

The Honorary Graduate: Christopher Booy OBE

The Orator: William Marshall

Christopher Booy is to be awarded the Honorary Degree of Doctor of Engineering

Chris began his career armed with a degree in Quantity Surveying, obtained from Bristol Polytechnic, which subsequently became the University of the West of England.

A renowned figure in the construction industry, Chris built the Symonds Group into one of the most successful construction consultancy businesses in the UK, until selling it to the Capita Group in early 2004. Until recently he was the Non-Executive Chairman of the property arm of Capita.

Chris's particular experience has been in setting up a major projects, both in the UK and internationally for clients, in order that they can be completed on time and to budget. Examples include, the MoD's £250 million headquarters building at Abbey Wood, Bristol and the new Wembley Stadium. Chris was also instrumental in the original Trillium Consortium, setting up the Facilities Management services in conjunction with the privatisation of the DSS Estate (some 18.5 million square feet of accommodation).

Chris was awarded the OBE for services to the Ministry of Defence in 1996.

Since selling Symonds, Chris has extended his commitments as Chairman of Bristol Rugby Club. He is also involved in a number of charitable organisations and support a number of community projects. Chris also chaired the South West Regional Activation and Legacy Group, one of a number of groups established to support the Rugby Football Union in its aim to deliver a strong and effective legacy beyond the Rugby World Cup in 2015.

Chris is a Past Chairman of the Great Western branch of the Forum for the Built Environment, an organisation that brings together all aspects of the construction industry. He is currently Chairman of the Trustees of the Clifton Suspension Bridge and is also a Trustee of the Bristol, Clifton and West of England Zoological Society. In addition, he recently completed his tenure as a Trustee of the ss Great Britain. Chris also served for 9 years as Governor of the University of the West of England and continues to be involved with them as an honorary property advisor and as a member of their associated 'Wallscourt' charitable foundation.

Chris is a member of the Society of Merchant Venturers in Bristol, which is an historic and august body, promoting Bristol and managing significant charitable trusts. He is also a Fellow of the Faculty for the Built Environment and a member of the RICS. In addition, he is a Business Ambassador for the Royal Marines. Chris brings commercial and general business skills and experience to all the activities with which he is involved.

The Honorary Degree is awarded in recognition of Christopher Booy's contribution to UWE, and the City of Bristol and the furtherance of project management and construction.