

**INFORMATION**  
APRIL 2026



# Coming Over the Summer Months



**Golf Day**  
20th May



**Distance Learning  
Enrolment**  
4th June



**Surfex at CBS Arena**  
9th-10th June

See inside for more details

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## IMF DIARY

### DISTANCE LEARNING ENROLMENT DATES

June enrolment – 4<sup>th</sup> June 2026

Submit applications by the 21<sup>st</sup> May

September Enrolment 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2026

Submit applications by 20<sup>th</sup> August

Please note that all course fees must be paid in full before any course materials can be released.

Please email [training@materialsfinishing.org](mailto:training@materialsfinishing.org)

You can find details of courses and qualifications on our website- <https://materials-finishing.org/>

### UPCOMING EVENTS

Golf Day - 20<sup>th</sup> May 2026

Harborne Golf Club Birmingham

Surfex – CBS Arena

9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> June 2026

### For Salt Spray Corrosion Testing & Chemical Analysis

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Westwood Business Park  
Coventry CV4 8HX  
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support@aerotechlabs.co.uk





## SECRETARY GENERAL'S COLUMN (i)

Well it finally looks like spring has arrived; the days are getting a bit warmer and the evenings drawing out; I do so enjoy this time of year! Here in Cyprus, the winter seems to have dragged on a bit longer, with some strong and cold winds and quite heavy rain. This has been my first experience of a winter over here, and this is certainly easier to live through compared to a typical UK one!



Living in the eastern Mediterranean one feels a lot closer to the current conflict in the middle east, although its fair to say that life here is not changed from 6 weeks ago before the start of the war. There was a drone attack on the UK sovereign base at Akrotiri that slightly damaged a hanger, but otherwise we are seeing no evidence.

I had been booked to visit clients in Abu Dhabi during April, but this has now been postponed until attacks on the UAE have stopped. I've discovered that Emirates has reduced the number of flights from Cyprus to Dubai from daily to every other day, a sign I think of a reluctance of people to travel there. A neighbor in my road has a business in Dubai, but she is back here in Cyprus at the moment. I haven't had the time to talk with her about the situation over there.



### **Halcyon Environmental**

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I suppose the biggest worry currently is the restriction of oil flowing out of the region, and the effect that will have on not only the general public, but also on costs to industry. It is inevitable that raw material prices will escalate which I'm sure will not be able to be absorbed so costs of coatings will obviously increase. I suppose its also likely that we are to expect a downturn in industry activity?

Life here over the past few months has been hectic; we have had a major renovation project on the house, complete re-tiling of the floors, a new kitchen and bathroom. The house was a "building site" for almost seven weeks, meaning I had to move out. I did take the opportunity to visit the UK during this time to run a paint



application course, and of course catch up with friends and old colleagues alike. The rest of the time, I stayed in one of the sea front hotels, which felt like I was on holiday! During my last few days there, after the attack on the RAF base at Akrotiri, the families of the airmen were moved into the hotel "for their safety". It certainly livened up the place!

I'm next back in the UK in about a month's time to attend the IMF golf day; I'm looking forward to what is now becoming a tradition, and to meeting up with as many of you as possible for a "fun" day out! During this trip I will also visit the CHEM UK exhibition at the NEC and catch up with Helen, Karen and Michelle in the office.

It's a sure sign that summer is approaching as the flights between the UK and Cyprus have reverted to the summer schedules; It seems all the flights operate late in the evening; I don't actually land at Birmingham until 2.30am, and its pretty similar at most other UK airports!

I shall be returning to the UK in June; the Oil & Colour Chemists Association (OCCA) are running their bi-annual exhibition, SURFEX, at the Coventry Arena and I have decided to exhibit to promote my consultancy business to include the practical training courses. The IMF will also be there, so please do come along and meet with us all there!

I hope everyone had a good Easter break with some relaxation after the long winter. Here in Cyprus, the orthodox church has Easter a week later than in the UK so I'm looking forward to seeing how the celebrations go on here. Apparently everything closes on the Thursday until at least the Tuesday including tavernas and supermarkets, but at least the weather forecast looks promising, so it may be just a case of sitting by the pool and reading!

