

Glassi



The GGF Members
monthly magazine

Winter 2016 Edition

UNRIVALLED EXCELLENCE



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The GGF 'Member Get Member' Scheme rewards existing GGF Members who introduce companies who either join the GGF Membership or join the GGF Promotion Programme.

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* Please note: Companies under three years old would join as Promotion Programme participants.

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Glass and Glazing Federation

From the top

Welcome to Glassi - Winter Edition

The monthly magazine exclusively for GGF Members

2016 has been an incredible year for the GGF. Never before has there been so much change in one year at the GGF. The last 12 months has seen the Federation move into new offices, a restructuring of the governance of the GGF and its subsidiaries the formation of the Helix Group and changes in personnel, departments and the GGF Board. Despite these operational changes, the GGF has continued to deliver high levels of benefits and services that have exceeded the targets set, making it a truly exceptional year for the industry's leading trade body.

In this issue of GLASSi, we reflect on the highlights of this remarkable year and say a few farewells to long-standing colleagues. However, it's not all about looking back, in this edition we also have a preview of 2017 - as next year the Federation celebrates its 40th Anniversary and will unveil a new President and Chief Executive in the coming months. If 2016 was memorable, 2017 promises to be even better.

Back to the present. *MyGlazing.com* was launched in autumn 2015 and James Lee, GGF Director of Marketing and Communications, was tasked with growing the GGF's online audience via this new platform. In our feature article, "*MyGlazing.com* - The Numbers", James illustrates the meteoric rise of the GGF's consumer website which was recently shortlisted as

a finalist in no less than 5 categories at the Construction Marketing Awards.

In September, the GGF appointed Sarah Herbert as GGF Training Manager to focus on the Government's Trailblazers Scheme for Apprenticeships and to work on developing sector specific training courses for GGF Members. In an interview, Sarah discusses her new role and how it will benefit GGF Members.

In addition to the above, there's also health and safety updates, business support information and all the key dates for meetings, events and exhibitions in 2017.

And so to farewells. The Spotlight on a Member interview in this GLASSi is a reflection not just on 2016 but on an entire career. As outgoing Immediate Past President Brian Baker looks back on working in the industry and highlights his work in the last 7 years as the GGF Representative for Saint-Gobain Glassolutions. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank Brian on behalf of the GGF, for his immense contribution across many areas of the GGF, from his input on many technical groups and committees through to his Presidency and most recently as Chairman of the GGF Board through this transformational period for the Federation.

In August this year, I announced my retirement as GGF Chief Executive. Much as I am looking forward to more relaxing times ahead, I will miss the GGF after a 22nd year journey that has seen the Federation move from a basic trade body to an influential leading organisation of seven companies all of which impact our industry for the benefit of GGF Members. I thank all the Members who have helped me during this time to grow the organisation to the strong position it is in today.

Though the support from Members has been considerable, my tenure has been successful due to the GGF staff. To simply thank them for all their effort throughout my time at the GGF would be an understatement. I think my appreciation of the GGF Staff is best summed up by echoing the words engraved on the G16 trophy recently won by the GGF.

"G16 Derek Bonnard Award for Unrivalled Excellence, presented to the Glass and Glazing Federation for continually providing outstanding services to the industry"

My thanks to the GGF Staff for "unrivalled excellence and outstanding services" and to Members who have contributed so much during my 22 years at the Federation.

To all connected to the GGF, enjoy the festive season and my best wishes to you all for the future.

Nigel Rees

GGF Chief Executive



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Get it in the Diary



All Your Key Dates for 2017

JANUARY

- 11 - Consumer Management Group, London
- 17 - Joint Window and Door Group and Conservatory Association Meeting, Solihull

FEBRUARY

- 2 - President's Reception, London
- 8 - GGF Scotland, Garfield House Hotel, Glasgow
- 15 - Midlands Region, Arden Hotel, Solihull
- 21 - East Anglia Region, Norwich
- 22 - Security, Laminators and Tougheners Group, venue TBC

MARCH

- 7 - Kent, Surrey and Sussex Region, Chatham
- 8 - Southern Ireland Region, venue TBC
- 8 - Fire Resistant Glazing Group, venue TBC
- 9 - Northern Ireland Region, venue TBC
- 9 - North East, Yorkshire and Lincolnshire Region, at premises of Design Glass, Brighouse, West Yorkshire
- 9 - Glass Repair Group, London
- 14 - North West and North Wales Region, Holiday Inn, Warrington
- 21 - West of England and South Wales Region, Exeter
- 28 - Wessex Region, Botley Park nr Southampton

