



GOVERNORS' BIOGRAPHIES



Sue Williamson, Chair of Governors

Sue Williamson is a former headteacher of a secondary school in Lincolnshire. She is passionate about education, and holds the position of Chief Executive of SSAT (Schools, Students and teachers Network) - a national organisation. She visits schools every week to observe outstanding teachers working with young people. Sue was delighted to be invited to be a trustee of The Cam Academy Trust and a governor at Melbourn Village College, as she shares the principles of the Village Colleges. Her aim is to work with all stakeholders to ensure that MVC provides an outstanding education for all young people. She is committed to 'Everybody is Somebody.'



Mrs Janet Banks

Janet Banks is from a farming family. Her parents also farmed, as does her son. She has lived in the local area all her life. As a member of The Cam Academy Trust, Janet was asked to join the Governing Body at Melbourn. Although Janet does not live in the MVC catchment area, her three children attended Comberton VC and she has four granddaughters who are there now and a further two grandchildren who attend Melbourn Primary School. Janet loves watching rugby and has supported Cambridge Rugby Club for almost 50 years!



Mr Andy Smith

Andy Smith is a retired scientist, who used to work in the chemical industry, and now work as a consultant on a part-time basis. He has lived in Melbourn since 1970 and his two children went to MVC during the 1990's. Andy is a great believer in education and the village college ethos, and consequently does all he can to help young people. He has been a governor at MVC since 1992; and is also a governor at Melbourn Primary School, where he tries to ensure the transition from primary to secondary education is as smooth as possible.



Mr David Whitaker

David Whitaker has more than 30 years' experience in purchasing, marketing and selling, most of which has been in the Fragrance Industry. He is currently representing an Indian Fine Chemical company as VP of Sales and Marketing. David has a degree in Chemistry and Management from Loughborough University. He has been a resident of Foxton for almost 20 years. His two daughters both attended MVC and David has been a Governor since that time, and has continued in post, even though his daughters are working or at University now. David has previously chaired Teaching & Learning and Personnel Committees. He is keen to support MVC in continuing to provide the excellent start in life for other young people that was experienced by his own two daughters.



Miss Gillian Crutchington

Gillian Crutchington's son is currently in Year 11 at Melbourn and her daughter studied at Melbourn and Hills Road Sixth Form College. Gillian has lived in Great Chishill for 19 years. Originally trained as a pharmacist, Gillian worked for a major pharmaceutical company for 19 years, most recently leading a team responsible for management and validation of computer systems, working closely with colleagues in France, Italy and the US. For the past four years, she has split her time between working for her own company in computer validation and working at a local primary school. Gillian was on the Friends of Chrishall Committee (latterly as treasurer) during her children's time at primary school. After having had such close links with primary school, she volunteered to become a governor at Melbourn to become more involved with life at a secondary school.



Professor Hans van de Ven

Hans van de Ven has three sons, all of whom attended MVC, where they made strong friendships, learned about the world, and developed their academic interests. Hans believes that this experience demonstrated to him the importance of having an excellent small college in the neighbourhood. Hans has been delighted to be able to contribute in a small way to the development of the College over the last 10 years as a School Governor. Among other things, serving as a governor has given him an insight in the bureaucratic constraints that MVC staff must work under, but also their genuine dedication to ensuring that all students receive the best possible education as well as the atmosphere of friendliness that makes the College unique and upon which OFSTED inspectors always comment. In his professional life, Hans worked as a historian of China at Cambridge University, researching and writing about the effects of war on China and China's international history. Perhaps unsurprisingly, therefore, Hans is keen to ensure that the education MVC offers, inspires intellectual curiosity and prepares students for a globalised world.



Mrs Susan van de Ven

Susan van de Ven has lived within a few miles of Melbourn Village College since 1988, and served the area as District or County Councillor since 2004. At university she studied History and Arabic, and holds a Doctorate in Education. She has taught primary school and worked as a copy-editor at Cambridge University Press. While a parent at Thriplow Primary, she coordinated an after-school creative writing programme. As a councillor she works on improvements to sustainable transport, including rail services and cycle paths. Melbourn Village College provided her three boys with academic spark, plus friendships which that endure to this day.



Mr Kim Popat

Kim Popat is an Engineering Manager with 30 years of experience in the Electronics industry. His work involves applying a mix of people and technical skills in the design and manufacture of electronic products. He studied Physics and Electronics at Lancaster University and started his working life in Broadcasting. Kim moved into his current field of Mobile Communications in 2000 having done a stint in Professional Audio (designing equipment for use in Rock and Roll tours). A Resident of Foxton since 2000, all three of his children attended MVC where they grew into the capable and self-directed people they now are. In his spare time, Kim plays in a band, and has been asked from time to time to provide technical and backstage support for amateur dramatics shows in the village.



