

# I.R.I. UPDATE : October 2021

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE INSTITUTE OF REFRIGERATION IRELAND



## IRI: Promoting Apprenticeships

As part of our ongoing commitment to promote the craft of Refrigeration and Air Conditioning, the IRI has commissioned a promotional flyer which businesses can use to attract potential apprentices.

Please refer to the sample at the end of this newsletter for more information.

If you would like a printable copy, please visit our website or email [karen@iri.ie](mailto:karen@iri.ie).



# IRI Council Sub-Committees

It can be useful to know who to contact for various queries relating to the organisation and functioning of the IRI.

The IRI Council is split into several sub-committees, each with its own remit. Details for the chair of each sub-committee for 2021 are below.

Council Members	Employer	Sub-Committee Chaired	Remit	Email
<b>Seamus Kerr</b>	RSL	IT, Legal, Finance	The functioning of the organisation.	seamus@rslireland.com
		Events and Media	IRI events (awards dinner etc etc)	
<b>Patsy O'Reilly</b>	Anglo Irish Refrigeration	Service Engineers	Service Engineers / Apprentices	poreilly@anglo-irish.com
		Membership	Membership, Titles, Progression / CPD	
<b>John Smee</b>	Kilkenny Cooling Systems	Newsletter	Compiling and Editing the IRI Newsletter	jsmee@kilkennycooling.com
<b>Declan Fitzmaurice</b>	FTG Consultants	Technical	IRI Technical Policy, Lectures / Seminars and CPD events	dfitzmaurice@ftgrac.com
<b>Administration</b>				
<b>Karen McNevin</b>	IRI	General Administration of the IRI		karen@iri.ie

## F-Gas Reminder

Is your F-Gas registration up to date? Renew at [www.fgasregistration.ie](http://www.fgasregistration.ie)

## Considering Further Education?

A qualified tradesperson (NFQ level 5 or 6) is ideally placed to commence further technical education if they are so interested. With qualified refrigeration personnel already in high demand, further education is an excellent way to enhance career progression.

3<sup>rd</sup> Level institutes such as TU Dublin (formerly DIT) have an admissions process for courses such as Building Engineering for mature applicants (23+) and those in possession of qualifications at levels 5 and 6 of the National Framework for Qualifications.

If this is of interest to you, please contact [karen@iri.ie](mailto:karen@iri.ie) to be put in touch with the relevant person within the organisation.

## Follow IRI on Social Media

The IRI is active across the social media platforms, sharing news and important updates relevant to our sector. Please follow us to stay informed, and share or forward articles to support our industry:



@institute-of-refrigeration-ireland



@iri\_instituteofrefrigeration



@instituteofrefrigerationireland



@instituteofref

## Corporate Partnership Opportunities



The IRI greatly values its corporate partners. If your business or another organisation you are aware of is interested in becoming a corporate partner of the IRI please contact [karen@iri.ie](mailto:karen@iri.ie)

There are many benefits to becoming a corporate partner. Find out more on <https://iri.ie/corporate-partnership>

# Women in RAC

*We chatted to Ruth Gill, Air Conditioning Engineer with Crystal Air, about all things Refrigeration.*



## **What attracted you to the Trade of Refrigeration & Air-conditioning?**

I came into this trade by complete accident. I wanted to join Dublin Fire Brigade and as they weren't recruiting at the time, I read that they looked highly upon people with trade backgrounds. I then went to the local FÁS Office and applied for several different trades and luckily enough a refrigeration company took me on. 14 years later I'm still on the tools.

## **What's been the most exciting equipment you have worked on so far on the Job?**

For sure the Danfoss Turbocor. It is just a gamechanger in terms of its technology but also the capacity that it allows on chillers.

## **What one piece of equipment in your tool kit would you recommend the most & why?**

I think an underrated tool that every engineer should have is an Inverter Tester. The common faults of an Inverter compressor can be quickly diagnosed to determine whether the board itself is causing the issue. It's a must have in my opinion and can save so much time.

## **What change would you like to see in the Industry in the future?**

This is a tough one and it took me a good while to answer. I think the training in SOLAS should be reviewed and adapted to bring it up do date in line with current changes in technology and regulations.

## **How do you keep updated on the RAC industry?**

I personally stay up to date with various methods: Podcasts, LinkedIn and I subscribe to a few different industry magazines. I have an Instagram (*hvacgirl0*) that I use for work posts and sometimes other HVAC engineers will post about new changes/equipment etc.

## **As an engineer, what can be improved for engineers for changes to regulations, training events?**

I think just the awareness of the availability of this type of information. Maybe notice boards in the suppliers, or a similar set up like the US where the information from the local reps is available at the trade counter. I've come across so much training links/info through Instagram and LinkedIn too.

## **Are you a Member of IRI?**

Yes, I am a member. The best thing about it for me is being able up catch up on anything missed in the Resources section, also the affiliation and access to material from the IOR in the UK.

