

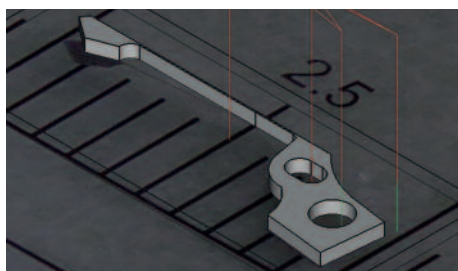
Guild's watch parts database goes global

Site is now multilingual and includes CAD drawings for hard to obtain parts

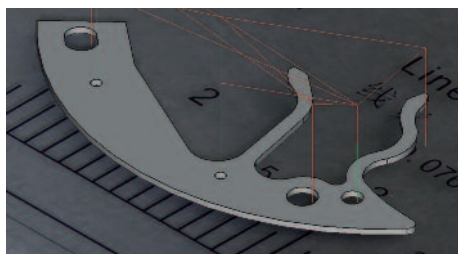
The Guild's Spare Parts Database is now available in four different languages following a surge in overseas interest.

The Danish Guild of Watchmakers has approached us with a view to recommending the site to its members. In preparation for that, a Danish colleague has provided translations. French and German is also now available as well. Interest has also been shown from America and Australia.

Another new feature is the addition of CAD drawings for hard to obtain spare parts. A total of 16 are now listed that can be made in an individual's own workshop with an investment of less than a £1,000. Included are such rarities as the Omega 320 hammer spring. Further parts will be added constantly so that a good database of do-it-yourself parts can be compiled over the next year.



Valjoux 72 minute recorder jumper.



JLC 497 baking stop spring.

In the last 30 days, the site had 728 users, of which 652 were new users. There was a total 970 online sessions and 5,846 page views. There are now 98 registered users who are listing 12,488 spare parts. A total of 226 requests for parts have gone through the site so far.

Guild Director Christian Dannemann, the site originator, is delighted with its success and says it is a much needed facility. 'Each week we have new members registering and I am particularly delighted to welcome overseas colleagues to the site. We will do all we can to make the process easy by continuing to expand the number of languages available.'

A new section for requests has also been added, where users can list parts they are looking for, and other users can point them in the right direction.

The database is totally free to use and was launched by the Guild in a bid to help members find unusual parts and at the same time advertise surplus stock for sale. It can also be used privately as a on-line stock record.

www.watchparts.org.uk

Auction record of £3m for Patek Philippe Asprey



The Asprey, by Patek Philippe, Ref 2499, a yellow gold perpetual calendar chronograph wristwatch with moon phases was the most expensive watch to sell at auction during 2018, fetching £3,005,534 at Sotheby's Important Watch Sale in Geneva on 13 November. Read more on Page 11.

www.sothebys.com

Important 1790 Churchill watch goes under the hammer



A pocket watch, made by Josiah Emery of London, that once belonged to Francis, 1st Baron Churchill, went under the hammer at Bonhams Watches and Wristwatches sale in November.

It is the first time this historically important open face pocket watch with early lever escapement has appeared at auction. It sold for £117,500 including premium. Read more on Page 11.

www.bonhams.com

Wishing all Guild members a very happy and healthy Christmas and a peaceful and prosperous new year.

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TIMEPIECE www.bwcmg.org

Ongoing projects

I tend to take a break from work mid-afternoon for 15 minutes and have a cup of coffee. Unless a client rings the shop door bell, I try to use this time to plan any new or ongoing projects for the Guild.

Today, it was the phone that interrupted my coffee. A member of the Guild needed a barometer glass cut and the company he normally sends his glasses to is no longer offering the service. I suggested two glass specialists for him to try.

The Guild, as the professional horological body in the UK, is receiving more and more requests for assistance – not just from members, but from the general public. On two occasions recently, different Government bodies have asked the Guild for information and assistance.

Department of International Trade

The first enquiry came from the Department of International Trade asking for assistance as they prepared for life after BREXIT. They were looking into an old agreement on clocks and watches between the EU and Switzerland and wanted to know if any British companies were using the agreement which glories under the name of the 'Additional Agreement to the Agreement concerning products of the clock and watch industry between the European Economic Community and its Member States and the Swiss Confederation'. They needed to know if any British company manufactured, under licence, any Swiss movements from a long list which they supplied. After research, the Board was able to inform the Department that we were not aware of any movements of the calibres of interest under this agreement being or having been manufactured in the UK.

This enabled the Department to complete this part of their research and the Guild received an email thanking us for our help.

DEFRA

Another request came from the Department of the Environment Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) who emailed and explained that they were examining the implications of the UK leaving the EU with regard to the trade in endangered species under the 'Convention for International Trade in Endangered Species' (CITES).

They approached us as their records showed the Guild as 'the leading Association for promoting the interests of the watch and clock industry' and they took the view that it would be extremely worth-



*Message from the
Chairman*
Chris Papworth MBHI

while to discuss our views and experience in order that DEFRA could shape how CITES will operate when we leave the EU.

I discussed this on the phone with the DEFRA representative and though endangered species do not have a great significance for a lot of our members, it will affect those clockmakers restoring antique clocks.

The ban on ivory and tortoiseshell and the difficulty with rosewood will cause problems and we discussed these in some detail. The DEFRA representative also pointed out that the use of exotic leather, for instance crocodile and lizard for watch straps will (or the straps themselves will) require a permit during export or import. This will not affect the retailer, but may, of course, lead to a small increase in price. The situation with rosewood may ease as sustainable supplies become more available. It was agreed that DEFRA would keep the Guild up to date with all developments and they have asked us to attend a round table discussion on this matter in December when all interested parties will have an opportunity to put forward their

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views on the proposed CITES agreement. The Guild will continue to keep members updated on all matters which might affect their businesses.

The Guild is getting more and more enquiries asking for information on how to set up companies to make British watches. Most enquires pretty soon fall by the wayside, but the latest one has come from someone who wishes to start a new 'Made in England' watch company.

The person is currently working in the fashion watch industry for a company supplying 'own brand' watches to several of the large fashion houses and larger retailers. He is extremely passionate about starting his own watch brand to retail at an accessible price. He has marketing skills but needs to source suppliers for the watch cases, dials etc within this country, and would like, when his company is established, to join the Guild and include us within his marketing strategy. The Board have given much advice and wish him every success in this project.

In October I attended the BHI Awards Day and presented the Guild prize to Tim Bankes, see Page 5. November saw me attending a meeting for the Trailblazer Clockmaking Apprenticeship Scheme, where it was announced that the Institute for Apprenticeships has given its conditional approval to the standard submitted.