APRIL

- 27 - Joint Window and Door Group and Conservatory Association Meeting, Solihull

MAY

- 18 - GGF Ireland Golf Day
- 24 - Security, Laminators and Tougheners Group, venue TBC

JUNE

- 7 - Southern Ireland Region, venue TBC
- 7 - Midlands Region, Arden Hotel, Solihull
- 8 - Northern Ireland Region, Templepatrick
- 13 - Wessex Region, Botley Park nr Southampton
- 14 - Fire Resistant Glazing Group, venue TBC
- 20 - East Anglia Region, Norwich
- 21 - GGF Scotland, venue TBC

JULY

- 4 - West of England and South Wales, Exeter
- 4 - North West and North Wales, Titanic Hotel, Liverpool
- 6 - Glass Repair Group, London
- 11 - Kent, Surrey and Sussex, Chatham
- 11 - North East, Yorkshire and Lincolnshire, venue TBC
- 20 - Joint Window and Door Group and Conservatory Association Meeting, Arden Hotel, Solihull

AUGUST

- 23 - Security, Laminators and Tougheners Group, venue TBC

SEPTEMBER

- 7 - Glass Repair Group, London
- 8 - Northern Ireland Region, venue TBC
- 13 - Southern Ireland Region, venue TBC
- 20 - Fire Resistant Glazing Group, venue TBC

OCTOBER

- 10 - Kent, Surrey and Sussex, Chatham
- 12 - Joint Window and Door Group and Conservatory Association Meeting, Solihull
- 17 - West of England and South Wales Region, Exeter
- 17 - North West and North Wales Region, at premises of Bohle Ltd, Dukinfield, Cheshire
- 31 - East Anglia Region, Norwich

NOVEMBER

- 7 - Wessex Region, Botley Park nr Southampton
- 8 - GGF Scotland, venue TBC
- 14 - North East, Yorkshire and Lincolnshire Region, venue TBC
- 22 - Midlands Region, Arden Hotel, Solihull
- 22 - Security, Laminators and Tougheners Group, venue TBC

DECEMBER

- 7 - Glass Repair Group, London
- 14 - All Ireland Regional meeting, venue TBC

NOTES

1) Changes to meetings

Meeting details may be subject to change, please confirm your attendance with Secretaries at least 24 hours prior to the scheduled meeting.

2) Board, Committee and Executive Members

- GGF Board
- Glazing Executive
- Home Improvement Executive
- Commercial Sub-Committee
- Finance and Membership Committee
- Health, Safety and Environment Committee
- Marketing and Communications Committee
- Regional Representatives Committee
- Standards Committee

If you are a Member of any of the above committees and are unsure of forthcoming dates and venues please contact the meetings secretaries for details.

Exhibitions and Events dates and venues;

President's Reception

2 February - tbc

Ecobuild

7-9 March - London

Materials 2017

25-26 April - London

Security & Counter Terror Expo

3-4 May - London

The FIT Show

23-25 May - Birmingham NEC

Chartered Trading Standards Institute (CTSI) Conference and Exhibition

26-29 June - Harrogate

Self-Build Show City

8-10th September, West Dublin

GGF Members' Day incorporating Annual General Meeting (AGM) and Chairmen's Forum

22 September - London

G17 Awards

17 November - London

EMEX, Energy Management Exhibition

22-23 November - London

Spotlight on a Member

Brian Baker - Saint-Gobain Glassolutions

In this special feature, we interview Brian Baker who first engaged with the Federation in 1981, but has been intensively at the forefront of the GGF for the last 6 years. Arguably the most active GGF Member, Brian has been Chairman on many specialist groups and committees; then in 2009 became a Member of the GGF Board and in 2014-15 was elected GGF President. In the last six months Brian has also been “acting” President and Chairman of the GGF Board in preparation for the new Presidents arrival in 2017. Brian recently announced his intention to retire at the end of 2016, however he will now be employed as interim Chief Executive of the Federation to ensure the hand over to the incoming CEO is a smooth transition. In this interview, Brian reflects on the immense contribution he has made to the GGF as the representative for Saint-Gobain Glassolutions.

