

Contents

Theresa May - The Prime Minister.....	5
Nancy Astor - The first female Member of Parliament to take her seat	6
Anne Jenkin - Co-founder Women 2 Win	7
Margaret Thatcher – Britain’s first woman Prime Minister.....	8
Penny Mordaunt – First woman Minister of State for the Armed Forces at the Ministry of Defence...	9
Lucy Baldwin - Midwifery and safer birth campaigner	10
Hazel Byford – Conservative Women’s Organisation Chairman 1990 - 1993.....	11
Emmeline Pankhurst – Leader of the British Suffragette Movement	12
Andrea Leadsom – Leader of House of Commons.....	13
Florence Horsbrugh - First woman to move the Address in reply to the King's Speech	14
Helen Whately – Deputy Chairman of the Conservative Party.....	15
Gillian Shephard – Chairman of the Association of Conservative Peers.....	16
Dorothy Brant – Suffragette who brought women into Conservative Associations	17
Jean Barker, Baroness Trumpington – Code Breaker at Bletchley Park	18
Amber Rudd – Rudd was the third female Home Secretary.....	19
Ruth Davidson – Leader of the Scottish Conservative Party.....	20
Edwina Currie – the first Conservative MP to appear on the BBC topical panel show Have I Got News for You.....	21
Nus Ghani – the first Muslim woman minister to speak from the House of Commons Dispatch box.	22
Esther McVey – former Secretary of State for Work and Pensions and founder of Winning Women	23
Justine Greening – first Secretary of State for Education from a mainstream comprehensive education	24
Helena Morrissey – established the 30% Club to campaign for greater female representation on company boards.....	25
Caroline Nokes – Minister of State for Immigration at the Home Office	26
Mims Davies – Minister for Sport and Civil Society, the only woman to represent the Eastleigh constituency.....	27
Amanda Sater – Co-Chairman of the Conservatives Candidates Committee.....	28
Elizabeth Truss - Chief Secretary to the Treasury	29
Theresa Villiers – Member of Parliament for Chipping Barnet.....	30
Sayeeda Warsi – The first female Muslim to attend Cabinet	31
Janet Young – the first ever female Leader of the House of Lords from 1981 to 1983.....	32
Virginia Bottomley – 9th woman in the British cabinet.....	33
Karen Bradley – Secretary of State for Northern Ireland	34

Natalie Evans – The youngest female peer when made a life peer in 2014.....	35
Cheryl Gillan – Acting Chairman of the 1922 Committee.....	36
Gillian Keegan – the first woman MP for Chichester and Women in Parliament Champion	37
Chloe Smith – the youngest female Conservative MP in the House of Commons	38
Irene Ward – She was the longest-serving female MP in her time	39
Claire Perry – Minister of State at the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy and campaigner for online safety	40
Tracey Crouch – the first Conservative minister to take maternity leave, a qualified FA football coach	41
Beata Brookes - 1979 elected as Conservative MEP for North Wales.....	42
Kemi Badenoch – First woman to represent Saffron Walden constituency.....	43
Seema Kennedy –the first Member of Parliament of Iranian descent	44
Violet Bathurst – President of the Southampton Women's Conservative Association in 1924.....	45
Laura Perrins – co-editor of The Conservative Woman and campaigner for the rights of stay-at-home parents	46
Fiona Hodgson – Honorary Vice President of the Conservative Women’s Organisation	47
Victoria Prentis – Parliamentary Private Secretary to the Leader of the House of Commons.....	48
Catherine Meyer, Baroness Meyer – Campaigned against international parental child abduction	49
Betty Harvie Anderson - the first woman to sit in the Speaker's Chair as a Deputy Speaker	50
Elsie Bowerman – First woman barrister at the Old Bailey	51
Dorothy Crisp – Champion of the right-wing British Housewives League	52
Pauline Neville-Jones – led the British delegation to the Dayton negotiations on the Bosnia peace settlement.....	53
Yvonne Peacock – Conservative councillor and former council leader of Richmondshire.....	54
Jackie Doyle-Price – Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Mental Health, Inequalities and Suicide Prevention	55
Joyce Anelay – Chair of the Conservative Women's National Committee from 1993 to 1996	56
Karren Brady – the first woman Managing Director Birmingham City FC and women in business champion	57
Lynda Chalker – She jointly holds the 20th-century record for continuous government service	58
Annabel Goldie – the first woman to lead the Scottish Conservative Party.....	59
Janet Fookes – the only woman MP for Merton and Morden and Deputy Speaker of the House of Commons from 1992-97	60
Ida Copeland – She was the 25th woman to be elected to the House of Commons	61
Mavis Tate – Chaired the Women's Power Committee of 1941 and the Equal Pay Campaign Committee of 1942	62

Eveline Hill – introduced the Deserted Wives Bill.....	63
Nicky Morgan – Chair of the Treasury Select Committee.....	64
Eleanor Laing – Deputy Speaker of the House of Commons and first female President of the Edinburgh University Students' Association	65
Helen Grant – the first black woman of mixed heritage to be elected as a Conservative MP and selected as a candidate to stand for a Conservative-held parliamentary seat.....	66
Katy Bourne – Sussex Police and Crime Commissioner and CWO National Chairman 2011.....	67
Jane Scott – leader of the Wiltshire Council since June 2003.....	68
Niki Molnar – former CWO National Chairman and President.....	69
Emma Pidding – former Chairman of the National Conservative Convention and Chiltern District Councillor	70
Nicola Blackwood – Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Life Science.....	71
Diana Barran – founder of the domestic abuse awareness charity Safe Lives	72
Charlotte Vere – Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Transport.....	73
Susan Williams – Minister for Equalities.....	74
Judith Wilcox – Vice-President of the Girl Guides Association	75
Victoria Atkins - Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Crime, Safeguarding and Vulnerability.	76
Caroline Spelman – Chairman of the Conservative Party 2007 to 2009.....	77
Helen Newlove – Victims’ Commissioner	78
Harriett Baldwin – Minister of State for Africa & International Development.....	79
Therese Coffey – the Suffolk Coastal’s first female Member of Parliament	80
Olga Maitland – formed the campaigning group, Women & Families for Defence	81
Caroline Dinenage – Minister of State for Social Care.....	82
Lucy Frazer – Solicitor General for England and Wales	83
Rebecca Harris – Lord Commissioner of the Treasury.....	84
Pauline Lucas – CWO Honorary Vice President	85
Jill Summers – Grassroots campaigner, former magistrate and London North Area Officer	86
Peta Buscombe – Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Work and Pensions	87
June Imeson – Leader of Hambleton District Council for 10 years.....	88
Kelly Tolhurst – Parliamentary Under Secretary of State, Minister for Small Business, Consumers and Corporate Responsibility.....	89
Liz Sugg – Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for International Development.....	90
Heather Wheeler – Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Housing and Homelessness	91
Anne Milton – Minister of State for Apprenticeships and Skills	92
Marjorie Maxse – First female Chief Organisation Officer for any political party.....	93



Rebecca Pow – Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Arts, Heritage and Tourism.....	94
Amanda Milling – Assistant Government Whip.....	95
Elizabeth Berridge – Chair of the All Party Group on International Religious Freedom.....	96
Maria Miller – Chair of the Women and Equalities Select Committee.....	97
Dorothy Middleton - A fellow of the Royal Geographical Society, one of the first ladies to be a Dining fellow in its 150 year history.....	98
Elizabeth Nel - Mr Winston Churchill’s Secretary (1958).....	99
Tiz Baskerville – Conservative Women's Organisation Deputy Chairman.....	100
Julie Iles – President Conservative Women’s Organisation.....	101
Eve Burt – Conservative Women's Organisation Deputy Chairman.....	102
Gonul Daniels – CWO National Deputy Chairman.....	103
Fleur Butler – National CWO Chairman.....	104



Theresa May - The Prime Minister

Daughter of a vicar, grew up in Oxfordshire and attended Oxford. After graduating worked at the Bank of England and served as a councillor in Merton. Married Phillip May in 1980.

She became MP for Maidenhead in 1997. A champion of women's equality she co-founded Women to Win. In 2010 she became the first female Home Secretary and Minister for Women and Equalities.

In 2016 she became Britain's second female Prime Minister. Theresa May inherited the impossible task of Brexit but her achievements remind us of what politics is meant to be by forging compromise that people can live with.



Nancy Astor - The first female Member of Parliament to take her seat

Born in America she moved to England at age 26 where she married Waldorf Astor, later to become Lord Astor. She entered politics after her husband entered the House of Lords and won his former seat in Plymouth in 1919.

Despite being made to feel unwelcome by her male colleagues, who threw paper at her when she first entered the House, she remained an MP for 26 years.

Lady Astor became the first woman to sit as a Member of Parliament in the House of Commons. She served as a member of the Conservative Party for Plymouth Sutton until 1945.



Anne Jenkin - Co-founder Women 2 Win

Born Anne Caroline Strutt. Married to the Conservative Member of Parliament Bernard Jenkin.

Created a life peer in 2011 as Baroness Jenkin of Kennington, of Hatfield Peverel in the County of Essex. She was introduced to the House of Lords in 2011 and sits on the Conservative benches.

In 2005, she co-founded with Theresa May, Women2Win, a campaign to increase the number of female Conservative MPs. She is currently its co-chair.

