



“A Year of Transition”

It was with this expression that the Chairman, Richard Abdy, opened the Council Meeting, held at the Sheffield Assay Office on the 8th November. He went on to say: “The ABPC is currently going through something of a transitional period. Over the last several years we have been forced into acting to cover the industry’s backs with regard to new legislation and regulations; and making sure that the ABPC is on a sound legal and financial footing. Now that most of that work appears to be behind us, we can focus on the more positive work of promoting pewter and supporting its crafts people”.

On the agenda for this meeting were a number of weighty issues. These included, but were not limited to:

New members

There had been two new members this year; it was agreed that the old *New Member Packs* should be brought up to date and sent out; and that the Newsletter and Website should carry short biographies of these, and all other new, members. The Packs would include a comprehensive list of all the benefits to which members were entitled; and that list, already available on the Association’s website, should also be brought up to date where necessary.

User Agreements and trade marks

Concern was expressed that a number of members had felt that the User Agreements were too full of what they could not do, whereas they should, in fact, lead on what their actual benefits were.

It was agreed that further work needed to be done on explaining what the User Agreements were all about, in the context of the programme (reference to it is set out below) for policing the use of the marks, particularly the Seahorse mark.

Apprenticeships

The meeting identified the need, if the trade was not slowly to wither away, to train craftsmen and women to work in pewter. It was agreed that funding partners for a pewter apprenticeship programme needed to be identified; and at the same time that programme needed to be designed. David Pinder tabled a preliminary paper that he had prepared on this subject.

ABPC Commercial Prize 2018

It was agreed that much progress having been made over the first four years of the Commercial Prize, the Council should fund at least one more, but for 2018, the judge would be allowed to choose the designer (as having potential) rather than the design; and that the default position would be that the winning entry *would* be put into production; and that the majority of the prize, instead of going to the designer, should be paid to the manufacturer towards the costs of setting up the necessary tooling.

A judge for next year would be identified and appointed.



A part of the *Pewter Now* display

The Association's finances

Although the interim accounts showed the Association heading for a loss for the year, it was noted that there were ample reserves; and that if all the outstanding subscriptions were collected, the loss would be minimal. It was agreed that top priority should be given to identifying, then chasing up, the non-payers; also that subscription notices should in future be sent out in December (at the beginning of the Association's year) rather than May, nearly halfway through it.

Pewter Now

This Exhibition, designed and curated by member, Trish Woods, concentrated on modern pewter, and was supported by a dozen artists working in pewter, the majority of whom in fact had been winners at the Worshipful Company's Pewter Live competition. It will be on display at Kelham Island Museum, Sheffield in Spring, 2018. It was agreed that discussions should take place with Trish Woods about ways in which the Association could be more supportive of her efforts in the future.

Please see an article about Trish Woods and *Pewter Now* in the December issue of [The Pewterer](#).

Next meeting

The next Council Meeting is scheduled for early next year, at the Worshipful Company's Hall, in London. As always, any member may attend, but should give advance notice to the Secretary first (louise@britishpewter.co.uk). The date will be circulated as soon as it is known.

When we asked the Chairman after the meeting to be more specific about the Year of Transition, he said: "The lead in this activity should really be coming from the designer/craftspeople themselves: it is they it can benefit most. Therefore look out for the ABPC switching its focus and becoming more active in lots of areas that will benefit members. However, to do that properly we will need the input, support and time of members; so watch out for increasing contact from the ABPC, all aimed at collectively helping one of the oldest surviving trades in existence."

Trade marks - new supervision programme

The Council supervises, whether itself or on behalf of the Worshipful Company, the ABPC and the Seahorse marks (the Pewter Marks). A third mark, the Strake, is not often used. Use of the ABPC mark indicates membership of the Association; use of the Seahorse mark is limited to quality items. Trade marks help identify a product and indicate not just origin but also quality; they are, therefore, very important, and are usually guarded fiercely.



A User Agreement is, essentially, permission to one party to use (on certain terms and conditions) a trade mark owned by another party. The new trade mark User Agreements rolled out by the ABPC earlier this year contain the relevant provisions. They have changed in only limited detail from the terms and conditions prevailing under the old agreements. Hopefully, they provide more clarity about the position.



