



The Chartered  
Society for Worker  
Health Protection

# 2023

## Annual Report

*British Occupational  
Hygiene Society*

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# Introduction by the President

Alex Wilson

It is with real pleasure that I present the Annual Report of the Society for 2023. As the Society entered its 70th year of existence, never has the need for protection of workplace health been more of a visible national issue. For the first time in decades, the Government has seen occupational health in its broadest sense as a national priority.

The Board and Society therefore saw this 70th year not as a time just to celebrate decades of scientific contribution, but as a moment to recommit to ensuring better technical, scientific and public understanding of occupational hygiene.

My Presidential theme centred around leadership and the development of skills. I think the Society as a whole has exemplified this while working to further embed these principles into our professional standards and educational offerings.

BOHS has gone further than ever before in seeking to influence the national agenda through parliamentary lobbying, professional standards improvement, promotion of technical knowledge and development of our educational offerings. Our work this year also shows how much there is still to do to bring the International Labour Organisation's promise of a right to a safe and healthy working environment to all workers in the British Isles.

Through IOHA, BOHS was also able to contribute ideas to the International Labour Organisation on their strategy for health and safety. I was able to represent the Society at the AIHA Conference and the AIOH Conference. Our relationships with these two major hygiene organisations remain critical to supporting international efforts to raise the profile of the profession and add real value to us as professionals.

This event catalysed the launch at the end of the year of BOHS's M-series, which will benchmark our new competency framework and underpin the Register of Occupational Hygiene Professionals and the new statutory role under the Regulated Professions Act 2022. These are landmark developments for the profession and will ensure that qualifications which meet the UK's high professional and technical standards are available to anyone in the world.

“

**My Presidential theme centred around leadership and the development of skills. I think the Society as a whole has exemplified this.**

We also took the opportunity to review how we present ourselves to the world. The membership declined to provide the special majority required to change our name, but our new Coat of Arms has been warmly welcomed, especially by those

receiving qualifications. Nationally, we continue to play a key role in the Council for Work and Health, the Occupational Health Multi-Disciplinary Forum and the Safety Alliance, which was launched formally in 2023. These collaborations continue to maintain our wide networks of influence.

Underpinning this is our membership and the volunteers who provide their expertise and time to the cause of occupational hygiene from governance roles, to technical advisory engagements, from mentoring newcomers to the industry to creating essential content that links our past and our future. The Society could not do its work without the time and professionalism of its members.

“

**I was very privileged to be able to contribute a chapter to Trevor Ogden's 300 Years of Protecting Worker Health, to be published by the Society in 2024.**

**Trevor's book does much to chart the contribution of BOHS to the health of the UK's workplace and is a fitting testament to how far we have come as a Society and as professionals.**

In this context, I was delighted that the Society was able to support the publication of former President, Bob Rajan's book, Achieve Effective and Efficient COSHH-Risk Management. I was very privileged to be able to contribute a chapter to Trevor Ogden's "300 Years of Protecting Worker Health", to be published by the Society in 2024. Trevor's book does much to chart the contribution of BOHS to the health of the UK's workplace and is a fitting testament to how far we have come as a Society and as professionals.

The Annual Report provides a snapshot of the work of my fellow Board Members, of the Faculty Committees, the volunteers and the staff of BOHS. The organisation goes from strength to strength and I know my successor Parmjit Gahir is well-placed to steer forward into the next phase of its history.



# 2023 EXTERNAL EVENTS

BOHS participated as an event partner and with speakers to 14 external events in 2023.

AIOH Conference, Brisbane

Safety, Health and Wellbeing Live, Manchester, 14-15 February 2023

Unite the Union 1st National Health & Safety Conference, Birmingham, 21 February 2023

Health & Wellbeing at Work 2023, Birmingham, 15 March 2023

Joint ISRP/BOHS Asbestos Workshop, Swindon, 29 March 2023

Safety & Health Expo, London, 16 - 18 May 2023

Hampshire Health Safety and Environmental Group Event, 24 May 2023

Asbestonomy event, Brussels, 8 - 9 June 2023

Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions (CSEU) one day conference, Glasgow, 22 June 2023

Action on Site Health South, London, 12 July 2023

University Chemical Safety Forum Conference, Lancaster, 6 September 2023

Safety, Health & Wellbeing Live, Farnborough, 27-28 September 2023

Routes to Clean Air, Air Quality Conference, Manchester, 10-11 October 2023

Association of Industrial Hygienists Nigeria (AIHN) Annual Conference, Port Harcourt, 2-4 November 2023

6th Global Asbestos European Forum Conference, Brussels, 30 November - 1 December 2023



# Introduction by the Chief Executive Officer

Professor Kevin Bampton

This was a year that saw the contrasts of BOHS playing a leading role in the campaign to prevent the Retained EU Law Bill from repealing all of our Health and Safety Legislation to submitting written evidence to the first consultation in decades by Her Majesty's Treasury on extra funding for occupational health protection. BOHS was cited in the pivotal Lords debate on the REUL Bill and its influence can be seen in the government's response to the Working Better consultation.

