**Annual Buildhealth / IOSH conference 2018**

On 17th October 2018 the annual Buildhealth / IOSH Conference took place at the Dunsilly Hotel. This year’s theme was “Getting to grips with Manual Handling”. The Conference’s aim was to reinforce the “Health” aspect within “Health and Safety” and with manual handling accounting for more than a third of all work–related illnesses reported each year it is an area that affects all our businesses a fact borne out by the excellent attendance at the event.

The speakers were drawn from throughout the industry and training sector who not only highlighted the reasons why this is such an important topic but also gave examples of best practice and signposted delegates to areas of information, such as the MAC tool (Manual Handling Assessment Charts, with a revised version soon to be released by HSE) and other organisations such as the Workplace Health Leadership Group (NI) who are carrying out works on this issue.

Our thanks go to **Jim Leitch (BH)** – introduction. **Chris Quarrie (HSE) -** (MSD) Risk assessment, key construction activities and initiatives. **Mary Doran (IOSH)** – Healthy backs, practical session on correct lifting techniques. **Susan Spence (HSENI) –** MSD statistics, introduction to WHLG(NI). **Francis Power (HSA)** - Strategies to address ergonomic risk in the Irish workplace. **Joe Harte (WDR & RT Taggart) -** Safety in Design - A Principal Designers Perspective. **Andrew Cooke (Graham Construction)** – MH Risk Assessments/ **David Wallace (Henry Brothers)** / **Caroline Hughes (Heron Brothers)** / **Michael Purkess (Farrans)** - MH problems and solutions from an organisation’s point of view and **Emma Gilmore (IOSH) –** closing remarks.

We were also very pleased to welcome three new Members to Buildhealth – **McQuillan, Wills Bros and BSG Civil Engineering.** For any Company that may wish to join the Buildhealth organisation and share in the best practice and support from fellow members please go to the “Join Us” page on this site.