

# anopol newsletter

Surface Treatment for Stainless Steel

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## **The loss of a colleague**

If Anopol had a flag on its building, it would be flying at half-mast. All employees in Birmingham and Bordon are in shock at the unexpected passing of Laboratory & Environmental Manager, Andrew Bartlett. (See obituary).

Andrew, or 'Andy' to his colleagues, was a highly intelligent and committed member of the Anopol team, and a man of the highest integrity.

Andy had a genuine excitement for chemistry and really enjoyed working with the Anopol team where he felt, and was, valued.

Andy's true passion was his family. He was a loving husband and father and took pleasure in sharing family stories.

We will all miss you our dear colleague and friend, and our thoughts and prayers are with Andy's wife Linda and their beautiful young daughter, Hannah.



## **OBITUARY Andrew Bartlett**

Andy, as he was known to his fellow-workers at Anopol, joined the company in May 2010. He died, following a short illness, in the Queen Elizabeth Hospital on 5<sup>th</sup> August 2016, aged 51.

As Anopol's Laboratory Manager, his responsibilities extended from acquisition of chemicals to quality control of the final mixed preparations for treating stainless steels.

Some of Andy's other areas of involvement included development of new products and processes and liaising with the Environment Agency.

Andrew's funeral took place at Lodge Hill Crematorium on 23<sup>rd</sup> August 2016. In attendance were numerous family and friends as well as 13 colleagues from Anopol in Birmingham and Bordon.

Andrew is survived by his wife Linda and young daughter Hannah.



## **Brexit means Brexit! (sometime in the future)**

You may or may not be happy with the result of the referendum on the European Union. One observation made was that those voting Brexit were more passionate about leaving than were the supporters of staying. The Labour leader, Jeremy Corbyn, was a fine example of anti-Brexit enthusiasm. Nobody seems to know where we go from here, but recent reports say that we are not going anywhere much before 2019 and that could be at the end of 2019.

The bad news is that some companies are seriously considering moving their operations from the UK into a European Union country. The British manufacturer D S Smith, the provider of specialist packing for fast moving consumer goods groups, has already diverted tens of millions of pounds of investment out of the UK to a new plant in Frankfurt. Let those of us in industry, hope that this is not the thin edge of the wedge. All will be revealed over the next two to three years, for better or for worse.

## **How airlines make billions with 'hidden' extra charges**

Airlines are inflating fares by up to £36 per person by imposing "hidden charges" for bags, better seats, extra leg room and speedy boarding, an analysis of 63 airlines has found.

The amount of money collected for added extras increased by almost 21% last year amid a boom of budget carriers, the report said. Fees for checking in bags accounted for the largest amount of costs, followed by other charges such as paying for a better seat, onboard wi-fi, food and drink and access to airline lounge.

The study found that product "bundles" were becoming popular as passengers paid a lump sum for added extras "in the same manner as a meal deal at a McDonald's restaurant".

Jet2.com, the British low-cost carrier was found to have the highest additional charges of any airline, with an average of £36.59 added to each ticket. In all, 28.5% of its total revenue came from ancillary costs, it emerged.

Almost a quarter of Ryanair's income came from add-ons. The Irish airline, the busiest carrier in Europe, added £13.68 to the price of each ticket when extra charges were included. Its website lists 24 optional fees, including charges to sit in the front row, process credit card transactions or change the name on a booking. Rising numbers of people, reportedly 9,000 a day, are buying the airline's "business plus" package, which gives passengers free airport check-in, a premium seat, priority boarding and fast track through airport security.

Other British airlines close to the top of the list included Flybe, which made 20.7% of money from add-ons at an average of £17.98 per ticket. Additional costs accounted for 18.8% of EasyJet's revenues, adding £14.63 to the cost of fares.

The report by Idea Works, a US airline consulting firm, found that 63 airlines made "ancillary revenue" of \$38.1 billion last year.

### **Prosecco is the tippable of choice for weddings**

Champagne has lost its fizz at weddings and Prosecco is now the most popular drink for toasting the bride and groom, according to research. The study revealed that 63% of couples celebrate their wedding with Prosecco, compared to 8% who raise a glass of champagne.

The figures show the extent of Prosecco's rise in the past few years. Sales of the Italian sparkling wine have grown more than 25% in the past 18 months, officially overtaking champagne at weddings in 2013. English sparkling wine accounts for one in 20 bottles of all sparkling wine drunk at weddings, but the figure is rising each month. With growing conditions similar to the Champagne region, there is no doubt that sales of English sparkling wine could also soon eclipse champagne.

### **Brighton launches bid to become 'British Monaco'**

Remain campaigners in Brighton and Hove have launched a petition for independence with some wanting the city to become the "Monaco of the UK".

Nearly 2,000 people have signed a petition calling for a referendum for the East Sussex city to break away from the rest of the country. It argues for Brighton and Hove to "leave the UK, stay in the EU".

Supporters have said that the coastal city, where nearly seven out of ten people voted Remain, would then be able to choose its own path. Douglas Smith, a Brighton resident who set up the petition, wrote on the change.org webpage: "We have emphatically stated our intention and desire to remain part of the EU. If the people of England and Wales have the right to choose to separate from the EU, we reserve the right to disagree with their choice. A local referendum should be conducted to allow the same democratic process that has taken place to pull us out of the EU to enable citizens to decide their own future here in Brighton and Hove."

