



## Launch of New Website

The ABPC Chairman, Richard Abdy, announced the launch of the ABPC's new website last week. The site, completely revamped, will concentrate on helping to make pewter more accessible to the public, and giving ABPC members themselves a greater opportunity to sell pewter.

With the same URL as previously, the site now offers Product Search, a tool to enable purchasers to find the product they are looking for. Richard Abdy said: "We felt that the old site, with out of date software, was becoming vulnerable to hacking and that we should take this chance to make the pewter trade association's site fit for purpose. We shall be relying on members to give us feedback, and to keep their own data current."

[http://  
www.britishpewter.co.uk/](http://www.britishpewter.co.uk/)

Redesigned by Alan Pearson, of PDS Web Design, with active input from members of Council, the site went live on 1st October. Members are being encouraged to contribute information to the site to make it comprehensive and to keep it up to date and relevant.

The site and its contribution to the trade will be kept under constant review. Work is in hand to bring the EPU pages on the site fully up to date.

Please go to: <http://www.britishpewter.co.uk/> and then let us have your comments.

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## Council

Council met on 14th September, at the offices of SECAS in Sheffield. The agenda included:

**Pewter Standards:** work has been progressing on the drafting of the 'standards' wording to which ABPC members are expected to adhere in terms of the metal alloy they use for their product. There was a basic (UK) EN standard which was generally followed throughout the Continent; but this has recently been amended by regulations from Brussels requiring tighter specifications for leaching (where the item can come into contact with food or drink); and the Child Mouth Rule (for items that can be 'mouthed' by children) where the standards are higher.

The meeting approved what it is hoped will be the penultimate draft, with a final draft to be approved at or before the next meeting. Once approved, it will be sent out to members and incorporated into the membership agreement.

**The Seahorse mark:** this mark is owned by the Worshipful Company of Pewterers, though it is registered in the name of British Pewter Designs Ltd, a company wholly-owned by the ABPC. BPD will shortly be wound up as it currently fulfils no useful purpose. When BPD is wound up, the mark will be assigned to the

quality; and it is the intention of the Worshipful Company and the ABPC to license it, and to monitor its use, carefully. A programme to put this into effect is to be devised, and remains to be approved by the Worshipful Company.

New Council Member: Michael Pinder was elected, and welcomed, as a new Council Member (see a brief sketch about Michael later on in this Newsletter. Ed).

The new User Agreements: these were approved, but Council decided that the member agreement and the trade mark user agreement could be rolled into one. That will be done and Council approved that the merged agreement will then be sent out to Members for signing.

Testing: the ABPC has agreed with the Sheffield Assay Office that the SAO will devise and run a programme of random testing of Members' products. Members whose product is chosen will be expected to supply the item, at their cost. The results will be given first to the Member and then to the ABPC.

Certification: As reported in a recent Newsletter, the ABPC regularly receives requests from members for the issue of a certificate evidencing membership in good standing of ABPC (see in particular Newsletter 9.1). Council resolved that once the new agreements had been signed, it would proceed with the issue of certificates to those qualified who had requested them.

Finances: the Secretary presented, and the meeting approved, accounts for the year ending December 2015 which showed that the ABPC had had a small surplus for the year. This surplus is to be carried forward into the testing/enforcement fund for the current year.

The AGM came next, followed by a sandwich lunch.

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## Michael Pinder, Pinder Bros Limited

Descended from a line of pewter manufacturers in Sheffield, Michael Pinder was unanimously elected a new member of Council at the last meeting in Sheffield on the 14th September.

Michael commented:

"Pinder Brothers, started by my great, great grandfather in 1877, is coming up to its 140<sup>th</sup> birthday next year.

I have worked in the pewter trade for 30 years and seen many changes since joining the business at 17.

The company manufactures both pewterware and silverware and has faced many challenges over the years from cheap imports from China, high tin prices, and now Brexit.

ABPC is the right trade body to deal with international legislation, including that from the EU, on standards; also to promote the trade in conjunction with the Worshipful Company of Pewterers, and to assist members with technical problems which affect the pewter trade. I look forward to being able to contribute to this work."



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Don't forget to explore the new website; to comment on it, and (if they are not already there) to supply your details for inclusion in it. Note:

For the Marketplace, images should be 400px x 400px.

For the front page icons then 800px wide by 600px high  
jpg or png format at 72 dpi preferably or save for web.

# The Seahorse Quality Mark, Trade Marks, and the new Members' Agreements; testing and enforcement

The ABPC is close to reaching agreement with the Worshipful Company of Pewterers for the continued use of the Seahorse mark. Long associated with quality products, the mark, owned by the WCoP, came up for renewal of its registration this year.

