



# Northern Ireland **Safety** Group



**ANNIVERSARY**

LEARNING FROM THE PAST **PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE**  
1953 - 2023





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Northern Ireland  
**Safety Group**  
1953 - 2023  
**70**<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY

## 6 Founding Members

Scribbens Kemp  
*NI Biscuit manufacturer*

Courtaulds Ltd.  
*Textile manufacturer*

Newforge Ltd.  
*Soup manufacturer*

Metal Box Co. Ltd.  
*Packaging Manufacturer*

Gallaher Ltd.  
*Tobacco Manufacturer*

William Ewart & Sons Ltd.  
*Linen manufacturer*

# History of the Presidents and Chairs of NISG

## NISG Presidents

|                |                              |  |
|----------------|------------------------------|--|
| 1966 – 1976    | <b>J R Wilson</b>            | Chief Factory Inspectorate   |
| 1976 – 1978    | <b>Andy Barr</b>             | Trade Unionist, Early Chief Executive of the Health & Safety Agency  |
| 1978 – 1981    | <b>Sir Brian Morton</b>      | Brian Morton & Co Estate Agency  |
| 1982 – 1983    | <b>Col. Henry Porter OBE</b> | Industrialist, a past Chair of the Health & Safety Agency  |
| 1984 – 1989    | <b>George McMaster</b>       | Chief Executive of the Construction Industry Training Board  |
| 1990 – Present | <b>Wilson Lambe MBE</b>      | McNeill Group (Concrete and Structural Steel Engineers); Construction Employers Federation (CEF) & Self Employed. Note: Wilson was the first Safety Officer to be awarded IOSH Fellowship and honoured for H&S in Construction with MBE. |

## NISG Chairs

|                |                                |   |
|----------------|--------------------------------|---|
| 1953           | <b>J Dalrymple</b>             | Scribbens Kemp (NI biscuit manufacturer)                |
| 1954           | <b>A C Hamilton</b>            | Unknown   |
| 1955           | <b>W B Harrison</b>            | Unknown   |
| 1956           | <b>D Lindsey Knight</b>        | Cortaulds (textile manufacturer)                        |
| 1957           | <b>W Burns</b>                 | Unknown   |
| 1958           | <b>J S Robinson</b>            | Coca Cola   |
| 1959 – 1960    | <b>C M Keenan</b>              | Unknown   |
| 1961 – 1962    | <b>H B Holt</b>                | ICI Fertilisers   |
| 1962 – 1964    | <b>D G Dewdney</b>             | Unknown   |
| 1965 – 1966    | <b>Garnet F Irwin</b>          | Gallaher Ltd. (Tobacco Manufacturer)                    |
| 1967 – 1968    | <b>Jim T Menaul</b>            | Spauldings (sporting goods manufacturer)                |
| 1967 – 1970    | <b>John S Bryce</b>            | Harland and Wolff (shipbuilding)                        |
| 1971 – 1972    | <b>Jim Cochrane</b>            | Short Brothers (aircraft manufacturer)                  |
| 1973 – 1974    | <b>Wilson Lambe</b>            | McNeill Group (Concrete and Structural Steel Engineers) |
| 1975 – 1976    | <b>George Bidwell</b>          | John Laing (construction)                               |
| 1977 – 1978    | <b>John Maze</b>               | Northern Ireland Electricity (NIE)                      |
| 1979 – 1980    | <b>John Dillon</b>             | British Enkalon (Nylon carpet yarn production)          |
| 1981 – 1982    | <b>Ellie Galbraith</b>         | Gallaher Ltd. (Tobacco Manufacturer)                    |
| 1983 – 1984    | <b>Hugo McClenaghan</b>        | Richardsons Fertiliser                                  |
| 1985 – 1986    | <b>Brian Walker</b>            | Construction Industry Training Board (CITB)             |
| 1987 – 1988    | <b>Hubert Baillie</b>          | Northern Ireland Electricity (NIE)                      |
| 1989 – 1990    | <b>Pat McCollum</b>            | Pass Safety (H&S Training Organisation)                 |
| 1991 – 1992    | <b>Jane Robinson</b>           | University of Ulster                                    |
| 1993 – 1994    | <b>Colin McDowell</b>          | CMD Safety (Safety Consultancy)                         |
| 1995 – 1996    | <b>Bill McAllister</b>         | Safety Advice Centre (Safety & Training Organisation)   |
| 1997 – 1999    | <b>Heather McKinstry</b>       | Gallaher Ltd. (Tobacco Manufacturer)                    |
| 2000 – 2001    | <b>Nicola McCracken (Ward)</b> | John Laing Ltd. (construction) / Highway Plant Co. Ltd. |
| 2002 – 2003    | <b>David Cooke</b>             | Northern Ireland Electricity (NIE)                      |
| 2004 – 2005    | <b>Liam Kelly</b>              | Gilbert Ash (construction)                              |
| 2006 – 2007    | <b>Jim Leitch</b>              | Northstone (construction and materials)                 |
| 2008 – 2009    | <b>Nicky Bell</b>              | Ulster Bank   |
| 2010 – 2011    | <b>Tom Stephenson</b>          | Balcas Timber   |
| 2012 – 2013    | <b>Priscilla Woods</b>         | Schrader Electronics                                    |
| 2014 – 2015    | <b>Jimmy Fenton</b>            | Michelin Tyre Company                                   |
| 2016 – 2017    | <b>Mandy Nelson</b>            | Phoenix Energy  |
| 2018 – 2019    | <b>John Thompson</b>           | Translink   |
| 2020 – 2022    | <b>Ashleigh Birkett</b>        | Carson McDowell Solicitors                              |
| 2023 – Present | <b>Wendy Beatty</b>            | W&H Alexander Civil Engineering Ltd.                    |





## Message from NISG President “From Robens to Robots”



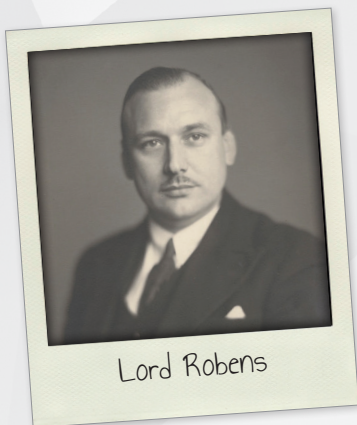
Wilson Lambe 2023

Having spent almost all my working life in health and safety (and too many years to put in print) I’ve witnessed a lot of change. I cut my teeth grappling with the considerable body of detailed prescriptive Factory Law and the ‘Thou shalt not ...’ Culture that existed at the time. Not forgetting of course my well-thumbed ‘Redgraves’ for interpretation and guidance. Those of us who were around then will also have memories of the ubiquitous ‘Factory Inspectors’.



Wilson working at McNeill Group

The 60’s (timeframe hint) witnessed numerous tragedies (including the Aberfan coal mine disaster when a coal waste tip slid down a mountainside) which showed the prescriptive approach of Factory Law, and the limited powers of Factory Inspectors were no longer sufficient for the effective regulation of modern industry.



Lord Robens

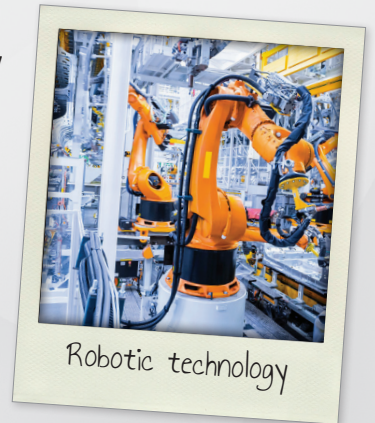
And then came the Robens report of 1972. Lord Robens’ Committee placed the primary responsibilities for health and safety with those who created risks, those who worked with them, and the

need for more self-regulation of health and safety at work. 1978 is also a year embedded in N.I. Safety folklore as it saw the introduction of the Health and Safety at Work (Northern Ireland) Order.

The 1980’s witnessed the birth of much of the legislation we are familiar with today - RIDDOR, COSHH, Control of Asbestos etc. As we sped towards the dawn of the new millennium, 1992 was the year of the ‘six pack’ regulations. For me this decade was when hard hats on building sites became a necessity not a luxury and risk assessments became a habit.

Occupational health really came to the fore in the early 2000s when high levels of occupational ill-health was identified as a major issue both in workplaces and society in general.

The early years of the new millennium saw technology begin to dominate the industrial landscape and the information revolution spread throughout all sectors. We’re still in its infancy and AI, machine learning, robots etc will dominate in the years to come.



Robotic technology

Another hugely important development specifically over the last number of years has been collaboration and working in partnership with other organisations to meet shared goals. We have been practicing this since the 1960’s with our very close relationship with the National Irish Safety Organisation. But in the last number of years we have formed, along with other partners, the likes of the Workplace Health Leadership Group and more recently the Building Mental Health Alliance.

We currently live in a challenging and changing world. However, over my time in health and safety I have always been encouraged by how my colleagues and peers have striven to surmount obstacles to ensure our workplaces are fit for purpose where accidents, incidents and ill health are minimised as much as possible.

Over the last 70 years, the work of the Northern Ireland Safety Group has made a major contribution towards health and safety in the workplace. Let us then look forward to the next 70 years by continuing to ensure that risks are controlled and thereby contributing to the overall economic and social wellbeing of N.I. plc.

**Wilson Lambe MBE**  
NISG President



Wilson, with his wife Daphne, receiving his MBE at Buckingham Palace

## Message from NISG Chair “What Health & Safety means to me”



In order to get a swift breakdown or meaning of a phrase we will often “Google it”. If we Google “What is meant by Health and Safety?” the following response appears – In general terms, Health refers to our general wellbeing. It means that we have a positive sense of mental, physical, and social wellbeing. Safety is a

feeling of security where we can work without fear of danger or injury.

This is how I would sum up my time on the Committee of the Northern Ireland Safety Group. A feeling of belonging to a group that shares the same principles as I do, along with security of working along with like-minded individuals and representatives from companies across Northern Ireland and beyond.

