



ABPC Newsletter

Volume 10, Number 1

The Association of British Pewter Craftsmen

March 2016

The ABPC Council held the first of its 2016 meetings in London, on 16th March, at the Hall of the Worshipful Company of Pewterers. A full agenda was on the table and skilful chairmanship saw most of the business completed on time, although some discussion did migrate to the luncheon table. This was hosted by the Worshipful Company, and the Master of the Company, in welcoming Council members to the Hall, said what a delight it was to share the Hall with members of the trade. We will report in the next Newsletter on the discussions held at the meeting, mentioning on page 2 here, only the matter of the new User Agreement.

European Pewter Union 2016 Annual General Meeting

Calling all European pewterers! The 2016 EPU annual general meeting will be held in Sheffield over the weekend of 10th and 11th June. The programme is being settled as we go to press and will be sent out shortly. We believe it will include dinner at Cutlers' Hall, presentations by ITRI on their proposed Code of Conduct for the tin trade, and by the Sheffield Assay Office on their recent experience of testing pewter; and a tour of the Assay Office itself.

Registration forms for the weekend can be obtained from Cathy Steele, and should be submitted before 13th May, the last date for the special rate negotiated at the conference hotel, the Kenwood Hall Hotel, a couple of miles outside Sheffield. Delegates should make their own bookings direct, quoting 'Association of of British Pewter Craftsmen, 10th June 2016'. Don't put it off - act now!

Hotel email: natalie.keeton@principal-hayley.com

Website: www.ph-hotels.com/kenwoodhall.

Pewter Live, ABPC Commercial Prize, 2015



Full marks to Emily Gilham, David Pinder and Dennis Trickett. David Pinder and Dennis Trickett were the judges at last year's Pewter Live; and chose Emily Gilham's *Molten* for the ABPC Commercial Prize 2015 award. They then saw her design through to manufacture (see the full story in the forthcoming *The Pewterer*) and it is now available through www.thegiftexperience.co.uk. *Molten* will be on display, and for sale, at Pewter Live 2016.

The ABPC is pleased to announce that Jason Sharp, of English Pewter in Sheffield, will be this year's lead judge for the Commercial Prize award.

This will be the third year for the ABPC Commercial Prize; and ABPC Chairman, Richard Abdy, said: "We have been excited to see the results from the first two prizes, in particular that the winning item from the 2015 competition is now in production. We really hope that more commercial pieces can be found from the competition and we would be delighted to hear from any members interested in being judges in future years - and thereby having first sight of the designs!"

Pewter Live 2016

The Chairman of the Pewter Live sub-Committee, Richard Parsons, reports that Pewter Live 2016 is firmly on track. It takes place on the 24th to 26th May at the Hall. There have been entries from students from 12 colleges and universities; and 14 entries for the Open Competition. Richard said: "This year's Lord Mayor will be the sixth who wants to select mayoral gifts for their year from Pewter Live". Judging will take place on the 24th May and the winners will be announced on the 26th.

Note: Pewter Live is open to the public on Wednesday 25th May from 1000 - 1200 and 1500 - 1700. Please refer to the website for further information: www.pewterers.org.uk/pewter_live/pewterlive2016.html

Why not advertise in the Pewter Live catalogue, 2016?

Two thousand copies are printed for circulation, not just to those hundreds who attend the three-day event, but to others in the City and across the country who are interested in pewter. Also, an electronic version goes up onto the website.

Rates start at £125 (plus VAT) for a quarter page. Enquiries to [Eleanor Mason Brown](#) at the Hall. Copy date is: 20th April 2016

New User and Membership Agreements

The recent Council Meeting approved new, simplified and shortened, User and Membership Agreements. Draft copies of these have already been circulated to the members of the Association. The former is for use by a member who wishes to use one or more of the ABPC marks; the latter establishes the minimum standards of pewter manufacture required of members. These will be circulated for signature in due course; and will be accompanied by a simple guide as to their meaning, and to the marks themselves and what benefit their use can provide.

The Council is also working on a draft Code of Conduct for the trade following an initiative set by the ITRI. (For information about the International Tin Conference in Lima Peru, please hit this [Link](#).)