You’ve had a great career and your contribution to the GGF has been remarkable over the years. What are the most memorable highlights?

So much has happened just in the last six or so years it’s not easy to select highlights. Naturally becoming President was a great honour; and at the strategic level I was pleased to be heavily involved in two significant office moves that have not only improved the working environment for GGF staff and provided better Members meeting facilities, but also both moves have made the GGF financially stronger and that will benefit Members for the foreseeable future. In addition, forming the Helix Group has also provided a commercial mechanism for funding the GGF for years to come which will allow for improving Members’ benefits and ensuring that GGF subscriptions are kept at an affordable level.

Events at the GGF are also a huge part of Membership as they offer great opportunities to network with other Members and keep abreast of everything that’s going on in our industry. I was delighted to host three memorable Members Day events, and I was also a regular attendee at the London Region meetings and social events. In fact, it was London Region Members, Kevin Hulin, Paul Rogers and Michael Deanus who first came up with the idea of The President’s Reception in 2014. Today, thanks to them, this event has become an important part of the GGF calendar every two years.

From a technical perspective, I enjoyed working with the GGF Technical team to deliver valuable industry publications such as The Safety and Security Glazing Good Practice Guide and numerous Data Sheets. There is a great satisfaction in seeing the raw discussions become a finished publication that helps companies do their work to the highest standards.

It has also been great to have been involved at a strategic level on the Federation’s consumer strategy. The introduction and growth of MyGlazing.com and the GGF Consumer Code of Practice being updated, relaunched and approved by The Chartered Trading Standards Institute have both been considerable and bold projects that are now proving successful for the GGF’s consumer facing Members.

The GGF has many facets and strengths but where do you see the Federation growing in the next five years?

The GGF has many strengths and I have already mentioned the vast improvement in the GGF’s support package for companies dealing with consumers, but for those business-to-business Members, I can see the GGF having to provide even greater technical support including more solution based publications, consultancy and product testing. There are many companies not currently in Membership and they need to see the value of the GGF’s resource particularly technical, health and safety and legislative advice.

The GGF is also in a fairly strong position politically. Since 2010, working with political advisers GK Strategy, the Federation has been lobbying for government initiatives and incentives to improve the energy efficiency in existing buildings. In addition, there’s also been the “Cut the Vat” campaign and working with the various Government departments on legislation such as Consumer Rights Act, Building Regulations and Minimum Technical Competencies (MTC) for domestic window installations. The GGF will build on all the work it has done over the last six years and continue to be the voice of the industry in the political arena.

The GGF’s many strengths of course have been built up over a long period of time and with next year’s 40th Anniversary celebrations, I would expect the GGF to increase the awareness of the Members benefits and to convey our strengths and benefits to recruit new Members.

“The GGF has never been in a stronger position, financially and functionally. In 2017, we’ll have a new President, a new CEO and we will have fully settled into the new GGF Offices. It is also the GGF’s 40th anniversary in 2017 and it promises to be a landmark year.”

Brian Baker -
Saint-Gobain Glassolutions

The last decade has been quite testing for the industry what do you see as the major challenges ahead for the GGF and its Members?

The UK’s decision to leave the European Union and the process of Brexit, I believe will have major challenges and opportunities for our industry.

Skills will be critical in the future and we must do everything we can to encourage young people to work in our industry and that may involve trying to change the image of the industry to attract youngsters. In addition we also must try to stop skilled workers from leaving our industry. More and more companies are finding it hard to recruit and retain skilled staff so there will be real challenges ahead as new people are the lifeblood of the industry.

The economy appears fairly stable but it is hard to gauge the impact of Brexit at this stage. The grey economy is something that does affect our industry and one of the challenges will be trying to police our industry and stop companies operating illegally.

Another major challenge will be having greater influence on Government when it comes to improving energy efficiency in buildings. In the past six years we have seen enormous sums of money wasted on schemes such as Green Deal and simultaneously we have seen the green agenda fall down in the Government’s priorities.



Though you are retiring from Membership, you will still be involved in the GGF. Are you looking forward to being interim Chief Executive?

