

My name is Geoff Prudence and I am currently in my 40th year in industry, having worked in public and private sector organisations. I began to get more actively involved with CIBSE during the 1990's and whilst maintaining my passion for effective engineering systems, have spent majority of my later career in senior positions leading teams and change in the growing property/facilities management technical arena.



THE ROUTE TO BECOMING A BUILDING SERVICES ENGINEER

I was attracted to an indentured apprenticeship, which was actually with rail/infrastructure, predominantly because of the thorough and wide range of training and experience offered. On reflection, key development factors that have influenced me from working there were:

- The need to always take a multi-disciplined view and consider overall impact of the engineering systems on the customer
- And my willingness to take ownership and confront issues.

The progression included building services, but I moved into power systems design and then operational large areas, systems and team management, which then grew into management of associated buildings in those geographical areas.

My interest in commitment to standards and effective operations and maintenance in designs, drew me more into buildings and services. My power systems experience and the growing 'Forward thinking' in the Financial Services sector at the time, provided an opportunity to join NatWest at a time when 'Premises' Management was developing into the early stages of what we now know as Facilities management (FM). With a passion for effective design, operation and a customer focussed maintenance service,

this was also a great time to be in the industry of growing Dealing Rooms, Data Centres and the Critical Services environments we know today. So I was hooked on the Design /Op's challenges of Building Services Engineering. The experiences gained in large portfolios, managing in a corporate environment and iconic buildings were invaluable.

The most enjoyable aspects of my job are engaging with people at all levels to move things forward.



GET IN TOUCH WITH CIBSE-THE SCOPE IS WIDE, YOU CAN QUICKLY FIND AN AREA OF BUILDING SERVICES THAT 'SPARKS' YOUR INTEREST.



LIKE ALL ASSOCIATIONS OR MEMBERSHIPS, YOU ONLY REALLY GET OUT WHAT YOU ARE PREPARED TO PUT IN. IT IS THE OPPORTUNITIES TO WIDEN THINKING, MEETING AND UNDERSTANDING POINTS OF VIEW AND BUILDING SYSTEMS THAT IS THE REAL BENEFIT OF MEMBERSHIP.



GREATEST PROFESSIONAL ACCOMPLISHMENT

There are many areas of technical change and influences I am proud of both in buildings, technical teams and my involvement in CIBSE as a Chartered Engineer and Fellow. I am particularly pleased to have been involved with many standards, industry initiatives and particularly CIBSE's Guide M as it has now become, and leading the CIBSE Facilities Management Group for many years. But overall being recognised by CIBSE for my contribution with a Silver Medal in 2009 has to be my proudest professional moment.

APPLYING FOR FCIBSE

Professional recognition to a highly regarded standard is obviously a key driver for becoming a Fellow, but I always said I wanted to be actively involved. So many people

often get to a level of membership then tick over with minimum CPD. For me it is about learning and engaging with the industry every day and CIBSE provides the professional support platform to do just that. Then to become a Fellow was a further recognition of commitment and demonstration of experience operating at a higher level in building services through CIBSE and commitment to make a contribution to the wider industry.

APPLYING FOR FCIBSE

Like all things of value and professional standing, applicants must demonstrate alignment with criteria, but making time to engage thoroughly with the process is essential is probably the best advice I could give. You'll be

surprised at how much you have achieved when you sit down and reflect on it!



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HOW CIBSE MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS ME

Like all associations or memberships, you only really get out what you are prepared to put in. So as well as professional recognition, access to the knowledge portal and the usual formal stuff, it is the opportunities

to widen thinking, meeting people and talking with others and understanding points of view and building systems that is the real benefit of membership.

GIVING BACK TO THE INDUSTRY

It was something I have done for over 20 years, through CIBSE, and other Industry bodies, lecturing and giving talks to encourage people into building services and particular the design/operation of building services systems. It's such an opportunity area.

Building services is great because they are what bring buildings to life. So it is up to us to continually improve how we design, build and operate/maintain them to be effective. ■