

Newsletter

June 2026

Programme

- Introduction
- Thorlux Factory Visit
- Member of the Month
- Member Updates
- News
- Next Events

Welcome...

..... to the June 2026 newsletter. This month's event was a little different as BHSEA Members went on Tour on a factory visit to Thorlux Lighting in Redditch, organised by committee Member Emma Woodhouse. Read Emma's article [here](#).

It was a fantastic day, and received great member feedback

“ I had an absolutely amazing time and really enjoyed the day” Emma Hall, Bevan Britten

The Member of the Month for June is Tony Brachmanski

Check out the upcoming events for 2026, all on the BHSEA website, including our fantastic Annual Conference on 6th October. Get booking.

Sarah Kenny
BHSEA Secretary



Save the Day

Earlybird Offer

BHSEA Annual Conference

Brave Conversations: Driving Safety Through Influence

6th October 2026 | 09.30 – 16.00 | Cranmore Park, Shirley, Solihull

This conference is for leaders who know that safety isn't just about systems - it's about conversations.

It's for those who:

- want to move beyond compliance and genuinely influence behaviour
- find themselves navigating difficult conversations and want to do it better
- recognise that how they show up as a leader shapes the culture around them

Whether you lead a team, advise others, or carry responsibility for safety performance, this day will challenge your thinking and give you practical ways to lead differently from tomorrow. Keynote Speaker is Drew Povey, star of ITV's Educating Greater Manchester.

Reserve your place today – [15% Earlybird Booking Offer and Group Discounts Available](#)

Thorlux Factory Visit

A Day of Innovation, Safety and Learning

On Monday 8th June 2026, Birmingham Health, Safety and Environment Association (BHSEA) visited Thorlux Lighting, and it proved to be an outstanding day, providing members with a fascinating insight into one of the UK's leading lighting manufacturers.

From the moment we arrived, we were made to feel extremely welcome. The day began with introductions from Bob Bohannon and Owen Needles, who provided an overview of the company and the impressive Thorlux Application Centre facilities. I was also given the opportunity to say a few words about why I had organised the event. As a BHSEA committee member, I wanted to contribute more than simply attending meetings and help create an engaging event that would provide real value for our members.

Following the introductions, attendees were divided into three groups – Green, Blue and Red. I joined the Green Group, led by Bob.

Emergency Lighting Experience

Our first activity in the green group, took place in the emergency lighting demonstration area. We were asked to watch a short film and were told that when the lights went out, we should make our way to the nearest exit.

At the appropriate point, the Thorlux team simulated a mains failure, and we were plunged into complete darkness.

Our group made its way through the exit door and attempted to navigate by feeling our way along the wall. It was surprisingly difficult and immediately highlighted how disorientating an emergency situation can become when all visibility is lost



What made the exercise particularly effective was that the route contained numerous hazards, obstacles and opportunities to help ourselves or our colleagues if the evacuation had been for real. In complete darkness, we failed to identify any of the hazards, or things which could have helped us.

The exercise was then repeated with emergency lighting activated. The difference was remarkable. The route was clearly visible, hazards could be identified, and the evacuation was completed far more quickly and confidently. It was a powerful demonstration of the critical role emergency lighting plays in protecting lives during an emergency.

Light Quality Experience

Our second activity was the Light Quality Experience, hosted by Emma Laight.

This proved to be one of the most fascinating parts of the day. Through a carefully designed video presentation and a series of changing lighting conditions, we experienced first-hand how different types of lighting affect our perception of the environment around us.

The demonstration highlighted the evolution of lighting technology, from traditional tungsten lamps through to modern LED luminaires, and showcased the significant energy savings that can now be achieved. We explored the effects of warm and cool colour temperatures and how lighting can influence comfort, wellbeing and productivity.

One of the most striking aspects was seeing how colours, materials and even people's appearance changed under different lighting conditions. The experience demonstrated that good lighting is about much more than illumination—it affects how we see, feel and interact with our surroundings.

Factory Tour

Our factory tour was led by Kieran Beach and provided a fascinating glimpse into the scale and capability of the Thorlux operation.

The factory itself is vast, having expanded significantly over the years to accommodate continued growth and investment. Throughout the tour we saw a blend of modern automated machinery working alongside long-established equipment, demonstrating how the company combines innovation with proven manufacturing techniques.



It was particularly interesting to observe how different departments utilised different lighting solutions depending on the activities being undertaken. The attention to creating comfortable and productive working environments was evident throughout the facility.

The atmosphere across the factory was positive and welcoming, and it was clear that quality, efficiency and employee wellbeing are central to the company's culture. We also learned about some of the manufacturing processes involved in producing lighting components.

Noise Awareness Training

Owen Needles delivered an engaging and informative session on noise management in the workplace to the whole group.

The presentation covered the history and function of the human ear, helping attendees understand how hearing damage occurs and why it is often irreversible. We learned about the importance of noise monitoring, risk assessment and effective hearing protection.

