

Former active IRA member serving as Tory Party councillor

 tompride.wordpress.com/2017/05/21/former-active-ira-member-serving-as-tory-party-councillor/

Tom Pride

5/21/2017

A former active member of the IRA is now an active member of the Tory Party despite admitting [she once celebrated](#) the deaths of British soldiers and even civilians killed in terrorist acts:



Maria Gatland – once known as Maria McGuire – is now a [Conservative Party councillor](#) in Croydon after being reelected in 2014.

Ms Gatland was briefly suspended by the Tories in 2008 once [her past was revealed](#) but after an “internal investigation” she [was then openly readmitted](#) into the party.

Unsurprisingly, there is [no mention](#) of the fact she was an active IRA member on the Croydon Conservatives webpage:



A little more about your local team



Cllr Maria Gatland

Maria Gatland has lived and worked in Croham Ward for almost 30 years. During that time she helped run the family business and cared for her husband during his long illness. Maria was elected to Croydon Council in 2002. During that ten years she held the post of Shadow Cabinet Member for Education and then Cabinet Member for Childrens Services, kick-starting the improvements in education for young people in Croydon. She chaired Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Sub Committee from 2009/2010. Quality of care for patients in hospital is a passionate interest. Following her reelection in 2010 she was appointed Chair of Licensing Committee one of four major Council committees. In 2002 she was one of the founding members of the Friends of Croham Hurst Woods and chairs its committee and recently celebrated the 10th anniversary of FCHW. The protection and care of Croydon's green spaces is of huge importance to her. She sat on the Planning Committee for many years. Animal welfare is a passion and she currently has three rescued animals, two dogs and a cat. Maria has worked very hard to support and help local people and was so grateful for the tremendous support and kindness of the local community during a very difficult time, in December 2008, when details of her past of almost 40 years ago became known. She was delighted to be re selected to stand again as a candidate, in an open meeting of ward members and to be reelected a third time. She enjoys reading, theatre, walking and yoga and having dinner with friends. Maria was delighted to be elected again in May 2014 to represent Croham ward. She was appointed Shadow Cabinet Member for Children Families and education in May 2014

I need hardly point out how this fact highlights the extreme hypocrisy on show by both the Tory Party and the UK press during this election.

This site uses cookies. By continuing to browse the site you are agreeing to our use of cookies. Find out more here

January 3rd 49357 | Place an advert | Buy a photo | Crosswords | Like us | Follow us | Login | Register

CROYDON ADVERTISER  SUN 20 °C Sunny Site

- News
 - Crystal Palace
 - Sport
 - What's On
 - Jobs
 - Property
 - Cars
 - Directory
 - Notices
 - Buy&Sell
 - Dating
-
- Crime
 - Education
 - Business
 - Health
 - Croydon Live
 - Politics
 - Blogs
 - Letters
 - Transport
 - Community
 - E-Editions

Revealed: Maria Gatland's life with the IRA in her own words

By [This is Croydon](#) | Posted: December 05, 2008





0 COMMENTS  **SHARES**

Comments (0)

by Dave Burke

dave.burke@essnmedia.co.uk

In September 1971 Maria McGuire was one of the most wanted terrorists in the world.

Armed with a .38 automatic weapon and carrying £20,000 in cash, she was being pursued by security forces from several countries over her role in a huge arms deal.

More than 160 crates containing bazookas, rocket launchers and hand-grenades had been seized at an airport in Amsterdam, and a warrant had been issued for her arrest.

McGuire found herself on the run with a member of the Provisional IRA's ruling council – with whom she was having an affair.

In Ireland, plans were afoot to kidnap the Dutch ambassador if she and David O'Connell were arrested.

But despite a massive media frenzy, she and O'Connell were able to escape the Netherlands through Belgium and France before returning to Ireland to a hero's welcome.

Even though their mission had failed, the pair became - for a brief period - the golden couple of the Irish Republican movement.

In her book *To Take Arms: My Year With The IRA Provisionals*, published in 1973, McGuire wrote candidly: "The press had made great play of the fact that we had escaped the British secret service; we had achieved another glorious failure.

"It was better even than if we had been successful, because then the public would have had to confront reality.

"Why did we want the guns? To kill people."

She learnt two months later that she faced three years in prison if she re-entered Switzerland, where she had exchanged currency.