The press reminded us how BOHS lobbied the Government for tighter standards on asbestos a quarter of a century ago, presaging the national tragedy of asbestos deaths. BOHS and FAAM have worked tirelessly to raise current issues in asbestos management, and risks in legislation, and to push forward technical developments in the field. By the year's end, an amendment to primary legislation promoted by the Society had been drafted to be laid in the Commons with the aim of restricting the deregulation of asbestos in the residential sector.

As advisors to the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Respiratory Health and active participants in the APPG on Health and Safety, BOHS has been able to do more to

maintain awareness of issues such as effective control of respirable crystalline silica and the broader prevention agenda.

At a national technical level, BOHS continues to provide guidance to scientific policy. For example, there have been substantial contributions to the COVID Inquiry, based on the Society's award-winning work during the pandemic, with the evidence we provided cited on the first day of oral hearings of the Inquiry as "must read" by representatives of bereaved families. In less publicly visible contexts, our evidence on Air Quality Standards saw the strategically important link between occupational and general environmental air quality maintained.

Internationally, BOHS has continued to promote Breathe Freely, with Canada, the United States and Ireland on track to deliver their own versions of the free materials. Support for IOHA through conference organisation, publication of GEM and active volunteer involvement has been recognised as being valued.

“

**At a national technical level, BOHS continues to provide guidance to scientific policy.**

Underpinning all of this is the core function of providing the opportunities for professional development and learning that our Faculty members need, providing educational routes to thousands of learners a year and distributing free

technical advice and guidance for thousands to access and act upon. Through all these we hope to develop the aspiration and inspiration to promote our vision of our countries as places where the workplace is not a significant cause of ill-health.

The Officers' reports underpin the quality and extent of work and the data pulled together by the Head Office team highlights the quantity, scale and reach of what is a comparatively small organisation.

Underpinning it is the wonderful combination of an active and engaged membership, with committed elected representatives and a professional and industrious Head Office, delivering across

a wide range of areas. This diversity of delivery which needs to be at pace, both responsive and proactive and done with optimal financial and resource efficiency is a testament to our people. It's a privilege to read the outcomes that we achieved together in 2023 and to be a part of it all.



## Feedback in numbers



**85% would recommend the event to colleagues.**



**100% of attendees thought the quality of the speakers either met or greatly met expectations.**



**95% of attendees thought the programme content either met or greatly exceeded their expectations.**



**85% of attendees thought the conference was good value for money.**

# Honorary Secretary's Report



*Helen Pearson*



BOHS continues to be a volunteer-led Society, with the Board comprised of Occupational Hygienists, rather than non-executive specialists. We are ably supported by the professional team in Head Office, ensuring that the functions of the Society as a Charity, Professional body and Awarding body are discharged in line with relevant legal duties. This year has drawn heavily on this expertise in terms of governance work, our new statutory roles and the development of our educational provision.

The Society supported over 4,000 people to progress educationally and professionally last year and provided countless insights into the world of workplace health protection for members and non-members alike.

The year saw stability in the governance structures, with significant work to embed the Professional Register being the focus of activity. The 70th anniversary plans were delivered, as well as support for a Special Resolution for a change of name, which narrowly failed to reach the 75% voting threshold required to enact it.

Membership has remained stable, replacing retiring members with new members and with a move towards more Faculty membership and away from general membership. The Register promises a significant opportunity for membership growth, including in the LEV sector. The membership team moved the renewal date for professional members to April, spreading the load on the office.

Engagement has grown, as shown by candidates and the number of voters in the 2023 elections. Webinar numbers have

increased on average by 50% and conference attendance has grown, although not yet achieving some of our pre-Covid peaks of attendance.

Webinars saw attendees in the **200+ numbers on occasion**, while regional face-to-face events made a welcome return thanks to the enthusiasm of regional organisers.



