

BONI SONES OBE: Email:Bonisones@gmail.com

Achievements, Campaigns and Testimonials:

Parliament:

- During 2016 I have continued to work for academics in the field of economics, business, innovation, technological and the digital world.
- In October 2015 my www.parliamentaryradio.com team won an Honourable Mention in the IAWRT (International Association of Women in Radio and TV) awards. We were the only UK winner. Thanks to Jackie, Linda and Deborah.
- A documentary I reported and produced called "Through the Looking Glass" about the May 2015 General Election in Cambridge comprising over 70 interviews across party is to be used by the History of Parliament Trust as a prototype for similar audio archives nationally.
- I have just completed a significant body of "collaborative" work over twelve years charting women's recent political history. I have written a new book "When There's a Woman in the Room – Women MPs Shaping Public Policy" (March 2014), a follow up to "Women in Parliament: the New Suffragettes," (Methuen September 2005) both are based on interviews with over 450 women MPs across all parties since 1997, some in government.
- The House of Commons Works of Art Committee purchased four photographic portraits of women MPs party by party which I studio produced and which in May 2015 were hung in an exhibition there of women in Westminster. Copyright protected. <http://www.parliament.uk/worksofar/artwork/kieran-doherty/the-day-the-carlton-club-accepted-women--90-years-after-women-got-the-vote-labour-women-mps/6929>.
- From March 2014 all 350 interviews for www.wpraido.co.uk and www.parliamentaryradio.com are now catalogued and copyright protected in the "Boni Sones and Associates" archive at the London School of Economics - <http://archives.lse.ac.uk/Record.aspx?src=CalmView.Catalog&id=SONESarchives.lse.ac.uk/Record.aspx?src=CalmView.Catalog&id=SONES>
- In August 2010 the British Library opened a historical audio archive of 82 interviews of women in politics from the book, copyright protected. <http://www.bl.uk/press-releases/2010/september/hear-hear-the-truth-behind-blairs-babes-and-camerons-cuties?mobile=off>.
- In June 2010 I performed readings from the first book at the Tricycle Theatre in London when they staged "Women, Power and Politics" and the organisers, Norn productions said: "I was thrilled with your reading on Monday."
- I co-produced a BBC Radio 4 documentary on the first book called "A Monstrous Regiment" presented by Jackie Ashley in October 2005 - www.workingwomenproductions.co.uk.

Training:

I previously ran a successful training arm of my company in local government – teaching a range of communication skills to councillors and public sector employees in the East Midlands and London to BBC Radio 4 standards. Skills taught range from media training, to report writing, presentation skills, public speaking, writing for the web, new media and copy writing: www.ecsskillnet.co.uk

Home Office:

I acted as a lay assessor for the Home Office helping to assess high potential candidates who attend three day assessment centres for the fire, police and prison service. I have been trained to a high standard to help interview, assess and mark these candidates through this intense process. I have passed all the necessary training courses and was regularly called on to do this exacting work until it changed.

Mentoring:

I have worked alongside some of the most successful young graduates and post graduates in government, politics and the media and the not-for-profit sector over the past 15 years. I have advised and guided them pro-bono through the first five years of their careers after leaving University, working one to one with them and answering their calls sometimes daily. I am committed to education of the young. Testimonials below.

www.bonisonesproductions.com - Campaigns for others:

My pro-bono campaigns include "Save the YPS in Cambridge, the Young Person's Psychiatric Service" which led to questions in the House of Commons. I also initiated with friends the "Free the Cambridge Two" when charity workers running a homeless hostel where drugs were found were jailed, this subsequently led to the publication of the award winning book "Stuart A Life Backwards", by Alex Masters. Another pro-bono campaign is my www.wpradio.co.uk for women, which set out to create a better profile for women in politics and encourage more women to enter parliament.

I have regularly achieved fund raising targets for newspaper and broadcast appeals, including hospital scanners, children's hospice targets, Christmas appeals for the young and the elderly and the BBC's Children in Need appeal locally in the East. All this requires relationship building skills.

Hobbies:

- *Writing: I have recently published four books of short stories of Suffolk in the 1950s - "The Mermaid's Tale" and "Prequel to the Mermaid's Tale" and a related short story series including "Food on the Table," "Dear Alex", "20 Poems for 2012", "Love Travels Well in July", "12 Stories of Christmas – 3 Sisters and an axe". My short stories of Suffolk have appeared in the East Anglian Daily Times, on Anglia TV and talked about on BBC Radio Suffolk. www.wpradio.co.uk/books. I love storytelling and have fully trained voice skills to read my stories live.*

Family:

I have three grown up children. I walk, read, bell ring and collect art.

