

Fiona's Personal Profile



I am often asked, "How do you manage to work with your husband?" This is mainly by people who know Neil well and have experienced his 'unique' sense of humour and Planet Rock issuing forth from his corner of the office, which we share!

Whilst this tends to get me a great deal of sympathy, in truth, we do work very well together. I believe that this is mainly due to our separate rolls within the Company. As Finance Director, I am left with my team to deal with all finance and project cost monitoring and leave Neil and the other two Directors to deal with 'everything else'.

The only issue arises at home when my priorities are split. Neil has designed and built us a beautiful kitchen, for which he is currently finishing a circular seating unit. So when he comes home on Friday to say that a customer has asked him to provide a quote by Monday, as FD I need him to ensure quotes go out but as a wife and Mother, I would like somewhere to sit!

I am also asked whether it was easy for me to migrate from Engineering to the Company Neil started. As a Chartered Electrical and Electronic Engineer, previously working in the Automation and Marine Industry, I am very passionate about British design and manufacturing and hope to ensure that both these skills remain high in the UK and that schools encourage a proportion of their children to consider these areas.

Outside of work, I am kept on my toes by our daughter, Charlotte. For those of you who are parents, you will be able to relate to the demands as a taxi driver, councillor, fount of all knowledge, etc. Neil and I are fortunate that 'Charlie' has the same taste in music as us, so she willingly accompanied us to see Black Sabbath, Nickleback and The Scorpions in concert. In return, we had to accompany her to listen to her favourite artist, Alice Cooper!

We live in a lovely sociable village outside of Rugby. To this end I get involved in the village's global fundraising; the proceeds of which then get divided between the different organisations in the village which need some funding, whether it be the village school, church, scouts or the sheltered housing. Besides the Summer Fete, which takes up half of the year in planning, we also have a Progressive Supper. For those of you who have never heard of this, I can thoroughly recommend it if you enjoy, drinking, eating and socialising. In a nutshell, we all meet at someone's house for pre-dinner drinks and then split up into different groups of 6 or 8 at different houses for a starter, main course and dessert. We all then meet back at another house for cheese & biscuits and more drinking! A great way to meet new people and it raises money!

As a deprived child, I was never enrolled in Ballet or tap. I have now addressed this with tap dancing lessons (unfortunately the tutu didn't fit). Weekly classes in the village are hysterical. In the 6 years I have been going, I still find that I can't remember any of the tap routine by the following week – Neil says it has something to do with my age!

I am also a member of a committee, which organises the Annual Black Tie Ball in Rugby, for Cancer Research UK and local Cancer related charities. The Ball has been running in Rugby for over 40 years and my Mother was part of the original committee for 25 years <http://www.rugbycancerball.co.uk/>. It is a charity very close to my heart as I have recently lost people very dear to me. Over the years we are fortunate to have had the support of many people, most local, some not so. Their help has made the Annual Ball a great success raising hundreds of thousands of pounds for Cancer Research UK.

If you or anyone you know may wish to contribute prizes, donations, or help in any way that would be fabulous!

Fiona