



## Speakers of the House of Commons

### Parliamentary Information List

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The Speaker of the House of Commons chairs debates in the Commons chamber. The holder of this office is an MP who has been elected to be Speaker by other Members of Parliament. During debates they keep order and call MPs to speak. The Speaker is the chief officer and highest authority of the House of Commons and must remain politically impartial at all times. The Speaker also represents the Commons to the monarch, the Lords and other authorities and chairs the House of Commons Commission

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Date	Speaker	Constituency	Notes
1258	Peter de Montfort	–	
1327	William Trussell	–	<i>Appeared as joint spokesman of Lords and Commons. Styled 'Procurator'</i>
1332 (Mar)	Henry Beaumont	–	<i>Appeared as joint spokesman of Lords and Commons.</i>
1332 (Sep)	Sir Geoffrey Le Scrope	–	<i>Appeared as joint spokesman of Lords and Commons. Probably Chief Justice.</i>
1340	William Trussell	–	
1343	William Trussell	–	<i>Appeared for the Commons alone.</i>
1347-1348	William de Thorpe	–	<i>Probably Chief Justice. Baron of the Exchequer, 1352.</i>
1351-1352	William de Shareshull	–	<i>Probably Chief Justice.</i>
1361-1363 <sup>1</sup>	Sir Henry Green	–	<i>Doubtful if he acted as Speaker.</i>

**All of the above were Presiding Officers rather than Speakers**

1376	Sir Peter de la Mare	–	
1377 (Jan-Mar)	Sir Thomas Hungerford	Wiltshire	<i>The first to be designated Speaker.</i>
1377 (Oct-Nov)	Sir Peter de la Mare	Herefordshire	
1378 (Oct-Nov)	Sir James Pickering	Westmorland	
1380	Sir John Guildesborough	Essex	
1381-1382	Sir Richard Waldegrave	Suffolk	
1383-1390	Sir James Pickering	Yorkshire	<i>During these years the records are defective and this Speaker's service might not have been unbroken.</i>
1394-1398	Sir John Bussy	Lincolnshire	<i>Beheaded 1399</i>
1399 (Oct)	Sir John Cheyne	Gloucestershire	<i>Resigned after only two days in office.</i>
1399 (Oct-Nov)	John Dorewood	Essex	<i>Possibly the first lawyer to become Speaker.</i>
1401 (Jan-Mar)	Sir Arnold Savage	Kent	
1402 (Oct-Nov)	Sir Henry Redford	Lincolnshire	
1404 (Jan-Apr)	Sir Arnold Savage	Kent	
1404 (Oct-Nov)	Sir William Sturmy	Devonshire	<i>Or Esturmy</i>
1406	Sir John Tiptoft	Huntingdonshire	<i>Created Baron Tiptoft, 1426. The first Speaker to be raised to the peerage.</i>

Date	Speaker	Constituency	Notes
1407-1411	Thomas Chaucer	Oxfordshire	<i>Reputedly the son of the poet.</i>
1412	–	–	<i>Speaker unknown</i>
1413 (May-June)	William Stourton	Dorset	<i>Styled 'Parlour'.</i>
1413 (June)	John Dorewood	Essex	
1414 (May)	Sir Walter Hungerford	Wiltshire	<i>Created Baron Hungerford 1426. Son of Sir Thomas Hungerford, the first Speaker.</i>
1414	Thomas Chaucer	Oxfordshire	
1415 (Nov)	Richard Redmayne	Yorkshire	<i>Or Redman</i>
1416 (Mar-May)	Sir Walter Beauchamp	Wiltshire	<i>Styled 'Prolocutor'</i>
1416-1419	Roger Flower	Rutland	<i>According to Dasent the first lawyer to become Speaker. Others have accorded the distinction to John Dorewood.</i>
1420	Roger Hunt	Bedfordshire	<i>Baron of the Exchequer.</i>
1421	Thomas Chaucer	Oxfordshire	
1421	Richard Baynard	Essex	
1422 (Nov-Dec)	Roger Flower	Rutland	
1423-1424	Sir John Russell	Herefordshire	
1425 (May-July)	Sir Thomas Walton	Bedfordshire	<i>Or Wauton</i>
1426 (Feb-June)	Sir Richard Vernon	Derbyshire	
1427-1428	Sir John Tyrrell	Hertfordshire	
1429-1430	William Alington	Cambridgeshire	
1431 (Jan-Mar)	Sir John Tyrrell	Essex	
1432 (May-July)	Sir John Russell	Herefordshire	
1433 (July-Dec)	Roger Hunt	Huntingdonshire	
1435 (Oct-Dec)	John Bowes	Nottinghamshire	
1437 (Jan-Mar)	Sir John Tyrrell	Essex	
1437 (Mar)	William Burley	Shropshire	<i>Or Borely</i>
1439-42	William Tresham	Northamptonshire	

