



CONNECT WEEKLY

HEART TO HEART with the EDITOR



NAME: Bridhe Grimes

POSITION: Operations Manager, Northern Ireland

What does your job entail as Operations Manager Northern Ireland?

As Operations Manager for Northern Ireland, I am responsible for ensuring that we successfully deliver the service that we have promised and that our clients expect.

As Belfast is a Regional Office, I look after the everyday running of the office and everything associated with that.

How did you get into this line of work?

I am a people person. I love people so it was evident in the early stage of my career that I would work with or manage people. I thrive on the challenges that working with people bring, it not only makes my job interesting and sometimes very difficult but also it makes me value those I work with and my team around me.

Outline your career to date?

After leaving College I worked as a manager in the textile industry. Due to a downturn in business I was made redundant in 1998. I then applied and successfully secured a position with Maybin Support Services. My first major contract was as site manager in Bombardier where I quickly progressed to a senior management position, successfully managing a small number of large contracts across Northern Ireland. In 2005 when Richard Maybin sold his business, his brother Colin Maybin decided to open a business in Northern Ireland. He invited David Ferguson and myself to take on the challenge of building the business. In July 2006 we launched Momentum Support, Northern Ireland and we haven't looked back since.

I feel very privileged to have worked with the most respected figures in the industry throughout my career. The knowledge and experience that I have gained has been invaluable.

What makes working the cleaning industry interesting and challenging?

I think that in this industry it is all about evolving and adapting to the changing demands of our clients' needs. This has been evident during the current Covid Pandemic. We have all had to learn and adapt very quickly. I believe

that we are already witnessing change in how we manage and perform cleaning tasks and this will continue to evolve. Our Customers and the general public's expectations have increased - they expect people visiting or working in their buildings to experience a clean and safe environment.

Gone are the days of a tin mop bucket, dolly/ socket mop, yellow dusters and white dish cloths. These have all been replaced with hi tech mopping systems, colour coding, disposable mops and cloths and most recently fogging systems. "who'd have thought that one day we would be dressed like 'Storm Troopers' going into buildings armed with vapour guns!!!"

Tell me something about you others may not know?

I was a former Assistant District Commissioner for Venture Scouting. This involved organising International Events as well as planning events throughout Northern Ireland. I can honestly say that the most enjoyable and rewarding times of my life were spent within the Scouting Association, whether it be walking in the Mourne Mountains, climbing in the Alpine regions of Switzerland or serving tea to Sir Edmund Hillary. For those of you who ask "Who's he?", along with his Sherpa Tenzing Norgay they were the first reported climbers to have reached the summit of Mount Everest in 1953. It was an absolute honour to meet him.

I'm also the one responsible for our Company being called Momentum Support (so it's all my fault).

Tell me your favourite quote?

"Gonna live while I'm alive, I'll sleep when I'm dead!!"
(Bon Jovi)

