Governor Pen Portraits

External

Judith Abbott

Judith has worked in the further education sector since 2011 and is currently Chief Finance and Operating Officer for Newham College having previously been Chief Executive of Prospects College of Advanced Technology, and Executive Director Finance & Resources at Harrow College. Prior to this, most of her career was at Ford Motor Company where she held various senior finance and strategic planning positions. Over the last 20 years, she has been a board member of several charities and not for profit organisations. She is a Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Management Accountants and has a PhD in Applied Biology. She has a strong personal interest in sustainability and has substantially reduced the carbon footprint of Newham College. In her spare time, she enjoys walking with her dogs, horse riding, attending stand-up comedy and spending time with her children.

Chris Bradish

Chris is Area Dean of the Isle of Wight and leads the parish of Newport and Carisbrooke, centred on Newport Minster. He began his career in law, practising in commercial and trust litigation. He has been in ordained ministry for over ten years, serving parishes in London and Hampshire before moving to the Island.

Much of Chris's work involves helping communities and organisations learn, adapt and grow. He is interested in what change asks of people, in the dynamics that shape organisational life, and in how trust is built and sustained over time. He is especially drawn to the places where spirituality, wellbeing and leadership meet. Through the church he has worked in partnership with the NHS, developing neighbourhood responses to community health – including the use of a double-decker bus to deliver shared projects around estates in Andover.

As Area Dean he collaborates Island-wide with parishes, schools and civic partners, and enjoys listening to people's stories, building teams and exploring new possibilities. He has served on a range of boards over the years and is currently a governor of two primary schools, as well as working closely with a local secondary school. He has a particular interest in the spiritual life of students and how it connects with their learning, wellbeing and educational outcomes.

Chris lives in East Cowes. Away from work he makes the most of the Island's beaches and outdoor life, and enjoys 90s music (to the dismay of his children), playing sport and spending time with family and friends.

Stephen Brooks

Stephen joined the Corporation in December 2024 as a Governor. In the first part of his career, he held senior HR roles in Bank of America, General Electric, Morgan Grenfell and Deutsche Bank. He subsequently became a management consultant and partner at KPMG and PA Consulting. He led a wide range of business projects for public and private sector companies in the UK and abroad. His clients included Northern Rock, DWP, HM Treasury, NHS, BBC Worldwide and Channel 4.

He is also a Non-Executive Director of the Isle of Wight NHS Trust and a Governor of Coventry University. He is a Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Personnel and Development and the Royal Society for Arts and an Honorary Fellow of the Faculty of Medical Leadership & Management. Stephen lives in Cowes.

Angela Buckley

Angela is associate lecturer in history at Oxford Brookes University. She is a published author and professional speaker. Previously, she taught modern foreign languages in the secondary sector and was head of faculty in a large comprehensive school. She also lectured in modern languages education at Oxford Brookes University and King's College London. Angela lives in Cowes and is a trustee of the Brading Roman Villa Trust, as well as being involved in local community events, such as the Isle of Wight Literary Festival. Her personal interests include languages, literature, film, genealogy and travel.

Tony Eysele

Tony began his career in education working as a Science/Chemistry teacher in a large secondary school in South Africa. His career path took him into the primary and secondary school sector in South Africa, Zimbabwe, the UK and East Africa. Over a period of 45 years Tony was a Head of Department, Deputy-Head, Foundation Director, Headteacher, Executive Head and finally a Chief Executive Officer within the education sector.
Tony has worked in state and independent schools as well as international schools and gained invaluable experience in educational management and leadership, strategic planning, curriculum development, peer coaching, career guidance and people development, as well as various curriculum options, including GCSE, A-levels, International Baccalaureate (IB) and American AP.
Apart from being a College Board member, Tony is also involved with the Board of the Lionheart Schools on the island. He mentors aspirant university students at Lift Ryde and Christ the King College and when time permits, he helps coach rugby at Sandown and Shanklin Rugby Club. He lives in Ryde with his wife Cheryl who works part time at the Ryde School with Upper Chine.

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.

David Ndzi

David is the Head of the School of Electrical and Mechanical Engineering at the University of Portsmouth and a Professor of Wireless Communication. His recent research focuses on applying sensor and artificial intelligence technologies in environmental monitoring and climate prediction.

Previously, he served as Head of the Division of Computing and Assistant Dean of Global Engagement at the University of the West of Scotland. With over 16 years of experience, David has developed and led numerous university programmes and international partnerships across Africa, the Middle East, and Asia. He also collaborates with local colleges in southern England to strengthen pathways between further and higher education.

