

National Association of Jewellers – Chairman's report
Annual Review

I am delighted to report the association has completed its first full year of activity following the decision to unify the BJA and NAG that took place in June 2015. We have virtually completed all of the legal, technical and administrative tasks to enable us to operate as one association, a task that should not be underestimated for the time and effort that it has taken. Alongside the functional processes we have also been working hard to meld the cultures, people and memberships so that we can truly be united.

I am pleased to report that the entire behind the scenes work has not stopped us delivering a number of key achievements. We attended two major trade shows and a number of regional shows to promote the association, attract members and support members attending. We produced five leaflets for our retail members to use as sales support tools with their customers covering the following topics; Diamonds, Coloured Gemstones, Precious Metals, Valuations, Repairs and Caring for your Jewellery, and choosing a Jeweller. We refreshed the look and content of our membership magazine The Jeweller to be appropriate for the new membership categories. We hosted our annual awards alongside The Benevolent Society Christmas Ball and contributed over £6,000 to their funds. We also supported our craftsmen and women by sponsoring awards at both the Goldsmiths' Craft and Design Awards and Pewterers' Live. We held our most successful Loughborough Conference for Valuers and the jewellery trade ever with over 200 delegates, speakers and workshop leaders in attendance. Our Jet Business Network Congress held in June attracted more than 70 members with keep note speaks including Anna Blackburn MD of Breverbrooks the Jewellers and Jesper Neilson, former European head of Pandora.

To ensure our focus and future plans align with members needs we have established 6 steering groups responsible for Education, Technical standards, Better Business, Membership Standards, Institute of Registered Valuers and Marketing. I am great for and wish to thank members who have given their time and expertise freely to help the association move forward.

Finally, I want to thank Michael Rawlinson and his team that includes three members of staff each with over 20 years of service to the association: Amanda Reavell, Lindsey Straughton and Sandra Page for the achievement of 2016 and encourage them and all our members to set our sights even higher for 2017 and what we can deliver in the year ahead.

Simon Johnson, NAJ Chairman