



IMFORMATION AUGUST 2026

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Institute of
Materials Finishing

**As the summer
comes to an end**

Check out our upcoming
events.

Details within this month's IMFormation

www.materials-finishing.org



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IMF DIARY

DISTANCE LEARNING ENROLMENT DATES

January Enrolment 15th January 2027

Submit applications by 13th January 2027

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

Please email training@materialsfinishing.org

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

AGM 18th November 2026





I'm sat in my office in Cyprus enjoying the benefit air conditioning whilst outside the temperature is the mid 30's. This is of course normal for here, but I'm hearing of the crazy high temperatures being seen in the UK, which look to be even more extreme than the hot summer of my memory, 1976! At least the electricity to run the air conditioning unit here is self-generated by my solar panels!

I think this is something we should expect to be the norm going forward, and I suppose are the result of global warming. I'm quite horrified to see the extent of wild fires; this is not something the UK is used to, and the devastation looks frightening. I'm used to seeing this in the past in the Mediterranean, but, touch wood, this year so far we have escaped!

It's been quite a pleasure to spend time over here without travelling and enjoying the peaceful life in the sun. My last trip over to the UK was at the beginning of June, to attend the SURFEX exhibition and conference, organised by the Oil and Colour Chemists Association. My company had a small stand in the exhibition hall, and it was a great pleasure to catch up with so many old friends from the paint industry. THE IMF also took a stand at the show, ably managed as usual by Helen, with support from several members.



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in



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I had the pleasure (?) of being involved in a couple of presentations within the conference section of SURFEX, particularly a workshop on the theme of sustainability within the paint manufacture and application industries. It was interesting to hear about the volume of development into sustainable and green chemistry, to enable production of durable coatings without damaging the reducing resources of our planet, but I do believe we will need to look more closely at how these new technology sustainable coatings are used so as to benefit from the great work. I do believe there is a major need for training in the application of paints and coatings, a message I have been promoting for some time now.



Talking about travelling and training, I have been asked to run an application and quality practical training course at an aerospace repair and overhaul facility in the UAE. The company involved have put their application team through the IMF foundation course, but now wish to build on the technical knowledge gained with some practical training. So it will be back on an Emirates Boeing 777 into Dubai in October. It's a hard life!!

I have two more planned trips to the UK; in September I will be over to attend the AGM of the Oil & Colour Chemists Association, and then in November for the IMF AGM. During the September trip I will also try to get down to North Devon to visit my only cousin who has been quite ill recently. I have to say that living in Cyprus has changed my attitude to driving, and I'm finding the motorways in the UK quite a challenge due to the volume of traffic! If I see more than a dozen cars on the motorway from home into Paphos, about 15km drive, then something is definitely wrong!

I think there will be a further issue of IMFormation before the AGM, but I'll mention now that I look forward to catching up with many of you in November at the Manor Hotel in Meriden!

Graham Armstrong
11th August 2026



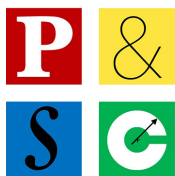
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Parliamentary and Scientific Committee

The Parliamentary and Scientific Committee is an
All-Party Parliamentary Group funded by Membership

The annual luncheon of the Parliamentary and Science Committee

On June 30th I was fortunate enough to attend the annual luncheon of the Parliamentary and Science Committee in the House of Lords, which was attended by 104 people, including Peers, Members of Parliament, representatives of the PSC membership and various guests.

The luncheon was an opportunity to network and further promote the interests of the IMF and to make new contacts;. Some of the preluncheon activity was involved in discussing our mutual interests as well as following up on the previous night's discussion on "Extreme Heat in the Workplace" – a discussion which the IMF made some comments about a need for a defined temperature at which it was too hot to work safely. Another discussion took place with Andrew Berry, from the Institute for Research in Schools (IRIS). This a charitable organisation that promotes STEM interest in schools and with children of ages between 11and 19, although it is also trying to break into the junior school sector to try to "catch them young" and stimulate interest in STEM. IRIS is based both in London (165 Queens Gate, London SW7 5HD) and in Birmingham (Unit 759 JQ Modern, 120 Vyse Street, Birmingham B18 6NF)

The luncheon was hosted by the PSC President, Viscount Stansgate – Dr Stephen Benn – and sponsored by the Applied Microbiology International, the CEO of which Dr Lucy Harper gave a brief introduction and said it was the objective of the microbiology sector to solve the world's problems!

