

Volunteer Spotlight

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THE INSTITUTION OF FIRE ENGINEERS
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Tell us about yourself.

I run a health and safety and fire safety company in Scotland as well as doing work for the IFE. Before that, I spent 35 years in the fire service.

When did you first learn about the IFE?

Way back in the 70s when I was taking promotional exams. There were statutory promotional exams you had to take then for each of the first three ranks, and then there were the IFE exams on top of that. So, it was through the examinations initially and then when I became a member, I found out a bit more about what the IFE did and got involved then.

Tell us about your volunteer roles.

I've been an examiner for about 20 years now. Initially I was invited to come and mark exams, and then after a while I was asked to set up a couple of papers and I became a senior examiner. I'm also a member of the Scotland Branch Council.

What is your favourite part of being an IFE volunteer?

It's knowing that I'm helping young fire engineers or people to contribute to making people safe. That's the best bit, knowing I'm doing something to help.

What are your highlights of volunteering?

When you mark papers, and you recognise from the marking you're doing that people are trying to improve their knowledge and understanding of fire engineering and to mark it and say that's a pass, that's a nice feeling.

Would you recommend volunteering with the IFE to others? If so, what would you say?

That you can get a lot out of it, you put a lot in, but it's very rewarding. You get the satisfaction of knowing that ultimately, you're helping the whole environment to be safer and people to be free from the danger of fire.

Has the COVID-19 pandemic impacted your volunteer role?

Yes, it has. I have been able to spend much more time on activities that before COVID-19 would have had to be squeezed into time that I had available. The enforced stay at home policy has allowed me to take a more relaxed approach to the volunteer role and to focus a great deal more on the work that I do.

What actions has IFE Scotland Branch taken to adapt during this time?

The branch council has been able to spend more time on branch activities and discussions. The branch has been able to focus on the provision of CPD activities using the main IFE website's videos and other sources of relevant CPD activities.

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