

HOULDEN IN THE PRESS: OUR LONDON 2023 MEETING

Following on from our successful London 2023 event where we encouraged the Houlden community to think both grassroots and global, we share recent coverage in the trade press.



The National Association of Jewellers: [HOULDEN SPRING MEETING MOOD REFLECTS MEMBERS POSITIVE BUSINESS OUTLOOK FOR YEAR AHEAD](#)

Professional Jeweller: [WHAT DID HOULDEN MEMBERS THINK OF ITS LATEST GATHERING?](#)

Retail Jeweller: HOULDEN SPRING MEETING REFLECTS POSITIVE BUSINESS OUTLOOK FOR YEAR AHEAD

Members of the buying consortium the Houlden Group expressed optimism at the annual three-day Spring meeting last week, which provided members with opportunities to discuss topics ranging from the economic outlook for the year ahead to sustainability.

Following on from the Directors Meeting on the first day, the second day featured the behavioural economist, Roger Martin-Fagg, presenting his views on the challenges and economic scenarios facing businesses currently and in the future.

Jack Stratten, head of trends for Insider Trends, followed with his views on the changing face of retail and the future role and increasing value of the store within a brand's offering.

Christina Hewitt of G Hewitt & Son commented: *"The keynote speakers were both engaging and understandable, and even if things aren't specific to your store, you can take things from the talks to put into practice. So overall, we left with ideas and feeling positive for the year ahead."*

The subject of the importance of sustainability and social responsibility for both Members and Suppliers was also a focus for much of the debate.

As part of this, two workshops were held in the afternoon covering: "Taking Greater Responsibility" and "Laboratory Grown Diamonds: Risks and Machines".

Barry McCahon of Lunn's added: *"Houlden is in good hands. The team are exceptional at what they do, and they always deliver top class speakers, all experts in their fields. I particularly enjoyed the workshop on Laboratory Grown Diamonds as it is great to learn a bit more and get updates about an area of the industry that is moving so fast."*

The Houlden Supplier Exhibition took place on the third day showcasing 51 UK and international suppliers providing opportunities to forge new business connections, see new collections for the first time and open new accounts.

Wolf sales director Chloe Spencer stated: *"It's great to have all the luxury retail community all in one place together. We have been exhibiting for eight years and this year we wanted to demonstrate our commitment to innovation ahead of celebrating our 190th anniversary in 2024."*

Eric Alulis of CLIQ Jewellery added: *"As a first-time exhibitor we have found the experience very rewarding. Our jewellery is all about interactive technology, so it's much more about customers being able to experience the pieces than selling. We are glad to be part of the Houlden Family!"*

L J Diamonds executive vice president Scott West said: *"Houlden has provided us with an excellent foothold into the rest of Europe through its excellent network of independents."*

Hockley Mint sales director Kevin Jenkinson commented: *"The combination of excellent meeting content and good networking opportunities has made this year's meeting especially successful for us. It's the perfect show for us, especially as now that we are an employee-owned trust we have an even bigger story to tell".*

Houlden chief executive Helen Haddow observed: *"The Houlden Advantage comes into its own at times like these, giving members not only access to the latest knowledge and best practice but also providing them with all the benefits of close connectivity and being part of an exclusive close-knit community."*

"The feedback from the meeting from members and suppliers alike has reaffirmed the advantages and strength of being part of a like-minded Group, all facing and sharing the same business issues and concerns".