

## The Honorary Graduand: Guy Bailey OBE

**Guy Bailey OBE is to be awarded the Honorary Degree of Doctor of Letters.**

In 1962, aged 16, Guy Bailey was sent to England to receive a better education.

He was fascinated by the double-decker bus. As the bus company was recruiting, Guy, along with Mr Paul Stephenson OBE contacted Bristol Omnibus Co. by telephone and arranged a job interview for the position of a bus conductor, the starting point to becoming a bus driver. When Guy arrived, he vividly recalls the receptionist's puzzled look, when he introduced himself as the interviewee. He heard her tell the person interviewing that his 2 o'clock appointment had arrived, saying, "But he's black"! The interviewer replied, "Tell him there are no vacancies and anyway, we don't employ blacks". Shocked and hurt, he explained what happened to Paul Stephenson. With the aid of others, the 1963 Bristol Bus Boycott commenced, supported by the Community, Bristol's University students, Politicians and diplomats. The boycott ended in August 1963 once the bus company agreed to employ Black and Asian people as conductors and drivers. Shortly thereafter, the 1965 Race Relations Act was passed. Guy Bailey declined a job with the bus company.

In 2023 a 'Letter of Apology' was presented to Guy by the Mayor of Bristol, for his treatment in 1963.

In 1965 Guy Co-founded The Bristol West Indian Cricket Club (BWICC), for whom he amassed an array of trophies as a batsman. He secured £950,00 from the Lottery Fund and the Sports Council for the 'Rose Green Sports & Leisure Centre', the Club's home, widely used today by the community.

In 2023 he was made an Honorary Vice President and Life Member for Gloucestershire Cricket Club.

In the late 70s, Guy became the first Black Education Welfare Officer in Bristol and one of the first black governors for Inner City schools in Bristol, a post he held for 20 Years.

In 1986 he earned his university degree and was employed by Bristol City Council as a 'Youth Worker'.

Shortly thereafter, Guy co-founded 'United Housing Association' (now 'Brighter Places'), to assist the elderly black community. It soon also catered for anyone who had difficulties finding affordable homes. In 2005 he was rewarded an OBE for his contribution to affordable housing.

In 2023 he was also awarded for his Outstanding Contribution to Social Housing from the National Housing Federation.

Guy Opened a Caribbean Travel Agency which doubled as an advice centre for the local black community.

In 2006 Guy co-founded 'Signpost and Rite Direkshon' an organisation that supported young black men in Bristol prison.

Guy's Achievements include:

- 2004 'Chief Constable Team Commendation Award' for representing the St. Paul's community.
- 2006 'One Person Can Make a Difference Award' for working with young black people in Bristol.
- 2007 'Annual Achievement Award' for outstanding contribution as a Governor.
- 2023 Awarded the 'Freedom of the City'.
- 2023 'Pride of Britain Award' for activism.
- 2024 Lifetime Recognition Award for unwavering contribution to racial equality, education, and community cohesion.
- 2024 Lifetime Achievement Award, from 'Diversity UK'.