

## **MARGARET HODGE MBE MP**

### **Political Career**

Minister of State for Lifelong Learning and Higher Education, Department For Education and Skills (June 2001 – present)

MP for Barking (elected 1994)

Former Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State (Employment and Equal Opportunities), Department for Education and Employment, 1998-2001

Councillor for London Borough of Islington for over 20 years and Leader of Council from 1982-92.

### **Career – general**

Consultant for Price, Waterhouse, Coopers (1992-94)

Former teacher (before entering politics)

### **Interests**

Former Chair of Fabian Executive Committee. Patron of several local charities. Main interests: education; reform of public services; equality issues – especially gender issues and democratic renewal; widening participation in education

### **Personal**

Age: 56 years

Married with four children and one grandchild

Educated at Bromley High School, Oxford High School, London School of Economics – obtained third-class degree in Government Studies. Children educated at Universities of Bristol, Leeds and East Anglia

### **Political Achievements**

At DfEE, steered through enormous expansion in childcare places and nursery education.

Helped set up Disability Rights Commission

Launched campaign to make businesses more family friendly

Oversaw introduction of Sure Start, providing extra health and education support for children and parents in 'deprived' areas.

### **Miscellaneous**

In interview with 'Guardian' of June 2001, Hodge regrets her own University education as 'lost opportunity'. Article also suggests that Hodge was put off by 'elitism' of Oxford in choice of University for herself and children and is committed to widening participation

Loyal Blairite, but once was leading light of 'loony left' of Islington Borough Council of 1980s. Now is keen on closing 'gap' between public and private sectors.

Was one of 31 Labour MPs who voted against Government in 1998 when it scrapped student maintenance grants.

**On student debt:** Hodge insists that situation will be kept 'under review' – ie the balance between contributions from graduates, their families and state and how and when repayments occur. Refuses to be drawn on definite funding proposals. Recent comments angered NUS leaders – Hodge stated that she was 'not too concerned about students doing part-time work when they are studying'. She quoted the recent poll which suggested that students spent about £25 per week on alcohol: "a lot of lifestyle choices were leading to debt.....but should the state pay for that?"

VISIT BY MARGARET HODGE MBE, MP, MINISTER FOR LIFELONG  
LEARNING AND HIGHER EDUCATION  
TO UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL LANCASHIRE  
ON 6 MARCH 2002

Meeting with students from all Faculties 3.55 pm to 4.25 pm

Names/Details of Students attending the meeting:

**Students Union**

David Budd, President of Students Union.

Katie Davies, Academic Affairs Officer

**Faculty of Cultural, Legal and Social Studies**

Nicola Davies, BA (Hons) English Language, Year 3. **(Involved in National Mentoring Pilot Project at Christ the King High School over last 2 years)**

— Gavin Lilley, BA/BSc (Hons) Combined Hons: Deaf Studies and Journalism, Year 1. **( A student who has come through the first ever Year 0 Deaf Students Cohort)**

Munira Husein Patel, MPhil/PhD Law full time.

**Faculty of Design and Technology**

— Lyndsey Wilson, BA (Hons) Performing Arts, Year 3. **(Lyndsey took a year out 2000/2001 to work as a Student Liaison Officer in the Faculty)**

Emma Soraya Kadri-Boardman, Student Liaison Officer – recent graduate BA (Hons) Performing Arts. **(Currently working as a Student Liaison Officer in the Faculty – 1 year post)**

Simon K O'Brien, BSc (Hons) Building Surveying, Year 2. **(Chairs Faculty Student Committee)**

**Faculty of Health**

Angela Jackson, Dip HE Nursing, Mental Health Branch commenced October 1999. **(Chair of the Nursing Students Representative Committee)**

Susan Smith, MA Health Promotion.

— Heather Wickham, BSc (Hons) Sexual and Reproductive Health, Year 2. Part-time student **(employed as a Practice Nurse)**

## **Lancashire Business School**

Amy Baker, BA (Hons) Marketing, Year 1.

Ricky McClements, BA (Hons) Tourism and Leisure Management (from HND entry route), Year 1.

Rachel Newsham, BA (Hons) Sports Management, Year 2.

Nick Westgate, BA Marketing, Year 3.

## **Faculty of Science**

Sarah Collins, BSc (Hons) Environmental Management, Year 3.

Mark Kemp, BSc (Hons) Geography, Year 3.

— Philip McGladdery, MSc Psychology (**One of UCLAN's graduates**)

Phillip Steele, BSc (Hons) Sports Science, Year 3.

6 March 2002