



South London Branch British Horological Institute

Newsletter No. 551 FEBRUARY 2025

Branch No 25. Founded 1978

*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

DECEMBER
MEETING

LATHE FOR
SALE

HELP
REQUIRED

GEORGE
DANIELS
DINNER

ANNUAL
SUBS

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"Remember, today is the tomorrow you worried about yesterday." Dale Carnegie

NEXT MEETING 6th FEBRUARY

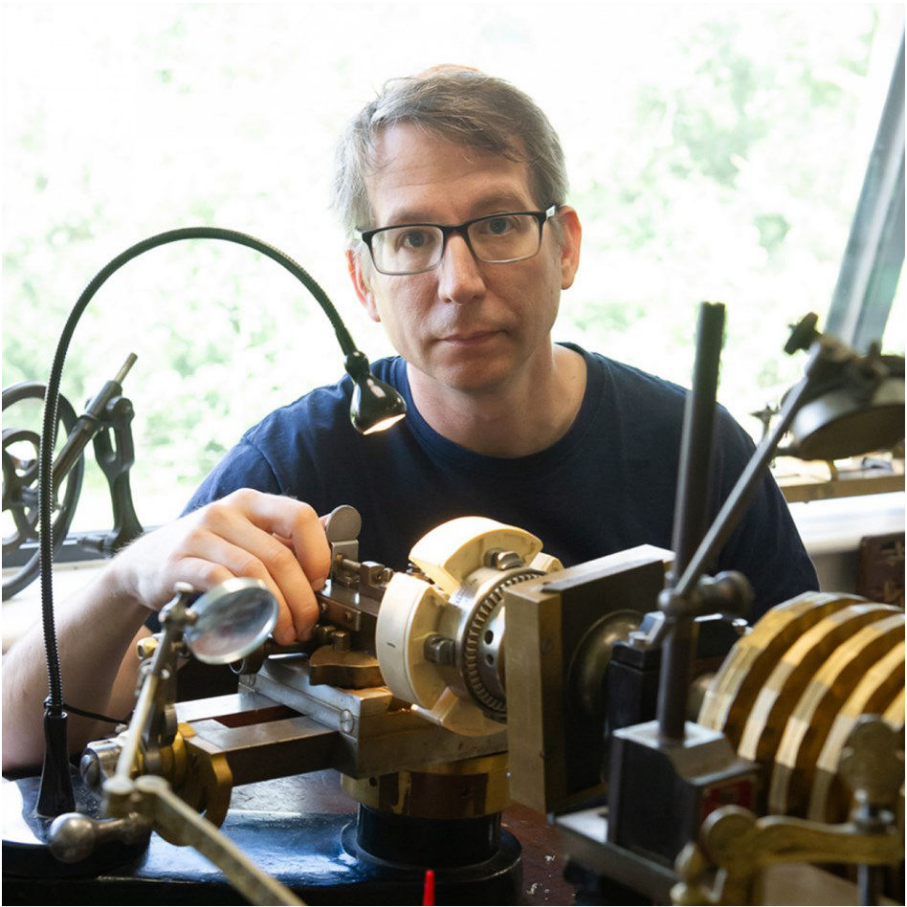
**'The London Horological Engine Turners'.
Seth Kennedy.**

The South London Branch is delighted to welcome back Seth Kennedy. Seth is an antiquarian horologist who specialises in working on pocket watches. He works on movements from the 17th to 20th century, restoring the movements of these vintage masterpieces and restoring their cases. He often makes bespoke parts even complete cases.

He is an accredited member of the BHI who came to horology after redundancy in the mechanical engineering field. Mentored by Ray Bell, he cherishes a signed copy of the watchmaker by George Daniels, former president of the South London branch. Seth has excelled in horology, studying and learning the art of engine turning.

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In the 19th -century London the making of a watch required the work of many individuals each practicing their own specialism. This talk discusses the engine turners of Clerkenwell, the links



between their work, the watch case and dial making trades. Who were the engine turners where did they come from and what machinery did, they use. Where did they acquire their unique skills and as the London Horological trade declined what happened to these workers and their businesses

December Meeting

Tobias Birch.

The George Daniels Lecture.

Thomas Mudge and William Dutton.

Thursday the 5th of December, we welcomed Tobias Birch from Cheltenham who had an eventful journey, courtesy of the M25, but nonetheless settled into our meeting, The George Daniels Memorial Lecture. George was president of the South London Branch and is still fondly remembered by many of its members, so it was fitting that Toby delivered a lecture based around the horologists that had inspired him so early on in his career. George Daniels had written an article for the Antiquarian Horological Society in December of 1981. In the article he refers to Thomas Mudge as the complete horologist. Mudge's Green chronometer, using a revolutionary constant force detached escapement, George referred to this as an inspiration for young horologists.

Tobias Birch thanked and acknowledged David Penny for the illustration of Thomas Mudge's lever escapement and the introduction to his 2019 Exhibition catalogue, "Thomas Mudge and William Dutton a perfect partnership".

One of the first facts that Tobias wanted to resolve was that many people have written in the past that William Dutton carried on the business of Thomas Mudge and Thomas Mudge carried on the business of George Graham. This is not so as William Dutton died before Thomas Mudge, and they had both established themselves in business before the death of George Graham. Both had been apprenticed to George Graham.