As some members will know, the Antiquarian Horological Society (AHS) have a new HQ in the centre of London which is currently being remodelled and fitted out. When the renovations are complete the Guild will be using the premises as our permanent meeting place, so after many years we will be leaving the Friends Meeting House, opposite Euston Station. The Board are looking forward to meeting in this new venue and forging closer ties with the AHS. It is important that all the horological organisations work together to ensure UK horology takes its rightful place in the future.

Until the new AHS headquarters are ready, James Nye has kindly offered the use of his premises 'The Clockworks' and the Board's next meeting in the New Year will be held there. As usual, any Guild member is welcome to join us, air their views and suggest new ventures for the Guild, or simply meet the Board members.

Finally, on behalf of the Board, may I wish all members a peaceful, happy Christmas and enough energy to do it all over again next year.

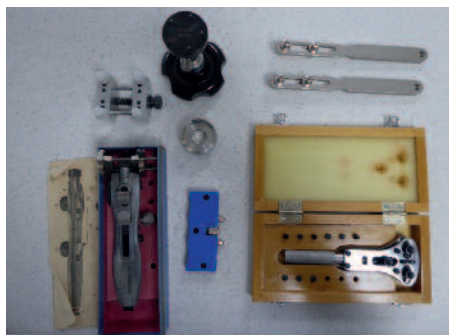
www.bwcmg.org

Step by Step

Christian Dannemann

Opening Watch Cases

As an independent watch repairer you can't have a case opening tool for every single watch that comes into the workshop. There is a nice array of generic tools, and you can of course buy the specialised tools for watches you work on a lot.



Above is a collection of tools and, as we do a lot of Rolex watches, we also have the LG Openall, which works very well, see below.



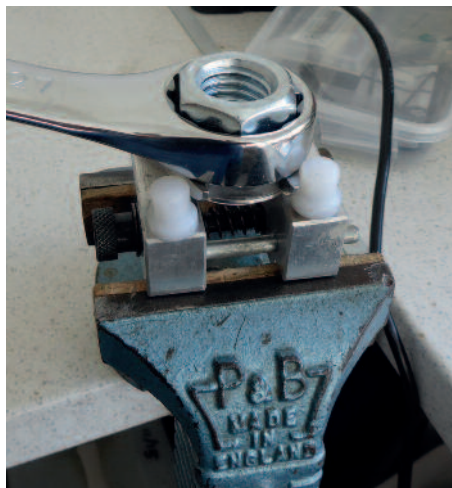
But there are limits, and sometimes you can't even open a watch with the proper tool. Most of the time a swollen case back gasket is the culprit or, worse, someone has wrongly threaded the case back and in that case it is almost impossible to get it open.

Fear not – a 27mm nut and a spanner are your friends – and no case back can resist.



Put a drop of acetone on some kitchen roll, clean the case back and your nut. Use superglue to stick the nut to the case back.

Go and have a cup of tea. After 10 to 15 minutes put the case in a case holder, get out your trusted 27mm spanner, and just open the case.



It looks a bit brutal, but is in fact the most gentle method to open a case back, and I highly recommend doing it this way if you have a watch with a totally pristine case back, that you don't want to even lightly scratch. All normal case tools will leave marks even if they are the manufac-



turer's recommended one. Sometimes the marks are only visible under the microscope but be assured they will be there. This method doesn't leave any marks.

Once you are done, pop the case back with the glued on nut in a little glass jar of acetone, and wait half an hour to an hour, and the acetone will completely dissolve the superglue. Not a trace, and even your local CSI swat team will scratch their heads and wonder how you opened the watch.

This method has never failed us here at the workshop and no watch dares to resist. If we have the slightest doubt whether our other openers might slip, we just open it in this way to avoid any danger of scratches.

www.watchguy.co.uk

Artic explorers

This watch was purchased by a Guild member as part of a collection of watches and clocks which were left to an Australian museum. The very same model was taken by Roald Amundsen on his Norwegian Antarctic Expedition in 1910/12. The alarm watch movement was made in Wurttemberg by the Junghans Company.



The original watch was offered for sale by Christie's in 1997 for between £6,000/£8,000.

A similar (possibly the same) type of watch was taken by Scott on his Polar expedition and is on display in the BHI Museum Collection.

The Adventures of a Clockmaker

Michael Guiver ponders the advantages of old versus modern... Part 2

Following on from my article in the November/December issue of TimePiece – now you are ready to start the repairs, cleaning and re-bushing on a chain-wound clock.

Watch out for the larger bushes on the chime side, namely those that have cams on the front plate, as these tend to wear sideways, likewise the pin wheel on the strike side and gathering pallet front bush. On the going side, look out for the rear escape and third bushes. (Note the gathering pallet will need to be removed with levers and must be replaced using a staking set when the movement is fully assembled.)

There is no setting up to do on the chime side other than allowing half a revolution of the warning wheel on stopping – the rest will fall into place so to speak – but be sure to set the correct lift on the double locking mechanism if it has inside levers held on with set screws.

Remember that if it is necessary to re-bush the front centre you must remove the cannon pinion. A lathe used to push this away between centres works well and can be used to reassemble afterwards – note the position of the four points as these release the quarters and must line up with the hands. You must also ensure sufficient end shake on the hour wheel on the centre arbor with the hands on and the hand nut tightened. Check this before re-assembly of the movement as there

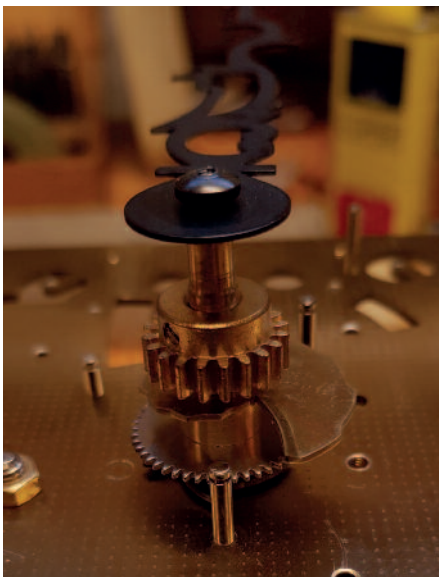
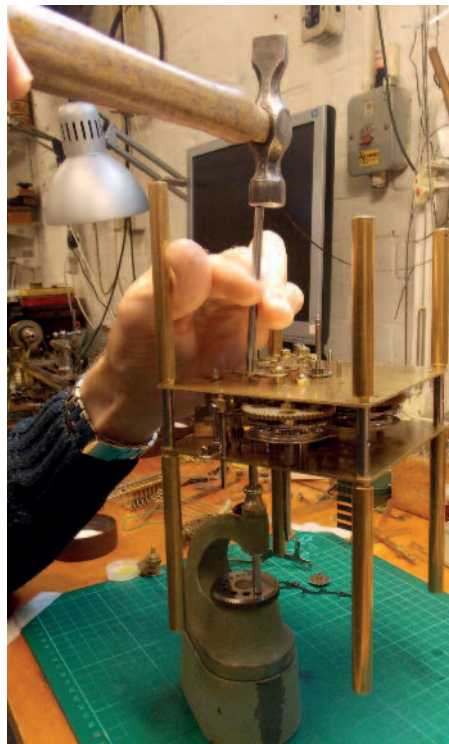