The guest speaker was Professor Liz Bentley , chief Executive of the Royal





Meteorological Society who discussed the issues surrounding the trust and understanding of science and technology, especially from the standpoint of AI and fake news. She stressed that the STEM community must firstly engage with the general public and then educate them; once this has been done, they can be empowered to make the correct decisions.

Another guest was Dame Mary Archer DBE; she is a very well known chemist, hobbyist jewellery maker and electroplater and is the wife of Lord Jeffrey Archer. However, of more significance to the IMF, she was a very close friend and working partner of one of our stalwart supporters and previous Presidents – the late Les Lewis and if you visited his facilities, you may easily bump into her as she was using his precious metal electroplating tanks to finish off some new jewellery she had just made. Les ran his plating shop business (BJS) from beneath the Bank of Ireland on the Finchley Road, London, but it later relocated to Perivale, London. Les is probably most well remembered for his electroforming of the sphere on Prince Charles's Prince of Wales investiture coronet and where he used a table tennis ball as the mandrel!

Trevor Chrichton

July 2026



Autumn Seminars

Practical insights for surface finishing professionals

Managing white spots in Anodising

Harry Pemberton · PMD Chemicals



Training: its role in successful and profitable paint application!

Graham Armstrong · Armstrong Group



Join us this autumn for specialist technical learning and industry discussion.

All seminars are on Zoom dates and invites to follow.

🍂 Autumn finishing focus: practical expertise, seasonal inspiration, and proven application techniques. 🍂



IMF CHRISTMAS NETWORKING EVENT



Date: Wednesday 18th November 2026



Venue: Manor Hotel, Meriden



FULL PROGRAMME



9.45 – 12.10 | Networking Reception



12.15 – 12.30 | Awards Ceremony



12.30 – 14.00 | Festive Lunch



14.00 – 15.30 | Annual General Meeting (AGM)



ADDITIONAL INFO



Open to all members, industry colleagues & guests



Book your place by: 4th November 2026



Enquiries: info@materialsfinishing.org



Website: www.materialsfinishing.org





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Congratulations to our 2026 Students
Sitting their Foundation exam in June

10 Distinctions

14 Merits

7 Passes

Well done to all Students



DISTANCE LEARNING A

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 - double unit	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

Develops in-depth knowledge for key finishing technologies and their application and best practice methods.

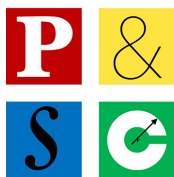
Principles of Electroplating	Broad introduction to electroplating technology
Electroplating Practice	Industrial application of major metals and supporting pre-treatments for electroplating and electroless deposition
Paints, Lacquers & Varnishes	Application methods, equipment, curing, drying and testing 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 where you find the full syllabus for each module.



Parliamentary and Scientific Committee

The Parliamentary and Scientific Committee is an All-Party Parliamentary Group funded by Membership

Extreme Heat discussed at the Parliamentary and Science Committee

In late June 2026 and just after a red alert heat wave in the UK, the Parliamentary and Science Committee had a highly appropriate and timely discussion on “Extreme Heat in the Workplace- Developing Effective responses”.

Much of the discussion focussed on climate change and that it is predicted that the planet will see an overall temperature increase of 2°C by 2050 and 4°C by 2100. Furthermore, it is predicted that the maximum temperatures reached in the UK will reach 48°C by 2100 and the country must plan for such an event.

