

Mercia School Careers Lunch



Thursday 18 November
2021

Peter Stones

International Welding Engineer

About me

I am 59 years old and have lived in Sheffield all my life apart from 4 years on and off at university. I attended Ashleigh Comprehensive School in Gleadless (now a housing estate) and left with 6 'O' Levels (equivalent to GCSE's) and 2 bad 'A' levels in Maths and Physics. At 18 on leaving school, I got a job as Trainee Engineer for a manufacturing company in Sheffield on the basis of the company sponsoring me to go to Bradford University where I completed a 4 year, 'thin sandwich' degree in Manufacturing Systems Engineering, the course was 6 months at university and 6 months at work for 4 years.

On completion of my degree, I stayed with the company for 5 years and became Factory Manager with 250 people reporting to me. I left there, (for a bigger salary) and using my engineering qualification I took a position as Works Engineer for a lead smelter in Derbyshire. My responsibility was to keep the process running 24/7 with my teams of Mechanical Fitters, Electrical Engineers, Bricklayers and other associated trades. This was an extremely interesting, very high pressure job utilising state of the art technology. After 7 years I left there (for a bigger salary) to become Chief Engineer at a factory manufacturing cardboard boxes. Essentially this involved similar responsibilities in as much as keeping the factory going, and what sounds like a mundane process was in fact totally led by technology, the factory had had a £38 million investment the year before and again had some state of the art production equipment.

It was whilst working there that I realised that I wanted a change of career. In my position I would regularly be visited by salesmen in nice suits, driving nice cars who were trying to entice me to buy their wares and invariably I would be in overalls and had probably been working half the night and weekend to get some maintenance completed to a deadline. I decided that I would like to be on the other side of the desk and sought a Technical Sales role. I managed to land a role as Plant Sales Manager for a company in Rotherham manufacturing forged products for the aerospace industry so my customers were companies like Rolls-Royce, Boeing and AeroBus. The company was part of a global group who were the largest in the world for those particular products so for the first time I had the opportunity to travel the world, gaining experience of how the company operated in USA and was able to visit customers all over Europe and India.

My next role was with the Swedish company Sandvik, they started as a steel manufacturer 150 years ago and are now an \$18 billion company employing 50,000 people in 160 countries. I started as Technical Sales, UK. I was able to gain more knowledge and experience, and so further opportunities for promotion became available. After 10 years with Sandvik I became Global Product Manager for Welding Products. At the age of 50 Sandvik supported me in continuing my professional development and to complete a professional qualification this took 3 years to achieve, so now I am an International Welding Engineer, (you are never too old to learn!) This qualification has opened a lot of doors and I have visited customers, conferences and training sessions in 45 countries advising on the best materials and processes for the fabrication of equipment such as nuclear power stations, road bridges and sub sea oil pipelines.

Four years ago Sandvik sold the welding business – that part of Sandvik that I worked for – to ESAB who are 100% a welding company and the biggest in the world, so now I work for ESAB, the main

geographical areas that I have been developing are Eastern Europe – Czech Republic, Poland, Slovenia, Hungary and Romania; Nordic countries – Sweden, Finland, Norway and Denmark; and also the UK. Since travel has been restricted as well as maintaining contacts from home, I am writing and presenting training and technical webinars to ESAB colleagues and also to customers all around the world and have recently been asked to lecture on welding processes to the MSc course at Cranfield University of Technology.

Dr Daniel Hammett

Senior Lecturer in Human Geography

About me

I am currently a Senior Lecturer in Human Geography at the University of Sheffield, having completed my BA Geography degree at the University of Oxford and my PhD at the University of Edinburgh. Over the years I have worked in the UK and overseas. Alongside my academic career I provide geopolitical consultancy services and have worked with a range of charities and non-profit organisations in South Africa and Rwanda on topics relating to health, justice, advocacy and education.

