



Chairman's Report to AGM 16.11.2023

Our 2023 AGM marks the end of our 19th year and the beginning of our 20th.

Time has passed so quickly but when I look back, so much has been achieved and the support of our members and the Guernsey HSE throughout has been constant and so much appreciated. Without our members support and the support of the HSE, GOSHA could not exist and that is as true today as it was when we began.

We have had so many interesting talks over this period. We have covered a wide range of topics and have had the benefit of hearing from a wide range of expert speakers on so many of the topics which affect the operation of businesses, charities and other organisations in Guernsey.

Topics covered have been as varied as asbestos (Guernsey's biggest workplace killer), to the issues of running a successful public bus service, doing less H&S in the John Lewis Partnership, fire safety, manual handling, COSHH, legionellosis and water safety, slips and trips, driving at work and maintaining vehicle safety and many others. The talk on safety in top level motorsport was another memorable talk with relevance to all businesses in Guernsey, as was the talk on the use of drones in the working environment. And we gave a briefing for charities to assist them in safely conducting fund-raising events and activities.

We have organised site visits, which have been both interesting and educational. Visits have been made to Guernsey Water, Island Waste, one of RG Falla's major construction sites, construction of the waste transfer facility at Longue Hougue, Guernsey Electricity and a fascinating coach tour of the Ronez Quarry. Site visits give context to talks and practical examples of how good health & safety management benefits our businesses and our island as a whole.

We have added to consultations on safety management within the construction sector and in the drafting of ACoPs. And we contributed to the review which led to the current asbestos compensation scheme. We arranged in the support of the HSE a lunchtime gathering of over 100 of the island's scaffolders on safety in their sector.

Our website has been a constant source of information, providing links to helpful guidance, details of what we are doing, providing details of companies and individuals who can help in the development of sensible practices and in addressing concerns. I'd like to record our thanks to Paul Freeman for continuing to look after www.gosha.org.gg.

We hope you have found our communications by newsletter and Mailchimp facility helpful and we have been grateful to have the opportunity to submit quarterly articles to the Guernsey Property & Construction magazine, which have been published over the past two or three years.

And one of our highlights was the Health & Safety Conference we organised earlier this year, in April. 183 people attended and heard expert speakers talk on a range of relevant topics. We were also so pleased to hear Jason Anker speak. He was paralysed in a simple fall from a ladder on a construction site as a company tried hard to get a job done quickly but forgot that doing things properly avoids delays and gets the job done well and on time. Jason is a good example of why GOSHA exists: to inform and thereby prevent or avoid serious accidents and ill-health wherever we work.

Our management committee has been great over the years. So much expertise and knowledge freely given has added to the well-being of GOSHA, its relevance and the help we can give. I'd like to sincerely thank you all (the current committee is listed in our website) for all you have done and continue to do. And as I'm reflecting on our first 20 years, I'd like to record special thanks to Jon Coyde, our secretary who has given so much time over these years to the well-being of GOSHA, despite all the pressures of successfully running his own business and of being a great Dad for his family. And how he also fitted in study to achieve his CFIOSH professional qualification I don't know – one of the few to be so qualified in the Channel Islands.

There are no businesses or other organisations in Guernsey which cannot seriously hurt or kill their employees, volunteers, customers, visitors or neighbours. It is worth remembering that fact and to continue to be well-informed, proactive in the management of risks, be prepared to give people the right equipment to do the job well and train them appropriately and to be prepared should something go wrong. And remember, GOSHA is here to help inform and to communicate good practices throughout our business community.

Thank you for attending our AGM and for continuing to support GOSHA.

Andrew Mills
Chairman, GOSHA
16 November 2023