[Send me jobs by email](#)

Hot Jobs

Subject Librarian

Salary : £26,829 - £31,076 or £32,004 - £36,001 per annum

MONEY ADVICE SERVICE DEBT ADVICE PROJECT CASEWORKER

Salary : £22,837.50



SHOW YOUR PICTURES

Upload your pictures and share with the community!

In the space of just one year, McGuire became a close confidante of many of the Provisional IRA's top leaders, before disillusionment set in over the group's methods.

She had signed up after seeing the Provisionals' publicity officer, Sean O Bradaigh, on Irish television.

So keen was McGuire to talk to him that she rang the TV studio straight away and left a message.

Within weeks she was put forward to the British press as an example of the new middle-class membership the movement was attracting.

But as violence escalated in Belfast following a failed ceasefire in July 1972, McGuire decided she could not support the sectarian killing, and fled to England.

There she gave extensive interviews in the British press and published her book hoping to lift the lid on IRA brutality.

Her defection prompted the Provisional IRA's chief of staff, Sean MacStiofain - who she described as "narrow minded" - to warn that if she ever returned to Ireland she would face a court martial and possibly execution.

Her book - which caused a storm on its publication - revealed her thoughts on one of the most intensive bombing campaigns ever carried out.

Following an IRA bomb in Donegall Street, Belfast, which killed six men and injured 146 in March 1972, she wrote: "I admit that at the time I did not connect with the people who were killed or injured in such explosions.

"I always judged such deaths in terms of the effect they would have on our support – and I felt that this in turn depended on how many people accepted our explanation."

***Maria McGuire on her affair with Provisional IRA ruling council member David O'Connell, which started in Amsterdam...**

"It just happened, and seemed perfectly natural, even though our situation was very unnatural.

We were under considerable stress together, and became very close, depended on one another, because of that.

Possibly it meant more to Dave than it did to me; but when we managed not to worry about the outcome of our mission and our own chances of escaping, we were very happy."

***Maria McGuire on meeting the Provisional IRA chief of staff, Sean MacStiofain...**

"He seemed short and squat, and lacked Dave's physical presence: only later did I realise he was in fact over six feet tall.

He appeared a little taken aback by me too; I knew he had heard about me, but possibly he wasn't expecting someone wearing hot pants to be interested in the Provisional IRA."

***Maria McGuire on the IRA's bombing campaign in Northern Ireland....**

"The intention behind the bombing campaign was to cause confusion and terror.

In 1971 bomb explosions averaged three a day throughout the six counties, and it was very easy to create confusion in the centre of Belfast

Sometimes the Belfast Provisionals would give a succession of false alarms, and then just as the city was enjoying the lull, plant half a dozen bombs on the same day.

We believed that the bombing campaign had a greater psychological effect in this way.

By causing such terror we demonstrated that whatever steps the army took, the Provisionals could continue the military campaign; half a million people in Belfast would be kept wondering where the Provisionals would strike next, and would be forced to tell the British to make peace with us."

*Maria McGuire on killing British soldiers....

"I agreed with the shooting of British soldiers and believed that the more who were killed the better."

I remember occasions where we heard late at night that a British soldier had been shot and seriously wounded in Belfast or Derry - and we would hope that by the morning he would be dead."

*Maria McGuire on killing civilians...

"I accepted too the bombing of Belfast, and when civilians were accidentally blown to pieces dismissed this as one of the unfortunate hazards of urban guerrilla war."

*Maria McGuire on being banned from entering Switzerland...

"I happened to hear a television news item that two Irish citizens had been excluded from Switzerland - Dave O'Connell and myself.

We had done nothing illegal in Switzerland that I could recall...

Then the Swiss Embassy in Dublin telephoned Dave and asked us to call at the embassy to collect our exclusion orders.

We naturally refused."

*Maria McGuire on becoming disillusioned in the face of escalating violence....

"I could not avoid the conclusion that the probability of civilian casualties had been accepted, and perhaps even planned.

Whenever such casualties had occurred before, there had always been the pressure of events to take my mind off them.

But now, almost for the first time, I wondered about the crippled and the widowed and the lives that had been changed forever."

[Report this article](#)

READ MORE FROM CROYDON ADVERTISER

Most Recent

Most Commented



11 maddening drivers you will meet on the M25



Hay fever maps reveal London is a hotspot for these types of...



'Stolen' car crashed through garden wall in busy residential...

Do you have something to say? Leave your comment here...

