



Guernsey Occupational Safety & Health Association – [www.gosha.org.gg](http://www.gosha.org.gg)  
<https://m.facebook.com/GOSHAGuernsey/>

## **GOSHA Newsletter** **December 2020/January 2021**

Be prepared/be knowledgeable

**Assess - Prevent - Reduce – Protect**

### COVID-19

The States of Guernsey has continued to manage the risk to our island of COVID-19 most effectively and we can, as a result, live normally within the Bailiwick. Our situation, compared to the UK and Jersey, demonstrates the value of good, effective health and safety management.

GOSHA has promoted a sensible, knowledgeable and proactive approach to the management of safety and health in the workplace since we began in 2004 and Guernsey's management of the COVID-19 world crisis demonstrates the value of taking such an approach within island businesses. And, as we saw during our lockdown in 2020, being prepared with contingency arrangements during a time when our businesses, charities and other organisations cannot function as normal is so important to ensuring a decent financial outcome (and in some cases the difference between survival and liquidation!).

There remains no room for complacency, of course, but let's thank Dr Brink and her excellent colleagues for giving us a normal life, craved now by so many with significant restrictions around the world.

And please refer, for ongoing guidance to

- [www.covid19.gov.gg/](http://www.covid19.gov.gg/)
- [www.gov.gg/hse](http://www.gov.gg/hse)

### **Guernsey Safety & Health Week 2021, kindly sponsored by Sapphire Underwriting**



We are so lucky to be in a position to meet during the third week of January to hear expert speakers and to be able to promote Guernsey workplaces safety & health week.

Injury, illness and death in the workplace causes so much concern and upset to so many people who are affected.

The effects of injury and illness can last a lifetime and witnessing a death at work is horrendous. Not to mention the financial consequences including loss of a good reputation and the process of securing compensation.

This year, we again have three excellent speakers:

Secretary, Jon Coyde at [Secretary@gosha.org.gg](mailto:Secretary@gosha.org.gg)  
[www.gosha.org.gg](http://www.gosha.org.gg) <https://m.facebook.com/GOSHAGuernsey/>

- **Tuesday 19 January 2021 – Steve Wilkes, Fire Safety at Work**
- **Wednesday, 20 January 2021 – Dr Nicola Brink, Director of Public Health, Guernsey**
- **Thursday, 21 January 2021 – Robin Gonard, Guernsey HSE with a focus on lone/home working and working in confined spaces**

These are breakfast time talks, beginning at 8am for approximately 1 hour and preceded from 7.30am by FREE breakfast rolls, tea and coffee all at La Villette Hotel and made possible by our sponsor, Sapphire Underwriting – they are a local insurer, providing financial lines insurance such as directors and officers insurance and professional indemnity, with a special knowledge and support for those of us who work in Guernsey – ask your broker about them. Invitations to safety & health week events will follow shortly.



### **Managing Mental Health**

And given the ongoing media interest and need for support of many people, including residents of Guernsey, we again wish to promote the valuable on-island support services available, especially those provided by Guernsey MIND who provide the following:

***Guernsey MIND - Support, advice and training***

*We offer local businesses support, advice and training to manage the mental health of employees at work. We can provide guidance and help to develop simple, strategic and practical tools which focus on adopting a mentally supportive workplace culture and enable businesses to manage mental health at work proactively.*

*Options include adopting policies on managing mental health at work, providing training to build confidence and skills for managers when supporting staff with mental health concerns, and encouraging staff to have an informed approach to managing their own stress levels and knowing when and how to ask for help.*

*Contact them at [www.guernseymind.org.gg/contact](http://www.guernseymind.org.gg/contact)*

### **GOSHA's aims for 2021**

We aim to provide a full programme of events in 2021, circumstances permitting, of course.

Feedback suggests that breakfast time talks are currently more popular than evening talks with dinner, so we will aim to provide more breakfast time talks in 2021.

We have a number of ideas and topics and some opportunities to visit premises too. If you would like to hear a talk on a specific topic, please let us know.

We will continue to do our best to provide information from expert speakers and to highlight, especially through our annual awards (sponsored by Guernsey Water, Trant and Ronez) good practices and skills which can be copied by other businesses, charities and other organisations in Guernsey.

Happy New Year, 2021!