4896](#); and [HL Hansard, 21 October 1958, col 662](#).

no one was penalised for their race.¹⁷³ He suggested that employers and trade unions had a “vital role to play”. Stonham stated that a policy of restricting immigration was “unthinkable” and would be a “panic measure.”¹⁷⁴

In 1964, he was appointed Parliamentary Under Secretary of State at the Home Office, and between 1967 and 1969 he was made Minister of State at the Home Office.¹⁷⁵ While in office, Lord Stonham contributed to the development of a number of penal reforms, including the prison parole scheme which was introduced under the 1967 Criminal Justice Act.¹⁷⁶ He was an advocate of “streamlining” prison industries, and for concentrating on those that provided an “assured and steady flow of work” for semi-skilled and unskilled workers and those where there were “good prospects for employment on release”.¹⁷⁷

Lord Stonham died on 22 December 1971, aged 68.¹⁷⁸

2.10 Lord Stopford of Fallowfield (1888–1961)

Early Life

John Stopfield was the son of Thomas Rinch Stopfield, a colliery engineer, and his wife Mary Tyrer.¹⁷⁹ Stopfield was educated at Liverpool College and then at Manchester Grammar school. In 1906, he entered the medical school at the University of Manchester and graduated with honours in 1911.¹⁸⁰

Career in Medicine

In 1915, John Stopford was awarded the degree of MD, with a gold medal for a thesis on the blood supply in the brain. In 1919, he became Professor of Anatomy at the University of Manchester.¹⁸¹

During the First World War he worked in the military orthopaedic centres of the 2nd Western General Hospital.¹⁸² He then conducted a follow-up clinic specialising in peripheral nerve injury at the Grangethorpe Hospital

¹⁷³ [HL Hansard, 19 November 1958, col 649.](#)

¹⁷⁴ [ibid. col 651.](#)

¹⁷⁵ *Who's Who and Who Was Who 2018*, ‘Stonham’, accessed 13 March 2018.

¹⁷⁶ *Times* (£), ‘Lord Stonham: Industrialist who Worked for Prison Reform’, 23 December 1971.

¹⁷⁷ *ibid.*

¹⁷⁸ *Who's Who and Who Was Who 2018*, ‘Stonham’, accessed 13 March 2018.

¹⁷⁹ Oxford Dictionary of National Biography, ‘[Stopford, John Sebastian Bach, Baron Stopford of Fallowfield](#)’, accessed 13 March 2018; and *Who's Who and Who Was Who 2018*, ‘Stopfield’, accessed 13 March 2018.

¹⁸⁰ *Times* (£), ‘Lord Stopford of Fallowfield: Former Vice-Chancellor of Manchester University’, 7 March 1961.

¹⁸¹ Oxford Dictionary of National Biography, ‘[Stopford, John Sebastian Bach, Baron Stopford of Fallowfield](#)’, accessed 13 March 2018.

¹⁸² *ibid.*

(Ministry of Pensions) for more than ten years.

Stopford was first made dean of the medical school at the University of Manchester in 1923, and held the post until 1927. He was then the pro-vice-chancellor between 1928 and 1930.¹⁸³ He became a Fellow of the Royal Society in 1927, the first graduate of the Manchester University medical school to achieve the honour.¹⁸⁴ Between 1931 and 1933 he was again dean of the medical school, and then, in 1934, he was appointed vice-chancellor of the University, a post that he held until 1956.

In 1947, he was appointed as the first chairman of the Manchester Regional Hospital Board, which he served until 1953.

House of Lords

In 1958, John Stopford was nominated for a life peerage by Harold Macmillan. He received his letters patent on 5 August 1958, and was created Lord Stopford of Fallowfield.¹⁸⁵ He sat as a Crossbench Peer.

Lord Stopford was introduced on 10 March 1959.¹⁸⁶ However, he was unable to deliver a maiden speech because of illness.¹⁸⁷ Lord Stopford subsequently died on 6 March 1961, at the age of 72.¹⁸⁸

2.11 Baroness Swanborough (1894–1971)

Early Life

Stella Isaacs (born Stella Charnaud) was the daughter of Charles Charnaud, director of the tobacco monopoly of the Ottoman Empire, and Milbah Johnson.¹⁸⁹ As a child she suffered from a spinal ailment and was educated at home as a result.¹⁹⁰

¹⁸³ Oxford Dictionary of National Biography, '[Stopford, John Sebastian Bach, Baron Stopford of Fallowfield](#)', accessed 13 March 2018; and *Who's Who and Who Was Who 2018*, 'Stopfield', accessed 13 March 2018.