**The Society supported over 4,000 people to progress educationally and professionally last year and provided countless insights into the world of workplace health protection for members and non-members alike.**

The BOHS Conference saw a convention of former Presidents, as well as the inauguration of the John Cherrie lecture. It was vibrant and diverse with professional development sessions in high demand and more papers submitted for presentation than ever before. External organisations were well represented in attendance and presentation, as well as invaluable contributions nationally and internationally and from HSE colleagues.

The Conference team also delivered excellent events for Asbestos and LEV, as well as the Inhaled Particles and NanOEH Conference 2023. We also supported the delivery of the UK Hearing Conservation Association Conference, as well as started planning to deliver the International Occupational Hygiene Association Conference in 2024.

The impact factor of the Annals of Workplace Exposure and Health continues to trend upwards showing that researchers introduced to it by the pandemic are now aware of the many other invaluable insights it offers. Nine editions, as well as special issues and collections, demonstrate the industry of researchers and editors alike, as well as excellent operational support.

The Board do not take engagement for granted and reviews the engagement levels and opportunities for members to ensure that we have a focus on inclusion, opportunity and participation. Head Office is tasked with a series of actions to ensure that we maintain this focus on our membership and we have seen increased engagement as a result through 2023.

## ANNALS OF WORK EXPOSURE AND HEALTH IN NUMBERS



241

Articles submitted



103

Articles were published over  
the 9 issues released



485,211

Total paper downloads



40,434

Average monthly downloads

# Immediate Past President's sign-off



*Chris Keen*

I complete my time on the Board and as Immediate Past President with some relief as it has been a challenging and demanding role, but taking with me many personal benefits, as well as pride in the work that we have been able to achieve.

**My Presidential theme for 2022 - 2023 centred on reaching hard-to-reach groups.** It was self-evidently going to be a hard task and like the themes of many previous BOHS Presidents, I will probably only see the full impact well after I have left the Board.

Some of the hardest groups to reach with the message on occupational hygiene are actually the people responsible for setting policy and making the law. While I did not really have this group in mind when I thought about my theme, that has certainly been part of the challenge as I experienced when working with the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Respiratory Health for example.

**Getting people in power to understand the importance of Occupational Hygiene is critical** to getting good occupational hygiene outcomes for those who most need them. Through 2023, I literally found myself, with other Board members, explaining to members of Parliament in Wales and Scotland why what we do is so important. In addition to Parliamentary Events in Wales and Scotland, we increased the public policy profile of the Society to Parliamentarians and the government by releasing a report on Women's Workplace Health, building on work presented by former President, Alison Margary.

This has prompted a significant response

from all sectors. The safety press promoted it widely, but also bodies such as ACAS and major Trade Unions. The Council for Work and Health, the Safety Alliance and the Occupational Health Multi-Disciplinary Forum have also distributed it and highlighted it in social media.

“

**Getting people in power to understand the importance of Occupational Hygiene is critical to getting good occupational hygiene outcomes for those who most need them.**

fLesley Rushton, the Chair of the Industrial Injuries Advisory Council (IIAC) has also indicated that it is now on the agenda for research by that body.

The Report was released alongside the Saving Welsh Lives: Actions for the Welsh Government to Prevent Workplace Illness” Report, which was the first time BOHS had produced a regional-level report. This did stimulate some interest and has highlighted BOHS as a stakeholder in Welsh workplace health policy, but also how thin the capacity is in that area.

**[Click here to read the Wales report.](#)**



A report on Scotland's Workplace Ill-Health Crisis was completed for a requested publication date by the Scottish Parliament on 8th September, alongside work by BOHS to support a bill to set up a Scottish version of IIAC.

[Click here to read the Scotland report.](#)

Each of these has opened more opportunities for engagement directly with Trade Unions representing hard-to-reach workforces and we are now regularly being offered speaking slots at national conferences to highlight prevention in occupational health.

We have also made progress in another hard-to-reach area, with an agreement reached with the major Food and Drink Qualifications body to integrate Occupational Hygiene messaging into standard training for all new workers. This is a small, but important step, which is being supported by major supermarkets for their supply chains and will impact thousands of workers in a part of the economy which is prone to major occupational hygiene risks.

There is still so much more to achieve and so I am grateful that the Membership has elected me to the Faculty of Occupational Hygiene, which promises more work, but also more opportunity for influence.

*Thanks to everyone who joined us at OH2023 in Leeds, our annual workplace health protection conference!*



# Faculty of Occupational Hygiene Registrar's Report



*Sarah Leeson*

2023 really has been a landmark year for the Faculty of Occupational Hygiene. I can't believe the sheer volume of work that the members of the Committee have undertaken in the development of our profession and in support of our members.