(4000 characters remaining)

RELATED LINKS

News

- [Business](#)
- [Crime](#)
- [Politics](#)
- [Entertainment](#)
- [Education](#)
- [Health](#)
- [Transport](#)
- [Have Your Say](#)
- [Polls](#)

Sport

- [Football](#)
- [Crystal Palace](#)
- [Surrey CCC](#)
- [Rugby](#)
- [Cricket](#)
- [Other Sports](#)
- [Sports Awards](#)
- [Picture Gallery](#)

Our Site

- [Video](#)
- [Jobs](#)
- [Dating](#)
- [Letters](#)
- [How to Complain](#)
- [Corrections &](#)
- [Clarifications](#)
- [Promotions](#)

Buy and Sell

- [Notices](#)
- [Buy a Photo](#)
- [Cars](#)
- [Property](#)
- [Classifieds](#)

Places

- [Shopping](#)
- [Estate Agents](#)
- [Restaurants](#)
- [Health and Beauty](#)
- [Hotels and Travel](#)
- [Attractions](#)
- [Pubs and Bars](#)
- [Hairdressers](#)
- [Sport and Leisure](#)

Services

- [Tradesmen](#)
- [Business Services](#)
- [Motoring](#)
- [Builders and](#)
- [Construction](#)
- [Gardening](#)
- [Education](#)
- [Plumbers](#)
- [Legal Services](#)
- [Taxis and Vehicle hire](#)



We use cookies to ensure you get the best experience on our website [change your settings](#)

Accept

CROYDON

[A to Z](#) | [About Your Area](#) | [Jobs](#) | [Contact us](#)



Welcome to Croydon

Why not login, or register if you don't already have an account.

[Login](#) | [Register](#) >

[Home](#) » [Council and democracy](#) » [Elected representatives](#) » [Who is my local councillor?](#)
» **Maria Gatland (Croham Ward)**

Councillor Maria Gatland

Conservative Member for
Croham Ward (Shadow Cabinet
Member for Children, Families &
Learning)



c/o Town Hall, Katharine Street,

Select a ward

Select a ward



**Related
information from
other websites**

[Find your councillor
by road or postcode](#)

Croydon, CR0 1NX



020 8407 1327



maria.gatland@croydon.gov.uk



Positions held

Council committees

- [Council](#)
- [Corporate Parenting Panel](#)
- [Schools Forum](#)

Membership of outside groups

- Croydon Congress: Children & Families Partnership

Surgery times

First Saturday of the month 10.00am - 11.30am (No surgery in August and January)

St Augustine's Church and Centre St Augustine's Avenue
South Croydon

Useful links

[Council meetings](#)

[Community ward budget](#)

Other ward councillors

[Michael Neal](#)

[Jason Perry](#)

Have your say



Have you seen or heard about it?



Please give us your feedback about our Get Involved site!



Check out our latest polls

Can't find what you're looking for on this page?
Browse the A-Z index of the section

[Back to top](#)

Share this page

How do you rate this page?



Follow Us



Address : Croydon Council, Bernard Weatherill House, 8 Mint Walk, Croydon CR0 1EA

© 2017 - Croydon
Council

[About us](#) | [Accessibility](#) | [App](#) | [Cookies](#) | [Disclaimer](#) | [Privacy](#) |
[Cookie Settings](#) |

CROYDON ADVERTISER



SUN
20 °C
Sunny

Site

News
Crystal Palace
Sport
What's On
Jobs
Property
Cars
Directory
Notices
Buy&Sell
Dating

Crime
Education
Business
Health
Croydon Live
Politics
Blogs
Letters
Transport
Community
E-Editions

Revealed: Maria Gatland's life with the IRA in her own words

By [This is Croydon](#) | Posted: December 05, 2008

[g+ Share](#)

[Tweet](#)

[f Share](#)

[Email](#)

0 COMMENTS [SHARES](#)

Comments (0)

by Dave Burke

dave.burke@essnmedia.co.uk

In September 1971 Maria McGuire was one of the most wanted terrorists in the world.

Armed with a .38 automatic weapon and carrying £20,000 in cash, she was being pursued by security forces from several countries over her role in a huge arms deal.

More than 160 crates containing bazookas, rocket launchers and hand-grenades had been seized at an airport in Amsterdam, and a warrant had been issued for her arrest.

