

## GRADUATION 2013

Presentation speech for Sir Ivan Lawrence QC for the honorary degree of Doctor of Laws of the University *honoris causa*

Chancellor, in 1985, in the course of a debate on the Water Florigation Bill, our Honorand made what was probably the longest Parliamentary Speech of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. It lasted for four hours 23 minutes. If I were to do proper justice to the whole range and magnitude of Sir Ivan's qualities and achievements, I think I would have to speak even longer. Since that is not possible, I must limit myself to discussion of just a few aspects of what by any standards has been a remarkable career.

We confer Honorary degrees on people for a number of reasons. We like to honour people who are our friends and who have made significant contributions to the University. Since 2004, Sir Ivan has been a Visiting Professor in our Law School. In a subject like Law, it is absolutely vital to maintain close links with those who are actually practising in the profession. I know how much both staff and students in the Law appreciate all the help Sir Ivan gives them.

Sir Ivan also regularly takes the trouble to come to our degree ceremonies – a strong sign of his commitment to the University and of his realisation of just how central these ceremonies are to everyone at Buckingham. Of course, for many years, degree day were presided over

by the then Chancellor, Lady Thatcher. I suspect that another thing that brings Sir Ivan and Buckingham together is our appr



Chancellor, I call upon you to confer upon Sir Ivan Lawrence QC the degree of Doctor of Laws *honoris causa*.