

WHY ARE THE RICH AND POWERFUL SO IN THRALL TO MAXWELL'S DAILY MAIL
(London) January 10, 2015 Saturday

This is proven,' he declared, by the fact that she holds a bachelor's and master's degree from Oxford University, is a private helicopter pilot, a trained EMT [paramedic] . . . and a deep worker submarine pilot, in addition to being fluent in four languages.'

The name of this remarkable-sounding individual? Ghislaine Maxwell.

And her ensuing speech was one of a series that the 53-year-old made last year to promote the launch of her new marine charity, Terramar. Citing statistics about pollution and over-fishing, Ms Maxwell urged her audience to become supporters of the non-profit organisation.

She explained how Terramar which boasts her friends Sir Richard Branson and Lord Mandelson as supporters runs a jazzy website which carries educational literature, petitions and fund-raising tools devoted to campaigning for marine conservation.

Maxwell's speech hinged on a cute, if somewhat rambling, personal story: how she, the youngest daughter of press baron Robert Maxwell, had during childhood forged a lifelong obsession with the high seas.

I started diving when I was nine,' she declared, adding that from a remarkably early age, she then realised I was going to dedicate the rest of my life to taking an involvement with and bringing an education around the ocean'. So far, so righteous. Yet a cynic might have wondered if Maxwell's uplifting yarn accurately reflected the ups and downs of her real life story. For charity work and marine conservation aren't exactly what she is famed for.

Instead, this scion of one of Britain's most fabulously corrupt business dynasties is rather better known for attending glamorous parties, and her friendships with some of the wealthiest and most powerful people in the world.

Based in Manhattan since the early 1990s, she describes herself as a business consultant' in Companies House documents, and as a social media marketing' expert on Linked In, the business networking website.

Ghislaine Maxwell's main activity, however, is networking. A gregarious woman, she is widely regarded as one of New York's and London's best-connected socialites.

She has inherited her father's slightly bombastic charisma, and is one of those people who successfully trades on the fact that she knows lots of other fancy people, including Clintons, Kennedys and various royals,' says one acquaintance.

Lately, however, a shadow has been cast across this glamorous existence.

It stretches back to June 2008. That was when Jeffrey Epstein, Ms Maxwell's billionaire ex-boyfriend, benefactor, and almost-constant associate for most of her adult life, was sent to prison for child sex offences in Florida.

Ever since, Ms Maxwell has been a central figure in a string of sensational lawsuits in which it has been alleged that she acted as a madame' for the wealthy paedophile, helping to recruit under-age girls to work as sex slaves' at Epstein's luxury properties in New York, Florida and the Caribbean.

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