



## **Guernsey Occupational Safety and Health Association** **2007 Chairman's Report**

It has been a privilege to be chairman of the Guernsey Occupational Safety and Health Association. We have supportive members – and a willing, proactive committee.

During the past year we have worked on a number of initiatives and have concentrated on delivering information and presentations we feel are beneficial to our members. Newsletters are delivered every other month, open meetings take place at quarterly intervals, our website has evolved (the number of 'hits' in the past 6 months is approaching 1000) and we have developed good working relationships with government bodies, other associations (such as JOSHA) and training groups.

The support provided by Richard Brown, Guernsey's Chief Health and Safety Officer, has been invaluable and we are very grateful for all Richard has done for us.

We have reviewed our approach and considered our strategy under the key headings of education, membership and communication. Some good ideas came from our working groups including managing safely (a basic introduction to health and safety for small businesses) which we are preparing for delivery in 2008, window stickers for buildings and cars, more focused liaison with the media, GOSHA posters to promote better workplace safety, added value for members (including visits and open meetings at cost price, our regular Guernsey oriented newsletter and website and being part of a unique network of contacts and experts in Guernsey) and liaison with a wider range of associations, businesses, business groups and other organisations. We will continue to develop these and other ideas in 2008.

Our open meetings have been well supported (on average 40 people have attended each meeting) which reflects the quality of our speakers and the relevance of the topics they have chosen. Our thanks to all our speakers and their employers (in the past 12 months, Event Services, St John Ambulance and Rescue Service, States of Guernsey Environment Department, BUPA, Normandie Health & Safety, R G Falla, UK HSE and Guernsey Electricity), none of whom have charged us for their time or presence. A list of our open meetings is given in our website.

Site visits provide a unique opportunity to see good workplace health and safety in action. The benefits of doing things properly are readily seen including a more efficient and cost effective business operation. A safe and healthy workplace contributes to a happier, committed and healthier workforce. Our visit to R G Falla's Les Nicolles School development provided a good practical example.

Joel Lanyon volunteered to take on our website in early 2007 and subsequently designed and launched a new site, which has continued to evolve ever since. Joel has used his creative talents to good effect in the site, in designing a new logo for us and in producing a variety of eye catching posters, flyers and other documentation – thank you, Joe.

We are keen to extend our membership and have distributed several hundred flyers to businesses and other organisations in Guernsey. We have also encouraged enquirers to come along to open meetings and have received positive feedback.. Word of mouth recommendations have proved to be the best means to secure new members with members conveying the benefits of being a member of GOSHA to business associates, colleagues and clients. Window stickers have been produced, are noticeable and convey a positive message about GOSHA and workplace health and safety in our island – please use your sticker! We will continue to work on our promotional activities in 2008.

During 2007 we were sad to learn of the sudden death of Allan St John Holt. Allan had a unique international career, not only working in a senior capacity with major organisations around the world (he was most recently employed by Royal Mail) but also writing books and delivering lectures with international respect and renown. He encouraged us to start GOSHA and spoke at our inaugural meeting. His influence, knowledge and support will be greatly missed.

Also in 2007, Terry Nash decided to retire from business and from GOSHA. Terry was one of the founders of GOSHA and has put a lot of time and effort into our association since 2004, especially in his role as secretary and then treasurer. Thank you for all you have done, Terry.

Our finances remain healthy. We are conscious of our obligation to use funds wisely to fulfil the aims of GOSHA. We continue to be a not for profit association run by unpaid volunteers. Our funds will help to support new training initiatives in 2008. Mhairi Macgregor is our treasurer and I'd like to record my thanks to her for undertaking this role.

David Norman and Clare McArdell have provided valuable support and Vice Chairs of GOSHA. I am grateful for all they have done from interviews on Radio Guernsey to providing sandwiches for our committee meetings!

Jon Coyde has taken on the role of secretary with enthusiasm and energy. He has also freely offered his expert professional knowledge from his professional role as a health and safety consultant in Guernsey to benefit GOSHA. Thank you, Jon.

There are 10 members of the GOSHA committee all from a wide range of backgrounds, as you will note from the website. Each person has added to the well-being of our association and has given their time for the benefit of members. They all deserve our thanks and encouragement.

GOSHA is such a worthwhile association. Its key aim is to help others and it does that. I am sure that accidents, injuries and illnesses have been prevented because of action people have taken as a result of things we have done.

We can be proud of that and encouraged to continue to promote healthy and safe workplaces in Guernsey.

Andrew Mills  
Chairman  
22<sup>nd</sup> November 2007