



## THE BRITISH EGYPTIAN SOCIETY

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7<sup>th</sup> October 2008

Dear Members and friends,

### **The Sir Michael Weir Annual Lecture**

Sir Michael Weir was the founding Chairman of the British Egyptian Society in 1990 and continued until 2006 when he handed over to The Rt. Hon Baroness Symons of Vernham Dean. Michael died not long after our Annual General Meeting in 2006 where he had given one of his usual masterly talks to our members. He was such an important figure in the Society that the Executive Committee decided it was fitting to hold an Annual Lecture in his name.

The first lecture will be given by The Rt. Hon. The Lord Patten of Barnes, CH, PC at the Institution of Civil Engineers, One George Street, Westminster, London SW1P 3AA on 27<sup>th</sup> November 2008. The title of his talk will be "*After the Crash*" and the evening will be chaired by Baroness Symons.

"Chris Patten" is one of the most familiar names in British politics. A former Member of Parliament and Chairman of the Conservative Party, he was the last Commander-in-Chief and British Governor of Hong Kong before it was handed back to the Chinese on 30<sup>th</sup> June 1997. Upon his return to the UK, he was appointed Chairman of the Independent Commission on Policing for Northern Ireland set up under the Good Friday Peace Agreement, which reported in 1999. From 1999 to 2004 he was the European Commissioner for Foreign Relations and in January 2005 he took his seat in the House of Lords. Currently he is the Chancellor of Oxford University and of Newcastle University. He was a close friend of Michael's and spoke movingly of him at the memorial service at St. James's Church, Piccadilly. We are honoured that he will give this first lecture in what we hope will be an important Annual Series.

The Society is keen that the evening is well attended as a tribute to Michael so do please invite any friends and colleagues who might be interested. The doors open at 6:30 pm, to be followed by a drinks reception after the lecture.

Yours sincerely,

Noel Rands, Honorary Secretary

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Please detach and send to 5, Brownlow Road, Croydon, Surrey, CR0 5JT e.mail [noelrands@compuserve.com](mailto:noelrands@compuserve.com)  
I /we shall be able to attend Lord Patten's lecture on 27<sup>th</sup> November 2008 at 6:30 pm for 7pm.

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Tel/Fax/Email: \_\_\_\_\_