

Celebrating the Women of MTW



Uni Bar to Security Management Specialist – the story of Jo Hand

Originally from Essex, as a child Jo wanted to be a teacher. She was positively influenced by two “amazing” teachers at secondary school who she describes as being truly inspirational. Their legacy is Jo’s love of literature and watching Shakespeare plays for fun!

Whilst studying at University, Jo took a one year sabbatical to work as Vice President for the Student Union which she says was the best job she has ever had and entirely unrelated to the fact she managed the bar.

On leaving University, Jo joined an insurance company – selling contents insurance to students. She describes the job as being all the worst things she thought that work might be and “truly awful”. She left after 6 months.

Jo then joined Eurostar who were advertising for female security officers offering full training which is where she met her first mentor, Jane. Jane was a Senior Manager at Eurostar, ex-forces with a can do attitude and an understanding nature, even when the Eurostar network was accidentally brought to a halt by the security team. As the only woman in a senior management role, Jane was also out at work, which demonstrated to people that it was OK to be all of those things. Jane and Jo are still friends many years later.

Guys and St Thomas’s beckoned and Jo moved into a Security Administrator role. Over a ten year period, she was promoted through the ranks to become the Senior Security Manager. Her second mentor appeared during that time – another Jayne who was also ex-forces and out at work. Jo felt supported by her mentors, with their no-nonsense attitude they encouraged her to be the very best she could be. Of the many things she learned from them was to learn from your teams, share your knowledge and be the best role model possible.

Michelle came into Jo’s life whilst attending a violent patients meeting at St Thomas’ Hospital which neither could describe as being very romantic. Michelle was an A&E Sister and often provided TV interviews for BBC’s City Hospital. One day shortly after their engagement, she was approached by Ulrika Jonsson who wanted to run a story on her department. Michelle agreed to this and cheekily used the opportunity to announce their engagement on national TV! 12 years later they are still happily married.

Jo had built a great team at Guys and St Thomas’ with the support of Jayne and wanted to see if she could achieve this on her own. An opportunity came up in Croydon Hospital which turned out to be the most challenging role of her career, with little in the way of available finance and the only work place she has ever been assaulted. That aside, Jo said she loved it.

Two years ago, Jo moved to MTW as she lives locally and Michelle also works at this Trust.

A lover of cycling and skiing, Jo has recently embraced village life and is also an investor (and supporter) of a local gin company. She is also the devoted Aunt of two nieces.

Jo advocates the importance of using the skills and experience of her staff to bring the team success. As a young woman, she realised the impact of people’s behaviour on others and would like to be remembered for being a positive role model.