

The Polymer Society

A Division of the Institute of Materials, Minerals and Mining

Autumn 2018 Newsletter

In this edition we talk about meeting your new Board members, the Marine Litter Debate and related funding, Plastics Afternoon Technical Discussion meetings, 2018 Swinburne Lecture, 2019 IOM3 Awards and Upcoming Events including the date change for IRC 2019

✓ Meet your new Board members

We are pleased to welcome three new board members who will bring their breadth of experience to the Board's discussions and assist in maintaining and developing our strategy to ensure that we are representing YOU in meeting YOUR expectations of IOM3 membership.



Dr Sally Beken FIMMM, Polymer, Plastics and Elastomer Lead at Knowledge Transfer Network. Sally holds a degree in chemistry and a doctorate in polymer technology. Sally has nearly 30 years' experience of R&D and manufacture and has been networking in the UK and EU polymer sector for over 20 years. Her main remit is to make all aware of upcoming funding opportunities.



Dr Arthur Wilkinson Senior Lecturer in Polymer & Composites Processing in the School of Material, University of Manchester. His research interests involve the science and technology underpinning processing-structure-property relationships in multi-phase polymer systems; including multicomponent fibres, nanocomposites, blends and block copolymers. Arthur is also an editor of *Plastics, Rubber & Composites: Molecular Engineering*.



Professor Patrick Fairclough, Composite Engineering Chair in the department of Mechanical Engineering at the University of Sheffield. Patrick's research covers a wide variety of polymers, soft materials and composite systems. He is also Director of the Composites Systems Innovation Centre at Sheffield.

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✓ The Debate about the Future for Plastics with Marine Litter, Single Use Plastics, Funding Opportunity

I hope that you've had a chance to read my [article](#) in July's Materials World about Plastic waste where I have attempted to bring some balanced views about this very serious worldwide problem but highlighting that the littering issue requires more attention.

I have also taken part in a couple of talkRADIO 'Single use plastics should be banned' type debates about the issues raised by the media and others.

The British Plastics Federation (BPF), led by the Director General Philip Law who also sits on our Board, has also been very active with the following initiatives.

- **Entire Plastics Supply Chain and Stakeholders collaborate to solve the issue of plastics waste.**

The Marine Litter Platform (MLP) held a successful workshop on Friday 6 July 2018 with the event being well attended from the entire plastics supply chain and stakeholders in a collaborative approach to examine how to ensure a comprehensive approach could ensure reduced plastics waste and improved resource efficiency.

The morning session focused upon reviewing design tools and guidelines available to promote design for end of life and to promote best practice in sustainability.

The afternoon session focussed on identifying academic research needs in the marine environment. Professor Thompson from University of Plymouth demonstrated current findings from research on marine litter and the result of a survey of industry with a view to identify future research projects and BPF's Stephen Hunt presented on education and views were sought from the audience on education on littering in schools as well as reviewing what programs industry was supporting.

- **Plastic Tax – HM Treasury Consultation Response**

The [consultation](#) on single-use plastic attracted 162,000 responses and the Treasury have said there is high public support for using the tax system to reduce waste from single-use plastics. The Treasury's response to the consultation said that it 'wanted to promote the greater use of recycled plastic in manufacturing, discourage plastics that are difficult to recycle – like carbon black

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plastic – and reduce demand for single-use items, including coffee cups and takeaway boxes’.

- **Parliamentary Reception entitled ‘The Future of Plastics in a Sustainable Society’**

The BPF, in conjunction with Plastics Europe, held this event on Monday 10 September.

- **£20 million Plastics Research and Innovation Fund to turn the tide on plastics production**

The Plastics and Research Innovation Fund (PRIF) will engage Britain’s best scientists and innovators to help move the country towards more circular economic and sustainable approaches to plastics. [More information](#)

Do YOU have any other views that the Board should be considering? Contact details at the end of this newsletter.

✓ **Plastics Afternoon Technical Discussions (PATDs)**

In the absence of any responses from our last newsletter, this topic has been put on the back burner for review by the Board.

✓ **2018 Swinburne Lecture – 17 October in London – Invitation**

The 2018 Swinburne Medal award winner, Professor CWM Bastiaansen, Professor of Materials, School of Engineering and Materials Science, Queen Mary University of London will deliver the Swinburne Lecture entitled ‘Static & Responsive Chain-Extended Macromolecules’ at 3.00 pm at IOM3, 297 Euston Road, London. There is no charge to attend but registration is required. [More information and registration](#)

✓ **IOM3 2019 Awards now open for Nomination**

Nominations are now open for the following awards in the Polymer and Elastomer disciplines.

Prince Philip – For Polymers in the Service of Mankind – open to groups that have worked successfully together to meet the criteria of the award

Colwyn Medal - To an individual for outstanding services to the rubber industry of a scientific, technical or engineering character.

[More details](#)

[Award Nomination](#)

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✓ A Reminder about our events

The Rubber in Engineering Group (RIEG) Afternoon Discussions, all free to attend thanks to sponsorship from ARTIS.

The last RIEG event was highly successful with more than 60 delegates registering for the ATDM on Elastomers used in Transport that was run on 29 June at Warwick University. The five talks are all now available on the IOM3 website for members to [download](#).

The RIEG has also held a meeting, including a [factory tour](#) at Clwyd Compounders Ltd in Wrexham on 21 Sept.

The next RIEG event will be an ATDM on the [Processing of Elastomers](#) at IOM3 HQ on the 14 December. Registration is again via Eventbrite. The programme with 5 speakers will be finalised in the next month.

[IRC2019](#) Date change

Due to the Oval being used for an Ashes test in the week originally planned for the International Rubber Conference, the date has had to move forwards one week to **3-5 Sept 2019**. All the major sponsorships packages have now sold out, but there are some exhibition spaces still available and the call for papers is now active.

Please remember that you can contact us about any issues that you wish to bring to our attention, for whatever reason.

Many thanks for your attention.

Stuart Patrick

Interim Chair Polymer Society Board

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