

# I'll keep serving, says knighted MP

HE IS deeply honoured to have been knighted, but won't let that distract him from serving his constituents.

That was the modest reaction of Gosport MP Peter Viggers, *pictured right*, on learning he has received a knighthood in the Queen's birthday honours list after 34 years in the House of Commons.

When he started in Westminster in 1974, Margaret Thatcher was yet to even take over the Tory party, but the decades have not altered his view of his job.

He said: 'I am deeply honoured to have been awarded a knighthood, because we truly have a gracious Queen.'

'But I must say it is not as great an honour as continuing to serve my constituents, the people of my home town.'

The 70-year-old refused to speculate on why he had been knighted, but said he would carry on working hard. He said: 'It is not the time to talk at length about the knighthood process, but I will repeat that I am as eager as ever to serve.'

With a majority of 5,730, the former Portsmouth Grammar School and Cambridge University student is well-placed to continue.

The former fast jet pilot and Territorial Army captain has devoted much effort to saving Royal Hospital Haslar, and while his public profile has been limited of late, he appeared with party leader David Cameron before the local elections in May.

And on presenting a petition to the House of Commons at the end of April he vowed to carry on fighting for the hospital.

He said: 'You never know with long-running campaigns like this when things may turn around.'

'We just need to keep going.'

Peter Viggers served on the Defence Select Committee under John Major and is currently a member of the Treasury Select Committee.

