



GOSHA Annual Chairman's Report
30 November 2006

GOSHA has been up and running for two successful years promoting the importance of health and safety to employers and employees.

In the last year we have aimed to provide members with informative and thought provoking meetings that looked at the following subjects:

- Fire safety in the workplace and home
- Asbestos and its risk
- Visit to Ronez Quarry
- Working at heights and UK legislation / guidance

Our meetings try not only to inform but also to provide a platform for discussion and an opportunity for each of you to network with other members.

Although our membership is predominantly from a trade / construction background, the committee continues to encourage membership from the service and hospitality industry. Safety is an issue that affects all work groups and by sharing information we can all play a part in reducing accidents at work.

We sometimes forget that our most valuable asset is the staff we employ and the disruption caused to business when they are absent due to work related injuries. Training and the provision of safety information can aid the change in behaviour required to reduce accident rates.

I hope you saw my article in the Guernsey Builder, promoting the management of health & safety and Terry's article in the Guernsey Press promoting Asbestos awareness. We both used the opportunity to promote GOSHA.

Our website www.gosha.org.uk provides, useful links to other organisations where you can obtain guidance / information, our newsletter, which provides links to various topical issues can also be found here. The website also provide details of safety / training providers available locally.

The site is there for you, yet we have only managed 850 hits, since it went live. Can we all try to visit more frequently? The site not only provides information on past and future meetings, newsletters and a member's list but also gives local accident statistics provided by the Health and Safety Executive.

The Health and Safety Executive are there to assist you to comply with the law, providing guidance sheets on most of your health and safety queries.

The future continues to look promising for the Association. However, it is time to vote in new committee members with a view to generating new ideas and a fresh outlook. Next year we will be looking again for suggestions on topics, that are of interest to you.

My thanks go to Andrew, Terry and all the other committee members for all the hard work they put in to ensuring the continued success of GOSHA, I hope you all continue to support the Association and look forward to seeing you in the New Year.

Mike Earp CMIOSH DipM ACIM
Chairman GOSHA