Figure 1. Checking the correct endshake of the motionwork assembly with the centre arbour is very necessary after having removed the cannon pinion to rebush the centre hole.

must be end-shake otherwise the clock will not run and you will have to start all over again – yes I have done it and I needed more than tea to console me! **Figure 1.**

A quick note on cleaning. If the plates are lacquered do not place them in a proprietary cleaner. What works well for me is an ultrasonic tank with paraffin to loosen everything then a quick dip in the cleaner, followed by rinsing. Alternatively you can clean by hand with a tooth brush and lighter fluid. Please note that these methods work for me but I am not suggesting that you do the same. You must develop your own methods – the writer takes no responsibility for your mistakes. Remember to be careful with all cleaning fluids as some are hazardous!



Securing the gathering pallet using the staking set.

We have already mentioned that the gathering pallet must be removed for servicing and that small levers should be used to squeeze it off. The question is how to re-fit the gathering pallet?

Figure 2 shows the correct set up. Do not just tap on the gathering from the front. If you have re-bushed the back bearing then you will push it out. In the picture you will note I am supporting the rear bush with the stake set. This is a bit of a balancing act. Use a hollow punch to tap home the gathering pallet. It's a good idea to have



A different version of a chain wound clock showing auto night shut off.

all of your tools ready in front of you and be sure to line up the gathering pallet carefully with a trial run by just pushing it on and testing – the train must stop dead as soon as the hammer has dropped.

You will also note from this picture the previously mentioned brass stilts fitted to both front and back of the clock movement. These will support both sides of the clock and must be long enough to cover all extensions of the movement.

At this final stage I feel it worth mentioning the auto-night-shut-off version of these clocks which can be troublesome as I have found, **Figure 3.**

They operate as follows: The clock chimes finish at 21.45pm and re-start at 07.00am. If you reason that the clock must resume chime with the next quarter following that which it finished in order to achieve continuous chiming without error then you will understand how this works.

On these clocks the front centre bearing must not be worn. If it is then you must re-bush it otherwise the chimes will not operate correctly. Bush it as tightly as you can but allow just a little play – don't forget that the end shake on the motion work must be checked as previously stated.

When removing the auto-night-work there is no need to undo the wheel, just pull the whole assembly off its post, but watch out for the keeper spring that holds this assembly either up or down, ie for auto off or continuous.

With a little practice you will master these seemingly complicated clocks and will have earned that cup-of-tea! See you next time

www.theclockmakersworkshop.com

Guild Award for Tim

Tim Bankes was presented with the British Watch and Clock Makers' Guild prize at the recent BHI Awards Day at the end of October. Guild Chairman Chris Papworth handed over the award along with a cheque for £250 for the Best Result in the Diploma in Clock and Watch Servicing.

It was just one of four prizes won by father-of-three Tim (48) on the day. He also picked up the Malcolm Barratt Prize; the Beresford Hutchinson/South London Branch Prize and the Charles Dilley Memorial Prize.

A delighted Tim said: 'I was amazed when I read my results. I was confident that I had passed the written exam but not confident at all about the two practical units. The interesting thing about doing the Distance Learning Course independently is that you have very little real idea of what the required standard is. The drawings and instructions are perfect and one's efforts to replicate them never are. I was very relieved to find that my attempts were within the required standard and the results have given me great encouragement to go on.'

'I'd like to thank the BWCMG very much for my prize which I think I will put towards purchasing a depthing tool.'

Tim, who lives in Bath, with his wife Helen, and children Tilly (13), Oscar (12) and Florence (10), is fairly new to horology, studying for a BSc in Valuation & Estate Management at Bristol Polytechnic, and then doing a CPE Law conversion, at the University of Westminster. He qualified as a solicitor in 2001 but didn't go into private practice. He manages a small agricultural estate in the north west of England and has done so since 1994.

Tim's route into horology is quite unusual. He explains: 'For a number of years I had a hobby building wooden boats until I became allergic to saw dust. I wanted to do something else that involved making things and was challenging but without the saw dust.'

'Clockmaking had always vaguely interested me but I knew nothing about it. When I tried to find out how to learn about it I



came across the BHI's Distance Learning Course. This was perfect for me as there was no timetable and it could all be done at home in a small workshop.'

Tim started the course in 2014 (aged 44) with the intention of doing all the course work for the technical, intermediate and final years but with no fixed intention to take the exams.

'I practiced on broken clocks that I bought on eBay and then resold when I'd repaired them. I kept on getting involved with other things and missing the exam application deadlines. Even this year I missed the exam application deadline but noticed in the BHI Journal that late applications were accepted.'

So far Tim has taken the Diploma in Clock and Watch Servicing and passed with merit in the three units. He now plans to take four more units next year and three in the following year.'

For the future Tim hopes, when qualified, to start restoring clocks for members of the public (rather than repairing purchased broken clocks) and making clocks for sale but only on a small scale. He says his current ambition is to design and make small skeleton clocks housed in brass and glass cases.

'I'd like to thank all at the BHI for making the DLC available and for the encouragement provided by my tutor George Clegg,' added Tim.

Erwin Sattler celebrate 60 years

Munich clockmakers Erwin Sattler has recently celebrated 60 years in business. Founded in 1958, the Company has developed into a modern clockmaking factory over the years, combining centuries-old craftsmanship with state-of-the-art manufacturing technologies, which see virtually all parts made in-house in small-batch series.

The factory itself is dominated by a 12 metre glass tower housing the largest precision pendulum clock in the world, featuring a pendulum length of almost 8 meters – a 6x upscale of a Sattler precision pendulum clock.