McGuire found herself on the run with a member of the Provisional IRA's ruling council – with whom she was having an affair.

In Ireland, plans were afoot to kidnap the Dutch ambassador if she and David O'Connell were arrested.

But despite a massive media frenzy, she and O'Connell were able to escape the Netherlands through Belgium and France before returning to Ireland to a hero's welcome.

Even though their mission had failed, the pair became - for a brief period - the golden couple of the Irish Republican movement.

In her book *To Take Arms: My Year With The IRA Provisionals*, published in 1973, McGuire wrote candidly: "The press had made great play of the fact that we had escaped the British secret service; we had achieved another glorious failure.

"It was better even than if we had been successful, because then the public would have had to confront reality.

"Why did we want the guns? To kill people."

She learnt two months later that she faced three years in prison if she re-entered Switzerland, where she had exchanged currency.

In the space of just one year, McGuire became a close confidante of many of the Provisional IRA's top leaders, before disillusionment set in over the group's methods.

[Send me jobs by email](#)

Hot Jobs

FINANCE AND CONTRACTS ASSISTANT

Salary : circa £20,000 - £24,000 (depending on experience)

Clinical Team Leader - Icebreak

Salary : £37,000-£41,000

Subject Librarian



SHOW YOUR PICTURES

Upload your pictures and share with the community!

She had signed up after seeing the Provisionals' publicity officer, Sean O Bradaigh, on Irish television.

So keen was McGuire to talk to him that she rang the TV studio straight away and left a message.

Within weeks she was put forward to the British press as an example of the new middle-class membership the movement was attracting.

But as violence escalated in Belfast following a failed ceasefire in July 1972, McGuire decided she could not support the sectarian killing, and fled to England.

There she gave extensive interviews in the British press and published her book hoping to lift the lid on IRA brutality.

Her defection prompted the Provisional IRA's chief of staff, Sean MacStiofain - who she described as "narrow minded" - to warn that if she ever returned to Ireland she would face a court martial and possibly execution.

Her book - which caused a storm on its publication - revealed her thoughts on one of the most intensive bombing campaigns ever carried out.

Following an IRA bomb in Donegall Street, Belfast, which killed six men and injured 146 in March 1972, she wrote: "I admit that at the time I did not connect with the people who were killed or injured in such explosions.

"I always judged such deaths in terms of the effect they would have on our support – and I felt that this in turn depended on how many people accepted our explanation."

***Maria McGuire on her affair with Provisional IRA ruling council member David O'Connell, which started in Amsterdam...**

"It just happened, and seemed perfectly natural, even though our situation was very unnatural.

We were under considerable stress together, and became very close, depended on one another, because of that.

Possibly it meant more to Dave than it did to me; but when we managed not to worry about the outcome of our mission and our own chances of escaping, we were very happy."

***Maria McGuire on meeting the Provisional IRA chief of staff, Sean MacStiofain...**

"He seemed short and squat, and lacked Dave's physical presence: only later did I realise he was in fact over six feet tall.

He appeared a little taken aback by me too; I knew he had heard about me, but possibly he wasn't expecting someone wearing hot pants to be interested in the Provisional IRA."

***Maria McGuire on the IRA's bombing campaign in Northern Ireland....**

"The intention behind the bombing campaign was to cause confusion and terror.

In 1971 bomb explosions averaged three a day throughout the six counties, and it was very easy to create confusion in the centre of Belfast

Sometimes the Belfast Provisionals would give a succession of false alarms, and then just as the city was enjoying the lull, plant half a dozen bombs on the same day.

We believed that the bombing campaign had a greater psychological effect in this way.

By causing such terror we demonstrated that whatever steps the army took, the Provisionals could continue the military campaign; half a million people in Belfast would be kept wondering where the

Provisionals would strike next, and would be forced to tell the British to make peace with us."

***Maria McGuire on killing British soldiers....**

"I agreed with the shooting of British soldiers and believed that the more who were killed the better.

I remember occasions where we heard late at night that a British soldier had been shot and seriously wounded in Belfast or Derry - and we would hope that by the morning he would be dead."

***Maria McGuire on killing civilians...**

"I accepted too the bombing of Belfast, and when civilians were accidentally blown to pieces dismissed this as one of the unfortunate hazards of urban guerrilla war."

***Maria McGuire on being banned from entering Switzerland...**

"I happened to hear a television news item that two Irish citizens had been excluded from Switzerland - Dave O'Connell and myself.

