

Dateline London...



M.R.B. REPORTS

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politician to go native and go back on what he said and believed when a backbencher. The person will say that the words were meant then but now there are other circumstances to bear in mind. This is what has happened to the Foreign Affairs Committee's excellent report on Gibraltar and the Secretary of State's response. In reality this has now been kicked into the long grass

I can understand why the Gibraltarians, seeing and experiencing the daily injustice

being placed upon their lives by the Spanish Government's restrictions, and hearing all the fine words coming from Westminster, thinks what on earth is really being done to resolve the Gibraltar problem. The strong message that came through to me was the deep feeling that the Gibraltarians have on this subject. I also now realise that the Gibraltarians are not former empire builders who settled on the Rock but are very much their own people with their own unique culture. Gibraltar is not the last outpost of British colonialism but an important part of the European Union. I hope that the new millennium will see action being taken to resolve the Gibraltar problem. In the meantime I wish the Gibraltarians all the best as assure them that they are doing a good job. To misquote the television programme 'Are You being Served' I can but say 'You are all doing very well.'

John Randall has lived in Uxbridge all his life. He runs a local business and is a long standing member of the Uxbridge Conservative Association.

John, 44, was educated at Rutland House School, Merchant Taylors School, and London University where he read East European language and literature. He is married to Kate and they have three children, aged seven, three and eighteen months.

In 1994 he became the Honorary Treasurer of Uxbridge Conservative Association and later that year was elected Chairman of the Association. During the general election campaign, he served as Sir Michael Shersby's election agent.

Randalls of Uxbridge is the family business and John started as a Saturday boy and is now the Managing Director. He is Chairman of the Uxbridge Retailers' Association, Chairman of Cowley residents' Association and a member of the Uxbridge Town Centre Steering Committee.

John Randall was elected M.P. for Uxbridge on 31 July 1997 with a majority of 3,766. Since his election he has been appointed to the Deregulation committee. He is interested in local history and is a keen ornithologist.