

Former Watford MP Tristan Garel-Jones has died

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By [Joseph Reaidi](#) Reporter



Tristan Garel Jones in 1990

A former Watford Conservative MP who was “a great role model” and stood for the constituency for 18 years has died.

Tristan Garel-Jones, a former Watford MP between 1979 and 1997, has sadly passed away aged 79 on Monday (March 23).

Lord Garel-Jones had won Watford as part of the majority of Margaret Thatcher's first landslide victory and continued serving the people of Watford for 18 years.

During his time as MP, Lord Garel-Jones became a memorable figure for the Muslim community after he funded the construction of Watford's first mosque, the North Watford Jamia Mosque.

He was born in Gorseinon, South Wales and moved to Spain as a child where his parents ran successful English language schools.

Later as a child, he was taught at King's School in Canterbury.

While growing up he worked as merchant banker, and before serving Watford, he contended to serve Caernafon, Wales, in 1974.

Even though he had stood by Thatcher throughout her era as deputy chief whip, he later voted against her.

Lord Garel-Jones said that despite her steely reputation, he always found Lady Thatcher "kind, courteous and considerate" when dealing with her.

He was made a life peer after he stood down from his parliamentary seat. He said he did not have frequent dealing with Lady Thatcher during her terms as Prime Minister, but on the few he did he found her to be a pleasant character.

Current Watford MP Dean Russell said: "I am deeply saddened by the news of Tristan Garel-Jones passing.

"He was a truly great man and a role model for any Member of Parliament – caring passionate and immensely hardworking.

"He truly cared for Watford and even after all these years was still actively involved in our local association as president and as part of many other local organisations.

"My thoughts are with Tristan's family at this difficult time."

Matthew Cawthorne, the chair of Watford Conservative association, said: "On behalf of Watford Conservative Association, I would like to extend deep sympathy to Lord Garel-Jones' family, and great appreciation for his long and distinguished service to our town.

"As president, he brought stability to our association with a twinkle in his eye. We shall miss him greatly."

Lord Garel-Jones passed away in Spain with his wife Catalina by his side.

His wife Catalina, survives alongside his four sons and one daughter.