



## Chairman's Report 2009

2009 has been a year of ups and downs for GOSHA.

Our membership has grown slightly, we ran an introduction to managing health and safety course for smaller businesses, our noise presentation attracted an audience of more than 40 and we saw a 10% fall in reportable accidents when the 2008 figures were released in April. Publicity was achieved when we released those statistics to the media and Business Brief has this month published a two page article submitted by GOSHA. Our first health & safety awards have been promoted and will be decided and awarded at our 5<sup>th</sup> anniversary dinner on 26 November. We participated in the Design-an-Ad competition and several good designs were created by schools choosing GOSHA. A highlight was the completion of our membership handbook, which was a team effort of several committee members led by Jon Coyde – well done. And we continue to build links with JOSHA in Jersey.

Not so encouraging has been the fall in numbers attending our evening presentations – just 12 attended the occupational health presentation in June and we had to cancel September's diversity (disabled people and the workplace) presentation when only 8 people had opted to attend by the day before the presentation was due to take place. We had changed our venue for evening talks earlier in the year when the hotel we had used so successfully in the past could not cater for wheelchair users (and we had been delighted that members of the Guernsey Disability Alliance had taken an interest in GOSHA and wished to attend meetings). We have also struggled to maintain and up-date our website (between May and October no changes could be made), a key communication tool but hope to be able to rectify the position soon. And the media have not responded to our press release announcing the start of safety and health at work week, this week.

Our committee is comprised of a mixture of people from different business backgrounds who are committed to helping Guernsey to be a safe and healthy place in which to work. However, the pressures on many of the individuals in challenging economic times, have limited the time they can give to our good cause, thereby limiting the effectiveness of GOSHA. We have been fortunate to have several committee members who have gone the extra mile and I'd like to thank Jon Coyde in particular for his hard work and commitment as our secretary. Also to Gordon Snell who has efficiently undertaken the role of Treasurer and Paul Craig who has produced newsletters every other month. Clare McArdel has enthusiastically endeavoured to promote GOSHA to organisations such as the B48 Club.

GOSHA has established itself over the past 5 years, is financially sound but its message is not reaching the majority of businesses in Guernsey and our whole approach needs to be reviewed and refreshed.

I was one of the founding members of GOSHA and believe passionately in its aims and the value it can add to our island but we need to have better focus and impetus, an agreed 5 year plan and initiative and flair to achieve wider appreciation, involvement and membership. A new Chair with appropriate influence in the business community and leadership credentials seems to me to be the right way forward and we should now seek an appropriate person to lead GOSHA to the position of influence it should achieve. I am happy to continue to undertake the role of Chairman until that person is found and will remain committed and involved in a supporting role thereafter.

I should like to thank everyone who supports GOSHA, particularly Richard Brown, Chief Health & Safety Officer for his encouragement, arranging expert speakers and providing meeting facilities for us. If we have helped one person to avoid injury in the workplace or to make a business more effective because they have improved safety and health for their employees, our efforts will have been worthwhile. Our members are so important to our future and a strong growing membership is essential if GOSHA is to fulfil its potential and its aims.

Andrew Mills  
Chairman  
October 2009