¹⁸⁴ Royal Society, *List of Fellows of the Royal Society 1660–2007*, May 2007; and Oxford Dictionary of National Biography, '[Stopford, John Sebastian Bach, Baron Stopford of Fallowfield](#)', accessed 13 March 2018.

¹⁸⁵ *London Gazette*, 8 August 1958, p 4930.

¹⁸⁶ *HL Hansard*, 10 March 1959, col 843.

¹⁸⁷ Oxford Dictionary of National Biography, '[Stopford, John Sebastian Bach, Baron Stopford of Fallowfield](#)', accessed 13 March 2018.

¹⁸⁸ *Times* (£), 'Lord Stopfield of Fallowfield: Former Vice-Chancellor of Manchester University', 7 March 1961.

¹⁸⁹ *Who's Who and Who Was Who 2018*, 'Reading', accessed 13 March 2018; and Oxford Dictionary of National Biography, '[Isaacs \[née Charnaud\], Stella, Marchioness of Reading and Baroness Swanborough](#)', accessed 13 March 2018.

¹⁹⁰ *ibid*; and *Times* (£), 'Stella, Dowager Marchioness of Reading', 24 May 1971.

Marchioness of Reading

By 1914, Isaacs was in London training as a secretary, and it was in that capacity that she travelled to India in 1925 to assist Lady Reading, the wife of the viceroy of India, Rufus Daniel Isaacs, Earl (later Marquess) of Reading.¹⁹¹ She later worked for the Marquess of Reading as his private secretary, both at the headquarters of the Imperial Chemical Industries and at his home. In 1930, the Marquess' wife died, and the following year he married Stella. The Marquess himself died in 1935.

Voluntary Work

During the First World War, Lady Reading worked for the British Red Cross Society.¹⁹² In 1932, she became chair of the Personal Service League, a voluntary society concerned with helping those worst affected by the post war economic depression.¹⁹³

In May 1938, Lady Reading was invited by the then Home Secretary, Samuel Hoare, to form a service of women attached to local authorities throughout the country, who would give their services on a voluntary basis.¹⁹⁴ Setting out the remit of such an organisation, Hoare stated that it was necessary in case of war that preparations were made for the aftermath of possible air attacks, through voluntary means.¹⁹⁵ He said its objective was to enrol women for the Air Raid Precautions services (ARP); helping make known what every household might do to protect itself and help the community.

As a result, under the chairmanship of Reading, the Women's Voluntary Service for Air Raid Precautions (WVS) was formed.¹⁹⁶ During the Second World War it was responsible for assisting civilians during and after air raids by providing emergency rest centres, evacuating and billeting children, and for the provision of welfare services to the armed services. By 1943 the organisation had over one million volunteers.

After the war, the organisation acted as the distribution agent for the gifts of food and clothing sent to British people from abroad.¹⁹⁷ Its work also included the care of older people and children, the rehabilitation of families and welfare work for British troops. In 1966, in recognition of its service, the Queen granted WVS the honour of adding 'Royal' to its title. The WVS became known as the Women's Royal Voluntary Service (WRVS).

¹⁹¹ Oxford Dictionary of National Biography, '[Isaacs \[née Charnaud\], Stella, Marchioness of Reading and Baroness Swanborough](#)', accessed 13 March 2018.

¹⁹² *Times* (£), 'Stella, Dowager Marchioness of Reading', 24 May 1971.

¹⁹³ *ibid*; and Oxford Dictionary of National Biography, '[Isaacs \[née Charnaud\], Stella, Marchioness of Reading and Baroness Swanborough](#)', accessed 13 March 2018.

¹⁹⁴ *ibid*.

¹⁹⁵ [Letter from the Home Secretary, Sir Samuel Hoare, to Lady Reading](#), 20 May 1938.