A colleague of mine in a Tender Review Meeting for a Construction Project was asked “Define Health and Safety”. After panic set in he was able to break it down into simple terms. Making sure everyone goes home safely and without harm. When discussing it after the meeting I said his answer summed it up perfectly.

Taking on a role in Health and Safety can be rewarding but also daunting much like taking on the role of Chair of the Northern Ireland Safety Group (NISG). In January 2023, I was privileged to take on this role. This was always going to be a huge challenge and especially during this 70th Anniversary year of NISG. As with all organisations, I am only a small part of a dedicated team of individuals who meet monthly to ensure we provide information, guidance, and support to NISG members and the wider Safety community.

Within the Committee each member has found their skills can be put to good use in the various Sub Committees including the Farming Sub-Committee which is particularly close to my heart being from a rural background.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank most sincerely each member of the NISG Committee along with our current Joint Secretaries Ernie Spence and Nicola McCracken who keep the systems behind the scenes, and us, in order. I would also like to thank Wilson

Lambe, Honorary President, one for asking me to join the Committee initially and secondly for his guidance in my current role of Chair.

Since our last major milestone at our 60th Anniversary, NISG has developed in so many ways, from the way we communicate to our members via ezines and Zoom meetings or by taking our meetings on “out trips” to locations such as Cruise ships, International Airports, Carrickfergus harbour and local training centres such as ITS and JMD. These are always special days and feel more like school excursions but despite this they are invaluable in expanding our knowledge of Occupational Health and Safety.

We continue to work closely with HSENI and developed our partnership with them and other stakeholders through the formation of the Workplace Health Leadership Group and more recently our collaboration in the Building Mental Health Alliance. We are indebted to our members for their continued membership, to our Patron and current Sponsors.

We have continued to develop our relationship with NISO in the Republic of Ireland through the Annual Safety Quiz and Annual Awards and congratulate them for reaching their 60th Anniversary milestone. We enjoyed sharing in the celebrations recently in Killarney where we were also able to celebrate the success of local companies in the joint NISG – NISO awards.

The 70th Anniversary of NISG is a wonderful achievement and I am immensely proud to be a member not only of the Group but as Chair at this time. Finally, I want to say a massive thank you to the 70th Anniversary Subcommittee for all their hard work over these past few months organising what I know was a fantastic Conference and Gala Dinner, where we not only learnt from the past but will enable us to plan for the future.

**Wendy Beatty**  
NISG Chair

Ashleigh Birkett (Immediate Past Chair) passes over the chain of office to Chair Wendy Beatty at the January 2023 AGM ▶





## 70th Anniversary Message from HSENI



Robert Kidd,  
Chief Executive, HSENI

I can scarcely believe that in January 2024, I will celebrate 5 years with HSENI. Looking back, we have come through a pandemic and seen the Assembly rise and fall more than once and most critically now we see a public sector in a financial crisis. The squeeze on budgets makes it challenging for HSENI to deliver the service that

we would wish to, and that employers and employees deserve. Pooling resources and working in partnership have become the most important building blocks for HSENI. For many years the NISG has been an enthusiastic and willing partner to HSENI.

The one thing which stands out for me though is the passion and enthusiasm I continually encounter when I meet people through my role. Health and Safety professionals could very easily be 'glass half empty' types but the reverse is true. I see people encouraged by the desire to make a difference, the desire to bring about change and to influence the behaviours of those who

might otherwise be the subject of a social media clip which makes us wince.

Each of those people and many of you are reading this message, have supported me and my team and you have helped us to carry the messages to promote Health and Safety in the workplace even when the audience may appear unwilling to hear it. The NISG brings people together with that unity of purpose, to make things better for others. Many of you give of your time voluntarily and with the willing support of your employers and often it may seem thankless and unrecognised.

NISG is 70, but the energy is still that of a youth, and the determination shines out. I am proud to be associated with you through the working partnership that exists. I have no doubt that the sense of purpose will continue the work over many decades to come, with the drive to see workplace health and safety in Northern Ireland recognised as a world leader due to the adoption of best practices.

**Robert Kidd**  
Chief Executive - HSENI



### Message from John Gordon Award and Quiz Sponsor

Safety Advice Centre Ltd. are proud to continue as sponsor of the John Gordon Award and Safety Quiz for NISG, especially in this 70th year of celebration. It is great to see the group moving forward and providing advice, guidance, and networking, via its meetings, webinars and events, for all those involved in Health and Safety throughout all sectors in Northern Ireland and further afield.

We are looking forward to the next 70+ years and to continuing our collaboration in the worthwhile activities that the organisation continues to offer.

**Bill McAllister**, Managing Director, Safety Advice Centre

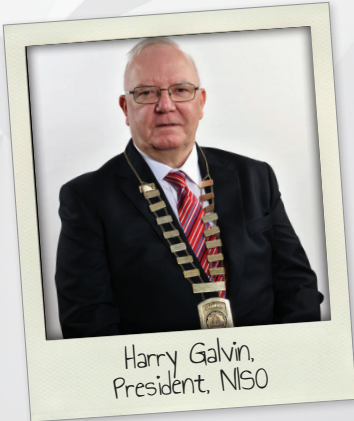


### Message from Development Partner

"Congratulations to the NISG on your 70th Anniversary. We are proud to be NISG members and to have worked with the organisation on many meetings and workshops over several years. We enjoyed a fantastic night at the La Mon Hotel in November at the 70th Gala Dinner and wish NISG every success in the future."

**Maire and Jim Donnelly**, JMD Training





## 70th Anniversary Message from NISO

On behalf of myself, the officers, executive committee members, staff and all our volunteers, the National Irish Safety Organisation (NISO) extend our collective congratulations and best wishes to the Northern Ireland Safety Group (NISG)

on the occasion of NISG celebrating its 70th anniversary.

As you reach 70 years promoting safety in the workplace, we in NISO are celebrating 60 years promoting the same objective. NISG and NISO work very closely together with a combined objective of pursuing the highest standards of safety and health in the workplace.

Separately and collectively, we hold safety awareness seminars, workshops and training courses. The highest profile events we run together are the All-Ireland Safety Awards and All-Ireland Safety Quiz.

The Safety Awards give companies the opportunity to showcase their commitment to health and safety and allows them to compare their safety performance

against companies in similar business sectors and across all employment sectors. While the Safety Quiz allows shop floor workers to represent their company in a fun light-hearted quiz, whilst increasing their knowledge of health and safety, which can only add to improving safety performance in their employment.

On a personal level I have made great friendships within NISG because of our regular involvement in safety events.

To Wilson, Wendy, Ernie, Nicola, the NISG Executive and member organisations I send my best wishes to you all on reaching 70 years of great work, on behalf of the workforce and employers, for making the workplace a safer place. Remember that when NISG and NISO were founded 'danger money' was a feature of some workplaces as a method of handling some risk, this thankfully is no longer the case.

Stay Safe and keep pursuing the highest standards of safety and health.

**Harry Galvin**

President

National Irish Safety Organisation.



### Message from NISG Patron

Congratulations on reaching the remarkable milestone of 70 years! This momentous occasion marks seven decades of dedication and outstanding success of the NISG and is a testament to your unwavering commitment to the health and safety of the people of Northern Ireland. The impact NISG has made over those years is second to none.

As you celebrate this significant anniversary, may you reflect on the countless achievements, memories and milestones that have shaped your journey. Here's to another 70+ years of excellence and to many more years of continued success.

Arco are proud to be the NISG Patron and will be truly honoured to continue to fulfil this role every step of the way for the bright future ahead.

**Louise Armstrong**, Regional Sales Manager, Ireland - Arco

**arco**  
Experts in Safety

### Message from Farming Sponsor

Congratulations to NISG in reaching this amazing milestone. For 70 years, the Group have been pivotal in the promotion of Health and Safety in the workplace. This has been supported over the years, by the member companies, allowing their staff the time to provide their services to NISG.

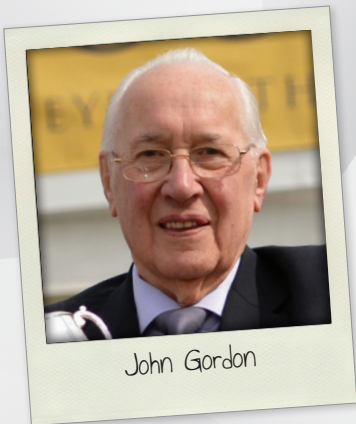
Lakeland Dairies have been a member for many years and are delighted this year to become the Farming sponsor. Wishing NISG many years of success ahead!

**Tom Stephenson**, Head of Group Health and Safety, Lakeland Dairies

**Lakeland**  
DAIRIES



## Sub-Committee Activity: John Gordon Award



John Gordon

John Gordon was a stalwart of the Safety Group and was the go-to man when it came to seeking advice on the safety group's constitution. John was involved with the group almost from inception until shortly before his passing in 2015.

When the NISG Committee were considering this award, we could think

of no better person that it should be named after. Sponsored by the Safety Advice Centre, The John Gordon Safety Person of the Year Award is designed to celebrate the individual regardless of their position within a company, who has made the greatest contribution to health and safety in your workplace.

From the sales rep to the security guard, the cleaner to the Chief Executive everyone has their part to play in Health and Safety and as such is eligible.

Entries can relate to a one-off incident or event, a process, or a longer-term project or initiative, such as a leadership initiative, relating to health and safety.

To ensure people get the recognition they deserve the judges have the discretion to request that more than one award is made each year.

The winner(s) will always be the 'unsung hero' and a person who does this, not because it is their role, but because they believe everyone has a right to arrive home from work safe and unharmed.

2014 saw the first of our John Gordon awards presented and our Roll of honour gives an insight into the diverse range of recipients and companies who have received the award.

Now in the 10th year of the John Gordon Award we continue to have a good uptake of entries. In recent years we have opened the scheme up, resulting in individuals who are in a full time Health and Safety role receiving an award.

**THE JOHN GORDON SAFETY PERSON OF THE YEAR AWARD 2023**

*10th Anniversary*

The John Gordon Safety Person of the Year Award is designed to celebrate the individual who has made the greatest contribution to health and safety in their workplace over the last year. It is for the unsung people in organisations, at every level, who go that extra mile to ensure the health and safety of all those that they work or come in contact with.

