

THANK YOU DONATION OF CLOCKS

At our last meeting a local resident **Mr. Baldwin** donated 2 clocks to the branch. These clocks will be given over to our workshop where they will expertly serviced and restored by the students and instructors. Once work is complete they will be sold at our 2023 branch auction and the proceeds will go to the workshop. Ron Rose has thanked Mr. Baldwin for this very generous donation.

FREE ADVERTISING FOR BRANCH MEMBERS.

Contact Bill 01543506195

or

electricwilliam@gmail.com



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**South London Branch
British Horological Institute**

Newsletter No. 524 November 2022

Branch No 25. Founded 1978

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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**DONATION
OF
CLOCKS**

Time is a great healer, but a poor beautician.

Lucille S. Harper

Next Month's Meeting BRANCH AUCTION

We are pleased to be able to hold the branch auction which is one of the highlights of our calendar for many members. It is a chance to grab a bargain or make a bit of extra cash by selling those unwanted horological items.

There is always something for everyone at this event, so why not dig out those horological treasures that have been lurking under the bench or in the back of the cupboard, you may be pleasantly surprised at how much they realise.

SEE OVER FOR RULES AND TIMETABLE

AUCTION

This is a private auction and is therefore only open to members of, the BHI, BHI Branches, West Dean College or Epping Forest Horology Centre. Please bring proof of membership to enable us to issue a bidding number.

Details are as follows:

Booking in will commence at 18:15 in the Lindley Room.

Entry to the main hall - and viewing - will not be available until 19.15.

NO LOTS WILL BE TAKEN IN AFTER 19:45 to allow time for administration and for a prompt start at 20:15.

Payments for purchasers up to £100 are required to be made in cash. By prior arrangement and agreement with the Treasurer we will accept cheques for total payments over £100.

No commission is charged to buyers. Sellers only pay £1.50 per lot entered. If you wish to set a reserve, you must bid up to that price and collect your lot at the end of the evening if not sold.

We reserve the right to refuse any lots containing fluids / powders and the like that are not in secure & sealed containers.

Electrical / electronic items are sold with no guarantee as to their condition or safety. All such equipment should be checked by a suitably qualified electrician.

Full auction rules will be clearly displayed

Doors open at 19:15, Starting 20.15 hours.

A POEM FOR MAURICE

Today has been a sad day
As we say goodbye to a special man
Cos we lose much more than words can say
To replace him we never can

Today I've lost a mentor
My guidance and my friend
Who taught me more than he could know
On his knowledge I could depend

But none of us can know the time
When we are called to rest
So I can surely tell you Maurice
You were simply one of the best

Rest in Peace my friend

Alan Westgate

MAURICE FAGG

Maurice Fagg passed away on the 17th of October in St Hillier Hospital after chemo therapy.

Maurice was a founder member of the branch. He was well known in the branch, always ready to share his great wealth of knowledge. He worked for many major watch brands and continued to repair watches for friends and branch members long into his retirement.

He will be greatly missed.

If you have any memories of Maurice that you would like to share with the branch members please email me and I will try to include them in next month's newsletter.

The funeral will be held Monday 21st November 12noon. At:-
North East Surrey Crematorium
Lower Morden Lane,
Morden SM4 4NV.

Everyone is invited to the buffet to be held at :-
The Toby Carvery Restaurant,
Park Place
54 Commonside
West Mitcham CR4 4HB.

The family would like some idea of numbers, if you are going to attend please contact me:-
01543506195 or electricwilliam@gmail.com

Last Month's Meeting

JUBILEE CLOCK TOWERS

MIKE BUNDOCK

Duncan Greig introduced us to Mike Bundock who gave us a talk on clock towers. Having spent thirty years researching and viewing many of the three hundred examples in Great Britain and the Isle of Man, he is the expert to give us a definition of his subject. A clock tower is purpose built, free standing, without any adjoining construction such as a bell tower.

