

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 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.

There is no charge for this visit but they do encourage a donation to the Clockmakers charity. You must make your own way there,

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



South London Branch

British Horological Institute

Newsletter No. 529 APRIL 2023

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.

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Free advertising

www.slbbhi.co.uk

Next Meeting 6th April 2023

ANNA ROLLS

Clockmakers' Museum and Archive.

For our branch lecture of April 2023, we are delighted to welcome back Anna Rolls, Curator of the Clockmakers' Museum and Archive. After initially training in metalworking at the University of Brighton, Anna went on to complete a Postgraduate Diploma in The Conservation of Fine Metalwork at West Dean College, followed by an MA in Conservation Studies awarded by the University of Sussex. Anna was subsequently employed as the Objects Conservator for Scientific Instruments at the Royal Museum of Greenwich, where she began the British Horological Institute's distance learning course diploma in The Repair, Restoration and Conservation of Watches. She took up her current role as Curator of the Clockmakers' Museum and Archive in 2018, where she looks after the collection formed by the Worshipful Company of Clockmakers.

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Anna will use her talk to highlight a number of projects which have been carried out over the last year within the Company's Museum [on display at the Science Museum London] and Archive [held at the Guildhall Library]. Focussing on some of the objects and manuscripts from the collection which have been at the centre of these projects, Anna will delve into the stories that they help to reveal.

Last month's meeting AGM

The meeting began with a minutes silence for members lost during the past year.

Gary Thwaites read the chairman's report on behalf of James Marten. He began by apologising for our lack of a complete programme. Since Covid we have found it difficult to get speakers to commit well in advance. The main task for the committee this year has been the disposal of John Hatt's effects, all the hard work was well worth effort as funds raised paid for our new computer and projector.

Gary then gave the report on the workshops. The workshop has not suffered all classes fully subscribed although there has been some changes in personnel.

Trevor Keast gave the treasurer's report on behalf of Barnaby. The accounts showed surplus for 2022 in contrast with a deficit for 2021. Barnaby has said he will answer any questions on the accounts by email.

Trevor then gave a report on the workshop accounts, these are also quite healthy after the struggles during covid.

Tony Hamilton of Caterham has been appointed as auditor replacing Stephen Doerr who sadly passed away.

The accounts were adopted by a unanimous show of hands.

New Workshop Courses

The workshop is pleased to welcome back Sid Lines and John Ward, once again, for a selection of popular one day courses.

Saturday 3rd June 2023

Tool Sharpening Course

Time 10AM - 4PM (To be confirmed)

Number of places available: 8

Cost: 40 pounds per person

Tutor: Sid Lines

Saturday 10th June 2023

Making and Restoring Old Threads and Screws

Time 10AM - 4PM (To be confirmed)

Number of places available: 6-8

Cost: 40 pounds per person

Tutor: Sid Lines

Saturday 22nd July 2023

Clock Case Construction, Repair and Renovation

This three-hour course would look at traditional clock case construction and the woods that they were made of. This would be followed by repair and finishing techniques. There would be an opportunity for participants to bring along a case for appraisal and the best way to repair it.

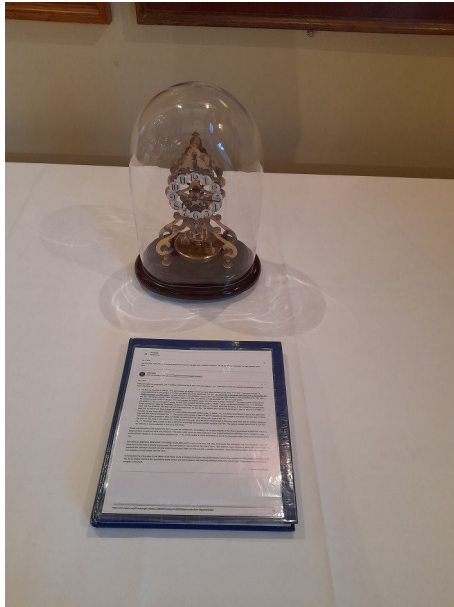
Number of places available: 6-8

Cost: 35 pounds per person

Tutor: John Ward

In the past these courses have been very popular. Places will be offered on a first come first served basis.