Closing date for entries is 5pm on Friday 29th September 2023.

**How to enter**

- Select who you'd like to nominate
- Download entry form
- Answer all 4 questions
- Send your entry online
- Closing date 5pm on Friday 29th September 2023
- Winning award(s) presented at NISG 70th Anniversary Gala Dinner

See back page for how easy it is to enter (it only takes an hour) and more details.

**Who was John Gordon?**

John Gordon MBE sat on the NISG Executive Committee from 1967 until 2012, working tirelessly as the Group's Secretary. He was a strong health and safety advocate and always available to anyone needing advice or assistance. John, who passed away in 2015, was awarded an MBE for his contribution to farm safety during his career with Enterprise Ulster.

**2022 Winners**

Laura & Bill McAllister, Safety Advice Centre, Ashleigh Birkett, NISG Chair, nominee Yvonne Conway & seated winner 2022 Gary Gardiner both from Woodvale Construction

Laura & Bill McAllister, Safety Advice Centre, Ashleigh Birkett, NISG Chair, nominee Martin O'Farrell and seated winner 2022 Robert Supel both from The Deluxe Group

## John Gordon Award Winners – Roll of Honour

- 2013** Awards launched at the 2013 November 60th Gala Dinner
- 2014** John Beattie - Northern Ireland Electricity - Electrical Engineer
- 2015** Andy Hatton - Farrans Construction - Site Engineer
- 2016** Stephen Copley - Actavo - Engineer
- 2017** John Campbell - Grand Opera House - Facilities Manager
- 2018** Enda Ward - Adman Civil Projects Ltd. - Site Supervisor
- 2019** Lee McCrossan - Adman Civil Projects Ltd. - Site Operative  
Malachy Osbourne - Farrans Construction - Foreman (Quality Manager)
- 2020** Lisa Haycock - Farrans Construction - Training & Development Coordinator
- 2021** John Doran - Terex, Omagh - Facilities Manager  
Enya McNally - South Eastern Health & Social Care Trust - H&S Advisor
- 2022** Robert Supel - Deluxe Group - Machine Operator  
Gary Gardiner - Woodvale Construction - HSEQ Manager
- 2023** Matthew McMahon - Adman Civil Projects Ltd. - HLA Student Engineer  
Diarmuid Mullan - Heron Bros. Ltd. - Site Manager

## Sub-Committee Activity: 2023 John Gordon Award Winners

In this 2023 year, the Awards Sub-Committee were delighted to present two worthy winners, from a non-H&S background, from Heron Brothers and Adman Civil Projects Ltd. See below for details.

**Diarmuid Mullan**, a Site Manager with Heron Brothers, was entered for his initiative of “Farmers Friends”, utilising construction H&S skills gained at work to influence farming. He believes that the construction mind-set and lessons learnt on site can improve Farm Safety and encourages young farmers to hone their “traditional jack-of-all-trades” approach to align with the specific skills seen in construction.

He has delivered his training to part-time farmers within Heron Bros. and extended it to local Young Farmers Clubs.

The scheme, still in development, has gained support from HSENI, who recognise that construction safety on farms is under-represented in their Farm Safe Campaigns, and they have given a steer on key topics to concentrate on.



L-R Diarmuid Mullan with Bill McAllister (Safety Advice Centre) - Award Sponsor

Well done on this initiative Diarmuid and we will look out for your future ideas to improve health and safety at work!

**Matthew McMahon**, a Higher-Level Apprentice (HLA) Student Engineer, from Adman Civil Projects Ltd., was able to identify a personal crisis affecting a colleague, whilst only being 20 years of age himself. He ensured that immediate support was offered by both himself and the Adman Team at the site he was working on. This showed a great degree of maturity on Matthew’s part and his support extended far beyond the initial involvement.

His actions emphasise the significance of how, as a society, we must proactively recognise the importance of mental health challenges, including creating a supportive workplace environment where employees feel comfortable discussing struggles and seeking help. Matthew is now a fundraiser for health and well-being charities, reflecting his selfless spirit and underscoring his exceptional character.



L-R Matthew McMahon with Bill McAllister (Safety Advice Centre) - Award Sponsor

NISG are delighted to present this amazing young man with such a prestigious award – he truly is a worthy recipient of the John Gordon trophy.

*NISG also wish to thank the nominees from both organisations for entering Diarmuid and Matthew for the John Gordon Award - without these nominees taking the time to complete the application form, they would not have received this well-deserved recognition. Watch out for the launch of the 2024 Award in the coming months.*





## Sub-Committee Activity: PR / Marketing

### PR Successes

The PR Sub Committee communicate useful and relevant information to our membership and beyond. Since our foundation, our primary aim of Promoting Occupational Safety and Health remains unchanged. In 50 years, we have moved from basic black and white printed documents sent by post to instant access information via our website and Ezines.

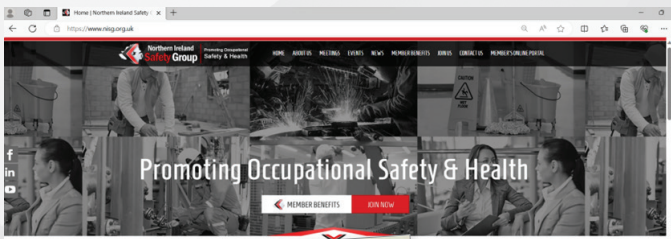


### Publications

From our earliest publication "Safety in Industry" printed on an old printing press we have graduated to today's digital platforms. 2004 saw a change of name to Safe & Sound, when our Newsletter was born. The Covid-19 pandemic sadly ended the Newsletter but watch this space for a reappearance in a new digital format.

### Website

What a success this has been! Launched in August 2008, by December 2008 we had achieved 106 visitors viewing 427 pages and we thought that was amazing. Last month's statistics show that 2804 visitors viewed 10031 pages.



### Group Promotion – Out and About

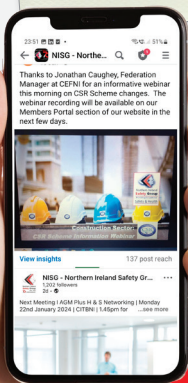
You will find many of our Executive Committee members out promoting NISG at events such as BuildHealth Seminars, NISO Conferences, Agricultural Shows, Company Safety Days and many other events.



Heather McKinstry and Wendy Beatty



Jimmy Fenton and Wendy Beatty



### Social Media - Find us on:

-  NISG – Northern Ireland Safety Group
-  NISG – Northern Ireland Safety Group
-  @NISafetyGroup

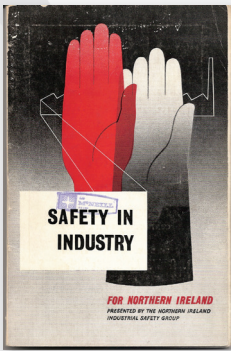


NISG Executive Committee Members

## Sub-Committee Activity: PR / Marketing

### Communications

One of the earliest publications from NISG was entitled "Safety in Industry for Northern Ireland" and was distributed to industry throughout Northern Ireland. Some might say it was ahead of its time, as one of the main articles was about the Safety of Young Workers, to this day a subject of much discussion.



NISG kept moving forward with its publications from the mid 1970's until the mid-1980's. INDU SAFE was a quarterly publication printed by Carnaghan Associates.

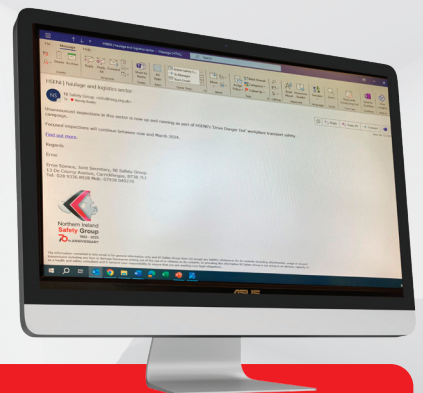


Moving on into the 1990's, the need to increase information provision was recognised leading to the production of the Northern Ireland Safety Group Newsletter, initially by Bill McAllister, laterally by Nicky Bell. A revamp completed in 2004 saw a change of name to Safe & Sound, continuing to provide useful information such as legal updates, court case information and meeting information.

Production and distribution of the Safe & Sound Newsletter continued until February 2020, but due to the Covid-19 Pandemic, it was then stopped in the interests of public safety. Presently, the NISG PR Sub-Committee are reviewing the use of printed materials in the future.

### E-Zines

Our first E-Zine was circulated in May 2012 to 344 subscribers, since then we have sent out 2250 E-Zines to 980 subscribers. The E-Zines cover a range of topical issues in the fields of health, safety and wellbeing.



### Alan Butler

NISG has had 100% success with each entry submitted to the Safety Groups UK Alan Butler Award. The Alan Butler Award is presented to the "Top" Safety Organisation from within Safety Groups UK.

◀ Ashleigh Birkett presented with the Safety Groups UK Alan Butler Award by Norman Stevenson, SGUK.





## Sub-Committee Activity: Development & Governance

As with all organisations and in particular, a Charity like the Northern Ireland Safety Group, it is important that all aspects of the Group conform to the requirements for the Charity Commission. The Development and Governance (D&G) Sub-Committee is given the responsibility of ensuring that NISG comply with these requirements and ensure compliance with the Constitution of the Group. The Constitution is the document which sets out how the NISG operates.

Recently, the D&G Sub-Committee have developed Job Descriptions for the specific roles within the Executive Committee which are: President, Vice President, Chair, Vice Chair, Immediate Past Chair, Public Relations Officer (PRO) and Secretary.

The D&G Sub-Committee have also been completing a schedule of tasks, which includes the development of NISG protocols and procedures. The protocols and procedures are developed from the Constitution, but it was agreed that they should be documented clearly. The protocols and procedures will then be maintained and reviewed regularly to ensure the effective operation of the Group.

