

## **Report No 3**

### **IOSH South Downs Amberley Museum and Heritage Centre (AMHC) Steering Group Report August 2010**

Amberley Museum and Heritage Centre is an open air venue with purpose built and renovated museum buildings to preserve and present industrial artefacts and processes. It has a steam locomotive railway, vintage busses and vehicles, quarrying machinery and lime making kilns, printing, blacksmith and road making sections amongst its attractions. The site also has a nature walk and trails.

The museum hosts the general public special interest groups and school visits.

#### **May 2008**

Two IOSH members attended a meeting at Amberley Museum for a South Downs Specialist Group and were asked by an IOSH colleague (who managed the Museum), if anyone could help him with his problem of complying with current H&S Regulations within the museum. His problems were considerable.

We thought we could help but such was the size and complexity of the project we knew we would also need help and suitable organisation.

The core team applied to become 'Museum Volunteers' to assist integration and restrict liability. The project was identified as meeting several of the IOSH strategic objectives. We also thought that there were opportunities for everyone involved to improve communication skills, refute the bad press of Health & Safety, and learn Health & Safety aspects on trades' no longer in existence outside the Museum. The list of possibilities and benefits to all parties seemed considerable.

#### **November 2009 – April 2010**

A project plan was developed to introduce a Safety Management System (SMS) so that eventually the museum would be self sufficient in H&S management. One of the major challenges was a perception and culture change regarding H&S from the executive, staff and volunteers of the Museum.

Activities would include; risk assessment, documentation development, training, safety inspection and presenting recommendations that would be acceptable and affordable to the heritage site.

Development of the SMS continued as did the cultural change at executive level as confidence in the IOSH approach grew. The SMS was put on temporary hold due to reprioritisation of safety activities relating to the announced visit of the Fire Safety Officer.

## **Amberley since 1<sup>st</sup> May 2010**

25<sup>th</sup> May we received a Fire Inspection Audit by West Sussex Fire and Rescue's Fire Safety Engineer Tim Wheeler. A pre inspection meeting provided justified benchmarking and answers as to the state of fire safety at AMHC.

IOSH was represented on the day by Steve Andrews and Mark Eden although they were acting as back up for Geoff Field the General Services Manager of the Museum.

WSFRS visit produced some 23 deficiencies which the Museum were given three months to address. Some were easy, several were more complicated and one or two had cost implications which were going to stretch the museum to comply with in the time available.

The following IOSH volunteers assisted in working through many of the fire officer's deficiencies, especially the Fire Risk Assessments;

- Gillian Lloyd, Kathryn Adderson, Tony & Angela Baker, Ken Stacey, John Sharp, Alan Barthrope, Mark Eden, Ian Smith.
- Eddie Braillard is currently undertaking the fire plan sketches of all the buildings and committing to CAD.

Working to this deadline put our Health & Safety programme on hold, although we have done;

- An inspection of the Blacksmith's Forge and parts of the Railway by Graham Cosham
- The Print Shop has been reviewed by John Sharp
- Management of Events has been initiated by Chris Hilder and Robert Folwell
- Amberley's Insurance levels have been reviewed by Mike Flannery

WSFRS Re visited AMHC on 27<sup>th</sup> August 2010, and we await Tim Wheeler's report. Although we have more work to do with another audit by Tim Wheeler in Early December, all things considered this was a very successful visit. We were particularly impressed with the approach of the enforcing officer who recognised the challenges at AMHC and offered extremely helpful and pragmatic advice.

Now that the majority of the Fire Officer's deficiencies have been dealt with our Health and Safety program can get back on track, which will be the focus for the next period.

### **Successes!**

There undoubtedly have been successes over the last three years, not in any particular order there have been:

- 1 The success of the project Steering Group including; foundation, meetings and communication between themselves, the IOSH SD Branch and The Communications and International Committee at The Grange to secure funding.
- 2 The design and compilation of Memorandums of understanding between the IOSH SD Branch and AMHC

- 3 The designing, planning and programming of the SMS and courses of action to bring this very unique museum up to date with current employment and Health & Safety Requirements.
- 4 Twenty IOSH members doing things they have not done before, especially with the forty Fire Risk Assessment Reviews that were undertaken in different environments such as; Offices, Bus garages, Ordinary Garages, Railways, Workshops, Print workshops, Machine workshops, Wood workshops, Stores etc. Such experience has contributed greatly to CPD and the experiences of both for the auditors and the audited. We have witnessed true partnership working amongst ourselves, the museum management and the staff concerned.
- 5 The commencement of the Health & Safety inspections and reports for the Railway and Blacksmith's Shop and Print Workshop.

In summary the AMHC / IOSH partnership project is working very well to meet its objectives of;

- Providing a community based project and demonstrating sensible health and safety
- Promoting IOSH and the professionalism of its members
- Providing opportunities for CPD, mentoring and developing a framework for other IOSH Network Groups to follow
- Improving health and safety at AMHC and developing systems that they will be able to adopt for themselves in the future.

In the last few months we have come a long way but there is still a tidy few steps to go.

The project is now getting back to its project plan and the next phase will be developing people and processes for Organisational Competence in health and safety. The steering group need to recruit more people to undertake training planning and delivery activities, develop / refine safety communication and consultation processes and review employment and contract documentation to ensure that all who are engaged at AMHC understand and adhere to the safety standards IOSH are introducing.

We still need more volunteers and CPD can be recorded by those either 'giving' their expertise or those who are 'developing' themselves by undertaking new activities.

The Steering Group is also seeking a new Chair to take the project through the next stage of the SMS.

**Malcolm Pink**  
**Steering Group Chairman**