

# South Wales Branch Cangen De Cymru

Branch news and events – May 2010

Welcome to the IOSH South Wales Branch newsletter. Our vision is to be one of the leading branches within the next three years, with increased attendance and active participation from members. In this newsletter, you'll find reports on recent meetings, news from across the branch and from The Grange, and details of upcoming events.

## Message from the chairman

The past year has been an interesting one for the branch – I'm your third chairman this year! As you know from the last Branch newsletter, Chris Dolan resigned as chairman last summer to work abroad, and the vice-chairman John Bowen took on the mantle. John asked me to support him as vice-chairman. I was propelled to the top job when John had to resign for family reasons in October. The committee fully understands and supports John's decision, and I'd like to take this opportunity, on behalf of the branch, to wish him and his family well in the difficult times they're going through.

At the recent Branch AGM, I was confirmed in the chair and Jeff Berriman was elected onto the committee. We welcome him in this role.

I'd like to thank the committee for their work during what could have been a difficult period – it was made much easier by their help and commitment. In fact the Branch has had a very successful year with many well-attended meetings. Perhaps this is due to the buffets that we're serving nowadays before the presentations!

In March, we were particularly pleased to receive a visit from the IOSH President, John Holden. John presented Chris Johns, Branch Secretary, with the President's Distinguished Service Certificate. Congratulations to Chris and thanks for all his hard work for the branch.

We've introduced a feedback form and your responses have been largely very positive. Thanks for taking the time to let

us know what you think, and keep the comments coming – we're especially interested in your ideas for future presentations.

I'd like to remind everyone of the importance of CPD and IPD and to encourage anyone having difficulty to seek the help of your branch colleagues – helping each other is what being part of a branch is all about.

**Steve Jones**  
Chair  
South Wales Branch



*IOSH President John Holden (left) presents branch secretary Chris Johns (centre) with the President's Distinguished Service Certificate, with branch chair Steve Jones on the right*

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## South Wales Branch AGM

The South Wales Branch AGM took place on Wednesday 21 April 2010, before the Joint meeting of the South Wales safety-related groups, where Terry Rose, HSE Divisional Director, gave the HSE Annual Review.

At the AGM Steve Jones was elected chair, a position that he had held temporarily after the resignations of Chris Dolan and John Bowen during the year. The full committee is:

- Chair – Steve Jones
- Secretary – Chris Johns
- Treasurer – Jeff Davies
- BEDA – Kevin Sivyer
- Committee – Jeff Beriman, Michelle Griffin, Ann Jones, Bryan Madge, Brian Mills, David Murphy, Richard Thomas and Helen Williams
- Auditors – Tony Schofield and Peter Symmons.

There were no nominations for the position of vice-chair, so a vacancy remains, which will be considered by the committee at its next meeting.

### Chris Johns

Chair  
South Wales Branch

## West Wales District AGM

The West Wales District AGM meeting took place on 18 March 2010. The only change to the officers and executive committee was the election of two new committee members: Ian Hough, Site Safety Manager for RWE NPower, and Helen Herbert.

Nathalie Müller, IOSH Networks Officer, was present and explained what the future holds for IOSH and what part she will play in helping us to plan and manage the district. Len Smith spoke to the group about developments in the motor industry and the effect that motoring has on our lives and the environment.

For the first time, those attending the district meeting were able to enjoy a buffet before the meeting.

### Keith Jackson

West Wales District Committee

## Qualifications in the frame

Thinking of working towards a BA or MA? Want to use your current project work to help you gain your qualification? Then the Professional Practice Framework offered by Trinity University College, could be the answer.

The aim of the framework is to meet the professional development needs of employers and employees across Wales. According to its author, Dr Liz Wilson, "any length of programme can be developed – from 'bite size' training days to full degree qualifications – including at Master's level. We can also accredit employers' existing staff development programmes and acknowledge employees' prior experience and learning".

"The vision of the Professional Practice framework," she continued, "is to provide student-centred learning opportunities that are accessible, flexible, inclusive, lifelong and of the highest quality. All modules are designed for distance learning and many are available bilingually."

A major attraction of the framework to employees is the opportunity it gives to gain accreditation for the learning that they do every day in the workplace, through attending training programmes (both accredited and non-accredited) and completing project work. Many employers are already seeing this as an opportunity to add value to their own workforce development programmes by developing the skills of their staff, while also providing them with a means of gaining a university level qualification.

Want to learn more? Contact Dr Liz Wilson, Trinity University College, Carmarthen SA31 3EP. Tel +44 (0)1267 676859, email e.wilson@trinity-cm.ac.uk.

## The new IOSH website is a prize winner!

Rob Strange, IOSH Chief Executive, and Ruth Doyle, Communications Director, were presented with the Best Website Award at the recently held Memcom Membership Marketing Awards ceremony.

Hopefully you all find the new website, which was launched in November last year, much more user-friendly and easier to manipulate than the previous one. Most members find recording their CPD points much easier.

Hopefully you're all receiving a weekly e mail from email@iosh.emv5.com which gives you IOSH *Connect*, which is designed specifically for you and your interests. If you don't receive it, please contact the Membership Department at IOSH HQ to find out the reason. Call +44 (0)116 257 3198 or email membership@iosh.co.uk.

