

## The George Daniels Dinner

As you will see in the annual programme the dinner is to be on the 18th March. Full details next month. **Don't forget to put the date in your shiny new diary.**

## ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS.

Branch Membership subscriptions are coming in at a steady rate with around 40% already received. Membership cards have been sent out to members who have paid (check the envelope if you didn't see it). If you received a membership form with this news letter it means I have not received your contribution yet.

## FREE ADVERTISING FOR BRANCH MEMBERS.

Is there something you require, an obscure tool or clock part. We can try and help we have had great success in the past. Just contact Bill : -  
01543506195 or [electricwilliam@gmail.com](mailto:electricwilliam@gmail.com)

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



## South London Branch British Horological Institute

Newsletter No. 538 JANUARY 2024

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

NEXT MEETING

LAST MONTH'S  
MEETING

George  
Daniels  
Dinner

2024  
MEMBERSHIP

Free  
advertising for  
Slbbhi members

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

"I'm a little bit older, a little bit wiser, a little bit rounder, but still none the wiser."

Robert Paul

**Next Month's Meeting at the White Hart barn**

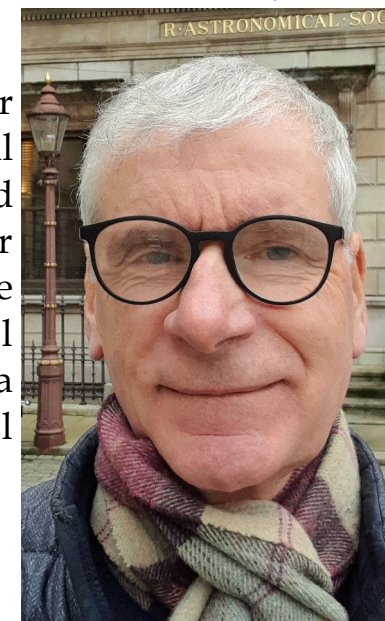
**4<sup>th</sup> January 2024. 7:30 pm for an 8oclock start.**

**Graham Dolan**

**'Old Myths, new insights -**

**+The Regulators of William Hardy'.**

Graham Dolan is Curator Emeritus at the Royal Museums Greenwich and was previously Senior Education officer at the Museum's Royal Observatory site. He is a Fellow of the Royal Astronomical Society.



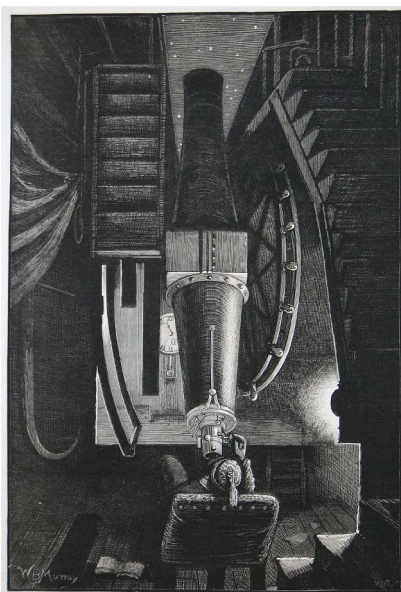
Continued

Continued

In 1807, the chronometer maker William Hardy persuaded the Board of Longitude to run a trial at the Royal Observatory, of a regulator escapement that he had recently invented and fitted to an existing clock, by another maker. Its performance was such, that the Astronomer Royal ordered a bespoke clock from Hardy for use with the new Mural Circle that was being made for the Observatory by Edward Troughton.

When the clock arrived at the Observatory in 1811, there was a mighty row over the size of Hardy's bill. Further controversy followed in 1830, when, after a period of indifferent performance, Edward Dent was permitted to change Hardy's escapement for a dead-beat one of his own. Things were further compounded by the fact that Dent also decided to add his name to the dial.

Hardy's clock is one of the most important that the Observatory ever owned. It served as a transit clock from the time of its arrival until it was retired from active service in 1954. During the period 1823 to 1871 it was also the de facto sidereal standard - the clock by which all the Observatory's other clocks were set. During its life, it has undergone numerous and significant alterations. It can be seen today in the same position that it has occupied since the end of 1850.



In total, Hardy made at least 18 regulators, and possibly as many as 23 or more. Amongst those who originally



owned them were wealthy individuals rich enough to have an observatory of their own. Others were supplied for government and privately funded institutions, including two clocks for the American Coastal Survey and three to the Russian Government. A recent survey of 12 of Hardy's surviving clocks has shown that only two of them may once have been identical. The talk will end with a review of these 12, with some of the differences between them being highlighted.

**Last month's meeting.**

**The George Daniels Memorial lecture.**

Last month's meeting saw the largest gathering of SLBBHI members (51) since the covid restrictions. Full report in the next newsletter.