The most usual methods of temperature control in humans are by sweating, increased heart rate and widening of the blood vessels. Extreme heat forces the body to work increasingly hard to cool down, as the body needs to have a closely regulated temperature to prevent organ failure. If the regulating processes start to fail, it rapidly triggers a cascade of heat related illnesses such as mild exhaustion to life threatening organ failure and heatstroke. Excessive heat can also impair mental abilities, resulting in drowsiness, poor attention to detail and difficulties in concentrating, all of which can be catastrophic and the most vulnerable people to its effects are the elderly and very young.

The effects of extreme temperatures are becoming better understood and documented; during the heat wave in 2022, 2.41 billion people are exposed to extreme temperatures, of which 22.85 million people





suffered heat induced injuries and 2.06 million people died; furthermore, the heat wave resulted in an economic loss of £1.5bn in the UK alone. To mitigate against these impacts, there must be changes to both infrastructure and work practices; these could include investment in cooling systems for key public services, better building design and maintenance, setting a maximum temperature for the workplace and an acceleration of the uptake in cooling systems for the most vulnerable.

It has been demonstrated that humans can normally function satisfactorily at temperatures up to about 30°C, although this is very much age, health and sex dependent; both the very young and elderly find it more difficult to dissipate heat and are most susceptible to excessive heat issues. However, extreme heat can adversely impact the kidneys and gastrointestinal functions, as well as resulting in significant electrolyte loss due to the body producing more sweat to cool down; sweat contains essential minerals such as potassium and sodium as well as chloride. This can result in mild muscle cramps through to severe life threatening conditions such as the disruption of the primary electrolytes and resulting in hyponatremia, or low blood sodium levels. It can also cause potassium depletion, resulting in muscle weakness and painful spasms. In more extreme cases, it can cause cellular disruption that can result in the impairment of heart and nerve functions, leading to cardiac arrhythmias. As the electrolyte levels drop, the body struggles to regulate its core temperature, resulting in the risk of heat exhaustion and heatstroke.

If we are to continue to work under conditions of exposure to excessive heat, we must mitigate its effects. One obvious method is to use air conditioning, but this only transfers the heat from one place to another – usually from indoors to outside – and it is very energy dependent. Other alternatives can include the use of ice vests, which are used by workers who have to work on the open air and in manual tasks; the main benefit derived from ice vests is in keeping the heart rate down. Unfortunately, there are very few pieces of PPE that are suitable for use in extreme temperatures, as their use significantly increases the risk of heat stress, as protective clothing traps both sweat and limits



airflow, so the body cannot cool down properly. So, to work safely in extreme heat conditions, other steps need to be taken. For instance, work routines can be adapted and the use and timing of heat producing equipment can be altered. One of the most important and simple methods of helping to mitigate against excessive heat is to replenish electrolytes by drinking a lot more than normal.

Currently there is no maximum temperature for the workplace in the UK, although there are legally enforceable minimum levels – namely 13°C for manual outside working and 16°C for office and shop work. However, there are ongoing discussions to introduce a maximum working temperature and any conditions to be met. One suggestion is based on the Wet Bulb Globe Temperature; this is a measure of the environmental heat as it affects humans and animals. Unlike the simple temperature measurement (i.e. thermometer), it takes account of the air temperature, humidity, heat radiation from hot bodies or surfaces and air movement. Currently this is not enforced in any countries but is under discussion as to what the maximum safe working conditions should be.

Different countries in Europe have different restrictions on maximum working temperatures; for instance, Spain has a maximum safe working temperature of 27°C for indoor sedentary working and 25°C for light manual work. Outdoor working is prohibited during periods exceeding these temperatures and when the national meteorological agency issues a red or orange weather alert. During periods of extreme temperatures, employers must provide cool rest areas and hydration facilities, whilst all outdoor work is still prohibited. To mitigate these conditions, flexible shift patterns or paid climate leave is provided during periods of red alerts. In Germany, if the temperature reaches 26°C, the employer should introduce mitigation measure, such as relaxing any dress code, offer free drinking water and adjust any break times. If the temperature exceeds 30°C, it is mandatory for these provisions to be made, as well as fans to be provided and all blinds to be closed. In the event of the temperature exceeding 35°C, it is considered unsuitable for work.

