SIMON GIFFORD- MEAD

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After school I joined a firm of Solicitors but after 18 months I realized that the law was not for me and I joined a company of ship owners as a Management Trainee who operated cargo liner services between the UK and the Caribbean basin, South and East Africa. Fifteen years later with several senior managements roles completed I decided to start on my own in a completely different field.

My family and I wanted to live in Devon by this stage so started designing and building homes in South Devon and I am now semi-retired.

I am also a member of Dart Totnes Rowing Club and although I don't compete now, I help with coaching juniors.

I was asked to join the governors at The Grove in 2003 to help with the new school and have continued ever since. Currently I am lead governor for the site and facilities, and health and safety as well as a member of the resources committee.

For me, education is the most valuable gift we can provide for the next generation so it is good to be able to offer help in support of the fantastic Grove school.