

September 2017

# The RoSPA LEISURE & EDUCATION Journal

RoSPA's quarterly journal for professionals  
working in water, leisure and education safety

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**RoSPA**

accidents don't have to happen

100  
years

The Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents



**Working towards  
a future without  
drowning...**

## 2017 National Water Safety Conference

October 5, 2017 – M Shed, Bristol

RoSPA's Water Safety Conference returns in 2017 focusing on how we can best deliver the UK's drowning prevention target of a 50% reduction in fatalities by 2026, and what this means for every local community.

### What's on offer?

- Learn how your efforts are vital in achieving a reduction in drowning
- How are national and local governments tackling the challenges and making best use of limited budgets?
- Get involved with key campaigns, make new contacts, and learn from new guidance
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Some of the articles and guidance in this edition could make a contribution to readers' personal CPD requirements.

# Welcome

## Welcome to the September 2017 edition of the RoSPA Leisure and Education Journal.

It's a pleasure to write this welcome message just a few weeks ahead of one of the key dates in RoSPA's events diary – the National Water Safety Conference 2017.

Taking place in Bristol on Thursday, October 5, the conference will provide a great opportunity to gather as water safety professionals from across the country to discuss how we can best deliver the UK Drowning Prevention Strategy and its challenging ambition to reduce drowning deaths by 50 per cent by 2026.

As ever, there will be a mix of presentations to the whole conference, smaller seminars to choose from and more practical workshops that give delegates the opportunity to get out and about to see safety management in action.

It's not too late to book places at the event. See page 5 of the journal for full details of the conference programme or go straight through to [www.rospa.com/events/water/](http://www.rospa.com/events/water/) where you'll find all the necessary booking information.

Drowning prevention has been back in the media spotlight in recent months, particularly following inquests into the deaths of seven men who died in incidents at Camber Sands last year. RoSPA was among various organisations to be contacted by the coroner following the inquest, and we set out the main discussion points from our response on page 10.

Elsewhere in the journal, you'll find a feature on a Nigerian schools health and safety project that is going from strength to strength (page 16) and there's a really inspiring piece from former Ofsted inspector Jim Bennetts about how teachers of English can contribute to students developing safety awareness (page 22). There are some wonderful success stories from this year's RoSPA Health and Safety Awards (page 8) and a look back at the RoSPA Centenary Royal Garden Party at Buckingham Palace (page 12).

I hope you'll also find the various news updates from across the leisure and education sectors useful.

As ever, please send over any ideas for future content.

**David Walker**  
**RoSPA leisure safety manager**  
[djwalker@rospa.com](mailto:djwalker@rospa.com)



# RCEM 50th anniversary week to start with world record attempt

The Royal College of Emergency Medicine (RCEM) will mark its 50th anniversary with a world record attempt for cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) training.

Schools, colleges and other organisations can register to take part in the two-hour challenge, which will begin at 9.09am on Monday, October 9.

The world record attempt, which comes at the start of a week of activities marking the golden

jubilee of emergency medicine, aims to highlight the importance of CPR and potentially help to save lives.

Dr Taj Hassan, President of RCEM, said: "CPR is a huge part of emergency medicine but should be a skill everyone has – you never know when it could be of use. We also hope that by taking part people will be inspired to further support or even take up a career in emergency medicine."



RoSPA is a partner for the Emergency Medicine Golden Jubilee Celebration Week, running from October 9 – 13, and will lead a focus on accident prevention on October 12. The full programme for the week is:

- October 9: basic life support (including CPR world record attempt)
- October 10: mental health
- October 11: violence prevention
- October 12: accident prevention
- October 13: wellness and exercise.

To find out more about taking part in the CPR world record attempt, please email [EM50@rcem.ac.uk](mailto:EM50@rcem.ac.uk)

## "Laser attacks" in evidence spotlight

The Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy is calling for evidence on the misuse of laser pointers.

The move follows a rise in "laser attacks" on pilots and the drivers of other vehicles, and is also looking into concerns about the potential for retinal damage among consumers who have high-powered laser pointers shone into their eyes.

The call for evidence is considering updating regulations governing the import and trade of laser pointers, as well as potential solutions involving licensing arrangements, restrictions

on supply and the introduction of a specific criminal offence for attacks on planes and other vehicles.

The RNLI is among organisations to have reported problems with laser pointers. Over the August Bank Holiday weekend, a search for an overdue kayaker was hampered when a "blinding" green light was shone at the Whitstable Lifeboat.

Mike Judge, Whitstable Lifeboat operations manager, said: "The lifeboat had been tasked to search for the kayaker in the dark up to two

miles offshore and the search was hampered by an individual directing a laser pen light towards the crew's field of vision. To shine a laser light into anyone's eyes is a dangerous thing, but to shine such a light on to a crew at sea in the dark is not only dangerous for the crew, but also to the person for whom they are searching and this was a totally irresponsible act."

Responses to the call for evidence must be submitted by 11.45pm on October 6. See [www.gov.uk/government/consultations/laser-pointers-call-for-evidence](http://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/laser-pointers-call-for-evidence) for more information.



# National Water Safety Conference to discuss drowning prevention target

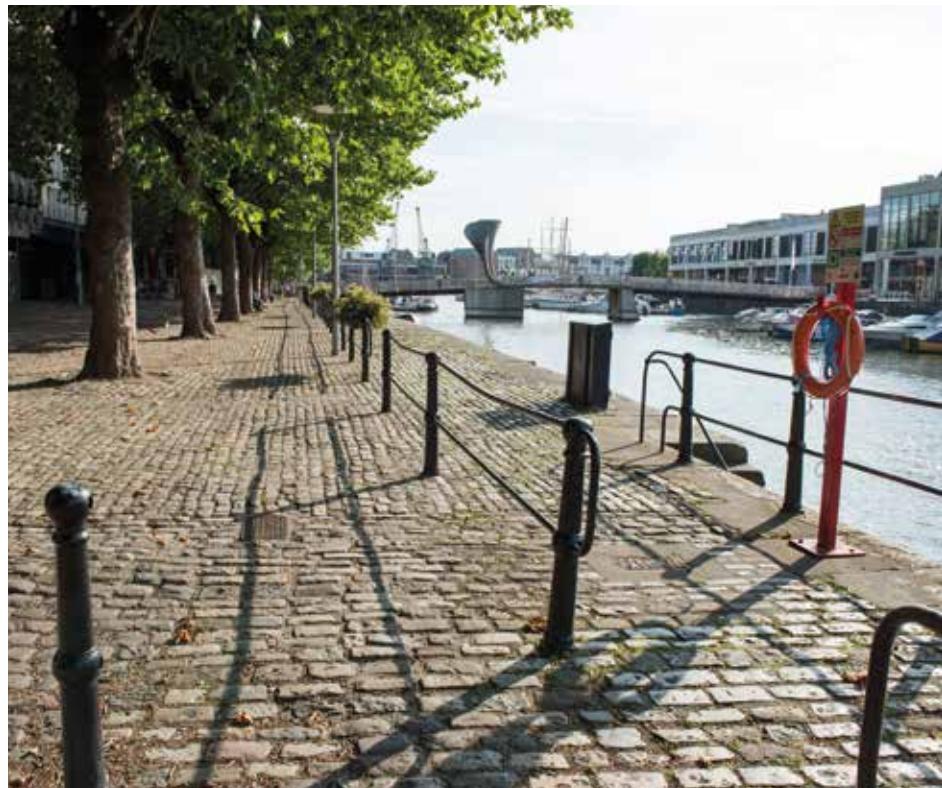
**Water safety professionals from across the UK are gearing up for the RoSPA National Water Safety Conference 2017.**

Taking place in Bristol on Thursday, October 5, the event will focus on how the UK's drowning prevention target of a 50 per cent reduction in fatalities by 2026 can best be delivered.

