



## **Governors' Newsletter September 2015**

Our Governors' Newsletter aims to tell Parents and Carers who we are, what we do as Buriton School Governors, and give you some information about what's going on in the wider Buriton community.

This year Hampshire County Council was required by the Government to reconstitute the Governing Bodies of all schools under their authority. As a result of the reconstitution, the School Governors currently number nine people, made up as follows:

Parent Governors:	Tom Cooper (Chair of Governors & Chair of Curriculum Committee) Susie McKenney (Vice Chair & Chair of Finance & Personnel Committee)
Local Education Authority Governor:	Jane Wilkins
Co-Opted Governors:	Simon Bradley (Chair of Buildings & Site Committee) Rev. Judith Bee Paul Martin Hannah Buckingham
Staff Governors:	Danielle Brown (Head Teacher) Clare Evans
Clerk	Catherine Madden

You may know some of us through personal day-to-day contact, but we can all be contacted via the School Office.

## **Some personal introductions:**

**Judith Bee** has lived in Buriton for 5 years. As the parish priest she has visited the school many times for assembly and also welcomed the school into the church for various events and curriculum-related topics. She was a primary school teacher for many years and her 3 children (now all grown up) were educated locally. She is on the Buildings & Site Committee and is a Link Governor with Emeralds Class.

**Tom Cooper** is the father of Jamie, who moved on to TPS this summer after 7 very happy years in the school. Tom has been a governor for six and a half of those years and serves on the Buildings & Site Committee. He is also the Chair of the Curriculum Committee, and Chair of Governors. He is a Link Governor with Pearls Class and is also the Link Governor for Special Educational Needs and Gifted, Able and Talented children. Tom has lived in Buriton for 13 years.

**Paul Martin** moved to Buriton in 1989 and his daughter Charlotte became a pupil at the school in 1992. His wife Jill started teaching part time at Buriton Primary in the same year, eventually combining that with the role of SENCo before her retirement in 2013. Paul has always made a point of becoming involved with community organizations and projects such as the Buriton Parish Plan and the 'Book of the Year' publication. He has run his own graphic design consultancy since 1984. Stepping down from the day-to-day running of the business (although he is still deeply involved in the creative output) at the end of last year has freed up time for personal projects and further involvement with the community. Paul serves on the Finance Committee and is a Link Governor with Pearls Class.

**Susie McKenney** moved to Buriton twelve years ago. Her elder son Thomas moved on to TPS from the school this summer, and her younger son Samuel is now in Year 5. She is Vice Chair and Chair of the Finance & Personnel Committee. She is also Link Governor to Diamonds and Sapphires Classes.

**Jane Wilkins** is Archie and Amelia Bradley's grandma. She is a retired teacher but after retirement felt that she still wanted to be involved in education in a supportive role and was delighted to be accepted on Buriton's governing body in the spring of 2012. She serves on the Curriculum Committee and particularly enjoys going into school and working with the children in Diamonds and Sapphires Classes as their link governor.

**Simon Bradley** is Archie and Amelia's dad. He is an engineer and Chair of the Buildings & Site Committee.

**Hannah Buckingham** is our most recently-appointed Governor. Her son Elijah moved on from the school to TPS this summer. Hannah lives in Buriton where she is active in village life, and works for Hampshire County Council supporting families with multiple needs. She is a member of the Finance & Personnel Committee.

**Mrs Brown and Mrs Evans** need no introduction!

As Governors we are also served by our Clerk, Catherine Madden, and Sally Slack does a lot for us as well as all the other things she does for the school. We couldn't possibly manage without them!

### **What do Governors do?**

As governors, our main responsibility is to work with the school to provide the best possible education and care of all of the children in as many ways as we can. Our primary role is to recognise, support, encourage and applaud the successes and achievements of children and staff. As we are not involved with the day-to-day running of the school we are able to take more of an overview, to check that the school is moving in the direction set out in its prospectus. As governors we do not represent particular interest groups - our responsibility is to the education, safety and well-being of all of the children.

We also have a responsibility to make sure that plans are carried out, and to check that targets for progress are being met. We need to notice and respond to genuine concerns, problems or difficulties that may arise, and to question what steps are being taken to resolve such issues.

In addition, we are involved with future planning for the school, to make sure that improvements can continue.

A lot of paperwork is involved in being a governor, as records have to be checked for reliability and kept for essential inspection. The school has many policies derived from government and from Hampshire County Council to comply with, and part of our role is to make sure that these are in place.

We meet for a Full Governing Body meeting at least once a term, and all of us serve on at least one of our three committees: Curriculum (which oversees all of the activities of the school, not just what goes on in the classroom), Buildings & Site (which is concerned with matters such as the maintenance, security and potential improvement of the school) and Finance & Personnel. The minutes of all of our meetings are available for inspection at the School Office.

## **Buriton News**

Many of you do not live in Buriton, and therefore don't necessarily have access to what is going on in and around the village. The best source of up-to-date information about events in and around Buriton is the website, [www.buriton.info](http://www.buriton.info) which is updated regularly. If you have anything to add yourself you can contact Wendy Shone on 01730 268601 or [wendy@bhcs.fsnet.co.uk](mailto:wendy@bhcs.fsnet.co.uk)

The following are a few items that might be of particular interest:

**Buriton's Post Office** is great if you want to miss the queues. It's open every Friday from 12.30-2.30 in the Seward Room in St Mary's Church. You get a free cuppa when you visit! There are also Fairtrade items on sale.

**Buriton Fireworks Night** is on Friday 6 November. Put it in the diary!

**Buriton Christmas Market** is in the church on Saturday 5 December, this will also incorporate several stalls run by Buriton Primary School. It's a great place to get locally-produced gifts and food.

### **Buriton Chalk Pits**

The school has made full use of the Buriton Chalk Pits since they were opened several years ago. If you haven't been up there yet, you must visit. It's a short pleasant walk up South Lane - carry straight on when you get to the railway bridge and the trail to the pits is about 200 metres on the left. There's another trail to the right about 30 metres further on up the main path which has a lot of woodland sculptures to spot - a perfect way to encourage short legs to keep going!

The school recently acquired a pack of resource materials connected with the historic lime industry at the Chalk Pits from the Buriton Village Group, and the children will be making use of these in their activities there. Information leaflets about the Chalk Pits can be found at the Church and at the Village Hall, or downloaded from the Buriton website.

**The Governors wish all the children a most successful and happy year discovering the wonders of learning at Buriton Primary School.**