Selma Al-Ahmad

Doctor - Neurosurgery

About me

I was born in the small city of Leuven in Belgium, to a Palestinian father and a Belgian mother. I was the second child; my sister was three years my senior. My dad worked as a software engineer, and my mother was an economist, both interestingly had a job affiliated to the healthcare sector. When I was almost five years old, a year after my brother was born, my father decided to move to Jordan. Ever since that very first move, I feel my life has constantly been on the move. I grew up in four different countries, speaking three different languages, and have been to nine different schools. Although that may seem to the reader as a very unstable childhood, it was perhaps the best thing that ever happened to us, it has definitely broadened our horizons and minds. My mother stopped her job as an economist after her third child was born, and was a full-time mom thereafter, the greatest and most challenging job, which she did brilliantly. For a long time during my childhood and early teenage years, I didn't exactly know what I wanted to be when I grow up. I think I wanted to be everything from an astronaut to a scientist to a lawyer and even a filmmaker! My father enrolled us in international schools, to make it a tad easier for us, given the moving around, so I did GCSEs and A-levels when I was in Jordan. One very serendipitous morning on careers day when I was in year ten, a neurosurgeon came to give a short talk about his job. To be honest, I don't remember much of it, yet I know it left a memorable impression on me. I always loved the sciences and did well in them, so I decided to do physics, chemistry, biology and maths for my A-levels. I found biology, particularly everything related to the working of the human body, very exciting and I found my A-level biology teacher very interesting to talk to. I had a lot of love and respect for her. I told her about my interest in the human body, especially the brain and so she advised me to do medicine, she said it will open up many possibilities for me and she thought I would do well in it. I secretly had a passion for physics as well, but I couldn't see myself following a career in it, so I had to satisfy myself with just the wild curiosity for it. I moved back to Belgium to study medicine, that was perhaps the boldest decision

I've ever made. After having to pass a very difficult entrance exam, I embarked on a very challenging journey, largely because I had to study in Dutch, but also because the degree was particularly difficult in Belgium. Towards the end of medicine, when we started working in the hospitals, going to the wards, seeing patients and looking after them, I realised why I had persevered for so long, it all made sense in the end. I felt I belonged there. I enjoyed every encounter I had with the patients and felt the unique privilege I had, to be able to care for people in times when they were hurting, scared and often lonely. My love for the intricate and sublime world of the nervous system never faded away, so it came naturally to me to want to pursue a career in neurosurgery. Since I graduated from medical school, I found myself on yet another rocky path, a path to start specialisation in neurosurgery. I moved to the UK to pursue this ambition, as I didn't have many options back in Belgium. It took a few years and a few struggles, before I was able to achieve this dream and start my speciality training in neurosurgery, where I find myself today. Throughout my early years of being a doctor I have had many sweet and bitter experiences, but I think I can confidently say, there is no other career like medicine or other place like a hospital. The hundreds of different patients I met, the countless stories I heard, the tears, smiles, the happiness, sadness, the helplessness, anger, frustration, the hope, optimism and gratefulness, I don't think there's anywhere else you can encounter all that, sometimes in just one day, and dare I say, one room! I looked after patients who came through the front door to the emergency department, because they were very unwell, like after having been in a traffic accident for instance. Some of the patients I saw needed to have an operation. I also looked after sick children, pregnant women who were about to deliver a baby to the world or elderly patients who may have been very close to dying. Every patient encounter is very unique, and a wide variety of skillsets are required to do your job as a doctor. The most important thing in the end of the day, is to listen to your patients, be empathic and care about them. Being a doctor is not always easy, we often have to work for long hours, we have to share bad news with patients and their families, we have to deal with uncertainty and sometimes a lot of hard work is met with ingratitude. However, as long as your compass is pointing in the right direction; you know why you want to be a doctor, why you enjoy the job and what you love about it, such as caring for other people, it will be a very fulfilling career and you'll always find your north.

David Sargent

CEO – Real Life Options

About me

David is the Group Chief Executive Officer at Real Life Options Company (RLO). RLO operates nationally with a turnover of £45m, owns three viable trading companies and has a team of 2300 staff working across England and Scotland supporting 2038 people in 45 local authority areas through individual and multiple occupancy tenancies with 24-hour support, supported housing, 1:1 outreach, residential care homes, vocational day services, short breaks, respite, mental health support, end of life care and forensic support. David is committed to supporting people living with age related conditions, learning disabilities and autism so they can live their lives with dignity and choice. Previously, David worked for the YMCA, Connexions, MHA Care Group, Davy McKee, Local Authorities, Rand Water and as a self-employed Horticulturist. David has over 31 years of managerial experience including 17 years in four CEO roles. David is a Fellow of the Institute of Leadership and Management, holds a master's degree in Applied Management and his Doctoral research focused on how organisations make sense of their historical context.

