

BIOGRAPHY: SIR MALCOLM THORNTON FRSA

Sir Malcolm was born in 1939. He was educated at Wallasey Grammar School and Liverpool Nautical College.

He lives in Heswall and is married to Rosemary, a Wirral Primary Consultant Headteacher. He was formerly a River Mersey Pilot, holding a Senior First Class Licence.

He was elected to Wallasey County Borough Council in May 1965 and subsequently to the Wirral Metropolitan Borough Council in 1973, becoming Chairman of Education. He was Leader of the new Council from April 1974 until his resignation in May 1977.

During his final two years as a councillor (1977-79), he was Chairman of both the AMA Education Committee and of the Council of Local Education Authorities, Vice-Chairman of the Management Panel of the Burnham Committee and a member of other national education bodies.

In 1979, Sir Malcolm was elected to Parliament for Liverpool, Garston, and, in 1983, for Crosby, which he held until 1997.

Upon entering Parliament, he was elected an officer of the Conservative Back Bench Education Committee and was appointed a member of the Environment Select Committee. Between 1981 and 1984, he was Parliamentary Private Secretary to the Rt. Hon. Patrick Jenkin MP.

Sir Malcolm became a member of the Select Committee for Education (later Education and Employment) in 1985 and was its Chairman from 1989 until the dissolution of Parliament in 1997. He is a Fellow, Post Graduate and former Trustee of the Industry and Parliament Trust.

Since 1974, he has been Chairman of Governors at Liscard Primary School in Wallasey. He was Chairman of both the Action Forum and the Executive Committee of the Wednesbury Education Action Zone (1999-2004) and is Chairman of the Board and Pro Chancellor of Liverpool John Moores University. He is a Fellow of the Royal Society for the Arts. In 1994, he was awarded an Honorary Doctorate of Education from De Montfort University in recognition of his service to education.

Since the 1997 election, Sir Malcolm has pursued a number of business interests. For three years, he was education consultant to a major plc. He is Chairman of three small companies, a non-executive director of two further companies, and offers educational consultancy to a wide variety of organisations. In a voluntary capacity, he is Chairman of the Board of Trustees for the Mersey Mission to Seafarers and a former Honorary Colonel of 156(NW) Transport Regiment RLC(V). He is an Honorary Member of Mid-Wirral Rotary Club.

His recreational interests are fishing, golf, DIY and home entertaining. He reads poetry and listens to classical music for relaxation!!

Sir Malcolm was knighted in HM The Queen's Birthday Honours List in 1992.

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