



living or working abroad. In this and other ways it fulfils Neal's ambition to establish it as a 'paper without boundaries'.

When Neal came to the *Echo* he found that its relationships with the community were crumbling. He has successfully rebuilt them, whilst maintaining the paper's reputation for being a hard-nosed campaigning paper, which last year earned it the Daily Newspaper of the Year title in the South and London. As a working and independently minded Editor, Neal has become a leading and influential figure in Bournemouth and the surrounding area, with his acute insight into public life and politics. A change-maker himself, he has shrewdly but affectionately watched Bournemouth change from a retirement capital into a more cosmopolitan town still trying to settle on an image which will place it in a European context. In this connection he strongly affirms the key role of the University, where he has given guest lectures in The Media School and participated in 'meet the professionals' evenings. He also shared the floor with Bill Bryson in an evening to raise funds for Alumni Scholarships.

Pro-Chancellor, I have the honour to present Neal Butterworth, and ask you to confer upon him the degree of Doctor of Letters.