

Christmas is approaching but I still, just, have time to squeeze in the fourth 2017 issue of this ezine before everything closes down.



If you buy or are given a piece of pewter this Christmas, please look to see what marks have been stamped on it. Then, if there is a mark like the ones on this page, you will know that the piece has been made, to a certain minimum standard and quality, by a member of the Association of British Pewter Craftsmen. The use of the Seahorse mark is restricted to items of particular quality. The ABPC has renewed its campaign to supervise the use of the marks. We run an article on the subject in this issue.



Trish Woods has been leading the venture to create, and tour round the country, an exhibition of contemporary pewter by young designers, many of whom have been winners in the Worshipful Company of Pewterers' annual design competition, *Pewter Live*. The story of *Pewter Now*, Trish's exhibition, is told in this issue.

The Seahorse Pub in the City stands (approximately) on the site of land previously owned by the Company at the junction of Bread and Friday Streets with what is now Queen Victoria Street. My search for the to *why* the pub is called 'The Seahorse' is told, or at least the tale is started, in this issue of the ezine. My search was inspired by a few comments made by William Grant, Past Master of the Worshipful Company. The quest is ongoing.

Talking of William Grant, we run an article on Charles Welch, the historian who, *inter alia*, transcribed the Worshipful Company's early Orders & Entries. This history of the Worshipful Company was originally in two volumes; in 1972, Past Master, Major GS Johnson, produced a modernised version; then in 2003 William Grant produced a second modernised version further revising the text. Who was Charles Welch? We take a look at him through his Obituary!

South Crofty should be a name many of you remember; it is the name of the Cornish tin mine in which a Canadian company intended to re-start production of the mining of tin, a venture that did not succeed, partly because of the fall in the value of tin. With the recent rise in that value, however, the concession has been acquired by another Canadian company, Strongbow Exploration Inc; they intend to invest sufficient money to re-open the mine; for more information, please see the article in this issue.

Want to hire some pewter for a dinner party? Our article in the last issue mentioned the subject, and Mike Marsden has provided an actual story of the hire pewter for a Royal visit to Bristol in 1738.

And there's more.

Once again, happy reading - and, as always, all comments very welcome!
Best wishes for a Merry Christmas and, dare one say it, a Happy, Healthy and Prosperous New Year!

Alan Williams

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