It will consider key challenges, such as how to maintain heritage, principles of access and the ability to take risks – while improving water safety at the same time.

Among the speakers will be: George Rawlinson, operations director at the RNLI and chairman of the National Water Safety Forum, who will chair the conference; Jon Glenn, learn to swim and workforce director at Swim England, who will speak about the Sporting Futures Strategy and The Curriculum Swimming and Water Safety Review Group; and Dawn Whittaker, deputy chief fire officer at East Sussex Fire and Rescue Service, who will present a fire and rescue perspective on reducing drowning.

Following these presentations, delegates will then have the opportunity to choose a conference track that best suits them. Track 1 will give an update on regulations, featuring presentations by David Walker, leisure safety manager at RoSPA, on safety in the water, and the Royal Life Saving



Society on Project SH2OUT, which is driving the development of open water opportunities. Track 2 will cover campaigns and communication, with a session on water-related suicide, by Tony Wafer, community safety project manager at the RNLI. Martin Barwood, reader in physical activity and health at Leeds Trinity University, will also speak

as part of the second track, discussing the effect of extreme anxiety on the victim and rescuer in situations of accidental cold water immersion.

As at previous conferences, there will be the chance to go off site for workshops – one focusing on safer communities in Bristol and the other looking at active travel, which will be led by Nathan Davies, principal consultant at RoSPA.

David Walker, RoSPA's leisure safety manager, said: "The National Water Safety Conference provides a valuable forum for professionals to take stock of achievements in drowning prevention and look at how to move forward. This year's event is particularly notable because it will be the first since the launch of the UK's first Drowning Prevention Strategy and it will make a vital contribution to ensuring that the strategy is delivered fully across the country."

The one-day conference will take place at Bristol's M Shed.

Bookings can be made online at [www.rospa.com/events/water/](http://www.rospa.com/events/water/) or by calling RoSPA's events team on 0121 248 2089.

## LEP event in November

**The annual Leisure Expert Panel (LEP) Conference will take place on November 17.**

Hosted at Aviva in London, it will be the LEP's third conference and will again bring together the UK's leading experts and speakers in the leisure sector.

Delegates will be guided through a mock trial examining the role of the expert witness, with leading health and safety lawyers and regulators acting as the defence and prosecution.

Tragic events from 2017 including terrorist

attacks and the Grenfell Tower fire will also be covered, with a discussion on the effects on the leisure industry and how leisure operators could protect their people and premises.

The LEP was formed to bring together stakeholders and influencers who have an interest in the way in which the leisure industry manages health, safety, security and risk, and who are involved in performing a management, advisory, representative or regulatory role within the industry.

For more information, visit [www.leisureexpertpanel.co.uk/conference-2017.html](http://www.leisureexpertpanel.co.uk/conference-2017.html)

# Premier League clubs consider options for introducing “safe standing” areas

**“Safe standing” areas at top-flight football grounds in England could be a step closer, after the Premier League wrote to all of its 20 clubs about a potential trial of the system.**

West Bromwich Albion is among the clubs to have expressed an interest in taking part in a trial, with Tottenham Hotspur also revealing that a section of its new stadium, which is under construction, could accommodate rail seating.

Meanwhile, 88 per cent of Liverpool fans who took part in a poll conducted by the Spirit of Shankly supporters group voted in favour of the introduction of rail-seating areas. The result of the poll, which 17,910 fans completed,

means that the Spirit of Shankly's policy and position is in favour of the introduction of rail seating areas, although it is not yet calling for the system to be rolled out at Anfield.

The supporters group had consulted various interested parties ahead of the vote, including the Hillsborough Family Support Group, Hillsborough Justice Campaign and the



Celtic Park has had a rail seating area since last year

Credit: Celtic FC

## Love vintage?

Our recently rediscovered range of historical safety posters are on sale from £20 plus P&P.

Art prints, posters and framed art are available to buy in a range of sizes. Choose a bespoke frame and have it delivered straight to your door, anywhere in the world.

Copies of **Safety First**, a beautiful coffee-table book telling the story of RoSPA's vintage safety posters, are also available.

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[help@rospa.com](mailto:help@rospa.com)



survivors and families of those at Hillsborough, where 96 people were killed in a stadium crush in 1989. A statement from Spirit of Shankly said: "Spirit of Shankly's future policy and position follows a sensitive, sensible, honest and mature conversation, throughout which key themes emerged: a choice for supporters between sitting and standing; safety for those who currently stand at games; and the safety of any future standing model."

Scottish Premiership club Celtic already has a rail seating area and Shrewsbury Town, in England's League One, which does not meet the English criteria requiring it to have an all-seater ground, has applied for permission to have a safe standing area. It is currently raising money for the scheme.

## Workers plead not guilty to manslaughter

**Two fairground workers have pleaded not guilty to the manslaughter of a seven-year-old girl who died after the bouncy castle she was playing on blew away.**

Summer Grant was visiting the funfair in Harlow Town Park, Essex, in March 2016 when the incident happened.

Shelby Thurston, 25 and William Thurston, 28, from Whitecross Road, Wilburton, Cambridgeshire, appeared at Chelmsford Crown Court in August. Their trial is set to begin on February 5.

The pair, who were given bail, also denied charges of failing to discharge a general health and safety duty under the Health and Safety at Work etc Act.

# New RoSPA chief executive Errol Taylor looks to accident prevention challenges

**Errol Taylor has been appointed RoSPA's new chief executive.**

Joining RoSPA in 2004, Errol initially headed up RoSPA's commercial activities before developing the case for accident prevention as a public health priority and establishing RoSPA's Ofqual-recognised qualifications business. He had been RoSPA's deputy chief executive since 2006 and had led the organisation in an interim capacity since November 2016.

Prior to RoSPA, Errol enjoyed senior customer-facing roles within the services, engineering and retail sectors. A Fellow of both the Institute of Directors and the Royal Society for Public Health, he is qualified as a Chartered Director with an MBA, an engineering degree and he is a gold grade RoSPA advanced driver. Married with three grown-up children, he is an advanced scuba diver who also enjoys cycling.

He said: "I am honoured to become chief executive of RoSPA, particularly at what is such an important time for our charity with this year marking our centenary. We have always been clear that our 100th anniversary should not just



be an opportunity to look back and highlight past successes, but that it should also be focused firmly on the challenges that remain in accident prevention.

