



C L I V E D E N

PRESS INFORMATION

APRIL 2019

**A CELEBRATION OF 'WOMEN IN POWER'
LAUNCHES AT CLIVEDEN HOUSE**



On the 10th May, Cliveden House in Berkshire, will launch its 'Women in Power Series' of extraordinary events that honour the centenary of former Cliveden chatelaine, Nancy Astor, who became the first female MP to take her seat in Parliament. This curated series of events will celebrate women who have become noteworthy within their respective fields. From politicians and journalists to actresses and businesswomen, each will share their personal story of what it takes to become a 'Women in Power'.

Launching the series on the 10th May is Ann Widdecombe, who became a Member of Parliament in 1987. Always outspoken and controversial, Ann is one of the most high-profile politicians of recent times. She became an MP 68 years after Nancy Astor paved the way. Ann was Minister of State for Employment and Minister of State for Prisons in John Major's government. In opposition she held the posts of Shadow Health Secretary and Shadow Home Secretary, before retiring at the 2010 General Election.

Never one to do the expected, Ann then surprised everyone to become the oldest contestant ever on BBC One's Strictly Come Dancing and defied the odds with her dance partner Anton Du Beke, surviving 10 weeks into the competition.

Ann will host her special lunch in the ornate setting of the French Dining Room at Cliveden, with its remarkable eighteenth century panelling, brought from the Château d'Asnières near Paris, by William Waldorf Astor, Nancy's father-in-law. This remarkable room was the setting for Nancy Astor's famous dinner parties with their legendary diversity of guests which included, visiting royalty, presidents of the USA, diplomats, politicians, prime ministers, and of course famous names from the world of theatre and the arts.

Guests will be greeted with a champagne reception, before enjoying a celebration of English seasonal produce created by Cliveden's Executive Head Chef, Paul O'Neill. Lunch will include a starter of English burrata, pickled onion, Jersey Royals, broad beans and mint, followed by roasted stone bass and a warm salad of heirloom tomatoes, piquillo peppers and aubergine caviar. *Tickets to the Ann Widdecombe Women in Power lunch cost £115. For further information, or to make a booking, please visit the Cliveden website: www.clivedenhouse.co.uk.*

The Women in Power series will continue throughout the year, confirmed speakers include: 'Queen of Comedy; Miranda Hart who will join us this autumn (date to be confirmed). Author and journalist, Elizabeth Day, who will discuss her career in newspapers, her latest book, and share her insights into what success really means and how we can all fail better! on 19th July, and on the 5th June, celebrated Beauty Editor and founder of 'The Editor's List', will be in conversation with TV Producer Fiona Golfar.

Issued by Fraser Communications on behalf of Cliveden House

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www.clivedenhouse.co.uk

Cliveden House is a five-star luxury hotel; the building is owned by the National Trust and operated under a long lease arrangement by the owners of Chewton Glen, Iconic Luxury Hotels. Less than 45 minutes west of London and 20 minutes from London Heathrow Airport, the hotel has 47 spacious rooms and suites in the main mansion, plus Spring Cottage, a summerhouse on the banks of the River Thames, together with boathouse and boats, newly opened luxurious spa and a range of sporting and leisure facilities. The Dining Room is complemented by the relaxed informality of The Astor Grill, together with a range of private dining, banqueting and meeting facilities. Cliveden is unique, the setting, architecture and interiors all speak eloquently of extraordinary extravagance and remarkable refinement. There is a palpable sense of history, for this is a house that for over 350 years has been dedicated to the pursuit of pleasure, power and politics.

Cliveden House is a member of Iconic Luxury Hotels, a collection of England's finest iconic hotels which also includes Chewton Glen in the New Forest, 11 Cadogan Gardens in the heart of Chelsea and The Lygon Arms in the Cotswolds. Each property has its own character but they share a common commitment to delivering outstanding experiences.

National Trust Cliveden

A majestic vision set high above the Thames as it winds its way to the capital, Cliveden is a proud celebration of status and splendour. Encircled by astonishing views of river beneath and land beyond, endless narratives of passion, pleasure and politics lie embedded within its grounds. Cliveden estate is open daily from 10am - 4pm. Admission is free for National Trust members, check the website for non-member admission prices.