Fiona Clapperton

Education and Engagement Manager

About me

After enjoying the subject all the way through her school years, Fiona Clapperton studied an undergraduate degree in History at the University of East Anglia, where she obtained a First. She then attended the University of Cambridge, where she studied a masters degree in Modern European History. Alongside her degree, she volunteered on her college's May Ball committee. This gave her some experience in organizing a large-scale event (the May Ball that was attended by 1500 people and had a budget of £180,0000.) Before starting her PhD, Fiona had a year out of education and used her new found skills to work in events management for the Wallace Collection national museum in London. In 2015, Fiona commenced her PhD in History and English, which was co-supervised by the University of Sheffield and Chatsworth in Derbyshire. Her thesis, published in January 2020, was entitled 'From Servants to Staff, the Making of a Modern Estate'. It looks at the relationships between different groups of people living and working on the Chatsworth estate in the first half of the Twentieth Century. Fiona describes it as 'Downton Abbey style research project'.

Whilst at Chatsworth, Fiona got the chance to work with a number of different heritage professionals, and she particularly enjoyed working with the education department. In her final year of the PhD, Fiona got a part-time job as an Education Assistant, working at the Royal Armouries in Leeds. After finishing her doctorate, Fiona worked for a Children's Literacy Charity as Festivals Officer, before moving to English Heritage. There, she worked for over 2 years as the Youth Participation Officer for the North, where she was in charge of planning, overseeing and delivering educational programmes. Recently, she has started a new job working as Education and Engagement Manager for the Harley Gallery near Worksop.

Steve Saxton

Airline Captain

About me

I am a graduate of Oxford Aviation Academy and worked as a commercial pilot, latterly as an Airline Training Captain, training new entry level commercial pilots on various aircraft types, including flight simulators.

John Lawson

Managing Director

About me

I am founder of Lawson Modelmakers Ltd (Managing Director) and ex RAF aircraft engineer. I started my own company 40 years ago as a professional modelmaker, serving the engineering and military sectors.

James Wright

Solicitor

About me

I am a solicitor at Irwin Mitchell LLP. Irwin Mitchell is a full service legal firm, offering legal advice for both businesses and individuals, varying from corporate and real estate, to family and personal injury. I specialise in Will, Trust and Estate Disputes team and I advise clients regarding a variety of disputes such as challenging the validity of a will, bringing and defending claims under the Inheritance (Provision for Family & Dependents) Act 1975 for a larger share of an estate and also disputes in general relating to properties, trusts and estates.

Lucy Farquhar

PhD Researcher

About me

I am a 3rd year PhD researcher in metallurgy at the University of Sheffield. My project is in metal 3D printing of alloys for aerospace and is supported by Boeing. This involves designing new alloys and then trying to manufacture them by 3D printing to get the desired properties. Prior to my PhD, I did my undergraduate degree in General Engineering at the University of Oxford specialising in materials, mechanics and structures.

Jessica Zeun

Chief Product Officer

About me

Jessica is a technology professional with experience in both corporate and academic roles. She ran her own technology consulting firm for 6 years focusing on digital marketing, social media and website development and loves sharing her experience in technology with young people as a STEM ambassador. She is also a professional member of the British Computer Society and special Visiting Lecturer for Sheffield Hallam University, Department of Computing.

Martin Black

Senior Project Manager

About me

With over 25 years' experience in the Civil Engineering field and a successful independent business owner, Martin Black is an ambitious, reliable, creative and committed Senior Project Manager in Civil Engineering and Infrastructure.

Martin has significant experience of the tendering and bid process, leading bids and schemes for a variety of customers across all major sectors including Local Authorities and National Highways (formerly Highways England), predominantly located in the Yorkshire and North East region. With a portfolio covering a wide range of experience across multiple disciplines from traditional build to remediation, rail, structures and highways his proficiencies include the maximisation of buildability and value engineering, driving down cost, identifying sustainable solutions and delivering safely to programme.

Douglas Parsons

Software Engineer

About me

I have been working professionally as a Software Engineer for just over 5 years both in Leeds, Sheffield and from home (remotely). This means day-to-day I write code and computer software to solve problems for companies and people.

Currently, I work remotely for an American Silicon Valley company called Vercel, who created Next JS (one of the most popular frameworks for building websites). Some of the big companies who use Next JS include Netflix, Twitch, TikTok, Nike and Uber. In the past, I have also worked on NHS systems responsible for assigning prices to hospital treatments and on a platform enabling people to donate to charity. I use a variety of different programming languages such as Python, Javascript and Go.

