

# The Construction Safety Campaign

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November 16, 2013

The Construction Safety Campaign (CSC) will be holding its AGM today Saturday 16 November in Birmingham. Formed in 1988 it has campaigned for improvements on health, safety and welfare in the industry forging together many campaigns including the Battersea Crane Disaster Action Group and fighting for the improvement in the appalling fatality and casualty rates infamous in the industry. Retiring National Secretary Tony O'Brien said "The work of the campaign is now more important than ever, while construction fatalities have gone down since the days of slaughter in the 1960's with regular annual death rates of 150 plus, the latest fatality figures for 2012/13 being 39 are a welcome downturn however every death is not only the loss of a loved one but a life changing tragedy for all the family and friends left behind"

The Robert Tressell Awards ceremony will also take place for "Services to Working People". Past recipients of the award have included the late Alan Dalton, asbestos campaigner, The late Simon Pickvance, campaigner on cancer at work and Ark Tribe, Australian Trade Union campaigner who faced jail for standing up for safety on site and threatened with jail.

The meeting will also hear of the sad death in June this year of Reg Johnson, last surviving member of the Robert Noonan (pen name Tressell) family who devoted his life to promoting the book after which the awards are named.

The number of fatal injuries for 2012/2013 is 39, or 1.9 per 100,000 employees. This is a sizable drop from last year's figure of 49 fatalities. The average over the last five years is 53, or 2.3 per 100,000 employees. Out of the 39 fatalities, 12 were workers defined as self-employed.

Contact Tony O'Brien, National Sec' CSC ON 07747795954

This year's recipients of the awards are.

- Smith, Dave, Mr. BSG.  
All family and partners of BSG.
- Gaffney, Kathy, Ms. West Mids AVSG. Founder member.
- Stoll, Chaz, Mr. TU Activist.
- Kazan-Allen, Laurie, Ms. Journalist and activist.

The award ceremony takes its name from the Book, THE Ragged Trousered Philanthropists by Robert Tressell (Robert Noonan)

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**Dave Smith.**

Was presented with this award on 16<sup>th</sup> November 2013 for his services to working people and lifelong commitment to the trade union movement and to recognise his outstanding personal contribution to the fantastic campaign work of the Joint Sites Committee and the Blacklist Support Group in their struggle for justice for construction workers everywhere.

**Kathy Gaffney**

Was presented with this award on 16<sup>th</sup> November 2013 for her contribution to health and safety at work, for organising Workers' Memorial Day and as a founder member of the West Midlands Asbestos Victims Support Group

**The Families and Partners of Blacklisted Workers and Activists**

Were presented with this award on 16<sup>th</sup> November 2013 for their heroic and unwavering support of those who fight for, and defend the rights of ordinary working people. They truly are the wind beneath their wings.

**Laurie Kazan-Allen**

Was presented with this award on 16<sup>th</sup> November 2013 for her global campaign against asbestos. For her editorship of the British Asbestos Newsletter and her galvanising of campaigners globally to one day deliver an asbestos free world for future generations.

**Chaz Stoll**

Was presented with this award on 16th November 2013 for his and his family's role in the work of the CSC. Chaz has actively supported the campaign against the government's deregulation of Health and Safety by issuing press releases, draft letters to MPs and in particular in his work against the abolition of the crane registration regulations.