Erwin Sattler, the founder, went into a well-earned retirement in 2002 with the knowledge that his life's work was in the competent hands of the next generation. From 1992 the company developed new production and marketing strategies after

Stephanie Sattler-Rick, one of Erwin Sattler's daughters, and watchmaker Richard Müller jointly took over the company's administration.

'The transformation of the clock production into a fully self-sufficient manufacture took place between 1992 and 2002,' explained Richard. 'In these ten years, we restructured the company with the development of many new movements, models, and our own table clock movement so that we wouldn't need to purchase any more movements.'

Today there are 25 Sattler movements, all manufactured solely in exclusive small series production. To mark its 60th Anniversary Sattler produced their Opus Perpetual which has bilateral barometric compensation with a monthly deviation of only one or two seconds.

www.erwinsattler.com



Richard Müller and Stephanie Sattler-Rick standing beside their Maxima Secunda clock, which graces the lobby of a concert hall.

Overton Clocks of Chesterfield has gone from strength to strength since it first opened for business in 2015 and now has a five-strong team and brimming order books.

It is owned by former mechanical and electronic instrument repairer, Adrian Overton, who trained at Smiths of Derby. He remembers from an early age that engineering had a massive influence on him.

‘My junior school was directly opposite the head offices of Rolls Royce. I would regularly take a stroll down to the main entrance and persuade the commissionaire to let me see the famous memorial stained glass window in the foyer.’

Adrian started his working life at 16 at Coutaulds Chemicals as an apprentice instrumentation engineer – a role which entailed servicing and repairing industrial measurement instruments – and one which provided the initial horological spark.

A degree in electrical/electronic engineering at Derby University followed and when a vacancy for a clockmaker came up at Smiths of Derby, he decided to take the plunge.

‘I went along to the interview and sat in Mr Smith’s very impressive panelled office. He asked me a number of questions and I tried my best to answer them. Then came the question that nearly cost me the job. I was asked if I knew what an ‘escapement’ was. I answered honestly: I don’t know but give me six months, if I still don’t know after that, I will quit myself!’

Adrian spent the next few years reading every book on horology that he could find and working alongside mentors Jeff Fletcher and David Higginbotham absorbing every bit of information he could squeeze out of them. During this time he also studied horology on the BHI Distance Learning Course.

It was while teaching electrical/electronic engineering at the local college that Adrian started to think seriously about setting up his own horological business.

‘For years I had contemplated whether there was enough work and if I could make a living from it,’ he explained. ‘During my time as a teacher, I also started repairing complicated clocks for a local clock dealer, which fuelled the fire further’

He decided that the best way to find out if there was a market in horology was to get information straight from the horse’s mouth.

‘I visited every clock shop I could find and asked endless questions about setting up such a business. I can say that nearly everyone I met encouraged me to continue – so I took the plunge.’



Owner Adrian Overton hard at work.

I found a room to let above an estate agent and went part time teaching.

‘As my three children were all grown up and I knew I could survive on baked beans on toast for a while, I figured the drop in income would not be too much of a worry.

‘Because I thought I would not be that busy (who wants their clocks fixed?), I bought a bicycle and some fishing tackle and dreamed of tinkering with clocks for an hour or two a day and then going out for a cycle or fishing. In three and a half years, I have ridden the bike once!’

Things took off very quickly and Adrian soon found himself working full time and taking on four staff, including his wife Alison who looks after the finance and business side of things.

‘People say it is a dying trade and to some extent the average age of the repairers out there is ‘getting on a bit’, however, the amount of work available is increasing year on year.

‘I believe the throw away attitude is changing and we are seeing a larger number of younger customers bringing in clocks and watches that belonged to an older relative. We have also helped an ex-employee set up his own horological business, becoming a mentor for him while he works his way through the set up process.’

Overton Clocks has been running since March 2015 starting initially as a just a repair and restoration shop. Over the past year they have started to completely overhaul timepieces and they now also sell select fine clocks from their new showroom.

Added Adrian: ‘We had been repeatedly asked by customers impressed by our restoration standards if we had any clocks for sale, so we introduced a few and things just took off from there.’

The best piece of advice I could give to others in business is not to be afraid of change. Don't keep making the same old mistakes.



On the bench...



Apprentice clockmaker Jessica Elliott, one of a five-strong team.

Work at Overton Clocks includes clock repair and restoration, including complicated carriage clocks, Grande Sonnerie, Vienna clocks, complicated tune players, automata and early verge timepieces, case repair and restoration, dial restoration, watch repair and restoration, including verge pocket watches, lever pocket watches, watches, chronographs, and complicated repeaters

But, Adrian is the first to admit that it hasn't all been plain sailing.

'It has been tough. One of the biggest problems for us has been trying to deal with the large number of enquiries from all over the UK and abroad, at the same time maintaining the throughput of work that keeps the cogs turning so to speak.

'The best piece of advice I could give to others in business is not to be afraid of change. We have learnt, over the years, to try a system or method to run the business but, crucially, if it did not work exactly how we wanted it to, we changed it. We did not just keep making the same old mistakes.

'We now have a good structure within the business that works for us and has enabled our waiting list to be drastically reduced whilst maintaining the high quality of work. A customer does not leave the shop without a firm quotation, it is very rare that we have to revise it and that gives the customer confidence.'

Overton Clocks now have three very clear departments: Clock Repair and Restoration, Watch Repair and Restoration and Fine Clock Sales. Approximately 50% of the work they take on is from private clients, 25% is trade work and the remaining 25% comes from two of the UK's biggest jewellers.

Despite being busy, Adrian still enjoys going into customers' homes and explaining how to wind a clock and put it in beat. He says if he didn't take the time to explain things properly he would just spend a lot of time revisiting.'

Adrian's main love is working on very complex clocks – the more complicated the better. He says it is incredibly satisfying to fix something that others can't.

His favourite clock is one previously owned by the King of Sweden, a perpetual calendar with leap year adjust, which dates back to 1873, which he keeps at home.

For the future, Overton Clocks will continue to be a good old fashioned traditional Clock and Watch Shop that ensures customers always receive the best possible service ensuring they will always come back.

'We pride ourselves on the quality of work that we carry out and the standard of clocks that we sell,' he adds. 'Every clock has a full three-year guarantee so that a customer's investment is protected. We treat every timepiece as our own and ask ourselves 'would I be happy with the level of expertise used.'

Enquiries now flood in from all over the UK and Ireland, mainland Europe and as far away as Qatar. A up-to-date lively website is partly to thank which includes interesting features such as Tick Tock Thursday and Tick Tock TV (YouTube) where Adrian post hints and tips on clock and watchmaking.

