



## The European Pewter Union

**A year of regulations**, by Richard Abdy.

Two issues dominated this year's meeting of the European Pewter Union. These were: the continuing changes to EU regulations for release limits in food contact materials; and the new EU regulations concerning the limits for lead as an element in articles that can fit within a child's mouth.

The meeting was held at Associazione Artignia in Brescia, and delegates from the Netherlands, the United Kingdom and Italy were hosted by Assopeltro, our Italian sister organisation, on the 21 and 22 May. Apologies were received from Austria.



Brescia Cathedral

Delegates supported the ABPC's proposal that efforts should be made by the EPU to find a route to enable individual manufacturers in member countries to meet the new European regulations where possible and at the appropriate time to offer advice to members as to how that could be achieved. It was agreed that at the next EPU meeting the ABPC would bring forward a comprehensive list of any changes to pewter standards that are required to meet the new regulations, with a view for them to be adopted as the standard by all members of the EPU.

The social calendar for the weekend included a visit to Bersi Serlini's Canteen in Franciacorta Wine Land to see the impressive production of their sparkling wines, and to try a sample or four. The superb Friday night dinner was at Trattoria "Officina della Valle" in Brescia.

Thanks from all those who attended are due to Assopeltro, and in particular Maurizio Mazotti and Paola Marioni, for their outstanding hospitality and excellent planning. The 2016 EPU meeting is due to take place in the UK at a venue to be determined. Any suitable suggestions from ABPC members would be welcomed if it enables more delegates to attend.

# Pewter Live 2015

## ABPC Commercial Prize

This was the second year of the ABPC's commercial prize. Worth £250, the prize was judged by David Pinder and Dennis Trickett, both of whom made a special trip down from Sheffield in order to carry out the judging. As David Pinder said, when presenting the prize: "Commercial reality is cruel. We were looking for interesting designs that could be made, easily, in quantity and for a price that could stand up against competition from other metals and from overseas."



He went on: "The quality of the entries was high, and in fact we started from a 'shortlist' of nine! Whittling it down to one was very difficult, but we settled on a piece of jewellery that could easily be engraved, and could possibly take a touch mark. I am very pleased

to say that that is: Emily Gilham's (from Buckinghamshire New University) *Molten*."

A fuller report of the 2015 Pewter Live can be found in volume 6.3 of *The Pewterer*, and a list of the prizewinners on the Worshipful Company of Pewterers' website at [http://www.pewterers.org.uk/pewter\\_live/List%20of%20awards%20PL%2015.pdf](http://www.pewterers.org.uk/pewter_live/List%20of%20awards%20PL%2015.pdf).

Richard Abdy, Chairman of the ABPC, commented: "We are delighted that the ABPC Commercial prize has now established itself at Pewter Live; and I would like to thank David Pinder and Dennis Trickett for the time they have taken not only to set the criteria by which 'commercial' should be judged, but also to take a day out to attend the competition and do the actual judging."

Photo: Worshipful Company of Pewterers

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