The protocols and procedures include:

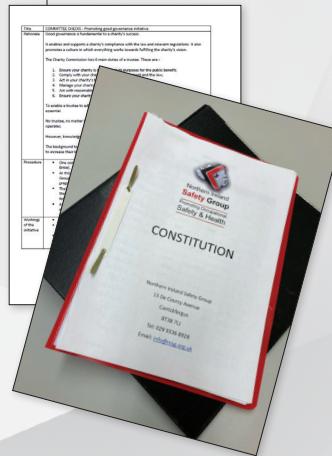
- Voting protocol for selection of Vice President
- Voting protocol for selection of Chair
- Voting protocol for selection of Vice Chair
- Conflict of Interest Policy
- Equality Policy
- Safeguarding Policy
- Secretary Contract

The D&G responds to correspondence received from various stakeholders such as NISG Members, NISG Sponsors and other items e.g., consultation documents from bodies such as HSENI or BOHS.

The D&G reviews sponsorship of the Group. The D&G also oversees the collaborations with other groups e.g. Workplace Health and Leadership Group (WHLG), Building Mental Health Alliance (BMHA), Safety Groups UK and CONIAN.



▲ Executive Committee at the NISG 70th Conference



NISG Executive Committee 2023



## Sub-Committee Activity: Occupational Health

The NISG Occupational Health Sub-Committee first met on 13th August 2015, when David Cooke, David Knott and Ernie Spence sat down to plan how we ensured that occupational health was promoted.

During the discussion, it was decided that NISG should review what promotion of occupational health NISG had carried out to date; formalise running two occupational health meetings a year; ensure that occupational hygiene would be promoted and look at exemplars of good practice.

NISG commitment to the topic was shown in 2014, when we allocated half of the Conference to Managing Musculoskeletal Disorders. We have moved a long way since then and occupational health has featured heavily in what we do.



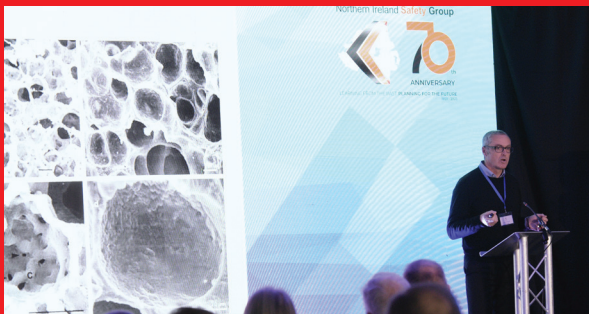
One early initiative that NISG got involved in, was in partnership with 3M as part of their Safety Tea-Break Campaign which was geared at providing the relevant material to allow for toolbox talks on occupational health subjects.

The photo on the right is from one of the many occupational health meetings we have organised.

Here we see a representative from ARCO completing a face fit demonstration.



### Occupational Health info from the 70th Anniversary Conference

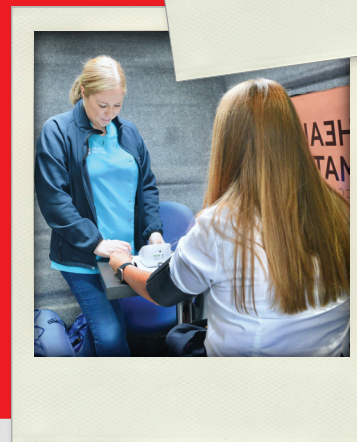


▲ Prof. David Fishwick presents on occupational lung disease.

Taster Workshops form Health Matters and 3M ►



SC Johnston Exhibiting ▼





## Sub-Committee Activity: Meetings & Webinars



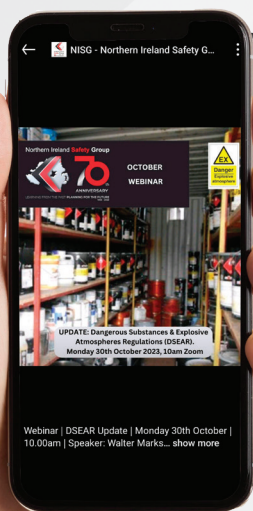
A recent Group Meeting at Port of Larne

As the mainstay of NISG activity, Meetings have been the primary focus since we first began in 1953. Traditionally meetings took place in-person, on the 3rd Monday of each month. This all changed in 202 when the Covid-19 pandemic hit and we were all unable to meet in person for the period of lockdown, hence the March 2020 Group Meeting having to be cancelled.

The Executive Committee quickly realised that the role of Health and Safety Practitioner had become crucial to all organisations attempting to field their way through this new phenomenon and via a Skype Call held on 24th March 2020 the legality around holding Executive Committee meetings in this format was discussed.

Following further investigation, NISG agreed to trial the Zoom format of webinars to provide information to members. With security of calls being the top priority,

Secretary Ernie Spence ensured that our webinar forum was private, to ensure we only had attendance from those who had booked to attend online.



The first Zoom webinar was held in July 2020, with John Thompson (Translink) and Jimmy Fenton (Ulster University) both from our Executive Committee presenting for this trial. They advised on the pertinent subject of Returning to Work following Covid-19 Lockdown. The meeting was very well attended, and it provided essential information and practical assistance for many others going through similar situations in their own workplaces.

This format now continues and since the lockdown ended, has evolved into a hybrid programme of both in-person meetings and online webinars. Our members love the chance to network and meet with their peers at our in-person meetings, but they also have the flexibility to view the online webinars from their workplace or from home.

Even better, there is also the flexibility for our members to watch the recording at a later date, allowing our meetings to be seen by roughly twice as many as before. Viewers can also dip in and out to avail of the information provided or to reference best practice.

Our Meetings Sub-Committee still use our usual meeting place of CITBNI at Nutts Corner, as well as seeking "Out Meeting" locations e.g. JMD Training and Industry Training Services to hold meetings with a practical element or facilities such as the Port of Larne, where we recently held an EV and Lithium Battery Fire Meeting.

We continue to canvas our membership for ideas of suitable topics for meetings and we will always listen, as this ensures we are the "go to" organisation to gain Health and Safety knowledge in Northern Ireland, whilst networking with peers.

Our thanks go to everyone who has presented, hosted or assisted in anyway with the calendar of meetings that NISG has provided in the past and also to you, our attendees, for joining us in-person and online, helping to keep us an active and relevant organisation.



Ian McIlveen, Hyster-Yale Group & Executive Committee Member, addressing the Group Meeting in January 2023

# NISO / NISG Occupational Health and Safety Awards



## What are they?

In 2023, we are proud to be celebrating 32 successful years of this prestigious Awards Scheme. Back in 1992, NISO held the inaugural All-Ireland Occupational Safety Awards with 20 entries from Republic of Ireland. NISG participation in the scheme commenced in 1995.

The Awards scheme is a collaboration by NISO / NISG which welcomes entries from NISO and NISG member organisations, carries out a rigorous assessment process by Independent Adjudicators to identify the award winners which culminates in an award ceremony. The benefits and recognition of the Awards scheme within all of Ireland has resulted in 150 organisations entering the Awards scheme year on year. In October 2023, over 600 people attended the 2023 Awards Ceremony in Killarney, and we were delighted when our 10 local NISG entrants were presented with their awards at the NISG 70th Anniversary Gala Dinner at La Mon Hotel, Belfast in November.

This wouldn't happen without the work of the joint NISO / NISG Awards Committee who plan and deliver the scheme. Preparation for the 2024 year commenced immediately after the 2023 Awards Ceremony. The promotion and launch of the 2024 Occupational Health and Safety Awards will be in the first quarter of 2024, with Workshops held across each of the NISO Regions and in Northern Ireland. The workshops are now held by Zoom and recorded. This allows the broadcast to be uploaded to the NISG website so organisations interested in entering can refer to it for advice as they compile their entry. Entries

are submitted to NISO and NISG by early summer for adjudication. The awards fall into Category Groups in order of prestige and by September participants are advised of the Award Category they have won. The actual award achievements are announced and presented at the Gala Dinner, usually in October.

During the 32 years, the scheme has continued to evolve, encompassing legislation updates, health and safety systems requirements, technological developments, and cultural changes, among others during the review process. The award scheme now embraces health and safety, with the scheme name changing to Occupational Health and Safety Awards.

There are specific Awards, within the different Category bands, with Category One being the highest level of award. To gain an Award within this Category the organisation must demonstrate consistently high standards of Health and Safety. Maintaining high standards within the organisation's Business Category, organisation's size and consistent performance over the years are all considered.

Collating a submission to enter the Award scheme is without doubt the most important and beneficial process for the organisation. It enables the organisation to review and audit its Health and Safety Management System, consider the strength of their Health and Safety Leadership and their ability to influence stakeholders, suppliers, and contractors.

## NISO / NISG 2023 Occupational Health & Safety Award Winners



Healthy Workplace Award, Consistent High Achiever Award and Higher Distinction Award.  
*John Graham Construction Ltd.*



Driving for Work Award, Northern Ireland Award and Consistent High Achiever Award.  
*Adman Civil Projects Ltd.*





# NISO / NISG 2023 Occupational Health & Safety Award Winners



Construction - Mineral Extraction/ Quarrying/Concrete Product Manufacturing Award. AG Paving and Building Products



Highly Commended Distinction Award. Energia Group



Distinction Award. McAleer and Rushe



Specialist Contractor Award. Mivan Ltd.



Best New Entry Large Size Organisation Award. MJM Marine Ltd.

Best New Entry: Large Size Organisation Award. MJM Marine Ltd.



Distinction Award. Northern Group



Business Category Award : Mechanical Engineering /Manufacturing /Assembly. RYOBI Aluminium Casting (UK) Ltd.

Business Category Award : Mechanical Engineering /Manufacturing /Assembly. RYOBI Aluminium Casting (UK) Ltd.



Construction-Civil Engineering Award and Exceptional High Achiever Award. W&H Alexander Ltd.