As he never likes to stand still for long Adrian has recently enlisted the help of a local college to re-design and update the website. 'I know they will bring fresh ideas and it's important to keep moving with the times,' he adds.

Another idea he is keen to progress is that of a 'Saturday Club' for budding horologists to come along to the Chesterfield workshops and learn, alongside a qualified horologist.

In his spare time, Adrian likes classic vehicles, cycling (looking at his bike collecting dust), fishing and walking in the Derbyshire countryside.

www.overtonclocks.co.uk



A complicated striking regulator with calendar and moonphase by Thomas Morgan of Manchester, c1860 – the type of complicated clock that Adrian most enjoys working on.

Valeting and Restoration

Alex Photi MBHI

The importance of keeping it original

For a watch enthusiast owning and wearing a beloved watch on a daily basis can either be a pleasure or a scary thought – or sometimes even both! The main reason for this is that the owner is often worried about scratching or damaging it.

I believe that the valeting of a watch is just as important as the servicing of the movement. Valeting is a very labour intensive process that focuses on the aesthetics of a watch, transforming the watch case, bracelet and clasp almost back to the original factory finish.

Each watch that passes through my workshop undergoes a process which involves ultrasonic cleaning and removal of day to day scratches and indentations before several intricate polishing techniques are completed.

Before carrying out any procedure, I always discuss with the client the benefits of restoring dials, bezels, cases, bracelet and clasps rather than a simple replacement. One of the most important benefits is that the watch is kept to its original standard.



A day/date bracelet showing the before and after effects of gold filling then re-finishing.



A damaged Audemar Piguet 18K rose gold watch – and after being filled and valeted back to satin finish.

For the best results, when using the ultrasonic tank, hang the parts vertically to allow the ultrasonic waves to pass through the bracelet. It is also very important to check all the diamond settings on the case and bezel or bracelet before using a strong professional ultrasonic tank.

Watch collectors are always keen to keep all the original parts, even if they are showing signs of ageing. For sellers, replacing parts can affect the resale value. In some instances, however, there is simply no choice, but even if you do have to replace some parts due to damage, it is important to keep as many of the originals as possible.

Unfortunately, I am finding that an overpolished or incorrectly refinished watch, that no longer resembles its factory specification, is becoming more and more common place.

The old style day/date 18ct hollow gold bracelet is a strap which I frequently see. Unfortunately many are in poor condition, with the thickness of the links often inconsistent, indicating a previous repair where a large dent or damage cause during everyday wear has been polished out.

The best way to keep the thickness of the link is to laser add gold onto the link itself and re-finish it until it's the same level.

Re-lasering gold onto a bracelet is time consuming and requires the skill of a master jeweller. Although it is a more expensive option than 'polishing out dent' it does extend the life of the bracelet and is much cheaper than replacing a link or even a full bracelet.

The valeting of a steel and gold submariner bracelet requires a specialists technique. Most valeters polish the gold on the same speed as steel which results in



The top picture shows a Rolex submariner bracelet with a large dent in the centre link which is hollow 18 carat gold. Below is the link filled with gold and then re-finished, rather than the dent being simply polished out.

the thinning of the gold and deforms the centre links which can have a sinking/receding look. The best method to re-finish the bracelet is to carefully mask and use a variable speed motor. Each style of bracelet or case requires a different technique mop and correct tooling

The ladies Santos Cartier is a popular watch and the bracelet is often a perfect example of how an incorrect re-finish can ruin the aesthetics. The bracelet should have a satin finish and each link has two screws that should have a high lustre mirror finish. It is becoming common place to see that an inexperienced valeters will grain over the screws, as they use a single polishing method rather than a combination of techniques. This is a time consuming processing that is often rushed.

I have seen many excellent examples of a watch where the case, bracket and clasp have been refinished, but the bezel has either not been restored or has had a new replacement fitted.



Before and after effects of re-cutting a fluted bezel. Rolex do not provide this service.



A Rolex yachtmaster platinum bezel insert and steel outer that has been fully restored/re-finished.

I re-cut all fluted bezels back to almost original condition, resulting in a drastically improved appearance. The Rolex datejust bezel and the yachtmaster bezel are great examples of the difference this can make

Sadly, however, when a Rolex yachtmaster is sent to a Rolex Service Centre, the bezel is either left as it is or totally replaced. This is also the case for the datejust fluted bezel.

The steel yachtmaster's house a platinum insert which can be bead blasted. On the steel and gold versions this is done to bring out the overall look which is superb and always makes the watch look incredible. If neither of these restoration are done naturally, your eyes are drawn to the imperfections. This is no different, I believe, than completing an excellent valet and not replacing the worn sapphire glass.

I think it is very important to offer a valeting service that reverses, as I like to call it, 'the signs of ageing' by re-finishing the case and bracelet back to almost its original specification – note that I say 'almost' as the watch may now be well loved and used which will, of course, affect the overall finish.

To re-cap I will explain the process step by step.

1. Assess the watch condition once stripped down. If there are marks or dents that are too deep to remove through polishing then material needs to be added by a jeweller to build up the surface ready for re-finish.
2. Heavy marks and scratches can be removed with silicon carbide wheels such as Manhattan or artifex. Depending on the shape of the watch different grades of buff sticks can also be used to prepare a case for polishing. On a round case surface for example this is a safer option than using a carbide wheel as it won't create flat spots on the curved surface.
3. Once the deep marks or scratches have been prepared for polishing, move on to a hard cotton mop with a cutting compound which is meant for improving heavier marks before finishing
4. Once the heavier marks have been improved and the surfaces that have been smoothed by the carbide wheels have come back to polished, move on to a soft cotton mop with a finishing compound (yellow colour). The idea here is to get the polished areas to a mirror finish with no drag marks, which the correct techniques and compounds will do.
5. Next look at any grained or satin finish that need to be brought back. Most bracelets will have a contrast of highly polished and grained areas, eg rolex oyster bracelet. A grained finish is done with a bufflex wheel (flap wheel). Some flat case surfaces would be refinished with a graining belt to create a harsher effect and machine finish. Cases that have a heavy grained finish need to be done by hand with emery/buff sticks to create a consistent finish on a flat surface.

WOSTEP/MBHI watchmaker Alex runs his own business, Perpetual Time Ltd, which is based in Liverpool, and offers a bespoke service, repairing and servicing a wide range of watches from high-end through to vintage.
 Websites: perpetual-time.com perpetualtimeliverpool.co.uk
 Instagram: @perpetual_time_ltd



A Rolex pearlmaster 18ct gold benefitting from a full valet of the case, bracelet and bezel and a new sapphire glass.



