28 October 2013

**‘WIDDY’ WOWS WATFORD CROWD**

**Watford hosts sellout ‘Audience with Ann Widdecombe’**

With characteristic wit, verve and integrity, the former home office minister Ann Widdecombe recalled her life and highlighted the people and events that most influenced her along the way in an interview conducted by Watford member and retired senior civil servant Sir Leigh Lewis.

During the lively but always good-natured conversation, Sir Leigh probed Ann’s famous description of Michael Howard, under whom she had served when he was home secretary, pressing her to clarify what she meant by “There is something of the night about him”. But, ever the politician, Ann would not be pressurised into answering.

Questions were then taken from the audience and Ann revealed her favourite prime minister, talked about the need for fundamental NHS reform and shared her views on immigration. The conversation was not restricted to politics though and Ann happily answered questions about the “life-enhancing” experience of competing in the BBC show ‘Strictly Come Dancing’ with partner Anton du Beke.

Around 150 people attended the sellout event organised by Watford shul’s Clive Walters and Barry Freed.

**Captions**: **5657**: Former minister of state home office Ann Widdecombe in conversation with Watford Synagogue’s Sir Leigh Lewis during ‘An Audience with Ann Widdecombe’.

**5654**:Former minister of state home office Ann Widdecombe with Watford Synagogue’s Sir Leigh Lewis (l), former permanent secretary at the Department for Work & Pensions, and shul chairmanRonnie Jacob.

**5624**: Former minister of state home office Ann Widdecombe with Watford Synagogue’s Clive Walters, head of the shul’s fundraising committee, and Sir Leigh Lewis (l), former permanent secretary at the Department for Work & Pensions.

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