

The Polymer Society

A Division of the Institute of Materials, Minerals and Mining

Newsletter 21/03/2016

It was with great sadness that we learnt that Dr Charlie Geddes had passed away.

Following his PhD Charlie spent the early part of his working life at RAPRA and Nairn-Williamson. In 1970 he became the first ever full-time lecturer in polymer technology at Napier College in Edinburgh. Charlie was a key figure in the development of polymer related courses at Napier during a career which spanned twenty-five years.

Charlie joined the PRI in 1971 and was elected as a Fellow in 1984. He was an active committee member of the Scottish Section of the PRI and was a founder member of the SPRA. The SPRA awarded Charlie its Fellowship in 2006 for his contribution to polymer education in Scotland and for his service to the SPRA.

Our thoughts are with Sheena and his family.

Membership and Local Societies

In 1992 a total of 3733 Members transferred from the former PRI to the former IOM. Not all of these transferred directly into the Polymer Society as some were Packaging Technologists who selected the Packaging Materials Division, the predecessor to the current Packaging Society. Of the original 3733 PRI Members approximately 750 are still Members of IOM3. The Polymer Society currently has 806 Members with a further 89 as their second preference and it is currently the largest materials society. Of the 806 members, 486 are in the Polymer In Engineering Group and 384 in the PVC group. The Institute is currently involved in a recruitment drive which is aiming to increase membership by 10,000 by the end of 2020. Whilst this increase is aimed cross all grades, there is a particular initiative looking for nominations for Fellows of the Institute.

It is with regret that it was noted that the South Wales & Western Polymer Group ceased activity during 2015.

Other Local Societies still continue to flourish. The Manchester Polymer Group (MPG) had their annual Dinner Dance in January and there were over 300 attendees. The SPRA Dinner Dance in March had over 200 attendees. However, the apparent levels of activity within the local polymer-related societies seems to vary significantly. It would be valuable to be able to post notifications of any events local societies are organising on the IOM3 website so that there is a true picture of activity levels within the Society.

At a recent joint event with the East Midlands Packaging Society more than half of the sixty seven attendees were not members of the Institute. This data tends to indicate that the Institute and its activities are still relevant, the question being why do people not join?

The table below indicates the conferences and seminars that are planned for the future and everybody is encourage to attend. The activities of the *Rubber In Engineering Group* (RIEG) currently dominate the known conference activities. There may be other topics which would be of interest

and if you wish to suggest any, please contact Alan Wood, Chairman of the Polymer Board, via the IOM3 website.

Date	Title	Location	Organising Division(s) /Committee(s) /Collaborators
8 th April 2016	Rubber Sustainability	IOM3, 297 Euston Road	RIEG
16 th May 2016	Rubber – Resilient Future 3	Old Trafford Cricket Ground, Manchester	RIEG and MPG
1 st July 2016	Rubber Manufacturing	Nottingham University	RIEG/ University of Nottingham
7 th – 8 th December 2016	Innovations in Rubber Products	Royal Aeronautical Society, London	RIEG
25 th – 27 th April 2017	PVC 2017	Brighton	PVC Committee
10 th – 12 th September 2019	IRC 2019	Kia Oval, London	RIEG/ Polymer Society

Education

The Polymer Society continues to support regarding the *Design Innovation in Plastics Award* with the focus of encouraging plastics design innovation and best practice in future product designers in the UK and Ireland. The 2015 design brief was ‘Design to transcend Metal: Changing Perceptions’ and the competition was won by Alexander Bordino, a second year BSc Product Design Nottingham Trent University student, his design being for a new ice-cream pump mechanism. Further information can be found at http://www.designinnovationplastics.org/news_archive/150706-2015_competition_winner_announced.html

The Worshipful Company of Horners continue to financially support the Polymer Study Tours. Details of the Tours can be found at <http://www.iom3.org/manchester-polymer-group/polymer-study-tours>. Industrial sponsorship is required to support the activity and if any person/organisation would like to provide sponsorship it would be greatly appreciated.

Awards

The Institute makes a number of awards for people in the rubber and plastics industries and nominations are always encouraged. Details of the awards and the winners for 2015 can be found at <http://www.iom3.org/iom3-awards-2015>.

If there are any aspects of the Society that you would like to discuss, please do contact Alan Wood via the IOM3 website.