

Bradford Community Champions



David Wilford
Managing Director
Ysustain Limited
Bradford West Yorkshire

Born on Broadstone Way Holme Wood, David went to school locally, Dudley Hill Primary, Highfield Middle and Fairfax High Schools.

Leaving school at 16 and went into the textile mill at Scott Dudley Hill commission weavers as a trainee manager and designer. He attended Bradford college on an apprenticeship for textile design day release which entailed one day a week

9.00-17.00 the 17.00-21.00 Management studies for five years achieving a diploma and higher diploma in design and technical textiles.

David was made redundant in 1983 and then got a job at Salts Mill Saltaire as Design Liaison Officer where I worked with senior fabric designers and technicians.

An opportunity came up in January 1984 to apply for a designer role in London, I already knew of the company from my time in the Mill at Scott Dudley Hill.

It was the time when the then Tory government Norman Tebbit MP said to people in the North to “get on their bikes and come to London for work” as it was a time of high unemployment, that’s just what David did at the young age of 22. His role was dealing with buyers from multiple store groups such as Next, River Island, Debenhams, Burtons, Topman etc creating the next designs in fashion lines. This meant a lot of travelling around the world and in particular sourcing fabrics. David has been to India 96 times a total of two years and nine months spent there in short trips, sourcing yarns and fabrics.

In 1987 David was promoted to Managing Director and assisted in the Company been taken over by Drummond Group PLC in 1991 who were based in Bradford so headed back up the M1 to Bradford after 7 years down South. David went Harvard University in Boston Massachusetts to improve his operational knowledge and develop building competitive advantage in businesses. David also achieved a degree Ctext ATI from Manchester Textile Institute in 1996.

In 1996 David became President elect of the Bradford Textile Society and president in 1997, its youngest president at the age of 35, a great honour to receive such an office.

Bradford Community Champions



David stayed in the textile industry until about 2003, when he decided to take a career break and went to bible college and studied theology namely a diploma in Christian ministry and a diploma in Christian discipleship, after this he returned to Bradford to his church to help run the Care Centre social outreach HCC, as Chief Executive Officer in 2006. David grew the voluntary sector organisation and helped it to become sustainable and improved its standing in Bradford. David did a lot of work helping the Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) sitting on the Employment and Skill Board, Regeneration Board and latterly the Place Board, representing the VCS

In 2013 David left HCC to set up his own business consultancy business helping businesses with sustainability, managing costs and reorganisation.

In 2017 David became Chair of Governors at Knowleswood Primary School on Holme Wood and worked hard with the board in recruiting an executive head teacher and senior management team, federating with Cavendish primary to improve the life chances for the 540 children.

David's ability to build teams and manage change in numerous organisations, through his strong leadership, focus and desire to improve situations for individuals helps positive outcomes to be achieved.

Also a father to a daughter who is 24 and two sons 20 and 19.

Sectors worked in and routes taken.	
Private Sector	Part time day release
Public Limited Company	Promotion and Company buyout by PLC
Voluntary and Community Sector	Local Faith based work in Bradford vocational

What I would like to get involved in (Please tick)			
Inspirational Talk	Visits to my place of work	Mentoring / Coaching young people	Other (please state)
X		X	