# NISO / NISG Occupational Health and Safety Awards

## All-Ireland Safety Award Winners – Roll of Honour **CATEGORY 1 TOP ACHIEVERS & SPECIALIST AWARD WINNERS**

| YEAR | AWARD   | WINNER                                 |
|------|---|--|
| 2013 | Business Award:<br>Electronic / Electrical Manufacturing / Assembly Award                                   | Schrader Electronics                   |
|      | President's Award: Overall Regional Award   | Lagan Construction Ltd.                |
| 2014 | President's Award: Overall Regional Award   | Lagan Construction Group Holdings Ltd. |
|      | Business Award: Transport & Fleet Maintenance / Repair  | Rockmount Vehicle Maintenance Ltd.     |
| 2015 | Bronze Award  | Lagan Construction Ltd.                |
|      | Business Award: Healthcare Provider   | Belfast Trust                          |
|      | Business Award: Manufacturing   | Montupet UK Ltd.                       |
|      | Business Award:<br>Electronic / Electrical Manufacturing / Assembly Award                                   | Schrader Electronics                   |
| 2016 | President's Award:<br>Overall Construction & Anderco Superior Performance Award                             | Lagan Construction Services Ltd.       |
|      | Business Award:<br>Electronic / Electrical Manufacturing / Assembly Award                                   | Schrader Electronics                   |
|      | Business Award: Manufacturing   | Montupet UK Ltd.                       |
|      | HSENI / HSA Occupational Health Award – Joint Winner  | John Graham Construction Ltd.          |
| 2017 | President's Overall Regional Award  | Sodexo                                 |
|      | Business Award: Electronic / Electrical Manufacturing / Assembly Award & Anderco Superior Performance Award | Sensata Technologies                   |
|      | Business Award: Mechanical Engineering / Manufacturing Award  | AE Global                              |
| 2018 | Business Award:<br>Electronic / Electrical Manufacturing / Assembly Award                                   | Sensata Technologies                   |
| 2019 | Gold Award  | W&H Alexander Ltd.                     |
| 2020 | N/A   | N/A                                    |
| 2021 | President's Award: Small Size Company   | W&H Alexander Ltd.                     |
|      | Mechanical Engineering / Manufacturing / Assembly Award   | RYOBI                                  |
| 2022 | President's Award: President's Award: Overall Regional Award  | John Graham Construction Ltd.          |
|      | Business Award:<br>Mechanical Engineering / Manufacturing / Assembly Award                                  | RYOBI                                  |
| 2023 | Business Award:<br>Mechanical Engineering / Manufacturing / Assembly Award                                  | RYOBI                                  |
|      | Driving for Work Award  | Adman Civil Projects Ltd               |
|      | Healthy Workplace Award   | John Graham Construction Ltd.          |

## Northern Ireland Award Winners – Roll of Honour

### **CATEGORY 2 NORTHERN IRELAND AWARD WINNERS**

| YEAR | WINNER                        | YEAR | WINNER                        |
|------|-------------------------------|------|-------------------------------|
| 2013 | H&J Martin Ltd.               | 2019 | Whitemountain Ltd.            |
| 2014 | John Graham Construction Ltd. | 2020 | Adman Civil Projects Ltd.     |
| 2015 | John Graham Construction Ltd. | 2021 | John Graham Construction Ltd. |
| 2016 | NIE Networks                  | 2022 | Mivan Ltd.                    |
| 2017 | Montupet UK Ltd.              | 2023 | Adman Civil Projects Ltd.     |
| 2018 | W&H Alexander Ltd.            |      |                               |





## 7 DECADES OF NISG

**1953 to 1962** - Northern Ireland Industrial Safety Group founded in the Scribbans Kemp Biscuit Factory, Springfield Road, Belfast by 6 manufacturing companies, with the purpose of promoting good practice to prevent accidents. 27 members by end of 1953. In February 1954, the Group became affiliated with RoSPA. In 1960, a booklet - "Safety in Industry for Northern Ireland" was published and in 1961, the Group's 1st 3-day course on Safety for Industry was held in the College of Technology. That year also saw the Group enter a float in the Lord Mayor's Show and Mr. Ronald Rosser become the first Honorary member elected.

**1983 to 1992** - In 1986, after the Safety Centre closes, The Group move monthly meetings to the Conference Centre at Balmoral (The King's Hall). There is excitement in 1988 when committee member Wilson Lambe is awarded an MBE for Services to Health & Safety - the 1st MBE awarded in NI for the profession. By 1992, the first school seminar has taken place & the UK sees the introduction of the European H&S Directives (the 6-pack).

1993 - 2002

1983 - 1992

START

1953 - 1962

1963 - 1972

1973 - 1982

**1963 to 1972** - Group membership now over 100. The Annual Conference and courses continue, and a subgroup is set up in the North West (1st meeting in Strabane). Large NI companies urged to join the Group by NI Minister of Labour & National Insurance, Mr. Kirk, via a speech in the Houses of Parliament. Interest in individual IOSH membership is expressed by members (then known as Institution of Industrial Safety Officers) and the 1st course on Industrial Safety began at the College of Technology in 1965. In 1966, the IOSH NI Branch was formed. The first Safety Group President, Mr. J.R. Wilson, was elected in 1966 and in 1967, the Group rebranded as the Northern Ireland Occupational Health & Safety Group. The 1st collaboration also took place that year with the 1st meeting held with NISO (National Irish Safety Organisation) in Dundalk, the start of a strong partnership which remains to this day. In 1968, NIOHSG & NISO run a joint Conference. By 1972, negotiations had begun with the Ministry of Health & Social Services to establish an Industrial Safety Centre.

**1993 to 2002** - In 1993, NISO & the Group join forces to launch the All-Ireland Safety Awards and in 1995, Northern Ireland Electricity (NIE) become our 1st Patron. In 1997, the simpler name of Northern Ireland Safety Group (NISG) is born. 1998 sees Group President, Wilson Lambe, elected as IOSH President, a personal and NISG milestone. In 1999, NISG wins the Alan Butler Memorial Award for best programme of events for the organisation now known as Safety Groups UK (SGUK). The 1st NISG website was launched in 2001 and the 1st Joint Conference - HSENI/IOSH/NISG/Local Authorities and Trade Unions was organised in the same year. The Annual Safety Quiz also had the highest ever team entries with 60 no. attending in 2001. 50 years of NISG was achieved in 2002 and we celebrated by holding the All-Ireland Quiz finals, along with NISO, in Armagh.

2003 - 2012

**2023+** - In 2023, NISG celebrated it's 70th anniversary with a large Conference, Exhibition and Gala Awards Dinner at La Mon Hotel, Belfast. We are now planning future activities, so watch this space!

2023+

2013 - 2022

**2003 to 2012** - In 2004, NISG started the iconic "Safe and Sound" monthly newsletters. Later that year, 77 local H&S professionals received Chartered Status, when the designation was approved by IOSH. Many were, and still are involved with NISG. By 2009, NISG took over guardianship of "Safety Sam, the iconic cartoon road cone used for talks to primary school children across NI by construction companies. In 2012, NISG won 2 major awards - The Alan Butler Overall Gold Award (making it top of the 72 Safety Groups in the UK) and the BIFM Recognition Award for Outstanding Contribution to Facilities Management in Ireland. In this period NISG signed up Patrons such as RP Safety, Ulster Bank, Randox and then Arco, who have remained onboard to this day.

**2013 to 2022** - In 2013, we achieved 60 years of NISG and celebrated with a conference and Gala Dinner at Ramada Hotel, Shaws Bridge. This decade also saw the Driving @ Work and the Farming Sub Committees form within the NISG suite of activities. Covid hit us all in 2020 and a new way of holding meetings via Webinars arrived to support our membership.

**1973 to 1982** - In 1973, The Group are awarded the British Safety Council's Sword of Merit for "outstanding contribution to industrial safety in Northern Ireland". In the mid-1970s, the Group publish 'Industrial Safety' a quarterly publication. In 1978, the Group's new home, the Health & Industrial Safety Centre, opens in the Government Training Complex, Dundonald. The £2500 per annum running costs are covered by Government grant. The Health & Safety at Work (Northern Ireland) Order comes into force in 1978. In 1980, a Construction Branch of the Safety Group is formed and chaired by committee member Wilson Lambe. In 1982, the Annual Safety Quiz begins with BP Oil Ltd. winning.



Northern Ireland  
**Safety Group**  
1953 - 2023  
70<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY





## Sub-Committee Activity: Conferences and Workshops

NISG Conferences and Workshops are generally organised by the Meetings Sub-committee, who receive Executive Committee support during planning and on the event days as well.

With a long history of running conferences, the first one was held in 1953, when the Northern Ireland Industrial Safety Group was formed. They were held in Belfast until 1972, when the venue moved to the Northern Counties Hotel in Portrush and subsequently, other venues were frequented. In recent years, the Covid-19 pandemic has been the only reason for us not holding an Annual Conference.

requirements, view products and services in a relaxed environment. Many members then follow up with Exhibitors at a later date.

When striving to bring new information to our members the Sub-Committee also use the format of Workshops, usually having a duration of a half day or less. These tend to have a mix of short presentations and hands on activity. As with Conferences, these Workshops provide valuable CPD for our membership, ensure that we provide practical solutions to common problems and forums to raise questions such as new requirements from legislation changes or Health and Safety initiatives.

Recent Workshops have included, **H&S Management of Young People** (2023) at JMD Training; a **CDM and Utilities & Infrastructure Seminar** (2016) in the Silverbirch Hotel, Omagh and a **Craneage and Temporary Works Seminar** (2017) at Corr's Corner Hotel, Newtownabbey.

