

WEDNESDAY 8<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2012

THE GALLERY AT THE PREMIER INN, WESTOVER ROAD, BOURNEMOUTH

With a new venue, choice of menu and an entertaining speaker you are encouraged to join your President, Fiona Knight, at what will be one of the Society's most prestigious events.



In her presidential year Fiona's theme is *Professionals' Working Together*, enabling members to network with other complementary professionals. She has also introduced an element of fun to the proceedings and in **Michael Dobbs** she has a speaker that can be both serious and entertaining in equal measure. The following is a short biography of the man himself:



Formerly Chief of Staff and later Deputy Chairman of the Conservative Party, he's now a member of the House of Lords. He's spent too much of his life hanging around all the wrong places at interesting times. He was with Margaret Thatcher when she took her first steps into Downing Street as Prime Minister, and he was there again with John Major when he was kicked out. In between he got bombed in Brighton and banished from Chequers (after a row with Maggie), and in the quieter moments he wrote a book called **House of Cards!** One Chief Whip said it had done for his job "what Dracula has done for babysitting".

Michael has been Deputy Chairman of Saatchi & Saatchi, he presented the BBC TV current affairs programme *Despatch Box* and was a columnist for *The Mail on Sunday*. He has also penned the hugely acclaimed theatre play, 'The Turning Point'. **Yet it is as an author that he has gained most plaudits.** After creating the iconic figure of **Francis Urquhart** he has gone on to write books about Prime Ministers, Kings and the Dalai Lama. He also recently finished a series of novels about **Winston Churchill** that had the critics falling over themselves in praise. Now he's created the most dangerous character of his career, **Harry Jones**. As the *Financial Times* said, "think *Die Hard* with a stiff upper lip."

He has many years of experience in the United States with doctorates from Harvard and Tufts universities and worked on the *Boston Globe* throughout the Watergate scandal. He shared a girlfriend with Bill Clinton when they were both students at Oxford. 'For some reason she never introduced us,' he says. 'It took me many years and an entire presidential scandal to discover why.'

He is a highly skilled raconteur. Yes, there is a softer side to him, yet his past follows him. One newspaper described Dobbs as "Westminster's baby-faced hit man." Another said he was "a man who, in Latin America, would have been shot." A third wrote that "he was clearly put on this earth to write thrillers of the most shameless page-turning quality."

Well, they might say that. Michael Dobbs couldn't possibly comment.

*Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> February 2012 (12:00 for 12:45)*

## Menu

*Tomato and Red Pepper Soup*

*with a chunk of Tiger bread*

*or*

*Hot Smoked Salmon Niçoise*

*on a bed of crisp salad served with egg, green beans, new potatoes & cherry tomatoes*



*Roast Breast of Chicken*

*served with roast potatoes, Yorkshire pudding and fresh seasonal vegetables & gravy*

*or*

*Roast Beef*

*served with roast potatoes, Yorkshire pudding and fresh seasonal vegetables, horseradish sauce & gravy*

*or*

*Shallot, Stilton and Toasted Walnut Tart*

*served with new potatoes and green salad*



*Pecan Toffee and Chocolate Tart*

*or*

*Vanilla Cheesecake*

*with a mixed berry compote*



*Freshly Brewed Coffee*