¹⁹⁶ Royal Voluntary Service, '[Our History](#)', accessed 13 March 2018.

¹⁹⁷ *ibid*.

During this time, Lady Reading was also active in several other areas. She was the vice-chair of the Imperial Relations Trust from 1936 to 1968, and in 1946 she became a governor of the BBC and was its vice-chairman from 1947 to 1951.¹⁹⁸ In 1941, she became the first woman member of the National Savings Committee, which she served until 1948.¹⁹⁹

House of Lords

In 1958, Lady Reading was nominated by Harold Macmillan for a life peerage, and was created, by letters patent, Baroness Swanborough on 22 September 1958.²⁰⁰ Baroness Swanborough was introduced in the House of Lords on 21 October 1958, becoming the first female Peer to sit in the House.²⁰¹ She sat as a Crossbench Peer.

Baroness Swanborough delivered her maiden speech on 4 March 1959, on the issue of stateless persons and refugees. Swanborough praised Britain's record, stating that its leadership in the world "excels all other".²⁰² She drew attention to the work of all the volunteers in the country and the "magnificent" work of the local authorities which were responsible for settling the refugees coming into Britain.²⁰³ Swanborough urged the Government to support the work of the UN High Commissioner in trying to solve the "plight" of the stateless persons of the world.²⁰⁴

She spoke on this subject on a number of occasions in the House of Lords. In 1966, she called for the process in which citizenship was granted to the children of refugees to be made easier.²⁰⁵ She argued that children of refugees were left "stateless" because they were not automatically given citizenship of the country of their birth and therefore had to take the nationality of their parents.²⁰⁶ She stated that this situation could "go on for generations", because the process in which children of refugee parents applied for citizenship required ten years' residence in the country outside of any camp, the payment of a fee and "a great many other regulations".

Between 1962 and 1965, she chaired the Home Office's Advisory Council on Commonwealth Immigration, and in 1965 she was appointed the chair of its Working Party on the Place of Voluntary Service in After-Care.²⁰⁷ The remit of the Working Party was to consider what contribution the voluntary

¹⁹⁸ *Who's Who and Who Was Who 2018*, 'Reading', accessed 13 March 2018.

¹⁹⁹ *ibid*; and *Times (£)*, 'Stella, Dowager Marchioness of Reading', 24 May 1971.

²⁰⁰ [London Gazette, 23 September 1958, p 5835.](#)

²⁰¹ [HL Hansard, 21 October 1958, cols 661–2.](#)

²⁰² [HL Hansard, 4 March 1959, col 774.](#)

²⁰³ [ibid, col 772.](#)

²⁰⁴ [ibid, col 774.](#)

²⁰⁵ [HL Hansard, 20 October 1966, cols 170–72.](#)

²⁰⁶ [ibid, col 171.](#)

²⁰⁷ *Who's Who and Who Was Who 2018*, 'Reading', accessed 13 March 2018; and Home Office, *Report on the Work of the Probation and After-Care Department 1962 to 1965*, October 1966, Cmd 3107, p 4.

service could make to the after-care of discharged offenders.

Baroness Swanborough died on 22 May 1971, aged 77.²⁰⁸

2.12 Lord Taylor (1910–1988)

Early Life

Stephen Taylor was the son of John Taylor, a civil engineer, and his wife Beatrice Lake.²⁰⁹ Taylor was educated at Stowe School and then at St Thomas' Hospital medical school, where he qualified in 1934.

War Service

At the outbreak of the Second World War, Taylor joined the Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve as a neuropsychiatrist.²¹⁰ In 1941, he moved to the Ministry of Information, where he was the head of the home intelligence division and directed the wartime social survey.

During his time in the Ministry he organised and published a plan for a future health service.²¹¹ According to his biographer, Geoffrey Rivet, in 1944 he produced a policy statement for the Labour Party, and assisted with the Party's manifesto.

House of Commons

At the 1945 general election, Taylor resigned his post at the Ministry and stood for Labour in Barnet, winning the seat.²¹² Between 1947 and 1950 he was Parliamentary Private Secretary to Herbert Morrison, then Deputy Prime Minister and Lord President of Council. Taylor lost his seat in the 1950 general election.

