

GETTING TO KNOW GOVERNORS

L.E.A GOVERNORS

Jim Wright

I have lived in the locality for 20 years. On completion of my PhD in chemistry, I led a research team in the pharmaceutical industry for a number of years, after which I transferred into general management.

During that period my interests included working closely with secondary and tertiary education to support the development of scientists and to promote awareness of career opportunities in the scientific sector. I moved on from my final posting as Global Head of Human Resources into self-employment, running a business consultancy working with a variety of organisations on strategic thinking, change implementation and leadership development.

Following cessation of paid employment I have served as non-executive director on the boards of several not-for-profit organisations and on the governing body of another Hertfordshire secondary school. I am currently involved with supporting investment in small businesses in Central and Eastern Europe to promote employment and alleviate poverty and in developing business leaders in these countries.

CO-OPTED GOVERNORS

Ian Burt

My wife and I have lived in WGC for almost 40 years and we have four children. All went to school locally but only our youngest daughter, attended Sir Frederic Osborn. She joined the School in 2003 and I became involved as a governor a year later.

I spent almost all of my working life in banking and financial services, at Abbey National/Santander, before taking early retirement. I initially worked in conventional banking for about 14 years as a Branch Manager, but after a short period managing companywide projects, I moved on to become Regulatory Compliance Manager. There I led and managed teams of compliance auditors, in ensuring that the Bank and banking staff, throughout the UK complied with banking and financial services rules and regulations. Since joining the governing body, I have chaired the Estates Committee and am currently serving as the chair of the Resources Committee. Previously I was a parent governor at Panshanger Primary School and served 7 years, as a Governor/Chair of Governors.

Graham Clay

I am a retired actuary with a Cambridge maths degree who spent 40 years working for Prudential in UK and South Africa (1972-83). I served the actuarial profession in a voluntary capacity for 20+ years on technical working parties, the Professional Affairs Board and the Council, and I continue to be a member of the Disciplinary Panel.

This has given me experience of running large and small organisations, working with other volunteers and evolving robust governance structures in a highly regulated environment, which should enable me to make a useful contribution as a governor, an opportunity I learnt about while Master of a City of London Livery Company in 2010. As a result I have chaired the Finance Committee since 2012.

My wife Lindy and I have lived in Wheathampstead for 30 years and now have 2 children and 5 young grandchildren, all but one now at primary school. My other hobbies are bridge and golf and I also serve as Chairman of the Trustees of a small pension scheme for the non-academic staff of Christ's Hospital, a large mixed charitable school in Horsham which used to have its Girls School in Hertford.

Lin Keen

My 'career' as a school governor started in 1999 when I became a parent governor at Sandringham school which both of my children attended. They moved on but I became hooked and stayed. I have been chair of governors there for many years and served for two years as additional governor at what was Francis Bacon school. I have been a NLG (National Leader of Governance) for the last two and a half years during which time I have worked with the governing bodies of a number of primary and secondary schools in Hertfordshire and beyond.

Now retired, my employment career was split pre and post family. After graduating from Edinburgh I worked in market research and marketing for multi-national organisations. Later, I worked for a private company as finance director and company secretary.

I am an active Green badge tour guide in St Albans, passionate about local history and heritage and I'm trying hard to learn Spanish and visit the gym when I can!

Liz Tillett

I was born and brought up in London and have lived with my husband near Wheathampstead for over 20 years. After graduating from Birmingham University with a degree in Latin and Romance Linguistics, I joined the Department of Employment and worked there and in the successor departments for 38 years. I retired as a senior civil servant from the Department for Work and Pensions in 2014. In my various jobs in the civil service I have run Job centres and Benefit Offices and done regional, national and international policy work.

I am a keen skier and golfer and am gradually improving in both. I also volunteer for a helpline in the county and was a trustee of a small national disability charity until recently when it merged with another voluntary organisation. I speak French and Italian and a little Spanish. I enjoy travel and reading. I have always been interested in education and preparing young people for the world of work and look forward to contributing to the development of Sir Frederic Osborn in the future.