Before beginning my career, I studied Computer Science at the University of York, gaining a first-class honours degree (BEng). My A-levels were Maths, Further Maths, Physics and Chemistry. I have always been fascinated by logical problems such as sudokus and Rubik's cubes, and I enjoy playing computer games in my spare time.

Michelle Steele

Commercial Manager

About me

I am an experienced property sales professional, working as a Commercial Manager with a proven track record for obtaining results and meeting targets. I have over eighteen years' experience in property sales, eight years in the public sector and ten in the private sector. I have recently taken a promotion within my organisation to Commercial Manager where I manage a small team and have taken responsibility of the buying for the Construction arm of the Company. Alongside this I have started a Foundation qualification in Quantity Surveying to further my knowledge and understanding on the Construction Industry. I have a wide range of personal and professional qualities required to succeed in a highly competitive market. I adapt quickly and confidently to a variety of situations and can successfully meet the changing demands of a diverse environment.

Andrea Chatten

Lead Children's Emotional & Behavioural Psychologist & Author

About me

Andrea Chatten is the Founder of Unravel, an award winning organisation and an expert in Children's Emotional & Behavioural issues, Author of The Blinks novels and Reference Manuals, an experienced Teacher, and the BBC & media expert. She has been working with complex and vulnerable children for over 30 years. In 2014 she decided to carve out a new model of psychological support to promote the well-being of children, young people and their families in Sheffield and which is rapidly moving across the country.

Elaine Chapman

Music Teacher

About me

Elaine Chapman BA(Hons) LTCL ABSM – Music Teacher. Age 56 and Mother of 3 children. I chose to be an 'at home' mother, but also working as a professional musician from home. I graduated from the Birmingham Conservatoire of Music. I am a self employed Music Teacher working from home for approx. 40 years and I specialise in Piano, Violin, Theory and Singing.

Ian Fisher

Technical Sales Director

About me

I'm the Technical Sales Director Mattair Maintenance, based in Dronfield. My job literally involves producing ways to absorb heat and move it somewhere else, without our industry the modern world wouldn't exist, all of the other STEM Ambassadors need services by someone like me in order to do their job, I'll be literally the coolest guy there..!! If you haven't guessed already, we design install and maintain RACHP systems which acronym for "Refrigeration Air Conditioning and Heat Pumps".

We can discuss what my job entails, my career path, other careers in the RACHP sector including net zero and renewables, what an employer is looking for, how much wages you could earn.

Carolynn McConnell

Career Civil Servant

About me

Carolynn is a career civil servant with over 30 years' experience of working in the Department of Work and Pensions (DWP). The DWP is responsible for welfare, pensions and child maintenance policy. As the UK's biggest public service department with circa 96,000 people, it administers the State Pension and a range of working age, disability and ill health benefits to around 20 million claimants and customers.

Her career has been mainly working in the corporate centre of DWP, delivering large projects which included setting up a procedural service desk to establishing the first 1200-seater contact centre network to take vacancies from employers to latterly establishing a Business Architecture Function. In 2018 she was seconded to Business in the Community, the oldest and largest business led responsible business network, and given licence to do good. In 2019 she played a leading role in establishing and now running Sheffield Business Together (SBT). SBT brings together like-minded businesses to strategically connect and share resources with charities, schools, and colleges to help address some of the key challenges facing our great City and communities.

Simon Piper

Software Developer

About me

Simon works as a Software Developer at AND Digital in Leeds, a tech consultancy which serves to accelerate digital delivery of it's clients across numerous industry sectors, building great digital products and high performing teams. Prior to this, Simon was working in Life Sciences consulting. Simon studied software engineering at Makers Academy, and holds a BSc in medical biochemistry, as well as a PGDip and MSc in economics.

Duncan Thomas

Senior Architect

About me

Duncan Thomas is an architect with over 15 years of experience who works for JTP, a practice of urban designers, master planners and architects based in London. Duncan has worked on projects all over the world including living for a year in Melbourne, Australia. Most recently he has won a competition to revitalise the beach front in Sochi, Russia; overseen the construction of a set of apartments in a golf resort in Prague, Czech Republic and is developing plans for a 5000 home extension of Chelmsford, Essex.