The Seahorse mark has always been an indication of quality; and the Company has required the ABPC to undertake a review of the use of that mark and to redouble its efforts to ensure that it is used properly.

You are entitled to use the Pewter Marks only if you have signed a User Agreement; and only members of the ABPC may request a User Agreement. The principal terms and conditions for the use of the Pewter Marks that are contained in the User Agreement are, for convenience, reproduced in the [ABPC's website](#), under the heading 'About Pewter'. There is also provision in the User Agreements for the ABPC to require members to undertake a testing programme; and the Council has not only allocated funds for the testing process, but also asked Lou Mott to start the process first, by putting the random testing into effect and secondly by collating up to date information on the use of the Seahorse mark.

If you have any queries, please contact Lou Mott (louise@britishpewter.co.uk).

Louise Mott - Secretary, ABPC

Website

Readers of this Newsletter will be aware that last year the Council launched a revamped website (<http://www.britishpewter.co.uk>). This is intended to benefit you, the members; and our 'new' secretary, Lou Mott (louise@britishpewter.co.uk), would therefore welcome all constructive criticism of the site and suggestions for improvement.

Back copies of most of the Newsletters are available on the site; as are lists of the benefits the various categories of members can expect to obtain from their membership. The new site has a FAQs page; and again, comments very welcome for improvement and addition.

The Editor offers a bottle of passable claret for the best set of constructive comments on the site!

Tin Survey notes decline in tin use by Pewter Industry

ITRI (the International Tin Research Institute) is based near St Albans, in Hertfordshire. Supported by the world's most important tin producers and smelters, it is dedicated to supporting the tin industry and expanding tin use. It is a not for profit membership-based organisation limited by guarantee.

ITRI's thirteenth annual survey of tin users gathered data from tin users worldwide between June and August 2017. 136 companies took part; accounting for some 46% of estimated global refined tin use. The results of the survey were published in September.

We asked Jonathan Rickwood, Materials Stewardship Officer at ITRI, for his comments. He said:

"ITRI's latest estimate of refined tin use in 2016 is 348,900t. Refined tin demand reported by participants increased by 3.3% from 2015, with more modest growth anticipated in 2017.

Pewter is one of the smallest uses of 'other' uses surveyed. We estimate that pewter accounts for less than one percent in total surveyed tin use. Survey participants noted that the pewter industry is sensitive to tin price, due to the high tin content and the threat from cheaper alternatives in the giftware and tableware markets. We have noted that there has been a decline in tin use from pewter manufacturers, with a drop in use from 2016-2017."

You can access the ITRI website through this link: <https://www.itri.co.uk/>

Alan Williams

Trish Woods and *Pewter Now* - please see the article in the December issue of *The Pewterer*. See link below to the *Pewter Now* website.

Please note that the Association has terminated its post office box; written communications should now be sent to: ABPC, 37 High Street, Penistone, Sheffield S36 6BR.

For information about the Council's programme of testing, cataloguing and enforcing the trade marks, please see page 2 above, and the (future) February 2018 issue of *The Pewterer*.

ITRI International Tin Conference 2018

Budapest, Hungary

23rd - 25th April 2018

Registration is now open



We are pleased to announce that registration is open for the ITRI International Tin Conference. The event will be the first held in Europe for over a decade and is expected to attract a high number of attendees.

Highly discounted rates are available to those booking at the early booking rate, available to delegates who register and pay in full by [Friday 5th January 2018](#).

Please [click here](#) to download the event flyer.

Please visit the [event website](#) for full event details and to register.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sue Butler & Chris Goodacre
ITRI Conferencing
conferencing@itri.co.uk
+44 (0)1727 876020

*We wish a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all our members,
and to all our readers*

[The Pewterer](#)

[Pewter Now](#)

[Antique Metalware Society](#)

[The Association of British Pewter Craftsmen](#)

[The Worshipful Company of Pewterers](#)

[Pewter Bank](#)

The Pewterer

[Pewter Live, 2018](#)

[The Pewter Society](#)

Have you read *The Pewterer*? This is an e-zine devoted to pewter, and published in support of pewter and the pewter trade.
www.thepewterer.org.uk

[ITRI](#)

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