My intention was to retire completely at the end of this year but the GGF Board asked me to stand in as interim Chief Executive following Nigel Rees’ decision to retire. It’s a role that I will undertake for an estimated 3 months or so until we recruit our new Chief Executive. Getting the right person for the Chief Executive’s role is critical and proving quite challenging given the scope of the GGF’s work and influence. It’s a decision that will not be rushed and in the meantime I am happy to help out where I can. In addition, for continuity reasons, I will still be Chairman of the FENSA Board for one more year.

May I take this opportunity to thank Nigel Rees for his outstanding contribution, first as GGF National Secretary for 7 years then as GGF Chief Executive for 15 years. He has been a great servant to the Federation and I wish him well for his retirement.

The GGF has never been in a stronger position, financially and functionally. In 2017, we’ll have a new President, a new CEO and we will have fully settled into the new GGF Offices. It is also the GGF’s 40th anniversary in 2017 and it promises to be a landmark year we can all remember.

President’s Reception

On 2nd February, the GGF President’s Reception will take place in London (venue to be confirmed) starting at 3pm. At this event, Brian will welcome incoming President Alan Burgess. At his event the GGF Membership will also be saying a personal goodbye to Nigel Rees. If you would like to attend this special occasion, please email the GGF Marketing team marketing@ggf.org.uk to book your place.



2016 REVIEWED

Nigel Rees - GGF Chief Executive - 2016 Reviewed

2016 certainly has been a challenging year for the Glass and Glazing Federation. We have moved offices, undergone a governance and structure review and seen the departure of several senior staff. Although challenging, we have been extremely successful, with excellent results for the year and a new Head Office that we can be proud of.

We have performed well through the year financially and the forecast for year end is to exceed budget. We were also able to sell the previous GGF Offices in Ayres Street for a healthy profit which has allowed the Federation to purchase the new offices in Rushworth Street and increase our reserves.

Membership has progressed extremely well through the year with some major companies deciding that they needed to be involved with the activities of the Federation. We have seen 37 new Members join in 2016 to date which exceeded the budget of £50K of new membership income. Membership retention has also progressed well through the year with few company failures.

We have continued to progress our Membership Liaison function and I trust all Members value the contact from GGF Staff, ensuring our records are up to date and we are fully aware of your issues and concerns. As with everything this system is a work in progress so if you have any ideas on how we can improve matters, please do not hesitate to let us know.

Over the twelve months we have greatly increased our level of communication with over 700 articles across all media including Members channels (GLASSi and Newswire)

as well as the trade and consumer press. This increase has been independently monitored and at last count there were over 32 million opportunities to view the GGF content and brand. We have also more than doubled our online audience to over 230,000 unique users on the GGF website www.ggf.org.uk and our consumer site MyGlazing.com.

2016 also saw all the newly revised GGF Consumer Code of Practice recognised and approved by the Chartered Trading Standards Institute under its Consumer Codes Approval Scheme. Using the CTSI logo, you are now able to promote your company as one that adheres to a Code of Practice that is CTSI-approved - the only code in the industry that has such approval.

In other functions of the Federation, the year also saw our Technical and Marketing teams revise and relaunch over 35 publications – almost one third of the GGF's technical library. The Technical team also undertook a huge increase in the amount of technical consultancy work, generating over £100K in the twelve months.

The GGF Marketing team also successfully delivered a large events and exhibitions schedule of which the highlight was GGF Members Day at Birmingham's Botanical Gardens. It was once again a full house and a memorable occasion that provided a great networking opportunity for Members. The GGF also sponsored the G16 Awards and though I couldn't attend this year, I was delighted to hear the news of the Federation winning The Derek Bonnard Award for Unrivalled Excellence, a truly great recognition from the industry's most prestigious awards.

With health and safety, we have fully reviewed the effectiveness of the GLASS Charter Merit Scheme and revised the Codes of Practice ahead of their re-launch in 2017. In Autumn this year we also appointed a new GGF Training Manager, Sarah Herbert, whose initial task is to gain Government approval for a Trailblazer Scheme for the Industry. Once achieved, we can support our Members with apprenticeships in advance of the introduction of the Apprenticeship Levy in 2017.

On the subject of Government, we have continued to work closely with GK Strategy to get our message through to Westminster on matters of energy efficiency, taxation and the issues around local authorities imposing Article 4 Directions that restrict glazing options in conservation areas.

