



## Groupfocus

# Thames Valley group celebrates 50 Years

► Thames Valley Health & Safety Group (TVHSG) has recently celebrated its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. It was established in 1964.

**V**isitors to the Thames Valley Group website or recipients of an invitation to their recent celebrations will see that the group describes itself as “a thriving network promoting all aspects of occupational health & safety in the Thames Valley” and this certainly appears to be the case.

This group merged with the Reading group in 2008 and now has well in excess of 100 members. The group covers a geographic area around Slough, Bracknell and the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead. Members are from a mix of business types ranging from major multinational organisations through to small to medium sized businesses, local authorities and consultants. Its monthly meetings take place at various corporate sites in the area. Meetings this year have attracted a number of high profile health and safety speakers.

“The group works closely with the enforcement authorities and is fully committed to helping local businesses comply with the law and reducing the number of deaths and accidents in the workplace,” explains Louisa Mead, chair of Thames Valley group.

TVHSG is a member of Safety Groups UK (SGUK) and was the proud recipient of an *Alan Butler Silver Award* from SGUK in 2013 in recognition of their work in the Thames Valley area.

The group’s late spring/summer programme



► Louisa Mead, chair of Thames Valley Health & Safety Group, with group committee members and Jason Anker at the TVHSG 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration

included the AGM, a summer social event and the group’s 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration – the highlight of the 2014 calendar. The event was hosted by Syngenta UK Ltd at its Research Centre in Bracknell. Group members were joined by the Mayor of Slough, HSE head of field operations (south) as well as committee members and representatives from the firms that sponsor Safety Groups UK.

The committee’s opening address and cake cutting was followed by a presentation by Jason Anker, who was paralysed from the waist down by an avoidable workplace incident 23 years ago. Jason spoke openly about the about the impact of his injury on himself and his family, and about the development of his *Proud2bSafe* initiative: encouraging everyone to think about being safe both in and out of work.

The event was closed by Roger Bibbings on

behalf of Safety Groups UK who concluded: “We are here to honour the heroes in health and safety. There are people alive and well out there because of what you do. I hope that the group will reach its centenary and will have even more successes to celebrate.”

Speaking on behalf of the TVHSG committee, Louisa Mead concluded:

“We are grateful to our members, supporting organisations and enforcement authorities for helping us to deliver regular health and safety updates to local businesses, both large and small. We have had a very exciting and rewarding year so far and we actively encourage those with health and safety responsibilities in businesses in our area who are not yet members to come along and join us.

“We are extremely proud of the thriving network that is Thames Valley Health & Safety Group.”



SGUK thanks all its sponsors for their continuing support

For more information on the Thames Valley Health & Safety Group visit: [www.tvhsg.org](http://www.tvhsg.org)