Baroness Jenkin has continued to work tirelessly to promote women in Parliament and public life. She has been instrumental in heading the campaign for greater female representation in Parliament.



Margaret Thatcher – Britain's first woman Prime Minister

Born Margaret Roberts in 1925, studied chemistry at Oxford and became a barrister. Married Dennis Thatcher.

In 1959 elected Member of Parliament for Finchley. In 1975, became Leader of the Conservative Party. In 1979 became Britain's first female Prime Minister after winning the general election.

She served as Prime Minister of the United Kingdom from 1979 to 1990 and was the longest-serving British prime minister of the 20th century.

Dubbed "The Iron Lady" a nickname that became associated with her uncompromising politics and leadership style. Famous for sayings such as "the lady's not for turning" and "there is no alternative".



Penny Mordaunt – First woman Minister of State for the Armed Forces at the Ministry of Defence

Born Torquay, Devon. The daughter of a paratrooper and one of twins. Currently the only female MP who is a Royal Naval Reservist.

In 2010 she was elected as Member of Parliament for Portsmouth North. In 2015 she was appointed Minister of State for the Armed Forces at the Ministry of Defence, the first woman to hold this post.

She has served as Secretary of State for International Development since 2017 and Minister for Women and Equalities since 2018.

In 2018 she was the first cabinet minister to use sign language in Parliament as she announced a global disability conference.



Lucy Baldwin - Midwifery and safer birth campaigner

Born Lucy Ridsdale in Bayswater, 1869. Married to Prime Minister Stanley Baldwin, they had seven children.

Involved with women's charities, especially those concerned to improve maternity care, after having herself suffered difficult pregnancies and the loss of her first child.

In 1928 joined the National Birthday Trust Fund an organisation dedicated to the care of mothers and the improvement of pain relief for all during childbirth.

She dedicated years to the advancement of women's care in childbirth, which had a lasting effect on legislation, public attitudes, and medical research. She was instrumental in the passing of the Midwives Act, 1936.



Hazel Byford – Conservative Women’s Organisation Chairman 1990 - 1993

Born Hazel Osborne, married Barrie Byford in 1962. Raised to the Peerage for life as Baroness Byford, of Rothley in the County of Leicestershire in 1996. She is a Conservative member of the House of Lords.

Lady Byford is president of Young Leicestershire, an honorary patron of the Church Lads' and Church Girls' Brigade as well as president of The Royal Agricultural Societies of England.

In 2008 received an Honorary Doctorate of Science (Hon DSc) from Nottingham Trent University in recognition of her outstanding contribution and commitment to agriculture and rural life.

Conservative Women’s Organisation Chairman between 1990 and 1993.



Emmeline Pankhurst – Leader of the British Suffragette Movement

Born Emiline Goulden in Moss Side, 1858. Married Richard Pankhurst, a barrister supporting women's right to vote.

Introduced at eight to the women's suffrage movement, became leader of the British suffragette movement, which helped women win the right to vote. Died weeks before the Conservative government's Representation of the People Act (1928) extended the vote to all women over 21 years.

Time named Pankhurst as one of the 100 Most Important People of the 20th Century: "she shaped an idea of women for our time; she shook society into a new pattern from which there could be no going back".



Andrea Leadsom – Leader of House of Commons

Born Andrea Salmon in Aylesbury. Read Political Science at the University of Warwick, and after graduation began a career in finance. Married Ben Leadsom in 1993.

In 2010 elected Conservative Member of Parliament for South Northamptonshire.

In 2016, stood for the leadership of the Conservative Party. In the second round of voting by MPs, she came second to Theresa May; but she withdrew before the ballot of party members and endorsed Theresa May.

In 2017 became Leader of the House of Commons and Lord President of the Council, the fourth of the Great Officers of State of the United Kingdom.



Florence Horsbrugh - First woman to move the Address in reply to the King's Speech

Born Florence Gertrude Horsbrugh in 1889.

In 1931 elected Member of Parliament for Dundee. In 1950 elected Member of Parliament for Manchester Moss Side. The first woman to move the Address in reply to the King's Speech. Introduced the bill which became the Adoption of Children (Regulation) Act 1939.

In 1945, a British delegate to the San Francisco Conference which established the United Nations.

In 1959 elevated to the House of Lords, with the title Baroness Horsbrugh, of Horsbrugh in the County of Peebles.

It has been argued she was "the most successful female Conservative parliamentarian until Margaret Thatcher".



Helen Whately – Deputy Chairman of the Conservative Party

Born Helen Olivia Bicknell Lightwood in Norwich. Both her parents worked as doctors. During school did work experience in hospitals, expecting to follow her parents into a medical career. Studied Philosophy, Politics and Economics at Lady Margaret Hall, Oxford.

In 2015 elected Member of Parliament for Faversham and Mid Kent. Her maiden speech focused on the National Health Service, commenting that work experience at school incentivised her to pursue a career in which she could improve healthcare as a whole.

In 2018 became Vice Chairman of the Conservative Party for Women. In 2019 became Deputy Chair of the Conservative Party.



Gillian Shephard – Chairman of the Association of Conservative Peers

Born Gillian Patricia Watts in Cromer, Norfolk, 1940. Gained an MA in Modern Languages from St Hilda's College, Oxford. She became a schoolteacher and then worked as an Education Inspector. Married Thomas Shephard in 1975.

In 1987 elected Member of Parliament for South West Norfolk and served as a Cabinet Minister. In 1990 given the role of Deputy Chairman of the Party.

In 2005 was made Baroness Shephard of Northwold, of Northwold in the County of Norfolk. She is currently Chairman of the Association of Conservative Peers. She is also Deputy Chair of the Social Mobility and Child Poverty Commission.



Dorothy Brant – Suffragette who brought women into Conservative Associations

Born Dorothy Elaine Brant, 1906, Gateshead. At Gordon College developed a taste for public speaking, co-opted on to the speakers' panel the Conservatives had established to provide North East constituencies effective explanations of policy.

Sought out Conservative women and set up party branches in the largely mining constituencies of Co Durham. Her efficiently organised women's branches provided speakers' classes to enable women to hold forth on the issues of the day.

Died 2009 aged 102; the last surviving pioneer of the movement to bring women into the Conservative Party's constituency organisations after the Suffragettes had won the right to vote.



Jean Barker, Baroness Trumpington – Code Breaker at Bletchley Park

Born Jean Campbell-Harris in 1922. Educated at Princess Helena College, left school aged 15 and was fluent in French, German and Italian.

During World War II she worked in naval intelligence at Bletchley Park, making use of her knowledge of the German language to crack naval codes.

In 1980 awarded a life peerage and took her title from the name of a Cambridgeshire village. She became a character in the House of Lords; a forthright and controversial speaker. She sat on the red benches for nearly four decades, served as an agriculture minister under both Margaret Thatcher and John Major.



Amber Rudd – Rudd was the third female Home Secretary

Born Amber Augusta Rudd, Marylebone, 1963. Studied History at the University of Edinburgh School of History, Classics and Archaeology.

2010 elected Member of Parliament for Hastings and Rye. 2015 became Cabinet as Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change. Served as Home Secretary from 2016 to 2018. 2018 became Secretary of State for Work and Pensions.

The third female Home Secretary, fifth woman to hold one of the Great Offices of State and one of the fastest-rising politicians to a Great Office of State.

Identifies as a one-nation conservative and has been associated with economically and socially liberal policies.



Ruth Davidson – Leader of the Scottish Conservative Party

Born Ruth Elizabeth Davidson, in Edinburgh, 1978. After graduating from Edinburgh University, she worked as a BBC journalist. She served in the Territorial Army.

Left the BBC to study at Glasgow University where she stood for a House of Commons seat in 2009 and 2010 for Glasgow North East, finishing in 3rd and 4th place respectively.

2011 elected to Scottish Parliament and stood for Scottish Conservative Party leadership, which she won.

Leader of the Scottish Conservative Party since 2011, the second largest party in the Scottish Parliament since 2016. She sits as Member of the Scottish Parliament for Edinburgh Central.



Edwina Currie – the first Conservative MP to appear on the BBC topical panel show *Have I Got News for You*

Born Edwina Cohen, Liverpool, 1946. Studied Philosophy, Politics and Economics at St Anne's College, Oxford.

1983 elected Member of Parliament for South Derbyshire, made a Junior Health Minister in 1986.

Always outspoken she made the comment "most of the egg production in this country, sadly, is now affected with salmonella" and resigned due to the outrage caused. Many years later undisclosed reports at the time showed there had been a salmonella epidemic.

1991, Currie became the first Conservative MP to appear on the BBC topical panel show *Have I Got News for You*. After Parliament became a novelist and broadcaster.



Nus Ghani – the first Muslim woman minister to speak from the House of Commons Dispatch box

Born Nusrat Munir Ul-Ghani, in Birmingham, 1972. Daughter of parents from Azad Kashmir, Pakistan. Graduated from Birmingham City University, studied for a master's degree at Leeds University.

2015 elected Member of Parliament for Wealden, East Sussex. The first female MP for the constituency.

2015 appointed a member of the Home Affairs Select Committee. 2016 worked with Barnardo's on an independent inquiry tackling harmful child sexual behaviour. 2017 appointed Parliamentary Private Secretary at the Home Office. 2017 appointed Chair the Government's Apprenticeship Diversity Champions Network.