18ct gold Rolex yachtmaster that has had a full valet and bezel re-finish.

Swiss brands embrace online sale platforms

Luxury watches sell on Amazon as Richemont teams up with Alibaba

Martin Foster FBHI

Omega, Tag Heuer and other significant Swiss brands can now be found for sale on Amazon in a growing online marketing trend which benefits both parties in various ways. And Richemont, which owns A. Lange & Söhne, Baume & Mercier, Cartier, Dunhill, IWC Schaffhausen, Jaeger-LeCoultre, Montblanc, Officine Panerai, Piaget, Roger Dubuis, Vacheron Constantin, and Van Cleef & Arpels, has recently linked up with Alibaba – another online giant. This new move comes hot-on-the-heels of Richemont's takeover of YOOX Net-A-Porter Group and Watchfinder.co.uk this year.

Selling luxury timepieces online means that Amazon gains prestige and the brands win financially by retaining large retail and shopfront margins.

Amazon has of course already been selling mid-range and minor watch brands for a couple of decades. But it is only lately that the Swiss majors are embracing online marketing. Of course this is in line with buyer's growing acceptance of this new way of spending their disposable income on higher-priced luxury watches.

A newcomer for online sellers is Alibaba's AliExpress. Launched in 2010, AliExpress.com is an online retail service platform serving small businesses in China and globally offering products to international online buyers. It is more accurately compared to eBay, as sellers are independent and can be either companies or individuals – but with fixed pricing.

AliExpress started as a business-to-business buying and selling portal. It has since expanded to business-to-consumer, consumer-to-consumer, cloud computing, and payment services, as well.

But buying online luxury begs the question of how buyers can assess desirability sufficiently to spend larger sums of money without physically 'handling' ahead of buying? It follows that print media and online reviews may become more relevant to buyers and collectors.

This year at the Geneva Salon and Baselworld Show there were about 700 exhibitors but as a reviewer there is only a very small fraction of these that we can interview and this means difficult choices need to be made. Of course at the Geneva Salon they are all 'High Horology' but at Baselworld we have wider possibilities.

Our review choices might be based on any number of criteria such as quality, innovation, price, industry gravitas/provenance, market standing and others besides. But generally, fashion is a separate issue so technology advances are the main target of watch industry reviews.

For this very reason it is little wonder that many exhibitors of middle and lower ranking watches have already decided to try their luck by direct marketing online. And whilst the major Swiss

brands are now tentatively venturing online, lesser brands have been there for many years. Today AliExpress can offer competitive prices on more than 100 million items.

Already watches of Asian origin have found a natural home on AliExpress as even the bigger, significant brands in China have difficulty matching the coveted Swiss 'ownership' of brand, history and provenance.

Perhaps now we need to recognise the Chinese brands all have something different to offer and that the huge buying gap between the Chinese and Swiss product deserves some serious and deep reflection.

With the arrival of the Richemont high horology luxury watches on AliExpress, competing for attention with the rest of the world, the stark contrast of the stratified pricing differentials will become even more apparent.

Under the Richemont Group's global strategic partnership between AliExpress and Richemont's YOOX Net-A-Porter Group (YNAP), they will establish a joint venture to launch two mobile apps for YNAP's Net-A-Porter and Mr Porter multi-brand, online stores for consumers in China.

Consumers in China might well be the stated target for Cartier, but AliExpress is available as an online buyer's platform around the world – and ultimately for all the Richemont luxury brands, and it will provide technology infrastructure, marketing, payments, logistics and other technology support. The partnership will also leverage YNAP's strong relationship with leading luxury brands, some 950 of them being currently distributed through YNAP in China.

Richemont Chairman Johann Rupert said: 'Quite frankly there's not a luxury goods group in the world that can catch up with where Alibaba [AliExpress] is at in terms of so many of its ecosystems.' Richemont online retail sales already account for 14% of group sales.

Much is changing in the watch industry and 2019/2020 will be a critical period. Stay tuned for the coming developments!



Johann Rupert, Chairman and CEO of the Swiss-based luxury Richemont Group which now owns YOOX Net-A-Porter Group and Watchfinder. Photo: Szekszter

Selling luxury timepiece online means that Amazon gains prestige and the brands win financially by retaining large retail and shopfront margins.



PATEK PHILIPPE BREAKS 2018 AUCTION RECORD

– THE ASPREY SELLS FOR £3M



Sam Hines auctioneering The Asprey in Geneva

Sotheby's sold the most expensive watch to be auctioned this year – £3,005,534 – at their 'Important Watches' sale, which was held in Geneva in November.

'The Asprey' – a Patek Philippe perpetual calendar chronograph, reference 2499, manufactured in 1952 – was the star lot at the auction which attracted over 900 bidders from 54 countries.

Altogether the sale raised £9,372,004, with nearly a quarter of buyers choosing to bid online.



Sam Hines, Global Head of Sotheby's Watches said: 'The enthusiasm we felt from international collectors before the sale translated into strong bidding. The Asprey is the ultimate 2499: enormously rare, absolutely pristine – a dream for watch lovers.'

'In 2018, we have seen some of our best results in years, and we are delighted that our approach, seeking out the very highest quality and focusing on expertise, has resonated with collectors.'

www.sothebys.com

LOOMES EVEREST WATCH AUCTIONED FOR CHARITY

– GWT TO BENEFIT

The Gurkha Welfare Trust (GWT) is set to benefit from the sale of a hand-built watch made by Loomes of Stamford, which has been worn by a team who summited Everest last year.

The Gurkha 2017 Everest mission was the British Army's most successful Everest trip with 13 serving Gurkhas making it to the top and all returning safely. The Loomes Everest watch was worn by Cpl Milan Rai, who amongst other achievements managed to play the bagpipes on Everest.

Sir Edmund Hillary summited Everest in 1953 he was wearing a British-made wristwatch.



The Loomes watch, which comprises only British-made components, was auctioned by Bonhams in November and realised £5,000, including premium.

This is the second 'Loomes' Everest watch to be sold on behalf of Nepalese based charities. In 2017, an Everest watch was sold at auction, arranged by Bonhams with proceeds going to the Mountain Trust.

Robina Hill, Managing Director, said: 'We are delighted that our watch will benefit the work of the GWT and are proud to continue our support of the Gurkhas.'