Duncan gained his degree in architecture at the University of Sheffield, before moving to London to complete his Masters at UCL. Duncan uses a combination of hand sketching, computer drawing as well as physical models to demonstrate the design process. His key interest in his work is exploring the DNA of a place and finding ways of adding this formula to new additions to the city.

Tom Ireson

Graduate Engineer

About me

Having developed a keen interest in maths and problem solving throughout my education, I was accepted into the University of Sheffield after receiving A-Levels of A*A*B in Maths, Electronics and Physics. I graduated in 2020 with a Master's Degree in Civil and Structural Engineering and having enjoyed my time in Sheffield, I decided to stay and began working at Eastwood and Partners at the beginning of this year. Eastwood and Partners is a multidisciplinary firm offering a variety of engineering services, though my experience is mainly in structural design, which varies from small domestic work to bigger industrial and commercial projects.

Dennis Dell

Analytical Chemist

About me

1961-64 PhD Chemistry, London University.
1964-66 post doc fellowship at Israel Institute of technology, Haifa
1966-2007 Career in pharmaceutical industry as analytical chemist.

Hannah Thornton

Communications and Toolkit Officer

About me

At South Yorkshire Housing Association our purpose is to help people settle at home, live well and realise their potential – we do that through providing quality homes, building more new homes, and providing services that focus on ending homelessness, providing mental health and employment support, and bringing joy to customers.

My role focuses on sharing our stories, growing our reputation, and helping the business to deliver on its strategic aims. I do this through creating website and print content, interviewing people, delivering events, working with the press, creating social media content, filmmaking, writing (a lot!), developing communications plans, working with our senior leaders, collaborating with other creatives, presenting, networking, and lobbying. I also work on a project called Age Better in

Sheffield where I am involved in using co-production to design creative, community-based solutions to health challenges such as loneliness.

In 2018 I gave a TEDxNHS talk about the importance of connecting with others for our health, and I am also a board member for the organisation Women in Social Housing. As a music graduate, people often ask me how I ended up doing what I do now. My answer is that working in a communications role influences how people feel, helps us understand the world we live in, has an enormous impact on people's experience, and is often a vehicle for positive and meaningful change – just like music. I always think that the most helpful bios are ones that include real honesty, so, whilst words are my strength in my role, numbers and data definitely aren't and I have to ask for help with that a lot in my job. I have also had anxiety for most of my life which I manage much better these days by working 4 days a week, swimming in cold water, taking medication, and going to counselling – everyone has their own ways of managing their health, and working for an organisation who recognises the importance of that was a priority for me when thinking about applying for roles. I'm still not sure what the future holds in terms of my career - one day I'd love to study for a health-related MA, and I'd also quite like to take some time out to adventure round Scotland (with a fluffy dog in tow) - but right now my job is fulfilling and exciting in so many ways and I feel challenged and inspired every single day.

Ros Wollen

Trustee of Women in Engineering Science and Technology Charity

About me

I trained as a motor vehicle mechanic on a government training programme in the 1980's and opened a female owned garage with 3 other women called Gwenda's Garage because we were unable to find employment as women.

We ran this for 6 years and then I went into the AA Services as a road side patrol, working on a shift pattern, either early mornings or afternoons, till late at night. I was the first female mechanic to be working for the AA in the North of England. I then taught at Sheffield College for 11 years, in the motor vehicle dept and after that managed a project to train women in non-traditional trades.

I am now retired and am a trustee of a local charity called Women in Engineering Science and technology – WEST. Women in Engineering Science & Technology whose aim is to promote engineering and non-traditional trades as a career . WEST has an annual bursary programme for young women who are training in such activities. WEST also works in primary and secondary schools to promote women in engineering and non-traditional trades and has a set of secondary school role model posters.

PC Archie Fogg

Police Constable

About me

PC Archie Fogg works as a full-time police officer with Nottinghamshire Police. He is currently taking part in an apprenticeship scheme via the University of Derby's Professional Policing (BA Hons) qualification. Growing up, Archie regularly attended Cadets, giving him a wealth of experience that contributed towards his police training.