2018 became the first Muslim woman minister to speak from the House of Commons Dispatch box.



Esther McVey – former Secretary of State for Work and Pensions and founder of Winning Women

Born Esther Louise McVey, Liverpool, 1967. Read Law at Queen Mary University of London and Radio Journalism at City University London. Before entering politics, she was a businesswoman and television presenter.

2010 elected Member of Parliament for Wirral West. 2013 appointed Minister of State for Employment in the Department for Work and Pensions. Defeated in the 2015 general election.

2017 elected Member of Parliament for Tatton. 2018 appointed Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, a post she held until November 2018 when she resigned over the Brexit deal.

Contender in the Conservative Leadership following the resignation of Theresa May.



Justine Greening – first Secretary of State for Education from a mainstream comprehensive education

Born Justine Greening, Rotherham, 1969. Attended Oakwood Comprehensive School, studied Business Economics and Accounting at the University of Southampton, graduated with a first-class honour's degree, obtained an Executive MBA from the London Business School. Before parliament she qualified as an accountant.

2005 elected Member of Parliament for Putney. The youngest female Conservative MP in the House of Commons until Chloe Smith. Served as Secretary of State for Education and Minister for Women and Equalities from 2016 to 2018.

During her time in these posts, she announced the creation of social mobility 'opportunity areas', and the approval of additional free schools.



Helena Morrissey – established the 30% Club to campaign for greater female representation on company boards

Born Helena Louise Morrissey, in Bowdon, Cheshire, 1966. Studied philosophy at Fitzwilliam College, Cambridge. Married Richard Morrissey in 1990, they have 9 children.

In 2010 she established the 30% Club to campaign for greater female representation on company boards. She is a trustee at the Eve Appeal, which raises money for gynaecological cancers.

In 2016, awarded an honorary doctorate by the University of Cambridge.

Appointed Commander of the Order of the British Empire in 2012 for services to UK business and promoted Dame Commander of the Order of the British Empire in 2017 for services to diversity in financial services.



Caroline Nokes – Minister of State for Immigration at the Home Office

Born Caroline Fiona Ellen Perry, Lyndhurst, 1972. Educated at The Romsey School, La Sagesse Convent in Romsey and Peter Symonds' College, Winchester, before reading politics at the University of Sussex. After graduation became a policy adviser for her father, a Member of the European Parliament

2010 elected Member of Parliament for Romsey and Southampton North. 2014 appointed Parliamentary Private Secretary at the Department for Work and Pensions. 2018 appointed Minister of State for Immigration at the Home Office.

2014 independently assessed as coming first out of the UK's 650 MPs in responding to constituents, with a response rate at 100%.



Mims Davies – Minister for Sport and Civil Society, the only woman to represent the Eastleigh constituency.

Miriam Jane Alice "Mims" Davies. Educated at the Royal Russell School in London, studied Politics and International Relations at Swansea University; the first in her family to enter higher education.

Worked as a road safety communications officer with the Automobile Association, the police force and Sussex Safer Roads Partnership. She has two children.

2015 elected Member of Parliament for Eastleigh, the first woman to represent the constituency.

2018 appointed Minister for Sport and Civil Society.

2019 called for a summit to address issues of abuse in the sport, suggesting a zero-tolerance approach to problems concerning racist, homophobic and antisemitic chanting.



Amanda Sater – Co-Chairman of the Conservatives Candidates Committee

Amanda Jacqueline Sater, had a professional career in marketing and has been a director of the Institute of Sales Promotion.

A charity campaigner including chair of StreetGames and the Queen's Club Foundation, she has been on several Charitable Boards including the British Lung Foundation and Addaction.

Previously she was a member of the Youth Justice Board, a Magistrate and sat for 16 years on the Inner London Youth Bench.

In 2018 was created Baroness Sater, of Kensington in the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea.

Recently Deputy Chairman of the Conservative Party and now Co-Chairman of the Conservatives Candidates Committee.



Elizabeth Truss - Chief Secretary to the Treasury

Born Mary Elizabeth Truss, Oxford, 1975. Read Philosophy, Politics and Economics at Merton College, Oxford. After graduating worked as an economist and was deputy director at the think-tank Reform. In 2000 married Hugh O'Leary.

In 2010 elected Member of Parliament for South West Norfolk and called for reform in several policy areas, including childcare, maths education, and the economy.

2014 to 2016 Secretary of State for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs. 2016 appointed Secretary of State for Justice and Lord Chancellor, the first female Lord Chancellor in the history of the role. 2017 appointed Chief Secretary to the Treasury.



Theresa Villiers – Member of Parliament for Chipping Barnet.

Born Theresa Anne Villiers, in Hunstanton, 1968. Educated at Francis Holland School. Gained a Bachelor of Laws degree, first-class honours, from the University of Bristol, and the postgraduate degree of Bachelor of Civil Law from Jesus College, Oxford.

In 1999 elected Member of the European Parliament for the London constituency. She stood down after the 2005 general election when she was elected as the Member of Parliament for Chipping Barnet.

In 2018 the only MP of any party to attend a rally called by the "Campaign Against Antisemitism" in Parliament Square, to protest against Jeremy Corbyn and the Labour Party.



Sayeeda Warsi – The first female Muslim to attend Cabinet

Born Sayeeda Hussain Warsi, in Dewsbury, West Riding of Yorkshire, 1971. Attended the College of Law, York, and completed her professional legal training with the Crown Prosecution Service and the Home Office Immigration Department.

Created a Life peer in 2007 and appointed Shadow Minister for Community Cohesion and Social Action. The first female Muslim to attend Cabinet.

In 2010-12, appointed co-Chair of the Conservative Party. She served in David Cameron's Cabinet, as the Minister without portfolio between 2010–12, then as the Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Office and as the Minister of State for Faith and Communities.



Janet Young – the first ever female Leader of the House of Lords from 1981 to 1983

Born Janet Mary Baker, Oxford, 1926. Daughter of an Oxford don, took a MA in philosophy, politics and economics at St Anne's College, Oxford. Married Dr Geoffrey Tyndale Young in 1950.

In 1971 Edward Heath offered her a life peerage. Lady Young was appointed a government Whip in the House of Lords in 1972 and the following year became a junior environment minister.

First female Leader of the House of Lords from 1981 to 1983, first as Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster and from 1982 as Lord Privy Seal. Only woman ever appointed to the Cabinet by Margaret Thatcher.



Virginia Bottomley – 9th woman in the British cabinet

Born Virginia Hilda Brunette Maxwell Garnett, in Dunoon Scotland, in 1948. Married Peter Bottomley in 1967. Studied sociology (BA) at the University of Essex and later graduated from the London School of Economics with the degree of Master of Arts.

In 1984 elected Member of Parliament for South West Surrey. 1989 appointed Minister of State at the Department of Health. 1992 appointed Secretary of State for Health.

In 2005 created a Life Peer with the title Baroness Bottomley of Nettlestone, of St Helens in the County of Isle of Wight, the parish where she was baptised and celebrated her marriage.



Karen Bradley – Secretary of State for Northern Ireland

Born Karen Anne Howarth, Newcastle-under-Lyme, 1970. After graduating from Imperial College London with a BSc in Mathematics, joined Deloitte & Touche and became a tax manager. Married to Neil Bradley.

2010 elected as Member of Parliament for Staffordshire Moorlands and became a member of the Work and Pensions Select Committee. 2012 elected co-secretary of the backbench 1922 Committee.

Appointed to the Government Whips' Office 2012. 2014 promoted to the Home Office as a junior minister. 2016 appointed as Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport in Theresa May's first cabinet. In 2018 appointed Secretary of State for Northern Ireland.



Natalie Evans – The youngest female peer when made a life peer in 2014

Natalie Jessica Evans, born 1975. Educated at Rockport School, Henrietta Barnett School and New Hall, Cambridge, studied social and political sciences, graduated in 1998.

2010 stood for election to the London Borough of Haringey as a Conservative Party candidate in the Bounds Green ward.

2011 Chief Operating Officer, 2013 to 2015 Director, of the New Schools Network, a charity which supports groups to set up free schools.

2014 made life peer Baroness Evans of Bowes Park, of Bowes Park in the London Borough of Haringey. At the time, the youngest female peer. 2016 appointed Leader of the House of Lords.



Cheryl Gillan – Acting Chairman of the 1922 Committee

Born Cheryl Elsie Kendall Gillan, in Llandaff, Cardiff, 1952. She attended Cheltenham Ladies' College and the College of Law. Prior to her parliamentary career worked as a marketing executive. 1985 married John Coates Leeming.

1992 elected as the Member of Parliament for Chesham and Amersham in Buckinghamshire. 1997 served as a Conservative whip and as a spokesperson for Trade and Industry, Foreign Affairs, and Home Affairs. 2005 appointed Shadow Secretary of State for Wales, 2010 appointed Secretary of State for Wales.

2018 awarded a damehood in the New Year's Honours list. Currently joint acting Chairman of the influential 1922 Committee.



Gillian Keegan – the first woman MP for Chichester and Women in Parliament Champion

Gillian Keegan grew up in Knowsley, Merseyside. Gained a bachelor's degree in Business Studies from Liverpool John Moores University and a Master of Science in Strategy and Leadership from London Business School. Lives in Petworth with her husband Michael and has two stepsons.