The registered owner of the mark has always been British Pewter Designs. With the intended winding up of BPD, the mark is being transferred to the WCoP and a licence agreement between the WCoP and ABPC for its use by Members is currently being negotiated.

The proposed trade mark licence, of both the ABPC mark and the Seahorse mark, is being rolled into the much-vaunted redrafted members' agreements and the combined document will be sent out for signature in due course.

New pewter standards, brought up to date and being made relevant for today, are being incorporated into the licences. Members are being encouraged to take advantage of the voluntary testing regime the ABPC has negotiated with the Sheffield Assay Office. At the same time, as part of the new licences, the ABPC has agreed with the Assay Office that it will conduct random testing of members' product.

At the same time, the Council has decided to take a much closer look at enforcement, monitoring standards both within and outside the ABPC membership.

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## ABPC Commercial Prize, 2016

The 2016 prize at Pewter Live was awarded to Karen Stott of Truro College for her Pyrite Crystal Inspired Pendant And Earring Set.

Karen's description of her piece was:

*This pendant and earring set is inspired by pyrite crystals. Squares of angular wax were first pushed into a cuttlefish and a master was made which was then used to make the set. The pendant is hung on a five strand triple colour steel neck wire and the earrings have silver wires.*

Contact:

Karen Stott [kystott@hotmail.com](mailto:kystott@hotmail.com)

Truro College

Last year's prize, awarded to Emily Gilham's *Molten* was made commercial reality by David Pinder Bros of Sheffield. To purchase, please go to: The Gift Experience: [www.thegiftexperience.co.uk](http://www.thegiftexperience.co.uk)

For Emily Gilham: [emily120893@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:emily120893@hotmail.co.uk);

For

Pinder Brothers Ltd: [sales@pinder.co.uk](mailto:sales@pinder.co.uk)

For a fuller story about *Molten*, please visit *The Pewterer*, vol 7.2 <https://sites.google.com/a/the pewterer.org.uk/the pewterer/the-pewterer-vol-7-2-april-2016>

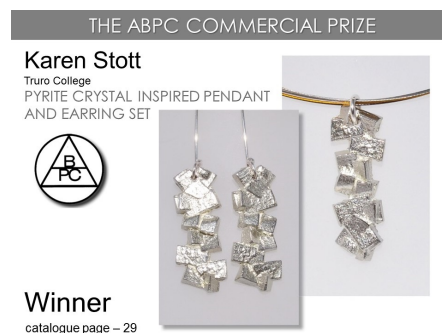


Photo courtesy of The Worshipful Company of Pewterers

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## New EPU Chairman

The AGM of the European Pewter Union was held in May this year in Sheffield. Delegations from the Netherlands and from Italy joined members of the ABPC for the weekend. Martijn van Zon was elected the new President and a vote of thanks was extended to Richard Abdy for his years in office. A report of the weekend, by Jayne Abdy, follows:

# European Pewter Union

Annual General Meeting 2016 Meeting

Sheffield, United Kingdom - June 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> 2016

Report by Jayne Abdy of A R Wentworth

The EPU meets on an annual basis to discuss issues concerning the European pewter trade. This year the most important of the issues to be discussed was the state of the regulations coming out of the European

Commission on alloys and solders. Last year, the EPU met in the Netherlands; this year it was the turn of Sheffield.



The EPU weekend started on Friday afternoon when the assembled delegates from Italy and the Netherlands were taken on a visit to the Sheffield Assay Office. The guided tour was led by Librarian, Emma Paragreen and Head and Analytical Services, Belen Morales. It included both the precious metal hallmarking and the analytical services divisions of the Office and a look at how they had worked on pewter issues for the ABPC.

On Friday evening delegates were invited to Dinner, organised by the Association of British Pewter Craftsmen, at Cutlers' Hall in Sheffield city centre. Chris Hudson, an

ABPC Council member, first gave an informative and interesting tour of the Hall, including the main hall, and a look at the Norfolk Knife. Those who had never visited before were very impressed.

The Norfolk Knife, made by Joseph Rodgers in 1851 for The Great Exhibition of 1851, took two years to complete. It features 75 blades with etchings of Queen Victoria, Chatsworth House and The White House amongst others.

The tour was followed by Dinner in the Neal Room – a rare honour, as this room is generally only used for board meetings and dinners when the Master Cutler himself is present. However, Chris Hudson delivered apologies from the Master Cutler, who had been unable to attend due to commitments in Canada.

Richard Abdy led the Toast to HM The Queen on her 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday.

