

## **GOVERNOR PEN-PORTRAIT**

**NAME** : Harry Maeers

### **TYPE OF GOVERNOR**

Local Authority

My interest in becoming a School Governor stems from the several times that I stood as a candidate in the Local Elections, for Longford Ward, in Coventry North East. I felt that I could better serve and understand the Community, and at the same time re-acquaint myself with Education, and how it operated at interacted with the local area. I have now been a Local Authority Governor at Courthouse Green for 8 years, and have just been appointed for a further four. At times during this period, I have been Vice Chair and Chair, of the main Governing Body, and I am currently Chair of the Resources Sub-Committee. I have tried to serve the School as well as I could, and at the same time, it has been an immense “learning-curve” for myself

### **EXPERIENCE**

There has been a very long gap of many years since I was at school, to the present day, so I cannot say that I brought 'relevant' experience to the Governing Body. But I have found that my many years in industry to be of considerable value in assessing what needs to be done; in dealing with finance and general decision-making, and in working with my fellow Governors and both the academic and support administration staff in the School.

### **ALL ABOUT ME**

I am not a native of Coventry, but have lived here for many years. I was born in Grimsby, in North East Lincolnshire, in 1941, moving away from there for work purposes, in 1967. I worked in Coventry from 1971 until 1998, then from 1998 to 2001, at Hams Hall, near Birmingham, after which I retired. From 1961, I worked for Dunlop Tyres (now Goodyear-Dunlop) in Administration and Distribution, initially in Grimsby, and so it may be said that I was most fortunate to be able to work forty years for the same Company.

Educationally, since leaving school with only three GCE's (then called) I later acquired another two, at night-school, before studying for a Bachelor of Arts Degree, with the Open University, in what was (laughingly) called “my spare time!” In industry, I obtained two vocational qualifications in Road Transport Management, one “National” and the other “International.”

Outside of politics ( which I am not so concerned with, nowadays) my life-long interest has been railways (somewhat ironic, considering that I worked in association with the Road Transport Industry!) I am a member of two Railway Organisations, in Britain and in Ireland. For the one in Britain, which has international membership, I am currently the Treasurer; with the one in Ireland, I am engaged upon a massive research project into aspects of railway operations in Ireland, from its beginnings to the present day.

I was married for a short while, but was divorced in 1980. In taking-up with my present Partner/Fiancee, I have “acquired” two grandchildren (two boys, four and two, respectively) and am helping to bring them up. Learning “parenting skills” at my time of life has (and still is) yet another “learning curve!” So unusual is my situation, in this respect, I feel that I am living my life “backwards” not ever having had children of my own!

I am sure that my current and future experiences in this area are going to help considerably in my understanding of the needs and well-being of the young children in Courthouse Green School. And I am equally sure that I will still be learning, myself!