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POLITICS

Who is Philip May? Theresa May's husband and closest advisor

By Adam Becket



Philip May with Prime Minister Theresa May Phil Noble/Reuters

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- **Philip May is Theresa May's closest advisor and political ally but gets little media attention.**
- **The prime minister has been married to her husband since 1980, after they met at the University of Oxford.**
- **The one-time Oxford Union president has worked in the City for over three decades.**
- **Philip has been linked by Labour to the Paradise Papers tax avoidance scandal.**

As well as being married to the prime minister, Philip May is also Theresa May's closest and longest-serving political ally. Yet little is known about the man who most closely has the PM's ear.

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Theresa married Philip in 1980 after meeting at the University of Oxford, and the prime minister has described her husband as her "rock."

He largely keeps a low profile, preferring to support May in her duties as prime minister.

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However, he was thrown into the spotlight last week after Labour called for him to answer "serious questions" about his role at a firm linked to the Paradise Papers tax avoidance scandal.

So who is Philip May?

Philip May was born in Norwich in 1957 but grew up near Liverpool, attending the local Calday Grange Grammar School before going to Lincoln College, Oxford to study history.

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While at university, Philip May was introduced to geography student Theresa Brasier by the future prime minister of Pakistan, Benazir Bhutto.

Philip May went on to become Oxford Union president in 1979. Victoria Schofield, a predecessor as Oxford Union president in 1977 told the BBC's "Newsnight": "You might have thought Phil would go into politics."

Stephen Brooks, a contemporary of Philip May at Oxford told the BBC: "He was very ambitious," but "he wasn't an exciting speaker."

The pair married in 1980, and Philip May supported his wife through the tragedy of both her parents passing away when she was aged 25, the year after they had wed.

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Theresa May, when interviewed on BBC Radio 4's "Desert Island Discs" in 2014 said: "I had huge support from my husband, and that was very important for me. He was a real rock for me."

Watch Theresa May and Philip May on "The One Show"

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— Graeme Demianyk (@GraemeDemianyk) [May 9, 2017](#)



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Donald Trump Jr. and Bettina Anderson are engaged after a year of dating. They announced their engagement at a White House holiday party.

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