



## Chairman's Report for 2008 AGM

2008 has been a year of steady progress. Highlights include:

- Successful open meetings, delivered by expert speakers
- The development of a health & safety briefing for Guernsey based businesses – a three hours presentation covering the law and practical workshops looking at topics such as risk assessment – compiled and devised by Paul Craig and Richard Brown
- Sponsorship of the Design-an-Ad competition – the GOSHA ad produced by Emily Martel-Dunn of Ladies College won the senior designer of the year award – well done to Emily and thank you for the publicity you achieved for GOSHA. Hopefully a copy will soon be seen by many people in Guernsey
- Successful site visits – to RG Falla's impressive Les Nicolles schools site, to the always popular Guernsey Electricity and most recently to Channel Islands Air Search (we have a waiting list for a second visit)
- Two new corporate members, Rossborough and Marsh
- Hundreds of hits on our website (we have now accumulated nearly 2,500 hits) and continued up-dating of the information it contains
- Several articles submitted to the Guernsey Press and one main feature on health & safety with publicity for us
- The issue of 6 newsletters with essential up-dates of health & safety information (largely from HSE)
- The compilation of a membership pack with lots of useful information

We have been fortunate to receive excellent support from the HSE and, in particular, Richard Brown, Guernsey's Chief Health and Safety Officer. The HSE have generously allowed us to use their premises for meetings, have regularly attended our meetings, given valuable input to our initiatives and have sourced some very good, expert speakers for a number of presentations in the past 12 months. And no charge has been incurred by us for any of this valuable input.

Our committee members have helped to move GOSHA forward. I am grateful to everyone who has given their time during the past 12 months. I am particularly indebted to Jon Coyde, our secretary, who keeps things moving forward, prepares helpful minutes and notes, ensures our events are properly co-ordinated, liaises and communicates so well. His expert knowledge is also invaluable to us. Mhairi Macgregor did well as our treasurer but had to give up her duties to concentrate on other commitments and we are all grateful to Gordon Snell for stepping forward and taking on the Treasurer's role and doing a very good job for us. Joel Lanyon has managed our website so well again and given lots of valuable input to meetings and initiatives. Joe is stepping down at our AGM and his place is being taken by Simon Welch, who you may recall has been a past speaker at one of our Open Meetings. Clare McArdeil stepped in as Chair for several months early in the year when I was unwell and undertook a number of duties on my behalf. Thank you everyone.

GOSHA cannot function without the support and attendance of its members. We have averaged around 40 for each open meeting and our site visits have been fully subscribed – a reflection of the quality of speakers, the relevance of the topics they cover and the good reputation of those generously inviting us to see their sites.

I hope you feel that your membership of GOSHA has been worthwhile and that you will continue to encourage others to join and attend meetings and other activities we organise. The value of GOSHA is multiplied by the interest and input of members.

The financial downturn will present many challenges to businesses in 2009 and good health & safety practices will play a significant part in enhancing both business effectiveness and maintaining the well-being of employees and customers.

Andrew Mills  
Chairman