

## **Newsletter July 2017**

### **GOSHA news**

#### **Our thanks to**

Daniel Pitcher, Managing Director of the Water Hygiene Centre ([www.waterhygienecentre.com](http://www.waterhygienecentre.com)) for delivering a very interesting and thought-provoking talk on the hazards of not maintaining water systems well and highlighting the dangers of the legionella bacterium, present in all our water in Guernsey and particularly dangerous if in still water between 20 C and 50C. Daniel is a regular visitor to Guernsey and inspects some of our vital locations in the island.

And also to Chris Minta

Who delivered two interesting talks on the subject of risk assessment for charities and the same topic for businesses and other organisations in Guernsey.

#### **Forthcoming Events**

##### **From July 2017 – a series of FREE talks for all Guernsey businesses and other organisations**

The talks will be advertised soon. Subjects to be covered include:

- 7.30am 12 September 2017 - the dangers and management of asbestos in Guernsey
- 7.30am on 4 October 2017 - hand arm vibration
- dial before you dig - date to be agreed

There are further talks planned for October and November – please let us know if there are subjects you'd like us to cover. Each of these talks is FREE, covers a topic very relevant to the well-being of people in Guernsey. If you don't think asbestos is a problem, read: [www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/causdis/mesothelioma/index.htm](http://www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/causdis/mesothelioma/index.htm)

##### **21 September 2017 – 6.30pm - So Well Presentation**

How can we stay well and look after our general health at work – a presentation by Mark Gannon of the States of Guernsey.

##### **16 November 2017 – 6.30pm - Racing Safely (with our AGM)**

How can we learn from the advanced procedures and contingencies adopted in top motorsport? The presenter is Kate Adamson, Director of Safety, MSA UK.

#### **Invitations**

Invitations will be sent out separately and we will really appreciate your support. These are very good events, great for learning and, if you need CPD, will qualify if relevant to your profession. Please add your name to our mailing list – it's easy, just complete your email details on our website and we'll send future communications including events and newsletters to you.



**H&S Myth** - Come the summer sun and what tops off a great day out better than good, old fashioned candyfloss? But if you believe some newspaper headlines this beloved sweet treat is under threat – because of the dangers posed by the stick it is spun around. The truth is that there are no health and safety laws banning candyfloss on a stick.



will be during the week commencing Monday, 22 January 2018. Likely topics include Safety Culture, Manual Handling (one of Guernsey's most frequent causes of reportable injury) and silicosis (an increasing problem in Guernsey).

**Annual Dinner and Awards** – our annual dinner is returning on 21 June 2018, thanks to support from new sponsors. We will launch the awards in September and will provide more details then.

## Other Guernsey news

### Passport to Safety (GBTEA initiative)

Please support this initiative – see [www.gbtea.gg/downloads/Passport\\_to\\_Safety.pdf](http://www.gbtea.gg/downloads/Passport_to_Safety.pdf)

### New Guernsey HSE Website

Have you visited [www.gov.gg/hse](http://www.gov.gg/hse) ? Some of the information it contains:

- Report an accident or a concern about workplace health and safety
- Advice about workplace health and safety.
- First aid in the workplace
- Licences and permits
- Regulator for workplace health and safety
- Unwanted chemicals and hazardous waste

## UK HSE News

Do you work in the construction sector? Many clients are now requiring contractors to follow the UK's CDM regulations when undertaking work. Here is a helpful guide: [www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/priced/l153.pdf](http://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/priced/l153.pdf)

Why is it important for a small builder to ensure construction work is carried out in a way that avoids harm?

Small builders are those at most risk of injury and ill health on construction sites and suffer the majority of construction fatal accidents each year in the UK. Most deaths involve falls from height including: ladders, scaffolds, working platforms, roof edges, and falls through fragile roofs or rooflights. Because they have first-hand experience in doing the actual work, they are in a good position to ensure the work is carried out in a way which secures their own health and safety and that of others

Do you work in or close to our harbours? Follow the advice you are given by the harbour authority and you may also like to read this linked document for more information and helpful guidance : [www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/indg446.pdf](http://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/indg446.pdf)

Risk assessment – here is helpful supplementary information to Chris Minta's talks: [www.hse.gov.uk/risk/index.htm](http://www.hse.gov.uk/risk/index.htm)

Health safety made simple:

- [www.hse.gov.uk/simple-health-safety/index.htm](http://www.hse.gov.uk/simple-health-safety/index.htm)
- [www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/indg449.pdf](http://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/indg449.pdf)

Myth: All office equipment must be tested by a qualified electrician every year



The reality

No. The law requires employers to assess risks and take appropriate action.

HSE's advice is that for most office electrical equipment, visual checks for obvious signs of damage and perhaps simple tests by a competent member of staff are quite sufficient.