We had done nothing illegal in Switzerland that I could recall...

Then the Swiss Embassy in Dublin telephoned Dave and asked us to call at the embassy to collect our exclusion orders.

We naturally refused."

***Maria McGuire on becoming disillusioned in the face of escalating violence....**

"I could not avoid the conclusion that the probability of civilian casualties had been accepted, and perhaps even planned.

Whenever such casualties had occurred before, there had always been the pressure of events to take my mind off them.

But now, almost for the first time, I wondered about the crippled and the widowed and the lives that had been changed forever."

[Report this article](#)

READ MORE FROM CROYDON ADVERTISER

Most Recent

Most Commented



11 maddening drivers you will meet on the M25



Hay fever maps reveal London is a hotspot for these types of...



'Stolen' car crashed through garden wall in busy residential...

Do you have something to say? Leave your comment here...

(4000 characters remaining)

RELATED LINKS

News

[Business](#)
[Crime](#)
[Politics](#)
[Entertainment](#)
[Education](#)
[Health](#)
[Transport](#)
[Have Your Say](#)
[Polls](#)

Sport

[Football](#)
[Crystal Palace](#)
[Surrey CCC](#)
[Rugby](#)
[Cricket](#)
[Other Sports](#)
[Sports Awards](#)
[Picture Gallery](#)

Our Site

[Video](#)
[Jobs](#)
[Dating](#)
[Letters](#)
[How to Complain](#)
[Corrections & Clarifications](#)
[Promotions](#)

Buy and Sell

[Notices](#)
[Buy a Photo](#)
[Cars](#)
[Property](#)
[Classifieds](#)

Places

[Shopping](#)
[Estate Agents](#)
[Restaurants](#)
[Health and Beauty](#)
[Hotels and Travel](#)
[Attractions](#)
[Pubs and Bars](#)
[Hairdressers](#)
[Sport and Leisure](#)

Services

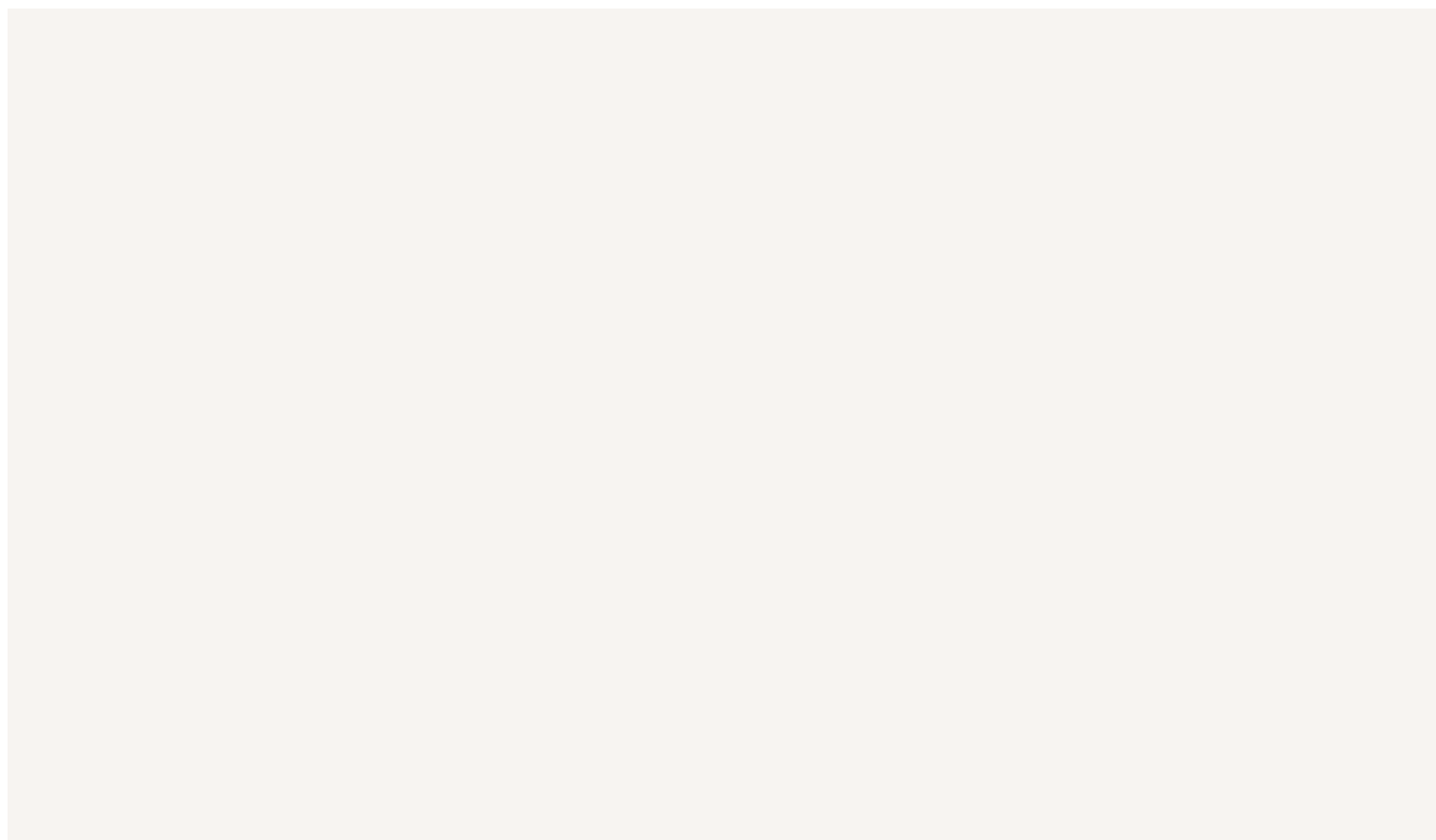
[Tradesmen](#)
[Business Services](#)
[Motoring](#)
[Builders and Construction](#)
[Gardening](#)
[Education](#)
[Plumbers](#)
[Legal Services](#)
[Taxis and Vehicle hire](#)