## **What would you say to other women to attract them to join the RAC industry?**

Don't be afraid to try it out. There is such a variety within the trade with the ability to specialise. There are such exciting changes in technologies such as Hybrid VRF from Mitsubishi, or Danfoss Turbocor. As a trade we are only going to get busier with most new build houses having Heat Pumps too. If you're considering it I would 100% recommend it, I see the trade exploding in the next few years.



## ***IRI Packs for Students***

*The IRI has sponsored goodie bags for RAC apprentices this year.*

*Useful accessories such as flare size gauges and laser distance measures are generously included from some of our corporate sponsors.*

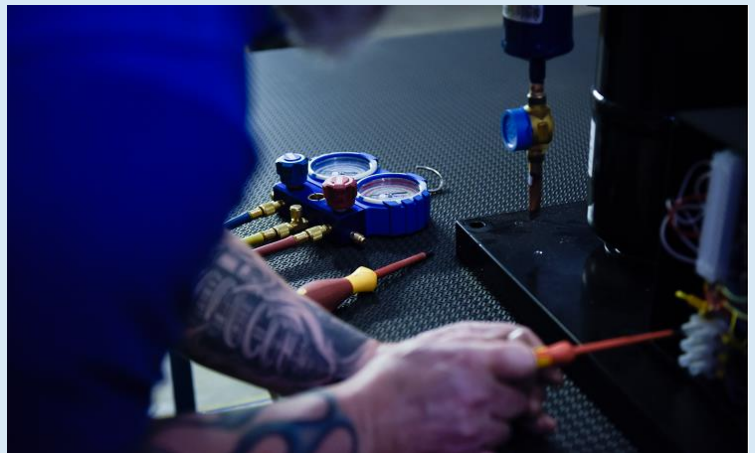
## **IRI AGM**

The IRI Annual General Meeting will take place at 2PM on Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> October. All members welcome to attend

### ***TECHNICAL RESOURCES FOR IRI MEMBERS FROM THE IOR***

Members of the Institute of Refrigeration Ireland automatically qualify for affiliate membership of the Institute of Refrigeration in the United Kingdom. This organisation boasts some 2200 and features extensive technical documentation on its website. Documents such as Technical and Market Advancement in Heat Pumps and Introduction to Data Centre Cooling Requirements and many, many more - all are available to IRI members.

For details on how to avail of this free extensive learning resource, please contact Karen in the IRI.



## **October - November Technical Seminars**

The final IRI technical seminars of 2021 will be held via web conference on the 26<sup>th</sup> of October and on the 30<sup>th</sup> of November.

### **OCTOBER SEMINAR:**

Introduction to EU Standards for Display Cabinets.

### **NOVEMBER SEMINAR:**

Introduction to NZEB: Nearly Zero Energy Buildings.

All welcome.



# IOR Presidential Election

Voting takes place this October for the post of President of the IOR.

Further information about the two Candidates can be viewed on on the IOR website [ior.org.uk](http://ior.org.uk), with results announced at their AGM in early November.

## EPEEE and AREA Recognise indoor air pollution as a health risk

### *Industry associations issue urgent COVID-19 statement to EU institutions*

Brussels, September 2021 - Proper use of air quality systems will help reduce transmission of COVID19 in office spaces, according to research, however, the European Union does not currently recognise indoor air pollution as a risk to human health in the way it does outdoor pollution.

Leading European indoor Environmental Quality associations have issued a statement to assert the dangers of indoor air pollution and outline proposals that would clean up indoor air.

Proper mechanical ventilation can reduce half the virus concentration by a factor of 10, and alternatives include window airing, air treatment technologies and Building Automation and Control Systems.

But the lack of a coherent EU legislative framework for addressing indoor air pollution makes the upcoming revision of EU policies a key opportunity to support reduced air transmission of COVID-19.

The statement proposes adding quality standards and policies to a range of relevant directives, frameworks, such as the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive, the Occupational Safety and Health Strategic Framework, and public procurement practices.

The statement also speaks to the opportunity presented by the Conference on the Future of Europe, saying: "The Conference on the Future of Europe must give serious consideration to granting the EU shared competence over health policy to facilitate the integration of health more strongly as a legal basis across all EU policy areas covering the built environment.