These events would not happen without the work of the Meetings Sub-Committee, plus those who assist in the organisation and present for us at these events – they don't happen by accident!



|   |  |
|---|--|
| Date   Wednesday 16 <sup>th</sup> May 2018                            | Date   Thursday 17 <sup>th</sup> May 2018                          |
| Venue   Omagh Enterprise Centre, Great Northern Road, Omagh, BT78 5LU | Venue   Corr's Corner, 215 Ballyclare Road, Newtownabbey, BT36 4TG |
| Times   2.00pm - 5.00pm   | Times   9.00am - 12.00 noon  |

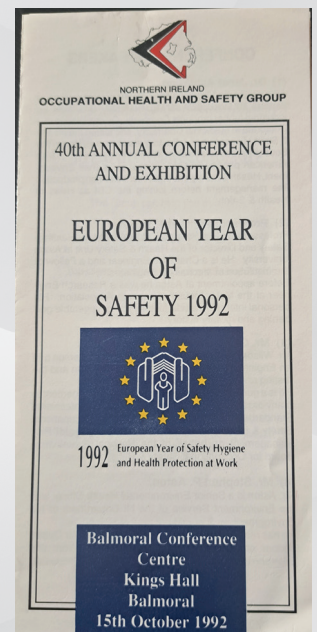


The Sub-Committee begins by agreeing a suitable theme, that will reflect topical health and safety content for the time. Topics have covered areas such as **Accident Prevention** (1980), **European Year of Safety** (1992), **Creating a Healthy Workforce** (2011) and generally a large event takes place, including an

evening Gala Dinner, every 10 years to celebrate our "big anniversaries".

Our recent NISG 70th Anniversary Conference entitled "**Learning from the Past, Planning for the Future**" saw the morning provide reflection on the evolution of health and safety over 70 years and the afternoon featured presentations on emerging risks and technological advances we can avail of now and will use in future. With NISG friend Mr. Ronan Kelly supporting us before the event, and facilitating yet again on the day, the conference flowed professionally, and feedback has been excellent. (See later in the brochure for photos from the day).

These events provide NISG membership the opportunity to learn and gain valuable CPD and they can also feature relevant taster workshops to compliment the theme. Our interactive exhibitions which sit alongside the Conferences provide delegates with an opportunity to discuss their HSEQ business



▲ Aerial view of Exhibition at NISG 70th Conference

Northern Ireland Safety Group

**70<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY**  
LEARNING FROM THE PAST - PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE 1953 - 2023

**CONFERENCE**  
Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> November 2023

Sponsored by

La Mon Hotel  
41 Gransha Road  
Catterline  
Belfast  
BT23 5RF

EHS  
International  
Presented by Chris Mee

HEALTH MATTERS  
HEALTH MATTERS  
HEALTH MATTERS

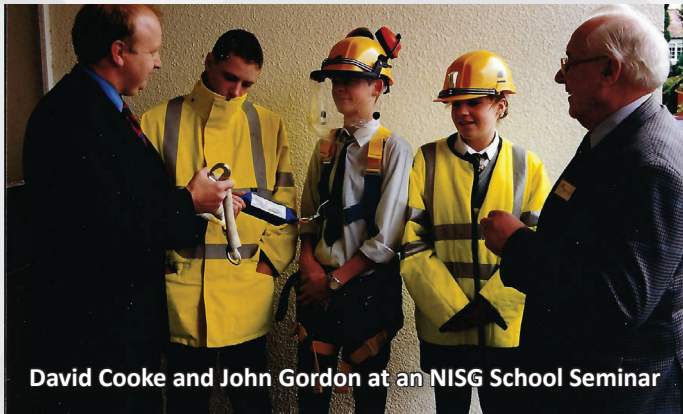
TILSATEC

P&O FERRIES

Sundström

Patron  
**arco**  
Experts in Safety

## Sub-Committee Activity: Education



David Cooke and John Gordon at an NISG School Seminar

For the NISG Executive Committee, Education is a vital part of the requirements of our Constitution. Our primary objective as a Charity, is to promote the health and safety of all persons in the workplace. In order to carry out this objective, we have always engaged in providing education in health and safety, as can be seen throughout this brochure. We provide education via many of our sub-committee activities; we actively promote health and safety at work to young people, who have not yet entered the workforce, but who are likely to commence work experience, are due to embark on apprenticeships or take up college places.

Feedback is always positive, and we firmly believe these seminars are of the utmost importance to our young people. It is not easy for teachers to find time to hold a School Seminar, but when they do, benefits can easily be seen in the practical knowledge the teenagers take away on the day.

Our NI Primary School children are also catered for at NISG with "Safety Sam" talks by our Executive Committee members to children in schools close to construction sites. NISG began running these talks in 2009 and the talks feature a road cone called Safety Sam who takes the kids on a journey through the dangers of playing near, or on construction sites and each letter of SAFETY SAM stands for a hazard.



Students in action

**If you have a contact at a Primary or Secondary School in Northern Ireland who would like to avail of either of these initiatives, please contact us at NISG and we are happy to follow up and arrange to present to the school at a suitable time – engaging our young people will only help to spread the health and safety message in years to come.**



Nicola McCracken at an NISG School Seminar

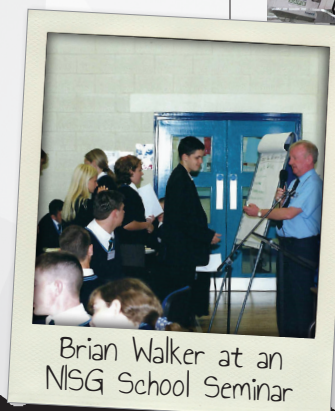
It is vital that young people understand what to expect on entering the working world. Over the years, we have provided many Schools Seminars to teenagers to give a vital insight into health and safety at work. We are pleased to see that today's pupils get some education in health and safety as part of the school curriculum, for example, Year 8 on safety

Technology classes now include teaching features like emergency stop buttons and safety signage before the pupils start to create projects – this did not take place when many of us were in school!

NISG School Seminars include topics such as The Cost of Accidents; Electricity at Work and PPE and it's Use. They are hands-on sessions and normally a practical "Design a Safety" poster is included to get creative minds working.



▲ "Safety Sam" in focus at an NISG Farm Show



Brian Walker at an NISG School Seminar





## Sub-Committee Activity: Quiz



The NISG Annual Quiz is one of the highlights of our calendar each year and offers non-safety employees the opportunity to showcase their health and safety knowledge at an informal evening event which allows both fun and the opportunity for learning in a relaxed environment. With Previous Entrant

In 2001, the NISG Annual Safety Quiz had the highest ever team entries with 60 teams attending – we would encourage you all to enter teams and beat this target again! We then celebrated 50 years of NISG in 2002 and held the All-Ireland Quiz finals, along with NISO, in Armagh that year, the first time it had ever come north. It was then held here again in 2015 at the Ramada Hotel, Shaws Bridge.

Today, the NISO/NISG Safety Quiz typically takes place at 9 centres around Ireland in February, March and April, with Northern Ireland being one of these centres. Each organisation enters teams of four players and has a Team Manager, who can be the Health & Safety Manager or Officer from the company. The regional winners of each category are invited to participate in the prestigious All-Ireland Finals held each year in April.

and New Entrant categories supported it is also a fair way for our member organisations to be represented and winners of both categories go forward to the NISO / NISG All-Ireland Quiz Finals.

The NISG quiz could not take place without the ongoing support of sponsors. For many years, HSENI have supported the event and our current sponsor, Safety Advice Centre, have been funding the event since 2020. In 2023, the “ongoing education” element of the NISG Quiz was recognised by Ulster University and they also came on board to provide us with a venue at the new Belfast Campus plus some additional sponsorship. This collaboration is set to continue in 2024 and we will be launching the 2024 NISG Quiz very early in the New Year.

NISO have been holding a Quiz since 1974 and in 1982, the NISG Annual Safety Quiz began, with BP Oil Ltd. winning. For many years the winners of the NISG quiz entered the quiz at All Ireland Semi-final level. In 1995, a new category “New Entrants” was introduced to motivate teams who had not previously entered the competition. In both 1997 and 2003, Gallaher Ltd. fielded the only NISG teams to ever win the Previous Entrants title at the All-Ireland NISO / NISG Quiz, a fantastic achievement. In 2015, Phoenix Energy Services won the All-Ireland NISO / NISG New Entrant Category.

| YEAR | PREVIOUS ENTRANTS             | NOVICES                       |
|------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 2013 | Nacco Materials Handling Ltd. | JMD Training Ltd.             |
| 2014 | Ulster Carpets                | Lagan Construction Ltd.       |
| 2015 | Ulster Carpets                | Phoenix Energy Services       |
| 2016 | Ulster Carpets                | Actavo                        |
| 2017 | Hyster–Yale Group             | Grand Opera House             |
| 2018 | Hyster–Yale Group             | University of Ulster          |
| 2019 | Ulster University             | Haffey Sports Grounds         |
| 2020 | Haffey Sports Grounds         | RYOBI                         |
| 2021 | NO QUIZ DUE TO COVID          |                               |
| 2022 | JMD Training                  | Whitemountain (Breedon Group) |
| 2023 | Hyster–Yale Group             | Re-Gen                        |

Special thanks go to Alan Burch, from the Safety Advice Centre, who gives up his own time every year to prepare the quiz questions and act as our NISG Quiz Master. In recent years, he has also fulfilled this role at the NISO / NISG All-Ireland Quiz finals as well.

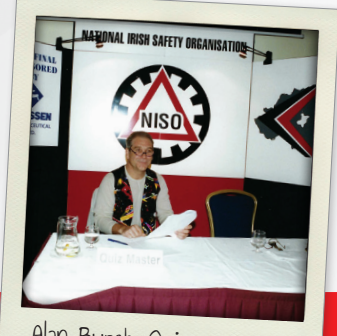
**2023 Winners - Photo Legends:**



**2023 Previous Entrant Winners - Hyster-Yale Group; Quiz Sponsor Bill McAllister, Safety Advice Centre; Wendy Beatty, NISG Chair; Ian McIlveen, Health & Safety Officer at Hyster-Yale Group and Bryan and Nikki Monson, Deputy Chief Executives, HSENI.**



Alan Burch, Quizmaster at the 2023 NISG Quiz with Chris McCracken, Quiz Helper



Alan Burch, Quizmaster at an NISG Quiz in the 1990s



**2023 New Entrant Winners - Re Gen Group Ltd. The winning team with Wendy Beatty, NISG Chair and David Donnelly, Health, Safety & Environmental Manager, Re-Gen Group Ltd.**



1990s Quiz Room



1990s Winning Quiz Team



Dupont Winning Quiz Team 2001



Gallaher Ltd. - R&D Winning Quiz Team





## Sub-Committee Activity: Farming

The NISG Farming Sub-Committee was formed in September 2013 and has been communicating the Farm Safety Message to farmers and their families by:

- Attendance at various Agricultural Shows throughout Northern Ireland
- Sponsorship of Annual HSENI "Avoid Harm on the Farm" Calendar
- A dedicated farming section of NISG Website and NISG E-Zines
- Collaboration with the Young Farmers Clubs of Ulster.