"Accidents disproportionately affect the most vulnerable members of our society –

those who are young, old or disadvantaged – and this is something that we are working tirelessly to address. I am proud to lead a fantastic team of dedicated colleagues and look forward to continuing to develop RoSPA's valued relationships with other individuals and organisations across the health and safety community."

Mike Parker, chairman of RoSPA's Board of Trustees, said: "The Board believes that Errol's passion for accident prevention, energy, skills and experience will ensure RoSPA's continued success for the foreseeable future. His enthusiasm for working in partnership with RoSPA's many like-minded stakeholder organisations should, in time, lead to a significant reduction in the burden of accidental injury."

## Driver Profiler relaunched

**RoSPA's popular Driver Profiler fleet risk assessment tool has been relaunched, with a range of new features and updates.**

The online tool is designed to measure the attitude and behaviour of drivers via a questionnaire that investigates the individual's history and the type of driving they do. It risk assesses the driver's approach to certain situations such as distractions, speed, dealing with pressure and journey planning, before detailing ways drivers can improve and helping managers to prioritise training needs.

Eleanor Pugh-Stanley, RoSPA's fleet safety development manager, said: "Around one-

third of all deaths on the road involve those who are driving for work. This is a shocking statistic, and one that all fleet managers must help to drive down."

To find out more about Driver Profiler, call 0121 248 2233 or email [enquiries@rosa.com](mailto:enquiries@rosa.com).

Errol succeeds Tom Mullarkey MBE, who decided to stand down after nearly 11 years as chief executive. During this period, Tom successfully led the RoSPA team through some difficult financial and business challenges and more recently, in efforts to have the value of accident prevention recognised fully by political and healthcare influencers. Errol said: "We are grateful for Tom's valuable contribution and the firm foundation that it provides for us to look ahead with renewed vigour, boldly stating that accidents do not have to happen."



# Success celebrated at RoSPA Health and Safety Awards 2017

**Dozens of organisations in the education and leisure sectors have picked up a host of gongs at this year's RoSPA Health and Safety Awards.**

Among the biggest winners this year was South and City College Birmingham, named overall winner in the Education and Training Services Sector, while the Faculty of Engineering, University of Leeds was commended in the sector.

Dawn Francis-Jones, assistant director of health and safety at South and City College Birmingham, said: "The award means everything – it is the ultimate benchmark to reflect our hard work and commitment, it enables me as a practitioner to seek to improve against those high

standards and to develop as a practitioner, and to maintain a leadership culture ethos."

Meanwhile, Cambridge Regional College picked up an Order of Distinction for 19 consecutive Golds, and Sandwell Leisure Trust, based in the West Midlands, and The Oracle Shopping Centre in Reading each won a President's Award for 11 consecutive Golds.

Chairman of the Sandwell Leisure Trust (SLT) board, Lynda Bateman, said: "SLT has an ongoing commitment to maintaining the highest level of health and safety as a top priority for all our customers and our staff. Consequently, we are delighted to have received the prestigious RoSPA President's Award for sustaining this excellent health and safety record."

**The RoSPA Health and Safety Awards,** sponsored by NEBOSH (the National Examination Board in Occupational Safety and Health) has been the industry's leading awards scheme for 61 years, recognising and celebrating excellence in safety performance across sectors. Each year, a series of ceremonies takes place in London, Birmingham and Glasgow, with evening gala dinners in each location rounding off the days' activities. The winner of this year's Sir George Earle Trophy, the pinnacle of the scheme, was Berkeley Homes (East Thames) Limited.

Alongside the presentation of organisational awards, **RoSPA Guardian Angel Awards** recognise and celebrate the work of individuals who have gone "above and beyond" to improve the safety of others.





*Opposite page, clockwise from top:*  
*a gala dinner in Birmingham; Bright Horizons Family Solutions; Errol Taylor, RoSPA chief executive.*



*Capturing memories in Birmingham.*

Faith Hazlewood, a volunteer at the Canal and River Trust, was honoured with a RoSPA Archangel Award – the pinnacle of the Guardian Angel Awards scheme – for her pivotal role in educating children about water safety, for which she has given 546 hours of her time to the trust's learning programme, Canal and River Explorers, since joining in 2013.

Among the other winners in the Guardian Angel Awards scheme were: Jade Everett, health, safety and environment manager at The Kia Oval; Dawn

Francis-Jones, assistant director of health and safety at South and City College Birmingham; Alexandra Venter, lead quality assurance manager at Bright Horizons Family Solutions; and, Laura West, health and safety consultant at MCW Consulting Associates on behalf of Asquith Nurseries.

Guests at the evening gala dinners watched a moving presentation about RoSPA's Brighter Beginnings Appeal and had an opportunity to donate through RoSPA's annual prize draw.

Stocksigns, which has been RoSPA's preferred safety sign supplier for eight years, took to the stage to donate a cheque for £7,831 – the fantastic result of fundraising challenges that included the Three Peaks Challenge and a static-bike cycle ride the distance from the firm's Redhill base to Lapland.

● **Details of how to enter the RoSPA Health and Safety Awards 2018 and nominate individuals for the Guardian Angel Awards will be contained in the next edition of the RoSPA Leisure and Education Journal.**



*Sandwell Leisure Trust.*



*Lord Jordan of Bournville, RoSPA immediate past president, Dawn Francis-Jones, South and City College Birmingham, and Errol Taylor, RoSPA chief executive.*



*Rebecca Hickman, RoSPA campaigns and fundraising manager, Lord Jordan of Bournville, RoSPA immediate past president, Danny Adamson, Stocksigns, and Errol Taylor, RoSPA chief executive.*

## **Leisure and education winners in the RoSPA Awards 2017**

**South and City College Birmingham** – Winner in Education and Training Services Sector

**Faculty of Engineering, University of Leeds** – Commended in Education and Training Services Sector

**Cambridge Regional College** – Order of Distinction (19 consecutive Gold Awards)

**Sandwell Leisure Trust** – President's Award (11)

**The Oracle Shopping Centre** – President's Award (11)

**University of East London** – President's Award (10)

**Leeds Beckett University** – Gold Medal (8)

**GEN II Engineering & Technology Training Ltd** – Gold Medal (7)

**Selby College** – Gold Medal (7)

**TTE Training Limited** – Gold Medal (7)

**Bright Horizons Family Solutions** – Gold Medal (6)

**MKC Training Services Ltd** – Gold Medal (6)

**Canary Wharf Management Limited** – Gold Medal (5)

**NEC Group** – Gold (new entry)

**Sheida International Co LLC** – Gold (new entry)

**The Hong Kong Polytechnic University** – Gold (new entry)

**The Westminster School** (Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council) – Gold

**University of Hertfordshire** – Gold

**University of Surrey** – Gold

**Abingdon & Witney College** – Silver (new entry)

**Bath Spa University** – Silver

**London South Bank University** – Silver

**Marina Developments Ltd** – Silver (new entry)

**R.B Services** – Silver

**Sandwell College West Bromwich** – Silver

**University of Liverpool**, Estates Management – Bronze (new entry)

**I Drive Smart Limited** – Bronze Fleet Safety Award (new entry)



# Learning lessons in the aftermath of tragedy

Following a series of high-profile drownings during the summer of 2016, the safety of visitors at coastal locations has been in the spotlight. Here, **David Walker**, RoSPA's leisure safety manager, outlines some of the current discussion points.

