IMF DIARY

AGM
8th December 2022 at New Exeter House

SOUTHERN BRANCH AGM
4th November 2022
The Branch AGM will be open to any members if they wish to come together with friends & Family. The venue is yet to be confirmed but it will be based on Beer & Skittles.

DISTANCE LEARNING START DATES
20th January 2023
You may enrol up to 30 days in advance of the start date.
Please note that all course fees must be paid in full before any course materials can be released.
Please contact Karen Yates by email
karen@materialsfinishing.org
You can find details of courses and qualifications on our website - https://materials-finishing.org/

UPCOMING WEBINARS/SEMINARS
Why Materials Finishing?
a Webinar
4th October at 14-00
Everyone is invited and if you wish to attend any webinar or seminar please contact John Burgess by email :-
JohnB_IMF@btinternet.com
It was with great sadness that I heard of the death of our beloved Queen Elizabeth II on Thursday 8th September. I had been in the Indestructible office that day; one of the sales team had heard the news that her doctors were greatly concerned over her health, and that the close family were making their way to Balmoral. It was whilst driving home that evening that the sad announcement came over the radio.

This has cast a dark and sad gloom over the country over the past few days, as we all remember how the Queen had touched our lives. She had been ever present in all our lives.

As we mourn we must also celebrate her incredible life and give our thanks for her total dedication to the Monarchy, our country and the commonwealth, and to people young and old throughout the world.

I have a memory of watching her coronation in 1953 on a small black and white television: my family were one of the first on our road to have a television and I remember neighbours joining us for this great occasion.

I would like to offer my heartfelt condolences to the whole of the Royal Family, and I am sure all with join with me in wishing His Majesty King Charles III all health and success as he takes the reins.

Long live the King!

I am sure Her Majesty would have wanted us to continue with our work and support of our industries.

In recent times I have been involved with investigations into suggested changes to the registration of chemicals under UK REACH.

DEFRA, who are managing the implementation of UK REACH have put forward a proposal to delay the deadlines for registration of chemicals.

A consultation questionnaire ran from June to September this year, with two proposals; the first extending the final deadline to October 2027, and the second to October 2030.

The questionnaire was open to all; I took time to complete this detailed document and selected the later date of 2030. It is not yet clear when the results of this consultation will be announced, but your board will monitor the position and report.

More details on this initiative can be found further on in IMFormation.

For me the summer has been incredibly busy, and it was welcome to see what seems to be a general increase in business activities. Whilst we are seeing reports of supposedly a decrease in sales and trading, with talk of an impending recession, I must say this doesn’t seem to be the case yet in my limited experience.

There is no doubt the energy “crisis” with rapidly increasing costs for both business and the public alike is worrying. The news from our “new” government just before the country went into mourning looks to be a little encouraging, especially with help to be given to small businesses, but we need to wait for further announcements before we fully understand the implications.

I hope everyone had a good break over the summer. I am personally going to be away from the beginning of October until early December on a “once in a lifetime” holiday to New Zealand and Australia. I will be back just in time for the AGM on December 8th, so I hope to catch up with many of you then.

Graham Armstrong
NEW STUDENTS

The Institute welcomes all of the new Students at home and overseas that have registered for the Foundation and Technician Courses.

With Student Membership comes the ability to enter the Members part of our website and to view all past Webinars, some of which may well be relevant to the course you are taking and will assist with your training.

Make sure to visit the “Why Surface Finishing” Webinar due very soon; see below for details.

WEBINAR

Upcoming IMF Webinar

Date: 4th October 2022  Time. 14:00

“Why Surface Finishing?”

To Register:

If you are interested in joining the webinar, please register using the information above. If you would like a formal Clickmeeting invitation (which will supply you with all the above) please contact John Burgess,

JohnB_IMF@btinternet.com

www.materials-finishing.org
DEFRA Proposed Changes to the UK REACH Regulations: Alternate Transitional Registration Model

The UK REACH (Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals) Regulation is one of the main pieces of legislation for the regulation of chemicals in Great Britain. It established the UK REACH regime (UK REACH), which regulates the use of substances in Great Britain as EU REACH continues to apply in Northern Ireland. UK REACH requires substances that are manufactured in, or imported into, GB to be registered with the Agency for UK REACH (the Health and Safety Executive ((HSE)). Registrations include information on the hazards, uses and exposure of the substance. Registration information is used by HSE for regulatory purposes and by the registrants to identify appropriate risk management measures for themselves and other users down the supply chain.

