



# South London Branch British Horological Institute

Newsletter No. 528 MARCH 2023

## 2023 MEMBERSHIP

Membership payment is going well with more than 80% already paid. If you are one of the few still outstanding please complete a form and post to me, or pay by bank transfer. If you have received a reminder with this newsletter either by post or email it means I have no record of your payment., if you have already paid please contact me to sort it out. 01543506195 .

March is our AGM and I will be sorting membership cards after the meeting, they will be sent out to all paid up members, with the April newsletter,  
Bill Horan

*Meetings are held on the 1st 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**

*“The shorter way to do many things is to only do one thing at a time.”  
Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart*

**NEXT MEETING  
Agm  
2nd March 2023**

**Next Meeting 2nd March 2023**

**Your Branch**

**Your Branch**

A big worry for branch officers is that they will be expected to carry on till the day they die, and sadly this happens. Even branches that are financially sound can collapse if there are not enough new members coming forward to help run the branch committee.

**VISIT**

Being a committee member is a voluntary job, so why bother to do it if someone else is willing? The answer is to put back into the branch some of the effort that former volunteers expended on your behalf and from which you benefit today. There is considerable satisfaction to be had from knowing that you’ve played a part in the enjoyment others get from being members of our branch.

**LATHE  
COURSE**

**BRANCH  
DINNER**

**2023  
MEMBERSHIP**

Branch officers can become stale. They need a break, maybe just a couple of years off, so that if they return they come with fresh ideas and impetus. If they know that, should it be necessary, there is someone willing to take over from them at any time, it is a huge burden of responsibility removed from them.

**Free advertising**

[www.slbbhi.co.uk](http://www.slbbhi.co.uk)

## FREE ADVERTISING FOR BRANCH MEMBERS

Do you have something for sale or to give away, Do you need a specific watch or clock part or tool. Why not ask our around 140 members to help. We have had great success in the past.

Just contact me 01543506195 [electricwilliam@gmail.com](mailto:electricwilliam@gmail.com)

[www.slbbhi.co.uk](http://www.slbbhi.co.uk)

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So far the South London Branch has been lucky, but it will not necessarily remain thus unless we have more volunteers for our committee. Yes! I am appealing for your help to maintain the momentum of our committee and help spread the workload. Even if you are unable to join us immediately but feel that you could help in the future it would be nice to hear from you today, then we'll know who is waiting in the wings.

Please contact our secretary Norvin Simpson on 07922 813998 or [norvin@astoolhire.co.uk](mailto:norvin@astoolhire.co.uk)

## NEXT MEETING

### AGM - 2 March 2023

Our AGM this year takes place at our normal meeting on 2nd March.

Our Chairman has expressed his desire to step down from the post as of this AGM.

A vote(s) by eligible members will be taken on the proposed committee structure for the coming year (with the exception of the Chairman who is elected for a two-year term).

To be able to vote at the AGM, please remember we are a branch under the umbrella of the BHI at Upton Hall so **you must be a member of the BHI at Upton Hall, be a member our branch, and also sign the voting register at the meeting.**

In addition to the elections there will be the normal reports from the Chairman, Treasurer, Workshop Committee Chairman, Webmaster, and of course the opportunity for all members of the branch to raise any questions.

## The George Daniels Dinner

Not long now until the dinner, Alan is still waiting for some people to complete their menu choice, if this is you could you please make sure you hand it to Alan Westgate or Alan White at the AGM.

Could members that attend evening classes bring something they have made or repaired to the dinner to be displayed as examples of the work carried out at the classes.

## Basic Lathe Course

Saturday 25th March 2023 (10AM - 2PM) **FULLY BOOKED**

Saturday 15th April 2023 (10AM - 2PM)

Four places available.

40 pounds per person.

Introduction to basic lathe principals in our workshop.

This includes basic usage of lathes like the Myford, safety principles, and basic lathe tool sharpening.

Please contact Trevor Keast on 07507-142-704 to book or for further information.

## FOLLOWING THE AGM.

Due to unforeseen circumstances Emily Akkermans apologises that she was unable to deliver her lecture as planned February the 2<sup>nd</sup> . She has agreed to be our speaker after the Annual General meeting March 2<sup>nd</sup>.

We hope you will join Duncan in thanking Robert Wren who stepped in at the last minute and gave us an excellent and engaging talk on carriage clocks.

## Chronometry and Chronometers on British Voyages of Exploration 1819 to 1836. Dr Emily Akkermans

It has been sometime since our past president Jonathan Betts retired from the Royal Greenwich Observatory, though he is still curator emeritus. David Rooney is now a freelance author. Our past chairman Rory McEvoy also has moved on to pastures new and Anna Rolls has become the curator of the Clockmakers Museum. So, I am delighted to welcome Dr Emily Akkermans Curator of Time to the South London Branch in a hope to continue its long-term connection to horology at Greenwich.

Dr Emily Akkermans studied horology at the Vakschool, Schoonhoven, Netherlands and has been working with the collection at Greenwich since June 2018. When Emily was appointed as curator of time she was studying for a PhD, and I'm delighted she successfully defended her thesis. Tonight's lecture is the culmination of the research work she has been doing on the use of Chronometers at sea. In particular during the first half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century when they came into widespread use.

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She will examine the practices that were adopted by Royal Naval officers on scientific expeditions that took place between 1819 - 1836. These are Edward Parry's three attempts to find the North-West passage. William Fitzwilliam Owen's survey of the East Coast of Africa. Henry Foster's scientific expedition in the Atlantic and Robert Fitzroy's survey of South America and circumnavigation.

By their very nature chronometers can be delicate temperamental instruments that require a delicate touch from one who is familiar in their use, trained in taking readings and the mathematics of piloting these. Emily will include the social and institutional network in which the user of these instruments operated. The role of State, of the Admiralty and the Royal Society. And how the determination of longitude developed not from one instrument but through the interaction and use of a variety of instruments and methods.

Duncan Greig.



## Visit to the Science Museum

### Clockmakers Collection

Monday 17th April

A visit has been arranged for the branch to go to the Science Museum to see the Clockmakers Collection thanks to the curator Anna Rolls. The date is Monday 17th April meeting at 11.15 in their cafe. Numbers are restricted to 20 members on a first come first served basis by application to Ron Rose by email [ronalderose@btinternet.com](mailto:ronalderose@btinternet.com) giving your name, email and mobile contacts. There is no charge for this visit but they do encourage a donation to the Clockmakers Charity. You must make your own way there, probably using South Kensington Station and arriving in plenty of time to depart the cafe by 11.15 We will then go to the Clockmakers Gallery to be received by Anna Rolls who will give an introduction to the collection and be on hand for information.

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