

**UPDATE FROM THE CHAIR
SEPTEMBER 2019**

The first meeting of the newly elected Board convened on 23rd September. A lot of work had been done behind the scenes since the AGM in the lead up to the meeting.

Several existing Working Parties have been strengthened, and new ones have been created. Every Trustee and Co-opted Board member has contributed to the structure and Terms of Reference of these WPs.

In order to maximise the effectiveness of each WP, geography played a big part in the selection of members of each, this coupled with personal preference and expertise means that we have the opportunity to make the work done by each of them an even bigger success story than the one we have enjoyed over the past 2 years.

The Terms of Reference and details of personnel involved in each of the WPs will be posted on the website in due course, but in the meantime, here is a flavour of where we will be concentrating our efforts for the foreseeable future:

Document Review – WP charged with simplifying the process and defining the frequency of review required by the many governance documents in place. The team is Norman Stevenson, Philip Grundy, Steve Mullock and David Jones.

Awards – WP charged with ensuring the awards process and ceremony gets better year on year. Members are Ian Coombes, Norman Stevenson, Bob Rajan and from 2020, Phillip John Jones with partial involvement from secretariat and treasurer.

External Support and Sponsors – this WP has been split into 2 groups covering north of the M62 and south of the M62 – charged with providing a good experience for sponsors and other external stakeholders. North team – Kenny Humphreys, Karl Tindale, Steve Mullock, Alan Gunn, David Jones. South team - David Bishop, Daren Metcalf, Adam Young, Roger Bibbings.

Internal – to further enhance engagement and service provision to member groups – Roger Bibbings, Phillip John Jones (until 2020), Philip Grundy, Mark Curry, Steve Mullock:

Website and Social Media – Carolyn Reid, Mark Curry, Alan Gunn, Karen McDonnell, Adam Young.

Each of the working parties will engage in extensive consultation to achieve their objectives, so please contribute whenever you can, please don't wait to see what is produced or wait to be asked – be part of the change process, and if you have something to contribute, please do.

I have so much to share with everyone to describe what SGUK needs to and wants to achieve, but too much for this article, so please look out for more in the future, and keep checking the website where you will also see details of what is happening in terms of this year's awards and read about our new venue.

My final comments are tinged with sadness. You may already know about the passing of a safety group stalwart, Mike McGinley MBE who was a major part in the groups movement at local, Scottish and National level. Mike was one of my mentors who encouraged me to get involved with committee work at SGWS and help to make a difference. He became a very close friend and coerced me into taking his place representing Scotland on the National Safety Groups Council which was later to become SGUK and similarly on the Scottish Chamber of Safety.

Many readers will have known Mike and how dedicated he was to the groups, I'm sure we all remember meeting him 'somewhere'. My main regret when I found out that he had died is that for some reason, we lost touch and whilst his lovely family are aware of Mike's involvement with the groups, like most us, the other half only knows half of the story in terms of the many lives that he influenced, and in such a gentlemanly manner. He was in my opinion, one of the true unsung heroes of how health and safety has developed. I recall many wonderful things about Mike, and his many stories of how he started in our profession. I would like to share one of my treasured photographs of Mike and I at the 70th Anniversary of SGWS in 2007. Mike is the one proudly wearing his well-deserved MBE. May he rest forever in peace but at the same time encourage the angels to be safe.

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