



## Chairman's Report 2019

GOSHA remains a good organisation to belong to.

We advocate a sensible, proactive approach to the management of safety and health in the workplace, always advocating that people should be able to go home to enjoy life in the same physical and mental condition as they were in before work commenced. And it is not just about those who work in a business, anyone, neighbour, visitor, customer should feel equally safe and well looked after.

It is great to see the number of Guernsey workplace injuries continuing to decline on average, year on year. But there is no room for complacency and the reporting of more than one serious injury every day in a Guernsey workplace is a figure to make us think and to ensure that workplaces are as safe as it is reasonably possible to make them.

So often by changing the simple things, good results can be achieved. Good health and safety management not only makes working environments safer, it makes them more efficient too.

If you remain to be convinced that caring for staff, customers, visitors and neighbours is worthwhile from a business success perspective, think about some of the consequences of a serious accident, injury, illness. They can so quickly happen and the effects can last a lifetime. Here are some examples of the likely consequences:

- Loss of production
- Loss of expertise, knowledge, a good worker
- Loss of orders
- Adverse effect on reputation
- Delays
- the payment of compensation
- emotional consequences for family, friends, the injured person, colleagues and so on

Life is risky and accidents will happen and we do not advocate a “kid-gloves approach”. But often, they need not happen if a bit of thought, care and training had been employed.

Most serious workplace accidents and illnesses are still easily avoidable. Ignorance and a lack of care for self and others remain the main causes of workplace malpractice.

Safety & Health Week in January, kindly sponsored by Rossborough Insurance, generated 40 to 60 people at each morning talk with radio coverage too from Radio Guernsey.

We made a site visit to Guernsey Waste in September and are very grateful to them for giving us the chance to see at first-hand how safety and health is proactively managed in an otherwise dangerous environment,

It was disappointing that few people responded to the opportunity provided by Chris Minta to attend basic work related health and safety briefings. They are good talks, especially for small businesses, kindly sponsored by Aviva Insurance.

Robin Gonard and his team at HSE have again supported GOSHA and have provided meeting facilities and talks to our members. We'd like to sincerely thank him for his input, wise counsel and meeting facilities, which we greatly appreciate.

The GOSHA Committee has been

- Andrew Mills - Chairman
- Jon Coyde – Secretary
- Seamus Gillespie – Treasurer
- Darren Bishop
- Joey Naidoo
- Mick Cooper (who has now left Guernsey)
- Angus McLellan
- Chris Minta
- Martyn Pipet

Paul Freeman left the Committee last year but has continued to run our website for us, for which we are pleased (and relieved)

I'd like to sincerely thank each of the Committee for their commitment and input and for the time they give to protect and inform others in Guernsey.

GOSHA remains committed to helping people to avoid serious injury and ill-health in the workplace in Guernsey.

Our objectives are set-out in the website [www.gosha.org.gg](http://www.gosha.org.gg).

We decided not to run our annual safety and health awards this year after receiving much constructive feedback from the presentations in 2018. We will let you know when we decide to run them again.

We are very grateful to all those who have spoken to GOSHA Meetings. They have all been worthwhile and we have covered topics as diverse as mental well-being to the use of drones, the control of the legionella bacterium and today's construction based presentation from Michael Cash of the Garenne Group.

Thank you to our members for your support and generosity - we remain inclusive to all – but could not function without the support of our members.

Andrew Mills  
Chairman  
November 2019