### Ann Jones

Branch Web Champion

## The future of Branch newsletters

IOSH is committed to the green agenda, and has decided that electronic communication is the most effective and efficient means of communicating with members. Therefore, in future only those members who haven't given the Membership Department their email address will receive a hard copy of the Branch's twice yearly newsletter. Everyone else will receive it via *Connect*. We hope this will still be an effective method of communicating with the branch membership.

If you have an email address but haven't registered it with IOSH, please get in touch! You can update your contact details online through MyIOSH or call the Membership Department on +44 (0)116 257 3198.

### Ann Jones

Newsletter Editor

## February meeting report

On Wednesday 10 February, branch members and visitors enjoyed a very informative and entertaining evening held at the Holiday Inn Express, Newport. The subject was 'Litigation in the construction industry', a topic which a recent member survey indicated would be of considerable interest. Our very able speaker, Martin Jones from Hugh James Solicitors, kept his audience fascinated throughout the talk and subsequently answering a barrage of questions with aplomb and authority, as the evening progressed.

All present had enjoyed an excellent hot and cold buffet at the first class venue, with ample parking, that was easy to find, being just off junction 28 of the M4.

It was regrettable that after we'd answered the call from members living in East Wales to hold more meetings in the area, so few actually turned up. Those of us that did attend had a thoroughly enjoyable evening with ample opportunity to socialise both before and after the meeting.

**Richard Thomas**  
Branch Executive Committee

## More assistance for branches

The new structure of the Networks and International Directorate gave me a nice surprise. I was told I'd be looking after all the Welsh branches. Having never been to this part of the UK, I looked forward to attending my first meeting on 10 March, which was the President's address in Bridgend. On a gloriously sunny day, I had the opportunity to meet South Wales Branch members and give a brief overview of my new job role as Networks Officer. I'm now in place to help and support the South Wales Branch committee to achieve its aims and be the branch's direct liaison with IOSH headquarters in Wigston. I'm looking forward to being able to make a difference and also try some Welsh cakes!

**Nathalie Müller**  
IOSH Networks Officer

## Site manager on trial for manslaughter

This was the title for a half-day mock trial held recently in Cardiff City Stadium jointly by Morgan Cole Solicitors, South Wales Construction Safety Group (SWCSG) and the Working Well Together Campaign. Over 250 people attended, mainly from the construction industry. After an introduction by Stella Saunders of SWCSG, Paul Harvey, Principal Inspector, Construction, HSE set the scene.

This was followed by a very realistic mock trial for gross negligence manslaughter. Huw Llywelyn, chair of South Wales Working Well Together, was in the dock. Morgan Cole Solicitors' Claire Rawle, Tom Walker and Paddy Roche were the prosecuting counsel, defence counsel and judge respectively. The courtroom scene and atmosphere was helped by the use of gowns and wigs, while the participants' verbal dexterity was impressive.

All who attended gained an invaluable insight into their responsibilities as managers and how a fatal accident on their site could affect their lives.

The Working Well Together campaign aims to improve health and safety in the construction industry, particularly in small and micro businesses. More information can be found at [www.wwt.uk.com](http://www.wwt.uk.com).

If you want to know more about the South Wales Construction Group, look at [www.constructionsafetygroup.org](http://www.constructionsafetygroup.org).

**Christina Lloyd**  
Cardiff Council  
Working Well Together Campaign

## Swansea Safety Group's Seminar

The Swansea Safety Group, in conjunction with the HSE, is holding its annual Alec Blackburn Memorial Seminar on Wednesday 9 June 2010 at Taliesin Arts Centre, Swansea University. The title is 'Health and safety: be part of the solution'. The speakers include:

- Terry Rose, Divisional Director, HSE, who'll describe the current strategies of the HSE
- Ian Govier, CTR Training, who'll speak on the importance of leadership and engaging management
- Matthew Harrington, Berryman's Lacey Mawer Solicitors, who'll explore corporate responsibilities
- Susan Wilkinson, UMAL, and Paul Hopkin, AIRMIC, who'll talk about risk management
- Geoff Simpson, who'll challenge behavioural safety
- Rebecca Kench, ProTen Services, who'll take a look at radon hazards.

The cost is £80 per delegate, with the offer of a free place for a safety representative with each paying delegate. For more details see [www.swanseasafetygroup.co.uk](http://www.swanseasafetygroup.co.uk).

## Our branch values are:

- to have a committee that strives to improve and satisfy the needs of the members, acting with honesty and integrity, with an open approach
- to have meetings which are short, sharp and effective, with everyone seen to be respected and a valued team member
- to forge closer links with other safety organisations
- to obtain feedback from members following meetings to enable the committee to review and improve performance
- to constantly look at ways to improve what we do, making every member welcome and treating every member with equal importance and respect.

# Forthcoming events

## South Wales Branch

**10 June** **Managing the threat of arson**  
**14.00** **Adair Lewis**  
Fire Protection Agency  
Chepstow Leisure Centre, Chepstow, NP16 5LX  
Joint meeting with IOSH Bristol and West Branch; buffet served from 13.15

**14 July** **Visit and tour of the Dinas Training Centre,**  
**14.00** **Mines Rescue Service**  
Mines Rescue Service Ltd, Tonypany, CF40 1JJ  
Buffet served from 13.15

## West Wales District

**17 June** **Talk and visit to Milford Haven Port Authority**  
**18.00** **Ted Sankster**  
Milford Haven Port Authority, Hakin, SA73 3AF  
Refreshments served from 17.30