



Mark's Story

Mark Burns, Systems and Technology Coordinator

I loved technology when I was at school. I enjoyed maths and some of the craft subjects. The computers were big boxes bolted to the desk that showed lines of text. It started off in the classroom but we would buy magazines and when you typed in the computer code it would create your own game. I bought a lot of those!

I did electronics and programming at college. After the course finished it was almost impossible to get into that area without a degree and I wasn't in a position to go get a degree at that time. So I went off and did something completely different and I worked in a big factory for several years as a chargehand/supervisor as I needed to pay my way. So I went off in a different direction.

I was always thinking *"I would have liked that computing job. I would have liked to do technology"* but opportunities didn't arise until I went back and engaged with Higher



Education where I studied Electronics, Media and Communications. My background in getting people to meet deadlines led me in good start for my job now which is all about communication. I work with a lot of teams, and being able to communicate with them without a technical focus is so important. So I listen, translate it, work out what the clients' needs are and turn it into a technical solution and then articulate that back to the team.

I don't really plan for anything. I've been situation driven but I got the skills that meant I could do that. I've had to just go and work in different places because of my personal circumstances.

I've taken lots of different opportunities, sometimes in very different areas. All of the time I did the technology in a background as a hobby and all of that led to the position I've got



now as I was always learning: how things go together, different programming languages. I teach myself using online courses so I can keep up to date. I have them loaded on my phone. It's changing all the time.