General Practice

After his defeat at the general election, Taylor worked at the Nuffield Provincial Hospitals Trust and was appointed a member of the Harlow New Town Development Corporation (1950–64 and 1966–67).²¹³ He also served as a medical director of Harlow Health Industrial Health Service (1955–64

²⁰⁸ *Who's Who and Who Was Who 2018*, 'Reading', accessed 13 March 2018.

²⁰⁹ *Who's Who and Who Was Who 2018*, 'Taylor', accessed 14 March 2018.

²¹⁰ Oxford Dictionary of National Biography, '[Taylor, Stephen James Lake, Baron Taylor](#)', accessed 14 March 2018.

²¹¹ *ibid.*

²¹² *ibid.*

²¹³ *Who's Who and Who Was Who 2018*, 'Taylor', accessed 14 March 2018; and Oxford Dictionary of National Biography, '[Taylor, Stephen James Lake, Baron Taylor](#)', accessed 14 March 2018.

and 1965–67). According to Rivett, in association with Nuffield, Taylor fought for the creation of health centres in Harlow, and worked to develop group practice centres with dental and nursing support.

In response to Joseph Collings' 1950 report, *General Practice in England Today: A Reconnaissance*, which criticised the state of the profession, the Nuffield Trust commissioned Taylor to write his own assessment.²¹⁴ He did this on the basis of visits to practices regarded as high quality by other General Practitioners (GPs). His survey, *Good General Practice*, was published in 1954, and provided guidance on how the practices could be improved. Taylor was also a member of the Central Health Services Council's Committee on General Practice in the National Health Service, which was chaired by Sir Henry Cohen.²¹⁵ The Committee's report in 1954 recommended the implementation of group practice.²¹⁶

House of Lords

In 1958, after consultation with the Leader of the Opposition, Hugh Gaitskell, Harold Macmillan recommended Stephen Taylor for a life peerage.²¹⁷ Taylor received his letters patent on 7 August 1958, and was made Lord Taylor.²¹⁸ He was introduced on 22 October 1958, and sat as a Labour Peer until 1981.²¹⁹

On 20 November 1958, Lord Taylor delivered his maiden speech on the subject of Britain's growing population and the resulting pressure on its resources. Taylor argued that it was important when formulating policy and drafting legislation to use scientific research and base thinking on "reasonable certainties based on scientific knowledge".²²⁰ He stated:

Effective legislation and administration depends not only in knowing current views, but also in understanding future probabilities.²²¹

In 1964, following Labour's return to government, Lord Taylor led the Party in the House of Lords on health service issues and was Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Commonwealth Relations and the Colonies between 1964 and 1965.²²²

²¹⁴ Joseph Collings was an Australian doctor and qualitative researcher, who was funded by the Nuffield Trust to assess the state of general medical practice in the NHS. His report was published in the *Lancet*; Oxford Dictionary of National Biography, '[Taylor, Stephen James Lake, Baron Taylor](#)', accessed 14 March 2018.

²¹⁵ Central Health Services Council, *Report of the Central Health Services Council for the Year Ended December 31st, 5 May 1954*.

²¹⁶ *ibid*, p 2.

²¹⁷ *Times* (£), 'The First List of Life Peers', 24 July 1958.

²¹⁸ *London Gazette*, 8 August 1958, p 4930.

²¹⁹ *HL Hansard*, 22 October 1958, col 663.

²²⁰ *HL Hansard*, 20 November 1958, col 761.

²²¹ *ibid*.

²²² *Who's Who and Who Was Who 2018*, 'Taylor', accessed 14 March 2018.

In 1981, Lord Taylor resigned the Labour whip and sat in the House of Lords as a Crossbench Peer. Explaining his decision, Lord Taylor stated:

I do not agree with the attempts being made to abolish the House of Lords, to abolish private medical practice, to prevent part-time medical work within the NHS and to abolish education [...] by destroying freedom of choice for parents and teachers, and patients and doctors these policies are certain to damage irreparably the quality of the health and education services.²²³

Lord Taylor died on 1 February 1988, aged 77.²²⁴

2.13 Lord Twining (1899–1967)

Early Life

Edward Twining was the son of William Twining, vicar of St Stephen's, Westminster, and Agatha Bourne.²²⁵ Twining was a provost's scholar at Lancing College, Sandhurst. In 1917, he entered the Royal Military College at Sandhurst, and in 1918 he was gazetted to the Worcestershire regiment, just before the end of the war, but too late for active service.²²⁶

