Hi my name is Debs Downer and I have been a Governor for 8 years. I am at present Staffing and Policies Portfolio Holder and sit on the Finance team. I enjoy being a Governor, especially seeing how the children at the schools thrive in such a caring environment and “doing my bit” in shaping the education for our children by helping set the ethos, vision and strategy for our schools.

I am married to Ted who is now retired but was in the Royal Navy for 33 years “the senior service” as he reminds me all the time (he tells me he was hoping to make a career of it. Ha Ha!). For 10 of those years he served on the Royal Yacht Britannia until her de-commissioning. Lots of stories there and a lot more interesting than mine. Anyway back to about me, we have 4 children between us, their spouses and 4 grandchildren. One grown up, two teenagers who think they are grown up and a 6 year old who most certainly knows she is grown up. All but one live on the Island and we love family get togethers. I have 3 dogs, two Collies, Mabel and Millie and a Boxer called Harley. They keep me fit or wear me out whichever way you want to look at it.

I have spent the last 33 years working at The Orchards Holiday Park (best holiday park on the Island), the latter 21 + years as Manager/General Manager. The Park has won many accolades over the years but I am proud to say that in my last year alone we won The AA Camping Park of the year for the South East Region, The Platinum Award for Loo of the Year (no chuckling required) and Practical Caravan magazine overall winner of the British Top 100 Parks. I was/am very proud of all The Orchards team. I did actually retire from the Orchards in November 2015 but after a couple of months I was getting a bit fidgety, and looked for a role working in a Charity organisation. I was lucky enough to join the great team at The Friends of St Mary’s Hospital in February 2016. I work two days a week as Clerk to the Trustees and Directors.

I do enjoy volunteering for things (as Ted will confirm) sometimes the word no formulates in my head but the word yes comes out of my mouth. I bet quite a few of you can sympathise with that.

I am treasurer of our local church, All Saints, Calbourne. If you get the chance pop out and have a look around it is a beautiful church. I am on the fund raising committee for the Friends of Calbourne, which helps raise funds for our church and other local charities. Look out in the County Press for events happening this year it is usually a good “do”.

You are probably quite bored by now so will sign off and wish you all the very best.

Take care

Debs Downer