

Membership

If you have paid your membership for 2022 you will have received your new orange membership card. If you are one of the few that have not paid please complete the membership form and return to me with your cheque. If you have paid and not received your card please contact me and I will sort it out :-Phone 01543506195 or email electricwilliam@gmail.com

Wanted For the workshop

A VIBROGRAPH B200 MICROPHONE

Any you have we will consider (if not Vibrograph) adapting if possible

Please contact Alan Westgate home 01342 619 100 or Mobile 07989 783841 or at the workshop

Thanks for any help

FREE ADVERTISING FOR BRANCH MEMBERS.

Contact Bill 01543506195 or electricwilliam@gmail.com

www.slbbhi.co.uk



Meetings are held on the 2nd Thursday of each month

At The White Hart Barn (Godstone Village Hall)

Godstone Surrey RH9 8DU at 7.30 p.m. for 8 p.m.

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"No man goes before his time – unless the boss leaves early."
Groucho Marx

**Next Month's Meeting
9th June**

Ron Rose FBHI.

**An Evening with Ron Rose,
James Cole, and James Ferguson Cole.**

Ron will take us through two of his videos. The first being of a miniature long case clock by James Cole. This was a restoration project that required both great skill and an understanding of the maker as this clock was year duration. I imagine this would be difficult to achieve in a reduced drop case, but it was also missing the fly back, perpetual calendar. This clock made the rounds with several restorers none of whom truly understood the mechanism.

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Ron has made a study of the Cole family and their work. Perhaps James, the father inspired one of his sons James Ferguson Cole, to make the complex silver humpback carriage clock which we will study in the second video. Was this clock the clock that earned him the title "The English Breguet".

There are few horologists that have the depth of knowledge and experience that Ron possesses. He shares this with the branch not only as our vice president but as a leading tutor in our workshops. I am sure the evening will transpire to be both informative and instructive.

Duncan Greig

LAST MONTH'S MEETING

J E Allnutt & Son Ltd. Midhurst.

Expanding the business and training Apprentices

Geoff Allnutt MBHI.

Apprentices Jacob Russell FBHI.

and Patrick Woodward MBHI.

After two minutes silence for recently passed members, Duncan introduced us to the third generation of horologists, Mr. Geoff Allnutt. MBHI. based in Midhurst, Sussex. The firm of J. E. Allnutt was founded by his father John, who started his apprenticeship with Joe Murray in Tooting Broadway London.

the ultrasonic cleaning machine. I think he realised it was worth taking a chance on employing me on a self-employed basis. It was the start of a friendship together with his wonderful wife Ann that has lasted over 50 years. Together we were part of the race against time clock making team in 1990. Also two other clock making projects in 1993 and the millennium project in 1998. He was a prominent member of both South London and the Kent branches of the BHI.

Alan sold his shop in the early nineties and opened a new one in Whitstable. Eventually selling up and working from his workshop at home. Alan was a keen cyclist and sailor in his early years. His hand made clocks have been exhibited in several exhibitions throughout the country. He will be sorely missed.

Our thoughts go out to his wife Ann and his sons David, Barry and Andrew and his grand and great grandchildren.

Mike Barber

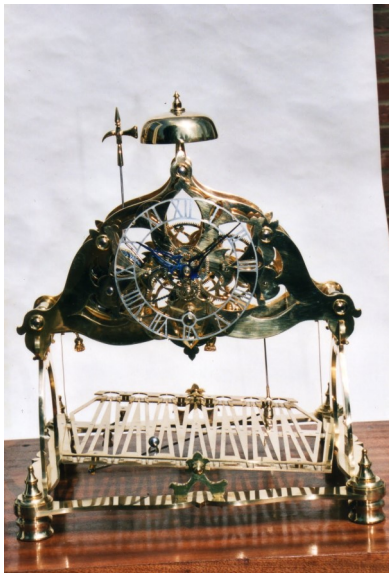
WORKSHOP NEWS AND VACANCIES

The workshop has reopened, there has been some changes to personnel as one would expect after such a long time. This results in some spaces to be filled for the evening classes. Anyone interested in joining us and using the excellent facilities in our workshop please contact James on 01959577312 or 07917226598. The only restriction at the moment is that we require people attending to be double jabbed!

ALAN TURNER

It is with great sadness to announce Alan Turner passed away on Wednesday 11th May.

