

Pro-Chancellor,

Valerie Pitt-Rivers has made an outstanding contribution to Dorset's charitable and public sectors. Having supported the leadership of the county's health service in a voluntary capacity over two decades, in 2006 she became the first woman to be appointed Lord-Lieutenant\* of Dorset. More recently, she has been a powerful advocate for Bournemouth University, serving as a Pro-Chancellor until earlier this year.

It was while working in London that Valerie first volunteered her time to support a local hospital. On moving to Dorset with her husband, Anthony, she continued her association with the health sector by joining the Board of The Dorchester Hospital. She maintained her involvement throughout a period of organisational change, eventually serving as Vice-Chairman of the West Dorset General Hospitals NHS Trust. In the late 1980s, Valerie founded the Arts in Hospitals project, to bring new artworks into spaces used by patients and visitors. The project was inspired by a desire to provide a more engaging environment for hospital users and continues successfully to this day.

In 2006, Valerie became a personal representative of Her Majesty The Queen when she was appointed Lord-Lieutenant of Dorset. Valerie describes the role as a "tremendous honour" as it gave her the opportunity to arrange visits to the county by members of the Royal Family, attend events and meet individuals working tirelessly to improve the lives of others. Her own contribution was recognised when she was appointed a Commander of the Royal Victorian Order in 2014.

For the past five years, Valerie has served as a Bournemouth University Pro-Chancellor. In addition to fulfilling the ceremonial aspects of the role, she has been an energetic ambassador for the university. This has included hosting a dinner to help mark 50 years of archaeology at BU, arranging visits to the university campus by Deputy Lieutenants and welcoming friends and connections for the annual Pitt Rivers Lecture.

Pro-Chancellor, I have the honour to present Valerie Pitt-Rivers and I ask you to confer upon her the degree of Doctor of Education, *honoris causa*.