The UK REACH Regulation contains transitional provisions to reduce the disruption to industry as they moved to the new regime from EU REACH. These provisions allow companies to submit initial ‘notification’ data in order to continue trading and then subsequently provide the full registration data. The transitional provisions apply to those that were registrants, downstream users or distributors under EU REACH before UK REACH came into effect. The current deadlines for completing this transitional registration process, depending on tonnage and hazard profile of the substance, are:

- **October 2023** for substances included on the EU REACH candidate list before UK REACH came into effect; substances that are carcinogenic, mutagenic or toxic for reproduction and manufactured or imported in quantities of 1 tonne a year or more; substances that are very toxic to aquatic life and manufactured or imported in quantities of 100 tonnes or more a year; and all substances manufactured or imported in quantities of 1,000 tonnes or more a year.
- **October 2025** for substances added to the UK REACH candidate list before the above submission deadline; and all substances manufactured or imported in quantities of 100 tonnes or more a year.
- **October 2027** for all substances manufactured or imported in quantities of 1 tonne or more a year.

In response to concerns raised by stakeholders around the cost of acquiring the data to complete their registrations, the government is working with stakeholders to explore an alternative transitional registration model. The aim of this model is to reduce costs to businesses of transitioning from EU REACH to UK REACH whilst maintaining or improving existing human health and environment protections, in line with our international commitments. Developing a new model is highly technical and complex and time is needed to develop a firm proposal.
If a suitable model is found, operational (e.g., IT development) and legislative changes would need to be made to implement it.

The first of the current registration submission deadlines is in October 2023, therefore amendments to the current legislation are necessary to extend the deadlines to ensure there is sufficient time for substantive development of the policy, and to make operational and legislative changes to implement the new model. Industry will also need time to prepare for compliance with it.

Extending the deadlines will reduce the likelihood of companies making nugatory investments in complying with current deadlines and data requirements. It will allow them time to plan their business decisions in relation to the extended deadlines.

This consultation also covers the proposal to extend the legislative timelines for the UK regulator to carry out the compliance checks on 20% of registration dossiers required under Article 41 of the UK REACH Regulation. These need to be amended to ensure that they apply after the relevant submission dates have passed, otherwise no data may have been submitted for the Agency to carry out compliance checks on.

A consultation questionnaire was issued by DEFRA between July and September and was available for completion by both industry and the general public. I completed this with a view to looking for an extension to the final registration date of 2030. This consultation is now closed.

This consultation is now closed and no more responses will be accepted. The responses received will be analysed by DEFRA and will be published on the GOV.UK website no later than 12 weeks following the end of the consultation.

The Board will monitor this website and will look to report the result.

Graham Armstrong
September 2022
Fraser Technologies supplies pioneering Miele Professional aqueous cleaning system

Fraser Technologies Ltd., specialist supplier in the component cleaning market, is now offering the SlimLine PLW 6011 & PLW 6111 aqueous cleaning systems from Miele Professional.

The exclusive supplier of this equipment in the UK, Fraser Technologies works with customers to create a bespoke cleaning system and process to meet their individual needs and standards. These machines are single chamber aqueous cleaning systems offering time, energy and cost-saving efficiencies, and can meet the stringent cleaning requirements for high-reliability industrial sectors.

At only 65cm wide, the footprint is very compact, whilst still providing a large and flexible internal chamber space. This size, flexibility and smart load system allows a variety of components to be cleaned highly efficiently all at once, whilst utilising much less space compared with a standard sized machine.

Suitable for a wide variety of components and specialist electronics cleaning applications in the automotive, medical devices and aerospace industries, the Miele SlimLine PLW 6011 & PLW 6111, combined with the right chemical combination, are especially effective for flux removal and for other parts cleaning and degreasing applications.

Aqueous chemical cleaning solutions, which can be used in this system, can be applied to a variety of metals such as copper, stainless steel, and brass to remove grease, cutting fluids and general particulate.

