

# The Clockmaker

The Newsletter of the Worshipful Company of Clockmakers



## THE MUSEUM



Museum visitor numbers continue to rise. Thanks to continuing publicity, 5,500 visits have been recorded in six months. Here the Keeper is filmed by the continental-based Luxe-TV, an interview which will also appear on *You Tube*.

On 21st September, the Keeper received an e-mail from Leigh Lampard, Accreditation Assessor to the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council, which read "I am pleased to confirm that your Accreditation application was successful and the Museum was awarded Full Accreditation status at the panel meeting yesterday .... Many congratulations on this award. I am sure you will be relieved that the process has been successfully completed." This was followed by a second, from the Museum Development Officer for North and East London: "Just wanted to offer you my congratulations on obtaining Full Accreditation. I was very impressed by the Museum when I visited... and feel that your success is not only excellent news for yourself but also shows that smaller museums can succeed when it comes to Accreditation."

The Accreditation scheme was launched in 1988 with the intention of encouraging minimum standards in Britain's museums. It was then known as "Registration" and was revised in 1995

and 2004, by which time the Clockmakers' Museum had been rebuilt, re-launched and had achieved Full Registration. Recently the scheme was revised again and all museums were invited to apply, or lose their Registered status. The form, together with its explanatory notes stood almost two centimetres thick and examined museum governance, finance and management, user services, visitor facilities and the management of the collection. The stated overall purpose, said the MLA is to maintain standards, foster confidence and re-enforce a 'shared ethical basis'. The individual benefits, they hope, will be public recognition that a museum meets approved standards, confidence amongst potential donors, an 'improvement in staff morale and motivation', raised awareness of core curatorial work and a general eligibility for grant aid and awards.

The Keeper is immensely grateful to the Trustees of the Museum and Educational Trust for their tireless support, which has enabled the Clockmakers' Museum to achieve its new status.

2008

## Calendar

### January 2008

Mon 28 Jan Installation Court, Service and Dinner, Painters' Hall & St James Garlickhythe

### March 2008

Fri 7 Mar United Guilds Service, St Paul's Cathedral  
Sat 8 to Mon 10 Mar

Proposed Master's Visit to The Netherlands  
Mon 31 Mar Lady Day Court, Admission of Liverymen & Freeman and Lunch, Salters' Hall

### April 2008

Mon 14 Apr Past Stewards' Dinner, Salters' Hall  
Tue 22 to Thu 24 Apr  
Master's visit to The Hammermen of Glasgow

### May 2008

Mon 12 May Four Liveries Lecture - 400th Anniversary of the Invention of the Telescope (arranged by The Scientific Instrument Makers), Glaziers' Hall

### June 2008

Tue 24 Jun Election of Sheriffs, Guildhall

### July 2008

Wed 2 Jul Lady Liverymen & Lady Freeman - Summer Lunch, Grays Inn  
Wed 9 Jul Midsummer Court, Irish Society Court Room, Salters' Hall  
Thu 17 to Sun 20 July  
Art in Action, Nr Wheatley, Oxon

### August 2008

Fri 22 Aug Charter Day

### September 2008

Thu 11 Sep Master's visit to Lyme Hall, nr Stockport, Cheshire  
Mon 29 Sep Election of Lord Mayor, Guildhall  
Tue 30 Sep Michaelmas & Election Court, The Harrison Lecture and supper, Salters' Hall

### November 2008

Sat 8 Nov Lord Mayor's Show, The City  
Wed 12 Nov Livery Dinner, Mansion House  
mid Nov Proposed Master's visit to the Wallace Collection, Manchester Square W1

### December 2008

Carol Service, TBA



# THE NEWGATE STREET CLOCK



to join one of the many afternoon activities that had been arranged by the Clerk. Three groups visited St Paul's Cathedral; one was given a guided tour of the cathedral, a second was escorted by Past Master Nicholas Smith up many precarious ladders to see the St Paul's clock, and a third small select group was escorted by Liveryman Isobel Lattimore to view the impressive



