

Ian's Personal Profile



Designing and making furniture has played a significant part of my life for almost 21 years, right from the time I left college and it still gives me so much pleasure I can't imagine doing anything else. Thankfully due to the courage of a local bespoke furniture maker (and a week of summer work experience) my fledgling career started to develop immediately after I completed my training at College. Some years later, the lure of working for an extremely gifted furniture maker became irresistible, and I moved to expand my skills ever further. Looking back, my time there was to prove invaluable, as it not only developed my skills, but it further developed my passion for creating beautiful furniture - traits that have become essential during my 15 years at N.E.J Stevenson.

Away from work there are two things that are very important to me, my family and my Christian life. I am married with two young and therefore very energetic children. As a family we all love the great outdoors, regardless of the weather. Summer or winter, mountains or sea, it's just a joy to be able to spend time enjoying our beautiful islands. We walk, cycle and even climb (although it's rare for the children to do that!) and when we return home I can usually be found on the allotment readying the vegetables for a wholesome home cooked meal, great at any time of the year but especially good in the winter!

The second thing that is very important to me is my life as a committed Christian. I base my life around the teachings of the bible which I find invaluable because it helps give me direction and a sense of purpose in everything that I do. My faith influences both my thoughts, and my actions at home, work and play. So much so that one day I hope to contribute my time and energy to help under-privileged people in the developing world. Whether that's constructing hospitals, homes or schools is of no consequence as long as I can make a small difference to their well-being, and the charities that do their best to support them.

I really relish a challenge - take our family home for example. This is the only house we have ever bought it was a complete wreck according to my wife! But over the years we have lived there we have spent much of our spare time renovating it, in fact there's not much of the original house remaining!

Challenges are there to be conquered and I never let an obstacle get in the way, in fact talking of conquering reminds me of the time I reached the summit of Ben Nevis only to bump into my facial double William Hague, MP - I don't know who was more surprised?

So what's next in my life? Well perhaps one day I'll get the chance to expand my personal interest of the great outdoors even further; heli-skiing in Alaska, climbing Everest, trekking the Alps with my family or maybe just learning to sail - until then I'm just happy to take every day as it comes.