Croydon Guardian

Croydon 17°C

IRA councillor welcomed back to Tory bosom



Love your local news

Please turn off your ad-blocker

[Did you know](#) that advertising supports local journalism
out [how to turn off your ad-](#)

About Cookies

We want you to enjoy your visit to our website. That's why we use cookies to enhance your experience. By staying on our website you agree to our use of cookies.

[More info about cookies.](#)

[Accept & close](#)



IRA councillor welcomed back to Tory bosom

14th January 2009 / **Peter Truman**

[□ 2 comments](#)

Don't be the last to know! Get the latest local news straight to your inbox.

Sign up

In a dramatic u-turn, Maria Gatland has been accepted back into the Conservatives.

The Croham ward councillor had been suspended by the Tory party following revelations she was a member of the provisional IRA in the 1970s.

But like the prodigal son, Coun Gatland confirmed today she had accepted the whip back from Conservative leader Mike Fisher.

He said: "I am very pleased to be able to announce that following an investigation conducted by me into the circumstances surrounding the revelation that Councillor Gatland had been involved with the provisional IRA in the early 70s, I am restoring the conservative whip to Coun Gatland.

"It is very clear that Maria left the IRA and denounced their activities over 30 years ago and since then she has worked hard to establish herself in the local community here in Croydon.

"As a local Councillor in Croham Ward she has worked tirelessly for the interest of her residents and I have received many emails and letters of support for her from them."

Coun Gatland added: "I am delighted to once again be part of the Conservative Group on [Croydon Council](#).

"I have been overwhelmed by the support I have received from friends within the Group and most importantly from my constituents in Croham Ward."

The reprieve is a stark contrast to the initial reaction of council leader Coun Fisher who spoke of her "betrayal of trust".

He added: "I immediately accepted her offer of resignation from the cabinet and urged her to resign from the council."

Reacting to her apparent reprieve, Labour leader Tony Newman said: "It is imperative there is now an investigation into how somebody with a proven terrorist past came to be in charge of education."

The decision to accept her resignation was met with criticism, with many pointing to figures like Martin McGuinness who are now in high political positions.

Coun Newman stood by his belief she should resign as a councillor and hold a by election now her true past has been revealed.

And as tensions subsided, Coun Gatland admitted she wished she had done things differently.

She said: "I had panicked.

"I should have told Mike Fisher and the council that I needed to talk to them.

"I should have shown them the book, To Take Arms, My Year with the Provisional IRA, I had written and explained the context."

In her book, Coun Gatland admitted to taking part in an arms run in 1973 to Amsterdam to buy Czechoslovakian-made bazookas, grenades and rifles.

