

# Meet

## PAUL O'SHEA, MANAGING DIRECTOR, ASHVIEW CONSULTANTS

### What have you experienced during your time as chairman of the Irish Branch of the IIRSM?

There is a very close knit IIRSM community of risk management specialists in Ireland and it was great to share ideas, look at developing the IIRSM network, organise very interesting CPD seminars which turned into webinars during Covid-19 and work with the greater IIRSM team. What I've learned is that a focused risk management group like the IIRSM has a very strong place in the industry.

### Working in Australia must have been a great experience, how does the UK compare in H&S?

ROI & UK compare very well to our overseas construction industries, on workers safety, health & welfare, working conditions, employment conditions, we're up there with the likes of Australia. There's always work to be done on the whole area of work/life balance which is a cultural thing but all in all we do this right thing on this side of the world. Although it would be great to get a bit more sun.

### How have you developed Ashview in recent months?

No different than for any other company or business, 2020 was a challenging year. The restrictions have had an impact on the construction industry for sure, but we took this opportunity to look at ourselves and how

we could do things better, or even reinvent ourselves, so we worked on a number of key areas, our staff, we invested in upskilling and improving our systems internally, due to the offices restrictions we put home offices space in all our staff's homes. This has greatly benefited the work/life balance.

### What are your biggest professional and personal challenges?

I'd say the biggest professional challenge for 2021 is looking after our staff. We have a great team across three offices, everyone one of them good professionals. With all of the bad news that in the world at the moment, keeping moral and mental health in a good place puts an enormous amount of pressure on me and the other directors. It's something we talk about most days, but we can see the light at the end of the tunnel. My biggest personal challenge is ensuring that I get up every morning as early as possible and enjoy every day.



### What do you do to relax?

Cooking is a passion of mine. I also like to exercise so everything from gym work, mountain biking or just hillwalking are always great to clear my head and relax. A glass of wine helps occasionally!



If you'd like to be the star of this feature we'd love to hear from you! Email us at [sentinel@iirsm.com](mailto:sentinel@iirsm.com)

# Strange BUT TRUE

## CINEMA TICKET

A lucky film fan landed a £1.5 million lottery win by picking numbers that scooped a jackpot in a movie. The mystery winner revealed he had played the same set of digits for years before finally landing the prize in the state lottery in Kentucky. He spotted them in a film where the main character used them to win a huge prize. But despite remembering the lucky numbers for so long, he admitted he'd forgotten the name of the movie they came from. He plans to use the money to retire and spend more time with his family.

## POSTMAN CAT

A clever cat helped neighbours stay connected during lockdown by delivering notes to their homes. Post puss Billy returned to owner Zack King one day with a message attached to his collar explaining he'd been visiting another local. Zack's girlfriend Olga Shipunova replied to the surprise note and since then the neighbours in Hackney, East London, have exchanged around ten letters using the unique delivery system, swapping recipes and TV recommendations. Zack described Billy as "a highlight of lockdown".



### If I could change one thing...

#### Jonathan Gawthrop

Director of Health, Safety and Wellbeing, EMCOR UK

Back in the 90's whenever I was asked this question my answer was invariably...penalty shootouts.

Thankfully as an English football fan, time has moved on in that respect and given the last 12 months or so it's likely that this response would have been swapped out 100 times over, even if the 2018 win over Columbia hadn't materialised. Given all that has gone on in recent months, it is nigh on impossible to distil what I would change down to one or two things and in 200 or so words. But I have to. So I have two. Number one would be tendency towards fundamental attribution error. Not considering the circumstances of another's behaviour but making up our own explanation as to what is wrong with it. There's a lot

of new visible opportunities around right now as rules and regulations surrounding our behaviours exist where they didn't before.

Think social distancing, for instance. It's time to take a step back, metaphorically as well as physically and to consider others' situations, recognising that they may be different from our own before being hasty and jumping into chastising mode. At this time of such seismic events, I would change those tendencies to judge and act without consideration. So, that's number one, what about number two? Well... people who don't do what they should be doing, of course!

If you could Change One Thing what would it be? Email us at [sentinel@iirsm.com](mailto:sentinel@iirsm.com)

## PIE ACHIEVERS

A team of chefs in the UAE have set a new world record for baking the longest ever line of pies. The cooks from hotels across the country whipped up 2,209 pear-flavoured pastries and arranged them in a row to take the title in Dubai. They smashed the previous record of 1,608 which had been set in Australia in 2016. After the pies had been carefully counted by the adjudicator and his auditors, the delicacies were donated to food access charity Sahem for Hope.

