

# Derek Phelan steps back ... to do more!

After just over 40 years in the business, Derek Phelan, partner and director of GT Phelan Ltd, has retired to pursue non-business related interests.

The news came as a surprise to the industry as, apart from his high-profile role on behalf of GT Phelan, Derek was also involved in general industry matters, most notably as one of the founding members and current Treasurer of the Heat Pump Association (HPA). It is business as usual for GT Phelan with Derek's brothers, Kevin and Rodney, now taking ownership of the company and leading the team into the next phase of its development.

Meanwhile, Derek is getting on with his retirement, though to call it retirement is perhaps a bit of a misnomer. Derek has a multiplicity of interests outside of work and these he intends to indulge to the extreme. For instance, he has many hours flying under his belt but now has plans to complete the assessment/certification process to finally get his full private pilot's licence, hopefully by the end of this year.

Then there is his beloved allotment. A keen gardener, he spends many hours cultivating everything from flowers through to vegetables, primarily for his own use and for sharing with family and friends. He is also a long-standing supporter of the HSE's *My Friend In Need* scheme and regularly brings his friend to the allotment, in addition to taking him on other outings.

Regular readers of *Building Services Engineering* will also be aware from a previous feature that Derek is a Tai Chi



devotee. He has had a keen interest in martial arts from a very young age, beginning with Shotokan in his twenties, and moving on to Krav Maga (KM), a street-style self-defence training module. However, his abiding passion is Tai Chi and he will continue to immerse himself in the discipline, not just as a practitioner and instructor, but as a way of life.

Then there is the travel. Derek is a travel junky who loves visiting other countries, not just to see the sights but to embrace local culture and customs. He has various trips planned over the coming months and years but, top of the list is the Antarctic, the itinerary for which he is currently finalising.

If that's not enough, he plans to regain his fluency in Irish while, at the same time, taking up and becoming equally-proficient in Spanish.

Derek's planned schedule for taking it easy sounds exhausting. Either way, all at *Building Services Engineering*, along with his many friends in the industry, wish him a very long, happy and enjoyable retirement. ■

• Between his quest to attain his full private pilot's licence and his beloved allotment, keen gardener, Derek, will not experience too much down-time in his "retirement".