Aged 16 worked as an apprentice at a Kirkby car factory. Her experiences of trade unionism and the Militant-controlled Liverpool City Council convinced her to support the Conservative Party.

2017 elected Member of Parliament for Chichester, the constituency's first female MP.

Champions getting Women into Parliament, former Director of Women2Win, Co-Chair for the Women and Work APPG.



Chloe Smith – the youngest female Conservative MP in the House of Commons

Born Chloe Rebecca Smith, Ashford, Kent, 1982. Moved to Norfolk at age three. After a gap year working for former Conservative Education Secretary Gillian Shephard, she read English Literature at the University of York. After graduating, she joined Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu as a management consultant. In 2012 married Sandy McFadzean.

2009 elected Member of Parliament for Norwich North. Since January 2018 she has served as Parliamentary Secretary for the Cabinet Office, a position she previously held under David Cameron from 2012 to 2013.

She is an active volunteer and fundraiser for several charities including Cancer Research UK and Sport Relief.



Irene Ward – She was the longest-serving female MP in her time

Born Irene Mary Bewick Ward in 1895. Educated privately and at Newcastle Church High School.

1931 elected Member of Parliament for Wallsend, lost her seat in 1945. 1950 elected Member of Parliament for Tynemouth. 1975 created a life peer as Baroness Ward of North Tyneside, of North Tyneside in the County of Tyne and Wear when she retired from the Commons.

Threatened to "poke" the Labour Prime Minister Harold Wilson when he gave an evasive answer.

Retired aged 79 and was, at that time, the longest serving, the oldest serving and the oldest-ever woman to be re-elected, Member of Parliament.



Claire Perry – Minister of State at the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy and campaigner for online safety

Claire Louise Perry, born North Somerset, 1964. Read geography at Brasenose College, Oxford, graduating in 1985. Worked for Bank of America, McKinsey & Company and Credit Suisse. Lives with her three children in the Pewsey Vale.

2010 elected Member of Parliament for Devizes. 2017 appointed Minister of State at the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy.

Campaigned for improvements in online safety, in 2011 led an Independent Parliamentary Inquiry into Online Child Protection, with a focus on online pornography. She was appointed by the Prime Minister, David Cameron, as an adviser on preventing the sexualisation and commercialisation of children.



Tracey Crouch – the first Conservative minister to take maternity leave, a qualified FA football coach

Born Tracey Elizabeth Anne Crouch, Ashford, Kent, 1975. 1996 graduated from the University of Hull with a law and politics degree. Worked as a parliamentary researcher and in public relations. A qualified FA football coach.

2010 elected the Member of Parliament for Chatham and Aylesford. 2015 appointed Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Sport, Heritage and Tourism.

2017 appointed Minister for Sport, Civil Society and Loneliness, but resigned in 2018 due to a delay over the introduction of reduced limits on the stakes of fixed odds betting terminals.

In 2016 she became the first Conservative minister to take maternity leave.



Beata Brookes - 1979 elected as Conservative MEP for North Wales

Born Beata Ann Brookes, Rhuddlan, Rhyl, 1929. Educated at Lowther College, Abergele, and the University of Wales, Bangor. Worked on the family farm and as a restaurant manageress before becoming a welfare worker.

Became the only woman member of Rhyl Council, chaired the Welsh Young Conservatives and elected national YC vice-chairman.

1979 elected Member of European Parliament for North Wales. Served on the education and agricultural committees. Sought EC aid to offset the closure of Shotton steelworks.

1984 re-elected, persuaded the EC to investigate the closure of textile mills in North Wales.

She was sometimes nicknamed the "Celtic Iron Lady".



Kemi Badenoch – First woman to represent Saffron Walden constituency.

Born Olukemi Olufunto Adegoke, in Wimbledon, 1980. Studied Computer Systems Engineering at the University of Sussex. Initially worked in IT but studied part-time at Birkbeck, University of London and obtained a Law degree. Married Hamish Badenock in 2012.

In 2012, Badenoch unsuccessfully contested a seat at the London Assembly. Three years later, Badenoch was selected as a London Assembly Member after Victoria Borwick and Suella Fernandes were elected Members of Parliament.

In 2017 she was elected Member of Parliament for Saffron Walden becoming the first woman to represent the constituency. 2018 appointed as the Conservative Party's Vice Chair for Candidates.



Seema Kennedy –the first Member of Parliament of Iranian descent

Born Seema Louise Ghiassi Kennedy, in Lancashire, 1974. Daughter of an Iranian Muslim father and Irish Catholic mother. At six weeks old her family moved to Iran but were forced to flee because of the Islamic revolution. Khomeini, the new Supreme Leader of Iran, seized her family home and business.

Kennedy was educated at the independent Westholme School in Blackburn before studying Oriental Studies (French and Persian) at Pembroke College, Cambridge, where she graduated with a First-Class Honours degree in 1997. After Cambridge, she took a Legal Practice Course.

In 2015 elected the Member of Parliament for South Ribble, Lancashire.



Violet Bathurst – President of the Southampton Women's Conservative Association in 1924

Born Violet Emily Mildred Meeking, in Marylebone, London, 1895. 1924 married Lord Apsley, they had two sons.

In the First World War served with a Voluntary Aid Detachment at Marsh Court Military Hospital. Second World War served in the Auxiliary Territorial Service.

1924 president of the Southampton Women's Conservative Association.

1943, upon the death of her husband, Lord Apsley, elected Member of Parliament for Bristol Central.

Held numerous offices in the Conservative Party and was National Chairman of the Women's Section of the British Legion. 1952 made Commander of the Order of the British Empire, for public and social services.



Laura Perrins – co-editor of The Conservative Woman and campaigner for the rights of stay-at-home parents

Born Laura McGowan, in Balbriggan, Ireland, 1981. Educated at University College Dublin, gaining a Bachelor of Civil Law, studied for a Master of Law at Cambridge, qualified as a barrister in 2003. Lives with her husband and three children in London.

In 2013 gave up work as a barrister to look after her children. She campaigned for the rights of stay-at-home parents, confronting deputy prime minister Nick Clegg on the issue on an LBC radio show.

She is the co-editor of The Conservative Woman and has written for The Daily Telegraph, the Daily Mail, Conservative Home and The Catholic Herald.



Fiona Hodgson – Honorary Vice President of the Conservative Women's Organisation

Born Fiona Ferelith Allom. Educated at Queen Anne's School, Caversham, Berkshire and Guildford High School, Surrey. Married Robin Granville Hodgson in 1982.

Awarded a CBE for work on gender equality in the New Year's Honours List in 2012 and elevated to the Peerage in 2013 taking the title Baroness Hodgson of Abinger, of Abinger in the County of Surrey.

She has worked on international women's issues especially in the context of developing and conflict countries.

Honorary Vice President of the Conservative Women's Organisation. President of the CWO from 2008 – 2011, Chairman 2005 - 2008 and Deputy Chairman 2002 - 2005.



Victoria Prentis – Parliamentary Private Secretary to the Leader of the House of Commons

Born Victoria Boswell, in Banbury, 1971. Educated at Royal Holloway, University of London and Downing College, Cambridge. Graduated with degrees in English and Law. 1995 qualified as a barrister, joined the Civil Service in 1997. Married to Sebastian Prentis, they have two daughters.

2015 elected Member of Parliament for Banbury and re-elected in 2017. She sits on the Justice Select Committee and she is Parliamentary Private Secretary (PPS) to the Leader of the House of Commons.

She has helped organise two national campaigns – Singing for Syrians, which raises money for charities working in Syria, and the Great British Spring Clean.



Catherine Meyer, Baroness Meyer – Campaigned against international parental child abduction

Catherine Irene Jacqueline Meyer born 1953. Educated at the French Lycée in London, the School of Slavonic and East European Studies and the London School of Economics. 1997 married Christopher Meyer.

1994 her former husband refused to return her two sons to London. This led to a legal battle in courts to gain access.

Campaigned tirelessly against international parental child abduction. 2000 founded the charity PACT, now, Action Against Abduction.

2011, International Missing Children's Day, the Home Office announced major changes to child protection services in the UK. Her role in this was recognised in the Home Office press release.



Betty Harvie Anderson - the first woman to sit in the Speaker's Chair as a Deputy Speaker

Born Margaret Betty Harvie Anderson, Glasgow, 1913. Educated at St Leonards School. 1960 married John Skrimshire. Saw service on the Home Front during World War II, as a senior commander, later appointed chief commander of a mixed anti-aircraft brigade.

1959 elected Member of Parliament for Renfrewshire East. The first woman to sit in the Speaker's Chair as a Deputy Speaker in 1970.

Given a life peerage in 1979. She took the title of Baroness Skrimshire of Quarter, of Dunipace in the District of Falkirk. A week after her introduction to the House of Lords she died of an asthma attack.



Elsie Bowerman – First woman barrister at the Old Bailey

Born Elsie Edith Bowerman, 1889, in Tunbridge Wells, Kent. Her father died when she was 5 years old. Studied Mediaeval and Modern Languages at Girton College Cambridge.

At Girton she formed a suffrage group and organised talks by Emmeline Pankhurst's Women's Social and Political Union (WSPU).

