

FREE ADVERTISING FOR BRANCH MEMBERS.

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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.

INSIDE THIS
ISSUE

NEXT
MEETING

LAST MONTH'S
MEETING

WORKSHOP
NEWS

“The hours of folly are measured by the clock; but of wisdom, no clock can measure.” **William Blake**

Next Month's Meeting
13th October 2022 Starting 20.00 hours.
Mike Bundock MBHI
Platinum Jubilee talk on
“Queen Victoria's Jubilee Clock Towers”

For our October meeting we welcome back Mike Bundock who has been travelling around the country looking at commemorative clock towers that were built to remember a specific benefactor or memorable persons. It being the **Platinum Jubilee** year of our late **Queen Elizabeth II** Mike had planned a special presentation on the clock towers constructed to celebrate Queen Victoria's Jubilee. This originally inspired by the Herne Bay Tower clock, the talk given to us in January 2018. I understand there are many unseen anecdotes and illustrations found from his love of these historical artefacts.

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Mike is an accountant by training and has recently retired as Managing Director for the European division of an American owned specialist furniture manufacturer.

Now free of the responsibilities of full-time employment, Mike can spend more time pursuing his various interests. Apart from horology, this includes local history where he is currently Chairman of the Herne Bay Historical Records Society, an organisation he first joined in 1979. This was around the time that his interest in things mechanical led him to discover the BHI. Upon joining, he soon signed up for the Correspondence Course in Technical Horology, graduating in 1983. Mike's interest in public timekeeping has developed from this modest beginning and over the past thirty plus years, he has been a member of the AHS Turret Clock Group, serving as Secretary and then later as Chairman for many years. Mike is currently Honorary Clocks Advisor to the Dioceses of Canterbury and Rochester.

Mike's interest in history led him to earn both a BA and an MA in the subject from the University of Kent as a mature student. Mike has authored several books on his local area and on public timekeeping, both subjects on which he speaks regularly. Mike is married to Nicola, and they have two grown up daughters



Auctions

The Branch auction is approaching in November, last year not many of our members contributed with their bits and pieces, so please have a look and see if you have anything you might want to sort out and pass on to someone else and support the Branch at the same time.

Last year's members auction was propped up by the first bits of John Hatt's effects, we still have a few things to dispose of, but not many and we will need members lots to it a worthwhile evening.

I take this opportunity to thank all the ladies and gents who helped with the collecting, sorting and selling of John Hatt's large heritage. Two half days and one full day were only just enough to do it, a huge amount of work was done sorting before the days by an excellent team of volunteers. It was down to Rory McEvoy for recommending us and having faith that we could handle the effect. I'm not sure if that is A thank you or not!!

Thanks go to Michael McDonnell for his help organising and then being our auctioneer. Antonio Silva for his expertise with watches and materials. Terry Servant as well as others for lending us storage for so long. Duncan Greig and Chris his wife, Alan Westgate, Alan White, Gary and Pauline Thwaites, Trevor Keast, Mick and Marion Welch and Norvin Simpson for expertise and his truck. I hope I haven't left anyone out, also well done to all who came and spent their money, it went to the family and John's wife who is undergoing treatment for health issues. The Branch has taken a cut which will easily fund an upgrade to our old computer and projector and then some. Of all the auctions I have helped the branch with, this has been the most complex in terms of quality and quantity. I certainly has given us food for thought for the disposal of our own property! We still have a Scuaublin 70 lathe to sell, hopefully I will advertise this in next month's newsletter.

James Marten

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The Viscount then spoke of the 1st Earl of Uxbridge who enjoyed a worthy rather than distinguished career as Lord Lieutenant of Anglesey and Staffordshire, Constable of Caernarfon Castle, Ranger of the forest of Snowden. South London branch members were treated to details of other luminaries such as the Duke of Wellington, the 2nd Earl of Uxbridge and the escapee Napoleon Bonaparte.

In conclusion Duncan thanked Viscount Midleton for a highly informative and detailed lecture covering the period. The members and guests showed their appreciation as Duncan presented him with a vintage bottle of clock oil.

Michael McDonnell.

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!

Last Month's Meeting

BERESFORD HUTCHINSON LECTURE 2022

A TALE OF TWO WATCHES

VISCOUNT ALAN MIDLETON.

James Marten welcomed Viscount Midleton for the Beresford Hutchinson lecture of 2022. Alan kindly agreed to talk to us on two watches in his possession. With his Conan Doyle hat on, he recreates the early history of these watches using the evidence provided by the watches themselves.



The first pocket watch, 42mm diameter, has the initials GF engraved on the back with a crown above which suggests royal provenance. Made by Recordon, Breguet's London agent, who took out Patent 1249 for a pedometer wind mechanism. The dial, of this watch, retained with one screw from the front, similar to the continental practice by Breguet, and the seconds dial was set between 4 and 5 o'clock. This watch has a mono-

metallic balance but uses a compensation curb rather than bi-metallic balances which, while not exactly unusual, is perhaps less usual in English watches. It has a dumb repeating mechanism with a continental type of plunger through the pendant. Alan put forward the evidence to suggest that the Prince Regent had a hand in the ownership of the watch and may have gifted it to

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The second watch dated similarly 1808 also by Recordon of London was large, 60mm. Breguet style hands, with no second's dial or front dial retaining screw, wound through the dial, as with continental watches and a gold ring surrounding the winding hole to protect the enamel dial. Alan noted it to have a loud repeat mechanism. On the back there is the Coat of Arms of the Paget family and in Alan's opinion the



watch almost certainly belonged to the head of this family, the 2nd Earl of Uxbridge. who lost a leg at the Battle of Waterloo and was subsequently created Marquess of Anglesey. This watch had a ruby cylinder escapement, a mono-metallic balance but also used a bimetallic compensation curb, and a press button to release the spring-loaded cap being a continental practice.

There is a Breguet which was for the Prince of Wales with Prince Wales feathers the initials GP (George Principal), engraved beneath. Breguet kept meticulous records unfortunately Recordon business records have not survived but we assume they as detailed as Breguet's or the Vulliamy's held at the BHI Library in Upton Hall.



Alan showed references to a Vulliamy watch, the seconds dial at 3 o'clock, which was NOT listed in the workbook records and a watch by Rentzsch, the dial was damaged and held in by two screws through the dial face and had unusual hands pointing at Arabic numerals. The Minute dial was located at top centre. The larger central hand indicating the hour. The back cover of this watch is engraved,

belonged to Queen Charlotte the gift of the four princesses to Herbert Taylor January 1819 so it is not impossible that first watch was gifted by the Prince Regent.

During his lecture Viscount Midleton gave us much historical detail including that of George III, who supported Harrison in his fight with the board of Longitude. His eldest son the Prince of Wales, known as 'Prinny' was lazy dissolute and extravagant where his father was (when sane) inquisitive and industrious.

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