Jonathan Darracott, Global Head of Watches at Bonhams, commented: 'We are delighted to be working with such an important charity and to be helping to raise money for such a worthy cause. English watchmaking has long been known for its quality and technical advancement, and this Loomes piece is an excellent example of both. We are proud to be supporting this endeavour.'

www.bonhams.com

EARLY LEVER POCKET WATCH SELLS FOR £117K

– OWNED BY 1ST BARON
CHURCHILL



An historically important open face pocket watch with an early lever escapement, made by Josiah Emery, Charing Cross, London, realised £117,500, double its pre-sale estimate, at Bonhams Watches and Wristwatches sale at the end of November.

It is the first time that the watch, which belonged to Francis, 1st Baron Churchill, has come to auction and its pre-sale value was estimated at £50,000-70,000. It bears the London Hallmark 1790-91.

Josiah Emery was among the first rank of watchmakers of his time and followed in Thomas Mudge's footsteps to produce a watch with a lever escapement. At the time this was a technically difficult and highly expensive escapement to produce.

It is estimated that Emery made approximately 38 lever watches during his lifetime – one of which was worn by Horatio Nelson when he fell at the Battle of Trafalgar. They were highly prized as luxury items, due to their complexity and their elegant design.

The watch is a superb example of Emery's ability as a Master Watchmaker and comes from the estate of the late Victor, 3rd Viscount Churchill. It is believed to have descended to him via Francis, 1st Baron Churchill, the younger son of George Spencer, 4th Duke of Marlborough of whom Diana, Princess of Wales, was a direct descendent. This branch of the Churchill family, (cousins of former Prime Minister Sir Winston Churchill) have been at the heart of the British political and Royal establishment for over 200 years.

www.bonhams.com

NAWCC Symposium

Bob Frishman

Cars, Clock and Watches

The 2018 NAWCC Time Symposium – ‘Cars, Clocks, and Watches’ took place at the Henry Ford Museum in Dearborn, Michigan, at the end of September.

A dozen eminent speakers, including Guild member, George de Fossard, and a hundred attendees enjoyed a private reception in the museum, a day in adjacent Greenfield Village, several scholarly presentations in the museum’s Anderson Theatre, special tours, and a concluding candle-light dinner in the village’s Eagle Tavern.

Themes unique to the conference included Henry Ford’s early and lifelong interest in horology, car clock history, and 19th century innovations in watch and clock manufacturing which led to mass-production, automatic machine tools, and assembly lines in the automotive industry.

Speakers included MIT Professor Merritt Roe Smith, German museum curator Johannes Graf, Willard Museum Director Robert C. Cheney, Ford Museum Senior Curator Donna Braden, NAWCC Bulletin writer Andrew Dervan, and history professors Jessie Swigger and Dave Lucsko. George de Fossard, and his wife Cornelia spoke about their Solar Time Clock.

A complete report, with many photographs, is available on the ‘report’ page of www.carsclocksandwatches.com. All presentations were professionally video-recorded and soon will be available for viewing via the NAWCC website.

www.carsclocksandwatches.com



Above: George de Fossard revealed his and his father’s deep interest in vintage cars as well as horology.



Right: The Henry Ford Museum’s clock gallery features many fine examples, mostly American, and ones collected by Henry Ford himself.



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by David Poole

We are all experiencing a shortage of skilled watchmakers. If you take an apprentice through the Trailblazer Apprenticeship scheme there is £27,000 of funding available over two years to support the training each apprentice.

Uxbridge College have agreed to become the Lead Provider to deliver the Watchmaker Apprenticeship. There have been significant developments and the first apprenticeship is now becoming closer. Work with the Assessment Organisation has commenced ready for the End-point Assessment and there has been an in-depth consideration of the best delivery approach. Briefly, there are two possibilities:

1. Block Release

The apprentice spends time away from the workplace receiving training as part of a small group of apprentices. These blocks would provide a concentrated period of instruction for each of the modules in the apprenticeship. For example, when beginning to work on mechanical watches, there would be a week when the basics are taught. The apprentice then returns to the workplace to practise these skills. Further blocks of teaching would be provided as the apprenticeship progresses. The associated knowledge could be taught either during the block release sessions or provided on line. Each centre offering block release would become a subcontractor to the lead Provider Uxbridge College.

- **For:** There is the advantage, particularly for smaller businesses, where there may be insufficient time available to provide such in-depth teaching. It is costly for the employer to provide one to one instruction, a small group of apprentices could be taught more economically together.

- **Against:** If block release is the only approach for delivery, larger companies would be unable to access apprenticeship funding for the on-site training that they are already providing. It is unlikely that block release will be available nearby.

2. Training in the workplace

The traditional approach, the employer provides the practical skills training in the workplace and receives payments to help offset time spent teaching; knowledge would be taught on line. Each separate business would become a subcontractor to Uxbridge College for delivering the training.

WATCHMAKING APPRENTICESHIP SCHEME – GET IN TOUCH AND HELP TO SHAPE THE FUTURE

- **For:** The teaching is always available exactly when it is required and tailored to the individual needs of the business.

- **Against:** Each employer would become a subcontractor to the Lead Provider, Uxbridge College and would have to follow the funding rules laid down by the Education and Skills Funding Agency. The funding rules are complex and bureaucratic.

There would be many subcontractors, instead of just one or two centres providing block release. Additionally, there is an increased burden on Uxbridge College to maintain quality assurance over so many subcontractors. Subcontracting would prove costly for Uxbridge College to manage resulting in reduced funding for the actual apprenticeship. Small businesses might find it impossible to meet the requirements of the funding rules.

A mixed approach embodying both these delivery methods would accommodate both the larger and smaller employer but, according to the funding rules, residential costs necessary for block release are not eligible for funding unless incurred by all apprentices following the apprenticeship. It is difficult to determine the extent of this difficulty without actually knowing the cost of block release and the proportion of the funding band which will be required for administration by Uxbridge College.

At a stage when it would be helpful to identify the first apprentices, wider consultation is required. Some apprentices have already been found but, as the first apprenticeship becomes closer, there is also a need to determine interest:

1. Would you consider employing an apprentice?

2. If yes, when would you anticipate their apprenticeship should begin:

a. As soon as possible.

b. Within a year.

c. Possibly in the future.

3. Do you have a preference?

a. Training by Block Release – the apprentice spends ‘blocks’ of time receiving training at a centre.

b. Training in the workplace – you are responsible for providing the training on your premises.

Consideration is also being given to planning for the End-point Assessment, which could be arranged for individual apprentices in the workplace. Ideally, assessment centres should be available in different parts of the country – a space is required where, a maximum of four apprentices can undertake specified servicing activities over a two day period. If you think you may be able to assist, please let us know.

