

My Lord and Chancellor,

Jeanne Bisgood has made a significant impact on the educational landscape of Bournemouth and Poole, during a 30-year career in local government.

Jeanne's own university education was interrupted by the developments of World War Two. Having enrolled to read History at the University of Oxford in 1941, a year later she left to join the Women's Royal Naval Service and worked at the Bletchley Park outstation at Stanmore, which housed over 50 Enigma code-breaking machines. When the war was over, Jeanne was so keen to get her career underway that she passed up the opportunity to return to Oxford to complete her studies. Instead, she commenced her legal training and passed her final bar examination in 1947.

A keen sportswoman, it was while working as a barrister that Jeanne began to play competitive golf. She went on to win eight national competitions, including the English National Championship three times during the 1950s. Jeanne recalls that competing was a cost-effective way to see and experience Europe at a time when foreign currency was severely restricted.

Jeanne returned to live in Dorset following the death of her mother and quickly became involved in local politics. She joined Poole Council in 1955 and led its Committee for Education. In the post-war years, Jeanne remembers primary school class sizes of up to 45 children, as the county's schools struggled to accommodate the emerging baby boomers. When the 1970s brought changes to local authority structures, Jeanne went on to chair the new Dorset Education Committee. During her time as Chair, Jeanne was involved in the decision to establish the Dorset Institute of Higher Education, to develop the degree-level work from Bournemouth and Weymouth Colleges. Her early leadership is considered to be a major contribution to BU's foundation.

In 1957, Jeanne drew on her legal experience to become a magistrate. She went on to chair Poole Magistrates' Bench between 1986 and 1993.

Her contribution to the region led to her being awarded a CBE in 1982.

My Lord and Chancellor, I have the honour to present Jeanne Bisgood, and I ask you to confer upon her the degree of Doctor of Education, *honoris causa*.