**Medal of Honour Presentation and Dinner, Wednesday 17 May 2023**

**Medallist: Clare Bottle Presenter: Professor Colette Fagan**

Distinguished guests, I am delighted to introduce Clare Bottle to you for this Medal of Honour presentation.

Clare was nominated because of her passion, commitment, activism and leadership in the cause of gender equality throughout her professional career and her voluntary work.

Clare is a University of Manchester History of Art graduate. As an undergraduate, Clare served as the Students’ Union Communications Officer and led the Free Kuwait Society during the Gulf War (when her father was held hostage). She successfully completed her finals in 1993 while six months pregnant. And after spending time raising her son as a lone parent in Manchester, she has carved a stellar career as one of the most senior women in UK logistics.

Clare obtained an MSc in logistics from Aston University in 2008. She served as Director of the [Chartered Institute of Logistics & Transport UK](http://ciltuk.org.uk/) from 2008 to 2011, appointed as a Fellow in 2009 and having previously won the Institute’s Richard McLeish Award.

Clare began her career in logistics at British Road Services in Trafford Park, subsequently working for several companies before joining Coca-Cola European Partners in the UK in 2015, rising to become their Associate Director of Warehousing.

At Coca-Cola, she led a major organisational restructuring project, improved the company’s food waste strategy and rearranged the £10 million pound co-packing capability. She pioneered [new apprenticeship programmes](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=edplAx9Vetk) and was an active member of the inclusion and diversity network.

In 2021, Clare became the Chief Executive Officer of the [UK Warehousing Association](https://intrademagazine.com/big-interview-clare-bottle-ceo-ukwa/), established in the 1940s and which has 1,000 corporate members. Clare was the first woman to be appointed to this role and has made a vital contribution to the sector’s logistics. She has led the Association through the supply-chain disruptions which emerged from Brexit and the subsequent COVID-19 pandemic and the concurrent expansion of e-commerce which has driven a 32% growth in warehousing over six years.

Clare’s top priorities are raising the quality of training and education in the logistics sector and attracting women into her male-dominated industry – just 14% of logistics managers are women. In 2008, she helped to found [Women in Logistics](https://ciltuk.org.uk/About-Us/Professional-Sectors-Forums/Forums/Women-In-Logistics.aspx). This influential grassroots organisation grew to 4,000 members and in 2018 joined the mainstream as part of the Chartered Institute of Logistics & Transport. Clare champions equality for women and girls through her voluntary role as the Vice-Chair of Women in Logistics and has led their work engaging with schools, established their mentoring scheme, organised their annual awards and chaired their two most recent annual conferences.

Clare makes other significant contributions to the benefit of society through other voluntary service. She is:

* the Chair of Governors at [Northampton School for Girls](https://www.nsg.northants.sch.uk/school/governors-of-nsg), one of the largest state schools for girls in the UK, rated Outstanding by Ofsted.
* A Trustee of the family charity [Home-Start South Leicestershire](http://home-startsouthleics.org.uk/)
* An Advisory Board member for [Tempus Novo](http://tempusnovo.org/), which finds employment for serving prisoners and ex-offenders
* And previously she was a Trustee of the transport charity [Transaid](http://transaid.org.uk/), which included completing six sponsored cycling challenges for them in the UK, Europe and Africa). So evidently a keen cyclist as well!

Clare continues to support, and engage with, higher education. She collaborates with research teams at Cranfield University (on gender diversity in logistics), the University of Cambridge (on digitalisation in logistics), the University of Bath (on the adoption of automation in warehousing) and the University of Leeds (on the impact of Brexit on low-paid employment). She has delivered lectures at various Universities. She continues to develop her leadership through completing University short courses - on Sustainable Supply Chain Management at Cambridge University’s Institute for Sustainability Leadership in 2020 and in Public Policy Analysis at the LSE in 2021.

It is my great pleasure to present you to the Medal of Honour. Congratulations.