

INFORMATION ON OUR GUESTS



Alok Sharma

Prospective Parliamentary Candidate for - Reading West

As very much a local Reading man Alok is delighted to have been selected to contest the Reading West constituency for the Conservative Party at the next General Election. Alok's family has lived in Reading for over 30 years and he was brought up locally in Earley and Whitley Wood and went to schools in Reading. Alok is governor of a local primary school in Reading and assists in a voluntary capacity with the work of a UK charity which supports medical and social projects in the developing world. He is also a fellow of the Royal Society for the advancement of the Arts, Manufacturing and Commerce which, amongst its objectives, supports environmental initiatives which move us towards a zero-waste society. A qualified chartered accountant, Alok now works for a Swedish bank in London. He is married and lives in Reading Borough with his wife and two young daughters

Michael Gove MP

Member of Parliament for Surrey Heath

Shadow Secretary of State for Children, Schools & Families

He was elected as Member of Parliament in May 2005, and from December 2005 to June 2007 was Shadow Minister for Housing. In June 2007, Michael was appointed Shadow Secretary of State for children, Schools and Families. He is passionately committed to raising standards in state schools and helping children from less privileged backgrounds maximise their potential. Michael is married to Sarah Vine, who is a leader writer at The Times, and they have one daughter, Beatrice and a son, William who was born at Frimley Park Hospital.



Kwasi Kwarteng

Prospective Parliamentary Candidate for Spelthorne

My unusual name comes from Ghana, where my parents were born in the 1940s, when it was still a British Colony, called the Gold Coast. They came to Britain in the 1960s as students. My mother studied for her A-Levels, Dad went to the LSE, where one of his classmates, though only for a few months, was Mick Jagger. My parents studied hard. My mother qualified as a barrister the year after I was born, but didn't start her practice until I was seven. She felt, as many young mothers do, that she wanted to stay at home and look after her child. I was very fortunate to win a scholarship to Eton College, when I was 13. I enjoyed History in particular, which I then proceeded to read at Trinity College, Cambridge. I earned a Bachelor's degree and a PhD in British History and was also on the series-winning team on University Challenge in Jeremy Paxman's first year as the host. I have worked as a company analyst in the City for seven years, and as a journalist. I was Conservative Candidate for Brent East at the General Election of 2005, Chairman of the Bow Group in 2006 and a candidate for the London Assembly in 2008.



Nirj Deva DL FRSA MEP

Member of the European Parliament

Nirj was first elected MEP for the South East region in 1999. In the European Parliament, he is Conservative Spokesman on Development and Co-operation. He is a Member of the Development Committee and a substitute member on Regional Policy, Tourism and Transport. He was a Special Advisor for Ethnic Affairs to the Rt Hon Iain Duncan Smith MP.

His Interest include voluntary work for St John's Ambulance Brigade and writing. He was born in 1948 and is married with one child.