Graham Armstrong  
April 8<sup>th</sup> 2026



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# GOLF DAY

20th MAY 2026

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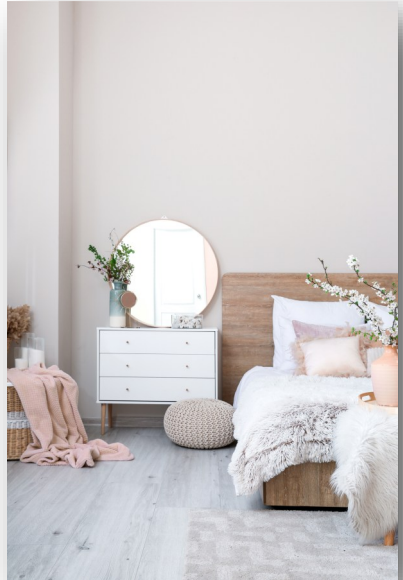
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With decades of colour expertise behind them, HMG Paints, the Manchester-based paint manufacturer, has unveiled their Colour of the Year, Swan. Selected by HMG's internal colour specialists along with their decorative design team, HMG have looked ahead and assessed the emerging cultural, architectural and interior design movements to identify a colour that reflects how people want to feel and connect with their homes this year.

A refined and calming grey-white infused with the softest whisper of lavender, Swan is seen as a modern evolution of white and has been carefully selected by colour experts at HMG to align with shifting design preferences. By analysing the ever-changing interior trends through extensive internal research, HMG have identified the growing shift in the industry, as users look to swap out colours like magnolia for softer shades, with Swan being the direct response to the movement.

As part of HMG's popular Essentials Colour Collection, Swan introduces a sense of tranquillity and quiet sophistication to interiors, working seamlessly across walls, woodwork and furniture. The colour preforms exceptionally well as both a standalone shade and can be partnered with various other shades within HMG's expansive colour range.



"For 2026, Swan feels incredibly relevant as it reflects what so many of our customers and partners are looking for right now," says Gracienne Ikin, Business Development & Market Growth Manager – Decorative Paint (White Label) at HMG Paints "It brings a sense of calmness and ease to the spaces people use every day and we've already seen how beautifully it performs across real projects within the business."

"For me, Swan is a great representation and fresh direction for neutral tones. It can complement the richer accent colours in a decorative space



without feeling cold or clinical. That balance to me is what made it stand out so strongly as our colour of the year.”

Speaking on how Swan aligns with HMG’s wider decorative direction, Alyssia Thorburn, Creative Marketer at HMG Paints comments “Swan is a standout shade within HMG and a personal highlight of my



work within the business. As interiors move towards tonal layering, quiet luxury and more personalised spaces, we believe that Swan has a contemporary edge that redefines the role of other neutral decorative shades found within the market.

“Unlike standard white emulsions, Swan has added depth and softness which helps bring interior designs together. We believe that Swan represents a clear evolution within HMG’s decorative range, as we look to align our decorative shades to stay line with how interiors are being designed and lived in today.”

Swan has already featured across a range of various projects at HMG, where it has been used to support both modern and traditional interior schemes across various projects.

One great showcase of the colour comes from the recent Collyhurst Village project, in which HMG worked closely with FEC UK and Project Furniture Residential to supply a variety of interior coatings. This project featured a range of colours from expansive decorative colour selection, with Swan being selected to create a balance between a lot of the richer accent colours in the new homes.

Looking into 2026, HMG Paints plans to actively feature Swan across a variety of upcoming decorative projects, using the colour as a consistent reference point within both residential and commercial environments across the UK. The shade will be at the forefront of HMG’s decorative range as part of the





Essentials Colour Collection.

The selection of Swan reflects HMG's ongoing commitment to informed colour choice, guided by expertise, research and practical application. As an independent manufacturer with a strong decorative heritage, HMG continues to champion colours that respond to changing interior requirements



whilst sharing this knowledge across its wider business network, supporting designers and partners through experience-led decision making.

If you are interested in using Swan in your next decorating project, the shade is available direct via HMG's distribution network and online at [shop.hmgpaint.com](http://shop.hmgpaint.com) as part of their Essentials Colour Collection:

<https://shop.hmgpaint.com/products/swan/>

A special promotion will be available for a limited time only on [shop.hmgpaint.com](http://shop.hmgpaint.com), using the discount code "SWAN30" at checkout to get 30% off HMG's Colour of the Year.

If you require further information on the press release, please contact:

Josh Hibbert

HMG Paints

[joshhibbert@hmgpaint.com](mailto:joshhibbert@hmgpaint.com) or [marketing@hmgpaint.com](mailto:marketing@hmgpaint.com)

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### Foundation Module **Basic Surface Finishing**

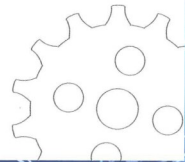
Develops fundamental understanding from 29 Units of which a student studies 15, including 7 mandatory units. One of three core technology blocks are chosen, either **Electroplating** (8,9,10 & 18); **Organic Coating** (19, 20, 21, 22, & 23); or **Aerospace Finishing** (19, 21, 23, 24 & 25), each comprising 5 units plus 3 optional units relevant to the student or their employer – all units are listed below.