Between 1919 and 1922 he served in Dublin.²²⁷ At the end of 1920 he was appointed battalion, subsequently brigade, intelligence officer. Between 1923 and 1928 he served in the 4th King's African Rifles in Uganda.²²⁸

Colonial Administrator

In 1929, Twining joined the Colonial Administrative Service in Uganda as an assistant district commissioner.²²⁹ In 1939, he was made director of labour in Mauritius, a post that he held until 1943. During this time he was again commissioned with wartime intelligence work, and his contribution was recognised in 1943 when he was appointed CMG. A year later he was transferred to St Lucia as administrator.

Between 1946 and 1949, he was governor of North Borneo, which had been occupied by Japan during the war. He was tasked with its reconstruction and development, and of transitioning authority from the British North Borneo

²²³ *Times* (£), 'Peer Leaves Labour', 8 July 1981.

²²⁴ *Who's Who and Who Was Who 2018*, 'Taylor', accessed 14 March 2018.

²²⁵ *Who's Who and Who Was Who 2018*, 'Twining', accessed 14 March 2018.

²²⁶ Oxford Dictionary of National Biography, '[Twining, Edward Francis, Baron Twining](#)', accessed 14 March 2018.

²²⁷ *ibid.*

²²⁸ *Who's Who and Who Was Who 2018*, 'Twining', accessed 14 March 2018.

²²⁹ *ibid.*; and Oxford Dictionary of National Biography, '[Twining, Edward Francis, Baron Twining](#)', accessed 14 March 2018.

Company to the Colonial Office.

Twining held the governorship of the United Nations trust territory of Tanganyika between 1949 and 1958.²³⁰ As a trust territory, Tanganyika underwent biennial inspections by a UN visiting mission.²³¹ Their reports repeatedly urged the acceleration of political advancement on democratic lines, and Twining's first constitution in 1952 sought to establish political parity between the African, Asian and European communities. However, the British authorities retained ultimate control.

House of Lords

In 1958, Twining was included on the first list of nominees to be conferred a life peerage under the Life Peerages Act 1958.²³² He was created Lord Twining on 18 August 1958,²³³ and was introduced in the House of Lords on 22 October 1958.²³⁴ He sat as a Crossbench Peer.

Twining made his maiden speech on 27 July 1959, during the debate on the Colonial Development Corporation. He argued that the Government's and the Corporation's method for selecting schemes to invest in were "rather haphazard".²³⁵ He called for "better means" of selecting schemes and advocated the colonial governors and governments worked in closer cooperation with the Corporation to "help develop their territories".²³⁶

He spoke on the Tanganyika Independence Bill in 1961, suggesting that Tanganyika had set an example which could be "regarded as a vindication of enlightened British colonial policy" in the way it had "peacefully" achieved independence.²³⁷ However, he cautioned that Tanganyika should not be expected to "follow the Westminster model".²³⁸ He explained:

[This] is not what the people want; they want to develop their own parliamentary institutions suitable for their own circumstances. We must watch this with sympathy and not with condemnation.²³⁹

²³⁰ *Who's Who and Who Was Who 2018*, 'Twining', accessed 14 March 2018; and Oxford Dictionary of National Biography, '[Twining, Edward Francis, Baron Twining](#)', accessed 14 March 2018. Tanganyika was a trust territory with Britain as its administering authority until 1961, when it gained independence. It now forms the mainland of Tanzania.

²³¹ *Times* (£), 'Lord Twining: Revitalising Tanganyika', 24 July 1967.

²³² *Times* (£), 'The First List of Life Peers', 24 July 1958.

²³³ [London Gazette, 22 August 1958, p 5211](#).

²³⁴ [HL Hansard, 22 October 1958, col 664](#).

²³⁵ [HL Hansard, 24 July 1959, col 561](#).

²³⁶ [ibid, col 562](#).

²³⁷ [HL Hansard, 16 November 1961, cols 743–5](#).

²³⁸ [ibid, col 745](#).

²³⁹ [ibid](#).