Unlike Germany, France does not have a mandatory maximum

working temperature, but it expects employers to maintain a suitable and safe working environment, where it is considered that risks due to excessive heat starts at 30°C for sedentary professions and 28°C for physical labour. Furthermore, employers are required to take proactive actions, such as adjusting work schedules to limit any exposure to intense heat and to provide additional rest periods; the employer must also provide adequate quantities of fresh, cool drinking water near all work stations. Any employee working outside must be protected from solar radiation by the use of sun visors or setting up shaded areas and providing adequate PPE.

Italy does not have designated safe working temperatures but has optimal comfort limits of between 18-25°C depending on the physical exertions required to work. However, during the summer, most Italian regions suspend outdoor working between 12:30-16:00hrs. In the event of the temperature exceeding 35C, it is generally accepted that this is the threshold for special working conditions, under which employers must carry out extra safety assessments, additional breaks and access the Government's wage supplementation fund.

One topic not discussed at the meeting, but was elsewhere, was the longer term impact of global warming on the UK. It is widely thought that if global warming does continue for a prolonged period, it could result in the melting of the Arctic ice cap. If this did occur, there is a widely held belief that it would "turn off" the Gulf Stream and this would result in the UK moving from a mild temperature environment to one that is bitterly cold, with a year-round drop of between 3.4 to 5°C; this would result in the UK enduring | Canadian or sub-arctic conditions.



The National Branch – formerly known as the Southern Branch – is seeking new members to join us at our meetings. Most sessions are held via Zoom, but we also arrange in-person gatherings a couple of times each year to bring members together face-to-face.

We run regular seminars focused on topics related to surface finishing, providing valuable opportunities to learn, share knowledge, and stay updated with industry developments.

For more details and to get involved, contact:
helen@materialsfinishing.org



The 17th 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 tinfo.ednano17@csic.es



Advances in Coatings 2026 - 1 Day Conference

14th September 2026

The Assembly Room, The Exchange, Birmingham B1 2DR

The Royal Society of Chemistry Surface Coatings Group is holding a one day conference on 14th September 2026 in the Assembly Room, The Exchange, Birmingham B1 2DR. It is targeted at scientists, engineers, researchers, students, and professionals working in coatings, materials science, and related industries.

This is a premier one day conference where leading researchers, innovators and industry professionals will present the latest advances in coatings and where the future of coatings will be explored and how latest developments will shape the industry.

There will be plenty of opportunity to discuss cutting edge research and real world applications, as well as gaining insights from expert speakers and industry specialists. Attendees will have the opportunity to network with professionals from both academia and industry and stay ahead of this rapidly evolving field.

There will be two sections, the first of which will discuss the use of AI in formulation and coating chemistry and how AI and data driven tools are transforming coating design and accelerating innovation.

The second section will discuss the challenges in coating characterisation and will explore the advanced techniques being used to uncover the complexities behind surface coating performances and behaviour.

There will be a Poster Session and awards, where emerging talents will be showcased, with prizes for outstanding contributions from students and early career researchers.

Conference Fees:

RSC Member: £80

Non-RSC Member: £100

RSC Student: £20

Non-RSC Student: £25

Included in the Registration Fee, all delegates will receive:

- Arrival tea and coffee
- Mid-morning refreshments
- Lunch
- Mid-afternoon refreshments

To learn more, and book your place, visit our website:

<https://www.rsc.org/events/find-an-event/advances-in-coatings>



Paragon Plating

Paragon Plating in West Sussex are urgently seeking to recruit an Electroplater for an immediate start. The ideal candidate will have experience in the electroplating environment with a track record of producing high quality work for a wide range of customers.