Hopefully you will all have heard about the new Register of Occupational Hygiene Professionals for those practicing Occupational Hygiene in the UK. Achieving accreditation of the Register by the Professional Standards Authority for Health and Social Care marked a huge milestone and recognition of the work put in by both the committee and head office to set up the Register. The PSA is the body which regulates registered health professionals and which reports directly to Parliament and the Department of Health and Social Care.

The Register is the UK's first definitive record of those who are competent to provide occupational hygiene services. In addition, Occupational Hygiene is the first of the occupational health professions to obtain an accredited register of practitioners.

Underpinning this has been a mass of governance work to ensure that we meet the highest standards of a profession that has a significant impact on the health of the general public. This has included review and updated of FOH Governance Documents, namely the FOH Regulations, FOH Committee Terms of Reference and the Code of Ethics and accompanying Code of Ethics Procedures. In addition we have developed new professional governance support documents, including the Occupational Hygiene and Adult

Safeguarding guidance added as an Appendix to the Code of Ethics and a Faculty Risk Matrix to assess risks caused by poor professional practice and services.

Aligned to this work has been the development of a comprehensive competency framework which defines the skills, qualities and attributes of occupational hygiene professionals and will be the definitive reference point for educational standards in the UK. It has already attracted the interest of the European Platform on Occupational Hygiene in their work to develop a pan-European competency framework.

Our Faculty membership criteria have also been reviewed. We reflected on the appropriateness of the use of the Basic Principles of Occupational Hygiene course (M200/W501) as the basis for Associate Membership of the Faculty and earlier this year took the decision to retire this option. The small number of impacted Associates who wished to continue their professional development have been offered transitional routes to maintain their Associate status.

At the same time, we ensured adequate transitional procedures were put in place to enable those who work professionally in occupational hygiene but had not progressed to Licentiate level could continue to do so whilst they work to demonstrate that they meet the criteria for competence required for a Qualified Occupational Hygienist within the Register.

These developments reflected feedback from our Faculty member consultation on

changes to our professional standards. We were delighted with the high take-up and good quality engagement from our membership.

On other topics, we continue to support the Group Authority License for testing for isocyanates and work is underway to update current guidance on isocyanate monitoring.

We were pleased that the HSE formalised its representation on the FOH Committee by agreeing to support an ex officio role. Neil Grace, former BOHS President, is the current HSE ex officio committee member. The Committee has been pleased to oversee developments in the management of educational quality for BOHS examinations, with the appointment of Principal Examiners as specialist leads across the subjects to share the burden carried by the former Chief Examiner role as well as a Principal Examiner for Qualifications. Most recently, you may have seen the news that a new Principal Examiner for International Qualifications has been appointed.

A comprehensive review of the Diploma has been undertaken and the Faculty has approved a range of steps which are now being implemented to ensure that learners are better supported through the process.

In addition, the Faculty was able to

support the change from W to M modules necessitated by OHTA's termination of the BOHS awarding contract. This now enables the Faculty to exercise control over training and assessment standards for all routes of qualification as a UK hygienist. It also means that we are able to use our new Coat of Arms on our qualification certificates.

In terms of technical knowledge, the Faculty was pleased to again sponsor the PDCs at the annual conference in Leeds, all of which were over-subscribed and very well-received. There have also been further additions to the A-Z list of technical guidance on occupational hygiene - as a reminder, the guidance, including historic guidance, is freely available on the BOHS website.

And last but definitely not least, BOHS is now the statutory body for the recognition of overseas professional qualifications in Occupational and Industrial Hygiene, by virtue of the Registered Professions Act 2022.

I believe FOH has blazed a trail in the UK for the Occupational Hygiene profession, but we have also laid down some markers which our other Faculty seems keen to follow. I shall now hand over to Jonathan Grant, Registrar of the Faculty of Asbestos Assessment and Management for its account of an equally eventful year...

## Over the past year...

8

Members successfully earned their Certificate of Operational Competence in Occupational Hygiene (CertOH)

2

Members successfully earned their Diploma of Professional Competence in Occupational Hygiene (DipOH)



# Faculty of Asbestos Assessment and Management Update



*Jonathan Grant*

Who would have thought 18 months ago that the Faculty of Asbestos Assessment and Management would have a year where it faced the challenges of the wholesale repeal of the Control of Asbestos Regulations by the (then) Retained EU Law Bill and would end the year drafting an amendment to a Bill before Parliament to address a protection gap arising from leasehold reform? FAAM's advocacy, through BOHS, even gained mention in the pivotal House of Lords debate on the Bill that was instrumental in the Government's reversal of position.