Christina George

Radiographer

About me

Through school I didn't really know what I wanted to do, I was good at art and the sciences but never really figured out what I wanted to do. I ended up going to Art college in Middlesbrough but decided it wasn't for me after a couple of years. I basically did all sorts of jobs after that from bar work to door to door sales to being a nursing assistant on a secure mental patients ward at St Lukes Hospital. I decided that I needed to figure out what I wanted to do and was talking to a friend one day and he suggested that I look into NDT (non destructive testing). The more I looked into NDT the more I wanted to do it so I booked myself on a couple of courses with Oceanering, Ultrasonic Testing (UT) and Magnetic Particle Inspection (MPI). I passed both the courses but then struggled to get a job as I had no on the job experience. It took over a year of applying and going to NDT roadshows to finally get a break. I was offered a trainee Radiographer position in South Wales. I took the job and moved the 300 miles to South Wales. I started from the bottom there, it was a brand new facility specialising in digital radiography testing parts for mostly gas turbine engines looking for flaws and defects after the manufacturing process. I ended up in South Wales for 10 years, I did every course that was offered to me and gained a lot of valuable qualifications. 2 years ago I decided it was time for a change and started looking around. I was offered a couple of jobs, one was for Airbus teaching in their training facility in Bristol and the other was with Element setting up a new digital x-ray lab within an established x-ray facility that only used film in Sheffield and that's where I am today. Since being here I have joined the STEM community and I'm also a member of the BINDT Early Careers branch which has been set up to provide help and support for people staring out in the industry.

Lucy Turner

National Programme Manager

About me

After graduating with a degree in Music from The University of Sheffield, Lucy now works in the arts and culture sector as the National Programme Manager for Music in the Round. Within this role,

Lucy oversees the National partner venue relationships including the artist, venue and financial management. Lucy is also a Freelance arts management and marketing professional currently working on projects at Leeds based organisations, Opera North and Leeds Lieder. Previously, Lucy has worked with Sheffield Doc/Fest, Cheltenham Music Festival, Classical Sheffield and Oxford Lieder Festival.

Katie Pearson

Environmental Scientist

About me

I studied Environmental Sciences at the University of East Anglia in Norwich, with an extra year at Umea University in the north of Sweden, to bring together my two favourite subjects of geography and science. After graduating in 2003, I started work in the Flood Risk & Water Management team of an engineering consultancy and have progressed my career since then to my current role as Technical Director at AECOM, a global infrastructure consulting firm. I lead a community of 80 hydraulic & hydrological modellers in the Water team across the UK & Ireland. The modellers come from a mixture of backgrounds including civil engineering, geography, environmental science and maths and include graduates & apprentices through to staff with over 30 years experience in this field. We deliver projects for the Environment Agency, for water companies, for local authorities and for infrastructure developers (e.g. Highways England and Network Rail) to do with flood risk mapping, wastewater network improvements, infrastructure design and much more. I'm also a chartered member of CIWEM, the Chartered Institute for Water & Environmental Management and sit on their Professional Standards Committee assessing applications from new members and promoting the institution worldwide.

Adrienne Rowen

Aircraft Maintenance Technician

About me

I'm Adrienne, I'm from Sheffield, 27 years old and am currently an Aircraft Maintenance Technician, which is the first step to becoming a licensed Aircraft Engineer. I enjoy flying aeroplanes for fun and fixing them as my day to day job.

Jen Stones

Senior Staff Nurse

About me

I am a Senior Staff Nurse on the Haematology, Oncology & Bone Marrow Transplant Unit at Sheffield Children's Hospital and have been qualified for over 4 years. I trained in Buckinghamshire & had my first newly qualified job at Great Ormond Street Hospital in Theatres, then moved onto the cancer unit.

Freya Leader

Electrical/Electronics Manufacturing Engineering Apprentice

About me

My name is Freya Leader, I am a 33 year old 4th year apprentice who works for Powell UK. My official title is Electrical / Electronics Manufacturing Engineering Apprentice. Powell UK design and manufacture switchgear, which is electrical equipment used in large factories, oil rigs and power plants. I am a strong advocate for women in engineering and STEM careers. Outside of work I enjoy weight training, hiking and photography.

Mark Harrison

Managing Director

About me

I am the Managing Director of a Sports Nutrition Manufacturer called The Protein Partners. We create exciting and functional products for sportspeople and gym goers around the world. We work with professional sports people, highly successful business people, and most importantly, the everyday gym goer. I personally have progressed in my career by working hard and moving up the ranks within the businesses. Starting in an entry level job 8 years ago, moving up to being made the Managing Director at just 29 years old. This job allows me to travel the world to meet amazing people, and create long-lasting relationships, which go a long way to not only getting you a good career, but also a happy and fulfilling work life. When I was at school, I didn't know what I wanted to do really, just ideas. Being open to new opportunities and accepting of plans sometimes changing allows you to discover roads that you may never have considered.

