

# Pewter Society AGM

14<sup>th</sup> January, 2012

Members of the Society gathered at Pewterers' Hall, courtesy of the Worshipful Company, for the 2011 AGM. One member came all the way from Grenoble, leaving home at 4.30 am and intending to be back in his bed shortly after midnight!

Peter Hayward was installed as the Society's new President for the forthcoming two years. The Committee was elected *en bloc*.

The Treasurer reported a healthy financial position and recommended that subscription rates be held at the previous level. Membership had increased from 208 at the start of the last year to 222 at the end of the year.



## Peter Hayward

Successful meetings had been held during the year, including one at the Victoria and Albert Museum where members had had the rare opportunity to view and handle a number of pieces from the Museum's eclectic collection.



The Rolleston Tankard with, right, the depictions of Charles II and Catherine of Braganza

Meetings will be held in 2012 in Buckingham (Spring Meeting, 28/29 April), at the Museum of London (Summer Meeting, 23 June) and in Abergavenny (Winter Meeting, 29/30 September).

After lunch, Steve Custons' talk introduced the exciting find of the Rolleston Church tankard. There are a number of pewter tankards decorated with images of William III or William & Mary, including two in the Worshipful Company's collection. Until the Rolleston tankard came to light, the only tankard depicting an earlier monarch was one in the Colonial Williamsburg

collection showing James II.

The unique Rolleston tankard takes us back yet further because it is decorated with images of Charles II and Catherine of Braganza. It bears two marks recorded on the first of the Touch Plates held at Pewterers' Hall. Steve Custons was followed by Dr Angela McShane from the V&A, whose fascinating talk was on the rôle played by tankards like this in 17th century drinking customs; and why this one was likely to have been given to the church.