Lord Twinning died on 21 July 1967, aged 68.²⁴⁰

2.14 Baroness Wootton of Abinger (1897–1988)

Early Life

Barbara Wootton was the daughter of James Adam, a tutor at Emmanuel College, Cambridge, and Adela Kensington, a classicist and a fellow of Girton.²⁴¹ She was educated at home until at the age of 13, when she attended the Perse High School for Girls in Cambridge. She then attended Girton College, where she first studied classics, and then turned to read economics, for which she gained a first class degree in 1919.

Academic

In 1920, Wootton was appointed the Director of Studies and Lecturer in Economics at Girton College.²⁴² She remained there until 1922, when she left Cambridge to become a research officer at the Trades Union Congress (TUC) and Labour Party Joint Research Department. In 1926, she became principal of Morley College for Working Men and Women.

In 1927, she was appointed Director of Studies for Tutorial Classes at the University of London, a post she held until 1944.²⁴³ She was promoted to the rank of professor at the University in 1948. In 1952, she took up a Nuffield research fellowship at Bedford College, University of London. The fellowship was established to assess the benefits of social research in the field of social pathology.²⁴⁴ The findings were published in Wootton's *Social Science and Social Pathology* in 1959.²⁴⁵

During this time, Wootton was also a governor at the BBC (between 1950 and 1956) and served on the royal commissions on: workmen's compensation (1938–44); the press (1947–49); and the civil service (1953–55).²⁴⁶ She also sat as a lay magistrate from 1926 until 1970, and as chairman of Juvenile Courts in London from 1946 until 1962.²⁴⁷

²⁴⁰ *Who's Who and Who Was Who 2018*, 'Wootton of Abinger', accessed 14 March 2018.

²⁴¹ Oxford Dictionary of National Biography, '[Wootton \[née Adam\], Barbara Frances, Baroness Wootton of Abinger](#)', accessed 14 March 2018.

²⁴² *Who's Who and Who Was Who 2018*, 'Wootton of Abinger', accessed 14 March 2018.

²⁴³ *ibid.*

²⁴⁴ Ann Oakley, *A Critical Woman: Barbara Wootton, Social Science and Public Policy in the Twentieth Century*, 2011, p 213.

²⁴⁵ Oxford Dictionary of National Biography, '[Wootton \[née Adam\], Barbara Frances, Baroness Wootton of Abinger](#)', accessed 14 March 2018.

²⁴⁶ *ibid.*

²⁴⁷ *Who's Who and Who Was Who 2018*, 'Wootton of Abinger', accessed 14 March 2018; and *Times* (£), 'Baroness Wootton of Abinger: Social Philosopher and Public Servant', 13 July 1988.

House of Lords

In 1958, Barbara Wootton was included on Harold Macmillan's list of nominations to receive a life peerage.²⁴⁸ In her autobiography, Wootton expressed the view that her elevation to the peerage had come at the instigation of Lord Longford, who she suspected had prompted the then Labour Leader, Hugh Gaitskell, to suggest her name.²⁴⁹ According to her biographer, Ann Oakley, Gaitskell put Wootton's name forward not because she was a woman, but because she was the cleverest left-wing person he and his advisors knew.²⁵⁰ She was the first female Peer to be gazetted, receiving her letters patent on 8 August 1958.²⁵¹ She was created Baroness Wootton of Abinger, and was introduced in the House of Lords on 21 October 1958.²⁵² She also became the first woman to sit on the woolsack and to chair proceedings as Deputy Speaker on 16 February 1966, when she presided over a debate on road transport.²⁵³

On 4 February 1959, Baroness Wootton delivered her maiden speech on the subject of youth services. She suggested the objective of the youth services were not only to "act as a bulwark against crime", but also to try and "implant [...] the same notions [...] of constructive citizenship".²⁵⁴ However, she argued that this was a "task of immense difficulty". Referring to her experience as a magistrate, she explained that young people were reacting with "restlessness and frustration" to cultural influences and social standards.²⁵⁵ She concluded that it was easier for the policy response to be the provision of more clubs or clinics, rather than the elimination of slums and extended compulsory secondary education.²⁵⁶

During her time in the House of Lords, Wootton engaged in debates on a range of issues, such as mental health, broadcasting, road traffic and firearms. However, Baroness Wootton also continued what Oakley described as her "life study of the workings of the penal system", sitting on commissions and committees and sponsoring legislation.²⁵⁷ In 1964, she sat on the Royal Commission on the Penal System, which was disbanded in 1966, and between 1966 and 1979 she was a member of the Penal Advisory Council. She also sat on two committees which resulted in 'Wootton Reports', which were on cannabis and on alternatives to prison, respectively.

