

SGT – Alastair Pilkington Award

The winner of the SGT - Alastair Pilkington Award in 2016 is:

Dr Anita Zeidler

of the University of Bath,

where she is the Royal Society - EPSRC Dorothy Hodgkin Research Fellow.

The Award was made in recognition of seminal contributions to the development of (i) *in situ* high-pressure neutron diffraction to investigate the mechanisms of density-driven network collapse in glassy and liquid materials, and (ii) neutron diffraction with isotope substitution to investigate the structure of glasses and high-temperature glass-forming oxide liquids, along with the structural differences that are associated with quantum effects in water.

The Award was presented by Mrs Rosalind Christian, daughter of Sir Alastair Pilkington, at the Opening Ceremony of the Centenary Conference on Monday 5th September 2016. As well as being an invited speaker at the conference, Dr Zeidler made a presentation of the specific research which led to this award.



*Caption:
Pilkington Award winner
Anita Zeidler (right) with Ros Christian*

The SGT – Alastair Pilkington Award is designed to encourage and recognise excellent work in glass research achieved by someone who has come into the field of glass studies [relatively recently].

Not restricted to hard science or engineering, this award spans all dimensions of glass studies, creativity and research; the arts as well as the science, conservation and museum studies as well as engineering, history and design as well as molecular dynamics.

Did you know it was his personal qualities which gained Alastair Pilkington a place in the famous glass manufacturing company, not his surname - he was not related to the glassmaking family.

Inspired by Sir Alastair, this award is an encouragement for able researchers to make their mark in the diverse fields of glass studies, and also provide a fitting memorial to an extraordinarily gifted man who changed the way we all think of windows. The Award is funded by the Society of Glass Technology and the Mushroom Trust, a fund set up by Sir Alastair's family. [Workers on the nascent float furnaces told their families they were looking at ways to use the waste heat from the sheet glass furnaces, mushroom growing was one option!]

The first award was presented at the last ESG, in Maastricht in 2012, to Dr John Mauro of Corning.

The second winner of the award was Dr Emma Barney of the University of Nottingham, via Warwick University, and post-doctorate at the ISIS neutron diffraction laboratory. She received her award at the ESG conference in Parma, Italy in 2014.

Anita Zeidler Citation

There was a group of very strong candidates applying for the 2016 SGT - Alistair Pilkington Award and The Board of Fellows had a very difficult job in deciding who should receive this year's Award. After much careful discussion it was decided that the award should go Anita Zeidler.

The three papers she presented in the application concerned research on the structure of glass-forming materials at high pressures and/or high temperatures.

It could be seen that the work described in her three papers is impressive and while her papers were multi-authored, which is always the case with work performed at central facilities, she has clearly made the major contribution.

Anita also has an impressive CV. Since gaining a PhD she has published over 25 peer reviewed papers and gained a number of prizes and awards.

The Prize consists of a commemorative piece of glass, not the huge sculpture! Support in attending the ESG conference and 1500 Euros.

Sheffield is the centre of a network of high temperature industries, not just glass. Companies such as TECO, Glass Technology Services, DSF Refractories and Land Ametek participate. Glass makers are all across Yorkshire, many thousands of tons of window glass and glass bottles and jars are made every day by Guardian Glass, Saint-Gobain, Beatson Clark, Allied Glass and Ardagh Group. Numerous other glass speciality industries make fibre, flake and beads for high and low technology applications.

Established in 1916 in Sheffield, the Society of Glass Technology is celebrating it's 100th year with a series of conferences and events throughout the year.

Further details can be obtained from the SGT website www.sgt.org or David Moore (david@sgt.org), Twitter @SocGlassTech #SGT100