

## Chairman's Letter. Dear ABPC Members ...

Welcome to our first Newsletter for 2010. May I take this opportunity, on behalf of your Council, to express the hope that trade is good and that pewter continues to thrive for you, particularly in these difficult times.

Council has already met this year and has started, as a trade association and on your behalf, to address the raft of new and proposed consumer legislation and standards which the UK trade is facing.

This Newsletter is intended to report to you on that work and bring you up to date with the work that it has been undertaking.

There are a number of different areas of concern for the pewter trade.

1. Limits for Tin in Food: EU Legislation
2. Norwegian Hazardous substances in consumer products
3. New Toy Safety Directive (EU)

We are tackling these, in order of importance, in partnership with the International Tin Research Institute.

This has involved extensive product testing and it will inevitably take up the majority of the Association's time for the foreseeable future.

The following is a summary of the current areas of our work. If there are any other areas of specific concern to you, please do not hesitate to contact me or the Association Secretary, Cathy Steele, at [Cathy Steele, ABPC Secretary](#)

While I am on this subject, the Council is always looking to extend its membership. If there is anyone out there who would like to come and help with this current project, or any other subject, they would be very welcome; please let Cathy know.

Finally, may I remind you that the EPU AGM is being held this year in London, at Pewterers' Hall, over the weekend of 14<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> May. You are very welcome to attend. Again, please contact Cathy Steele if you want more information.

Regards

Richard Abdy  
Chairman

## Pewter Consumer Regulations Summary

### Limits for Tin in Food: EU Legislation

Current limits – Canned beverages – 150mg/kg no specification reference for pewter

Proposed new limit – Food Contact materials - 50mg/kg

Test results show issues in reaching these limits and pose additional questions:

- a) Where do different pewter products fit in terms of "food contact" from the flask with the longest practical beverage contact to a tankard / quaich with more limited time in contact?
- b) Why do products that have spinning as a process see an increased migration of tin level?
- c) What can be achieved to reduce the migration levels to an acceptable point? We will investigate all aspects from the raw materials, to potential finished product coatings.

### Norwegian Hazardous substances in consumer products

- a) The areas of concern are arsenic & lead. Test results are not complete but show lead levels of above 0.05%
- b) How do these levels relate to other jurisdictions and can it be argued that Norway should not have any more stringent levels?
- c) Is it possible to achieve these low levels with any consistency from raw materials? Individual plant/factory contamination should not be an ABPC concern.

### New Toy Safety Directive (EU)

- a) New migration limits are proposed for toys (which are accessible to children during use). There are several metals with new lower limits.
- b) To what extent is migration from toys a factor for pewter toys beyond christening cups and similar products?
- c) Of particular interest is antimony, copper, lead and

arsenic – do our test results show anything that is conclusive?

d) How does this directive fit with the new (now in place in the USA) regulations concerning toys and product content as well as migration levels?

**What next?** We will work in partnership with the ITRI and others to continue investigating these issues, an ongoing process the focus of which may change as legislation changes. However, we hope this work will eventually lead to a set of guidelines (updated from time to time) for members' benefit. The ABPC sees it as vital that we act vigorously to protect our members' interests in this way. Richard Abdy

## Pewter Designs & Techniques

by  
Fleur Grenier

This book is now available in the shops, from the Company and through Amazon. Fleur Grenier was a graduate of the Sir John Cass School at the City University; and she then studied metalwork at the Royal College of Art.

Her book is a *tour de force*; part history of pewter, part course book teaching its use and inspiring design techniques.

Recommendation: buy (and enjoy)!



I am delighted to report that Pewter Live 2010 has all the makings of another wonderful showcase for the pewter industry and the Pewterers' Company.

Hopefully this will mark a special year as we have the 'Open Brief' geared around the Olympic Games which, at the preliminary judging, has produced some excellent designs. We hope some will be taken up by British manufacturers and marketed to the many affiliated bodies involved with the Olympics. This is wonderful opportunity for us all to show off pewter to its best advantage.

We are very proud this year to have Viscount Linley as our VIP. He is a bespoke furniture maker and Chairman of Christies. It is a great honour for us to have such a prominent figure and it should generate much interest from the design world and reinforce the place pewter should have in their thoughts.

The Student Competition is also producing some wonderful ideas and over the recent years inter-College rivalry has pushed up the quality of entrants' pieces. This year we will have 12 Colleges taking part.

I hope that members of the ABPC will take the opportunity of marketing their products at Pewter Live and if this is not possible, please visit us on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> June and view the many designs that might just suit your market.

Paul Wildash  
Chairman Pewter Live Committee

[http://www.pewterers.org.uk/pewter/pewter\\_live/index.html](http://www.pewterers.org.uk/pewter/pewter_live/index.html)

## Manufacturers' Gallery

Would you like more exposure for your products? Why not join the Worshipful Company of Pewterers' *Manufacturers' Gallery* on their website? As ABPC members, you are welcome to join the Gallery: [http://www.pewterers.org.uk/pewter/The%20Trade%20makers/manuf\\_gallery.html](http://www.pewterers.org.uk/pewter/The%20Trade%20makers/manuf_gallery.html)

The site offers links to all the participating ABPC members' websites; and is intended to allow you to upload images of your choice, whether your latest or featured products, or otherwise.

Their service is free, though if you wanted flash animation, there might be a small charge in respect of the time involved in setting it up.

If you have images of products, please send them to Eleanor Mason-Brown at the Company: [emc@pewterers.org.uk](mailto:emc@pewterers.org.uk). Please note that the images must be 500KB to 3MB in JPEG, TIFF or Adobe Photoshop CS3 format.

**Want to join ABPC? Please contact**  
[cathy.steele@btconnect.com](mailto:cathy.steele@btconnect.com)