She described how the leader of the Provisional IRA at the time, Dave O'Connell, became smitten with her and gave her a .38 automatic pistol for protection.

The book, penned under her maiden name McGuire, remained a mystery to those in Croydon until Dr Peter Latham, an anti-academy activist, made allusions to the title during a council meeting on December 1.

The next day she had resigned and a council statement said she had been suspended from the Conservative party pending an investigation.

[2 comments](#)

People who read this article also read



NHS GP practice sets up a private service - by paying up to £145 to jump the queue



NHS campaigners told to leave the town centre or face police action



Orange Order elected to councils as Labour and Tory members



Pub Spy: This place is not for the faint-hearted and surely the worst pub in Brighton

Most popular

[See more stories](#)

Most popular

[See more stories](#)

Comments

[Sign in](#) or [Register](#) to leave a comment and/or receive comment alerts.

Sort comments by oldest first

mmj1

1:17pm Wed 14 Jan 09

Its great to see Maria back where she belongs. She is one of the best councillors the tory party has in croydon. Its a shame Labour has a vendetta against her. Im sure croham voters will agree and she will come top of the pile again at the next election.

Score: -8

[Report](#)

ANNE GILES

5:24pm Thu 15 Jan 09

I am glad they have seen sense, at last.

Score: -8

[Report](#)

[Mobile site](#) [Contact Us](#) [Subscribe](#) [Photo Sales](#) [Advertise](#) [AdChoices](#)  [Archive](#) [Topics](#) [Announcements](#) [Site Map](#)

[Exchange and Mart](#) [Dating](#) [Leap](#)

[Terms & Conditions](#) [Contributor Terms](#) [Cookie Policy](#) [Privacy Policy](#) ©Copyright 2001-2017

This site is part of Newsquest's audited local newspaper network | A Gannett Company

Newsquest (London & Essex) Ltd, Loudwater Mill, Station Road, High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire. HP10 9TY|3105111|Registered in England & Wales



website and associated newspapers adhere to the Independent Press Standards Organisation's Editors' Code of Practice. If you have a complaint about the editorial content which relates to inaccuracy or intrusion, then please contact the editor here. If you are dissatisfied with the response provided you can contact IPSO

- [Home](#)
- [News & Local Issues](#)
- [Videos](#)
- [In Touch Newsletters](#)
- [Parliaments & GLA](#)
- [Councillors](#)
- [Croydon Central](#)
- [Croydon South](#)
- [Croydon North](#)
- [Conservative Future](#)
- [National Site](#)
- [Get Involved](#)
- [Petitions](#)
- [Privacy Policy & Cookies](#)

Croham

Your Conservative team for Croham is:

[Cllr Maria Gatland](#)

[Cllr Michael Neal](#)

[Cllr Jason Perry](#)



News from Croham

- 16/10/2016** Objections flood in to Labour's 'local plan'
- 23/09/2016** Help local residents' groups oppose the damaging parts of the local plan
- 22/09/2016** Review highlights major issues with Fairfield Halls plans
- 13/09/2016** Boundary Commission publishes its proposals for parliamentary boundaries
- 16/09/2015** Great news for the town - Westfield/Hammerson CPO approved
- 26/01/2015** Purely Pool given a stay of execution

A little more about your local team



Cllr Maria Gatland

Maria Gatland has lived and worked in Croham Ward for almost 30 years. During that time she helped run the family business and cared for her husband during his long illness. Maria was elected to Croydon Council in 2002. During that ten years she held the post of Shadow Cabinet Member for Education and then Cabinet Member for Childrens Services, kick-starting the improvements in education for young people in Croydon. She chaired Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Sub Committee from 2009/2010. Quality of care for patients in hospital is a passionate interest. Following her reelection in 2010 she was appointed Chair of Licensing Committee one of four major Council committees. In 2002 she was one of the founding members of the Friends of Croham Hurst Woods and chairs its committee and recently celebrated the 10th anniversary of FCHW. The protection and care of Croydon's green spaces is of huge importance to her. She sat on the Planning Committee for many years. Animal welfare is a passion and she currently has three rescued animals, two dogs and a cat. Maria has worked very hard to support and help local people and was so grateful for the tremendous support and kindness of the

Read our Blog

07/04/2017

Now you see them, now you don't!