**As with others from across the water safety sector, we were greatly saddened by last year's drowning fatalities at some popular coastal locations.**

Among the various tragedies, it was the deaths of seven men in two incidents at Camber Sands in East Sussex that particularly captured the attention of the media, and we as RoSPA, together with other members of the **National Water Safety Forum** (NWSF), have been working on various aspects of our response ever since.

As reported in The RoSPA Leisure and Education Journal previously, the incidents were discussed at an oral evidence session of the Transport Select Committee in December. The session focused on the **UK Drowning Prevention Strategy**, which had been published just months before the fatalities, and, understandably, the five of us who gave evidence were asked about whether the "spate" of summer drownings represented an increase on previous years.

At the time, we didn't have a full picture of the year's data but, since then, it has become clear that the **total number of accidental drownings** the UK's coastline in 2016 (a provisional figure of 93) is broadly consistent with the most recent

five-year average (98), based on the coast/shore/beach classification in **WAID**.

An inquest, in June, into the deaths of the seven men recorded verdicts of misadventure. Following the inquest, RoSPA was among 12 organisations and individuals to receive a "Regulation 28 report to prevent future deaths", to which a response was mandatory.

Here, I set out some of the general discussion points that we raised in our response.

## Context

Drowning and other water-related harms in the UK account for, on average, 600 deaths annually. Of these cases, accidental drowning deaths number on average 400 per year – approximately one fatal drowning event every 22 hours. This is higher than the number of accidental fire deaths in the home or cycling deaths on the road, yet historically drowning prevention has not experienced similar awareness levels or support.

We believe that the prevention aspects of the water safety system would benefit from a review.

Currently, there is ambiguity in terms of who

has responsibility for managing water safety risks, with the statutory framework consisting of various pieces of legislation including, for example, the Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974, the Occupiers Liability Acts 1957 and 1984, the Health and Social Care Act 2012 and the Civil Contingencies Act 2004.

The current prevention arrangements, particularly at a local level, are at best difficult to understand and interpret. At worst, arguably, these can inhibit possible duty-holders from taking action to reduce risk.

In saying this, it is important to stress that we do not believe these concerns extend to emergency response arrangements, which are governed by the UK Search and Rescue (SAR) framework.

In short, we believe we have a national system that is well equipped to address drowning emergencies through the SAR framework, yet one that is comparably poor at identifying and preventing the causes of the fatalities.

## Strategic links

As part of our response to the coroner, we described the particular relevance of three of the UK Drowning Prevention Strategy's targets:

- Every community with risk to have a water safety plan and risk assessment
- Every child to have the opportunity to learn swimming and water safety skills

- Increase in awareness of the everyday risks associated with water.

These three targets, agreed by members of the NWSF, are intended to address many of the immediate and underlying factors which we understand may have contributed to the loss of life at Camber.

## Potential future action

Notwithstanding the ongoing work to deliver the strategy, we put forward various potential actions which could serve to improve understanding about where responsibility for water safety lies, including the following:

- That the Government undertakes a review of the current system of risk management for the primary prevention of drowning harm, and how the UK compares to other leading nations such as Australia, New Zealand, Canada, Germany and Ireland, along with similar injury risk themes such as road traffic or fire risks
- That the Government explores statutory options equivalent to those offered by **The Road Traffic Act 1988**. A duty upon local authorities to assess and develop measures to address water safety harm could be usefully explored
- RoSPA is currently revising its water safety advice for owners and duty-holders of inland waters. Subject to resources, we will look to review the equivalent advice for coastal and beach environs by the end of 2018.

## Specific factors

We also answered specific questions related to potential contributory factors to drowning events, including victims having different ethnic backgrounds or not speaking English as their first language, and the importance of education and awareness of coastal dangers among children and others who live far from the sea.

We were clear that understanding and planning for the variety of demands that any group of visitors presents is a central competence

for effective beach managers. This is true regardless of whether we are talking about visitors from different areas or backgrounds, those visiting with children or those wanting to do a particular activity at the beach.

We also stated that the risks of open-water – particularly temperature and cold water shock – are not well understood within the general population. We believe this to be a principal underlying factor in many drowning deaths. For this reason, raising general awareness is a central ambition within the drowning prevention strategy.

Even though there are some population-wide issues, it should also be noted that the extent to which ethnicity and language skills are a factor in drowning has not been quantified in the UK. We have promised to report back to the coroner, either directly or with other members of the NWSF, about the feasibility of undertaking, or progress towards, a study of the role of ethnicity and language skills as a contributory factor.

## Learning

Other parts of our response outlined the opportunities for communications with

visitors, or potential visitors, to the coast, and highlighted existing resources that beach managers can draw upon, such as the RNLI's **#RespectTheWater** campaign and **HM Coastguard's information films**.

We also said we would continue to support Swim England and partners in their **review of school swimming**, aimed at removing the barriers to participation, and, primarily through the RoSPA National Safety Education Committee, we would continue to develop, champion and inform the PSHE framework, which covers topics of personal safety and resilience, and to call for PSHE to become a statutory requirement.

And we stated that we were cautious of approaches to drowning prevention that might result in the closure or restriction of access to current public spaces without a publicly available safety case being made.

We believe that wider lessons can be learnt from the deaths of 2016. Indeed, learning from accidents, near misses and other incidents – irrespective of whether they were high-profile tragedies such as those at Camber or smaller-scale events – is an important part of risk management and is one that we will continue to champion.





# RoSPA's Centenary Garden Party in the sun at Buckingham Palace

The sun shone on 3,500 guests as HRH The Duke of York and HRH Princess Eugenie of York hosted RoSPA's Centenary Royal Garden Party at Buckingham Palace.

Friends of RoSPA from across the leisure and education safety spheres were among those who enjoyed a royal tea party in glorious weather.



Photos: Cartwright Photography

HRH Princess Eugenie of York looks at RoSPA Archangel Award winner Beckie Ramsay's photograph of her son Dylan, who drowned in a quarry.

The Duke and Princess, who were attending on behalf of Her Majesty The Queen, RoSPA's Patron, met and spoke to a variety of guests, including accident victims and their families, who shared their stories of the importance of accident prevention in all aspects of daily life.

Errol Taylor, RoSPA's chief executive, said: "Everyone who attended the garden party had such a wonderful day. It surpassed all expectations, and the sun shone brightly all day."

"We were delighted to share such a special occasion with our many guests, and in particular HRH The Duke of York and HRH Princess Eugenie, to whom we were able to demonstrate our important and extensive work through those they met."

