

SIR PETER LUFF

CATERINA LORIGGIO

As Joint Chair of the Speakers' Advisory Committee for the Parliamentary commemoration and celebration of the 2015 anniversaries I had the great pleasure of working with Caterina for nearly 2 years. I came quickly to respect her enormously.

She is one of those remarkable people who combine enormous creativity with simple common sense. She is passionate about the things that she believes in but at the same time immensely tactful and diplomatic in her dealings with even the most demanding people.

The anniversaries that we were celebrating, particularly of the de Montfort Parliament and of Magna Carta, were extremely important events in our democratic history. Caterina showed both a huge grasp of the broad historical context of the events and of their contemporary relevance. In the process she made the events of 2015 the most successful outreach programme Parliament has had, reaching out well beyond the walls of Westminster using innovative and creative ideas to do so.

The scale and ambition of Parliament's programme would have daunted many, but not Caterina. The combination of creative events with learning and community elements was ambitious in the extreme but Caterina led her team with sensitivity and clarity. In the process she played a major part in delivering a truly remarkable programme.

Her handling of stakeholders was outstanding. The needs of Members of Parliament from both Houses were always sensibly balanced with the expectations of a diverse public to produce a genuinely inclusive programme.

Parliament – and democracy – owes her a real debt.

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