

This article originally appeared in the Timber Framers Guild weekly newsletter earlier this month

TFG Company Member Profile: Christian Gudmand

Change can be a very intimidating prospect. Especially when it comes to careers. So when I switched out my career in the engineering industry for the world of timber framing, it really put some serious fear in my life. Within a week of starting my new job at Hardwick Post & Beam, I was at my first Timber Framers Guild conference in Manchester, NH. Wow, was that an eye-opening experience. Everyone was welcoming and friendly and helpful and exactly what someone in my position needed.

As I grew in the company and eventually took over running the company, the Guild became even more of a presence for me. Something special about the Guild is that it provides something for everyone within the timber framing community. The classes and seminars on the business side of things have helped me keep my wits, and improve as the General Manager here. And there are various courses on layout and joinery that will help the craftsmen of the community improve their skills. I really encourage everyone in my crew to attend.

Outside of these classes, there is so much information shared between companies. Some of the best advice I've gotten has come from sitting next to another timber framer and talking about the similarities and differences between our companies. Where else can you find companies that may actively compete to get a project, but also work together to improve each other's companies? I guess that is the whole point of the Timber Framers Guild really; it has turned an industry into a community, geared towards bettering the timber framing movement as a whole and raising everyone up. I for one am immensely proud to be a part of this community.

Thank you to the Guild community for everything you have given me thus far. It has helped me immeasurably and really allowed to get my feet underneath me in short order. I hope to be able to give back the wisdom that many have imparted to me.