In 1946 she went to the USA and helped setup the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women.

She was a Titanic survivor, Suffragette, friend of the Pankhursts, witness to the Russian Revolution, property magnate, first woman barrister at the Old Bailey, first head of the UN Commission on the Status of Women.



Dorothy Crisp – Champion of the right-wing British Housewives League

Born Dorothy Crisp, in Leeds, 1906. Married John Noel Becker in 1945 but retained her maiden name.

She became a public speaker, an author and political activist on nationalism. Her books include *The Rebirth of Conservatism* (1931) and *Why We Lost Singapore* (1944).

She was a powerful pro-Conservative female activist but failed to secure a place within Conservative politics as she was not willing to conform to traditional gender roles inside the Party or the broader Conservative movement. She was a vocal advocate for gender equality.

It has been said she is the historical figure who most resembles Margaret Thatcher.



Pauline Neville-Jones – led the British delegation to the Dayton negotiations on the Bosnia peace settlement

Lilian Pauline Neville-Jones, born 1939. Educated at Leeds Girls' High School, studied Modern History at Lady Margaret Hall, Oxford.

A career member of Her Majesty's Diplomatic Service from 1963 to 1996. BBC Governor from 1998 to 2004. 2007 appointed a working peer and Shadow Security Minister. She took the title Baroness Neville-Jones, of Hutton Roof in the County of Cumbria.

2010 she was appointed Minister of State for Security and Counter Terrorism in the Home Office with a permanent position on the newly created National Security Council.

Led the British delegation to the Dayton negotiations on the Bosnia peace settlement.



Yvonne Peacock – Conservative councillor and former council leader of Richmondshire

Yvonne Peacock, born in Bainbridge, North Yorkshire, with a family history going back to the 1600s in the local area. A farmer's daughter, she married a local man who ran a solid fuel merchants with her father and took over the business herself when her husband passed away.

Her efforts to stop the village school going from three classrooms to two got her into local politics, she became a Richmondshire district councillor in 1999.

2015 elected leader of the local Conservatives and took over the leadership of the council when the Conservatives won a majority for the first time ever.



Jackie Doyle-Price – Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Mental Health, Inequalities and Suicide Prevention

Jackie Doyle-Price, born in Sheffield 1969. Educated Notre Dame High School, Sheffield, studied economics at University College, Durham. After graduation worked for the Sheffield Enterprise Agency and for South Yorkshire Police.

Raised on a Council Estate witnessed first-hand the Conservative Party's emphasis on aspiration and working, and how it offers ordinary family's opportunities to shape their destinies and be their best.

2010 elected Member of Parliament for Thurrock. 2015 appointed as assistant whip.

2018 appointed Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Mental Health, Inequalities and Suicide Prevention, the first minister in this post after being created by the Prime Minister.



Joyce Anelay – Chair of the Conservative Women's National Committee from 1993 to 1996

Born Joyce Anne Clarke, in Hackney, 1947. Studied at Bristol University and Brunel University London. After graduating became a secondary school teacher. Married Richard Anelay in 1970.

1993 to 1996 Chair of the Conservative Women's National Committee. 1996 created a Life Peer as Baroness Anelay of St Johns, of St John's in the County of Surrey.

2010 appointed Government Chief Whip in the House of Lords and Captain of the Honourable Corps of Gentlemen at Arms. 2014 served as Minister of State of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. 2017 Minister of State at the Department for Exiting the European Union.



Karren Brady – the first woman Managing Director Birmingham City FC and women in business champion

Born Karen Rita Brady, Edmonton. Started in advertising instead of going to university. Married to Paul Peschisolido, they have two children.

23 became managing director of Birmingham City FC. A player said, "I can see your tits from here". She replied, "When I sell you to Crewe, you won't be able to see them from there will you?" The player was sold afterwards.

Renowned for championing women in business.

2013 Cameron appointed her Small Business Ambassador. 2014 appointed CBE for services to entrepreneurship and women in business, became Conservative life peer Baroness Brady, of Knightsbridge in the City of Westminster.



Lynda Chalker – She jointly holds the 20th-century record for continuous government service

Born Lynda Bates, 1942. Educated at Roedean, Heidelberg University, Queen Mary University of London and the University of Westminster. Worked as a statistician and market researcher.

1974 elected Member of Parliament for Wallasey, Merseyside. Held several government posts, served as Minister of State for Overseas Development and Africa, in 1983 became Minister of State at Transport, appointed Minister for Europe in 1986.

Granted a life peerage as Baroness Chalker of Wallasey, of Leigh-on-Sea in the County of Essex in 1992, after losing her seat at the General Election of that year. Jointly holds the 20th-century record for continuous government service.



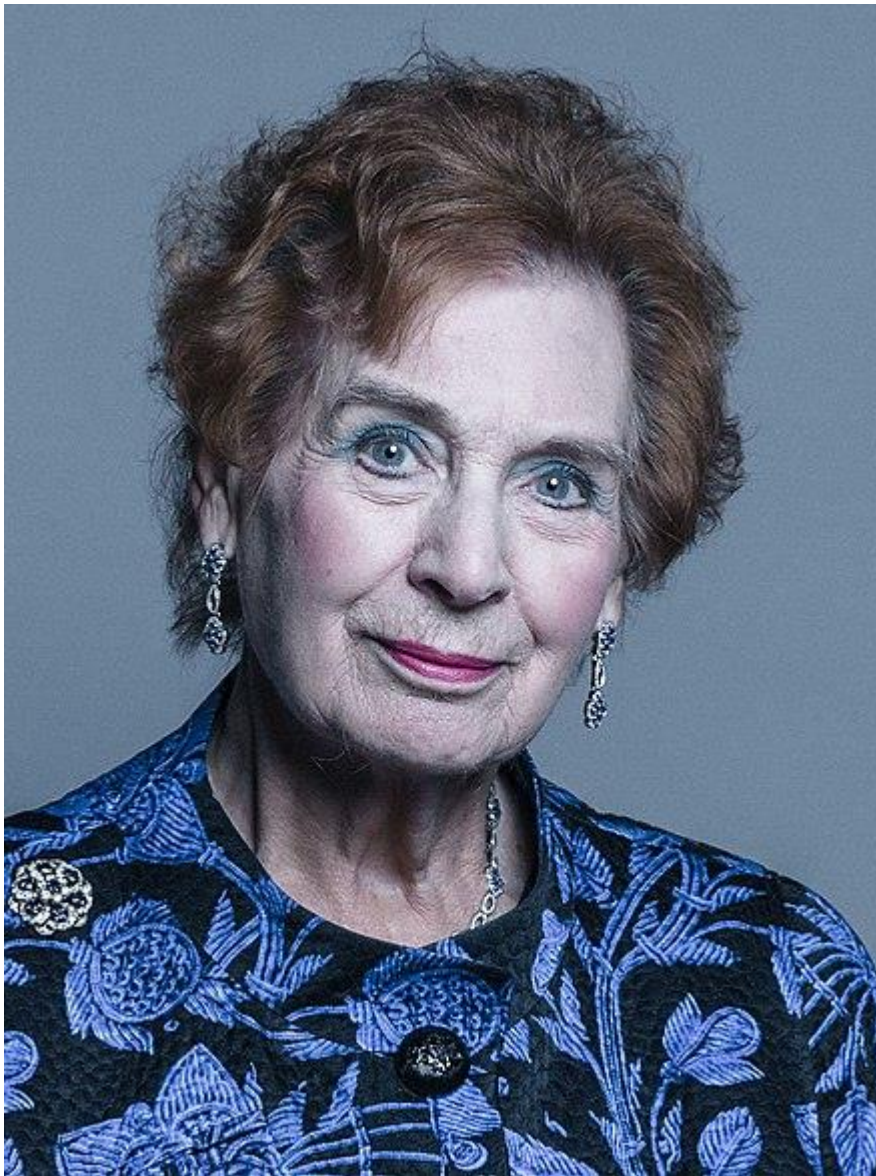
Annabel Goldie – the first woman to lead the Scottish Conservative Party

Born Annabel Goldie, in Glasgow, 1950. Studied at University of Strathclyde, graduating with an LL.B. After graduation became a solicitor.

1999 elected to the Scottish Parliament. 2005 became the first woman leader of the Scottish Conservatives.

In her maiden speech as leader, promised to act against "disloyalty and disobedience" and in reference to Margaret Thatcher said, "I think you may take it matron's handbag will be in hyper-action. There could be worse precedents to follow".

2013 became a life peer and since 2016 has served as a Baroness-in-Waiting in the Royal Household, acting as a whip in the UK Government.



Janet Fookes – the only woman MP for Merton and Morden and Deputy Speaker of the House of Commons from 1992-97

Born Janet Evelyn Fookes, in London, 1936. Educated at Royal Holloway College, University of London. Worked as a teacher from 1958 to 1970.

1970 elected Member of Parliament for Merton and Morden. 1974 elected Member of Parliament for Plymouth Drake, with a majority of 34. One of three Deputy Speakers from 1992-97. Retired from the House of Commons in 1997.

1997 she was made a Life Peer as Baroness Fookes, of Plymouth in the County of Devon.

Previously made a Dame Commander of the Order of the British Empire in 1989 and became Deputy Lieutenant of East Sussex in 2001.



