

Sir Maurice Robert Johnston

Wortons' Lord Lieutenant of the County

Maurice Johnson was born on 27th October 1929 the son of Brigadier Allen Leigh Johnston, OBE and Gertrude Geraldine Templer. Maurice was educated at Wellington College, Berkshire and then at the Royal Military Academy at Sandhurst. After graduating from Sandhurst he was commissioned into the Royal Artillery in 1949. He was promoted to Lieutenant in 1951 and made Captain in 1956 and transferred to the 2nd Battalion Dragoon Guards (Queen's Bays). He served in Germany, Egypt, Jordan, Libya, Northern Ireland and Borneo before being posted to the Army Staff College at Camberley in Surrey from 1965 to 1967. He gained further promotion to Major in 1962 and to Lieutenant Colonel in 1967. He was Military Assistant to the Chief of General Staff from 1968-1971 and commanding officer of the 1st Battalion The Queen's Dragoon Guards from 1971-1973. He was then promoted to Brigadier and to the command of the 20th Armoured Brigade from 1973 to 1975. He was Brigadier (General Staff) at Headquarters UK Land Forces, from 1977-1978 and joined the Senior Directing Staff of the Royal College of Defence Studies at Seaford House, London in 1979 with acting promotion to Major-General. He was appointed Assistant Chief of the General Staff in 1980 and his rank was made permanent. He became Deputy Chief of the Defence Staff (Operation Requirements) in 1981 where he achieved the rank of Lieutenant General. Maurice retired from active army duties in 1984.

After retirement from the army he became Managing Director of Freshglen Ltd. From 1984-1985 and of Unit Security Ltd. From 1985 to 1988. He then became Chairman of Secondary Resources PLC from 1988 to 1991 followed by Detention Corporation from 1988 to 1994. He was also a director of Partek Cargotec Ltd. From 1984 and of Shorrock Guards Ltd. From 1988 to 1991.

As a volunteer he has served as a governor of Dauntseys School, West Lavington since 1987 and was also a governor of St. Mary's Calne from 1988 to 1994. He also supports the Wiltshire County Scouting Movement. He was appointed Deputy Lord Lieutenant of Wiltshire in 1990 and served as High Sheriff of Wiltshire from 1993-1994. He served as Lord Lieutenant of Wiltshire from 5th July 1996 to 10th November 2004. As Lord Lieutenant he was an ex officio member of the Court of the University of Southampton.

In March 1983 he published his 'More Power to the Centre: MOD Reorganisation' in the Royal United Services Institute (RUSI) Journal.

He was awarded an OBE (Officer of the Order of the British Empire) in the 1971 New Year Honours and a KCB (Knight of the Commander of the Order of the Bath)

in the 1982 New Year Honours. He became a Knight of the Venerable Order of St. John in 1996. In 2004 he became an Honorary Freeman of the Borough of Swindon. In 2005 he was given the title of Commander of the Victorian Order. He is a Patron of the Shaw Trust a Wiltshire founded charity to support the disabled and disadvantaged with employment and independent living issues.

Maurice Johnston married Belinda Mary Sladen in 1960 and they have two children a son and a daughter.

The couple are resident of Ivy House in Worton.