

## The Right Hon The Lord Hunt of Wirral, MBE

I WAS PROUD to represent Wirral in the House of Commons for 21 years. Our family home was in Hoylake and my children grew up there. I can think of nowhere better.

I made so many friends in Wirral and fought so many battles for so many causes alongside local people that, when I became a member of the House of Lords, there was only one title I wanted – Lord Hunt of Wirral.

Wirral – the name derived from Wir-hal, meaning ‘the peninsula’ – is surrounded by water on three sides, which is perhaps what gives it its unique and clearly focused perspective. Those very differing waterfronts certainly help to explain Wirral's idiosyncratic personality. It is hardly surprising that the convenient positioning, sheer physical attraction and the lush expanse of the Wirral peninsula have combined over time to establish it as one of the tourist hot spots for the whole of the UK. We offer so much. For instance, we can boast the premier golf course in the UK and have hosted the *Open*.

The pace of development in Wirral has surged in recent years, and on many levels. Apart from being a glorious tourism attraction, with few rivals in this country, Wirral's residential areas offer an unusually high quality of life. It is little wonder that Wirral is sometimes described as the ‘Home Counties of the North of England’!

Despite all the visitors, Wirral remains utterly unspoiled. Hilbre island in the Dee estuary is one of our finest bird sanctuaries and our wide open spaces remain wide and open. Despite retaining its charms as an area of outstanding natural beauty, however, Wirral also boasts a cultural and vibrant social scene all its own.

I am delighted that this book now puts a fascinating focus on Wirral and highlights the many scenic and cultural glories, as well as relating the fascinating history of this remarkable peninsula and its people. Enjoy the book – and enjoy Wirral!



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'The Lord Hunt of Wirral'. The signature is stylized and cursive.