



7 February 2016

JONATHAN AITKEN LECTURE ON 7 APRIL AT 6.00 P.M. AT THE SAID BUSINESS SCHOOL

I am delighted to invite you and your colleagues to a lecture to be given by Jonathan Aitken at the Said Business School on 7 April 2016 at 6.00 p.m. The lecture will reflect on the crisis in our prisons and the particular problem of re-offending.

Jonathan Aitken has had both a bird's eye and a worm's eye view of the criminal justice system. Serving an 18 month prison sentence in three different establishments – Belmarsh, Stamford Hill and Elmley prisons – has given him an insider's understanding of what makes offenders tick and why such a huge percentage of them are certain to return to jail.

While incarcerated Jonathan was also able to observe the pressures that prison managements and staff have to face – the daily chaos of chronic overcrowding, endemic drug abuse, widespread mental illness and volatile mood swings.

The principal crisis in our prisons remains the stubbornly high rate of re-offending. Approximately three quarters of young prisoners under 25 and two thirds of all adult prisoners are re-convicted within two years of their release. These figures are shocking and I feel that we must do something about the problem.

As a former Chief Secretary of the Treasury, Jonathan also observed from on high the costs of prisons. The average cost per prison place is £36,808 each year (the cost per place at Belmarsh is £58,886). Interestingly, Eton College, another establishment in which Jonathan Aitken was incarcerated, charges £35,721 each year.

Today, the annual cost of running our prisons and managing offenders is about £5 billion. Dwarfing this sum are the annual costs of re-offending, which have been conservatively estimated by the Social Exclusion Unit at £11 billion. The combination of these figures means that society is footing the bill for criminal offenders of a staggering £16 billion per annum.

The purpose of the evening is for Jonathan Aitken to provide some food for thought and suggest some ways in which the re-offending rate might be reduced. He will also, in the course of his lecture, introduce and interview Leroy Skeete, an ex-offender who he first met in Belmarsh when they were fellow prisoners and whom he subsequently mentored. Leroy has successfully rebuilt his life with a good employment record over the past six years.

Tom Birch Reynardson ♦ High Sheriff of Oxfordshire ♦ Adwell House, Thame,
Oxfordshire, OX97DQ ♦ admin@adwellestate.com ♦ 01844 281184

Jonathan and Leroy will present the case that encouraging a process of rehabilitation both in prison and on release must be a crucial cog in the wheel for a programme of social reform in counties like Oxfordshire.

This will be an opportunity for local business people, employers, academics, voluntary organisations and politicians to contribute their own thoughts and ideas as to how things might be improved.

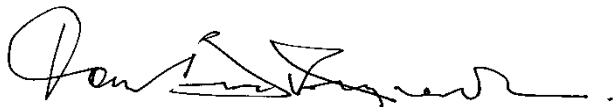
The evening will take place at the Said Business School beginning at 6.00 with the lecture starting at 6.15. Following Jonathan and Leroy's presentation there will be plenty of time for questions and contributions from the audience. Afterwards there will be an opportunity to meet over a drink in the Business School.

There is no charge for attendance at the lecture but we will be inviting people to contribute to kick start a project to be run by the local employment, recovery and rehabilitation charity Aspire <http://www.aspireoxford.co.uk/>. During my time as High Sheriff I have had the opportunity to see the fantastic work done by Aspire to mentor ex-offenders and support businesses in the critical and sensitive process of providing a bridge to employment. The specific project is for Aspire to put in place a pick-up service from the prison gate to get young offenders into some form of training or employment on their release. I hope that you will agree that this will be of huge benefit to those young people being released from prison and indeed for the broader Oxfordshire Community. Whether you are able to attend the lecture or not, I hope that you will feel able to support this initiative to reduce the re-offending rates which I set out above. I will provide further information for you on this subject on 7 April.

If you wish to attend this interesting evening and bring any colleagues please complete the application for tickets attached. I think that this is sure to be a popular event and so I would be grateful if you would respond as soon as possible.

Finally, there are some sponsorship opportunities for the lecture and if you or your organisation would be interested in sponsoring the event the attached form provides the relevant information. I will of course be very willing to discuss this with you, and please feel free to contact me direct.

Yours Sincerely



Tom Birch Reynardson

High Sheriff of Oxfordshire

Organising Committee
♦ Tom Birch Reynardson ♦ Imogen Birch Reynardson
♦ Jennie Younger ♦ Paul Roberts

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE JONATHAN AITKEN LECTURE

The Said Business School is a hugely prestigious venue for this lecture and we are extremely fortunate that we have been able to secure it.

We are inviting executives from the world of business, the law, academia and politicians and we anticipate an extremely good turnout.

The after party will be an excellent event for networking and a programme will be published and distributed widely at the event and afterwards.

Sponsorship is invited as follows and will be acknowledged in the following ways:

Gold Sponsorship - £1,000

Gold Sponsorship will entitle the sponsor to a minimum of 15 tickets, their publicity material in the foyer of the Said Business School, their logo on the screen in the lecture theatre and acknowledgement in the programme.

Silver Sponsorship - £500

Silver Sponsorship will entitle the sponsor to 10 tickets, their logo on the screen in the lecture theatre and acknowledgement in the programme.

Bronze Sponsorship - £250

Bronze Sponsorship will entitle the sponsor to 5 tickets and an acknowledgement in the programme.

If you/your company would like to sponsor the event please contact admin@adwellestate.com with your requirements.

Thank you.