In between, FAAM has been building its relationships with others in the sector and raising its profile of influence in Parliament and national policy in the face of unprecedented threats to the safeguards against asbestos built over decades. There has been some concern that this may have deflected from FAAM's core purpose as a science-led and professional leadership body. However, the year's activity shows that this purpose has not been deflected.

The FAAM Committee has committed to developing a Professional Register for Asbestos Professionals following the work of the Faculty of Occupational Hygiene. This would be supported by a competency framework reflecting national and emerging international standards and practices.

At the sharp end, FAAM organised a joint training activity for Analysts and Surveyors focusing on interprofessional working in the context of 4-stage clearance. It also supported field testing of a new technique for controlling

risk during the removal of asbestos. In addition, a survey on personal air sampling was designed and piloted.

The FAAM Sub-Committee: Reporting Standards is considering its involvement in the NORAC/ATAC data project which saw over 1 million lines of data highlight the state of the management of asbestos by UKAS accredited organisations. FAAM also monitored the progress of an emerging working group focused on implementing an Asbestos Performance Certificates (APCs) scheme.

The FAAM Committee is reviewing the usefulness and feasibility of a UK National Asbestos Register, engaging internationally with developments in policy and management of asbestos, including representation at the European Asbestos Conference and working closely with FAAMANZ, with whom we signed an MOU.

“

**FAAM has been building its relationships with others in the sector and raising its profile of influence in Parliament and national policy in the face of unprecedented threats to the safeguards against asbestos built over decades.**

FAAM opened for Fellowship applications, but determined to ensure that the review criteria were sufficiently objective and inclusive. 6 applications were received and the outcomes will be notified to

applicants this year after careful deliberation.

The Asbestos 2023 conference took place in October, with a wider range of participants and presenters, speaking on a range of national and international initiatives and developments, many of

which had their inception in FAAM and BOHS.

The FAAM Committee intends to review it's Strategy in early 2024 as there has been significant activity within the asbestos sector which was unforeseen and has impacted the activities that the Faculty has been focused on.

## Feedback from **Asbestos 2023**

“

**The whole day focused on innovation was so interesting!**

“

**The talks brought new technology and new solutions to old problems.**

“

**Day 2 was great. I enjoyed the presentations on the AlertPro, MARVIN and the denaturation of cement waste.**

“

**The focus on Asbestos is key - a great mix of the professionals who operate in the world of Asbestos**

“

**The wide ranging topics covered was great. Whilst not all the presentation subjects were necessarily directly relevant to my day to day job, all of the speakers were interesting and engaging.**

“

**I really enjoyed being able to engage positively with people and make arrangements for future engagement with those who have implemented best practices around asbestos management in their organisations.**

# Honorary Treasurer's Report



*Jason Hodgkiss*



2023 saw the Society continuing to be financially robust, with an income of just over £1.5m (up £90k) and reserves standing at £1.25m. The inflationary pressures impacting most organisations hit BOHS's conferencing activity particularly hard, which was the main driver of a £46k overall deficit against budget, although overall costs of charitable activities rose only by less than 1%, as reported by our new auditors.

BOHS has a varied and skilled staff base. We managed to retain all staff in 2023 in a competitive jobs market with the team operating under a slightly revised structure implemented at the beginning of the year. As a result of the job evaluation process, wages have been increased in line with expertise levels, resulting in a net 9% increase in wages.

Major changes to the IT infrastructure of qualifications were delivered within budget through the use of staff time and expertise. Consolidating and future-proofing our IT is critical to managing cyber-security, data management and business continuity risks. Integration of qualifications into IMIS, our CRM system by the team was up and running by the end of the year.

This in-house development garnered an industry award for IT innovation for the staff involved. All our historic qualifications data from pre-Calibrand dates are also being imported into IMIS, with a completion date of June 2024, giving BOHS access to all awarding information in one place for the first time.

IT has been stable, with the shut-off of our legacy qualifications software causing

some operational challenges when combined with the need to rapidly introduce M series modules. OHTA's notice of termination of the end of our awarding contract required some fast management, but business continuity planning for such an event kicked in and we were able to fully replace the W series within weeks and relaunch supporting materials by mid-March.