"We want to thank all of those who attended, and the many other friends of RoSPA from around the world, as it is because of them that we can continue working to save lives and reduce injuries."

More information at [www.rosipa100.com](http://www.rosipa100.com)



*Clockwise from top left*

*HRH The Duke of York with Martin Crannis, Sportscover, Jan Francis, Serco, Linda Green, Go-Ape*

*Joanna Sacks, CLEAPSS and chairman of RoSPA's National Safety Education Committee*

*Yeoman of the Guard*

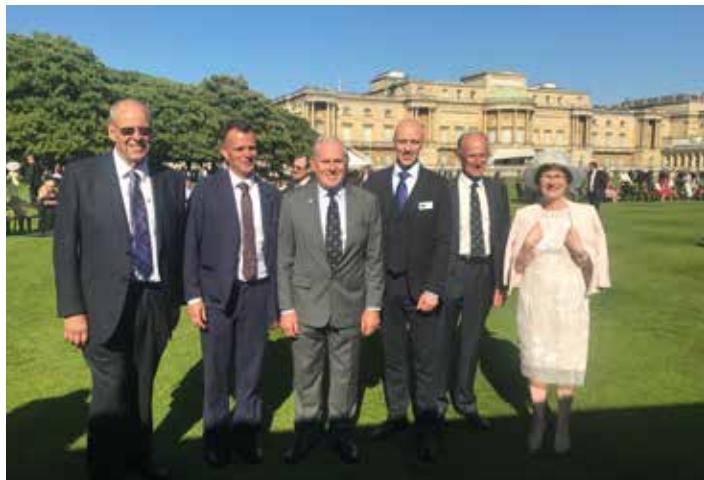
*Dr Taj Hassan, president, Royal College of Emergency Medicine, Errol Taylor, RoSPA chief executive, HRH The Duke of York*

*Dr Mike England, Rugby Football Union*

*Continued on page 14*



## Garden party



**Clockwise from top left**  
*Jo Siebert, Peter Cornall, Michael Vlasto OBE, David Walker, Mike Barrett, Kirstin Pointer  
Bandsmen  
Andy Townsend, Lifeskills and RoSPA Archangel Award winner  
John Corden, Southern Water  
Beckie Ramsay, RoSPA Archangel Award winner, Jim Watson, British Sub Aqua Club and vice-chairman of the National Water Safety Forum,  
Toby Thorp, City of London, Michael Avril, RNLI and chairman of Water Safety Scotland  
The Buckingham Palace lake  
HRH The Duke of York, HRH Princess Eugenie of York, RoSPA ambassadors James Cracknell OBE and Martin Roberts*





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staff's welfare  
comes first...**

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# SafeZone project in Nigeria goes from strength to strength

It is four years since the launch of the SafeZone project – the first school safety accreditation system in Nigeria and, indeed, West Africa. Here Adam Grinsell, RoSPA's PR and media manager, gives an update on the project which has received regional recognition.

**The SafeZone project was developed in 2013 – an equivalent to RoSPA's SchoolSafe scheme and specifically designed for audits at Nigerian schools.**

Since then, **InSiGHT Health Consulting Ltd** has been working with the Lagos State Commission to get the programme adopted formally, and it is now starting to award schools.

Three schools in Lagos have become the first in Nigeria to be awarded safety compliance certificates as part of the assessment initiative developed by RoSPA and InSiGHT Health Consulting.



**SafeZone** evaluates a school's approach to providing a safe learning environment, assessing levels of attainment in:

- Providing safe instruction during lessons and activities
- Planning, development and implementation of effective procedures to manage risks in school activities

- Arrangements for ensuring that students are taught in a secure, healthy environment by competent staff.

Successful completion of the SafeZone review demonstrates practical compliance with the requirements of Lagos State Safety Commission requirements and Lagos State school safety general rules.

Nathan Davies, RoSPA's principal consultant, who is supporting the project, said: "I'm really enthused about SafeZone. The hard work that has gone into delivering this project in Nigeria is to be commended. The endorsement by the government shows that there is real commitment to improving school safety standards."

"I'm sure that the assessments by InSiGHT staff, using the SafeZone evaluation tool, will really help schools identify and improve safety standards. What's more, the data that will be generated from the tool will help identify trends and patterns in safety standards, which will enable the strategic development of education. This is a really positive programme that we hope will deliver a real benefit to school children in Nigeria."

Running alongside the project in Lagos, InSiGHT is also using SafeZone to implement



Both pages: Yandaka Ruma Primary School (top); Hassan Usman Primary School (bottom).

health and safety compliance activities in three schools in Katsina State, in the north of the country, as part of the Reading and Numeracy Activity (RANA) project, which is funded by the Department for International Development and UNICEF and implemented by Family Health International (FHI360).

The three schools were assessed using SafeZone, alongside three other control schools, at the beginning and end of a year-long safety improvement programme. The activities conducted in the intervention schools included the development of health and safety policies, training, procurement of



challenged us to explore ways to improve school safety standards in very resource-constrained settings. Despite the challenges, the staff of the schools became increasingly enthusiastic during the course of the year and appreciated the support given to them to improve their capacity and compliance to health and safety."

safety equipment and the development of risk assessment forms.

Each of the three intervention schools showed marked improvements, reflecting more than a 100 per cent increase in assessment scores after the year-long project had taken place.

Dr Nnenna Mba-Oduwusi, InSiGHT's principal consultant, said: "This particular project



## RoSPA SchoolSafe

RoSPA SchoolSafe is a programme that checks and validates a school's performance in areas that are important for successful health and safety risk management.

Participating schools receive a concise and balanced view of their capability and effectiveness in delivering a "whole school approach" to safety, and priority tasks are identified for building and taking forward a sensible plan to ensure a safe, healthy and rewarding learning environment for everyone.

Reviews look at five key areas:

- Teaching – teaching safely
- Learning – teaching safety
- Experiencing – children out of the classroom
- Maintaining – practical management
- Providing – physical safety issues.

Each topic area score is weighted in accordance to the relative potential severity and likelihood of injury (the risk), and the weighted scores for each topic are then used to calculate an overall RoSPA SchoolSafe rating.

More information is available from [www.rosa.com/school-college-safety/schoolsafe/](http://www.rosa.com/school-college-safety/schoolsafe/) or by emailing [educationhelp@rosa.com](mailto:educationhelp@rosa.com) or calling 0121 248 2235.

## The Nigerian context

### Figures from InSiGHT Health Consulting show that:

- Only 12.2 per cent of schools – most of which are private secondary schools – have a documented health and safety policy
- Among the 25.5 per cent of schools that have external playground equipment in good condition, only 6.5 per cent conduct monthly checks on the equipment
- 72.9 per cent of schools have suitable toilets and washing facilities, 86.7 per cent of which have staff toilets separated from those of the pupils
- Corridors and walkways in 57.8 per cent of schools are in good condition and free of potholes and cracks
- 50.6 per cent of schools – mostly private secondary schools – have a suitable first aid box, and only 43.6 per cent of these have a trained first aider.
- Only 6.3 per cent of schools conduct regular fire drills for pupils, while smoke detectors and fire alarms are present in only 2.3 per cent of schools.