### Agricultural Shows

Following commencement of the Farming Sub-Committee, NISG have participated in Agricultural Shows in Limavady, Ballymena, Ballymoney and Augher. In December 2022, we worked in partnership with HSENI at their stand at the Royal Ulster Winter Fair held at the Eikon Exhibition Centre, Lisburn.

This collaboration promoted key areas of farm safety such as tractor training for young persons, risks from slurry and tractor safety.

### Clogher Valley Show Focus 2023

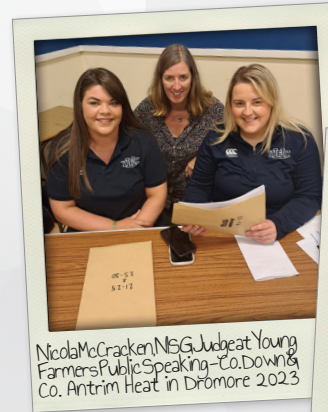
Our aim at the 2023 Clogher Valley Show was to promote farm safety focusing on Quad Safety and Hazards around the farm. With a kids "Spot the Hazards" competition, farm safety packs and a Quad "Headlines" poster displayed on a Quad.

NISG also provided hi-vis vests kindly provided by Hyster Yale to kids during the Show which proved popular with parents/grandparents and kids attending the show.

### Young Farmers Clubs of Ulster (YFCU)

In July 2023, YFCU agreed to collaborate with NISG to share knowledge on farm safety. Since then, we have provided judges for their Public Speaking Heats and Finals, provided the Guest Speaker at the Group Debate Final in

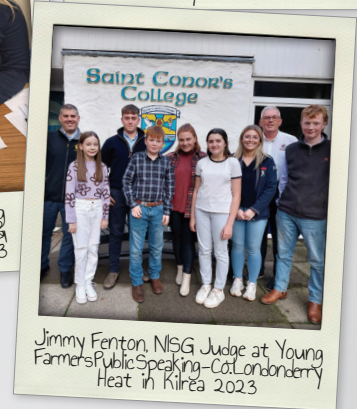
November, and provided Safety Quiz Rounds for Stage 2 of the Ulster Young Farmer Competition.



Nicola McCracken, NISG Judge at Young Farmers Public Speaking - Co. Down and Co. Antrim Heat in Drogheda 2023



Wendy Beatty, NISG Judge at Young Farmers Public Speaking - Co. Antrim Heat in Ballymena 2023



Jimmy Fenton, NISG Judge at Young Farmers Public Speaking - Co. Londonderry Heat in Killea 2023

### Farm Safety Affiliate Award

As Affiliate Members of the Farm Safety Partnership, NISG received recognition of our work at the Farming Life Awards 2023, held at the Crowne Plaza, Belfast, in October, where we were delighted to win the Farm Safety Affiliate Award, sponsored by the HSENI.



NISG Farming Sub Committee with the 2023 Farm Safety Affiliate Award.

### 2024 Focus

In 2024, the NISG Farming Sub-Committee are planning stands at the Clogher Valley Show, Antrim Show, Fermanagh County Show plus the Royal Ulster Winter Fair.

NISG are also looking forward to further developing our relationship with the YFCU.



## Sub-Committee Activity: Driving at Work

The Driving at Work Sub-Committee has ensured that over the last 10 years NISG have put Managing Occupational Road Risk (MORR) at the forefront of our activity.

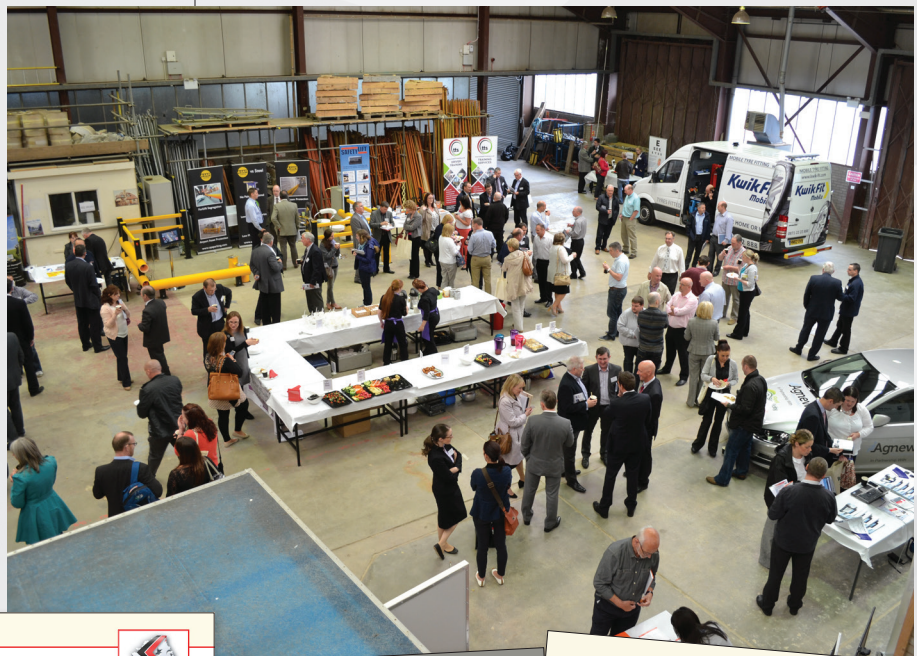
The aim has always been to ensure that effective management of work-related driving will help to reduce risk within any organisation. The meetings, seminars and workshops that have been planned and successfully provided by NISG aim to offer a holistic approach and feature the wider components of driving.

We have looked at aspects such as: Winter driving; Preparing your Driving for Work Policy; Fitness for driving; Driver fatigue; Tyre Safety; Prescription drugs and driving; Vehicle checks; Distractions when driving; Accident investigation; New driving technology and in recent years emerging risks e.g., EV battery fires on electric or hybrid vehicles.

Like other Sub-Committees, partnering with other organisations e.g., Transport Training Services; Sensata Technologies; PSNI Road Safe etc. is central to what we do as we continue to strive to improve knowledge of safe driving, which can only benefit our whole membership.



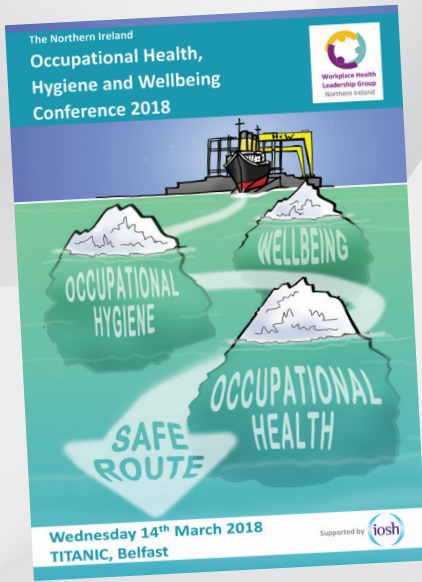
Electric Vehicle Workshop at Port of Larne, April 2023



First MORR event in partnership with the Road Safety Council held at CITBNI. ►



## Sub-Committee Activity: NISG Collaboration



Working in partnership and collaboration with other organisations is something that NISG have always done. However, NISG have found in recent years that this has really shown benefits and we now openly look for partnerships when endeavouring to further our activities and events.

### Workplace Health Leadership Group

In August 2016, the Workplace Health Leadership Group was formed. It started when NISG got together with IOSH NI Branch and HSENI to look at raising the profile of occupational health in Northern Ireland.



WHLG Launch Conference, 2018

The formal launch was at a Conference in the Titanic Building in March 2018, covering occupational health, occupational hygiene, and wellbeing.



Members of the WHLG Committee 2019

In April 2019, WHLG launched a website, followed closely by holding a 2-day Conference in the La Mon Hotel, with 550 people attending 20 plenary sessions, 9 workshops

and visiting 32 exhibitors. There were over 200 organisations represented at the event over the two days.

### Building Mental Health Alliance

The Building Mental Health Alliance (BMHA) was formed in the summer of 2021, when NISG, WHLG and CITBNI got together to discuss the prevalence of poor mental health in the construction industry. This quickly formed into a Steering Committee of Industry Bodies, Contractors and Health and Safety Professionals.

BMHA has been active since its inception and has been very successful in several initiatives for the construction industry including:

- Developing a mental health module for the CSR card scheme
- Producing a 3-minute video on suicide prevention; and
- Launching a mental health in construction signposting service, this service links construction workers with organisations that provide mental health services.



Wilson Lambe at WHLG 2-Day Conference in La Mon, Nov 2019



Overall, NISG believe that collaboration and partnership work and we are confident that you will see more of this happening in the future.

# NISG 70th Anniversary Conference and Gala Awards Dinner

On Thursday 9th November 2023, around 200 attendees from the Health and Safety community in Northern Ireland came together to celebrate the 70th Anniversary of NISG at our Conference and Gala Awards Dinner at La Mon Hotel, Belfast. The Conference, entitled “Learning from the Past, Planning for the Future” had morning sessions reviewing health and safety legislation and practice since 1953, when NISG was formed, with speakers from both Northern Ireland and further afield.

Taster Workshops provided hand-on experience during the lunch break and throughout the day and an exhibition of over 30 stands showcased local health and safety APPs; tech products; PPE innovation and training consultancy organisation.

The afternoon session was a panel forum on new and emerging risks, with speakers showcasing the tech and innovation they are using now and planning to engage for the future.

The evening Gala Dinner provided a fitting backdrop for presentation of the NISG / NISO All-Ireland Occupational Safety Awards 2023; the NISG John Gordon Awards 2023 and long service presentations to long-standing NISG Executive Committee members.



