

Newsletter November/December 2017

GOSHA news

Our thanks to

Mark Gannon who gave a very good summary of the States of Guernsey's So Well initiative, which is benefiting employers and injured/ill employees. If you don't know about it, take a few minutes to look over Mark's presentation in our website and enquire further if it will benefit you.

Dr Chris Minta for providing a very good presentation of the benefits of Business Continuity Planning and how to go about it. This presentation was a further summary in our series of free briefings aimed at all businesses in Guernsey but most especially small businesses and charities.

Forthcoming Events

- Date to be agreed
 - 23 November
 - 1 December
 - *22nd January 2018
 - *24th January 2018
 - *25th January 2018
 - * ***Safety & Health at Work Week is kindly sponsored by Rossborough Insurance***
 - 15 February 2018
 - 22 June 2018
- Dial before you dig
 - Our AGM and talk by Kate Adamson of MSA, UK
 - Site visit to the new Guernsey Waste Transfer Facility
 - John Tostevin of GE – Advanced Driving. CONFIRMED
 - Manual Handling – Judy Moore – RG to confirm
 - Matt Coggins (HSE) – Silicosis. CONFIRMED
 - The Use of Unmanned Aerial Devices (Drones) – by CIs Air Traffic Control
 - annual awards at La Grande Mare

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.

Membership Renewals

Will be sent soon (if you have not already received yours) – we hope you will renew your membership. Without members, GOSHA could not function. Since we started in 2004, the number of reported accidents and ill-health has fallen by c 100 per annum but the total number (317) remains too high.

Safety & Health at Work Week in January

Sincere thanks to Rossborough Insurance for continuing to support our Safety & Health at Work Week in January. This year, almost 150 people attended the three breakfast talks and we hope to achieve similar numbers, if not better, in January 2018.

Health and Safety Awards

We have launched our Health & Safety Awards for 2017-18, which will culminate in the presentation of prizes on 22 June at La Grande Mare Hotel. It will be a special evening and a great opportunity to highlight those who set a good example to all businesses and other organisations in our island.

You will find full details of the awards and how to enter on our website. Please consider whether you could enter – we are not looking for perfection but we are looking for those who achieve good results, implement new ideas and show a good example to others in Guernsey. If you don't think it's worth it, ask one of our past winners – they'll tell you otherwise.

And we are hugely grateful to our new sponsors, who make this prestigious event and awards possible: Guernsey Electricity, Guernsey Water, Trant and Ronez.

Guernsey News

- **Passport to Safety (GBTEA initiative)**
Please support this initiative – see www.gbtea.gg/downloads/Passport_to_Safety.pdf
- **New Guernsey HSE Website**
Have you visited www.gov.gg/hse ? Some of the information it contains:
 - Health and Safety in the Workplace – General Guide
 - Report an accident or a concern about workplace health and safety
 - Accident Statistics 2016
 - Employers' Liability Insurance Guide
 - First aid in the workplace
 - Licences and permits
 - Unwanted chemicals and hazardous waste
 - www.gov.gg/foodbusiness
- **Some Guernsey Statistics (past 12 months)**
 - >1,000 working people suffer from a work related illness/injury
 - 0 workers killed in the past 12 months (but see mesothelioma below) – let's hope that continues
 - 50 major injuries reported to HSE
 - 300 reportable injuries declared (3+ days consequences)
 - 50,000 working days lost in Guernsey from a work-related illness or injury
 - 6 deaths from mesothelioma reported

UK HSE News

- Have a look at the Go Home Healthy initiative www.hse.gov.uk/gohomehealthy/index.htm
- Take a look at the UK stats www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/index.htm
- Are you managing health & safety? www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/books/hsg65.htm
- Are you a stonemason? www.hse.gov.uk/stonemasonry/index.htm

And no apology for repeating these important sites:

- Mesothelioma – want to know more? www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/causdis/mesothelioma/index.htm
- Work related stress affects more people in Guernsey than many people imagine: www.hse.gov.uk/stress/index.htm
- Young people at work – lots in Guernsey – check out www.hse.gov.uk/youngpeople/index.htm
- MSDs (Musculoskeletal disorders) - some helpful guidance here www.hse.gov.uk/msd/index.htm
- Workplace transport – needs to be taken more seriously: www.hse.gov.uk/workplacetransport/index.htm

Do you work in/with:

- Catering and Hospitality? www.hse.gov.uk/catering/index.htm
- Entertainment and Leisure? www.hse.gov.uk/entertainment/index.htm
- Motor Vehicle Repair? www.hse.gov.uk/mvr/index.htm
- Pesticides? www.hse.gov.uk/pesticides/index.htm

And with Christmas almost upon us:

Myth: Workers are banned from putting up Christmas decorations in the office



The reality

Bah Humbug! Each year we hear of companies banning their workers from putting up Christmas decorations in their offices for 'health and safety' reasons, or requiring the work to be done by a 'qualified' person.

Most organisations including HSE and local councils manage to put up their decorations, celebrating the spirit of Christmas without a fuss. They just sensibly provide their staff with suitable step ladders to put up decorations rather than expecting staff to balance on wheelie chairs.