

The Honorary Graduand: Elizabeth Parkes MBE

The Orator: Professor James Longhurst

Elizabeth Parkes MBE is to be awarded the Honorary Degree of Doctor of Science.

Liz has spent her whole career in public service, working initially with the Tidy Britain Group, then for Buckinghamshire County Council on waste and recycling and subsequently transferring into the Environment Agency when it was formed in 1996.

Liz headed up the national waste regulation team and oversaw the implementation of more than a dozen European Directives as well as setting the direction on waste strategy and resource efficiency.

More recently Liz has been leading the Environment Agency's work on climate change and public health, helping the country to be more resilient and better prepared for the impacts of the changing climate and working with Government on driving down greenhouse gas emissions through the regulation of key industrial sectors.

Liz sits on Bristol's Advisory Committee on Climate Change and is a member of the Business in the Community's Climate Leaders Group. Her career very much builds on her degree in Human Geography from London University (Queen Mary College).

Liz is also Chair of the Chartered Institution of Wastes Management General Council where she is supporting the sectors transition to a 'world beyond waste' and helping to show the contribution that the circular economy can make to getting the country on a path to net zero.

Liz's contribution to environmental protection and climate change was recognised in the 2022 New Years Honours List with the award of an MBE and she was privileged to attend the Queens Platinum Jubilee Service at St Paul's last year.

Liz loves living in one of Bristol's finest Regency terraces in Hotwells, which was saved from demolition in the 60's and provides inspiration for her sketching and printmaking. She sings with a number of chamber choirs and is looking forward to deputising in the Cathedral Choir, when time allows!