

The Honorary Graduand: Peter John Fane

Peter John Fane is to be awarded the Honorary Doctor of Business Administration.

Peter started his early life growing up in Berkshire, being one of four boys born to Mike and Carole Fane.

He was introduced to the importance of managing finance from an early age, due to the sad and untimely death of his father who owned a small number of garden centres. As a result, he had balance sheets and profit and loss accounts thrust under his nose from the age of 18. Time for him to grow up.

So, unlike many of his peers, who opted to study at the usual subject based universities he chose to study at Bristol Polytechnic (now UWE) because back in the 80's virtually none of the traditional universities offered business orientated degrees.

After graduating with a BA (Hons) in Business Studies, Peter went on to manage and co-own Waterers Landscapes for 16 years; building the company from having annual sales of £400,000 to £25m before selling it to ISS Facility Services Ltd in 2003. Peter remained with ISS serving on the UK Board until 2007, leaving to launch Nurture Landscapes on April fool's day 2008.

In 2012 Peter created the Nurture Business Plan Prize annual awards. The purpose of these awards is to inspire and reward budding entrepreneurs within the UWE Business and Law School.

Since then Peter has used his extensive financial business expertise and experience to drive Nurture Landscapes from a four person start up into a national business, consisting of five leading brands; employing over 4000 colleagues with annual sales of £300m in the year to March '25 and the company is now referred to as the Nurture Group. The service range stretches across landscape maintenance, landscape construction, arboriculture, green solutions, winter gritting & snow clearance and pest control.

A key focus of his whilst continuing the company's growth, was the value of Nurture's colleagues combined with the area of sustainability and the company's carbon footprint. A significant amount of time and money was invested in 2021 to declare the group both a Real Living Wage employer and a Carbon Neutral company, starting Nurture's journey to net zero, which the company aims to achieve by 2040.

In his time at Nurture, Peter has appeared in The Sunday Times Fast Track 100 companies four times, been National winner of the European Business Awards category for 'The Social Responsibility and Environmental Awareness Award' and has been identified four times as one of The London Stock Exchange Group's '1000 Companies to Inspire Britain'.

Peter now acts as Executive Chairman of the Nurture Group, solely focusing on strategic acquisitions of which he has completed 50 to date. He is also Patron of The Saints' Projects Trust.