A letter on the petition page addressed to Caroline Lucas, the Green MP for Brighton Pavilion, states that "the People's Republic of Brighton and Hove formerly request the city council and local government to conduct a serious discussion on exiting the UK".

Supporters have recorded a Brighton and Hove national anthem and a new flag has been designed.

### **A diplomatic incident holds up play at Caracas Country Club**

In what could become one of the most unusual bylaws in golfing history, the Swiss ambassador to Venezuela has warned players who hit stray balls into her home that they are in danger of sparking a diplomatic crisis. Sabine Ulmann has become so irked by errant shots on the third of the Caracas Country Club's 18 holes, that a sign adjacent to the fairway now warns golfers: "Launching balls into this residence is a danger to whoever is within Swiss territory and a violation of the Vienna Convention if a golf ball injures or kills anyone on Swiss soil."

The ambassador, whose residence is in a wealthy area of Caracas, alongside the official residences of many other European nations, said that she had nothing further to add to the warning on the sign. The Caracas Country Club was derided by Venezuela's former president, Hugo Chavez, who described golf as a "bourgeois" sport.

The Venezuelan Federation of Golf said that the sign appeared to be a strange overreaction. "We have no fear whatsoever that we are attacking Swiss territory should a golf ball land in embassy premises," it said.

### **Britons can't bear to bare all on the beach**

The expression "Brits abroad" might send a shiver down the spines of holidaymakers across the world, but a study has suggested that British tourists are prudish on the beach. A survey of more than 6,000 people found that a third of UK tourists were embarrassed by topless sunbathers and 40% said that women in skimpy swimwear made them uncomfortable. They found that the British were even more conservative when it came to building sandcastles. While almost a fifth of Spanish and Italian tourists said that they would create "rude" sculptures in the sand, British tourists were less inclined to cross conventional boundaries.

Compared with 16% of Spanish tourists and 11% of German tourists, the British are much less likely to go naked for the sake of a tan – and much more likely to find thong-like bikini bottoms offensive. In fact, we are so uninterested in coming back with bronzed skin that we allow Italian, Spanish and German tourists to win the race to sun loungers and reserve the best place by the pool.

The survey by the travel company lastminute.com found that only 6% of British and German tourists were concerned about their appearance on the beach. For the Italians, vanity was more of a consideration, and 13% went to the gym or got fake tans before going away. Britain and Germany had the lowest beach vanity index, according to the survey, and were also the least likely to go on a diet before a holiday.

## Jokes Time with the “Wrinklies”

**An elderly gentleman** walks into a West End Furriers with his young lady and says he wants to buy her a mink coat costing £15,000. “Will a cheque be OK?” asks the man.

“Certainly, sir,” says the sale assistant. “But we’ll have to wait a few days for it to clear. Can you come back on Monday to take delivery?” “Certainly,” replies the old man, and he and his girlfriend walk out arm in arm.

Next Monday the man returns. The sales assistant is furious, “You’ve got a nerve coming back here. It turns out there’s hardly a penny in your bank account and your cheque was worthless.”

“Yes, sorry about that,” replies the man. “I came in to apologize....and to thank you for the greatest weekend of my life.”

**An avid young golfer** finds himself with a few hours to spare after work one day. He works out that if he hurries and plays as fast as he can, he could get in nine holes before he has to go home. Just as he is about to tee off an old gentleman shuffles onto the tee and asks if he could accompany the young man as he was golfing alone. The young golfer doesn’t like to refuse and lets the old gent join him. To his surprise the old man plays fairly quickly. He doesn’t hit the ball far, but nevertheless plods along consistently without wasting much time. Eventually they reach the ninth fairway, and the young man finds himself with a tough shot. A large pine tree stands right in the direct line of his shot, between him and the green. After several minutes of debating how to hit the shot the old man finally tells him, “When I was your age I was able to hit the ball right over the top of that tree.”

With this gauntlet thrown down, the youngster swings as hard as he can and hits the ball right smack into the top of the tree trunk, where it thuds back on the ground less than a foot from where it started. “Damn it! says the young golfer. “How on earth did you manage to hit the ball over that tree?” “Well,” says the old man, “of course in those days the tree was only three feet tall.”

**An old man** is being shown round a house by an estate agent. “This house,” says the estate agent, “is not only beautifully appointed and in first class decorative order, but it’s a fabulous long-term investment.” “Long term?” says the old man. “You’re joking aren’t you? Blimey, at my time of life I don’t even buy green bananas!”

**Old Matilda** was well known at her local church as the town gossip and self-appointed monitor of morals in her neighbourhood, forever sticking her nose into other people’s business. Many other members of the church congregation did not approve of her activities, but feared her enough to maintain their silence. She made a mistake, however, when she accused Bert, another elderly churchgoer, of being an alcoholic after she saw his bright orange P Reg Skoda parked in front of the local pub one afternoon. She told Bert and everyone else within earshot that anyone seeing his car there would immediately recognise it and know what he was doing. Bert, a man of few words, stared at her for a moment and then just turned and walked away. He didn’t explain, defend or deny; he said nothing. Later that evening however, Bert quietly parked his bright orange P Reg Skoda in front of Matilda’s house and then walked home, leaving the car there all night

### IN BRIEF

God, grant me the senility to forget the people I never liked anyway, the good fortune to run into the ones I do, and the eyesight to tell the difference. *Old person’s prayer*

A very rich person should leave his kids enough to do anything, but not enough to do nothing. *Warren Buffett, business man*

