



## Press Release from Bournemouth University

23 July 2009

**Further information:**

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### **Volunteers in the spotlight as 'Streets of Bournemouth' project takes shape**

A group of volunteers who are assisting Bournemouth University (BU) and Bournemouth Borough Council with the development of Bournemouth's first virtual museum, will be honoured during a reception on Friday 31 July.

The Mayor of Bournemouth, Councillor Beryl Baxter, will present certificates to the group at 4pm at Bournemouth Library to express appreciation for their ongoing work on the 'Streets of Bournemouth' project.

The web-based museum will be launched in 2010 as part of the town's bicentenary celebrations. The project, managed by BU and Bournemouth Borough Council, is funded by a major grant of £440,000 from the Heritage Lottery Fund.

Best-selling American author, and former Dorset resident, Bill Bryson is Patron of 'Streets of Bournemouth'. In April 2008, he urged members of the community to offer their services as volunteers to help develop content for the unique online museum.

"The project provides a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for the people of Bournemouth to participate in the creation of the first centralised history of the town," Bryson enthused. "I strongly encourage volunteers from the local area to step forward and help develop the materials that will make this virtual museum such a valuable contribution to the history of Bournemouth."

Following Bryson's appeal, volunteers came forward to assist with different aspects of the project, such as recording people's memories of Bournemouth, inputting data, identifying images, securing copyright clearance and creating learning material.

Project Manager Patricia Gargan of Bournemouth University, is delighted with the progress of 'Streets' to date, particularly the way in which the volunteers have enthusiastically embraced the project.

“Our plan for creating ‘Streets of Bournemouth’ places a strong emphasis on community involvement,” said Gargan. “We’ve been very encouraged by the response from our volunteers who have put themselves whole-heartedly into this many-layered project and are already producing fantastic results.”

### **Notes for editors**

1. The Mayor of Bournemouth, Councillor Beryl Baxter, will present certificates to volunteers from the ‘Streets of Bournemouth’ project during a reception on Friday 31 July.
2. The reception will start at 4pm in the second floor meeting room at Bournemouth Library, 22 The Triangle.
3. Journalists and photographers are welcome but requested to liaise with the BU Press Office to make arrangements to attend.
4. Light refreshments will be served.
5. BU is the UK’s Number One New University (first place among all institutions that became universities since 1992) according to The Guardian University Guide 2009 & 2010 ([www.guardian.co.uk/education](http://www.guardian.co.uk/education))
6. In the 2008 Research Assessment Exercise (RAE) BU is the 4th most improved university in the UK for the quality of its research (according to *Times Higher Education*).

**ENDS**

**23 July, 2009**

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