

CEO Update November 2020

November 9, 2020

This year, despite the challenges of COVID-19, for every £1 of membership subscription, the Society has raised another £5 of funds to promote better occupational hygiene. As a charity, of course, everything is invested back into making more impact and supporting our public campaigning, as well as our current and future members.

We have continued to update and develop the technical guidance that makes BOHS a world influencer. In addition to guidance, ranging from asbestos through to consultancy practise, we have produced technical materials that have been widely used in the fight against COVID-19. Among them, has been the [COVID-19 control measures risk matrix](#), [How to spot a fake respirator](#), [Guidance on conducting occupational hygiene surveys during Covid-19](#), [Return to work guidance](#) and [Guidance on face coverings in the workplace](#).

We decided to make these publicly available and these have been downloaded and distributed over 15,000 times. We are releasing two more technical guidance documents on ventilation and staying safe during the pandemic.

The Society's reach has been extended with almost 16,000 followers on social media and we hope will be positively impacted by the new website which has just gone live. Work has continued on the next phase of the [Breathe Freely campaign](#), which has been picked up by Australia and will soon be reaching the US. Meanwhile, in the UK, new partners and a renewed focus means that we aim to do more to reduce respiratory health threats.

As we develop a new strategy for the next five years, we have a renewed focus on developing the occupational hygienists of the future and raising professional standards. We have revised 28 qualifications this year and launched them digitally. Despite lockdown, we have enabled hundreds of candidates to qualify in OH subjects across 4 continents, while providing educational resources and technical content to many partner institutions in the UK and internationally. We have moved our qualifications platform to be accessible online. The Society has developed training materials, supported 7 Universities in teaching, research and scholarship.

Alongside educational courses, we have planned and will have delivered three conferences on LEV, asbestos and the OH2020 conference, moving to online participation which has allowed more people from more countries to participate. We have also moved into the work of webinars, delivering 11 hours of webinar content for BOHS members and contributing a similar amount of content to other bodies and organisations.

The Society has been active in publication and alongside member's magazine, Exposure, Exposure Bulletins and Faculty Bulletins, our journal, the [Annals of Workplace Exposure and Health](#), has published 8 issues, with open access material relevant to COVID-19 and a greater readership than ever. We have been active in publishing in the trade and general press, appearing in national newspapers, as well as authoring materials for fellow societies and trade press. On average, we have published two substantial articles a month.

We have continued to campaign, providing input to 40 organisations as varied as the Employment Lawyers Association, the Health Service Investigation Branch and the All-Party Group on COVID-19. The Society has worked in tandem with Occupational Health bodies to support exposure prevention during the COVID-19 pandemic, with almost weekly meetings across the disciplines to provide expertise and support, particularly to the NHS.

Of course, almost all of the technical work of the Society is undertaken by volunteers, supported by the administrative backup of the 20-strong Head Office team. It is almost impossible to quantify the value of the input of our members who have contributed thousands of hours, often responding to very tight deadlines to ensure the quality of the technical outputs.

The Society operates under the governance of the Board and by the year's end, we will have supported 18 Board level meetings and 8 Faculty meetings, considering over 500 pages of documentation and reporting. All this ensures that all of our output is of the highest quality and subject to rigorous and effective governance.

We have continued to develop support for our members, with the launch of our mentoring scheme, support for the progression of members to Chartered status and a review of our membership categories. We have reviewed our Code of Ethics and for the first time are providing Chartered members support to ensure that members have the means to improve their practice when it falls short of our professional standards.

Head Office has gone through the upheaval of COVID-19, a flood which destroyed the server and some significant staff changes. We have worked to increase the output of the Society with greater efficiency and less cost. We hope that we have been able to maintain and improve the service to members in spite of this.

I would like to ensure that next year your membership will enable the Society to make an even bigger impact. I am hoping therefore that you felt that your membership has been worthwhile and are pleased about what you have been able to make happen as a member.

All the best,

Kevin Bampton
(CEO of BOHS)