Mr Steve Mallen

Steve Mallen is Chair of the Teaching & Learning Committee and has been a Parent Governor for several years. Steve has a degree from Cambridge University and a long career in the global property industry. Resident in Meldreth, Steve is also the Chairman of The MindEd Trust, a charity devoted to improving the mental health of young people.



Mr Philip Windred

Philip Windred has three children, all of whom went to MVC and the youngest is currently in Year 10. Phillip has a Cambridge degree in Natural Sciences and has worked in technology business for 30 years, including satellite design at Airbus, aircraft modification at Marshall Aerospace and telecommunications at a spin out from PA Consulting which is what brought him back to the UK after two years in Toulouse, France. Philip started as a Systems Engineer and then progressed through project management to business development and most recently senior management and business strategy. He has a keen interest in entrepreneurial technology start-ups.



Mr Brian Clarkstone

Brian Clarkstone grew up in South East London, but moved to Shepreth 30 years ago. He has a degree in engineering and his career has involved him in the laboratory instrumentation and equipment industry as a director of large international companies and currently a smaller local company. Brian has two grown-up daughters, both of whom went to Barrington Primary School and Melbourn Village College. He was governor and chair of governors at Barrington Primary School from 1996-2002. Brian's interests include how industry and education relate to one another, and he has introduced work experience programmes and apprenticeships in the company he works for. As a governor at MVC he aims to bring his experience of business to support the college in its objectives.



Mr John Redhead

John Redhead grew up in Nigeria before returning to England to finish his secondary education. He completed his degree in Agricultural Economics at Aberystwyth University prior to embarking on a career in the building trade. John was for many years involved at management level in the administration and completion of significant Local Authority housing refurbishment contracts. He joined the Site Team at Melbourn Village College in 2014, following 18 years working within the Rehabilitation Service at a local medium secure psychiatric hospital. He is an experienced teacher of adults and has delivered 'World of Work' OCR courses in a variety of subjects to people with learning disabilities or mental illness, seeking to reintegrate back into society. Johns' extensive 'hands-on' knowledge of building services has enabled him to develop a good understanding of the challenges involved in maintaining and improving the facilities at Melbourn Village College.



Dr Rita Monson

Rita Monson has lived in the Cambridge region since 2004, and is originally from New Brunswick in Canada. She attended University at MIT in Boston before settling in the UK. She has a Bachelor's degree in Mathematics from MIT and a PhD in Biochemistry from the University of Cambridge. Rita is currently a research scientist at the University, studying the interactions bacteria have with each other and their response to the environment. She has been a fellow of Churchill College since 2007 and was heavily involved in admissions, teaching, academic support and more recently as Dean of the College. She is passionate about finding ways to increase access to Higher Education, a process that begins early in education.



Mrs Katharine Carruthers OBE

Katharine Carruthers is the Director of the UCL Institute of Education (IOE) Confucius Institute for Schools and Pro-Vice-Provost (East Asia) for University College London. Katharine has played a leading role in promoting and developing the study of Mandarin Chinese and China across the curriculum in schools in England. This work has been facilitated by the establishment of the IOE Confucius Institute and 42 Confucius Classrooms – in partnership with Peking University and Peking University High School. Katharine is an experienced teacher and examiner of Chinese. She is the series editor of the textbooks for teaching Chinese for 11-16 year olds and is Chief Examiner for Cambridge Pre-U Mandarin Chinese for Cambridge International Examinations. She leads on the delivery of the PGCE Mandarin pathway at the Institute of Education. Her research interests centre on the teaching and learning of Chinese as a foreign language in schools, the notion of intercultural competence in Chinese and UK schools and globalisation and language policy. She was awarded an OBE in the 2018 New Year's Honours.



Mr Jose Hales

Jose Hales has lived in Melbourn for almost 20 years. He is married to Jeannie and his grown-up children both attended Melbourn Village College. Having served in the Royal Navy, Jose then became a London Fire Fighter and was in the unit responsible for controlling major incidents until his retirement. He has been a District Councillor for Melbourn Ward since 2010 and a Parish Councillor between 2009 and 2016. Jose was involved in several village initiatives, including the delivery of the Melbourn Community Hub building. For the past two years he has worked with the college on regular 'Celebrating Ages' events, bringing students and older villagers together and feeding into the student curriculum. Jose sits on the Melbourn Area Youth Development (MAYD) committee which provides activities and support for young people across five villages within South Cambs. MAYD won an award for 'outstanding youth initiative' at the 2016 South Cambs District Council community awards. He is also a trustee of Melbourn Mobile

Warden Scheme. Jose comes from a family with a strong sense of community. His father was a parish councillor in Oxfordshire following his retirement and his mother helped children with reading difficulties and is active in the WI. His sister-in-law is a headteacher in Essex and his wife is a mobile warden helping the mobility impaired. As a school governor, Jose hopes to add value with his professional and civic experience. He is also keen to engage with staff and students to work together to build an excellent, safe and inspiring future for Melbourn Village College.