Date	Speaker	Constituency	Notes
1445 (Feb-Apr)	William Burley	Shropshire	<i>Styled 'Prolocutor'.</i>
1447 (Feb-Mar)	William Tresham	Northamptonshire	
1449 (Feb-July)	Sir John Say	Cambridgeshire	
1449 (Nov, 8th)	Sir John Popham	Hampshire	<i>Excused on the day of his election because of ill-health.</i>
1449-1450	William Tresham	Northamptonshire	<i>Murdered 1450.</i>
1450-51	Sir William Oldhall	Herefordshire	
1453-1454	Thomas Thorpe	Essex	<i>Beheaded 1461.</i>
1454 (Feb-Apr)	Sir Thomas Charlton	Middlesex	<i>Elected in place of Thomas Thorpe on the latter's imprisonment.</i>
1455-1456	Sir John Wenlock	Bedfordshire	<i>Killed at the Battle of Tewkesbury 1471. Styled 'Prolocutor'. Created Baron Wenlock 1461.</i>
1459 (Nov-Dec)	Sir Thomas Tresham	Northamptonshire	<i>Styled 'Prolocutor'. Beheaded 1471 (Son of William Thresham)</i>
1460 (Oct)	John Green	Essex	
1461-1462	Sir James Strangeways	Yorkshire	<i>Styled 'Prolocutor'.</i>
1463-1468	Sir John Say	Hertfordshire	<i>Styled 'Prolocutor'. Constituency previously Cambridgeshire.</i>
1469-1471	-		<i>No particulars known</i>
1472-1478	William Alington	Cambridgeshire	<i>Son of the former Speaker of the same name.</i>
1483 (Jan-Feb)	John Wood	Sussex	<i>Or Wode</i>
1484 (Jan-Feb)	William Catesby	Northamptonshire	<i>Styled 'Prolocutor'. Beheaded 1485.</i>
1485-1486	Sir Thomas Lovell	Northamptonshire	<i>Styled 'Prolocutor'.</i>
1487	Sir John Mordaunt	Bedfordshire	<i>Styled 'Prolocutor'.</i>
1489-1490	Sir Thomas Fitzwilliam	Yorkshire	<i>Styled 'Prolocutor'.</i>
1491-1492	Sir Richard Empson	Northamptonshire	<i>Styled 'Prolocutor'. Beheaded 1510 (On the same day as Edmond Dudley)</i>
1495	Sir Robert Drury	Suffolk	
1496 (Oct)	Sir Reginald Bray	-	<i>Not a Speaker in the true sense of the word as he presided over a Great Council rather than a Parliament.</i>
1497	Sir Thomas Englefield	Berkshire	<i>Or Inglefield</i>
1504	Edmond Dudley	Staffordshire	<i>Styled 'Prolocutor'. Beheaded 1510 (On the same day as Richard Empson)</i>