Ida Copeland – She was the 25th woman to be elected to the House of Commons

Born Ida Fenzi, Florence, Tuscany, 1881. 1915 wed Richard Copeland.

1931 elected Member of Parliament for Stoke, defeating Sir Oswald Mosley. The 25th woman to be elected to the House of Commons.

An active participant in the success of the Girl Guides. A member of the International Council of Girl Guides from 1920–28 and 1940–48. She was dedicated to all forms of social and welfare causes. Funding and campaigning alongside Baden-Powell for the development of the Girl Guide movement.

The Copeland family donated Kibblestone Hall Estate to the Staffordshire Scouting Movement to be used as a Scout camp.



Mavis Tate – Chaired the Women's Power Committee of 1941 and the Equal Pay Campaign Committee of 1942

Born Maybird Hogg in 1893.

1931 elected Member of Parliament for Willesden West. 1935 elected in the constituency of Frome.

An advocate of arming women to resist a German invasion in 1940. Chaired the Women's Power Committee of 1941, the Equal Pay Campaign Committee of 1942, was vocal about equal pay for women as part of the war effort.

After World War II, visited the Buchenwald concentration camp to report on the result of the atrocities there.

1947 committed suicide. The Coroner found that her mind was disturbed through ill-health that dated from when she visited the Buchenwald horror camp.



Eveline Hill – introduced the Deserted Wives Bill

Born Eveline Ridyard, in Manchester, 1898. On leaving state secondary school in Manchester, she joined the family catering business. Married John Stanley Hill in 1922.

In 1950 elected Member of Parliament for Manchester Wythenshawe. Introduced the Deserted Wives Bill which proposed courts to award tenancy of a house to a wife who had been deserted by her husband. She was unable to find the votes to force a vote on its merits and the Bill fell.

In 1952 Hill, together with three other backbench women Conservative MPs, wrote to The Times to urge Conservative Associations to adopt more women candidates.



Nicky Morgan – Chair of the Treasury Select Committee

Born Nicola Ann Griffith, Kingston upon Thames, 1972. Read jurisprudence at St Hugh's College, Oxford. Qualified as a solicitor in 1994, worked as a corporate lawyer. Married to Jonathan Morgan, they have a son.

Joined the Conservative Party as a teenager in 1989, was the chairman of Wessex Young Conservatives from 1995 to 1997 and vice-chairman of Battersea Conservatives from 1997 to 1999.

2001 general election she unsuccessfully contested Islington South and Finsbury. 2005 general election she unsuccessfully contested Loughborough.

2010 elected Member of Parliament for Loughborough. 2014 appointed Secretary of State for Education and Minister for Women and Equalities.



Eleanor Laing – Deputy Speaker of the House of Commons and first female President of the Edinburgh University Students' Association

Born Eleanor Fulton Pritchard, in Paisley, Renfrewshire, 1958. Graduated from Edinburgh University with Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Laws degrees. First female President of the Edinburgh University Students' Association. Worked as a solicitor in Edinburgh and the City of London.

In 1987 she stood for Member of Parliament for Paisley North but was defeated by the Labour incumbent.

In 1997 elected Member of Parliament for Epping Forest. 2004 appointed Shadow Minister for Women and Equality. 2013 she was elected as the First Deputy Chairman of Ways and Means; the holder of which post is one of the Deputy Speakers.



Helen Grant – the first black woman of mixed heritage to be elected as a Conservative MP

Born Willesden, 1961. Grew up in Carlisle in a single parent family. Studied law at the University of Hull and the College of Law in Guildford. 1991 married Simon Grant, they have two sons.

1996 established family law practice, said she saw a 'huge amount' of domestic violence, and that influenced her subsequent Ministerial role.

2010 elected Member of Parliament for Maidstone and The Weald. 2012 appointed Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Women and Equalities and Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Justice. 2013 became Minister for Sport and Tourism.

The first mixed heritage black woman elected as a Conservative MP.



Katy Bourne – Sussex Police and Crime Commissioner and CWO National Chairman 2011

Katy Elizabeth Bourne, lives in Sussex with her husband, has two grown-up sons. Educated at Roedean School, graduated from Aberystwyth University with a Bachelor of Arts degree in History.

2008 became involved with the Conservative Women's Organisation. Elected Deputy Chairman in 2011, served as the National Chairman in 2012.

2012 elected Sussex Police and Crime Commissioner. 2016 re-elected for a second term in office with an increased majority. Set-up a £200,000 fund allowing community groups to apply for grants up to £5,000 to help prevent crime.

Appointed Officer of the Order of the British Empire in the 2019 Birthday Honours.



Jane Scott – leader of the Wiltshire Council since June 2003

Jane Antoinette Scott, born in 1947. Educated at the Convent of Jesus and Mary High School in Harlesden, took a diploma in dairying at the Lancashire College of Agriculture.

After college worked in the dairy industry, on farms and in public relations work, marketing and lecturing. 1986 married Ronald J. Scott, they have three children.

2003 elected leader of Wiltshire County Council. 2009 elected leader of the new unitary authority, Wiltshire Council. 2010 appointed OBE for services to local government.

2015 created a life peer, taking the name Baroness Scott of Bybrook, of Upper Wraxall in the County of Wiltshire.



Niki Molnar – former CWO National Chairman and President

Niki Molnar has lived in Spelthorne for 25 years, by profession a web developer and marketing specialist, she runs her own consultancy.

A voluntary member of the Conservative Women's Organisation for 13 years. Has served as the CWO National Chairman and National President.

CWO work included helping women take the first steps into public life; and campaigning with major NGOs and charities to lobby the government about issues that affect women.

Niki promotes WaterAid's outstanding work and has spoken at schools to encourage girls to take STEM subjects.

Awarded an MBE in 2017 for her work with women in politics.



Emma Pidding – former Chairman of the National Conservative Convention and Chiltern District Councillor

Born Emma Samantha Pidding, in Solihull, West Midlands. Educated at Brudenell Secondary School for Girls and Dr Challoner's High School.

Actively involved with the Conservative Party since 1986 combining various voluntary roles with a career firstly in, retail and private banking and then with a leading-edge IT consultancy.

President of Northern Ireland Conservatives and formerly a Chiltern District Councillor and Chairman of the National Conservative Convention.

Appointed a Commander of the Order of the British Empire for voluntary political service in the 2014.

2015 created a Life Peer taking the title Baroness Pidding, of Amersham in the County of Buckinghamshire.



Nicola Blackwood – Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Life Science

Born Nicola Claire Blackwood, Johannesburg, South Africa, 1979. Studied music at St Anne's College, Oxford and Somerville College, Oxford, studied for an MPhil degree in Musicology at Emmanuel College, Cambridge. 2016 married Paul Bate.

2010 elected Member of Parliament for Oxford West and Abingdon. Lost her seat when narrowly defeated in the 2017 General Election.

2019 created a life peer as Baroness Blackwood of North Oxford, of North Oxford in the County of Oxfordshire. She was briefly the youngest member of the House of Lords until Lord Ravensdale became a member.

2019 appointed Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Life Science.



Diana Barran – founder of the domestic abuse awareness charity Safe Lives

Diana Francesca Caroline Clare Barran, educated at Benenden School and King's College, Cambridge. Had a career as a hedge fund manager, founded Barran and Partners. Married with four children.

Founder of Safe Lives, a domestic abuse awareness charity, chief executive from 2004 to 2017.

2011 appointed Member of the Order of the British Empire. 2018 created Baroness Barran, of Bathwick in the City of Bath.

A Conservative Party life peer, trustee of Comic Relief and chair of the Henry Smith Society, which aims to bring about lasting change to people's lives, helping them to benefit from and contribute to society.



Charlotte Vere – Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Transport

Born Charlotte Sarah Emily Vere in 1969. Educated at University College London and at the Kellogg School of Management at Northwestern University. She started her career in the Financial services industry. A former Executive Director of the Girls' Schools Association.

2010 Parliamentary Candidate for Brighton Pavilion; narrowly defeated by Caroline Lucas of the Green Party.

2016 created Baroness Vere of Norbiton, of Norbiton in the Royal London Borough of Kingston upon Thames. Appointed a Baroness in Waiting, a government whip in the House of Lords.

2019 appointed Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State in the Department for Transport with responsibility for Aviation.



Susan Williams – Minister for Equalities

Born Susan Frances Maria Fildes, in Blackrock, Cork, 1967. Educated at La Sagesse High School and the University of Huddersfield, gaining a BSc in Applied Nutrition. 2005 married Alex Williams, she has three children.

1998 to 2011 member of Trafford Metropolitan Borough Council, council leader 2004 to 2009. In the 2010 General Election failed to become the Member of Parliament for Bolton West, narrowly losing by 92 votes.

2013 created a life peer as Baroness Williams of Trafford, of Hale in the County of Greater Manchester. 2014 became baroness-in-waiting (House of Lords Government Whip). In 2018 appointed Minister for Equalities.



Judith Wilcox – Vice-President of the Girl Guides Association

Born Judith Ann Freeman, Plymouth, Devon, 1939. Educated at St Dunstan's Abbey School, and St Mary's Convent School. Graduated from Plymouth University with a Business Studies degree.

Built and ran a substantial family food business in Devon and Cornwall. 1990 became Chairman of the UK National Consumer Council.

