

Hi, my name is Debs Downer and I have been a Governor since November 2008. This may seem a very short time but I have had a long history with the school starting with my son Ben joining the school in 1990. I joined the PTFA and carried on being a member and chair, even when my 2nd son Jack left the school in 1998. After a further year of supporting the school by staying on the PTFA I decided they must be fed up with me by now so said my farewells. But not for long, Mrs Collins was on the phone and asked me to join the committee for Shalfleet Community Project. In partnership with the school and with a lot of hard work by the Project committee we obtained funding to furnish the computer suite with 6 new computers and printers and set up the after school club, the holiday club, computer club, homework club to name but a few of the projects we were involved in to help the school and community.

The Community Project is still involved with the school but with the re-organisation we have been hibernating. We are now looking to start planning new projects, but we need new members so if you would like to get involved I will be happy to speak to you about what we do.

A bit about me personally, as previously mentioned I have two sons Ben and Jack, a step son Will (who owns Wight Mountain - best bike shop on the Island) his wife Clare and a step-daughter Lucy. I have two step grandchildren Ollie (10years) and Georgia (9 years) and another grandchild on the way (yippee!!) Ted is my husband and served in the Royal Navy for 33 years, serving on the Royal Yacht Britannia for 10 years. We live in Calbourne and love it. For the past 25 years I have worked at The Orchards Holiday Park in Newbridge and I am the General Manager.

My Governor role, as well as being on the Full Governing Body, I sit on the Community and Partnership committee and take particular interest in Child Protection and Community Cohesion, working with Mrs Nicolson on policies and monitoring. I have just taken on these roles so with the schools team, will be working hard to make sure all is in place. I have enjoyed my first year as a Governor, it has been very interesting and I have enjoyed working with all at the school and other Governors. I now look forward to helping take Shalfleet forward in Federation with Yarmouth School and all the opportunities this will offer.

I am not down the school all the time but if you wanted to talk to me about any issues you are welcome to contact me via my email address [debs@orchards-holiday-park.co.uk](mailto:debs@orchards-holiday-park.co.uk) or telephone me 531441.