Graham Fraser, Managing Director of Fraser Technologies, said: “The equipment offers a high level of flexibility with intelligent controls, including a wide range of load carriers and accessories. And with the added value of our custom made chemical isolation tank, this system can recirculate and reuse the chemistry, further reducing costs and environmental impact.

“We have already completed a number of successful customer trials with the system and have a fast-growing customer base. This includes a specialist in the assembly of PCBs, who were so impressed by the results of the Miele system in their trials that they placed an order immediately. We also switched a leading defence systems manufacturer from an inline batch cleaning system to the new Miele system, saving time and space, reducing energy costs, and increasing efficiency.

“We have a strong relationship with Miele after years of collaboration, and very much share their values for high quality, sustainable and innovative cleaning systems. As the only UK distributor of this equipment, we have been really pleased with the results our customers have seen to date. We’re looking forward to rolling the system out to more manufacturers across the country.”

Fraser Technologies offers trials and personalised customer service to ensure products are correct for individual business and performance requirements. For further information, please feel free to contact us.

For more information, please contact us:
Tel: 01506 443058 | E-mail: sales@frasertech.co.uk | www.frasertech.co.uk
It was with some shock that IMF members heard earlier this year of the sudden death of Institute stalwart Tony Hart, just a few months after it was announced at the 2021 Institute AGM in November that he had been awarded the IMF’s prestigious Hothersall Memorial Award in recognition of his outstanding service to the materials finishing industry.

After his early education at Wolverhampton Municipal Grammar School, he started work in 1957 as a Laboratory Assistant in Manders Paint Company in Wolverhampton, an immediate immersion in the surface finishing field which he was to serve all his working life.

After studying for A-levels in chemistry, physics and maths at Wolverhampton Technical College, as it was then before reaching its eventual university status, he progressed to a degree in Applied Chemistry, at what is now Aston University, whilst employed at Joseph Lucas Electrical Ltd. as a trainee chemist.

A research position at The International Nickel Research Laboratory led to some of the innovative developments that Tony became best known for, including the INCO chromic-sulphuric acid electrocolouring technique for stainless steel, and important advances in nickel electroforming.

In January 1981 he set up Hart Coating Technology in Brierley Hill, and April 2008 saw a re-branding to Hart Materials Ltd., Wombourne, which he ran until his retirement in 2021, selling the company to PI-KEM Ltd.

As well as becoming a recognised technology centre in its fields, the company supplied raw materials – principally metals and chemicals – to a wide range of manufacturing industries including conductive paint manufacture, conductive silicone gasket manufacture, solid oxide fuel cells, nickel-based batteries, powder metallurgy, metal injection moulding electroforming in nickel. The materials supply activity was supported by a strong technical experience of the relevant technologies accumulated over the many years in business.
Much of the company's business was related to nickel metal and nickel-based products, essential materials used in many diverse applications, and an obvious link to his earlier background at INCO. From cell phones to cars, batteries to paint, these products are used for a vast range of items that are indispensable in the twenty-first century.

In recent years, other types of material were added to the product portfolio and, in line with demand, Hart Materials also developed a number of modified products specifically tailored to the individual needs of its customers.

One of the recognisable features of Tony’s professional life, whether in marketing products or in advice and consultancy, was his way of making often quite complex knowledge easily understandable, and being able to operate with a quite unique combination of technological expertise and commercial understanding.

Tony was awarded a Doctor of Technology by the Council for National Academic Awards (CNAA) in recognition of original contributions to a range of technological processes (including, amongst others, in electroforming, and for his major part in the development of the INCO chromic-sulphuric acid process for colouring of stainless steel \(^\text{(1)}\) over the period 1966–1991. This work led to 6 patents and around 50 technical and scientific publications, including a number in *Transactions*. He was involved in more recent years with Peter Crouch, an old International Nickel Research Laboratory colleague, and David Gabe (Loughborough University), in a basic chemistry research project comprising a study of the structure of nickel ions in solutions typical of those used in electrodeposition. Initial results were published in 2013 \(^\text{(2)}\) and a follow-up paper the next year.