Alan started out working as a jeweller, working in Hatton Garden repairing and making jewellery. He set up his own business in Tottenham, North London with a partner who was a watchmaker. Alan was a self-taught watchmaker.



Alan's Millennium clock

I first met Alan in the early 70's. I was in the last year of studying Horology at Hackney Technical College. An acquaintance had informed me a watchmaker/jeweller may be looking for a watchmaker. I approached him one Friday afternoon after college and asked him if he needed a watchmaker. He said come in tomorrow for a trial and clean a watch. The following day I took a watch completely apart including the balance jewel setting. When I asked him for a small basket to put the items in he said it wasn't necessary to take the setting apart for

After his apprenticeship he went on to join J W Bensons in London. Bensons were hard employers to work for as the watchmakers were employed on piecework terms. His father left answering an advert for a watchmaker at Kingsway department store Lagos in Nigeria. Returning to set up his own business in Tooting Bec, where Geoff remembers helping in his early years before his father moved the business to a more rural setting in Midhurst Sussex 1981. His father ensured he would get the best training available, sending his son to Hackney Technical College and WOSTEP. Geoff specialises in the repair, restoration, and sale of old watches. As the second horological generation of his family, he observed that the skills of those generations will be lost if nothing were done.

We were introduced to his first apprentice Jacob Russell FBHI., who is now the youngest FBHI. member in Europe. Not only is this an immense credit to Geoff's tutelage but also to Jacob for his hard work and dedication in honing his many skills.

Jacob showed us a photograph example of a balance vibrating tool he had made; the original being viewed after the lecture. He commented on how hard it was to make the jewel settings and the small screws. Another job he had done for his portfolio, third-year distance learning course, was a 1920s/30s automatic watch where he had to make a new yoke and buffers for the winding system. Also being minus the crown and stem, these were made. A jumper spring which also had to be made for the minute recording part of the chronograph. The third project was a silver fusee verge pocket watch where he had to re-pivot the contrate wheel and sleeve the center wheel before learning the skill of making a verge balance staff. He also re-blued the screws.

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His fourth portfolio watch was a Benson half hunter requiring a balance staff and stop work. The stop finger was the hardest part to make. Jacob was disheartened by fingerprints that previous owners/repairers had left on the movement.

He then went onto show us a rare Westminster Carillon which had passed across his bench. A minute repeater which struck the Westminster tune on the quarters.

Reading of Jacob's FBHI success in the local press, Patrick Woodward approached Geoff requesting to be considered for an apprenticeship. In April 2018 he too was accepted. Patrick is now qualified as MBHI, he also made a balance vibrating tool which we were able to examine after the meeting, and he is currently working towards his FBHI. The first of the pieces that Patrick showed he had been working on was a quarter repeater with an erotic automata scene. The watch had come in a box of bits after a previous repairer gave up midway through repair. The work included making two hammer arbors which were cross drilled at 0.2mm to drive the automata work. As well as this, two automata levers had to be made to re-instate the erotic scene which had been disengaged from the rest of the movement. Repairs were also made to the all or nothing piece spring which had been punched up and micro welding of the quarter rack tooth.

A second watch he used in his portfolio was a free sprung watch with resilient banking. He was required to make a balance staff and Maltese cross with 6 slots over the more commonly seen 5 slots. The Maltese cross was also sprung onto the boss instead of screwed to make things harder.

The final piece that won the respect of everyone in the room was the making of a locking roller out of synthetic ruby for a watch with a double wheel duplex escapement, originally made by a pupil of Breguet. This required making diamond tipped tooling and other brass tools which could be charged to polish the diamond.

We were all very impressed by the two apprentices for their enthusiasm, dedication, skills, and lecturing prowess. Without the selfless dedication of people like Geoff, for passing on horological knowledge and skills, our art will die. A successful future lies ahead for these two young men, who in time may well pass on their skills to a future protégé.

After a session of good questions, Duncan thanked Geoff Allnut, Jacob and Patrick for their presentations which were very much appreciated by the members, as they each received a bottle of throat lubricant.

Michael McDonnell, Duncan Greig

Basic Lathe Course

Saturday 11th June 10AM - 2PM (to be confirmed)

Four places available.

Introduction to basic lathe principals in our workshop. Please contact Trevor Keast on 07507-142-704 to book or for further information.