



Cliff Leach – Short Biography

I am 67, live in Salisbury in Wiltshire and am a retired engineer.

My first career was with the RAF until I had an accident in 1977 which resulted in the paralysis of both my legs.

I went on to build a career in the IT sector working for UK and USA companies. In 1994 I founded and built an IT company specialising in high-security systems.

Over the years I have designed and developed systems in a wide range of sectors including: banking and finance; telecommunications, defence and security, policing and criminal justice.

I know the reality of building a career and supporting a family with a disability. I have been fortunate in having skills that were independent of my physical limitations; I am only too aware that many people do not have those options.

I now have the time and space in my life to use the skills I have to wider social benefit.

My charitable sector experience includes:

- Providing some IT support to Salisbury Museum
- Helping to establish Men's Sheds UK which aims to stop men becoming isolated when they fall-out of work , become isolated or retire
- Charing the Salisbury Branch of REMAP which builds or modifies equipment to assist people with disabilities
- Becoming a trained counsellor for the Backup Trust a spinal injury charity
- Helping out with the financial planning and management of my local (the Andover Hampshire) MENCAP group as it got started
- Working (in my pre-spinal injury days) as a rescue volunteer for the RAF mountain rescue team in Valley North Wales.

I'm, married with 4 children and 6 grandchildren.