Date	Speaker	Constituency	Notes
1510 (Jan-Feb)	Sir Thomas Englefield	Berkshire	<i>Styled 'Prolocutor'.</i>
1512-1513	Sir Robert Sheffield	Lincolnshire	<i>Styled 'Prolocutor'.</i>
1515 (Feb-Dec)	Sir Thomas Neville	Kent	<i>Styled 'Prolocutor'.</i>
1523 (Apr-Aug)	Sir Thomas More	Middlesex	<i>Styled 'Prolocutor'. Beheaded.</i>
1529-1533	Sir Thomas Audley	Essex	<i>Styled 'Prolocutor'.</i>
1533-1536	Sir Humphrey Wingfield	Great Yarmouth	<i>The first Speaker to sit for a borough constituency.</i>
1536 (June-July)	Sir Richard Rich	Colchester	
1539-1540	Sir Nicholas Hare	Norfolk	
1542-1544	Sir Thomas Moyle	Kent	
1545-1552	Sir John Baker	Huntingdonshire	<i>Some authorities hold that Sir Thomas Moyle served a second term of office as Speaker in this Parliament.</i>
1553 (March)	Sir James Dyer	Cambridgeshire	
1553 (Oct-Dec)	Sir John Pollard	Oxfordshire	
1554 (Apr-May)	Sir Robert Brooke	City of London	<i>The first Speaker to represent the City of London.</i>
1554-1555	Sir Clement Heigham	West Looe	
1555 (Oct-Dec)	Sir John Pollard	Chippenham	
1558 (Jan-Nov)	Sir William Cordell	Suffolk	
1559 (Jan-May)	Sir Thomas Gargrave	Yorkshire	
1563 (Jan-Apr)	Thomas Williams	Exeter	
1566-1567	Richard Onslow	Steyning	
1571 (Apr-May)	Sir Christopher Wray	Ludgershall	
1572-1576	Sir Robert Bell	Lyme Regis	
1581-1583	Sir John Popham	Bristol	
1584-1587	Sir John Puckering	Carmarthen	<i>From 1586 his constituency was Gatton.</i>
1589 (Feb-Mar)	Thomas Snagge	Bedford	
1593 (Feb-Apr)	Sir Edward Coke	Norfolk	

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1597-1598	Sir Christopher Yelverton	Northamptonshire	
1601 (Oct-Dec)	Sir John Croke	City of London	<i>Judge and Recorder of London.</i>
1604-1611	Sir Edward Phelips	Somerset	
1614 (Apr-June)	Sir Randolph Crewe	Saltash	
1621-1622	Sir Thomas Richardson	St Albans	
1624-1625	Sir Thomas Crewe	Aylesbury	<i>Constituency became Gatton in 1625.</i>
1626 (Feb-June)	Sir Heneage Finch	City of London	
1628-1629	Sir John Finch	Canterbury	<i>Impeached by the Long Parliament, October 1640, and fled to Holland, but returned at the Restoration.</i>
1640 (Apr-May)	Sir John Glanville	Bristol	
1640-1647	William Lenthall	Woodstock	
1647 (July-Aug)	Henry Pelham	Grantham	<i>Held office during Lenthall's temporary abandonment of the Speakership.</i>
1647-1653	William Lenthall	Woodstock	<i>Lenthall was restored to the Chair by the Army and remained in office until Cromwell's forcible dismissal of the Rump of the Long Parliament.</i>
1653 (July-Dec)	Rev. Francis Rous	Devonshire	
1654-1655	William Lenthall	Oxfordshire	
1656-1658	Sir Thomas Widdrington	Northumberland	
1657	Bulstrode Whitelocke	Buckinghamshire	<i>Appointed pro tem. during Widdrington's absence through illness.</i>
1659 (Jan-Mar)	Chaloner Chute	Middlesex	
1659 (Mar)	Sir Lislebone Long	Wells	<i>Recorder of London. Elected to the Chair owing to Chute's absence through illness, but was himself taken ill after only five days in office.</i>
1659 (Mar-Apr)	Thomas Bampfyde	Exeter	<i>Formally elected 15 April 1659 after the death of Chute.</i>
1659-1660	William Lenthall	Oxfordshire	<i>Rump dismissed by Lambert on 13 October 1659. Lenthall presided until the final dissolution of the Long Parliament, the excluded Members having been recalled on 13 February 1660.</i>
1660 (Jan)	William Say	Camelford	<i>Regicide. Appointed pro tem. during Lenthall's absence through illness.</i>
1660 (Apr-Dec)	Sir Harbottle Grimston	Colchester	
1661-1671	Sir Edward Turnour	Hertford	
1673 (Feb)	Sir Job Charlton	Ludlow	
1673-1678	Sir Edward Seymour	Totnes	