# Theme park fined £40k after girl, 5, suffers severe foot injuries

**Lightwater Valley Theme Park in North Yorkshire and a contractor have been fined after a five-year-old girl was injured when her leg was trapped while on a rollercoaster.**

Lucy Hibbert of Dunedin, New Zealand, was on holiday with her family when the incident took place in June 2012 on a visit to the park.

York Crown Court heard that, while on the Ladybird ride, Lucy's right leg and foot came out the carriage and became trapped between the platform edge and the carriage as the ride returned to its starting point.

The carriage travelled the full length of the platform while Lucy's leg remained trapped. She suffered severe injuries to her foot and leg which included ligament, cartilage and nerve damage.

The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) found that David Geary was contracted by Lightwater Valley to carry out an assessment on the Ladybird rollercoaster and failed to adequately identify the risk of entrapment between the carriage and the platform.

Lightwater Valley Attractions Ltd of Merseyside pleaded guilty to breaching Section 3(1) of the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974, was fined £40,000 and ordered to pay costs of £17,000.

David Geary of Taffs Well, Cardiff, was found guilty of breaching Section 3(2) of the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974. He was fined £7,500 and ordered to pay costs of £2,500.

After the hearing, Lucy's father, Paul Hibbert, said: "Lucy has undergone extensive physiotherapy to help strengthen and heal her foot after the second round of reconstructive surgeries. Her foot is still lumpy and scarred and is a size and a half smaller than her other foot so we need to pack her shoes with tissues so they don't slip off."

HSE inspector Kate Dixon said: "The company failed to ensure that members of the public were not exposed to such risks. The possibility of limbs being trapped in this way on the Ladybird ride was foreseeable and should



Photo: HSE

have been dealt with properly by both parties. Following the start of the HSE investigation, an Improvement Notice was served on Lightwater

Valley Attractions Ltd and it made a number of changes to the ride to reduce the risk of entrapment."

## Ohio State Fair accident

**Following a fatal accident in the US on July 26, in which a man was killed when he was among passengers thrown from the Fire Ball ride at the Ohio State Fair, the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) released a statement on the situation at UK-based theme parks.**

A spokesman for the HSE said: "We are aware of the tragic accident involving the KMG Afterburner (themed as Fire Ball) machine in Ohio. There are six machines of this version operating in the UK which were all thoroughly inspected within the last 12 months in line with agreed procedures.

"Following the incident, the HSE initiated a re-inspection of these machines. As a result, on Friday, July 28 an Enforcement Notice was served on five of the machines, which are now to be taken out of use until the notices have been complied with. The sixth, at Lightwater Valley in North Yorkshire, was immediately taken out of use following the incident in Ohio. This was a

decision taken independently by the operator. Lightwater Valley has agreed to keep this machine out of use until the other five notices have been complied with.

"The HSE will ensure operators are kept abreast of information as it arrives and will take such action as is necessary to ensure the rides are inspected and tested as necessary to ensure safety."

The rides which are subject to the Enforcement Prohibition notice are in the following locations:

- Pleasure Wood Hills – East Anglia
- Ryan Crow Amusements – North East
- Coney Beach Fair – South Wales
- Joseph Manning – Hertfordshire
- Brean Theme Park – Somerset

### Fine for building firm after elderly man drowns on site

#### A construction company has been fined £110,000 after the death of an 83-year-old man in Kirkcaldy, Fife.

Kirkcaldy Sheriff Court heard that in early January 2015 the man, who suffered from a number of age-related illnesses, walked on to the construction site which was closed for the holidays. While on the site, he fell into a flooded excavation and drowned.

An investigation by the Health and Safety Executive found that Sandford Park Ltd, the company that operated the site, had failed to install the appropriate level of fencing to prevent members of the public, including vulnerable adults and children, from accessing the construction site.

Sandford Park Ltd pleaded guilty to breaching Regulation 22(1) (l) of the Construction (Design and Management) Regulations 2007, which states the principal contractor for a project must "take reasonable steps to prevent access by unauthorised persons to the construction site".

HSE inspector Gillian Anderson said: "This tragic incident could have been prevented, had the company installed a continuous fence around the site."

### Drama studio ladder fall results in £200k fine for London school

#### A London school has been fined after a teacher suffered multiple fractures to his skull, wrist and elbow when he fell from a stepladder in a drama studio.

Westminster Magistrates' Court heard that, in May 2016, the teacher had been conducting rigging and adjustments to spotlights and cabling in the drama studio at Queen Elizabeth's

Girls' School in Barnet when he fell. Another teacher present in the room turned to find her colleague unconscious on the floor.

The court heard that the school had inadequately risk assessed work at height in the drama studio and had failed to provide teachers conducting the work with sufficient training, despite these matters being requirements in its own health and safety policy, and despite the presence of a health and safety e-learning tool available for teachers and other staff to use, which included a module on work at height, but which was only made mandatory after the incident.

Queen Elizabeth's Girls' School, the legal entity controlling the Academy converter school, pleaded guilty to a breach of Regulation 6(3) of The Work at Height Regulations 2005, and was fined £2,000 and ordered to pay full prosecution costs.

### Asbestos failings lead to fines totalling more than £1million

#### Three companies have been fined a total of more than £1million after workers were exposed to asbestos while refurbishing a school in Waltham Forest.

Southwark Crown Court heard that a worker removed part of a suspended ceiling in one of the ground floor refurbished rooms at St Mary's School and identified suspect asbestos

containing materials. Asbestos fibres were subsequently found in numerous areas in the school.

The court heard that the London Borough of Waltham Forest had a contract with NPS London Limited to manage development and refurbishment of its estate. At the time of the incident, which took place in July 2012, the principal contractor for the work was Mansell Construction Services (a former Balfour Beatty brand) and the subcontractor was Squibb Group Limited.

The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) found that although an asbestos survey was completed, there were multiple caveats and disclaimers which were not appropriately checked.

Balfour Beatty Regional Construction Limited (previously Mansell Construction Services Limited) of Canary Wharf, London was fined £500,000 and ordered to pay costs of £32,364.84 after pleading guilty to breaching Section 2(1) and 3(1) of the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974.

NPS London Limited, of Business Park Norwich, was fined £370,000 and ordered to pay £32,364.84 in costs after pleading guilty to breaching Section 3(1) of the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974.

Squibb Group Limited, of Stanford Le Hope, Essex was fined £400,000 and ordered to pay costs of £175,000 after being found guilty after a trial of a breach of Section 2(1) of the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974.

### Useful RoSPA resources for leisure and education safety professionals

**Leisure safety:** [www.rospa.com/leisure-safety/](http://www.rospa.com/leisure-safety/)

**Safety in education:** [www.rospa.com/schoolandcollegesafety/](http://www.rospa.com/schoolandcollegesafety/)

**Play safety:** [www.rospa.com/play-safety/](http://www.rospa.com/play-safety/) (RoSPA's activities in the area of play safety are carried out under an exclusive licence arrangement by an independent and highly experienced specialist company, "Playsafety Ltd" which trades under such licence as "RoSPA Play Safety").