Outside academia, David is active in sustainable farming. He explores climate-resilient techniques for ground crops in Cameroon—working with palm oil, cocoa, and cashew—and in Malaysia, where he focuses on high-value crops such as vanilla and black pepper.

Sandie Paice

Sandie was born in Newport, Isle of Wight, and began her career working at St. Catherine's home for sick children. She subsequently trained in sick children's nursing and became a state-registered nurse. Over the years, she has gained qualifications, in nursing and teaching including becoming a Registered General Nurse, Health Visitor, and Nursing Tutor. During her three years at the Isle of Wight College, she obtained a Postgraduate Certificate in Education.

Currently residing in Shorwell, Sandie spends much of her time in Wootton with her partner Peter. Between them, they have four children, and Sandie is a proud step-grandmother to eight grandchildren.

With a career spanning many years, Sandie has held various roles within the NHS, encompassing primary, secondary, and tertiary care, as well as academic institutions. She has worked as a Director and Principal Lecturer, engaging in teaching, facilitation, and training. Her leadership roles have involved managing teams and departments, holding budgets, and ensuring corporate governance and fiscal responsibility. Sandie has also served as an external examiner for two universities and chaired various committees and university exam boards.

In addition to her healthcare and academic expertise, Sandie is a certified coach, specialising in business performance coaching. She holds a master's degree (MSc) in Health and Social Care Policy and is currently an Organisational Development Practitioner and mediator, in

the NHS. She is also on the coaching register for the Thames Valley and Wessex Leadership Academy.

Her diverse career has taken her across the globe, including work in Argentina, Thailand, Finland, Indonesia, Egypt, and South Sudan. She has led international projects such as teaching on the first Nursing Education Programme at Juba Hospital, South Sudan.

This is Sandie's first role as a governor, and she is eager to contribute to the development and careers of individuals across different age groups, bringing her experience and passion for education and healthcare into the role.

Rebecca Taylor

Rebecca is the Vice Principal at Orbital south Colleges and has worked in the FE sector for 25 years in a variety of roles around the South East of England. Although she started her career as an A Level teacher, her passion has always been engaging and progressing students the furthest away from learning, and she has also worked as VP at NACRO, a charity that focuses on young offenders.

Originally from Canada, Rebecca moved to the UK in the 1990s and now lives in Hassocks in West Sussex with her family and dog.

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 of Hampshire & The Isle of Wight Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust and a magistrate on the South East and Hampshire Bench in Portsmouth. She lives on the Island with her husband George and likes to travel, curl, play golf, volunteer, cycle and all things outdoor.

Principal

Fidelma Washington

Fidelma was appointed as Principal and CEO of the Isle of Wight College from April 2026. She has had a long-standing career at the College and has held a range of management and leadership posts since 2004, more recently as Chief Operating Officer and Deputy CEO. Fidelma entered the further education sector following an early career in private industry working for Ericsson and IBM. Fidelma is from Ireland but considers the Isle of Wight her home and enjoys immersing herself in what the island has to offer. She enjoys travelling, the outdoor life, and spending time with her husband and family, which includes her dog Perdu.

Staff Governors

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.

Dmytro Buyanov-Taylor

Dmytro holds a BSc (Hons) in Physics from Queen Mary, University of London, and a PGCE with QTS from the University of Buckingham. After working in research and technology development, focusing on optical systems and sensors, he moved into education and has taught mathematics, further mathematics, physics, chemistry, and engineering up to undergraduate level. He has taught in several schools across the Isle of Wight and has particular expertise in supporting university applications and admissions tests. Dmytro has taught mathematics at the Isle of Wight College for the past two years.

He is currently completing the National Professional Qualification in Leading Teaching and is committed to lifelong learning and ongoing professional development. A dual British Canadian citizen, Dmytro enjoys travelling the world in his spare time

Garry Smith (Co-opted Governor to Audit and Risk Committee)

Born on the Island Garry has spent over 35 years as an internal auditor working in local government and the not-for-profit sector, with 25 years at an international child centred development organisation working mainly at locations in the global south. He had a brief spell in the last century teaching accountancy part-time at a college in South-West London and public sector auditing at a University in the City of London, more latterly gaining experience as an interim Finance Manager at the Island's fourth most popular tourist attraction.

Garry can often be found with the travelling Y'army at Norwich City away games and occasionally treading the boards at Newport's Apollo Theatre and Department in Ryde.