This will be my last end of year message as I am sure you are now aware that I have decided to take early retirement and leave the GGF at the end of 2016. Although I will not miss the early starts in the cold and dark mornings in winter, I will certainly miss the involvement with the Membership and the excellent staff we have at the GGF. It has been an honour to know you all and work with you. The time is right with a new building, a new governance and structure and exciting times ahead. I'm all out of new ideas and it is appropriate to have a new person leading the Federation forward.

You have all given me an incredible 22 years which I will never forget and I wish you all the very best for a successful 2017 and beyond.

myglazing.com

THE 2016 STATS

MyGlazing.com has had a phenomenal first full year with over 120,000 visitors to the site and almost a quarter of a million page views. The new site also saw the launch of unique features such as the national Window With a View competition and the new GGF Energy Savings Calculator. On 1st December the site won an award

at the Construction Marketing Awards (CMA) for best mid-range budget campaign. *MyGlazing.com* was also a finalist in 4 other categories at the CMAs as well being a finalist in the G16 Awards for Best Promotional Campaign - Retail. It's been quite a year, here's *MyGlazing.com* - the stats!

CONTENT



KEY CONNECTIONS

Outbound links	600+
Twitter followers	863
Facebook likes	83
posts	190
photos	143
Instagram followers	34
posts/images	35
Google+ views	3,787
Pinterest boards	7
pins	64
followers	14



PR COVERAGE

Consumer articles	130+
Broadcast	4
National	9
Regional	118
Opportunities to view	32 million+

OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCE

119,273

unique users

243,324

page views

185,816

sessions

66,989

returning
visitors

1,419

downloads

2,220

unique users of the
GGF Energy Savings Calculator

4,398

visitors to the installer
search directory



WINDOW WITH A VIEW COMPETITION

144

entries

3,230

voters

One winner - Museum of Liverpool

UNIQUE FEATURES

GGF Energy Savings Calculator

Window With a View competition

Find a GGF Member Search

GGF Homeowner Guides

Be Inspired - product image galleries

Be Informed - informative articles on all aspects of glazing home improvements

Advice - information about GGF consumer protection

Independent Reviews

MyGlazing Blog/News



GGF and Refresh PR collect Construction Marketing Award for MyGlazing.com PR campaign

SUPPORTING YOUR BUSINESS



Since its formation, the GGF has formed and developed strong business partnerships with many companies across a wide spectrum of professional services. These partnerships also offer benefits to GGF Members in the form of free advice, guidance and in some cases discounted rates. By using our business support options it could save your company time and money.

In this issue of GLASSi we list some of our partners and what they can offer GGF Members.



Accountancy/Tax

Kreston Reeves is an official partner of the GGF. It provides bookkeeping, tax, accountancy and other specialist business advice: comprehensive free initial advice (thereafter at discounted rates). Please contact the GGF Membership department at membership@ggf.org.uk for contact details and to learn how Kreston Reeves can benefit your business. For more information on Kreston Reeves please visit their website www.krestonreeves.com.

Contractual and Legal Advice

Wedlake Bell (England and Wales Only)

One hour's free advice per year on construction law, contracts, dispute resolution and retentions. Helpline: 0844 249 9871; Tel: 020 7395 3168; Email: sreeves@wedlakebell.com. Please advise you are a GGF Member and quote the monthly password from the GGF's membership of Build UK which is currently listed via your Member login to the GGF Members Area.

Wedlake Bell

Anderson Strathern Solicitors (Scotland Only)

30 minutes' free advice per year on construction law, contracts, dispute resolution and retentions.

Helpline: 0844 249 9872; Tel 0131 249 9872; Email: karyn.watt@andersonstrathern.co.uk. Please advise you are a GGF Member and quote the monthly password from the GGF's membership of Build UK which is currently listed In the GGF Members Area or, if you need the password instantly contact marketing@ggf.org.uk

AS Anderson Strathern



Pensions

Hartley Wadsworth are official partners of the GGF for pension advice. They offer GGF Members a free initial consultancy to help review your business, analyse your payroll, discuss your options (including auto-enrolment) and provide a strategy to help support you with your current pension needs.

Call Chris Jones on 01282 771960 or email info@hartleywadsworth.co.uk (please ensure you mention that you are a GGF Member). For more information visit their website www.hartleywadsworth.co.uk.

