

Behind the scenes with Aodh O'Donnell – Managing Director, O'Donnell Furniture Makers



As we all know, Aodh O'Donnell, our Managing Director, is the great grandson of John Reen, the founder of O'Donnell Furniture Makers dating back to 1902. Today the company is still very much a family business, with Aodh steering the company's direction alongside Katherine O'Sullivan, the General Manager. As a fourth-generation leader of the business, Aodh takes his responsibilities very seriously and, obviously, you would think there isn't much time for anything outside of O'Donnell apart from enjoying quality time with his family.

However, we have discovered that Aodh leads a very hectic life when he is not at the helm of the business. Being a caring individual, who does not like to shout about his story, we thought it was time for everyone to know exactly what this man achieves on a regular basis, which shows his strength of character and determination to succeed, all attributes he brings daily to the business. Aodh spends most of his spare time assisting and being part of several key organisations that deal with rapid response, mainly surrounding water/sea activities. Apart from being at the Helm on the Union Hall Lifeboat RNLI, he also lends his time to West Cork Rapid Response and, most importantly, West Cork Underwater Search and Rescue.



The West Cork Underwater Search and Rescue, in particular, consists of a dedicated team of volunteers whose objective is to search for missing people underwater and recover them for their families. The team provide the best possible care to the people and the communities around West Cork, working closely with the Naval Service and Garda diving teams, Irish Coast Guard, RNLI and Civil Defence. Searching for a missing body, which could have been in the sea several days, is a gruesome task but Aodh is a dedicated team member and believes his role is to bring closure to the families.

When Aodh is not working with the Underwater Search and Rescue, he is very much part of the Rapid Response team, which is an entirely voluntary group working in partnership with and supporting the existing HSE National Ambulance Services (NAS). The vehicles and volunteers are equipped to provide pre-hospital Critical Care Support by responding to life and limb threatening emergencies at the request of the NAS.

So, as you can see, Aodh is indeed a very busy man. Not only does he lead as an example within O'Donnell, working closely with management and staff to position O'Donnell as the top in class company in contract furniture manufacturing, he is also a man with a deep sense of community, of helping, saving and giving closure to lives.



We are extremely proud of Aodh plus we feel he deserves a huge shout-out for his achievements that make O'Donnell a family run business to be proud to be associated with. Whether as a client, supplier or staff member, we are in safe and responsible hands.