# Sentencing changes proposed for gross negligence manslaughter

### **Employers convicted of gross negligence manslaughter will face tougher sentences under proposals published by the Sentencing Council.**

The council has launched a consultation on its proposals for how offenders convicted of manslaughter should be sentenced in England and Wales.

The draft guidelines cover four types of manslaughter including gross negligence manslaughter – this occurs when the offender is in breach of a duty of care towards the victim which causes the death of the victim and amounts to a criminal act or omission. In a work setting, it could cover a workplace fatality caused by an employer's negligence. It could also arise in a medical setting when a practitioner falls far below the required standard in the treatment of a patient.

The proposed guidelines are based on an analysis of current sentencing practice and in most areas there are unlikely to be changes to sentence levels, but the council expects that in some gross negligence cases, sentences will increase. An example could be where a death was caused by an employer's long-standing and serious disregard for the safety of employees which was motivated by cost-cutting. Current sentencing practice in these sorts of cases is lower in the context of overall sentence levels for manslaughter, the council says.

This is the first time that comprehensive guidelines have been drawn up for these very serious and difficult cases. Currently, there is very limited sentencing guidance for manslaughter beyond an existing guideline for manslaughter by reason of provocation which is now out of date following legislative changes

to the partial defences to murder. There are no other existing guidelines for any other forms of manslaughter except corporate manslaughter which is covered by the council's health and safety offences guideline.

Because of the serious nature of these offences, the wide range of offending covered, and the relative infrequency that these cases come before individual judges, the introduction of guidelines will be particularly useful in promoting consistency in sentencing and transparency in terms of how sentencing decisions are reached, the council says.

Sentencing Council member Mr Justice Holroyde said: "Manslaughter always involves the loss of a human life and no sentence can make up for that loss. In developing these guidelines, we have been keenly aware of the impact caused by these offences and so the guidelines aim to ensure sentencing that properly reflects both the culpability of the offender and the seriousness of the harm which has been caused."

The consultation is seeking views on various areas of the draft guidelines, including culpability and harm factors and the proposed sentence levels. It runs until October 10 and can be accessed on the council's website – [www.sentencingcouncil.org.uk](http://www.sentencingcouncil.org.uk)

*From the RoSPA OS&H Journal, August 2017*

## Travel industry training

### **The travel industry is providing training for staff on how to deal with terrorist incidents.**

More than 23,000 employees, working in the UK and overseas, have attended training sessions, which include advice on how to spot suspicious items and activity, as well as what to do in the event of a major incident.

The training programme is being run in partnership with the National Counter Terrorism Security Office (NaCTS) which has created a

short presentation that includes three new films which show staff what to expect and how to respond in the safest way to the terrorist threat.

The presentation is accompanied by a leaflet which can be printed and distributed as an aide memoire for staff and refers to the ACT: Action Counters Terrorism guidelines for reporting any suspicious behaviour or items.

The launch of the film and supporting information is part of a general campaign to raise awareness among the public. The central message is "Run, Hide, Tell" which was first launched by UK police in December 2015 after attacks in Paris. It was recently re-issued to the public by officers during London's Borough Market incident.

In June 2015, 30 British travellers were among 38 killed by terrorists at a resort in Tunisia. UK police were determined to work with the travel industry to do everything possible to learn from the tragedy.

Detective chief superintendent Scott Wilson said: "We want people to think of this in the same way they do the safety film airlines show before takeoff. They don't expect anything bad to happen but it is a sensible safety precaution to show people what to do."

*From the RoSPA OS&H Journal, August 2017*

## New safety videos for workers at sea

### **The International Marine Contractors Association (IMCA) has launched a series of mini safety videos, with supporting pocket safety cards, on safe working practices in the offshore marine construction industry.**

So far there are ten videos in the Be prepared to work safely series, looking at topics such as work at height, preventing slips and trips, manual handling, lifting operations and confined spaces. The IMCA says that a further



five videos (and accompanying pocket cards) will be available later in 2017.

The videos are available in a range of languages and are designed to appeal to a wide range of cultural backgrounds. They can be streamed online and each video has a pocket card which can be downloaded and printed, helping to ensure useful safety reminders are at hand in the workplace, according to the IMCA.

Richard Benzie, the IMCA's technical director, said: "The phrase 'are you prepared?' is key to the videos and the accompanying cards. It is a vital question that any worker, starting any task, should ask of him or herself. All feature the same blue animated character, which enables IMCA to publish safety promotional material with a common look and feel."

"The videos and cards are easy to understand and intended for use as part of a briefing session or toolbox talk, as well as by individuals. The new videos and pocket safety cards demonstrate that 'less is more'. Words have been kept to a minimum, and a new and eye-catching format is used for each card,

including the use of stills from the videos."

Access the videos at [www.imca-int.com/core/hsse/publications/safety-promotion/](http://www.imca-int.com/core/hsse/publications/safety-promotion/)

*From Safety Express, May/June 2017*

## Half of school support staff experience violence

**More than half of support staff in the UK's schools have experienced violence at work, according to a poll conducted by the GMB trade union.**

The survey of about 1,000 members found that 18 per cent of support staff said they experienced violence on a weekly basis, with 57 per cent of violence perpetrated by pupils.

Thirty per cent of respondents said they had been injured by violence at school, while others



reported stress, anxiety and depression.

Fourteen per cent of incidents were not recorded, while in 22 per cent of cases the victim did not know if it was recorded or not, the survey found.

Karen Leonard, GMB national officer, said: "No one should have to put up with being attacked while at work – and our members are no different."

"The results of this survey make truly disturbing reading, with teaching assistants, caretakers, lunchtime supervisors and more experiencing shocking levels of violence. Many are left with terrible mental and physical scars."

"GMB demands a zero tolerance approach to violence in schools – with proper, reliable support systems in place for those who do experience it."

*From Safety Express, July/August 2017*

**See page 03 for a full list of RoSPA's journals and information about how to subscribe.**



# Your questions answered



Former Ofsted inspector **Jim Bennetts** answers your school and education questions.

## Q. Can teachers of English contribute to safety awareness?

**A.** The National Curriculum for Key Stages 3 and 4 (secondary) expects teachers to plan the development of reading to:

- extend pupils' ideas and their moral and emotional understanding
- offer perspectives on society and community and their impact on the lives of individuals.

From Key Stage 1 (infants), pupils should be able to say what might happen next in a story. Those in Key stages 3 and 4 (secondary) should reflect on the motivation and behaviour of characters and the development of plot. In effect, teachers of English are charged with promoting pupils' personal and social education. Many do this superbly well.