The contract end coincided with the 2023 year-end, so no financial impact was experienced in the year. Budgeting for 2024 has needed to reflect the impact of expected lower revenue from overseas qualifications income. IT licences, Intellectual Property Rights and our new Coat of Arms adds to the intangible property owned by the Society as well as providing operational benefits.

Over an economically challenging period, the Society has performed well, especially compared with the sector, and is financially secure to engage with the challenges and opportunities of the future.

# 2023 IN NUMBERS



We welcomed

**251**

new members



Our online content  
was watched for  
over

**1,580**  
hours



**193,556**

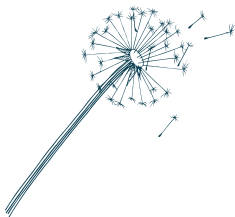
people visited our  
website



We shared

**15**

videos on our  
YouTube channel



**843**

people visited our  
Breathe Freely  
website



**5,178**

people passed  
our qualifications



**728**

people attended  
our in-person  
events



We gained

**5,556**

social media  
followers



We released

**4**

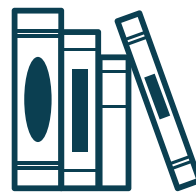
issues of Exposure  
Magazine



We hosted

**11**

free member  
webinars



**485,211**

Annals papers  
were downloaded



We shared

**1,513**

posts via our  
social media  
channels

# January 2023

## We set out our plans to celebrate our 70th anniversary

Our plans included:

Taking the Society to the decision makers (Scottish, Welsh and English Parliaments).

Putting our history into print using Trevor Ogden's words.

Creating a Coat of Arms.

Launching the Workplace Healthwatch.

## We held a webinar on the path to becoming a BOHS Chartered Member

This webinar outlined the framework and membership levels of BOHS to outline how these can lead to Chartered Membership.

[You can click here to check it out.](#)

## We launched a social media campaign about the Retained EU Law Bill

Alongside other UK health and safety leaders, we used this campaign to warn the UK Government to reconsider the retained EU Law Bill that could be an opportunity to strengthen health and safety laws.

## We held a webinar on "The future of Occupational Hygiene"

Hosted by Registrar Sarah Leeson and President Elect Alex Wilson, this webinar covered what members can expect from BOHS over the next 5 years.

[Click here to watch the webinar.](#)

## We continued our annual membership renewal period

Your continued support by renewing your membership is a key part of the success of BOHS.

## We completed our annual Group Authority Licence audit

This licence permits any member of FOH to possess sampling media containing 1-(2-methoxyphenyl) piperazine, for the purpose of conducting the Method for Determination of Hazardous Substances for measuring organic isocyanates in air (MDHS25).

The licence conditions require that all FOH members notify BOHS by 1st December each year of any usage, or planned usage, of MDHS25 during the current calendar year.

# February 2023

## The London and South East Regional Co-ordinators held an in person meeting

### "Ignite session and networking"

An "Ignite session" is a snappy presentation on a topic of interest – 15 slides in 5 minutes!

## We held LEV 2023 in Birmingham

This conference, focussed on "Where the future is headed", took place in Birmingham. We had 75 in person attendees and 30 attending virtually.

## We opened for nominations for Board and Committee places

In 2023 we opened for nominations for 13 available positions:

### **BOHS Board**

- President-Elect
- 5 Ordinary Board Members

### **FOH Committee**

- 5 FOH Committee Members

### **FAAM Committee**

- FAAM Registrar
- 1 FAAM Committee Member

## We opened for our 2023 award submissions

The BOHS Awards were created to find the most innovative Occupational Hygienists with the newest ideas and most drive to make a difference to health and safety.

Winners not only receive an invitation to our annual gala dinner and conference, but there are also cash prizes, speaking opportunities, and training funding available too.



# March 2023

## **We hosted a Health in Construction Leadership Group webinar**

This webinar was titled “New Year, New Focus. Treating Health like Safety” and was attended by 91 people.

If you missed the chance to attend this webinar in person, you can [click here to view the whole session.](#)

## **We published a free, online A-Z guide to Workplace Health Protection**

Categorised by subject matter, this page also includes links to information from external organisations.

[Check it out.](#)

## **The North West and North Wales Regional Co-ordinators held In Person Meeting**

Alex Wilson, President Elect spoke about the soft skills associated with the technical skills for hygienists and Duncan Smith, Occupational Hygiene Head of Unit at the HSE discussed the HSE health initiatives.

## **The North East Regional Co-ordinators held an In Person meeting:**

This was an in person networking session for members in the North East to catch up and it provoked some interesting discussions.

