

Dame Liz Forgan DBE FRSA (Modern Languages, 1963)



Honorary Fellow and alumna Dame Liz Forgan is a celebrated journalist, radio and television executive. In 2009 she became Chair of Arts Council England, the first woman to be appointed to this position.

Liz Forgan came up to St Hugh's in 1963 to read Modern Languages. On leaving St Hugh's, she embarked on a career in journalism, working first for the *Tehran Journal*, followed by the *Hampstead and Highgate Express*, the *London Evening Standard* and *The Guardian*, where she was editor of the newspaper's women's pages from 1978-1982. She returned to *The Guardian* as a columnist in 1997-1998 and became a non-executive director of the Guardian Media Group from 1998.

Liz joined Channel 4 TV as a founding commissioning editor in 1981 and went on to become the channel's Director of Programmes. She moved to the BBC in 1993 to take on the role of Managing Director of Network Radio.

Before becoming the first woman to take on the role of Chair of Arts Council England in 2009 (a position she held until 2013), Liz served as Chair of the National Heritage Memorial Fund and Heritage Lottery Fund between 2001 and 2008, and as the chairman of The Scott Trust (owner of *The Guardian* and *The Observer*) from 2003 to 2016. Her other major roles in public life include having chaired the Churches Conservation Trust, the Bristol Old Vic and the National Youth Orchestra of Great Britain. She was appointed Chair of Trustees of the Aurora Orchestra in 2019.

Liz was appointed DBE for services to broadcasting in 2006. She was elected an Honorary Fellow of St Hugh's by Governing Body in 2013 in recognition of her distinguished career, and she is also an Honorary Fellow of the British Academy and Girton College, Cambridge.