

BIOGRAPHIES

The 190th Annual General Meeting of the Institute, Thursday 15 July 2021

Trustees

Rageh Omaar

Rageh Omaar is ITV's International Affairs Editor and presenter of its flagship News at Ten programme. He is also the presenter of ITV's global current affairs programme On Assignment. He was previously Senior Foreign Correspondent for the BBC as well as Africa Correspondent. Based in the Middle East he covered the second Gulf War from Baghdad and was the only western journalist inside Taliban held Kabul as it fell in 2001. He has also been BBC Africa Correspondent and present for Al Jazeera English. He has won numerous international awards for his reporting, including a Peabody Award for his dispatches from Darfur Province, Sudan, a BAFTA for coverage of Afghanistan and Royal Television Society award and the Prix Bayeaux International Award for his dispatches from the 1999 Ethiopia-Eritrea war. He has written two books published by Penguin, on the 2003 Iraq Invasion and growing up as a British Muslim. He is a Trustee of the British Council and was educated at New College, Oxford University.

The Rt Hon Amber Rudd

After a career in banking, venture capital and head hunting, Amber Rudd became the MP for Hastings and Rye from 2010 to 2019.

She held three cabinet roles over 4 years and under 3 Prime Ministers, first in Energy & Climate Change, then the Home Office as Home Secretary and until September 2019 in Work and Pensions.

She also twice served as Minister for Women and Equalities.

As Energy Secretary she steered the UK's participation in the crucial and successful Paris Climate Change Agreement in 2015.

As Home Secretary she oversaw the UK's response to the terrorist attacks in 2017. Under her leadership the UK led on setting up an international industry led response to removing radicalising material on the internet which endures as www.gifct.org.

She is now a Senior Advisor to international CEO advisors Teneo. She is also an Advisor to Pool Re, insurers for terrorism risk, and Darktrace, leading UK cyber security firm.

She recently became a Trustee for The Climate Group, working with the private sector to reach a net zero emissions outcome.

She Chairs the International Advisory Group for Equinor.

The Rt Hon Jack Straw

The Rt Hon Jack Straw is one of three senior Ministers to remain in Cabinet throughout the 1997 to 2010 Labour Government. He served as Foreign Secretary (2001 to 2006), Home Secretary (1997 to 2001), Leader of the Commons (2006 to 2007), and Lord Chancellor and Justice Secretary (2007 to 2010). He was Member of Parliament for Blackburn from 1979 to 7 May 2015, when he retired from the Commons.

Before becoming an MP, Jack practiced as a Barrister, and then worked as a Special Adviser in the Labour Government of 1974 to 1979. He served on the Opposition Front Bench from 1980 to 1997.

Appointed Foreign Secretary in 2001, Jack played a leading role in the dramatic foreign policy problems arising from the 9/11 terrorist attacks in New York and the resulting interventions in Afghanistan and Iraq. He was instrumental in helping avoid an extremely dangerous armed conflict between India and Pakistan over Kashmir in 2002. He was a member of the European Council for five years. In 2005 he led successful efforts to open formal EU membership negotiations with Turkey. He is co-Chairman of the government-sponsored British-Turkish Forum. He was given the Order of the Republic of Turkey by President Abdullah Gül in 2012.

With his French and German counterparts, Jack initiated the “E3” (later “E3+3”) negotiations with Iran over their nuclear programme, and has taken a close interest in Iran ever since, having visited it eight times.

He is a Visiting Professor at University College London School of Public Policy. Since 2015 he has been Chairman of the Blackburn Youth Zone, and from 2017 a Trustee of the Tauheedul Education Trust. He is a Trustee of the Global Strategy Forum, and of the Atlantic Partnership.

His publications include: ‘Last Man Standing: Memoirs of a Political Survivor’ (Macmillan: 2012); Hamlyn Lectures 2012 on Law Reform (CUP).

Sir Alex Younger KCMG

Alex Younger was for 30 years a career intelligence officer in Britain’s Secret Intelligence Service, MI6. He served in Europe, the Middle East and Afghanistan. He was appointed as Director of Counter Terrorism in 2009, and as Chief from 2014 to 2020. Prior to SIS, Alex served in the British Army as an infantry officer. He attended St Andrews’ University.

Vice-Chair

The Lord Ricketts GCMG GCVO

Lord Ricketts spent 40 years as a British diplomat before retiring in early 2016. His last post was Ambassador to France, where he was heavily involved with UK-French defence cooperation following from the 2010 Lancaster House Treaties. He was a member of the Advisory Commission for the 2013 French Defence White Paper. Before that he was the UK's first National Security Adviser (2010-12) and Permanent Under-Secretary at the FCO (2006-10). A particular strand to his career has been crisis management and politico-military affairs; he was involved in policy on the UK interventions in the Balkans, Iraq, Afghanistan and Libya. Sir Peter was British Permanent Representative to NATO 2003-6.

Lord Ricketts is a strategic adviser to Lockheed Martin UK, a Visiting Professor at King's College London, a Non-Executive Director of Groupe Engie, and Chairman of the Normandy Memorial Trust building the British national memorial to those who fell under British command in the 1944 battle of Normandy.