It was interesting to hear how Thorlux manages noise across its own facility, including carrying out monthly in-house noise reports and monitoring. Hearing protection is made readily available, and active signage is displayed in areas where noise levels exceed 85 decibels to remind employees of the need to wear appropriate protection.

The discussion also highlighted modern challenges, such as employees listening to music through a single earbud, and the potential implications this can have for safety and situational awareness.

Owen also outlined the range of training opportunities available through the Learning Hub, including a programme of health and safety courses designed to support organisations and individuals in developing their knowledge and competence. Check out the Resources page on the BHSEA website for Owen's slides.

SmartScan – Compliance Through Innovation

Andy Smith provided an excellent presentation to the whole group on Thorlux's SmartScan system, demonstrating how intelligent lighting controls can support both compliance and sustainability objectives. SmartScan is a wireless lighting management system that continuously monitors and controls lighting installations throughout a building. The system can automate emergency lighting testing, record compliance data, monitor energy consumption and provide detailed information about individual luminaires and system performance.



By removing the need for many manual inspection and testing processes, SmartScan can help organisations improve compliance, reduce maintenance costs and ensure critical safety systems remain operational. The ability to access information remotely and maintain digital records was particularly relevant for health and safety professionals attending the event.

A Brief History of Thorlux

Founded in 1936 by Frederick William Thorpe, Thorlux began life manufacturing vitreous enamelled steel reflectors in Birmingham. Over the decades, the company expanded and evolved into one of the UK's most respected lighting manufacturers.



Today, operating from its extensive Redditch headquarters and manufacturing facility, Thorlux remains committed to innovation, quality and sustainability. Many of its products continue to be manufactured in the UK, and the company has earned an international reputation for its lighting solutions, emergency lighting systems and intelligent controls.

Thanks

This was an exceptional day that showcased not only the products and technology developed by Thorlux, but also the passion, expertise and professionalism of the people behind them.

On behalf of BHSEA, I would like to thank Bob, Owen, Emma, Kieran, Andy, Luke and everyone at Thorlux Lighting for their warm welcome, generosity and enthusiasm throughout the day. Their willingness to share their knowledge and expertise made the visit both enjoyable and educational.

I would also like to thank all attendees for their support and participation. As someone who wanted to contribute more actively as a committee member by organising an event that would provide genuine value, it was extremely rewarding to see such positive engagement throughout the day.

The visit left a lasting impression on everyone involved and demonstrated how innovation, safety, quality and sustainability can successfully work hand in hand.

If you wish to find out more about smart scan and how it could benefit your business, please let me know and I'll forward your details onto Thorlux.

Emma Woodhouse

June Member of the Month

Aligned Certification Ltd

We're delighted to recognise Tony Brachmanski from Aligned Certification Ltd as our BHSEA Member of the Month.

Established in 2020, Aligned Certification Ltd is a UKAS (No.23064) accredited ISO 9001 certification body based in the West Midlands. The company provides professional, affordable, and friendly nationwide ISO management system assessments across a broad range of industries. In addition, they're an approved CQI/IRCA and Staffordshire Stoke on Trent Hub training provider, delivering a variety of ISO-related public training courses both online and face-to-face.

Tony has been a valued BHSEA member for the past two and a half years and was selected this month in recognition of the fantastic support he provided on the BHSEA stand at the recent Health and Safety Event.

BHSEA
Birmingham Health, Safety &
Environment Association

**MEMBER
OF THE MONTH**
ALIGNED
CERTIFICATION LTD

Established in 2020, Aligned Certification Ltd is a UKAS accredited ISO 9001 certification body based in the West Midlands. The company provides professional, affordable, and friendly nationwide ISO management system assessments across a broad range of industries.

 www.bhsea.org.uk



aligned
CERTIFICATION LTD

Member updates



BHSEA Referral Scheme

Existing BHSEA members who refer a new member to join, that then signs up, will automatically be included in a Membership Referral Free Prize Draw* to win a £50 Amazon Gift Voucher. Therefore, the more new members you refer, the more times your name will be in the prize draw* and the better your chance of winning.



FREE Croner June Webinar

Nature as Critical Infrastructure

Thursday 24th June at 13.00

This webinar will examine the findings of the ISEP report, Natural capital is critical infrastructure, and explore why this topic matters for securing economic growth and boosting national resilience. Register [here](#).



Driving for Better Business Fleet Safety Focus: Psychological Safety

How is it linked to fleet risk?

Psychological safety. It's not new tech. It's not fancy dashboards. It's about something far more powerful - giving drivers the confidence to speak up.

It's not just about compliance. It's about creating a culture where drivers feel respected and listened to. The result? Fewer incidents, better performance, and a safer, more proactive fleet.

Take a look at our driver information sheets, toolkits and posters - how could you make use of them with your teams?