Testimonials:

Mentoring:

Anastasia de Waal, Deputy Director and Director of Family & Education, CIVITAS: "Thanks for all the good advice you have given me over the years on public policy, media and strategy. Your hand holding has undoubtedly helped me on a daily basis to connect with the media and develop my thoughts on public policy over the years."

Nick Aldridge, Chief Executive, MissionFish (UK): "I wanted to acknowledge the help you gave me when I left University and started my career in the Third Sector. We had so much fun working together on various publications on public policy, attending party conferences together, and working together on media strategies. Your good advice guided my work with the National media to a successful outcome, sometimes through extremely tricky waters."

Politics:

Theresa May MP: "Boni - Well done - good news and thanks for your determined efforts over the years. It is only your willingness to keep on pushing that has led to this outcome. Best wishes, Theresa"

Chris Huhne MP: "Thanks very much for all your hard work during the leadership campaign. I hope it hasn't put you off politics forever. You are a very reliable source of good media advice. " Many thanks, Chris

Lynne Featherstone MP: "Hi Boni, Well - huge congrats to you. I can not think of anyone who works so hard to make sure that women are there and documented. We have a lot to be grateful to you for. And without you - there would be no such record at all. Have a break - but only a break! Best and see you soon," Lynne Featherstone MP, Equalities Minister

Cambridge Judge Business School:

"Boni has done a fantastic job of building our archive of Leadership Speaker podcast interviews. The speakers are all leaders in their fields and the interviews accordingly require a great deal in the way of preparation, intelligence and wit. Boni has all of these qualities in abundance and has produced some outstanding journalism for us in the podcast format." Dr Jochen Runde, Director of the MBA, Judge Business School, University of Cambridge

"Ms Boni Sones has collaborated with the Centre for International Business & Management (CIBAM), which I direct, producing podcasts for our events. Boni has consistently produced high quality broadcast podcasts for the Centre's Symposia, which attract some of the most senior CEOs and business leaders from leading companies all over the world. She conducts these interviews diplomatically and skilfully, and is able to make the interviewees feel relaxed in her company. Not only are we impressed with the quality of the broadcasts, but her interviewees treasure these encounters and email us requesting copies of them. Her strong analytical skills help her to produce some very educative podcast documentaries for our website. Overall, I consider Boni an asset to any high powered communication team." Dr Christos Pitelis, Director of the Centre for International Business and Management

Third Sector. Stephen Bubb, Chief Executive, ACEVO: "Just a note to say thank you so much for all the help you gave us - it has been a boost for the organisation and it has been great to get our message across."

Richard Gutch, formerly Chief Executive, Futurebuilders: "Dear Boni, I wanted to thank you very much for all your hard work in making yesterday's conferences such a success and in securing coverage for us in so many places. You have been an enormous help to us over the last few months and I am most grateful."

Bene't Steinberg, Group Public Affairs Director, University of Cambridge Local Examination Syndicate: "ECS helped us to produce a video which effectively demonstrated our capabilities and strengths to Ministers, helping us to alter the perception of our organisation for the better in the eyes of decision makers."

Lynne Berry, formerly Chief Executive, Equal Opportunities Commission: " Our new press, PR, campaigns and government affairs people have got something to build on after you set us on the right path."

Home Office interviewing: Roger Serle, IDS Recruitment Team: "This is just a brief note to say thank you very much indeed for digging me out of a very deep hole by acting as an assessor at both of our recent IDS final stage

assessment centres - on the last occasion at only 24 hours notice. We would have struggled to run the centre efficiently without your last minute assistance and I am very grateful to you indeed. Once again thank you very much indeed for your time and commitment. Will be in touch again next year!

Training: "Just a quick email to say a huge thank you for all of your hard work this week. I am attaching the collated evaluation feedback from both courses and hope you agree these are really positive." Lucy Powles, Local Government East Midlands.

- "I've had nothing but good feedback from those who attended the "Writing for the Web training" - quite a few seem to have come away really inspired, so thanks again!" Chris Hartley, Head of Public Affairs, Derbyshire County Council.

- "Your media training skills have increased our awareness of how to seek publicity and what stories to publicise. You have an incredibly broad knowledge of the media, print, radio and TV. Thank you for your help." Lynn Morgan, formerly Regional Manager, Community Fund.

- The guidebook I wrote on "Dealing with the Media" was reviewed by Cambridge University: The Verdict: "The best thing of its kind we've read in years."

- "I am writing to thank you for the media training courses you ran for us, which were very successful. All the feedback we have had has been very positive." Bob Pearson, Head of Press, Cambridgeshire County Council.

End.