Employment Law

Citation are official partners of the GGF for Employment Law advice. They offer an 'Ask the Experts' service which is initially free, thereafter discounted rates are applied. Please contact Nigel Lea on 0161 667 4000 or nigellea@citation.co.uk. For more information on Citation visit their website www.citation.co.uk



Insurance

GGFi are official partners of the GGF for insurance. There are special GGF Member rates for not only Insurance Backed Guarantees but also commercial insurance rates and fleet & van contents insurance. Please contact Danelle Kaukau on 0207 939 9089 or dkaukau@ggfi.org.uk. For more information about GGFi visit their website www.ggfi.org.uk.

Publications and Standards

Publications are available at special discounted rates (an average of 75% off normal price) for GGF Members - please visit the GGF Online Shop at shop.ggfmembers.com.

Standards are available at special discounted rates from BSI for Members via the Technical Department; contact the Technical Helpline on 0844 567 4014 or email technical@ggf.org.uk.



TRAINING FOR MEMBERS

Interview with



**Sarah Herbert,
GGF Training Manager**

Sarah was previously Operations Manager for GGF Training (now Helix Training) and has been working for the GGF Group for 3 years, so has an impressive understanding of the industry and its training needs.

Congratulations on your new role as GGF Training Manager. Why was this role created?

The GGF identified a need to have a key contact within the Federation to act as the main representative for training to work with groups and committees for the benefit of the industry. The role was created to establish training needs within the glass and glazing industry, develop 'Trailblazer' Apprenticeships for the industry and provide support to GGF Groups in the development of training programmes.

Working with GGF Groups, what training has been or is in development currently?

I have been working in partnership with the Emergency Glazing Group and Helix Training to develop an entry level training programme for emergency glaziers. Modules within this programme will cover all aspects of the role, from initial call out through to completion of the job.

Another GGF Group I have been working with is the Glass Repair Group. The Group has developed a Glass Polishing NVQ Unit for operatives working within this specialism and this went 'live' for delivery on 1st December.

Through Helix Training, a number of courses are already available at discounted rates for GGF Members including Fire Resistant Glazing Awareness, practical Manual Handling training bespoke for the industry and Digital Transformation Training.

What long term projects are you working on?

I am currently working on re-establishing the GGF as an Approved Assessment Centre through GQA Qualifications, and putting all the required processes and procedures in place will take time. This is a positive step for the GGF and its members and good progress on the project is now being made.

Another long-term project I am working on involves Trailblazers, which should be a huge benefit to GGF Members.

What is Trailblazers?

Trailblazers is a new Apprenticeship scheme for England introduced by the Government to replace the existing Apprenticeship frameworks. The existing frameworks are currently being phased out, so a replacement will need to be in place by 2020. The new Trailblazer Apprenticeships will be employer-led through a working group of 10 or more employers from across the industry as well as training providers. The idea being that Trailblazer Apprenticeships will be more practical and fit for purpose for the industry.

What do you see coming into play within the next few months?

I am working closely with Phil Pinnington, GGF Director of Health and Safety, to develop a Health and Safety Awareness Questionnaire, based on information from the GGF Employee Safety Guide. We are currently piloting this project with Member volunteers and have received very positive feedback so far. We aim to create an online version of this early in the New Year to be rolled out to all Members.

For training queries or to discuss training needs, please contact Sarah at sjherbert@ggf.org.uk or via phone on 020 7397 7206.

For more information on courses offered by Helix Training please email the Helix Training team at info@trainwithhelix.co.uk.



Phil Pinnington, GGF Director of Health and Safety provides an overview of the work the GGF Health and Safety team has undertaken in 2016 and also looks ahead to a big year in 2017 for the GGF's suite of Health and Safety publications and continuing the progress of the Glass Charter Merit Scheme.

2016 has seen the start of a refocus in Health and Safety. The introduction of new sentencing guidelines for Health and Safety infringements have given the courts a wider scope to hand down significant fines. Alongside this, studies have shown a three-fold increase in director prosecutions within the year. We at the GGF continue to work with Members to ensure they have the processes in place to protect their employees from harm and avoid having to deal with Health and Safety Executive (HSE) intervention.