Each guest was presented with a pewter napkin ring made by Chimo Holdings and donated by Chris Hudson

After the meal, the Stag pub was the venue to try some local Sheffield Ale, unfortunately not in pewter tankards. Delegates later retired to the magnificent Kenwood Hall Hotel, famous as the hotel that Dennis Taylor stayed in during his 1985 world championship snooker victory!



The Norfolk Knife

The EPU AGM took place at the Kenwood Hall Hotel at 10:15 am on Saturday morning. Delegates from Italy, the Netherlands and the UK attended; apologies were received from Portugal and Austria.

A new Chairman was appointed: Martijn van Zon from the Netherlands, taking over from Richard Abdy, who had been chair for the past few years.

After the formal business, there followed two talks, the first by Belen Morales from the Assay Office about the chemical analysis the Assay Office does for APBC members; and an interesting conversation followed regarding the breakdown of pewter material in a cocktail shaker taken for analysis by Wentworth Pewter.

The second talk was by Jonathan Rickwood of ITRI. In the course of this talk, he tabled the ITRI's proposed new Code of Conduct, and concluded by asking all members to sign up to it (See the ABPC Newsletter, volume 9.3 (LINK)).

A slightly negative air was present when delegates moved on to talk about the State of Trade – the number of pewterers is down and orders are hard to find; companies are continuing to go out of business and everyone is generally finding it very tough at present. Not much hope was expressed that things would get any better in the future.

Richard Abdy told delegates that the EPU website would be updated alongside the ABPC one. It was noted that the EPU part of the site was very much out of date.

Everyone was encouraged to invite new members to the meetings from any European countries, although it was noted that past attempts had not produced material results!

The proposal that EPU meetings should only be held every two years, instead of annually, was not accepted. The general consensus was that everyone benefitted from meeting every year as European legislation was too important for members not to be constantly updated on progress. It was felt that longer times between meetings might mean that the EPU could start to disappear altogether and not exist in the future.



The EPU secretary, Cathy Steele, would ask Portugal and Austria if one of them would be willing to host the EPU next year – if not, then the Netherlands offered to do so instead.

It was agreed that Membership subs should remain at the same price as in previous years.

After the meeting a lovely leisurely lunch was held in the hotel restaurant. Later, Mr Michael Pinder and Mr Keith Tyssen led a quick trip to look at the Derbyshire hills on the outskirts of Sheffield before it was time for trains and planes to be caught for the journeys home. All agreed that the meeting had been a great success, and a vote of thanks was proposed for the organisers.

**Jayne Abdy**

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Visit the new ABPC website and let us have your comments. Also, please provide material for the Marketplace: <http://www.britishpewter.co.uk/>

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# 2016 Asia Tin Week

21 - 24 November 2016  
Shanghai, China

## Experts to review tin applications outlook at Asia Tin Summit

The programme for the fourth and final session of the ITRI Asia Tin Summit, which focuses on consumption and new tin applications, has now been finalised and features a mix of Chinese and international industry experts and leaders.

ITRI's latest big survey of tin users shows global refined tin use stable to slightly stronger in 2016, after a disappointing 3% decline in 2015. While solder demand has been especially weak in China until recently, the survey reports growth in usage coming mainly from the China battery sector and tin chemicals companies elsewhere in the world. The conference session will begin and end with presentations by ITRI analysts on the latest demand data and long-term threats and opportunities as a result of changes in technology.



**Valentijn Van Velthoven** of **Alent** will be speaking on changes in tin applications in the electronics industry, where threats from miniaturisation and solderless technologies may be offset by growing automotive and industrial uses.

Two of the leading companies in China will review the outlook for their respective sectors, with **Gong Ting of Hubei Bengxing Chemical Company** covering tin chemicals and **Chen Zhiping of Tianneng Batteries Group** covering the rapidly changing lead-acid battery business, where the e-bikes market may be saturated but new opportunities in other new energy areas are emerging. Looking further into the future, **Prof. Wang Xiang of Nanchang University** will be considering the role of tin catalysts in environmental protection and green energy production.

For further information and to register please [click here](#) to visit the event website.

Sue Butler & Chris Goodacre  
ITRI Conferencing  
[conferencing@itri.co.uk](mailto:conferencing@itri.co.uk)

[The Pewterer](#)

[Antique Metalware Society](#)

[The Association of British Pewter Craftsmen](#)

[The Worshipful Company of Pewterers](#)

[Pewter Bank](#)

## *The Pewterer*

[Pewter Live.](#)

[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](http://www.thepewterer.org.uk)

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