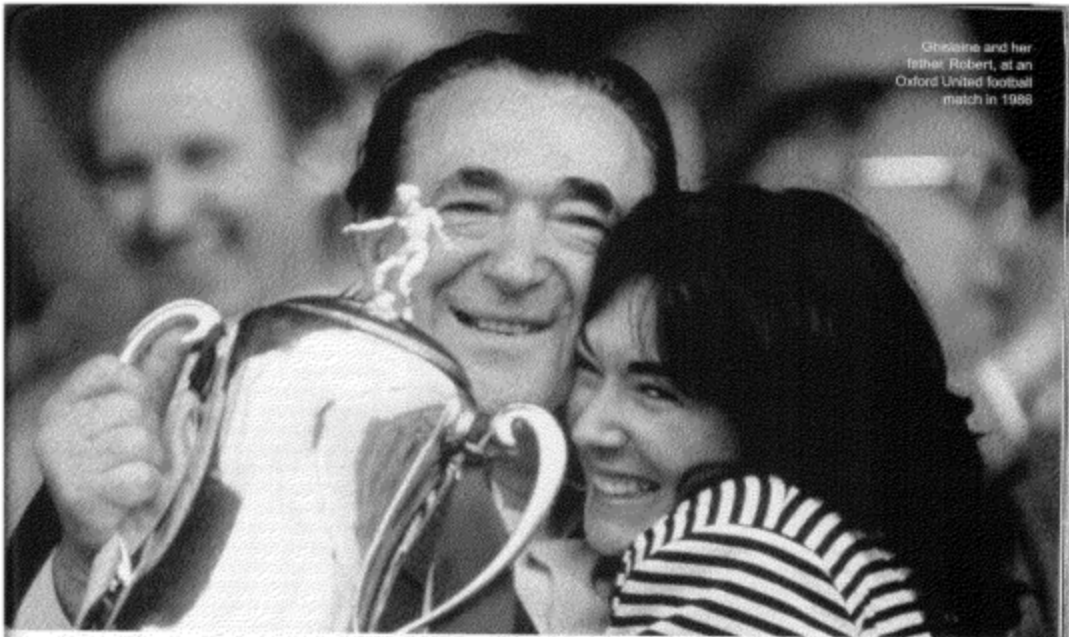




Ghislaine and her father Robert, at an Oxford United football match in 1988

York social circuit, where Ghislaine had become a dazzling presence, the more cruel are saying that to have ~~one man in her life become an~~ object of public hatred is ~~unfortunate~~ and that ~~having it happen twice seems careless~~. This, of course, is a reference to her father, Robert Maxwell, the multimillionaire publisher and former Labour MP found dead in the sea off the Canary Islands in November 1991. It appeared he had fallen, jumped or been thrown from his yacht. We still don't know for sure. Soon afterwards, it emerged that he had stolen hundreds of millions of pounds from his companies' pension funds to try to avoid impending bankruptcy.

When Maxwell was vilified as a corporate thief, his family inevitably suffered – none more than Ghislaine. She is the youngest of Maxwell's seven surviving children, and her closeness to him was evidenced by the name he gave his cherished boat, *Lady Ghislaine*, Robert Maxwell

and Jeffrey Epstein are the defining influences in 49-year-old Ghislaine's life. Both, in their way, have been sources of torment. She couldn't help the fact that her father was a fraudster and she was never accused of being involved in his misdeeds. ~~But later has~~ learned that Ghislaine's alleged role in Jeffrey Epstein's strange sex life is being investigated by lawyers in a new action that could yet see her drawn into the legal morass in which Epstein finds himself. And her long-standing friendship with Prince Andrew has come under terrific strain as he is dragged into the Epstein affair in a way that, as we shall see, he could hardly have imagined. Informed observers see the prince as a mere victim of collateral damage. But what of Ghislaine? Does she deserve to have her rather enviable life turned upside down? The answer to that question may lie in the true nature of the bond between her and 58-year-old Epstein. And no attempt to deconstruct

Below: from left, Ghislaine with Candace Bushnell; Rupert Murdoch; Simon 'The Box' Hammerstein, left, and Josh Lucas; and Allegra Hicks