The statement can be read in full on the EVIA website [www.evia.eu](http://www.evia.eu)



Seamus Kerr of the IRI pictured here with Michael Hourihan (left) and Donal Keys (right) of WorldSkills Ireland

## WorldSkills Ireland2022 Launched in RDS

Seamus was delighted to attend the launch of the WorldSkills Ireland 2022 competition which takes place 22-24 MARCH 2022, RDS, Simmonscourt #worldskillsireland



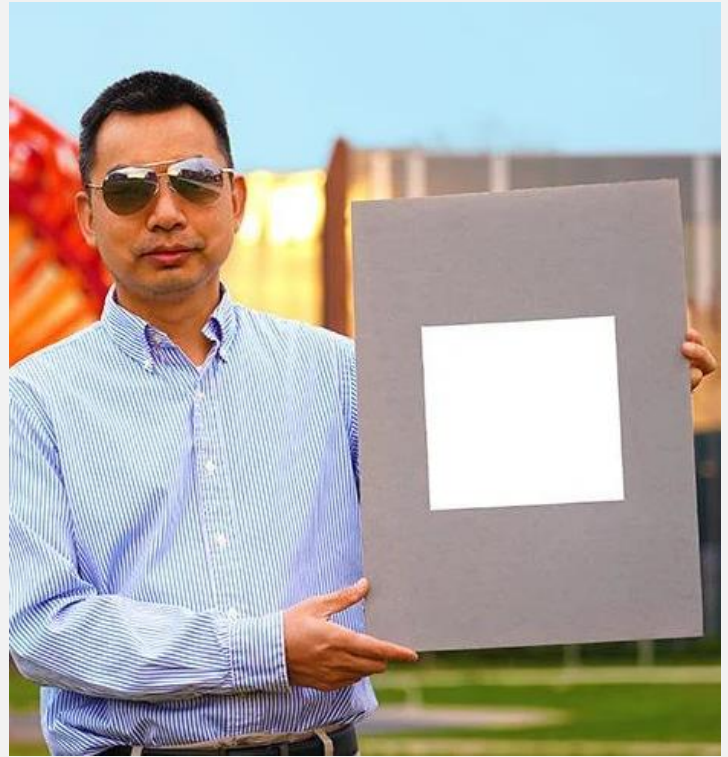
## CORPORATE PARTNERS' LUNCH TO TAKE PLACE IN JANUARY 2022

The inaugural annual corporate partners' lunch took place in January 2019. Having been cancelled this year due to COVID, the event will take place once again in Palmerstown House in Johnstown, Naas, Co. Kildare in January 2022.

This is an annual event organised by the IRI as a gesture of thanks to the corporate partners for their ongoing support of the organisation.

It represents a great opportunity to catch up with the latest industry news and updates, as well as a chance to network among others in the RAC industry.

## Could Paint Replace Aircon?



*Xiulin Ruan with a sample of the cooling paint*

It would be great news for climate change, but perhaps not so great for our industry if researchers at Purdue University are successful.

They have developed the whitest paint on record which they claim reflects 98.1% of sunlight, keeping surfaces up to 7.2°C cooler than their ambient surroundings.

“If painted onto the roof of a 1,000-square-foot home, that translates to a cooling power of 10 kilowatts, which is more powerful than most residential central air conditioners”, says Xiulin Ruan, Mechanical Engineering professor.

But don't trade your gauges for paintbrushes just yet, the paint is not available for sale, and may not be for several more years.



The IRI thanks all of our 2021 Corporate Partners





Institute of Refrigeration Ireland

Are you interested in learning a trade ?

## Why not consider the craft of Refrigeration and Air Conditioning ?

A Refrigeration and Air Conditioning craftsperson installs, maintains and repairs all types of refrigeration and air-conditioning equipment and systems. These systems can be found across all sectors including domestic, transport, commercial and industrial. Refrigeration and Air Conditioning craftspersons generally are employed by dealers and contractors engaged in selling and servicing refrigeration equipment.

Some of the skills you will develop over your apprenticeship are;

- Knowledge of electrical work
- Knowledge of welding
- Knowledge of plumbing
- Inspecting and testing of systems and fault diagnosis
- Interpreting drawings and diagrams
- Performing routine maintenance and repairs

As a Refrigeration and Air Conditioning craftsperson you will need to be physically active and to be able to work with your hands. An awareness of health and safety and good housekeeping is essential as well as attention to detail and an eye for the aesthetic.

The Refrigeration and Air Conditioning craftsperson must have the ability to:

- Plan and organise
- Communicate effectively
- Diagnose and solve problems
- Work independently and as part of a team
- Show a positive attitude
- Recognise the need for good customer relations
- Demonstrate good work practices including time keeping, tidiness, responsibility, quality awareness and safety awareness

### What are the Benefits ?

- Learn within a hands on 4 year apprenticeship covering all the skills needed
- Be part of a growing industry that is established both here in Ireland and worldwide
- Employment security thanks to a recurring service industry
- Limitless opportunity for growth as the industry continues to develop
- Work for yourself or as part of a team within the established network of Manufacturers, Dealers, Installers and Service Engineers
- Additional perks for trades such as company van, work mobile etc

### How to apply ?

For more information you can visit [www.SOLAS.ie](http://www.SOLAS.ie) or scan the QR code to the right



FIND OUT MORE



The Institute of Refrigeration Ireland  
21 Carrigmore Elms, Saggart, Co. Dublin Website: [www.iri.ie](http://www.iri.ie)