Two pieces of marked coursework are required and on passing an examination a student is awarded the **Foundation Certificate**.

Unit 1 *	Surface Finishing	Unit 16	Alloy Plating & Composites
Unit 2 *	Corrosion	Unit 17	Printed Circuit Board Processes
Unit 3 *	The Environment & Surface Finishing	Unit 18	Electroplating - Care & Maintenance of Solutions & Product Quality
Unit 4 *	Health and Safety	Unit 19	Conventional Paint Processes
Unit 5 *	Cleaning and Pre-treatment	Unit 20	Electrophoretic Paint Processes
Unit 6 *	Sacrificial Coatings	Unit 21	Paint Application Methods
Unit 7 *	Services	Unit 22	Coating Powders & Application
Unit 8	Surface Improvement	Unit 23	Testing Paint & Powder & Coatings
Unit 9	Principles & use of Electroplating - <b>double unit</b>	Unit 24	Chemical Conversion Coatings and Sol Gel Coatings
Unit 10	Plant and Equipment	Unit 25	Anodising of Aluminium & Alloys
Unit 11	Copper, Silver and Gold Plating	Unit 26	Vacuum Coating Processes
Unit 12	Nickel Plating	Unit 27	Duplex Coatings of Galvanising plus Paint
Unit 13	Chromium Plating	Unit 28	Electroforming
Unit 14	Zinc & Cadmium Plating & Passivation	Unit 29	Nanotechnology
Unit 15	Electroless Plating		

\*Mandatory units

On achievement of the **Foundation Certificate** candidates may wish to progress to the **Technician level modules**, please see over the page for details.



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## AND TUTORED MODULES

### Technician Modules

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Electroplating Practice	Industrial application of major metals and supporting pre-treatments for electroplating and electroless deposition
Paints, Lacquers & Varnishes	Application methods, equipment, curing, drying and testing of solvent and water based industrial finishing processes
Powder Coating	Application methods, testing, environmental, health & safety topics
Environment, Health & Safety	Legislation information on environmental, health & safety topics
Materials Science	Manufacture, properties and examination of materials which require various forms of coating or treatment to meet service life needs
Automotive Surface Finishing	Applications specific to the automotive industry
Electroforming	How electroforming can be used to manufacture components and tooling

On successful completion of four marked assignments and passing an examination, a student is awarded a **Technician Module** certificate.

Passing two Technician modules leads to the award of **Technician Certificate**.

Passing four Technician modules leads to the award of **Advanced Technician Certificate**.

For more comprehensive details of all modules offered please refer to the IMF website [www.materialsfinishing.org](http://www.materialsfinishing.org) where you find the full syllabus for each module.



# JOIN US!

## Fischer Hands-on! Workshop Measuring with XRF



**Date:** Wednesday 13th May 2026

**Time:** 10-3 pm

**Location:** Fischer office, Pershore, WR10 2JL

### Agenda details:

- The Fundamentals of XRF
- Developing an application (DefMA structure) and influences affecting readings
- The Importance of Calibration
- Getting Hands-on!
- Interpreting Data – making measuring meaningful!
- Question and Answer Session

To join us for this event please register by contacting

**Georgina McWhirter**

Email: [gmcwhirter@fischergb.co.uk](mailto:gmcwhirter@fischergb.co.uk)

Phone: 01386 577370

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Do you have a specification for cleanliness within your process?

We ask 'How clean is clean?'



#### Clean is clean...right?

Fraser Technologies Managing Director, Graham Fraser, would disagree.

"There is no such concept as completely clean! So, we need to determine, what is clean enough?"

At Fraser Technologies we often encounter manufacturers who are unsure about the level of cleanliness required within their process. While this may seem like a simple question, the answer is critical. Getting it wrong can have lasting consequences for production costs and the quality of the final product.

#### The cost of clean is a fine balance

As noted, the idea of something being 'completely clean' is unrealistic. The challenge is defining the level of cleanliness required for the end application.

This varies depending on the industry, materials, and manufacturing process involved. We support customers through a comprehensive evaluation process designed to identify the most suitable cleaning solution while balancing performance with cost.

Underspecified cleaning processes can damage production capability. Consistency and repeatability are essential, and these can only be achieved once a clear cleanliness specification is defined.

Reject rates are often a clear indicator of cleaning performance. One long-standing Fraser Technologies customer specialising in imaging equipment can only confirm whether components have been sufficiently cleaned during final acceptance testing. By this stage the product is fully assembled, meaning contamination in a single component can result in rejection of the entire unit, wasting time, materials, and cost.

Establishing a robust cleanliness specification early in the process helps prevent these issues.

