

SIBYL FINE KING

Pro-Chancellor,

Sibyl Fine King is Director of the Fine Family Foundation which supports Dorset-based charitable bodies working in the environment, the arts, education and health, and also in community projects. She is a longstanding Dorset resident but hails originally from Pittsburgh in the United States. Sibyl took a Bachelors degree in Psychology and Business at Washington University, St. Louis, and then a Masters in Health and Fitness Management at American University in Washington DC. Her Masters course included a work experience placement and she took it in Dorset with the NHS. She had no previous link with this county, but she loved the landscape and the people, and - in her own words - she 'didn't want to go home'. So in 1986 she took a job in Dorchester, still with the NHS, as a Health Promotion Manager, and during the next ten years she created a package of health screening and advice for use in GPs' surgeries, and rolled it out across the county. And that was how Sibyl Fine King began to make a difference in Dorset.

But circumstances changed and a different range of activities became possible when the Fine Family Foundation was established in Pittsburgh. Sibyl describes herself as 'someone fortunate to be in a position to make things happen', and many charitable bodies in this area have good reason to be thankful that Sibyl is so remarkably gifted, and unfailingly practical, in 'making things happen'. Her wish is to be known as someone who has 'had an impact' in Dorset and surrounding areas, and she has done that many times over. She is careful to support activities and causes which she believes in, and this support comes without strings: there are no political interests, no hidden agendas. Her projects are too numerous to list here, but let a few examples speak for them all.

Environmental and wildlife charities are high among Sibyl's priorities. She has energetically supported a number of high-profile Dorset Wildlife Trust projects, including The Fine Foundation Marine Centre at Kimmeridge Bay, and the Fine Foundation Chesil Beach Centre which opened this summer. Pursuing a similar theme, Sibyl enabled a group of volunteers to build The Fine Foundation Centre for coastal heritage at Beer in Devon. She is a trustee of the Jurassic Coast Trust and a patron of the Dorset Wildlife Trust.

Sibyl is also a knowledgeable and discerning patron of the visual arts. As a well-informed collector herself, she has an eye for the work of emerging artists, and these feature strongly in her projects. She was involved in setting up the KUBE Gallery in Poole and led it as Chair from 2000 to 2010. Further afield, she has also supported the Hayward Gallery and the South London Gallery, and she is a patron of Arts in Hospital at Dorchester Hospital. Sybil's expertise has been internationally recognised through her appointment as a member of the International Board of Governors at Tel Aviv Museum of Art. Her environmental and artistic interests have drawn together in some of her projects, notably the Fine Foundation Gallery and the Timeline path at Durlston Castle.

As a strong supporter of educational bodies, Sibyl has been an influential member of the Board of Governors at Bournemouth and Poole College, and has enriched the cultural environment of Bournemouth University, most notably by sponsoring the Koichi Ishino statue outside the Library. She has also made possible the use of Gigapan robotic camera technology for scientific purposes at BU, providing advanced camera equipment and funding a lecture and training workshop in 2009.

Pro-Chancellor, I have the honour to present Sibyl Fine King, and I ask you to confer upon her the degree of Doctor of Arts, *honoris causa*.