Date	Speaker	Constituency	Notes
1678 (Apr-May)	Sir Robert Sawyer	Wycombe	<i>Elected to the Chair after Seymour had been taken ill.</i>
1678-1679	Sir Edward Seymour	Totnes	<i>Formally re-elected on Sawyer's resignation through ill-health.</i>
1679 (Mar-July)	Sir William Gregory	Weobley	<i>Sir Edward Seymour was re-elected Speaker on the day this Parliament first met but the King decline to confirm the appointment. The election of Gregory followed a prolonged dispute resulting in a short prorogation.</i>
1680-1681	Sir William Williams	Chester	<i>The first Welsh Speaker.</i>
1685-1687	Sir John Trevor	Denbigh	
1689 (Jan-Feb)	Henry Powle	Windsor	
1690-1695	Sir John Trevor	Yarmouth, Isle of Wight	<i>Expelled from the House on 16 March 1695 for accepting a bribe.</i>
1695-1698	Paul Foley	Hereford	
1698-1700	Sir Thomas Littleton	Woodstock	
1701-1705	Robert Harley	New Radnor	
1705-1708	John Smith	Andover	<i>This Parliament was declared the first Parliament of Great Britain on 29 April 1707, and on the following 23 October Smith was formally re-elected as Speaker.</i>
1708-1710	Sir Richard Onslow	Surrey	
1710-1713	William Bromley	Oxford University	
1714-1715	Sir Thomas Hanmer	Suffolk	
1715-1727	Sir Spencer Compton	Sussex	
1728-1761	Arthur Onslow	Surrey	
1761-1770	Sir John Cust	Grantham	
1770-1780	Sir Fletcher Norton	Guildford	
1780-1789	Charles Wolfran Cornwall	Winchelsea	<i>Constituency changed to Rye in 1784. Died in Office.</i>
1789 (Jan-June)	William Wyndham Grenville	Buckinghamshire	
1789-1801	Henry Addington	Truro	<i>Constituency changed to Devizes in 1790. Addington was the last Speaker to continue as a Member of the House of Commons on vacating the Chair.</i>
1801-1802	Sir John Mitford	Northumberland	<i>The last Speaker to be appointed to judicial office on retiring from the Chair.</i>
1802-1817	Charles Abbot	Woodstock	<i>The first Speaker to receive a peerage in recognition of his services in office. Constituency changed to Oxford University in 1806.</i>
1817-1834	Charles Manners-Sutton	Scarborough	<i>Manners-Sutton became the first Speaker of the reformed House of Commons. Constituency changed to Cambridge University in 1833.</i>
1835-1839	James Abercromby	Edinburgh	<i>The first Scottish Speaker of the House of Commons.</i>

Date	Speaker	Constituency	Notes
1839-1857	Charles Shaw-Lefevre	North Hampshire	
1857-1872	John Evelyn Denison	North Nottinghamshire	
1872-1884	Henry Bouverie William Brand	Cambridgeshire	
1886-1895	Arthur Wellesley Peel	Warwick and Lemington	<i>Youngest Son of Sir Robert Peel.</i>
1895-1905	William Court Gully	Carlisle	
1905-1921	James William Lowther	Cumberland, Penrith Div.	<i>Presided over conferences on Electoral Reform, 1916 and 1929-30, and on Devolution, 1919-20.</i>
1921-1928	John Henry Whitley	Halifax	<i>Declined to accept a peerage on retirement. Chairman of Governors of the BBC 1930-35.</i>
1928-1943	Edward Algernon Fitzroy	Daventry	<i>Died in Office.</i>
1943-1951	Douglas Clifton-Brown	Northumberland, Hexham Div.	<i>Presided over conference on Electoral Reform, 1944.</i>
1951-1959	William Shepherd Morrison	Cirencester and Tewkesbury	<i>Appointed Governor General of Australia, 1959.</i>
1959-1965	Sir Harry Hylton-Foster	Cities of London and Westminster	
1965-1971	Dr Horace King	Southampton Itchen	
1971-1976	John Selwyn Lloyd	Wirral	
1976-1983	Thomas George Thomas	Cardiff West	
1983-1992	Bernard Weatherill	Croydon North East	
1992-2000	Betty Boothroyd	West Bromwich West	<i>First woman appointed to the post of Speaker.</i>
2000-2009	Michael John Martin	Glasgow Springburn	<i>Constituency changed to Glasgow North East from 2005.</i>
2009-	John Bercow	Buckingham	

**Note:**

<sup>1</sup>He declared the cause of summons in 1362 and appeared again in 1363, on both occasions addressing Parliament in English, but it is doubtful whether he acted as Speaker.

**Sources:**

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