02/04/2017

Emergency Road Closure Causes Problems for Residents

02/04/2017

Croham Ward Community Budget 2016/17

14/03/2017

Double Misery for residents in Sanderstead rd

23/02/2017

Council proposals to build on Sanderstead Car Park causes consternation

22/01/2017

Loss of more local character as permission given for flats on Station Approach Sanderstead Station

[See all our blog posts](#)

Read our newsletter

Download our latest newsletter: [May 2014 - Local Election special](#)



Contact Us

Please do contact us with any issues or concerns you may have. We answer all our constituents' correspondence and value your comments. If you want your concern addressed by your local team, please follow the link above.

 [020 8660 0491](tel:02086600491)

 [Email Us](#)

local community during a very difficult time, in December 2008, when details of her past of almost 40 years ago became known. She was delighted to be re selected to stand again as a candidate, in an open meeting of ward members and to be reelected a third time. She enjoys reading, theatre, walking and yoga and having dinner with friends. Maria was delighted to be elected again in May 2014 to represent Croham ward. She was appointed Shadow Cabinet Member for Children Families and education in May 2014



Cllr Michael Neal

Michael Neal has been a Croham councillor since 2002. He has lived in Croydon since 1985 and is married and has two children who went to local schools. He is currently deputy member for housing and has worked exclusively on all aspects of social housing including scrutiny. He believes in the improvement and retention of social housing within the borough and the introduction of low carbon eco-friendly new homes. He is a teacher in further education and understands the needs and aspirations of young people. He enjoys cooking and has travelled extensively in Asia, America, and Europe.



Cllr Jason Perry

Jason is married with two children, aged fourteen and twelve, and lives in Croham Ward. He has represented Croham since 2002 and has been a Croydon Councillor since 1994. Over the years he has played a key role in helping residents in their dealings with the Council and greatly enjoys serving the people of Croham. Jason has sat on various committees of the Council and has been a previous chairman of the Licensing Committee, where he took a key interest in the implementation of the 2004 Licensing Act. He has also been vice chairman of both the Strategic Planning Committee and the Planning Committee. Jason was a member of of the Council Cabinet between 2008 and 2014, with responsibility for planning and regeneration. During that time he helped to create and foster an environment in which investors wanted to come to Croydon, thereby creating the greatest regeneration opportunities for a generation. Jason is now Conservative Spokesman for Economic Development, Regeneration & Planning and is still committed to helping Croydon realise its potential as a great place to live and work. Jason has worked in the building sector for more than 20 years and is Managing Director of a local trade supply company.

We use cookies to ensure you get the best experience on our website [change your settings](#)

Accept

CROYDON

[A to Z](#) | [About Your Area](#) | [Jobs](#) | [Contact us](#)



Welcome to Croydon

Why not login, or register if you don't already have an account.

[Login](#) | [Register](#) >

[Home](#) » [Council and democracy](#) » [Elected representatives](#) » [Who is my local councillor?](#)
» **Maria Gatland (Croham Ward)**

Councillor **Maria Gatland**

Conservative Member for
Croham Ward (Shadow Cabinet
Member for Children, Families &
Learning)



c/o Town Hall, Katharine Street,

Select a ward

Select a ward



Related information from other websites

[Find your councillor by road or postcode](#)

Croydon, CR0 1NX



020 8407 1327



maria.gatland@croydon.gov.uk



Positions held

Council committees

- [Council](#)
- [Corporate Parenting Panel](#)
- [Schools Forum](#)

Membership of outside groups

- Croydon Congress: Children & Families Partnership

Surgery times

First Saturday of the month 10.00am - 11.30am (No surgery in August and January)

St Augustine's Church and Centre St Augustine's Avenue
South Croydon

Useful links

[Council meetings](#)

[Community ward budget](#)

Other ward councillors

[Michael Neal](#)

[Jason Perry](#)

Have your say



Have you seen or heard about it?



Please give us your feedback about our Get Involved site!



Check out our latest polls

Can't find what you're looking for on this page?
Browse the A-Z index of the section

[Back to top](#)

Share this page

How do you rate this page?



Follow Us



Address : Croydon Council, Bernard Weatherill House, 8 Mint Walk, Croydon CR0 1EA

© 2017 - Croydon
Council

[About us](#) | [Accessibility](#) | [App](#) | [Cookies](#) | [Disclaimer](#) | [Privacy](#) |
[Cookie Settings](#) |