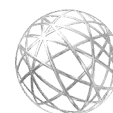




MARCH 8 #InspireInclusion

HAPPY INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY



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ALUMINIUM

Aluminium, shaping a better tomorrow

'Look outside the norm when considering a career path'

Nadine Bloxsome, Aluminium Federation (ALFED)



Nadine Bloxsome, Membership and Sustainability Manager at Aluminium Federation (ALFED), is a driving force behind the association's sustainability initiatives. Here, she talks about her unexpected journey from journalism into the aluminium industry.

How did you come to work for the aluminium industry?

I began my career with Quartz Business Media back in 2011, originally working on a glass manufacturing publication. When an opportunity arose to take on the Editor's position for its sister publication, Aluminium International Today (AIT), I quickly switched my allegiance from glass to metal!

In 2022, I was honoured to also take on the position of Membership and Sustainability Manager with Aluminium Federation (ALFED). While my role at ALFED revolves around recruiting new members and supporting existing ones, one area where the association is keen to offer more value to partners and members is through sustainability initiatives and supporting an industrial strategy.

What about the aluminium industry most excites you?

In all honesty, it's not an industry I would have necessarily steered my career in the direction of, but it has turned out to be an area that I am passionate about and I feel lucky to now be able to deliver interesting features and news and keep the journalistic fire in me alive. I am also now in a position with ALFED to work closely with individuals and companies to champion the role of aluminium as a strategic metal of the future.

What do you think is the most pressing issue facing women today in the aluminium sector?

I wouldn't say it is necessarily a case of issues facing women in the sector today, but more what the impact of women in the sector will be in the future and how we can encourage more young women and girls to consider manufacturing as a viable and exciting career option. Even now, when I try to explain to people what I do - I usually have a set 30-second explainer window before people start to glaze over! - it is always interesting to see the look on people's faces when you highlight the

use of aluminium in our daily lives and the huge supply chain involvement with products that we could consider necessities.

We are all aware that there is a huge skills gap issue in this sector, and manufacturing in general, and I would love to see more hands-on education offered at a younger level to all children, to open them up to all the opportunities that come with being at the heart of creating and developing products. It's a huge challenge and one that I hope our sector can throw itself behind to demonstrate just how exciting it can be to be part of something that is shaping the way future generations will live.



What is your advice for young women aspiring to work in the sector?

As cheesy as it sounds, I would encourage young women to look outside of the norm when starting to consider a career path. The education system in the UK is guilty of funnelling people into certain positions and paths, but I would strongly encourage anyone to take chances and risks in areas you wouldn't normally consider.

One other bit of advice I have



always stuck by is to never stop asking questions and to build up as many contacts in your network as possible.

You never know when one of them might come in useful and you might just end up being that person they think of when an opportunity arises - so never burn any bridges!

Can you highlight some of your career successes?

Most recently, one of my biggest career highlights is being asked to be a Judge for the upcoming Women With Metal Awards, which will take place during the Aluminium Show in October. I can't say much more for now, but I'm very excited to be part of it and hope it will help in the long run with my earlier call for more ways to encourage young women into the world of aluminium - so, watch this space!