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GOING UP IN THE WORLD

A history of Simon Engineering, the development of the powered access industry and a lifetime as an engineer, by Denis Ashworth

Ashworth was a keen engineer and from an early age found himself in at the very start of the modern powered access industry.

His book is an unusual combination of autobiography and history of Simon Engineering Dudley, a pioneer of the powered access industry and at one time, the world's largest manufacturer of aerial lifts.

The coffee table sized book, is highly readable and includes around 150 photographs and drawings from the very beginning of the industry. It is a 'must read' for anyone who is interested in powered access, the hydraulic equipment industry or in comparing modern day engineering challenges with those of an entirely different era.

The book is available direct from the publishers at £19.50, plus £4.50 postage and packing.

- Continental Europe €23 plus €6.50 postage & packing
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A week in the life of towers

The fifth annual Tower Safety Week is now over. The only event of its type in the work at height sector, it ran this year from the 12th to 17th November and attracted enthusiastic support from PASMA members, tower users and the public across the UK.

With the theme 'Working well with towers', this year's campaign promoted height safety, developed industry knowledge and skills, and connected with a wide range of industries that use towers, from building and maintenance to facilities management and retail. Tower users everywhere were asked to show their support for height safety in general and tower safety in particular.



Events and activities organised by PASMA members were supported by specially produced tower infographics, the latest PASMA app and, new for 2017, tower inspection toolbox talks delivered by PASMA training centres. This year also saw the return

of old favourites including the 'High Tower Challenge' and the 'Tower Selfie' competition. In addition, Tower Week partners delivered CPD instructor open days designed to keep PASMA training instructors abreast of the latest developments in tower technology, design and safety.

Taking the opportunity to visit as many PASMA members as possible over the five days, chairman Gillian Rutter said: "PASMA is the organisation that knows mobile towers, and cares about the people who use them. The more people who think and talk about the towers they are using, the safer they will be... and that's what PASMA Tower Safety Week is all about."



PASMA Middle East Conference 2018

Following the success of the inaugural PASMA Middle East Conference, the Association has announced that a second event is planned for 2018 at the Marriott Hotel Al Forsan in Abu Dhabi on 14th March.

Comprising presentations, discussion panels and practical demonstrations, the conference will build on the success of the first event with a view to delivering knowledge, guidance and best practice advice on all aspects of working safely with towers.

Potential delegates can register their interest in attending by visiting the PASMA website.



Trevor Fennell 1944-2017

PASMA and the Access Industry Forum (AIF) were deeply saddened by the recent death of Trevor Fennell, the owner of Fentech Access Consultancy & Training Services and long serving secretary of Forum member SAEMA, the Specialist Access Engineering and Maintenance Association.

He played a major part in the creation of the Forum and was a key contributor - through various official committees - to the development of UK/European product and safety standards. His contribution to the work and role of the Forum over many years will be sadly missed.



BS 8620 low level work platforms

BS 8620, the full British standard for low level work platforms commonly referred to as pulpits and podiums, was published at the end of 2016, replacing the Publicly Available Specification PAS 250.

PASMA members played a significant role on the drafting panel of designers, manufacturers, suppliers, users, regulators and safety professionals.

The introduction of BS 8620 means that low level work platforms that are compliant with the new standard now offer an even safer method of working at height.

PASMA is quick to point out that the conversion of PAS 250 to a full British standard does not mean that existing PAS 250 compliant platforms are now obsolete. "Far from it," says PASMA's technical committee chairman, Dougie McCombie. "You can continue to use PAS 250 type-approved podiums and there is no necessity to change product immediately. You can introduce the upgrade when the time comes for replacement."

PASMA has produced a guidance document on the transition from PAS 250 to the new standard. It is available on the PASMA website www.pasma.co.uk/bs8620



PASMA and the AIF

A founder member, PASMA remains a leading and committed part of the Access Industry Forum, the forum for 11 trade associations and federations dedicated to the work at height sector.

Members currently include: ATLAS, BSIF, EPF, FASET, IPAF, IRATA, Ladder Association, NASC, PASMA, SAEMA and WAHSA.

The Forum advances safety and best practice by:

- Establishing the position of the industry on legislation and regulation.
- Collaborating with other trade and professional bodies including the Health & Safety Executive.
- Creating awareness and understanding of industry legislation and regulations.
- Promoting the link between professional training and competency in the workplace.
- Championing a system of accreditation whereby all users of access equipment produce formal and independent proof of training as issued by AIF member organisations.
- Providing knowledge and information.

Visit www.accessindustryforum.org.uk for more information.



For details of PASMA standards, guidance and training, including free PocketCards and posters, visit: www.pasma.co.uk