The Role

Responsible for carrying out a variety of electroplating processes on manufactured components

Knowledge and experience in a range of electroplating processes such as ENIG, Tin,

Previous experience in preparing components using masking and surface preparation techniques

Be able to jig and wire components ready for processing

Excellent attention to detail is important ensuring the components consistently meet the highest standards

You must be able to complete work to the correct quality and specifications

Be able to use an XRF machine – training can be given

Inspect finished components to ensure accuracy

Maintain plating equipment and solutions

Handle components safely and efficiently

Experience

Must have previous experience of working in a plating environment

Must have an understanding of electroplating processes and procedures

Able to interpret drawings and specifications

Have a high level of accuracy

You must be physically fit, comfortable with manual handling and able to lift up to 25kg

Be reliable and hard working

Able to work safely

Basic IT skills

Details

Hours 7.00 to 3.30pm Monday to Friday with 30 minute unpaid lunch break

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Competitive rates of pay dependant on experience.

Free on-site parking

If you are interested in applying for this position, please send in your CV and cover letter to accounts@paragonplating.co.uk



When Legacy Cleaning Starts Costing More Than It Saves

Legacy cleaning processes deserve a modern review.



For decades, co-solvent cleaning has been the benchmark for precision component cleaning across aerospace, defence, electronics, medical and precision engineering.

It has earned that reputation. The process delivers excellent removal of oils, greases, waxes, flux residues and other complex contaminants while producing clean, dry components ready for the next manufacturing stage.

But today, manufacturers are asking a different question.

Not "Does it still clean?"

Instead, "Is it still the most efficient, sustainable and cost-effective way to achieve the results?"

The Hidden Cost of Legacy Processes

Many co-solvent systems still in operation were installed twenty or even thirty years ago. While they continue to perform, the cost of keeping them running is steadily increasing.

Common challenges include:

- Rising solvent costs.
- Increasing maintenance requirements.
- Ageing equipment and obsolete components.

- Higher solvent consumption.
- Greater environmental and compliance pressures.

Individually these issues may seem manageable. Together, they can significantly increase the total cost of ownership.

Don't Just Replace the Solvent, Review the Process

Forward-thinking manufacturers are taking a broader view.

Replacing a co-solvent process should never be treated as simply changing chemistry. The best solution depends on the contamination being removed, the components being cleaned and the production requirements of the business.

A successful review considers:

- Component materials.
- Contamination types.
- Cleanliness specifications.
- Production throughput.
- Drying requirements.
- Regulatory obligations.
- Total cost of ownership.

This approach often uncovers opportunities to improve productivity while reducing operating costs.

Modern Cleaning Technologies

Several technologies now provide proven alternatives to traditional

co-solvent systems.

Modified alcohol systems combine excellent cleaning performance with efficient solvent recovery through sealed vacuum operation, making them well suited to mixed contaminant applications.

Advanced vapour degreasing retains the speed and precision of solvent cleaning while significantly reducing emissions through modern hermetically sealed equipment and next-generation cleaning fluids.

Aqueous cleaning systems offer an effective solution where water-based chemistry is suitable, particularly for manufacturers seeking to reduce solvent use.

Each technology has its strengths. None is the right answer for every application. Let Data Drive the Decision

The most successful projects begin with evidence rather than assumptions.

If your cleaning system hasn't been reviewed in recent years, now is the time to ask whether it is still delivering the best balance of performance, compliance and operating cost.

Contact us to schedule your technical consultation today.

For more information, please contact us:

Tel: 01506 443058 | E-mail: sales@frasertech.co.uk | www.frasertech.co.uk



Thank You for Your Continued Support

We greatly appreciate all members who a
have paid their annual subscriptions

Just a reminder that final balances are now due

Please settle any outstanding balances at
at your earliest convenience





Retired Members Coffee Morning

You are invited to join us for a friendly catch-up
at New Exeter House, Coleshill

If you are interested in attending, please get in touch with
rth Helen at the office. We will organise a date in September.
date in September brent.

Helen@materialsfinishing.org

Institute of Materials Finishing





2026 AGM

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING



DATE: 18TH NOVEMBER 2026

VENUE: THE MANOR HOTEL, SOLIHULL

DETAILS TO FOLLOW