# April 2023

## We celebrated the official 70th birthday of BOHS!

It was **27 April 1953** when the Society's inaugural meeting took place in London.

Since then and for seven decades, BOHS has been at the forefront of protecting people from ill-health and committed to its mission to ensure better occupational hygiene standards in the workplace.

## We launched the Workplace Healthwatch initiative

The Workplace Healthwatch was a chance for members to show the UK the world through the eyes of the occupational hygiene profession by listing all occupational hygiene exposures they may have seen over a normal week.

The results were really eye opening, you can [click here to view them](#).

## The Scotland Regional Co-ordinators held a webinar

BOHS President Elect, Alex Wilson, spoke about his upcoming Presidential theme of soft skill competency within occupational hygiene.

[Catch up on this webinar here.](#)

## The London and South East Regional Co-ordinators held an in-person meeting

This in person meeting was focussed on asbestos issues in the UK and included talks on a HSE Asbestos update, a Mesothelioma update and discussion on inappropriate use of building survey report templates for land contamination surveys/ investigations.

## We released the first issue of Exposure Magazine of 2023

In this LEV focussed issue, you can:

- Get to know our new Joint Principal Examiners for LEV;
- Read about where LEV thorough examination and testers frequently get it wrong;
- Learn about 5 common failures with LEV inspections and how to fix them;
- And much more..!

[Click here to read it now.](#)

# May 2023

## **We held the IP/NANO conference in Manchester**

This collaborative conference of Inhaled Particles and NanOEH was held in Manchester to nearly 200 delegates to disseminate the current knowledge and understanding surrounding (nano)particle and fibre hazard, exposure and risk.

## **The North West England & North Wales Regional Co-ordinators hosted a webinar.**

The North West & North Wales hosted a free webinar on "Active Hearing Protection" showing current practices, real life experiences and what this means for the future.

As usual, if you missed this webinar, you can [catch up here](#).

## **We held this year's AGM virtually**

We welcomed 114 members to this year's AGM.

At the AGM we announced our new Board and Committee members for the year.

## **We announced Alex Wilson as the new President of BOHS**

We were delighted to announce the appointment of Alex Wilson as the new President following the AGM on 3 May 2023.

Alex's Presidential theme was soft skill competency within occupational hygiene.

# June 2023

## OH2023 took place in Leeds

From the 12th to the 15th of June we welcomed at the Queens Hotel in Leeds 276 attendees to our 4 day conference covering all things Occupational Hygiene

Our Annual Conference is THE workplace health protection conference full of engaging seminars, interactive workshops and plenty of networking opportunities, there really is something for everyone.

## We opened for abstract submissions for the IOHA 2024 conference

The Occupational Hygiene Society of Ireland (OHSI) and the British Occupational Hygiene Society (BOHS) are privileged to jointly host the 13th IOHA International Scientific Conference.

The conference theme has been confirmed as - **'Protecting workers from health hazards: Advancing in this changing world'**.

Find out more about this upcoming conference:  
[www.ioha2024.org](http://www.ioha2024.org).

# July 2023

## **We published a new report: “Saving Welsh Lives: Actions for the Welsh Government to Prevent Workplace Illness”**

This report highlights areas of Government action which can and must act to save Welsh lives. In doing so it can secure a more sustainable future and healthier and fairer Wales.

[Click here to read the English version.](#)

[Click here to read the Welsh version.](#)

## **We released the second issue of Exposure Magazine**

In this issue, you can read about:

- The use of direct reading equipment;
- Engineered stone, silica, and the precautionary principle;
- Four ways to be a sleep leader;
- A UK HSE online tool to estimate the loss of attenuation effectiveness of hearing protectors by the time of omission of use
- And much more...!

[Click here to access it now.](#)

## **The Board of Trustees met with the Welsh Assembly**

The Board of Trustees met with the Welsh Assembly to highlight the opportunities for the promotion of Occupational Health and Asbestos awareness in Wales following the release of our latest report.



# August 2023

## **We published a new report: "UKs hidden crisis in Women's Workplace Health."**

- More women are getting ill because of work.
- There is evidence that there is significant under-reporting of work-induced illness among women.
- Not enough is being done to monitor, measure and report the scale of the problem
- Women are carrying more of the burden of occupational disease than men.
- Much of this is entirely preventable and would save business, the economy and society a great deal of money.
- We must address the silent and growing crisis damaging women's health.

We called for all those involved in Occupational Health protection to develop a focus on the impact of the workplace on women's health.

