

Newsletter September 2017

GOSHA news

Our thanks to

Robin Gonard, Guernsey's Chief Health & Safety Officer (HSE) for providing an excellent asbestos awareness presentation on 14 September. Robin highlighted the dangers of asbestos, its prevalence in Guernsey, its effects and the consequences of ignoring the dangers and the requirements of our law, most especially the Guernsey Approved Code of Practice (www.gov.gg/CHttpHandler.ashx?id=104274&p=0) and also please see www.hse.gov.uk/asbestos/essentials/).

Asbestos remains an under-appreciated source of ill-health and death in Guernsey. It is Guernsey's largest workplace killer.

Forthcoming Events

A series of FREE talks for all Guernsey businesses and other organisations

Subjects to be covered include:

- 7.30am on 4 October 2017 - Hand arm vibration
- 7.30am on 19 October 2017 - Business Continuity
- Date to be agreed - Health & Safety Management for Businesses, Charities and others
- Date to be agreed - Dial before you dig

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. HAVS is preventable, but once the damage is done it is permanent – you can read more at www.hse.gov.uk/vibration/hav/index.htm

21 September 2017 – 6.30pm

So Well Presentation- by Mark Gannon, Manager, Benefits, Social Security States of Guernsey

How can we stay well and look after our general health at work?

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 - This is one of the oldest chestnuts around, a truly classic myth. A well-meaning head teacher decided children should wear safety goggles to play conkers. Subsequently some schools appear to have banned conkers on 'health & safety' grounds or made children wear goggles, or even padded gloves! **The truth:** Realistically the risk from playing conkers is incredibly low and just not worth bothering about. If kids deliberately hit each other over the head with conkers, that's a discipline issue, not health and safety.

Health and Safety Week 2018 – kindly sponsored by Rossborough



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 at the end of 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
- **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

- Subscribe to e-bulletin newsletter www.hse.gov.uk/news/subscribe/index.htm
- 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

And there are helpful industry guides:

Waste & recycling: www.hse.gov.uk/waste/index.htm

Construction: www.hse.gov.uk/construction/index.htm

Agriculture: www.hse.gov.uk/agriculture/index.htm

