

The Polymer Society

A Division of the Institute of Materials, Minerals and Mining

Spring 2018 Newsletter

In this edition we talk about Marine Litter, Joining the Board, Our Annual Report, PATDs, Chinese Honour for Phil Coates and Upcoming Events including IRC's 2018 and 2019

✓ **Marine Litter – your input requested**

Dr Bernie Rickinson, CEO IOM3 recently stated 'Within IOM3 we have technical experts across the materials supply chain, packaging applications and sustainable development. We stand ready to be a catalyst for the debate on plastics, reuse, recycling and redesign.'

So we are considering issuing a position statement/news item on Marine/Plastics Litter to redress the balance in the current anti plastic agenda at all levels. The statement would have to reflect our 'neutral' position as an IOM3 Division but should reflect the technical expertise that we have within our membership offering a balanced opinion. Do you have a view about how we should bring back the discussion to reflect the changes necessary to re-establish the value that plastics bring to our society?

Contact details are given at the end of this Newsletter

✓ **Would you like to join our Board and bring your thoughts and ideas to the future direction the Board should take? Vacancies now available**

The Polymer Society's interests cover all technical, educational and professional considerations relating to polymers and materials where polymer content is significant. These interests cover all of our members working in polymer manufacture, processing, design, applications, end-use and end of life.

The Society focuses on both external and internal roles:

Externally we are the 'polymer face of the Institute' to link with industry, trade associations, Government, UK innovation and learning infrastructure, media and

The Polymer Society

A Division of the Institute of Materials, Minerals and Mining

conference organisations and other relevant national and international bodies to encourage and support membership of the Institute. We will promote professional activities relevant to the career development and job needs of all members and encourage younger members to take an active role in their industry.

Internally we will promote the subject of polymers and provide the focus within the Institute for the polymer community by advising the Institute and dealing with policy issues on matters concerning the polymer sector. We will also influence the formulation and implementation of the Institute's policies to meet the needs of members in this sector.

If you feel that you can contribute in any way to our objectives, please contact me via the email address at the end of this newsletter

✓ Polymer Society Annual Report

Our Annual 2017 Report is available highlighting some major changes to Board membership but still very good news about our conference programme and support for the education and design communities Read [here](#)

✓ Plastics Afternoon Technical Discussions (PATDs)

The Rubber in Engineering Group have been running ATDs with a focus on the rubber community for some years now and these events have proved to be extremely popular. Whilst an ATD typically has about 4 technical presentations, it is not simply a small seminar – the key word is discussion. Audience participation enhances the experience for all concerned.

The objective now is to develop a series of (sponsored) free-to-attend events, initially in London for the Plastics sector to:

- I. Bring together technical people in the plastics sector, develop networks and discuss topical issues facing the sector. We emphasise communication, share experience and information with the aim of developing best practice.
- II. An email address PolymerSocietyPATD@gmail.com has been set up to handle all questions and registrations.
- III. What topics would YOU like be discussed? Contact us on the above email.

The Polymer Society

A Division of the Institute of Materials, Minerals and Mining

✓ Professor Phil Coates receives prestigious Chinese Honour

We are pleased to report that our long serving Board member, Professor Phil Coates, has been recognised by one of China's State Science and Technology Prizes representing the highest honour in the People's Republic of China for science and technology. They recognise citizens and organisations that have made significant contributions to scientific and technological progress, and promoted the development of science and technology. [Details](#)

✓ A Reminder about our Upcoming Events

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

[Biomedical Applications of Elastomers](#) 23 March 2018 London

[Elastomers in Transport](#) 29 June 2018 Coventry

Also to note a joint seminar organised by Manchester Polymer Group and RIEG

[The Challenges for Elastomer Lifetime Prediction and Durability](#) 16 May 2018 Manchester

The International Rubber Conference 2018 (IRC 2018) 10-11 May Istanbul

Transforming Technology; Driving Innovation' will be expecting 200 papers and posters to be presented on the topics such as rubber novelty, rubber materials, rubber science, biotechnology, polymer synthesis, rubber modern processing technology, applications and services, tyre technology, rubber engineering, environment management and sustainability in rubber as well as progress in test method and development and other related topics. [Details](#)

But let's also start to really think about IRC 2019 - INNOVATIONS IN ELASTOMER MATERIALS AND PRODUCTS 10 – 12 September 2019 London.

This conference will be a must-attend event to learn about technical advances in the global rubber market.

The year 2019 will commemorate the 200th anniversary of Thomas Hancock's pioneering work with natural rubber in London. His early attempts to find a suitable

The Polymer Society

A Division of the Institute of Materials, Minerals and Mining

solvent having failed, he used his knowledge of machines and experience as a skilled tool maker to develop a mechanical method of processing rubber.

Original papers will be invited to be presented that reflect current research and technology within the rubber industry in sectors / disciplines such as defence, civil engineering, minerals extraction, biomedical, sustainability, adhesives, sport & leisure, robotics, transportation, oil & gas. Other topics for discussion include environmental and sustainability issues in the industry as well as innovations in polymer production, the use of fillers and other additives in compounds and developments in vulcanization technology. In addition papers that can help characterise or simulation tools that can help predict a range of properties including component stiffness, dynamic performance, fracture, fatigue and abrasion as well as chemical degradation are invited

[Information](#) on sponsorship, presenting a paper, exhibiting etc

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

Website: www.polymersociety.org.uk

Contact: Polymersociety@iom3.org

The Polymer Society is a Division of the Institute of Materials, Minerals and Mining (IOM3).
IOM3, 297 Euston Road, London NW1 3AD
020 7451 7300 www.iom3.org