[Click here to read the report.](#)

## **BOHS Team Members won an award!**

BOHS Team Members Claire, Matt, Heather and Rose travelled to London to receive the ASi Great Things Award, awarded to clients who use the software ASi build for digital transformation.

# September 2023

## We hosted a meeting with Members of the Scottish Parliament

We met with Members of the Scottish Parliament to ask why the Scottish Government is not measuring the impacts of workplace health, especially as it affects women.

We also released a report [“Tackling Scotland’s Workplace Ill-Health Crisis”](#) as Scotland’s workplaces are making a significant contribution to the growing ill-health of the nation.

## We held an all staff away day

This was held in the office focussed on the Society’s future processes along with some team building in the afternoon!

## We completed our annual Training Provider renewals cycle

Only an Approved Training Provider can run BOHS courses or qualifications.

If you would like to become an approved BOHS training provider of a particular course we would love to have you on board.

Find out more about becoming an [Approved Training Provider](#).

# October 2023

## Asbestos 2023 took place

2023 saw the sixth annual asbestos conference organised in conjunction with the Faculty of Asbestos Assessment and Management.

The event took place from the 17 to 18 of October in Birmingham and welcomed 132 attendees.

## We released issue three of Exposure Magazine

In this issue, you can read about:

- 3D printing and safety within occupational exposure scenarios;
- The tools to tackle exposome data;
- International law and occupational hygiene protection;
- A warning to the Government not to risk health and safety standards slipping
- And much more...!

[Click here to access it now.](#)

## We launched the IOHA 2024 website

The conference theme has been confirmed as - 'Protecting workers from health hazards: Advancing in this changing world'.

Find out more about this upcoming conference: [www.ioha2024.org](http://www.ioha2024.org).

# November 2023

## We hosted a HCLG webinar "Implementing a Health & Wellbeing Maturity Matrix on Site"

'One size doesn't fit all' is never truer than when discussing how businesses reach a good standard to progress in their delivery of a health and wellbeing strategy.

In this webinar, Rob and Gerry, who worked together at the time of its launch in Balfour Beatty, share their experience of the Health and Wellbeing strategy and Health and Wellbeing Maturity Matrix approach: explaining how this could be adapted and implemented by others.

If you missed the chance to attend, you can [click here to catch up](#).

## We onboarded 4 new CCHRC training providers

This course is aimed at site supervisors who have front line responsibility for controlling the health risks on a construction site. The course has also proven helpful for Health & Safety advisors and managers to reinforce their understanding of health risks.

[Find out more about this course.](#)

## We launched our new UK M- series qualifications

The newly named M-series of qualifications replaced the W500 qualifications as the main route to professional recognition in the UK as of 1 January 2024.

[Find out more.](#)

## The Northern Ireland region hosted a free webinar

Dr Paul McKeagney and Mike Calcutt spoke about the work-related ill health crisis, and what more should we be doing to support workers' health.

Make sure you [catch up on this webinar](#) if you missed it.

# December 2023

## We hosted a webinar focussed on the launch of the Register of Occupational Hygiene Professionals

The new register, accredited by the Professional Standards Authority, is the UK's regulated professional register of individuals competent to practise Occupational Hygiene and provide you with the necessary advice and expertise to help you protect the health of your workforce.

[Find out more.](#)

## We published the fourth issue of Exposure Magazine

In this issue, you can read about:

- An update on the BOHS Coat of Arms;
- Information about the Accreditation of the BOHS register of Occupational Hygiene professionals by the Professional Standards Agency;
- An article on the ethics of RealTime monitoring
- ... and much more!

[Click here to access it now.](#)

## BOHS staff met in the office for our annual Christmas party

A lovely annual end of year tradition means all staff get together to catch up, wind down and prepare for the festive period.





## The Chartered Society for Worker Health Protection

BOHS is a Chartered, science-based, charitable body that provides information, expertise and guidance in the recognition, evaluation, control and management of workplace health risks.

BOHS was founded in 1953: it is a learned society, publishing the world-renowned, scientific, peer-reviewed journal, *Annals of Work Exposures and Health*, and the only professional society representing qualified occupational hygienists in the UK. The Society supports, develops and connects its members with resources, guidance, events and training.

Its Faculty of Occupational Hygiene sets professional standards and is the only UK examining board for qualifications in occupational hygiene that are recognised internationally.

BOHS is the only occupational hygiene organisation to be awarded a Royal Charter: this was granted in April 2013 in recognition of BOHS' unique and pre-eminent role as the leading authority in occupational disease prevention.

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