

## SLBBHI Monthly Branch/Zoom Meetings

The committee are becoming increasingly concerned that the attendance at the White Hart Barn monthly branch meetings has reduced to a low level. Historically before the Covid Crisis the attendance level regularly averaged 50+ members, this has now dropped to around 20 members along with a very small number who still attend on Zoom.

Following the re-opening of the White Hart Barn the Zoom platform was used to enable members who were 'Shielding' or concerned about Covid to be able to access the meetings. However now society in general has returned to a 'New Normal' the committee is considering the removal of the Zoom platform.

Albeit there have been regular technical problems with presenting the meetings on Zoom, the main issue of concern is the reduction in the footfall and subsequent revenue 'taken on the door'. This has resulted in a significant shortfall in funds that cover the cost of hall hire, speaker's expenses, 'clock oil' etc.

With your continuing support and commitment the hope is to return attendance at the White Hart Barn meetings to near pre-Covid levels. Good attendance levels will further convey our appreciation to the speakers in giving their time, as well as to the individuals who work tirelessly in sourcing them.

The South London Branch has an enviable reputation for its level of membership and for the attendance at and quality of its meetings. Let us all take pride in our branch and endeavour to maintain the high standards at our meetings and 'that reputation'.

### FREE ADVERTISING FOR BRANCH MEMBERS.

Contact Bill 01543506195 or [electricwilliam@gmail.com](mailto:electricwilliam@gmail.com)

[www.slbbhi.co.uk](http://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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Time, "the devourer of all things". Ovid

### Next Month's Meeting

8<sup>th</sup> of September 2022 Starting 20.00 hours.

### The Beresford Hutchinson Memorial Lecture.

Viscount Alan Middleton FBHI. President. Curator Emeritus.

### A Tale of Two Watches

Alan Middleton began his horological career at Hackney Technical College in the 1970s. He worked at Forest Clocks, Loughton with Paul Craddock, before moving to the John Gersham Parkington Museum in Bury St Edmunds. When this museum closed the British Horological Institute at Upton Hall gained an authoritative scholar and curator of its museum and library. With his extensive knowledge and distinguished lecturing prowess he has become one of the most respected of horologists we have. Alan has agreed to make the journey from Upton, despite giving up driving, to pay compliment to the memory of Beresford Hutchinson this September.

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His talk "A Tale of Two Watches" reconstruct the early life and ownership of two related early 19th century watches using evidence provided by the watches themselves. Sometimes factual, sometimes speculative, and occasionally whimsical, He hopes to shine a light on the period they were made and what happened to them in later years.

### Zoom instructions to follow

Duncan Greig

## Last Month's Meeting

### THE WEARING OF THE WATCH.

#### CHRIS McKAY

James Marten introduced our very experienced speaker Chris McKay, to our disappointingly small audience. He had come a long way to give us a talk on a subject few of us will be familiar. Not once was there a reference to pinions, bushes or pendulums in the whole lecture. Chris was going to show us a few of his two thousand picture post cards depicting fob and wrist watches as worn by men and women between 1860 and 1930. Of particular interest was the detail Chris pointed out in the pictures that would not be noticed by the casual viewer.

These picture post cards were often taken to record a wedding, coming of age or another major event in the life of the subject which would be sent to relatives or friends, often to impress. We were shown Cabinet Cards from 1880 and Carte de visite 1860-1890 as below.

## Paul Hoffman 1929-2022

Paul Hoffman, one of longest serving members passed away on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> of August

Paul was born in Wood Green north London in 1929. His father had been taught watch and clock making in Germany and came to London in 1910. After internment on the Isle of Man as an "undesirable alien" in WW1 he married a local girl and established a shop in Wood Green. Paul was his second son and the one he trained as a watchmaker. During WW2 his father made time bomb mechanisms at Smiths Cricklewood. Paul worked for his father but after National Service in the RAF (instruments on Meteor and Vampire jets) came to South London with the opening of Newmark Watches on the Purley Way in the early 1950s. When this closed in 1960 he opened up a watch and clock repair shop in Caterham high street which he ran alone until 1996. After that he created a small workshop in his house and specialised in antique clock repairs.

He was a member of the SLBBHI for many years attending the monthly meetings. The contents of his workshop were auctioned by the branch in 2018 when ill health stopped any further work.

## 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!

## WATCH PARTS AND TOOLS FOR SALE

Huge collection of watch repair parts for sale, I am selling these for a friend who's father has passed.

There are literally thousands of different items; stems, crowns, balance wheels, balance shaft, winding parts, springs, glasses, jewels etc, for all different makes of watches.

There are also many tools, from Pliers, Screwdrivers, tweezers, files, a complete turns set, hand gauges, repivoting tools, broaches, watch spring rewinders, watch glass remover, a complete staking set by GES co.

If anyone is interested in knowing more about what is available please contact Ian Watson either on 07961 123799 or on [ian.watson@itseeze.com](mailto:ian.watson@itseeze.com). Below is also a link to a Google folder where all images can be viewed.

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1cScoWIPTOKxsikej6bI-VqMBjFjyt1DN?usp=sharing>



To give the appearance of opulence Romanesque pillars and arches were painted as backdrops for some pictures. Photographers would loan appropriate clothing to be worn for the purpose of effect, as the young man stands by a straw hat and wearing shining boots, neatly combed hair beside a formal upright chair. The jacket drawn slightly to expose a medallion and watch chain discreetly exposed.

Watches were a sign of affluence, and as the wristwatch was being introduced, some pictures would show pocket watches on the wrist located within a leather holder and strap.

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The depictions of these watches might show the wearer's sleeve drawn up discreetly to expose the token of affluence. By 1860 the card was 4 3/4 inches by 3 1/2 inches which would have an advert for the photographer on the back. We also saw a series of post cards from 1870 to 1905 depicting women wearing fob watches, some on hooks and a chain in case the fob dropped off the hook, pointing out the hair styles of the women (Chris claims to be no expert) which gave a clue to the date of the picture as also did the dresses and the length of the hems.



The many post cards Chris showed us gave an excellent insight as to how people of the period wished to be viewed by others and by close observation Chris saw much more in the picture post cards than might the casual viewer.

The lecture was concluded by questions, after which Duncan thanked Chris for coming such a long distance at very short notice. He was then presented with our specialised oil as a token of our gratitude and the audience showed their appreciation in the usual way.