



Photo by Maurice Gordon

curriculum vitae of

Mike Harrison BSc

Profile

Writer, journalist, producer, manager, mentor and trainer — work portfolio builds on five decades of experience. Significant achievements at high level in companies, the not-for-profit sector, government and the European Commission, the media, education and training.

Multi-skilled, with a creative, strategic management approach, formal project management skills and a record of financial competence; goal and task oriented.

Excellent communicator, clear analyst of concepts and data, journalist, award-winning BBC-trained media producer and broadcaster, successful committee and conference chairman up to international level.

Strong negotiator, able to deal at the highest levels both inside and outside employing organisations.

Team builder with good track record in obtaining consensus in multi-disciplinary groups; cool decision-taker when under pressure.

Politically-aware, diplomatic.

Personal details

Based in the UK near Guildford in Surrey. British passport holder, clean driving licence.

Other personal details have been withheld from this online version of the cv. If you need more information contact me at:

www.harrison-m.com

e-mail: web06@harrison-m.com

Education and training

University of Bristol, BSc in Physics with Maths and Economics, 1957. PGCE (distinction) 1961.

NUJ, digital photography 2000, writing for the web 2001.

Radio Guild, radio and print journalism refresher course 1997.

Various management and IT courses 1981 — 2002.

BBC tv, tv production and direction trainee 1971, various management courses 1972 — 1979.

Memberships

Association of British Science Writers (ABSW), member of executive committee, 2000 — 2007, CRA representative 2001 — present (see below).

Busbridge Community Forum (BCF), Founder/chairman of this innovative community group

Creators' Rights Alliance (CRA), represent ABSW's interests on executive.

National Union of Journalists (NUJ), member 25311.

Employment history

1997 — present **Self-employed** activities include journalism, mentoring, interim management, and project management; plus media and event production. Editorial consultant to Founder-Director of Product-Life Institute, Geneva. Writer, speaker, trainer and lecturer on small business, environment and other issues.

1994 — 1996 **Director, Gear-Harrison Communications Ltd** undertaking consultancy to business clients, on strategic, environmental and communications issues. Retained during 1995 as **Principal Advisor, Science & Environment, RSA** and as **Board Consultant to RPS Group plc**.

1992 — 1994 **Head of Environment, Royal Society of Arts** responsible for the RSA Environment Programme, and support to HRH The Duke of Edinburgh's committee at the RSA. Devised and ran the national RSA Environmental Management Awards, assisted with the development of The Queen's Award for Environmental Achievement. Represented UK government interests to European Commission's award scheme. Many public speaking, chairing, broadcasting, writing and publication tasks.

1989 — 1992 **Consultant to environment and development bodies**, working on policy and strategy issues: World Wide Fund for Nature, Farming & Wildlife Advisory Group, Care Britain, RSA.

1986 — 1989 **Director of Projects, IMS plc**. Board member responsible for working interface with clients; media production and hardware integration; profitability of output in audio, video, print, software and multi-media; and for related management consultancy to blue-chip companies.

1980 — 1986 **Managing Director, Gear-Harrison Communications Ltd**. Media and multimedia production; publication editing and related management consultancy to corporate and institutional clients; and independent television production.

1970 — 1980 **Various producer appointments in BBC tv** rising to Series Editor. Wrote, produced and directed news, education, science, children's and other programming. Edited associated book and magazine publications.

1958 — 1970 **Teacher, curriculum developer, writer**. Worked (as head of school departments) on materials and teacher training for Nuffield Physics and Physical Sciences school courses.

