

My name is Wally Gilder and I currently have many roles. I continue to lead and develop the company I founded in 1979 and whilst many people in their early sixties may have started to wind down, my professional interests continue to grow. I am the Chairman of a CIBSE society, The Institute of Local Exhaust Ventilation Engineers (ILEVE) and have been since its foundation in 2010. I started in Local Exhaust Ventilation following an engineering apprenticeship and I have remained in the profession until the present day, as an area engineer, a consultant, a contractor and a manufacturer. Local Exhaust Ventilation has a requirement in virtually every industry and my passion is to use the experience gained in over 40 years, to train and encourage others and to establish professional standards within the industry.

been involved with during my time in the industry from maggot farms to crematoria; from food and pharmaceutical production; to nuclear energy and windmills, each has a need for LEV and has its own challenges. It has always given me a great deal of satisfaction to be able to draw something one day and see it being made the next, it is even more satisfying when the end result is to protect someone's health and longevity. I also enjoy the travel aspects of the job as a building services engineer as I have travelled the far and Middle East and most of Europe.



WHAT INSPIRED YOU TO BECOMING A BUILDING SERVICES ENGINEER AND WHAT PATH DID YOU TAKE TO ACHIEVE THIS?

It is only in recent years that I have considered myself to be a building services engineer. Local Exhaust Ventilation (LEV) has been a discipline without a home and without standards or any professional qualifications. It has been an industry without formalised or accredited training or having a route to professional recognition. The foundation of The Institute of Local Exhaust Ventilation Engineers under the umbrella of CIBSE and the possibilities that now exist for myself and others have confirmed that LEV is a recognised building service and that routes now exist to Chartered status. I believe I have created the pathway, I now need to follow it to the top. I have been a Fellow of the institution since 2014 and I am currently working on my CEng via the Technical Report Route.

WHAT IS THE MOST ENJOYABLE ASPECT OF YOUR JOB?

Everyday is different, there are very few industries that I haven't

WHAT IS YOUR GREATEST PROFESSIONAL ACCOMPLISHMENT TO DATE?

My greatest professional accomplishment has to be the bringing together of the LEV industry to form ILEVE, giving the industry; with the aid of CIBSE, a voice, a platform and credibility. LEV is the only engineering control that can reduce the horrific numbers of early deaths and suffering brought about by breathing in hazardous substances at work. The award of Fellowship from CIBSE comes a close second.

WHAT ONE PIECE OF ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE SOMEONE THINKING ABOUT BECOMING A BUILDING SERVICES ENGINEER?

Building services has to be one of the most varied engineering professions with endless opportunities at all levels, every day presents a new challenge and all the answers are in CIBSE. My advice would be to get involved as a young engineer, learning definitely gets harder with age.

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WHY DID YOU BECOME FCIBSE?

I believe that everyone should try to be the best they possibly can in whatever area or profession they find themselves in; whether academic, professional, or sporting and recognition at the highest level by one of the countries leading engineering institutions says so much about the achievements of a person. One of my goals as the Chairman of ILEVE has been to create a career path for LEV engineers to full professional status, I had to prove that it was possible and now I can assist and mentor others.

HOW DID YOU FIND THE APPLICATION PROCESS TO BECOME FCIBSE AND WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE TO OTHERS CONSIDERING THE GRADE?

It has always been my belief that I can achieve anything that I put my mind to, only time, age and money occasionally stand in the way. It has been one of my few regrets in life that I didn't pursue

membership of the Institute of Mechanical Engineers at the end of my apprenticeship, I applied for a membership pack but it was a daunting prospect back then and no one in the large engineering company that I worked for seemed able to assist or guide me through the process. When I joined CIBSE my recollection of earlier years initially closed my thoughts to the possibility of achieving any level of membership but now with a lifetime of experience and with the help and encouragement provided by members and the membership department things became quite simple. Once the stepping stones had been laid out, what seemed a giant leap became a few simple steps, requiring a few hours of form filing and digging into the past. I would recommend that anyone considering the process speaks to the membership department and gets involved with their CIBSE Region, mix with the membership and they'll find all the help and encouragement there.

HOW ARE YOU FINDING THE APPLICATION PROCESS TO BECOME A CENG VIA THE TECHNICAL REPORT ROUTE AND WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE OTHERS CONSIDERING THIS ROAD TO REGISTRATION?

I've had all the help and encouragement, it's up to me to complete the report and attend the interview. I'll let you know at the end!

WHAT DO YOU CONSIDER TO BE THE BENEFITS OF CIBSE? AND WHY?

For me, there have been many benefits of CIBSE. Starting an institute from scratch had many hurdles along the route and I do not believe that it would have been possible without the help and assistance of the board and directors of CIBSE. Almost every building services engineer will become involved with Local Exhaust Ventilation at some time during their career and membership of CIBSE has given me the platform to assist others through the minefield of LEV. On a personal level, CIBSE has enabled me to meet and socialise with like-minded professionals, to share knowledge and experience.

BUILDING SERVICES IS GREAT BECAUSE?

Building services is a diverse and ever-changing and broadening profession, new challenges of design and supply needed to meet the changes of climate and issues of sustainability will always make it a very rewarding and necessary profession. ■