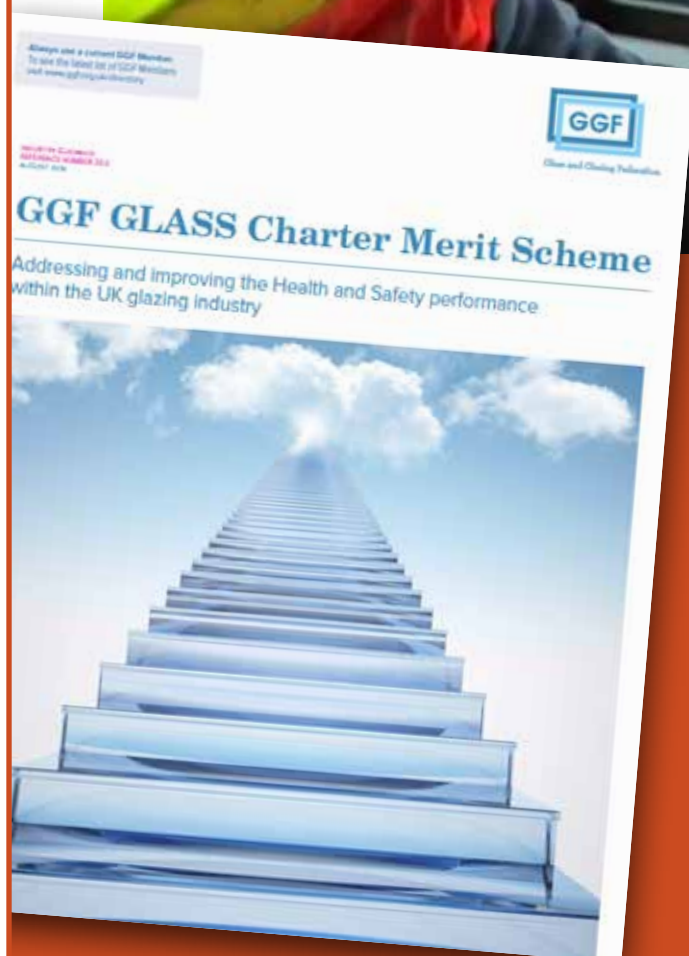
In this last year the GGF Health and Safety team have seen the GGF GLASS Charter Merit Scheme as a vehicle to help Members and the industry in showcasing and rewarding good Health and Safety. The scheme was updated and revised to reflect the current expectations outlined in the HSE five-year strategy which covered many things, the most important being the need to continuously improve. We have taken this on board and made some substantial changes to the GGF Merit scheme.

The re-launched Merit Scheme now sets achievable targets for all sizes of business within our sector. The focus is firmly on complying with legislation, but with the added dimension that compliance should be appropriate to each business.

Although in its current form the scheme has only been in place for seven months, both new and some existing Members have been keen to be measured to its standards. At the time of writing we have ten GGF Members, ranging from small enterprises with less than five employees up to sizable regional companies, who have achieved recognition at Bronze levels 2 and 3 with two companies achieving Silver levels 1 and 2. In evaluating these Members' procedures evidence has shown that there are good quality safety systems in place within our industry which we want to recognise and promote.

In the coming year the GGF Health and Safety team will be working to compile and make available a suite of useful templates. These will form phase 2 of the GLASS Charter work where we are seeking to recruit more Members to the scheme. We are also confident that during this time some Members will have improved sufficiently to be awarded the Gold standard.

In 2017, we will also be aiming to relaunch the current suite of GGF Health and Safety Codes of Practice. These have proved very popular guides in the past but do need updating. Next year promises to be a highly productive one for the GGF Health and Safety team.





Health & Safety Matters



In the Groups & Regions

Here are some of the key GGF meetings over the next few months. Make sure you contact your Regional or Group Secretary to book your place at these events.

GGF Specialist Groups

Joint Conservatory Association and Window and Door

The next joint meeting of the Conservatory Association and Window and Door Group will take place on Tuesday 17th January, at Solihull, West Midlands. For further information or if you wish to attend this meeting please contact the Group Secretary Bridie Joyce bjoyce@ggf.org.uk

Security, Laminators & Tougheners

The Security Glazing (Laminators & Tougheners Group) will next meet on Wednesday 22nd February, at a venue to be confirmed. For further information or if you wish to attend this meeting please contact the Group Secretary, Ben Wallace bwallace@ggf.org.uk

Fire Resistant Glazing

The Fire Resistant Glazing Group will next meet on Wednesday 8th March, at the GGF Offices. For further information please contact the Group Secretary, Richard Kells rkells@ggf.org.uk

