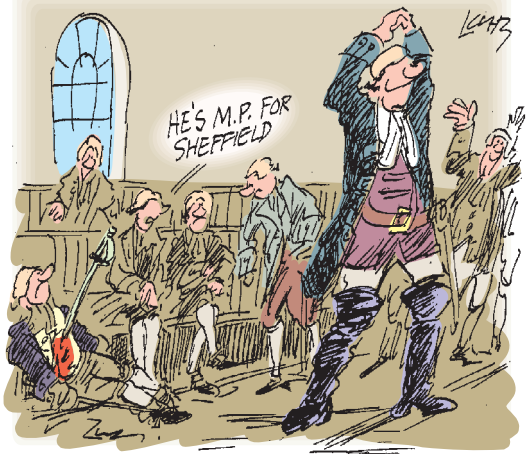


Swordplay in the House



The green carpet in the House of Commons bears a pair of red stripes two sword lengths apart – to remind government and opposition members to duel with words as they face each other, rather than swords

Several duels took place in the chamber in 1779 and 1880. The members' cloakroom has another reminder, in the form of wooden pegs on which to hang up one's sword, though sadly MPs now seem to find more mundane uses for them...