1996 made a life peer, The Baroness Wilcox, one of the first Working Peers, for services to Consumer Services.

2012 to 2015 UK delegate to the Council of Europe. 2015 member of the European Union Select Committee.

Vice-President of the Girl Guides Association and a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts.



Victoria Atkins - Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Crime, Safeguarding and Vulnerability

Born Victoria Mary Atkins, London, 1976. Daughter of Sir Robert Atkins. Educated at the Arnold School, Blackpool, followed by Corpus Christi College, Cambridge, where she studied law. Called to the bar (Middle Temple) in 1998. Worked as a barrister in the field of fraud. Married to Paul Kenward, they have one son.

2012 stood unsuccessfully in the first Police and Crime Commissioner elections for the Gloucestershire Constabulary area.

2015 elected Member of Parliament for Louth and Horncastle. 2015 appointed as a member of the Home Affairs Select Committee. 2017 appointed Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Crime, Safeguarding and Vulnerability.



Caroline Spelman – Chairman of the Conservative Party 2007 to 2009

Born Caroline Alice Cormack, in Bishop's Stortford, 1958. Educated at the Hertfordshire and Essex High School for Girls. Received a BA first-class in European Studies from Queen Mary College, University of London. 1987 married Mark Spelman, they have 3 children.

1997 elected Member of Parliament for Meriden, served in the shadow cabinet and in 2007 promoted to Conservative Party Chairman. In 2010 appointed Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs.

2016 made a Dame Commander of the Order of the British Empire for political and public service as part of the Resignation Honours of Prime Minister David Cameron.



Helen Newlove – Victims' Commissioner

Helen Margaret Newlove, born 1961. 2007 her husband, Gary Newlove, was murdered after confronting a gang of drunken youths. Since his death has campaigned for stiffer sentences for serious offences and improved support for victims of crime.

2010 received a peerage, Baroness Newlove, of Warrington in the County of Cheshire. She commented "I am just an ordinary woman, propelled into high profile by a set of horrifying circumstances which I wish with all my heart had never occurred."

2012 appointed Victims' Commissioner, the role requires liaison with ministers on aspects of the Criminal Justice System that affect victims and witnesses.



Harriett Baldwin – Minister of State for Africa & International Development

Born Harriett Mary Morison Eggleston, in Watford, Hertfordshire, 1960. Educated at the Friends' School, Saffron Walden, Marlborough College in Wiltshire, read Modern Languages at Lady Margaret Hall, Oxford.

1986 joined JP Morgan Chase, becoming managing director and Head of Currency Management at their London office in 1998, left in 2008. 2004 married James Stanley Baldwin.

2010 elected Member of Parliament for West Worcestershire. 2012 appointed Parliamentary Private Secretary to the Minister for Employment at the Department of Work and Pensions.

2016 appointed Parliamentary Under Secretary at the Ministry of Defence. 2018 appointed Minister of State for Africa and International Development.



Therese Coffey – the Suffolk Coastal’s first female Member of Parliament

Born Therese Anne Coffey, in Billinge, Lancashire, 1971. Educated at St Mary's College, Crosby, St Edward's College, Liverpool, Somerville College, Oxford, and University College London, where she was awarded a PhD in Chemistry in 1998.

2004 and 2009 narrowly missed out being elected to the European Parliament for the South East region of England.

2010 elected Member of Parliament for Suffolk Coastal, the constituency's first female Member of Parliament. She retained her seat in 2015 and 2017.

2015 to 2016 appointed Deputy Leader of the House of Commons. 2016 appointed Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Environment and Rural Life Opportunities.



Olga Maitland – formed the campaigning group, Women & Families for Defence

Born Helen Olda Maitland, 1944. Educated at St Mary and St Anne's School, Abbots Bromley, and Lycée Français Charles de Gaulle in South Kensington. 1969 married Robin William Patrick Hamilton Hay, they have three children.

1983 founded campaigning group, Women & Families for Defence, which aimed to counter protests against the deployment of American Cruise missiles on British soil and to oppose the Greenham Common Peace Camp.

1992 elected Member of Parliament for Sutton and Cheam.

1997 reported to MI5 that Russian journalist and spy, Yuri Sagaydak, tried to recruit her. Sagaydak was exposed and sent back to the USSR.



Caroline Dinenage – Minister of State for Social Care

Born Caroline Julia Dinenage, in Portsmouth, Hampshire, 1971. Daughter of television presenter Fred Dinenage. Educated at Oaklands RC Comprehensive School, Waterloooville, studied Politics and English at Swansea University. 2014 married Mark Lancaster MP, she has two children.

Began her political career in Winchester, she was a member of the local council for five years.

2010 elected Member of Parliament for Gosport, re-elected in 2015 and 2017. Served in Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State roles at the Ministry of Justice, Department for Education and Department for Work and Pensions.

2018 appointed Minister of State at the Department of Health and Social Care.



Lucy Frazer – Solicitor General for England and Wales

Born Lucy Frazer, in Yorkshire, 1972. Educated at Leeds Girls' High School, and Newnham College, Cambridge, where she was elected President of the Cambridge Union. Worked as a barrister in commercial law. 2012 became a Queen's Counsel. Married to David Leigh, they have two children.

2015 elected Member of Parliament for South East Cambridgeshire.

2019 appointed Solicitor General for England and Wales.

Put forward a Bill to Parliament for making 'upskirting' an offence in England and Wales; it attained royal assent in 2019. Before this Act was passed, only the common law offence of outraging public decency could be prosecuted.



Rebecca Harris – Lord Commissioner of the Treasury

Elizabeth Rebecca Scott Harris born Windsor, Berkshire, 1967. Educated at Bedales boarding school, graduated from the London School of Economics. Worked for Phillimore & Co. publishers, working up from delivery driver to being on the board as Marketing Director.

2000 to 2001 a Conservative head office campaign co-ordinator. 2007 to 2008 a Conservative North West London Area Officer.

2010 elected Member of Parliament for Castle Point, retaining the seat in 2015 and 2017 with increasing majorities. 2015 named as the MP with the 4th highest voting record.

2018 appointed as a Lord Commissioner of the Treasury and a Government Whip.



Pauline Lucas – CWO Honorary Vice President

Pauline Lucas is a paediatric physiotherapist specialising in the treatment of Cerebral Palsy. Her husband is a retired County Councillor. She has a passionate interest in the promotion of excellent educational opportunities for young people and has a major concern about the scope of provision for children with disability and learning difficulties.

First became active in politics at school. Has campaigned for the Conservative Party across the country. Served 13 years on the CWO executive, as both Chairman and Deputy Chairman.

2014 awarded an MBE for work in politics.

2015 invited to become an Honorary Vice President of the CWO.



Jill Summers – Grassroots campaigner, former magistrate and London North Area Officer

Jill Summers born in Golders Green, 1940. Educated at South Hampstead High School, undertook Secretarial training at St Godricks College. Chair of Governors at her childhood primary school. 1997 to 2010 served as a Magistrate. Worked in the retail sector, 1984 opened her own shop. Married to Robin, they have two children and three grandchildren.

1987 became involved in politics, eventually becoming involved with Finchley and Golders Green Conservatives where she has held several posts including Association Chairman.

Member of the Greater London Women, helps organise lunches at the House of Lords. An officer on the London North Area Committee.



Peta Buscombe – Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Work and Pensions

Born Peta Jane O'Flynn in 1954. Educated at Rosebery Grammar School, Epsom, and the Inns of Court School of Law. 1977 called to the Bar at the Inner Temple. 1980 married Philip Buscombe, they have three children.

1997 Parliamentary candidate for Slough. 1998 created a Life peer as Baroness Buscombe, of Goring in the County of Oxfordshire.

2007 to 2009 Executive of the Advertising Association. 2009 to 2011 served as Chairman of the Press Complaints Commission.

2016 appointed as Baroness in Waiting, a government whip in the House of Lords.

2017 appointed Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Work and Pensions.



June Imeson – Leader of Hambleton District Council for 10 years

June Imeson, born 1930. Ran a family garage business with her husband. 1999 helped create the World of James Herriot.

Leader of Hambleton District Council for 10 years, councillor for over 30 years, on the council from its inception. Saved Great Ayton from becoming part of Teesside as part of the Government's boundary reorganisation. She organised a 200-car motorcade that travelled from Great Ayton to Northallerton in protest.

2002 made an Officer of the British Empire, OBE, for services to the communities of Great Ayton and Hambleton district.

Made first ever honorary woman life member of North Yorkshire Conservative Club.



Kelly Tolhurst – Parliamentary Under Secretary of State, Minister for Small Business, Consumers and Corporate Responsibility

Born Kelly Jane Tolhurst, Rochester, Kent, 1978. Educated at Chapter High School. Ran a marine survey business with her father.

Got involved in local politics after campaigning with residents to stop Borstal Recreation Ground from being lost to development. 2011 to 2018 served as a councillor for Rochester West ward on Medway Council.

2015 elected Member of Parliament for Rochester and Strood with a majority of over 7000 after failing to win the seat in a 2014 by-election. She retained the seat at the 2017 General Election.

2018 appointed Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Small Business, Consumers and Corporate Responsibility.