In primary schools "circle time" often takes opportunity, through a story, to draw out

predictions of what might happen and why – with interpretations of characters and consequences. For example, read by a teacher, Stephenson's *Kidnapped* has engaged Key Stage 2 pupils for generations. Resourceful 17-year-old David Balfour slips in fording a river. He laments: "And yet the worst was not yet come." (Hey, pupils, what might happen next?) But pupils sense that the quick-witted lad will probably survive. For a more harrowing cautionary tale, try one of Wordsworth's poems of the Strid – a narrow and possibly jumpable point on the River Wharf. A lad goes hunting with his greyhound. "He sprang in glee – for what cared he. But the greyhound in the leash hung back." (What's going to happen, and is the lad brave/foolhardy/unlucky?) "The boy is in the arms of Wharf... Now there is stillness...long unspeaking sorrow."

Excellent teaching of *Romeo and Juliet* at a school in White City teased out the intense passion of young love: "He got a kiss, it was

a good kiss; he wanted another. He's desperate! So what's he going to do?" Hence the hare-brained scheme, unwisely abetted by the nurse and friar. And where does the reckless scenario end? "Never was a story of more woe, than this of Juliet and her Romeo."

E M Forster's *Where Angels fear to tread* is a chronicle of high-handed self-righteous arrogance, with English folks believing themselves a cut above Italian country folks. The half English baby is abducted from the home of his young father Gino; the English carriage overturns, killing the baby. The novel is a poignant analysis of how stupidity



Romeo And Juliet, oil on canvas, James Northcote, R.A. www.wikiart.org

can lead to tragedy – relieved somewhat by instances of fortitude and common sense.

Many literary works pluck the heart strings in the face of tragedy; some resolve a story line by quirks of melodramatic improbability. A Lancashire teacher, knowing that some pupils were resolved to walk Striding Edge on Helvellyn, expanded on the GCSE text of Wordsworth's *Michael* (a sad tale of a Grasmere farmer) by reading Fidelity – Wordsworth's poem of the dog that guarded her master's body after he fell from the Edge. (Hey, boys and girls, mind your footing on Striding Edge!) Walter Scott also celebrated this popular sentiment in *Helvellyn*, so too did the painter Landseer.

And what will become of Scott's hero, the Master of Ravenswood, in the riveting novel *The Bride of Lammermoor*? At the end of the traumatic story, riding across a bay to confront his enemy, he is claimed, as prophesied, by the Kelpie's Sands – from the quick-sands, naught remains but the feather from his hat! But by what reckless abandon did it come to that?

## Got a question?

Email it to Editor Jo Bullock, [jbullock@rosipa.com](mailto:jbullock@rosipa.com). Or write to Leisure & Education Journal, RoSPA, 28 Calthorpe Road, Edgbaston, Birmingham B15 1RP.



## Keeping Kids Safe

**At** the start of our centenary year, parents and carers told us they'd like more help to prevent accidents to children. That's why we've launched three new initiatives under our **Keeping Kids Safe campaign.**



**Please spread the word!**

### **Keeping Kids Safe hub**

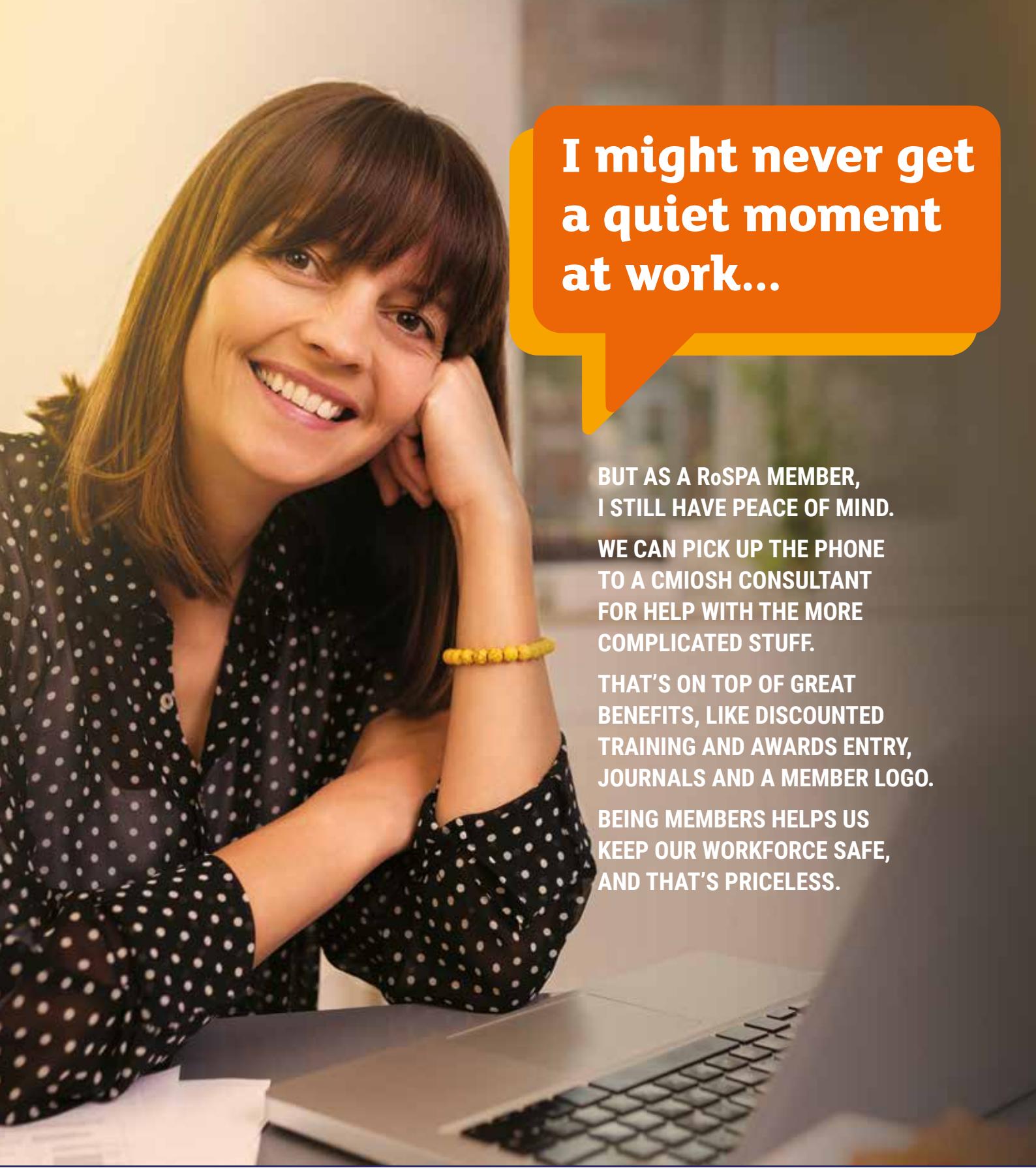
A free online resource packed full of accident prevention information and tips from other parents.  
[www.rospa.com/keeping-kids-safe/](http://www.rospa.com/keeping-kids-safe/)

### **Brighter Beginnings Appeal**

Raising money for Keeping Kids Safe packs for families in need.  
[www.rospa.com/brighter-beginnings/](http://www.rospa.com/brighter-beginnings/)

### **Lifeline**

A freephone telephone helpline for parents and carers.  
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