Glass Repair Group

For further information on venues and dates for 2017 should you wish to attend this meeting, please contact the Group Secretary, Micky Sulston msulston@ggf.org.uk

Consumer Management Group

The Consumer Management Group will next meet on Wednesday 11th January. For further information or should you wish to attend this meeting please contact the Group Secretary, Petra petra@ggf.org.uk

Window Film Group

For further information on venues and dates for 2017 should you wish to attend this meeting, please contact the Group Secretary, Ben Wallace bwallace@ggf.org.uk

Heritage Windows Group (Formally Traditional Window Group)

For further information on venues and dates for 2017 should you wish to attend this meeting, please contact the Group Secretary, Russell Day rday@ggf.org.uk

Joint Insulating Glass Manufacturers Group and Glazing Components Group

For further information on venues and dates for 2017 should you wish to attend this meeting, please contact the Group Secretary,, Russell Day rday@ggf.org.uk

Emergency Glazing

For further information on venues and dates for 2017 should you wish to attend this meeting, please contact the Group Secretary, Peter Stuttard pstuttard@ggf.org.uk

Hardware

For further information on venues and dates for 2017 should you wish to attend this meeting, please contact the Group Secretary, Russell Day rday@ggf.org.uk

Repair, Refurbishment and Maintenance

For further information on venues and dates for 2017 should you wish to attend this meeting, please contact the Group Secretary, Michael Sulston msulston@ggf.org.uk



Regions

GGF Scotland

The Scotland Region will next meet on Wednesday 8th February, at a venue to be confirmed. For further information or if you wish to attend this meeting please contact the Group Secretary, Ann-marie Waugh amwaugh@ggf.org.uk

Midlands

The Midlands Region will next meet on Wednesday 15th February at the Arden Hotel, Solihull. For further information or if you wish to attend this meeting please contact the Regional Secretary, Anne-Marie Waugh amwaugh@ggf.org.uk

East Anglia

The East Anglia Region will next meet on Tuesday 21st February, at Dunston Hall, East Anglia. For further information or should you wish to attend this meeting please contact the Regional Secretary, Peter Stuttard pstuttard@ggf.org.uk.

Kent, Surrey and Sussex

The Kent, Surrey and Sussex Region will next meet on Tuesday 7th March in Bridgewood Manor Hotel, Chatham. For further information or if you wish to attend this meeting please contact the Regional Secretary, Peter Stuttard pstuttard@ggf.org.uk.

GGF Ireland

The Southern Ireland Region will next meet on Wednesday 8th March, at a venue to be confirmed. For further information or if you wish to attend this meeting please contact the Regional Secretary, Ian Young iyoung@ggf.org.uk. Members in Northern Ireland Region will next meet on Thursday 9th March, at a venue to be confirmed. For further information or if you wish to attend this meeting please contact the Regional Secretary, Ian Young iyoung@ggf.org.uk

North East, Yorkshire and Lincolnshire

The North East, Yorkshire and Lincolnshire Region will next meet on Thursday 9th March, at Holiday Inn Darlington, Scotch Corner. For more information or if you wish to attend this meeting please contact the Regional Secretary Ann-marie Waugh amwaugh@ggf.org.uk

North West and North Wales

The North West and North Wales Region will next meet on Tuesday 14th March at the Holiday Inn, Woolston Grange Avenue, Warrington WA1 4PX. For further information or if you wish to attend this meeting please contact the Regional Secretary, Ann-marie Waugh amwaugh@ggf.org.uk

West of England and South Wales

The West of England and South Wales Region will next meet on Tuesday 21st March at the Devon Hotel, Exeter. For further information on venues and dates for 2017 should you wish to attend this meeting please contact the Regional Secretary, Peter Stuttard pstuttard@ggf.org.uk

Wessex and Channel Isles

The Wessex and Channel Isles Region will next meet on Tuesday 28th March, at Botley Park Hotel, nr Southampton. For further information or should you wish to attend this meeting please contact the Regional Secretary, Peter Stuttard pstuttard@ggf.org.uk.

London

For further information on venues and dates for 2017 should you wish to attend this meeting, please contact the Regional Secretary, Peter Stuttard pstuttard@ggf.org.uk

*Please note that meeting details are subject to change, please confirm with Secretaries at least 24 hours prior to the scheduled meeting to avoid disappointment.

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