

ALAN FROST DL

My Lord and Chancellor,

Alan Frost has made a large contribution to the life and development of Bournemouth University, particularly as Chairman of the University Board from 2004 to 2010. He is a highly experienced former chief executive in the financial services sector with a reputation for successful change management. Since 2010 he has been a Deputy Lieutenant of Dorset, and is currently High Sheriff.

Alan is well known in Dorset, having lived and worked in Bournemouth for 23 years, but he was born in the East End of London and went from Stratford County Grammar School to Manchester University. His family background gave him a strong sense of thrift, a reluctance to promote anything he didn't believe in, and a powerful work ethic; indeed his motto is the imperative *operam da*: 'work hard'; 'pay attention'. At Manchester he read Mathematics and eventually decided to become an actuary because that profession was a meritocracy. He started with Pearl Insurance in London but soon moved to Australia, where a strong business drive and lack of class structure greatly impressed him because they contrasted sharply with the working environment of 1960s England and its prevailing philosophy of 'getting by'.

Returning to the London Stock Exchange, where his boss was simply called 'The Boss', he found a very different environment. The philosophy of 1960s England was 'getting by'.

At school Alan was an actor – he still recalls playing the demanding part of Edgar in *King Lear* as a high-spot of his life – and he has never lost his love of the stage. He is rightly described as a performer who has used his gifts to extraordinary effect at business events. Former colleagues at Sun Life recall a conference for his sales teams where he did a choreographed dance to make a point about apologising for poor investment performance. He has also been known to illustrate a motivational address by breaking off to play the piano. Indeed the theatre, and especially music, still play a large part in his life, and he has been Chairman of the highly acclaimed Dorset Opera since 2004.

Alan's deep commitment to Dorset, and his profile in the county, were honoured in 2010 by appointment as a Deputy Lieutenant. This year he is also High Sheriff. He takes great and justifiable pride in these highly distinguished roles, rich as they are in history and tradition, and is a strong supporter of local charities.

Alan Frost became a member of Bournemouth University's Board in 2001. As Chair from 2004 to 2010 he presided ov