

Keeping staff safe at work

EMPLOYEES in Hull businesses large and small can give thanks to an organisation which helps keep them healthy and safe while at work.

It is story which began in 1934, when a group was formed to provide a regular oversight of new rules and the latest improvements in managing safety issues.

Humberside Occupational Health and Safety Group was created at a time when, although some progress had been made in workplace safety, much more was needed.

Three years after the group was formed the problems faced by many workers were highlighted when those employed in factories were told they had to be provided with a minimum temperature and "sufficient and suitable" lighting.

Following the Second World War came major improve-



SAFETY FIRST: Award winning members of the Humberside Occupational Health and Safety group are pictured at their annual meeting in 1982 with Hull Lord Mayor Councillor Harry Woodford.

ments, although even by 1958 it was estimated that about two million workers across the country suffered illness through inhaling dust while at work.

It was issues such as these that were at the heart of the group's role in working to improve safety and it continues to be so.

Eighty-five years later the group still seeks to devise new ways of preventing workplace accidents, create safety organisations, produce ideas

on making work a safer place and foster co-operation between employer and employee in accident prevention.

The group has now been granted a national gold standard for its work, the highest in national excellence awards. It follows previous success with bronze and silver awards. The presentation will be held on Monday, February 24 at The Gladstone Library, Royal Horseguards Hotel, London.