



Guernsey Occupational Safety & Health Association – www.gosha.org.gg

Newsletter December 2024

With 20 years now under our belt, we look forward to the next decade of GOSHA and how it can act and ultimately help to prevent accidents and illnesses in our workplaces in Guernsey.

And what a lovely celebration of our first 20 years we had in October at the Farmhouse Hotel. It was so nice to have the chance to get together, to reflect on our achievements which have made a contribution to the significant fall in the number of workplace accidents and illnesses in Guernsey since 2004.

And to receive a really interesting talk from Ben Remfrey MBE on his company's contribution to one of the most hazardous of sectors – clearing landmines safely and their work in training people to do this (most recently recognised in them receiving a recognition and award from Ukraine).



Andrew Mills, Terry Nash and Richard Pinchemain (GOSHA founders) presenting our long-serving & hard-working secretary, Jon Coyde with a special award to mark his service to GOSHA



Ben Remfrey MBE delivering an excellent presentation on the work of his company which helps countries around the world to clear mines. Truly excellent high-risk health and safety management is needed!

And it was so nice of Ben to donate his fee to the charity we supported that evening, At Home in Gsy, which helps homeless people in Guernsey – over 1,000 people are homeless in our island – makes you think. Thank you to everyone, especially those who donated prizes, who helped raise over £1,400 for the charity.

Prior to our evening celebration, we had a very worthwhile Guernsey Workplaces Safety & Health Week, with great presentations given by

- Matt Roger and Phil Kilgour of the Guernsey Fire and Rescue Service on the dangers and management of the use of lithium-ion batteries (so widely used in Guernsey),
- Matt Coggins of the Guernsey HSE on the management of ergonomics risks in the workplace and by
- Justin Evans of Spanset on the dangers and management of working at height and was based on how much improvement has been made since the BBC covered the topic in the 1970s. Justin's talk was kindly made possible and was sponsored by Baudains (www.baudainsci.com).

Really valuable messages to apply to Guernsey workplaces. Our sincere thanks to each of the speakers and our sponsor, Baudains.

2025

We are planning plenty of activities in 2025, with helpful breakfast time talks, a site visit, newsletters and other communications especially via Facebook and LinkedIn and our website, regular contributions to the Property & Construction Magazine and Guernsey Press, developing a Health & Safety Award as part of the Construction Industry Awards and a Conference in Q3 as part of Guernsey Workplaces Safety & Health Week, following the success of our conference in 2023 and the conference in Jersey, run by JOSHA, in 2024. After the problems of COVID spread in January, we are deferring events until the end of February or beginning of March – we'll keep you posted, of course.

Website www.gosha.org.gg

Our website is gradually being rebuilt in Paul Freeman's limited spare time – thank you, Paul! If you have a look at it, you'll see it is beginning to take shape but there is still quite a bit of work to do.

HSE News

And here are the latest statistics from the UK HSE. They are a sober reminder as to why organisations like GOSHA are needed to supplement the work of laws, regulations, ACoPs and the HSE plus health & safety consultants and trainers.

UK annual statistics for 2023 to 2024 released in Great Britain. The annual work-related health and safety figures for 2023 to 2024 include:

- **1.7 million** working people suffering from a work-related illness, of which:
 - **776,000** workers are suffering work-related stress, depression or anxiety
 - **543,000** workers are suffering from a work-related musculoskeletal disorder
- **138** workers killed in work-related accidents
- **33.7 million** working days lost due to work-related illness and workplace injury
- **£21.6 billion** estimated cost of injuries and ill health from current working conditions (2022 to 2023)

And if you are having Christmas/New Year events, see guidance at www.hse.gov.uk/event-safety/

Happy Christmas and Happy New Year!