Speakers, Sponsors and Guests at the 70th Anniversary Dinner



NISG Chair, Wendy Beatty, and NISG President, Wilson Lambe, cutting the NISG 70th Anniversary celebration cake



NISG President, Wilson Lambe, speaking at the 70th Anniversary Dinner

Charity Ballot held for the NI Air Ambulance charity. ►



Music provided by the Swing Gals and the Big Kahuna. A ballot also took place during the event, with an amazing total of £2,100 donated to the Air Ambulance charity.













## Executive Committee Long Service Awards



Wilson Lambe MBE, 60 years service to Health and Safety in Northern Ireland



Heather McKinstry, 30 years service



Nicola McCracken 30 years service



Priscilla Woods, 20 years service



Tom Stephenson, 20 years service



Ernie Spence,, 20 years service



David Cooke,, 20 years service



Mandy Nelson, 10 years service



Jimmy Fenton,, 10 years service



John Thompson, 10 years service





## Meet the NISG Executive Committee



**Wilson Lambe MBE - NISG President** *CFIOSH MIOD MCMI*

A member of the Executive Committee since 1966, Wilson became NISG President in 1994. In 1988, he was awarded the MBE for services to Health & Safety in Northern Ireland and was National President of IOSH in 1998. Wilson was H&S Manager of the Construction Employers Federation from 1979 to his retirement in 2002. He is a Consultant Chartered Safety & Health Practitioner. In October 2023, he achieved 60 years in H&S – an amazing feat – and has mentored many past and present Executive Committee members, something he will no doubt continue to do for years to come.



**Wendy Beatty - NISG Chair** *Grad IOSH*

Wendy is HSQE Manager with W&H Alexander (Civil Engineering) Ltd. She has 15 years' experience working in the Civil Engineering & Construction fields having previously worked for Clarke Group, Lisnaskea as H&S Manager. Wendy has both a NEBOSH Diploma in Occupational Safety & Health and a NEBOSH Diploma in Environmental Management and she became NISG Chair in January 2023, just in time for our 70th celebrations.



**Wendy Moore - NISG Vice Chair** *BEng (Hons) IEng MICE DipNEBOSH MIIRSM*

Wendy achieved a First Class Honours Degree in Civil Engineering from the University of Ulster and holds a NEBOSH Diploma in Occupational Health & Safety. She has 17 years' experience in construction and is currently the Infrastructure SHE Manager at Translink. Wendy also sits on the Institution of Civil Engineers (NI) Health & Safety Group and became NISG Vice Chair in January 2023 and Chairs the Farming Sub-Committee.



**Ashleigh Birkett - Immediate Past Chair** *LLB with French*

Ashleigh practised as a solicitor, specialising in health and safety law, from 2005-2022. After graduating from Queen's University, she trained and practised in England with an international law firm between 2003 and 2012. Back in Northern Ireland, she worked as an adviser in relation to investigations and enforcement action by regulatory bodies and provided advice and training on a wide range of health and safety topics. She was NISG Chair from 2020 to 2022 and became Immediate Past Chair in January 2023. Ashleigh chairs the Development & Governance Sub-Committee.



**Jimmy Fenton - Public Relations Officer** *PgDip Nebosh Dip*

Jimmy is currently H&S Section Lead at Ulster University. Prior to this he was HSET Manager with Kerry Group in Coleraine. His first H&S job was Safety Manager at Michelin, Ballymena. He joined the company in 1985 as an electrical apprentice and progressed to shift spark for 10 years, before moving into training. A project and engineering management role came next with a move into Safety in January 2009. Jimmy completed NEBOSH H&S and fire certificates followed by the NEBOSH Diploma. He was NISG Chair in 2014 and 2015 and is Chair of the PR & Marketing Sub-Committee.



**Heather McKinstry - Committee Member** *MSSc CMIOSH*

Heather is a Health, Safety and Environment Consultant and works on behalf of JTI. She has worked in H&S since 1990, initially in the R&D Division of Gallahers Ltd, Ballymena (a JTI company) and since 1997, in their Production Division. Heather was seconded to Geneva from 2013 to 2015 as Global Health & Hygiene Manager. On return to the UK, she became Global Occupational Hygiene Lead and still fulfils that role today as a Consultant. Heather has been a NISG Committee Member since 1990 and was NISG Chair in the years from 1997 to 1999. She is Chair of the NISG Safety Awards and Quiz Sub-Committees and also chaired the 70th Conference Events Sub-Committee.



**Declan McLogan - Committee Member** *CMIOSH LL.M*

Declan is Director of SHEQ for McAleer & Rushe. He joined the company in 2010 after spending 4 years as Health & Safety Manager at Farrans. Declan chairs the Construction Employers Federation's Health and Safety Committee and was a previous Secretary for the Adjudication Society. He joined the NISG committee in January 2022.



**Ian McIlveen - Committee Member** *MSc Business Improvements*

Ian McIlveen has been Health & Safety Officer with Hyster-Yale Group for the past 3 yrs. He has 26 years' experience of working in Manufacturing and Engineering and has been a Safety Representative for 20 years. Prior to his current role he was the Training & Development Officer for 10 years. Ian is currently involved in implementing HYGs Global H&S Management system across their EMEA Plants. He has both a NEBOSH Certificate in Occupational Safety & Health and Environmental Management and is Lead auditor for ISO45001. Ian joined the NISG Committee in January 2022.

*Please speak to us at NISG meetings or events if you would like to find out more about joining us or becoming an Executive Committee Member.*



**Will Johnston - Committee Member** *MSc Occupational Health & Safety, CMIOSH*

Will is the HSE Manager with Ryobi Aluminum Casting (UK) Ltd., based in Carrickfergus. He has been a safety professional since 1995, having started his working career as a maintenance fitter with NIE. Will has experience in manufacturing, construction, infrastructure, quarrying & road surfacing and power generation and high voltage distribution. Having completed the traditional NEBOSH Certificate & Diploma route to attain Chartered status of IOSH, Will then completed an MSc in Occupational Health & Safety with Loughborough University and a MSc in Integrated Environmental Management with Bath University. He is a Fellow of the Institute of Industrial Accident Investigators (IIAI) and routinely assists the IIAI and Executive Committee with research around a broad range of safety related areas. Will joined the NISG Committee in January 2023.



**James Hegarty - Grad IOSH**

Jim is the Health, Safety, Environmental and Training Manager (HSET) at Creative Composites. Prior to this, Jim worked at Linamar Light Metals Belfast (formerly Montupet), starting as a Production Operator and finishing as Health, Safety and Training Manager in a career spanning 23 years. He has a passion for Health, Safety and Training and really enjoys being able to help people develop their potential. Outside of work, Jim chairs the Advanced Manufacturing & Engineering Sectoral Partnership and sits on the Advanced Manufacturing & Innovation Centre Task & Finish group at QUB. He joined the NISG Committee January 2023.



**Mandy Nelson - Affiliate IOSH**

Mandy is currently working as a Health, Safety and Environmental Officer with Phoenix Energy, and has been there for over 10 years. Prior to this, she worked as a Health, Safety, Quality & Environmental Manager in Construction and Piling until October 2010. Mandy joined the NISG Committee in 2009 and was NISG Chair in 2016 and 2017. She is the Chair of the Meetings Sub-Committee.



**John Thompson - Committee Member** *MSc Occupational H&S, CMIOSH*

John is Head of Safety & Corporate Responsibility at Translink. Prior to this he spent 7 years in the construction industry as HSQE Manager with H & J Martin. John holds a Master of Science (MSc) Occupational Health & Safety from QUB and joined the NISG committee in 2014. He was NISG Chair in 2018 and 2019.



**David Cooke - NISG Executive Committee Technical Advisor** *CMIOSH AMCMI*

David is a H&S Consultant and prior to this he was employed as a Safety Officer within Northern Ireland Electricity. He has 28 years of H&S management experience within electrical, construction and manufacturing sectors and has served on the Executive Committee for over 20 years. David was NISG Chair in 2002 and 2003.



**Priscilla Woods - Technical Advisor** *MBA BSc Hons Environmental Health CMIOSH*

Priscilla is the Director for Health, Safety & Security for P&O Ferries after joining in 2022. She was previously Group Health & Safety Manager at Dale Farm Ltd and Head of Global Safety for Sensata Technologies. Priscilla has recently completed a Masters in Law in Company & Compliance Law. She holds an MBA and a BSc Hons Degree in Environmental Health as well as the NEBOSH Diploma in Occupational Health and Safety. Priscilla is a Chartered Member of IOSH. Priscilla was NISG Chair in 2012 and 2013 and currently chairs the Driving and Education Sub-Committees.



**Tom Stephenson - Technical Advisor** *CMIOSH*

Tom is Group Head of Safety & Health at Lakeland Dairies. Prior to this, he held a similar position at the Balcas Group of Companies. Prior to moving back to Northern Ireland, he held a number of high-profile roles in England. Tom has been a member of the Executive Committee for 20 years and was NISG Chair in 2010 and 2011.



**Ernie Spence - Joint Secretary**

Ernie has been involved with NISG since 1997. He has worked in both the private and voluntary sectors in business services & supplies and currently works as a self-employed marketing consultant. After standing in for the Group's previous Secretary he officially moved into the post in January 2008. He now shares this role with Nicola, as he plans for future retirement.



**Nicola McCracken (nee Ward) - Joint Secretary** *CMIOSH ICIQB Dip2.OSH RSP*

Nicola has over 30 years' experience in building & civil engineering in NI, RoI, GB and abroad. She is a Health & Safety Consultant and was previously employed as Health & Safety Manager for both Lagan Construction and John Laing. In her consultancy role, she has worked in Manufacturing, the Food Sector and Construction Products. She is a Women in Construction advocate and an Ambassador for Construction careers for CITBNI. She is also the Administrator for the BuildHealth organisation. Nicola was NISG Chair in 2000 and 2001 and commenced as NISG Joint Secretary in November 2019, working alongside Ernie.





Northern Ireland  
**Safety Group**

**70**<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY  
1953 - 2023

[www.nisg.org.uk](http://www.nisg.org.uk)