In a recent case study, Fraser Technologies implemented a defined specification and delivered a bespoke solution converting from aqueous cleaning to solvent cleaning using an Opteon™ Specialty Fluid. The result was a **90% reduction in reject rates** for a pioneering UK aerospace engine manufacturer.

However, over-specified cleaning

processes can also introduce unnecessary cost. Expensive equipment, excessive chemical consumption, and energy-intensive processes can place avoidable pressure on operational budgets. This highlights the importance of careful evaluation before committing to a cleaning solution.

Determining the right standard is key. In some cases, visual inspection may be sufficient. In precision cleaning environments, this can involve microscope inspection to detect particulate residue or surface markings. More advanced techniques can also provide measurable data, such as contact angle testing to evaluate surface characteristics and solvent extraction testing to measure organic contamination.

#### A tailored approach

Fraser Technologies defines its core values through three principles: **Evaluate, Supply, and Support.**

Fraser Technologies supports manufacturers through evaluation services including analytical testing, process audits, and cleaning trials to optimise cleaning performance while controlling cost.

For more information, please contact us:

Tel: 01506 443058 | E-mail: [sales@frasertech.co.uk](mailto:sales@frasertech.co.uk) | [www.frasertech.co.uk](http://www.frasertech.co.uk)

# IMF National Network Committee (formerly Southern Branch) | 2026

## 2026 Zoom Seminars

-  Additive Manufacturing
-  Coatings on Air

more topics to follow





## Surface World 2027

### Surface World - March 2027.

Surface World is returning to the NEC, Birmingham.

We look forward to seeing you at the next event in March 2027.

The exhibition is the UK's only event dedicated to the surface treatment, product finishing and coatings industry. It provides a major showcase for the very latest technology and developments in this important and expanding area.

*NB. Surface World Live is sponsored by Surface World magazine and supported by all the major industry organisations including: The SEA, BSTSA, The IMF, Correx, The BCF, RAPRA, Qualicoat UK & Ireland, The Galvanizers Association, and Corrodero Academy.*



If you would like to exhibit at Surface World, please call Nigel Bean on [01442 826826](tel:01442826826) to ask about stand availability.



The 17<sup>th</sup> edition of the International Workshop on Electrodeposited Nanostructures – EDNANO – will take place from 4 to 7 November 2026 at “La Cristalera”, in Miraflores de la Sierra, Madrid, Spain.

This international conference is dedicated to the electrodeposition of nanostructures and the characterization of their properties. The many applications include magnetism, catalysis, sensors, chemical analysis, anti-corrosion coatings, thermoelectric conversion, materials for energy storage and production devices, as well as water splitting. We will explore the latest advances in synthesis techniques for electrodeposition and interaction between nanostructures and their functional properties.

For further info contact

Website <https://ednano17web.csic.es>

Email [tfo.ednano17@csic.es](mailto:tfo.ednano17@csic.es)



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Coventry, UK 

 #SURFEX

**9-10 June 2026**

 **OCCA**  
The Oil & Colour Chemists' Association

Formulation • Development • Performance • Manufacture • Compliance



## Prof. David R. Gabe FIMF (1937-2025)

It is with great sadness that we have to report the death of Professor David Gabe on the 14<sup>th</sup> November 2025. David was a leading figure in the IMF being President from 1995-7 as well as receiving the IMF Gold Medal award in 2002 and the Hothersall Memorial Medal in 2014. David was extremely well regarded scientifically, publishing over 150 papers and two books. He was a full-time academic member of staff at Sheffield and then Loughborough University at the latter becoming Head of Department and receiving a Chair. He participated in



international metal finishing committees being a former President of the International Union for Surface Finishing (IUSF) and founding member of the European Academy of Surface Technology (EAST).

David will be sorely missed by many colleagues and friends around the world. A full obituary will appear in Transactions



# 2026 AGM

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING



DATE: 18<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2026

VENUE: THE MANOR HOTEL, SOLIHULL

*DETAILS TO FOLLOW*



# EXHIBITIONS

BE PART OF IT...  
**MACH**  
**2026**  
20-24 April  
NEC BIRMINGHAM UK



**Measurement & Inspection Zone**  
Halls 19 & 18



The **Measurement & Inspection** zone grew **17% in 2024**



**Over 20% of visitors** who attended the show registered their interest in seeing **Measurement & Inspection, products and services**



**Largest** dedicated product zone at **MACH** - **over 2000m<sup>2</sup>** of dedicated space in 2026



**SURFEX**  
Surface, Paint & Coatings Technology

in #SURFEX

**9-10 June 2026**  
EXHIBITION & CONFERENCE

Coventry Building Society Arena, Coventry, UK



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Regulators

Manufacturers

Academics

Suppliers

Industry Bodies