He was elected a Fellow of both the Institute of Materials Finishing and the Royal Society of Chemistry, and he was a strong supporter of the Surface Engineering Association.

In his non-professional life, he had a strong faith, attending All Saints’ Church, Sedgley, and a considerable fondness for many types of music, a particular favourite being 1930s and 1940s swing and jazz. He sang well, and this writer won’t be the only IMF member to recall being treated to a short music hall interlude from him, ably accompanied by David Gabe on the piano, at an IMF AGM some years ago.

Tony Hart will be greatly missed by his colleagues and friends, and we send our sincere condolences to his family.
Fischer Instrumentation (GB) open new Customer Applications & Support Centre.

As part of its culture of Continuous Improvement, Fischer Instrumentation (GB), part of the global Helmut Fischer Group, set a plan to be more easily accessible for its customers and more centrally based in the UK, after being sited previously in the south of the country, in Hampshire.

The company has now completed a successful relocation to a new Customer Applications and Support Centre in Pershore, Worcestershire.

Darin Enefer, Fischer GB General Manager, explained more:

“We took the opportunity during the pandemic lockdown to step back from the business and make decisions that would help provide optimised customer service, whilst supporting our business growth ambitions.

We are pleased with our Pershore facility and welcome new and existing customers to discuss their measuring requirements and challenges, evaluate their materials and samples, try our range of measuring equipment, and participate in useful ‘hands-on’ learning workshops.”

The relocation has helped the company grow sales and this has been achieved through supporting clients in Aerospace, Automotive, Engineering, Electronics and Precious Metals sectors, with high quality measuring solutions, supported by pro-active service and maintenance plans.

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‘We know from survey feedback how much our customers like collaborating with a supplier that has UK based service personnel, available parts, and country wide support. Customers can be supported on site or alternatively use our fully equipped Service Centre at Pershore. We hope our new location will help to continue to support our customers and enable us to continue our current business uplift’”

The Company
As a full-service supplier in the field of surface testing, Fischer has been developing instruments for non-destructive material analysis, coating thickness measurement and material testing since 1953.

Fischer offer a wide range of measuring devices for different industries: from simple handheld devices for quick testing on the go to fully integrated, high-end systems that automatically monitor your production.

Darin believes that the company is leading the way in terms of product quality and customer service.

“We have a high customer service orientation and a passion for helping the customer measure more accurately, more reliably, and efficiently. Our core values include Expertise and Passion, along with Trust and Commitment. These values help drive our behaviours and activities. The whole aim is to make our customer’s lives easier, underpinned by our Fischer mantra “Measuring Made Easy!”

www.fischerinstrumentation.co.uk
Surface engineering and manufacturing sector leaders from Government, industry and academia within the UK will come together to address the importance and contribution of the sector in achieving net-zero by 2050.

Join us in Manchester to network with peers and contribute to discussing solutions to the most important global issue of climate change.

As organisers we strongly support EDI and welcome everyone working in this sector or is interested to know more. We specifically encourage early career researchers (including Masters and PhD students) to attend and actively participate.

The programme is split across three key topic areas:
- Material degradation and hot corrosion
- Innovation in surface technology and digitalisation in advanced manufacture
- Digitalisation in surface engineering

Who should attend:
The event welcomes everybody who is working in the sector or is interested to discover more. It would also be of specific interest to early career researchers (including Masters and PhD students) to attend.

Benefits of attending:
The conference will provide an unique opportunity to listen to industry leaders, network with peers and provide a platform to consolidate the latest advances within the surface engineering discipline.

Prospective authors are invited to submit abstracts of up to 200 words for presentation of a poster at the conference. Successful authors will have the opportunity to pitch their poster at the conference. The abstracts are expected to provide sufficient information on the objective of the poster, the methodology used and the conclusions or results of the work. The abstract must be written in English. Abstracts may be submitted on all aspects of the science and technology of surface engineering. Some abstracts may be selected to give brief talks at the conference.

The deadline for submission of abstracts is 14 September 2022.

Sponsorship Opportunities
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Cost of sponsorship £500 + VAT
To discuss sponsorship please contact
Julie Fitt (julie.fitts@iom3.org) or Sue Harris (sue.harris@iom3.org)