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Thomas Mudge was born in 1715, one of four sons and one daughter of the reverend Zachariah Mudge (1694-1769) and Mary Mudge formerly Fox. A very imposing portrait of Zachariah exists painted by the artist Reynolds.

Toby gave evidence of Zacharias support for his son Thomas, making the three-day journey to London prior to his son's apprenticeship to George Graham, Graham was also in support of Mudge with an interest free loan around the time of his start up in business. William Dutton's apprenticeship with George Graham started the same day as Thomas Mudge gained his freedom with the clockmakers company in 1738. William Dutton married Anne Millward the daughter of Thomas Millward the print seller with his shop next to George Graham in 1747, a year after he gained his freedom. William Dutton seems to have stayed with George Graham up to his death in 1751. The two lifelong friends seemingly helped each other out, Thomas Mudge mainly concerned with watches and William Dutton with the clocks but did not enter a formal partnership until 1765, working from 151 Fleet Street London. They employed many of the same workmen, (engravers etc.) from Graham's business.

Thomas Mudge made a watch for Ellicot which he had been commissioned from the King of Spain. When the watch went wrong it was only Mudge that could correct it. Subsequently the King of Spain commissioned further work directly from Mudge and a most iconic Equation of Time Longcase. This was an artifact Toby was very proud to have added to his stock and illustrated the Mudge and Dutton partnerships eloquent Georgian style. Pillarless Mahogany cased Longcases, arched three pad table clocks and their styling of wall clocks were popular. The partnership were renowned for producing the best quality of product for their customers not quantity.

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By 1771 Mudge who had been suffering ill health, moved to Plymouth with his wife Abigail and his two sons, Thomas and John, to be cared for by his Physician brother, Dr John Mudge, leaving William Dutton to carry on the London Business. While in Plymouth Thomas was able to concentrate on his navigational chronometers Mudge Green and Blue which he completed in 1779. The relationship with William Dutton must have been exemplary as the two partners continued strongly in business even surviving a fire which extensively damaged the premises at 151 Fleet Street and subsequent relocation to 148 Fleet Street in 1773. Both being able to create clocks and watch projects with their joint or individual names. Both took on apprentices. Thomas Mudge took on Mathew Dutton, William's son who spent time between Plymouth and London. William also took on his other son Thomas Dutton.

Tobias explained the family connection to the Kingdoms. The marriage of Thomas Junior to Elizabeth Kingdom and William Dutton's daughter Hephzibah Dutton's marriage with William Kingdom brother of Elizabeth Kingdom, but it was with great sympathy he read out a document from Thomas Mudge giving his last wishes that he should be laid to rest at St Dunstan's in the West, Fleet Street after his death 14th November 1794 the same church as his business partner who was laid to rest in January of the same year.

This was a well-researched talk, and it contained far more information than can be placed in these pages. The meeting was well attended even attracting visitors from the Isle of Man. After a question-and-answer session we presented our speaker with some South London Branch oil and wished all members a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Duncan Greig

LATHE FOR SALE

This is a Myford ML7 240v single phase in excellent condition, Serial number K39008

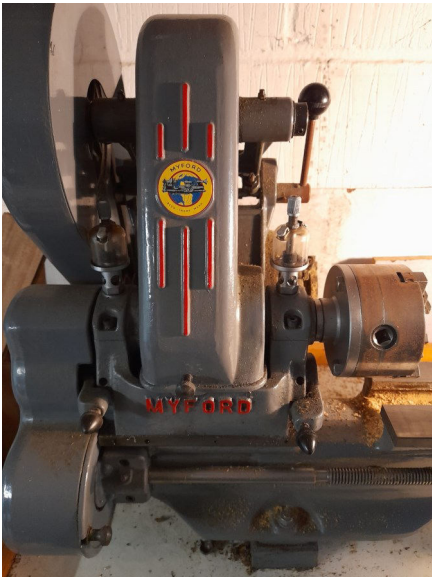
It looks to have been fully refurbished some time ago and had little use since.

Mounted on a home made wooden stand with a Myford reversing switch built in.

It comes with a three jaw chuck, four jaw chuck, tailstock chuck, set of change wheels, vertical slide,

Catch plate, face plates, parallels and a selection of cutting tools plus tool steel.

Price £550 Please contact Norvin 07922813998 or norvin@astoolhire.co.uk





HELP REQUIRED

I received the following request for help:-

I have a Glashutte marine chronometer which had a broken fusee chain. It should however be fitted with a steel (possibly stainless) strip 0.25mm thick x 0.75mm wide and about 810mm long. Where can I get a replacement as Glashutte don't supply spares. I have the original terminal hooks which are silver soldered on.

Thank you for any help. Contact me by email
horsham.dkw.karate@talktalk.net

Regards Gordon Hoare

GEORGE DANIELS DINNER

This years **George Daniels dinner** will be on Monday 24th March at Addington Palace Golf Club. I have enclosed/attached the menu and details. If you wish to attend please complete the form and return it to Alan Westgate at the address on the form or bring it to the next meeting

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS.

Branch Membership subscriptions are coming in at a steady rate with around 66% already received. Membership cards have been posted to those members who have paid, If you received a membership form with this news letter it means I have not received your contribution yet. If you have paid but not received your card please contact me. March is the cut off for renewal, after this you will only receive the email version.

FREE ADVERTISING FOR BRANCH MEMBERS

If you wish to place an advert in our newsletter , contact Bill :-
01543 506195 or electricwilliam@gmail.com

www.slbbhi.co.uk