

Governor Pen Portraits

External

Graham Barnettson

Graham is currently Chief Financial Officer at Red Funnel. He is a Chartered Management Accountant, Fellow of the Institute of Directors and Fellow of the Chartered Management Institute. He is a member of the Chartered Institute of Internal Audit and an Associate Fellow of the Nautical Institute.

His non-executive roles include business director at Solent Local Enterprise Partnership and vice-chair of Maritime UK Solent.

Graham is also a trustee of the Island based charity Independent Arts.

He lives in Cowes with his wife Jackie who works for the Maritime and Coastguard Agency.

Graham Cooper

After a 31 year career with Barclays Bank, where he was Area and Regional Business Manager, Graham retired early to spend more time with his wife Tina and growing family. Having retired and not wishing to stagnate he has involved himself in community work, in addition to being a Governor at our College, he is a non-executive board member with Vectis Housing, Chairman of Newchurch FC, Chairman of the IoW Association of Cricket Officials as well helping maintain Arreton Cricket Club where Tina is Chair. Sport is Graham's passion, obviously cricket but any sport really but football (he is a Brighton fan) and rugby gives him a chance to shout at the TV!

Mr Ken Dueck

Ken has worked in business support and economic development roles on the Isle of Wight since 2002, initially with the Isle of Wight Economic Partnership and, since 2011, via his company, Tractioneers Ltd.

He arrived at Sussex University as a Commonwealth Scholar from Canada in 1978, to study British Social History. At his first permanent job, at the MS Society in London, he set up and managed their first computerised fundraising programme. From there, he moved to an Ogilvy advertising agency in a client services role. His last agency role (1998-2001) was as Commercial Director of Syzygy London, an internet development agency, part owned by WPP.

After moving to the Isle of Wight with his family in 1995, Ken became a junior ice hockey coach at Ryde Arena and a Trustee and Chair of Trustees at the Isle of Wight Youth Trust. Both through his business support roles and local involvement with young people, he has seen the importance of having an excellent local FE College in providing skills, local pride and aspiration. His goal is to help the Isle of Wight College be that beacon of excellence. Sadly, skating is no longer a local option, but he enjoys cycling and hopes to undertake a few long-distance rides in his retirement.

Jessica Garbett

Jessica is a former IW College student, reading Business Studies in the 1980s. From there she qualified as an Accountant, and has spent most of her career in accountancy and tax practice, latterly running her own practice, with an interlude in NHS finance.

More recently she has trained as both a Yoga Teacher and a Yoga Therapist, and owns and runs a Yoga Studio. Away from work, Jessica enjoys boating, cycling and hiking.

Christine Palmer (Vice Chair)

Christine is a qualified accountant and a fellow member of the Chartered Institute of Management Accountants. Christine is an experienced board level Director, having spent much of her career in the NHS. Her role incorporated a broad portfolio of services, including Financial Management, IT and Information Management, HR, Training and Development, and Governance. Christine is also an Independent Examiner for the Parish Church Council of Binstead and Havenstreet.

Martyn Pearl

Martyn is currently Chief Executive of Vectis Housing Association. He has had a long career in senior posts for local authorities and housing associations, originally in London, more recently Dorset and the Island. He also spent 13 years as Director of Housing Studies at Oxford Brookes University, where in addition to lecturing and quality assurance he conducted a range of research for bodies such as the Home Office, Council of Europe, and Housing Corporation. He has a number of publications to his name. He has also been a board member of a number of organisations ranging from a night shelter to Chair of an active housing association and a school governor. In addition, he has been an external examiner at a number of higher and further education establishments. Martyn has a masters degree from LSE and Portsmouth University and is a Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Housing.

Sara Weech (Chair)

Sara worked as a Public Sector Director for over 25 years, working strategically in complex systems across organisational boundaries in health, social care and the third sector. She is a Non-Executive Director (NED) at the Isle of Wight NHS Trust and, for six years, the Chair of the Board of Trustees of the Mountbatten Group (Hospice services on the Isle of Wight and in Hampshire). She is a magistrate in Portsmouth and regularly volunteers in the inpatient unit at Mountbatten IW. She lives on the Island with her husband George and likes to travel, curl, play golf, volunteer, cycle and all things outdoor

Principal

Ros Parker

Ros was appointed as Principal and CEO of the Isle of Wight College in September 2022. She was previously Principal of Southend Adult Community College and prior to that she was the Principal of Prospects College of Advanced Technology with sites in Basildon, Canvey Island and Ilford. Ros returned to learning as a single mum gaining qualifications and soon teaching creative writing, English and dance and drama with special needs groups, she also led community based family learning projects in Children and Family Centres, schools and prisons. Ros studied evening and weekends to achieve her BA Honours degree and then her Masters in Education and Training Management with the University of Portsmouth. Ros is married and enjoys spending time with her children, grandchildren and extended family. She writes for pleasure, enjoys walking, kayaking and is a volunteer for Meows cat and kitten rescue and has enjoyed volunteering for community radio stations.

Staff Governors

Ant Baker

Ant started his career here at the Isle of Wight College in 2019 as a Motor Vehicle lecturer and in early 2023 was promoted to the role of Curriculum manager for Apprenticeships in Construction, Technical & Land-Based Studies. Alongside his management role Ant is a qualified staff mentor, MOT Tester and apprenticeship Assessor. Ant has recently graduated from the University of Portsmouth where he successfully completed his certificate in Education. When Ant left school he became a student here at the College and went on to gain an apprenticeship with Renault. Throughout Ant's career in the motor trade he advanced to the role of master technician working in franchises such as Renault, Fiat, Vauxhall, Ford, Peugeot, BMW, Seat, Mazda and Kia. Ant is married with a young family and in his spare time enjoys flying drones and following sports such as football and Formula1.

Bev Burgess

Although officially an 'overner', Bev grew up on the Island and has called it home for over 40 years. After university, Bev took up a position as the college's Library Assistant in 1997. Since then, Bev has gained a Masters in Information Management and been involved in various initiatives at college, including designing the current Learning Resources Centre (LRC). She is now the college's LRC Manager. Bev is an advocate for equality, diversity and inclusion as well as a Mental Health First Aider. Many people recognise Bev as the red-haired librarian from college, but you may also have seen her dancing with the Island Cloggies, playing ukulele, volunteering at Northwood House or performing with the Panto Players. Based in Cowes, Bev and her husband love travel and hiking; their most recent adventure was walking all 630 miles of the South West Coast Path. Overseas trips are on hiatus since they adopted a rescue dog from Spain, who is the heart of the household.

Student Governors

To follow