Liz Sugg – Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for International Development

Elizabeth Grace Sugg, born 1977. Graduated from Newcastle University. Worked for Sky News before managing media for Conservative Euro-MPs. 2010 to 2016 Head of Operations under David Cameron, having worked for him in opposition since 2005.

2015 appointed a Commander of the Order of the British Empire. 2016 created a Life peer as Baroness Sugg, of Coldharbour in the London Borough of Lambeth.

2017 appointed Baroness in Waiting, a government whip in the House of Lords.

2017 appointed Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State in the Department for Transport with responsibility for Aviation.

2019 appointed Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for International Development.



Heather Wheeler – Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Housing and Homelessness

Born Heather Kay Wilkinson, Norwich, 1959. State educated in Wandsworth, London. Worked for Lloyds insurance brokers for 10 years, qualifying by exam as an Associate. 1986 married Bob Wheeler, they have one daughter.

1982, aged 22, elected to Wandsworth London Borough Council. After serving a full term moved to South Derbyshire. 1995 elected to South Derbyshire District Council.

2010 elected Member of Parliament for South Derbyshire.

2018 appointed as a Parliamentary Under Secretary of State at the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, with responsibility for homelessness and rough sleeping as well as the private rented and leasehold sectors.



Anne Milton – Minister of State for Apprenticeships and Skills

Born Anne Frances Turner, Sussex, 1955. Educated at Haywards Heath Grammar School, trained as a nurse at St Bartholomew's Hospital, obtained a diploma in district nursing from the London South Bank University. Worked as a nurse for 25 years, during the 1980's was a shop steward for the Royal College of Nursing. 2000 married Dr. Graham Henderson.

1999 to 2004 councillor for Reigate and Banstead. 2000 to 2003 Conservative Group leader on the council.

2005 elected Member of Parliament for Guildford. 2012 a Government Whip. 2017 to 2018 Minister for Women.

2017 appointed Minister of State for Skills and Apprenticeships.



Marjorie Maxse – First female Chief Organisation Officer for any political party

Born Sarah Algeria Marjorie Maxse, Algiers, 1891. A diplomat's daughter and First World War military nurse.

1931 appointed Chief Organisation Officer of the Conservative Party, the first woman to occupy such a role in any political party.

A principal architect in the development of women's organisation in the Conservative Party. She told party agents "to teach women to be voters and Conservative voters, not to create a feminist movement within the Conservative Party".

1940 appointed director of the Children's Overseas Reception Board and vice-chair of the Women's Voluntary Services for Civil Defence. Chief of staff for Section D of MI6.



Rebecca Pow – Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Arts, Heritage and Tourism

Rebecca Faye Clark, known as Rebecca Pow, born in 1960. Brought up on a family farm in Inglesbatch near Bath. She was an active member of both Bath and Taunton Young Farmers Club where she met her late husband, Charles Clark, they have three children.

2015 elected Member of Parliament for Taunton Deane, the first female Conservative Member of Parliament to represent Taunton Deane. Re-elected in 2017.

In 2018 awarded a Green Heart Hero Award by The Climate Coalition for being the "Greenest New MP" for her environmental work

2019 appointed Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Arts, Heritage and Tourism.



Amanda Milling – Assistant Government Whip

Born Amanda Anne Milling, Burton upon Trent, 1975. Educated at Moreton Hall School, studied Economics and Statistics at University College London, graduating in 1997. Built a career in market research, specialising for a large part in the financial services sector. Before entering Parliament was Director and Head of Clients at Optimisa Research.

2009 elected a councillor for Helmshore ward, on Rossendale Borough Council, Lancashire.

2015 elected Member of Parliament for Cannock Chase. 2017 re-elected with an increased majority. 2016 to 2018 served as a Parliamentary Private Secretary to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office Ministers.

2018 appointed an Assistant Government Whip.



Elizabeth Berridge – Chair of the All Party Group on International Religious Freedom

Elizabeth Berridge, born in Rutland, 1972. Educated at Vale of Catmose College and Rutland College in Oakham. She studied Law at Emmanuel College, Cambridge, and undertook barrister's training at the Inns of Court School of Law in London. She had a professional career as a barrister before being appointed Executive Director of the Conservative Christian Fellowship in 2006.

2011 created a Life peer as Baroness Berridge, of The Vale of Catmose in the County of Rutland. In Parliament, she sits on the Ecclesiastical Committee and is Co-Chair of the All Party Parliamentary Group on International Freedom of Religion or Belief.



Maria Miller – Chair of the Women and Equalities Select Committee

Born Maria Frances Lewis, in Wolverhampton, 1964. Brought up in Bridgend. Educated at the Brynteg Comprehensive School, read Economics at the London School of Economics, graduated in 1985. Prior to entering Parliament had a career in marketing. 1990 married Iain Miller, they have two sons and a daughter.

2005 elected Member of Parliament for Basingstoke. 2010 appointed Minister for Disabled People. 2012 to 2014 Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, and Minister of Women and Equalities.

2015 elected Chair of the Women and Equalities Select Committee.

2017 invited to become an Honorary Vice-President of the Conservative Women's Organisation.



Dorothy Middleton - A fellow of the Royal Geographical Society, one of the first ladies to be a Dining fellow in its 150 year history

Born Dorothy Butler, Lahore, 1909. Educated at boarding school in England. Sister of Rab Butler, he was a key-figure in post-war Conservatism. The family sent Rab to university, not Dorothy.

A Conservative woman whose influence is unmeasured by history, but whose quiet influence was so vital to the Conservatives as both a role model and influencer.

Encouraged Rab to understand that women were capable of leading and running organisations alongside men.

Rab's nomination put her forward to become a fellow of the Royal Geographical Society, one of the first ladies to be a Dining fellow in its 150 year history.



Elizabeth Nel - Mr Winston Churchill's Secretary (1958).

Born Elizabeth Shakespear Layton, Bury St. Edmonds, Suffolk, 1917. Attended a London secretarial college. Worked at the Red Cross before being Winston Churchill's private secretary. After the war married South African soldier Frans Nel, settled in Port Elizabeth. They had a son and two daughters.

Provided Churchill invaluable support despite the hardship she faced from him when he was stressed.

Her last wartime work was the dictation of Churchill's VE-Day speech, without her typing there would be no exact record of many of Churchill's speeches.

She and Churchill wept in his room after his defeat in the 1945 General Election.



Tiz Baskerville – Conservative Women's Organisation Deputy Chairman

Tiz Baskerville. A voluntary member of the Conservative Party nearly all her life. She has held many positions within the Party including South West Norfolk Association Chairman, Norfolk & Suffolk Area Chairman, and Eastern Region Chairman.

2014 awarded an MBE. 2014 elected as a Vice President of the National Convention, a champion of the Conservative Policy Forum, the Conservative Women's Organisation and Conservative Future.

She has served the CWO in the Eastern Region and nationally, including CWO Regional Chairman (Eastern), CWO Regional President (Eastern). 2015 elected National Honorary President. 2016 became Honorary Vice President.

2019 elected CWO National Deputy Chairman.



Julie Iles – President Conservative Women's Organisation

Julie Iles, born 1961. Applied to the candidates list when David Cameron said let's open up the party to those who haven't previously been involved.

A track record of achievement in business, selling high value technology solutions, but it was her experience as a magistrate which compelled her to stand up and make a difference.

2017 elected to Surrey County Council, appointed the cabinet member for All Age Learning.

2016 to 2019 the National Chairman of the CWO, she established ties with Conservative Policy Forum to take women's input into policy development.

2019 elected President of the Conservative Women's Organisation.



Eve Burt – Conservative Women's Organisation Deputy Chairman

Eve Burt, Ambassador for Bedfordshire GirlGuiding following 22 years as a leader. Chair of FACES Bedford, working with hard to reach families, including those under pressure from domestic violence, disability, CSE, post-natal depression. Married to Alistair Burt MP.

The Conservative Party, GirlGuiding and volunteering, have given opportunities for gaining skills, holding positions of responsibility, and a passion for women's engagement at all levels of life.

Held many Conservative roles including Ward chairman, Young Conservative chairman and Area Officer, Deputy National Chairman CWO, Campaign manager, CWO Development trainer.

2019 awarded MBE for public and political service, elected CWO National Deputy Chairman.



Gonul Daniels – CWO National Deputy Chairman

Gonul Daniels. A background in Technology working for world class organisations, including The Bank of England and UK Parliament. Married to Jon, they have young twins.

2013 led a campaign for increased primary school places. 2016 a founder and Chair of Governors at a new Primary School, rated Outstanding by Ofsted.

Volunteered for the Conservative Party in Bosnia, Rwanda, and has initiated a social aid project for Syrian Refugees in Turkey.

CWO London Regional Chairman, passionately supporting women into public life, saying “women can achieve so much more when we work as a group”.

2019 elected CWO National Deputy Chairman.



Fleur Butler – National CWO Chairman

Fleur Butler. A background as a Management Consultant for the charity sector, runs a small business growing and selling British flowers. A former District Council Leader; has held every top cabinet post.

A former member of the Council of Europe lead delegations for democratic election monitoring from Armenia to Bulgaria and has spoken in Strasbourg.

She feels passionately about getting more women into public life and has served the CWO as Yorkshire Regional Chairman and National Deputy Chairman.

She uses her candidate experience to mentor women towards their PAB and their applications to winning seats.

2019 elected CWO National Chairman.