Sue Clarke

Furniture Maker

About me

I trained as a carpenter & joiner on a Government funded TOPS scheme in 1982 and worked for 5 years in a small (3 women) women's carpentry co-operative in London. I did further training as a furniture maker and then spent the next 10 years working as a furniture maker for two different companies and then self employed in my own workshop. From 2000 onwards I combined being self employed with part-time teaching in F. E. colleges (Sheffield, Rotherham & Barnsley) and also in community centres. I have focussed on teaching DIY skills and furniture making to women only groups in all those settings, but have also taught mixed groups. I have now returned to working self employed in a shared workshop in Attercliffe, and running classes for women in my workshop.

Edward Haynes

Senior Endoscopic Sales Specialist

About me

In terms of the bio on me – Having graduated from the university of Sheffield in 2015 with a degree in Microbiology, I am now working as a medical sales specialist within the surgical field, and have been doing this for the last 5 and half years. We provide a range of high end technical medical equipment for minimally invasive or “Key hole surgery”. It is a field based role that involves a lot of travel and as a result of this, it offers great variety and no day is the same. Some of the key responsibilities are as follows:

- Identify opportunities and deliver KARL STORZ products and solutions
- Act as the primary point of contact for all relevant customers across my territory
- Develop and maintain in-depth knowledge of relevant products, market and customers
- Demonstrate KARL STORZ products within highly pressurised environments such as operating theatres
- Mentor, train and support regional team with special focus on new starters

It is a demanding but well rewarded career where a multitude of personalities, skill sets and backgrounds can be honed to achieve success.

Theo Elmer

Technical Director

About me

My professional enthusiasm and excitement lie with renewable and zero-carbon technologies and their role in sustainable development. I have over 15 years of experience working as an engineer in the fields of hydrogen, fuel cells and renewable energy. I obtained my PhD in fuel cell engineering from the University of Nottingham in 2015, I then went on to become a research and development engineer in the renewable energy industry. Currently, I am Technical Director at GeoPura where I am responsible for the design, build, and deployment of zero emission power generation (fuel cell) and hydrogen production (electrolyser). Current project customers include Netflix, BBC and National Grid. My other passion is rock climbing.

Nicola Woodroffe

Retired Professor in Neuroimmunology

About me

I grew up in Huddersfield and after A levels I went to university in London to study biochemistry. After my degree I carried on for another 3 years doing research on enzymes, which had its ups and

downs! I then went to the USA for two years doing research on heart muscle cells. I returned to London to continue laboratory research on brain cells related to multiple sclerosis. In 1994 I moved to Sheffield to become a university lecturer at Sheffield Hallam. I stayed there until I retired in 2020. I progressed in my career to become a professor and a manager of a research centre.

David Beckett

Director

About me

MAC Construction Consultants is a national leading construction consultancy established over a decade ago. Working with an extensive and varied list of clients we operate in a wide range of sectors including education, healthcare, leisure, retail and residential, to name a few. Our core services are Project Management, Quantity Surveying, Building Surveying and Health & Safety Consultancy services. My role within the business is the Director responsible for Project Management and Quantity Surveying services across our Sheffield, Leeds and Manchester services. My days vary massively from producing cost plans, contract documents, programmes of work, attending progress meetings and completing surveys to name but a few of my tasks. I started life at MAC as a graduate surveyor and have progressed to be a director and shareholder within the business.

Oliver Hill

Director of Field Operations

About me

I graduated from the University of Nottingham with a degree in Architecture. My studies continued with a Master's degree in Urban Studies at the University of Sheffield, which demonstrated a passion for broad, global challenges. Considering the enormous challenge of decarbonization of our energy landscape, I joined the rapidly expanding wind industry, conducting essential inspection and maintenance on wind turbine blades. With knowledge of field service operations in the wind industry, I transferred my skills into another fast-growing area in the renewables sector, the hydrogen industry. GeoPura is a start-up business partnered with Siemens Energy. We use hydrogen technology to provide zero-emissions power to a wide range of industries – from construction, to film and TV production, to outdoor events. The recent live BBC Autumnwatch broadcast used our technology! As Director of Field Operations, I am responsible for the interface between GeoPura and its major clients, whilst managing our growing team involved in field operations.