Download [here](#)

Member updates

BS 7981 & BS 8460: What's Changed and What It Means for Work Platform Safety – FREE Webinar

Get clarity on the 2025 updates to BS 7981 and BS 8460 and the confidence to plan, manage and operate work platforms safely, consistently and in line with best practice.

If you're responsible for selecting, installing, managing or using work-at-height platforms, you know how quickly unclear guidance or inconsistent practice can increase risk.

From planning errors and competence gaps to operational pressures and compliance scrutiny, even small misunderstandings can have serious safety and legal consequences.

This free, expert-led webinar from BSI, brings together the latest thinking behind the 2025 editions of BS 7981 and BS 8460, helping you understand what's changed, why it matters and how to apply the standards confidently in real-world environments. You'll leave with practical insight you can use to strengthen safety, improve consistency and demonstrate due diligence across your organization or supply chain.

Webinar details

Date: Tuesday 23 June 2026

Time: 10:00 – 12:00 (BST)

Location: Online

Why attend?

Clear standards don't just support compliance – they help you protect people, reduce risk and operate with confidence. Join this webinar to strengthen your understanding of BS 7981 and BS 8460, align your approach with recognized best practice and leave better equipped to manage work-at-height safety across your organisation.

Click [here](#) to register.



HSE Updates

Engineered stone: Join HSE at the Installer Show
HSE is exhibiting and speaking at the Installer Show on Tuesday 23 to Thursday 25 June, at the NEC Birmingham.

The use of engineered stone is a popular choice for kitchen and bathroom surfaces, however cutting, grinding and polishing it can generate high levels of respirable crystalline silica (RCS) dust. This causes serious, life-limiting lung disease including silicosis, COPD and lung cancer – conditions that are preventable with the right controls.

On each day of the show, in the Kitchen Fitter Arena, Clare Owen, HSE's Head of Stoneworking Intervention Design, will share insights from HSE's collaboration with the stone industry explain how Great Britain's kitchen and bathroom installers can work safely with engineered stone to protect their health

You can visit the HSE stand at the event to speak with the HSE team and get practical advice by [registering for your free ticket for the Installer Show](#).

For further guidance on working safely with engineered stone, visit the [Work Right campaign website](#) for resources to help you comply with the law and protect workers.

Still Time to Respond

The Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations 2013 (RIDDOR)

A consultation on RIDDOR is currently open. It seeks stakeholder views on a range of legislative and non-legislative proposals to help reduce work-related ill health, one of HSE's key strategic objectives.

It also looks for options to reduce the burden on businesses, in making these reports to the regulator, through simplification of the reporting process.

To view the consultation and submit comments: [Consultation on proposals for RIDDOR](#).

The consultation closes on **30 June 2026**.

2026 Programme of Events



Monthly meetings take place on the second Monday of each month starting at 1:30.

2026 Dates for your Diary

- 11 May: Behavioral Safety – Craig Jackson/Mike Wright and Steve Warwood - UCB
- 8 Jun: Thorlux Factory Visit
- 22 Jun: Webinar – POWER /CE Marking
- 14 Sep: Free Training Session – Confined Spaces - Sunbelt
- 14 Sep: Legal Update
- 6 Oct: BHSEA Annual Conference
- 12 Oct: Free Training Session – RPE – BSIF and Sundstrom
- 12 Oct: Construction Matters – Panel Discussion
- 9 Nov: Free Training Session – Manual Handling
- 9 Nov: Health – AI and Manual Handling, Gambling
- 14 Dec: 2025 BHSEA Awards and Karen Hewitt – The Power of Story Telling

Next Training Webinar

REGISTER NOW

PUWER and CE Marking

22th June 2026 | 12.30 – 13.30

Martin Elliker – Make UK



- An outline of the current legal landscape with regard to workplace machinery (EU&NI & UK).
- Proposed changes affecting GB supply in the next two years.
- The impact of these changes on the application of the PUWER regulations.
- What UK businesses need to do next.
- Q&A

MAKEuk
The Manufacturers' Organisation

NEXT FREE Training Session

REGISTER NOW

Confined Spaces

14th September 2026 | 09.30 – 12.15

Walsall FC 1888 Suite

This confined spaces training session is being run by Sunbelt Rentals.

SHARING > LEARNING > IMPROVING

Free Training Session

Confined Spaces - Sunbelt

14th September 2026
09.30 - 12.15
Walsall FC WSA 15A
Registration from 9.00 am



Next Event

REGISTER NOW

Legal Update

14th September 2026 | 12.40 – 15.00

We will be back in Walsall for Louise Mansfield 's popular Legal Update, and a Members Corner from Emma Woodhouse.

Click on the Register Now to reserve your place at this popular not to be missed event,

SHARING  LEARNING  IMPROVING

Legal Update

Louise Mansfield
Bevan Brittan

14th September 2026
13.30 – 15.30
Walsall FC WSKI 15A
Lunch served from 12.45



Legal Update

Bevan Brittan 