²⁴⁸ *London Gazette*, '[Supplement to the London Gazette](#)', 24 July 1958.

²⁴⁹ Baroness Wootton, *In A World I Never Made*, 1967, p 130.

²⁵⁰ Ann Oakley, *A Critical Woman: Barbara Wootton, Social Science and Public Policy in the Twentieth Century*, 2011, p 213; and F Field, Interview, 7 February 2008.

²⁵¹ *London Gazette*, [8 August 1958, p 4930](#).

²⁵² *HL Hansard*, [21 October 1958, col 662](#).

²⁵³ *HL Hansard*, [16 February 1966, col 1106](#).

²⁵⁴ *HL Hansard*, [4 February 1959, col 1103](#).

²⁵⁵ *ibid*, [col 1105](#).

²⁵⁶ *ibid*, [col 1106](#).

²⁵⁷ Ann Oakley, *A Critical Woman: Barbara Wootton, Social Science and Public Policy in the Twentieth Century*, 2011, p 249.

The cannabis report was the work of the Advisory Committee of Drug Dependence, and a report was published in 1969. The Committee concluded that the association of cannabis in legislation with heroin was “entirely inappropriate”.²⁵⁸ It recommended that possession of small amounts should not lead to a custodial sentence and that maximum penalties should be reduced.²⁵⁹ The Government did not support the recommendations of the Committee.²⁶⁰

The second ‘Wootton Report’, entitled *Non-Custodial and Semi-Custodial Penalties*, did result in a change in government policy, and led to the introduction of Community Service Orders (CSO) in 1972. The Penal Advisory Council was asked in 1966, by the then Secretary of State for the Home Department, Roy Jenkins, to consider what changes could be made in non-custodial penalties.²⁶¹ Baroness Wootton was appointed the chair of the sub-committee set up to investigate the issue. The Committee proposed that individuals who had committed certain offences, ranging from crimes such as theft to minor assaults, would be ordered by courts to spend a certain number of hours a week in volunteer service in the community. In 1971, the Home Office proposed their introduction in six pilot areas, and this was implemented through the Criminal Justice Act 1972.²⁶² By the late 1970s, CSOs were being used throughout the UK. According to Oakley, Baroness Wootton was “proud of her invention”, admitting to feeling a “maternal instinct”.²⁶³

She also supported a number pieces of legislation, such as the Children and Young Persons Bill in 1962, which sought to raise the criminal age of responsibility to twelve, and she successfully sponsored the Murder (Abolition of Death Penalty) Bill in the House of Lords in 1965. It was a private member’s bill, introduced by Sydney Silverman (Labour MP for Nelson and Colne), whose main provision was that a sentence of life imprisonment should follow any conviction for murder.²⁶⁴ When the Bill was passed on its third reading, Wootton was congratulated for her success in the face of “the strongest opposition”.²⁶⁵

Baroness Wootton died on 11 July 1988, aged 91.²⁶⁶

²⁵⁸ Advisory Committee on Drug Dependence, *Cannabis: Report of the Advisory Committee on Drug Dependence*, 1968, p 15.

²⁵⁹ *ibid*, p v.

²⁶⁰ [HC Hansard, 27 January 1969, col 962.](#)

²⁶¹ Ann Oakley, *A Critical Woman: Barbara Wootton, Social Science and Public Policy in the Twentieth Century*, 2011, 272.

²⁶² *ibid*, p 274.

²⁶³ *ibid*, p 276.

²⁶⁴ [HL Hansard, 19 July 1965, col 458.](#)

²⁶⁵ [HL Hansard, 26 October 1965, col 557.](#)

²⁶⁶ *Who’s Who and Who Was Who 2018*, ‘Wootton of Abinger’, accessed 14 March 2018.