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## Height safety takes centre stage at PASMA members' meeting

PASMA's Annual Members' Meeting and Conference will take place on Friday, 7th July, at the Coombe Abbey Hotel, Warwickshire. Delegates will hear from an interesting lineup of speakers about the expanding role, work and achievements of the association and its contribution to advancing height safety, both in the UK and overseas.

A highlight of the event will be a panel discussion with Jason Anker, Paul Blanchard and Dylan Skelhorn. All three have unique and powerful stories to tell having suffered life-changing injuries following falls from height. Anker was paralysed from the waist down due to an avoidable accident on a construction site in 1993 when he fell from a ladder. Since then he has become a highly effective motivational speaker telling his story to more than 40,000 people over the last five years, making plain the need for high safety standards. He is frank and uncompromising in communicating the physical and psychological effects of the accident. He recently received an MBE for his contribution to safety in the construction industry.

In 2010 Paul Blanchard fell through a fragile roof-light which left him paralysed from the chest down at 55. He then decided he needed to do what he could to prevent the same happening to others. His audiences are reached through the empathy of someone who has felt the full impact of a fall from height, and in 2015 he received a RoSPA Archangel Award.

Dylan Skelhorn is a safety ambassador for Willmott Dixon. Since his accident in 2011, he has devoted his life to sharing his experiences with the aim of preventing a similar fall happening to others.

The panel will be chaired by Shaun Lundy, a member of the HSE's Myth Busters Challenge Panel. He is academic portfolio leader for the safety, health, occupational hygiene and environment degree programmes at the University of Greenwich. He has a particular interest in the field of ethics and education for health and safety professionals, and recently led the review and development of a new code of conduct for the professional body IOSH.

More details at [www.pasma.co.uk](http://www.pasma.co.uk)



Coombe Abbey



Jason Anker

## PASMA 'On Air'

PASMA's first female chairman elect, Gillian Rutter was recently interviewed on BBC Radio Essex about getting more women into the work at height industry. She was asked to respond to an article in The Sun newspaper lamenting the

absence of women in the scaffolding industry. A life-long member of the association, she was one of the first women to successfully complete PASMA's Towers for Users training course when just 17.

A PASMA lead instructor, she is now managing director of Skyward Access Training and a director of Hire Access, a company specialising in building complex tower structures. During the interview she said: "PASMA trained nearly 75,000 delegates last year and we certainly don't make a distinction between men and women. I have to say that I personally haven't encountered the macho image associated with traditional scaffolding. The products I train people on are modular, easy to use and really versatile, and I come across women from all types of trades and jobs on my courses."

"The work at height industry is about experience, knowledge and training. Building towers is not about muscle, and anything that gets more women trained and into the work at height industry has to be applauded. I'd be delighted to see even more women taking up PASMA training and building towers."



Gillian Rutter in Radio Essex Studio

## PASMA at A-OSH South Africa 2017

At the end of May, PASMA shared its knowledge and expertise with visitors to A-OSH EXPO South Africa, an occupational



safety and health exhibition held at the Gallagher Convention Centre in Johannesburg. The association sponsored the Working at Height Theatre with speakers delivering a series of presentations and practical demonstrations using equipment supplied by PASMA member Johannesburg Scaffolding.

PASMA head of international development, Sarah Nunn said: "A-OSH represented an important opportunity for us to reach South African tower specifiers and users. In addition to sharing and exchanging knowledge



PASMA Working at Height Theatre

and expertise, we were also able to engage with those companies that share our values and want to become part of the PASMA family."



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