

Hi my name is Debs Downer and I have been a Governor for 12 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 5 grandchildren. Two now into their 20’s... how did that happen! Two Granddaughters one who is 11-year-old, who will be off to secondary school this year, and an 8-year-old, who lives on the mainland and I don’t get to see her as much as I would love...thank goodness for facetime. Our Grandson is coming up to 4 and will be off to school in September, oh my! He has SEND needs being diagnosed with Ataxia Cerebral Palsy and Global delays but he is such a happy little chap and is doing great. They are all the brightest light in of our lives. We love family get togethers. Nanny roasts are their favourite. I have 2 dogs, one Collie, Millie and a Boxer called Harley. They keep me fit or wear me out whichever way you want to look at it.

I retired in 2015 having spent 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. Having retired as previously mentioned, 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 a few hours a week as their Business Manager. They are a great bunch of people and do incredible work in funding non-mandatory equipment and facilities to IOW NHS Trust.

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

Take care

Debs Downer