Please contact Trevor Keast on 07507-142-704 to secure your place on these courses.



Trevor thanked Grenville before introducing the Branch Vice President Ron Rose. Ron gave a very succinct, humorous talk on the effects of progress and ageing. Ron discovered he had a link with Abraham Louis Breguet (1747), they share a birthday albeit 200 years apart. Ron noted the effect Covid 19 had on the Branch, thanked members for their work and effort in keeping the Branch running during this difficult time and wished "Good Luck to All".

As Chair before closing proceedings Trevor offered a vote of thanks to; John and Joan Underhay for arranging the venue and seating plan, Alan Westgate for organising the event, David and Pamela Newman from The George Daniels Trust for their support, Emily Akkermans from the Royal Greenwich Observatory for her support, Patrick Sheenan and Andrew Willgress from HS Walsh for supplying wine for the tables and the staff at the golf club for providing an excellent evening. Appreciation for the speakers and guests was shown by all present with a vigorous round of applause.

Gary Thwaites

The branch officials were elected:- **Trevor Keast Chairman, James Marten Vice Chairman, Norvin Simpson Secretary and Barnaby Smith Treasurer.**

The rest of the committee were voted for en mass. **Duncan Greig, Bill Horan, Michael McDonnell, Terry Servant, Gary Thwaites, and Mick Welch.**

Tony Hamilton was appointed as Auditor.

Any other business. John Faulkes questioned the lateness of the newsletter Duncan explained that lately it has become difficult to get speakers organised, there is also a lack of items in the Horological Journal although this is not always our fault as the editor sometimes favours other branches, we are going to introduce more photos to our reports hopefully this will encourage them to use our reports. Alan Westgate asked if the committee were going to return to face to face meetings Trevor said this would be discussed at the next committee meeting. We have since discussed this and decided that unless there were exceptional circumstances we would continue on Zoom.

The meeting closed at 20.45

The AGM was Followed by

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

A report on this talk will follow in the next newsletter.

The George Daniels Dinner

On Monday 27th March the SLBBHI returned to the Addington Palace Golf Club to hold the annual 'George Daniels Memorial Dinner'. Fifty three members and guests assembled in the function room prior to the commencement of dinner to enjoy an aperitif, chat to friends and marvel at the display of work undertaken by students of the branch workshop. The main part of the display included the cases of six Hooded Wall clocks constructed during a recent workshop course, along with their associated restored movements.



Our Branch Chair Trevor Keast opened the proceedings by welcoming all those present, followed by holding a minutes silence for those members sadly lost in the past year. Branch President Philip Whyte said grace before we enjoyed an excellent three course dinner.

While tea or coffee and after dinner mints were being served, Trevor introduced the guest speaker Justin Koullapis who firstly on behalf of the BHI thanked the SLBBHI for its generous donation towards the fund for replacing the boiler at Upton Hall. Justin then presented us with a very interesting and thought provoking talk based on the future relationship between the charitable trust responsible for the upkeep of the 'Museum Collection' (established in 1994) and the BHI. Justin as current Chair of the trust indicated that historically the trust and the BHI 'drifted' in different directions with regard to the future of the exhibits. The Tommy Miles Archive of Clock Hands was presented as an example of this; the hands were held at the British Museum whilst the paper archive was held by the trust, both are now reunited in the trust's 'Museum Collection'. Justin concluded with the thought that it is the moral responsibility of us all to preserve the future and integrity of Horological collections.

Trevor thanked Justin before introducing Grenville Johns who kindly stepped in at the last minute for John Ward who was unable to attend the dinner. Grenville gave a very informative talk on the Hooded Wall Clock course led by John Ward and Ron Rose. John sourced, the oak, original Victorian rippled glass, 10" 30hr movements along with sundry items in order to provide each student with a kit of parts. Ron supervised the overhaul and restoration of the movements. Grenville was tasked with documenting and photographing the course then publishing a set of student notes. Grenville offered a vote of thanks to the generosity of Glynnis Doerr, wife of the late Stephen Doerr whose collection provided the movements, John and Ron for devising and running the course and Alan White for proof reading the student notes.