Some achievements

In self-employment, 1997 — present	<p>Became established as writer and adviser on environment, small business and enterprise issues. Wrote on these and general subjects for national print publications. Regular contributor to business magazine <i>First Voice</i> as it built from 30,000 to 180,000 circulation between 1997 and 2003. Obtained interviews with many key public figures including the then Small Firms Minister, Nigel Griffiths, and Shadow Chancellor, Michael Howard. Innovated successful strand of training workshops for Association of British Science Writers.</p> <p>Guest lecturer at Strathclyde University on <i>Engineering and Sustainability</i>. Briefed insurance industry <i>MORE 17 Conference</i> in Munich on UK Food Standards Agency. Responded by invitation to keynote speech at <i>Greening of Industry Conference</i> in Santa Barbara. Hired to draft an environmental policy for the <i>Millennium Dome</i>.</p>	<p><i>“A magnificent piece of work...”</i> <i>Bernie Corbett, Director General of the Writers’ Guild of Great Britain commenting on my chairmanship of the economics subcommittee of the Creators’ Rights Alliance, and subsequent report writing, June 2002.</i></p>
As Head of Environment, RSA, 1992 — 1994, then under contract via Gear-Harrison Ltd, 1994 — 1997	<p>Identified market for new national environmental award. Devised and managed RSA Environmental Management Award (REMA) with funding from government, Nuclear Electric and other private sources. Devised special jury procedures and award structures. Integrated REMA with European Better Environment Award (EBEAFI). Assisted government with development of The Queen’s Award for Environmental Achievement and negotiated integration with REMA and EBEAFI.</p> <p>Instigated, ran and published first UK conference on sustainable product design, and many other conferences and seminars. Wrote, spoke and broadcast extensively on environmental topics.</p> <p>Devised and implemented new workgroup-based IT strategy for RSA.</p>	<p><i>“... I have passed the article on to my officials as an example of how to communicate effectively with such an audience...”</i></p> <p><i>Margaret Hodge, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State at the DFEE commenting on my feature on the Disability Discrimination Act for First Voice magazine, April 1999.</i></p>
As Director of Projects, IMS plc, 1986 — 1989	<p>Established net profitability of company on target within six months using extensive outsourcing of specialist labour.</p> <p>Developed new multi-disciplinary creative team management procedures and lectured on these at <i>Birkbeck College, University of London</i>. Responsible for ground-breaking hardware and software designs including early use of hypertext and first use of roller ball technology in public information terminal. Teams under my direction won awards: BIVA and ITV.A.</p>	<p><i>“The President has asked me to write and thank you for all the arrangements concerned with the presentation this morning... various briefing papers produced by Mike Harrison were of particular use to The Duke of Edinburgh in his preparations for the visit.”</i></p>
As Managing Director, Gear-Harrison Ltd, 1980 — 1986	<p>Set up successful production and service company to provide media and multi-media output for corporate and broadcast clients, and associated management consultancy. Clients as contractor or sub-contractor included Channel Four tv, Health Education Authority, Michael Gazzaniga Associates (USA) Proudfoot (USA) Teacher Distillers, Thames tv, Thorn EMI, WAVE plc. Won awards: BISFA, Dallas International TV Festival, ITV.A.</p>	<p><i>Letter of thanks to the RSA following awards ceremony I ran at Buckingham Palace in June 1993. The Duke of Edinburgh is President of the RSA.</i></p>
At BBC tv, 1970 — 1980	<p>Devised new careers education series and associated publications, <i>A good job?</i> To examine emerging concept of transferable skills.</p> <p>Used market research to re-established schools’ series <i>Merry-go-round</i> and reached unprecedented 90% of target audience. Developed early use of computer graphics and news in education.</p> <p>Devised and implemented novel animation sub-series dealing with arithmetic concepts: <i>Keep up with the times</i>, working with animator Bob Godfrey. Negotiated ground-breaking contractual arrangements to make possible unlimited repeats, which continued for ten years.</p> <p>Made many successful programmes in documentary, news and drama formats working as writer-producer-director.</p>	<p><i>“... gained the confidence of the management team ... ability to methodically think through a problem and present his reasoning with immediate clarity ... excellent leadership...”</i></p>
As a teacher, 1958 — 1970	<p>Contributed to development of Nuffield Physics and Physical Sciences courses. Taught teachers Nuffield science teaching methods.</p>	<p><i>Mark Thomasin-Foster, Chairman, Farming & Wildlife Trust, 1991.</i></p>