Please get in touch, your opinion will help shape the future.

Matt.Bowling@watchfinder.co.uk
clocks@davidpoole.co.uk

THE CLOCKMAKING APPRENTICESHIP SCHEME

The Clockmakers Apprenticeship Scheme has recently received conditional approval from the Institute of Apprenticeships to the standard it recently submitted.

More next time.

GUILD MATTERS

Membership Renewal

It's that time again – you will find your membership renewal form on the back of the address label. Prompt payment is a big help and saves money on sending out reminders.

Board of Directors Vacancies

There are a few vacancies on the Board and any member is welcome to join and have a say in the direction the Guild takes in the future. Board members are all ordinary horologists. Even if you feel you have no particular skills to offer, your opinions and experience will be highly valued. Come and take your place in the trade and help to represent horology in the future. Contact Chairman Chris Papworth to discuss on 01376 573434 or email chair@bwcmg.org

Water Resistant Stickers for Watches

In the last issue of TimePiece we told you all about the new ‘water resistant’ stickers which we have designed following requests from our members – well they are now available at a price of £10 per 100.

You can choose which of the two wording formats suits you best. One says ‘Not Water Resistant’ and the second ‘Not Tested for Water Resistance’. To order contact Guild Secretary Bob Moir.



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Robert Moir
Honorary Secretary

TIMEPIECE

Administrator's Desk

Guild Board Meeting

A Guild Board Meeting was held on Thursday 8 November 2018 at Friends Meeting House, Euston Road, London, at 2pm, attended by seven board members. Apologies were given and the minutes of the last meeting, accepted and signed.

Matters Arising

A discussion was held regarding the recent expulsion of a Guild member and their continued use of the Guild logo and reference to their membership. Advice had been sought from Trading Standards regarding this and the misrepresentation under the Consumer Protection from Unfair Trading Regulations 2008. Positive action is in hand regarding this issue.

It was reported that the next meeting will be held at The Clockworks, 6 Nettlefold Place, London, SE27 0JW. This follows an invitation from Dr. James Nye, Chairman of AHS, to use their facilities.

The Secretary showed the Board a letter and photograph depicting the progress of the John Harrison Statue Project which the Guild has made a donation to. The making of the Statue is well underway, but funds are still being sought to complete the project.

The Chairman reported that Ross Alcock, Chairman of the Trailblazer Clockmaking Apprenticeship Scheme, will be attending the next meeting to address the Board on the latest developments of the scheme. The Chairman also reported that the Guild had been approached by the Department of Trade as well as the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs over issues affecting the horological trade. The CITES Agreement (Convention on International Trade of Endangered Species) will be discussed further at a conference and how it affects the use of rosewood, tortoiseshell and ivory. There being no further business the meeting was closed at 5.00pm.

Thank you

May I take this opportunity of thanking all our members for their continued support over the past 12 months. I think you must agree that under the direction of the Chairman, the enthusiasm of the Editor, and the support of the rest of the Board, the Guild is going from strength to strength.

We have forged new relations with many organisations and the Government is turning to us more and more, as it sees the

GUILD DIRECTORS: Chairman: Chris Papworth MBHI; Vice Chairman: Paul Roberson FBHI; Treasurer: Lionel Blowes FBHI; Honorary Secretary: Robert Moir; Vice Presidents: Angus Matheson, Lionel Blowes, Jean Jones; Directors: Frank Boswell, Manny Bramsdén, Robert Ball, Shuajb Berisha; Christian Dannemann; Roy Hunt, Keith Scobie-Youngs; Howard Vyse; TimePiece and Web Editor Jayne Hall.

Guild Communications to: Robert Moir, 26 Knights Close, Windsor, Berks, SL4 5QR. Tel: 07955 192263. Email: sec@bwcmg.org
Website: www.bwcmg.org

DIARY 2019

January

17 AHS London Lecture Series, Geoff Belknap, 'Capturing Time: Photography and the Measurement of Time in the Nineteenth Century', at the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors (RICS), 12 Great George Street, Parliament Square, SW1P 3AD. 5.45pm for 6.15pm. Lectures are free but you must register via the online booking system. Places are limited. www.ahsoc.org

20 Ryton Clock and Watch Fair (formerly Midland Clock and Watch Fair), Sport Connexion Leisure Centre, Ryton-on-Dunsmore, Leamington Road, CV8 3FL. Tel: 01895 834694 www.clockandwatchfairs.com

February

14 BWCMG Board Meeting

March

10 Ryton Clock and Watch Fair (formerly Midland Clock and Watch Fair), Sport Connexion Leisure Centre, Ryton-on-Dunsmore, Leamington Road, CV8 3FL. Tel: 01895 834694. www.clockandwatchfairs.com

14 AHS London Lecture Series, John Wearden, 'Internal Clocks and the Human Perception of Time: History, Development and Current Status,' at the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors (RICS), 12 Great George Street, Parliament Square, SW1P 3AD. 5.45pm for 6.15pm. Lectures are free but you must register via the

online booking system. Places are limited. www.ahsoc.org

31 Spring Forward Open Day, Upton Hall, Upton, Newark, Notts NG23 3TE. www.bhi.co.uk

April

7 Brunel Clock and Watch Fair, The Sports Hall, Brunel University, Uxbridge, Middlesex UB8 3PN. Tel: 01895 834694 www.clockandwatchfairs.com

28 West Country Clock and Watch Fairs, Holiday Inn, Taunton, Somerset. TA1 2UA www.westcountryclockfairs.co.uk

May

9 BWCMG Board Meeting

June

9 BHI Summer Show, Upton Hall, Upton, Newark, Notts NG23 3TE. www.bhi.co.uk

August

8 BWCMG Board Meeting

September

8 Ryton Clock and Watch Fair (formerly Midland Clock and Watch Fair), Sport Connexion Leisure Centre, Ryton-on-Dunsmore, Leamington Road, CV8 3FL. Tel: 01895 834694 www.clockandwatchfairs.com

If you have have an horological event coming up that you would like publicising let me know and I will include it in the next TimePiece and on the Guild website in the Events section. editor@bwcmg.org

Guild as the professional body representing the trade. On that note, may I wish you all a very happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

NEW MEMBERS

The following members of the trade have applied for membership of the Guild and have had their application accepted.

STEVIE-LEIGH BLACKBURN

DERBYSHIRE

DEBBIE BEBINGTON

DORSET

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Printed and distributed by: MYPEC, 10 Festoon Rooms, Sunny Bank Mill, Farsley, Pudsey, West Yorkshire, LS28 5UJ.