

Simon Pickvance

9th April 1949 to 23rd November

- Simon was a kind and gentle man, generous with his time and energy and passionate about workers' health.
- He exposed the hidden epidemic of work-related ill-health and proved the solution lay with workers own knowledge and empowerment.
- He frequently exposed the failings of the official health and safety agencies and the occupational medicine establishment in underestimating the level of exposure of workers to a range of hazards including organic solvents, dusts and carcinogens, the extent of illness caused by work, and the reality of workers lives.
- Simon established methods of taking occupational histories from workers and using them to argue for prevention and to help claim compensation.
- He exposed the inadequacy of epidemiology and of many occupational health doctors as merely burying the evidence.

While his work was important to Simon, he balanced life and work well. His wife Mandy and their 3 children, other family and friends were immensely important. He was a loving and beloved husband and father, and friend.

Simon loved walking in the hills around Sheffield, cycling and running. He was a very clever man who started out as a research scientist – getting a mention for some work he had done in the Nobel Prize of John Sulston. But joined other young scientists keen to use their knowledge for people not profit at the British Society for Social Responsibility in Science out of which came Hazards Magazine . He moved to Sheffield and became a brick layer to earn money while setting up the Sheffield Occupational Health Project. Sadly exposure to asbestos in this work was to kill him from mesothelioma.

- Simon was an amazing networker in the UK , Europe and as many of you know in Asia . He co-edited the Workers Health International Newsletter for many years and shared the Sheffield Occupational Health Project model, training and information systems with many of you here. He also made sure that we in the UK Hazards Movement knew about what you were doing.
- We in the UK and in European Work Hazards Network, relied on Simon's network of experts, his knowledge, research, collection of information to help workers in the workplace, to challenge the government and HSE, and to work for improvements in occupational health.
- His integrity, his respect for workers knowledge, and commitment to empowering them, is a shining example to us all and one we can all carry on in our OSH activism.