In some cases, the Architectural and building costs were borne by dignitaries of the town or City, the largest contribution would often be from the local MP, or Lord of the Manor with lesser amounts donated by the lower orders. Sometimes a

public list of subscribers would be published detailing the amount they contributed, such as in Weymouth. Apart from privately financed clocks, many structures were financed by public donation. Once handed over, it was usual for the local Council to pay for the maintenance and the clock winder, although these were later replaced by automatic winding.



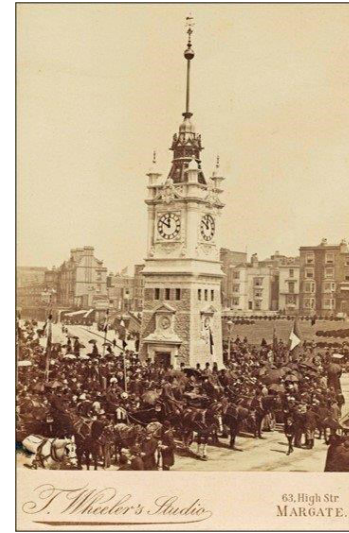
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The conventional construction would be of brick with an outer skin of a local quality stone if there was a nearby quarry, or possibly an imported decorative granite. Portland stone(as in Bexley heath) was popular or even a quality brick might be acceptable. In Douglas, (Isle of Man) the clock tower was constructed of cast Iron and this was delivered in sections and then assembled on site. Much easier and less expensive than conventional methods.

There are examples of clock towers having to be moved or demolished in later years to give way to traffic demands as in Cricklewood, Cocker mouth and Newbury. Clock towers were usually built to commemorate a major event such as the memorial to Prince Albert in Barnstable and the jubilees of Queen Victoria at Much Wenlock and Gravesend. There are war

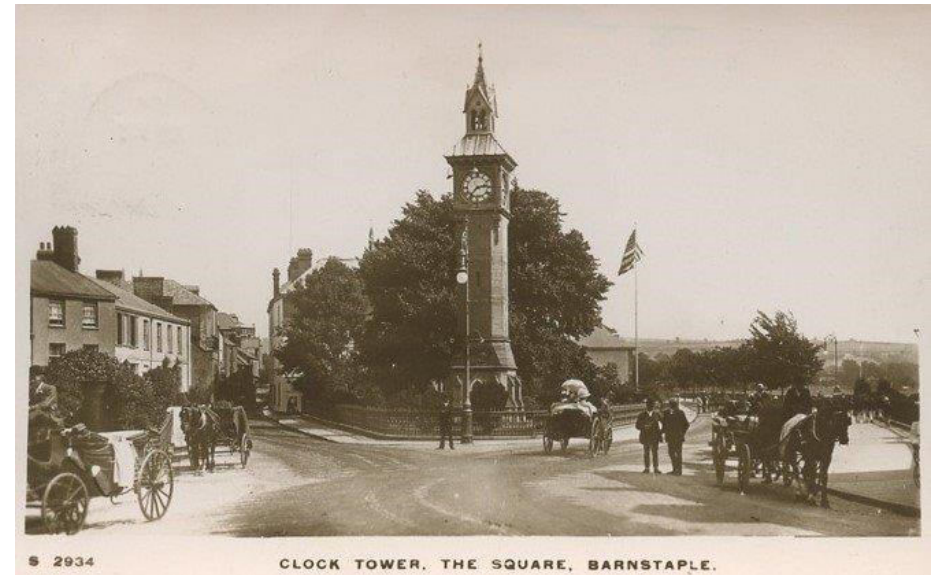


memorials to the dead as on the clock towers at Rainham, Studham and Nailsworth. Others celebrating Royal weddings are located at Thirsk, Christchurch, and Sittingbourne. There is a clock tower at Penrith financed by residents, recording the death of the son of Philip Musgrave esquire, the member of the area's prominent private family.



Clock makers advertised their products and prices. Some of the names are familiar to us today, such as Gillett and Bland (later Gillett and Johnston) of Croydon and John Smith of Derby. These makers were particularly busy around the time of Queen Victoria's Jubilees (1887 and 1897).

The detail that Mike Bundock gave us of the many clock towers to which he referred was exceptional and the



audience showed their appreciation with gusto as Duncan thanked Mike and presented him with guess what?

Michael McDonnell.