

## Governor Biographies-October 2013

### Sarah Aldred



I recently became a parent governor; my two children started at Cheswick Green in foundation in September 2013. I am passionate about education, and about making learning fun. I am a senior lecturer at the University of Birmingham, so I teach students at the other end of the education timeline, but I hope many of my experiences will be relevant to my work as a governor. Aside from teaching, I am also Head of Education for my department at the University, which means I oversee curriculum development, feedback and assessment strategy and student engagement. On top of all that, I am a scientist, and that is where the fun bit comes in! I enjoy running, and generally being active outside. We already know that Cheswick Green is a wonderful School, and I believe that if parents, teachers and governors work together with and for the children, we can help the school thrive. I am a member of the curriculum, health safety and buildings, and extended school committees.

### Amanda-Jane Balfour (photo to follow)

I am a Local Authority Governor and was formally appointed in June 2010 by Solihull Governor Services, following a formal application and interview process. I have many years experience in the field of science and have a strong interest in pursuing science in education and adding value to the Community.

I have directed the management of many national programmes of scientific work. More recently whilst working as an Internal Management Consultant at the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority I have been key in the development of practical, vocational qualifications such as the Diploma. I am currently a Deputy Director responsible for managing some of the teams that develop, design and support KS2 Tests for delivery into schools each year as well as KS1 and Early Years Moderation. This is a mammoth task considering the number of pupils and schools that take these accountable tests and assessments.

I am very keen to add my business experience and knowledge in science and education to Cheswick Green School in my role as LA Governor and have a passion for making a difference within the community. I am currently on the Curriculum, HR and Good Governance Committees as well as being joint Vice Chair.

### Mary Bateson



I have resided in the West Midlands since 1965. A qualified primary teacher, I served as deputy head in a Shirley school before being appointed in 1972 to a headship in Warwickshire. I continued to serve as a primary Head in two Solihull schools until my retirement in 1995.

I became a governor at Cheswick Green School in 1997 and have served on the Human Resources and Curriculum committees since that time.

I believe that parents, staff and governors should work together to provide a secure and happy environment in which children can develop and reach their full potential.

## Lynda Choonpicharn



Cheswick Green School has been part of my life for the last 25years! My three children all attended Cheswick and I have taught at the school as a full time member of staff and more recently in a part time capacity. I am currently serving on the governing body as the staff (teaching) governor representative. I am a member of the finance, extended

schools and curriculum committees.

Part of my role as assistant head teacher in school is being key stage 1 leader and I am also the designated member of staff for child protection. As a qualified forest school leader I can be found working outside in the school grounds with 30 muddy children and a very supportive group of parents most Monday afternoons!

## Anne Cresswell



I have lived on Cheswick Green since 1970, one of the first people to live here. I taught at St Patricks and for a short time at Cheswick Green. I started 2<sup>nd</sup> Cheswick Green brownie pack which I ran for over ten years. I was also involved with setting up Cheswick Green Mother and Toddler Group.

After twelve years at home with my two children, I returned to teaching in Birmingham where I became a member of the senior management team with a special interest in mathematics. I was also the staff member of the governors. I have taught every age group in the primary school age group.

Since my retirement, apart from helping with my four grandchildren and being involved with their school, I have been looking for a way to use my skills and keep in touch with education and to help the local community. I have recently been appointed as a community governor and look forward to serving the school to the best of my ability.

## Lisa Evans



I have recently been appointed Governor at Cheswick Green Primary School following a successful application and interview process with the Head Teacher and Chair of Governors and am involved with the Finance committee. I have been working in the Education sector for 4 years providing Educators into Local Authority and privately run schools including Academies, Grammar and Boarding schools, this has given me a greater insight into the process and procedures that schools have to follow whilst

maintaining a safe, secure and engaging environment allowing the children to flourish.

My reasons for becoming a governor was very much wanting to get involved in a voluntary capacity within the community whilst learning more about Primary education and how it can shape the stars of the future, I feel I can add not just business experience and expertise of running a successful business including HR and Finance but I have a genuine passion for children and their learning

### Terry Gregory



I was born in Castle Bromwich in Birmingham and I am currently 74 years old and I am married to Jean. I worked in Insurance for 31 years taking early retirement in 1996.

Most of my career was spent dealing with various kinds of claims including motor claims and employers liability claims. I became a Governor at Cheswick Green Primary School on 1<sup>st</sup>

May 1996 having considered what to do with all the time I would have in retirement. I chose to be a school Governor because I had been a Scout Leader since 1974 in Birmingham and enjoyed the work of helping to make good citizens of the children who joined our movement. I am currently a member of the Finance, Health and Safety, Human Resources and Head Teacher's Performance Management committees. My current hobbies include going to our static caravan as often as possible and at the moment I am building a model galleon (The President).

### James Harrison



I have lived in Cheswick Green since 1981 when my parents moved here from Redditch, and went straight into Cheswick Green Primary school. Now that I am a parent governor, I feel I have done the full circle. I am married to Abbie Harrison and have two children attending Cheswick Green Primary School. I am also level 2 Forest Schools leader

where I help Mrs Choonpicharn on Mondays with Year 2 Forest schools and also help out in the school wherever possible.

I currently work full time for a company in Birmingham where I am a showroom manager specialising in kitchens and bathrooms. In my spare time I love spending time with my children. I keep a selection of reptiles which is a big passion of mine along with my son. I play a bit of golf here and there where time permits and will always be seen wondering the streets of Cheswick with my two dogs.

### Stan Proudfoot



I became a governor at Cheswick Green in 1996 as the governor nominated by Hockley Heath Parish Council. That position has since ceased to exist but I am now a "Community" governor. I was privileged to be Chair of the Board from 1997 until September 2011.

My working life (before school governance) was spent in the electricity supply industry where I spent thirty years endeavouring to keep the lights on. When the industry was privatised, those of us over a certain (relatively young) age were encouraged to take early retirement. I accepted the inevitable and complied in 1992.

My involvement with the school began over thirty years ago when my son was enrolled into the then newly opened nursery. Inevitably, I lost touch when he moved on but when my connection was re-established I realised that, although much had changed, the

principle of working to provide the best rounded education for all of the children had not.

Although I am no longer Chair of Governors I support my successor as far as I am able as she leads the team in its continuing endeavours to provide the best possible outcomes for the children. I am Chair of the Finance Committee and also serve on the HR and Good Governance Committees.

### Debbie Smith



I have been a governor for almost 10 years taking on the reigns as Chair of Governors two and a half years ago. This huge responsibility means I spend a great deal of time working alongside the senior management team, helping to ensure that Cheswick Green School continues to be the outstanding school that we know it is. It is a privilege to have such a great insight into how hard the children, parents, staff

and governors work, and what fantastic results have been achieved when we have all worked together.

I am a member of the Good Governance Committee, and Chair of the Human Resources Committee.

Outside of governorship, I am a part time teacher in a primary school for children with a wide range of special needs and/or autism, and more importantly, am mum to three boys in year 6, year 9 and year 12. Being a working mum with 3 active children, leaves very little spare time! However, I do love to do a Pilates class each week, am part of a book club, enjoy baking cakes, cycling and am an avid supporter of (and taxi service to) all my boys various sporting teams!