

CV

Mr. Rubin Irvine BAHons

Marshfield Junior School, Cardiff

Duffryn Comprehensive, Newport

QEH School, Bristol

1976-1980

Full-time carer for disabled mother who was diagnosed with MND in 1971 and became progressively worse until she could do nothing for herself.

1980-1981

Travelling and casual work.

After the death of my mother I travelled around Europe, mainly hitch-hiking with some coach and train journeys, and supported myself with fruit picking, tree planting, casual labouring, busking etc.

1982-1983

Fencing and hedging contractor, North Devon

1984-present

Tree Surgery [self-employed]. Treecare West Wales

I was taken on by a tree surgeon in 1984. In 1985 he had a brain aneurysm [he is still in a wheelchair with limited verbal skills] and I took over the business. I have many country skills including woodland management, hedge-laying, planting, fencing, landscaping which have all played a part in my work. I have specialised in cosmetic tree work, people don't notice quality tree surgery. A challenge I enjoy is restoring large overgrown gardens through judicial pruning and thinning. I write reports including environmental and ecological, bringing in specialists to advise where necessary.

1997-present

Craft shows, chainsaw carving, exhibitions, sculpture.

I have attended many events as part of a collective, The Hardcore Carvers, doing workshops for adults and children and exhibiting work [1990's]. I have chainsaw carved at the first English Open Chainsaw Carving competition [2006], Woodfest Wales [2002-2008] and many events and shows. I have exhibited in art galleries, the National Botanical Gardens in Carmarthenshire and have a piece at the Greenwood Centre in North Wales. I also have work in private collections.

2006-2009

BAHons 3D Art in the Landscape, Jobswell School of Art, Carmarthen.

This was a good fit with my art and landscape interests. I have always maintained that cosmetic tree surgery is a form of art.

2008-present

Autismazing Autism training and talks.

I have lectured to students at Swansea University, to Gwent Police, at autism events and to parents and carers. I have worked on projects with ASD Info Wales and provided Specialist Thinker training to the Third Sector. I have been an active member of autistic self-help groups.

My hobbies and interests include

Off-grid and alternative power. We are off-grid and have hydro-electric and solar panels. I am self-taught and have largely installed everything myself. We feature in a couple of off-grid books and I have been a speaker at a Petrofutures conference in Glasgow.

Vintage buses and trucks. We own a vintage bus which I converted in 1992 and I do most of the mechanics to keep it roadworthy, again self-taught. We enjoy taking it to small music festivals, vintage shows and the sea-side. With some friends I started a club for converted classic vehicles [Triple C] in 2006. For many years we organised a 3 day AGM and an annual Spring Run.

Our Garden. We have a large and productive garden. I love nothing better than to potter around the garden planting flowers and shrubs and doing a bit of pruning. I also make furniture and sculpture for our garden.

Reading. Generally an avid reader of novels and factual material. I am especially interested in ancient history and ley lines.