The Lord Mayor greeting Honorary Freeman Byram Jejeebhoy and his guest, Poonam



Dr John Taylor meeting the Lord Mayor

The idea of a new public clock in Newgate Street was first discussed in the City in 2004. On May 31st three years later, the magnificent and unusual Wandering Hour clock was unveiled by the Lord Mayor. Master-minded and designed by Liveryman Joanna Migdal, it was constructed by Smith of Derby, the family firm owned by Past Master Nicholas Smith and is the first public clock to be established within the Square Mile for 12 years – presented to the City of London by a group of generous clockmakers, through the Clockmakers' Company. In addition

it was also a celebration of the 375th Anniversary of the Granting of the Charter to the Company, and Freemen and Liverymen travelled from far and wide for the ceremony. assembled beneath the clock, others, who had generously financed it, were meeting the Lord Mayor, the Master and Wardens and other dignitaries over a cup of coffee at Cutlers' Hall. At the appointed time, the police stopped the traffic and the Pikemen and Drummers of the Honourable Artillery Company, in their splendid armour and uniform of the period of King Charles I, marched off from Cutlers' Hall with drums beating and fifes playing a stirring march. They lead the procession along Newgate Street with Steward and Liveryman Professor Paul Jarrett holding the Beadle's Mace aloft, followed by the Lord Mayor, the Master, Wardens, dignitaries, and the remainder of the procession in their various multi-coloured regalia. It was a splendid sight, reminding everyone that the City of London, now over 800 years old, fulfils its role today as a modern local authority, but still respects and preserves its rich historical legacy.

Cathedral vestments on which she had been working. Others were given a guided tour of Guildhall Art Gallery seeing

the many famous and much-loved pictures once again on view for the public to see and enjoy, and exploring London's recently opened Roman Amphitheatre. It was first discovered in 1988 when short stretches of Roman wall were observed at the bottom of four archaeological investigation trenches. A further group was guided round The Bank of England Museum, discovering the story of the Bank from its foundation in 1694 to its role today as the United Kingdom's central bank.

The Company is extremely proud that this unique clock bearing the Clockmakers' Coat of Arms in the centre of the two-metre dial, should be so prominently featured in the City of London. It is now a new port of call on every City Guide's tour.

The weather forecast was not at all promising, but as the first spectators arrived, clutching their umbrellas, the clouds passed over and mercifully the event proceeded without a drop of rain.

Whilst the majority of the guests

After lunch, many of the guests chose





## TOUR OF THE FIFTH ST PAUL'S CLOCK



Past Master Nicholas Smith is a grandson of Frank Smith who, with his younger brother John, made the clock in 1893. Designed by Lord Grimthorpe (of Big Ben fame), it was originally supposed to strike on Great Paul (16 tons with a diameter of 10 feet), the largest bell in the UK. However, fearing damage to the Cathedral's structure, it was changed to strike on Great Tom (6 tons). The party was divided into two groups to climb the stairs and ladder to view the mechanism and bell and was given a brief lecture by Past Master Nicholas Smith. The clock was electrified by Smiths in 1969. This removed the need for daily manual winding, which took half an hour, and also removed the three-quarter ton of weights which hung in the centre of the magnificent geometric staircase.

The clock has been maintained by Smiths since 1893 and has stopped only once in 1940 due to a 500lb. bomb. It was used in 1935 and 1956 by the BBC as a temporary replacement for Big Ben.

## TOUR OF THE VESTMENTS

Liveryman Isobel Lattimore escorted a small group to view the immense project of making new vestments to celebrate the 300 years since St. Paul's Cathedral was completed in 1708.

As all previous textiles and records were lost in the Great Fire of 1666, the new collection of over 100 items will consist of ecclesiastical garments and altar frontals in each of the liturgical colours. White for Christmas, Easter and Festivals, Purple for Lent and Advent, Red for Whitsun and Green for the rest. The exquisite embroidery is completely hand done by a team of volunteers in the traditional way of church work. The party then viewed a collection of 19th Century copes and finally the altar frontals which are rarely seen by the public.

There will be an exhibition some time next year to see the newly completed collection.

## DR MICHAEL SANDERSON MASTER DESIGNATE

Michael Sanderson loves clocks and watches and has a small collection including a much prized 1697 Tompon.

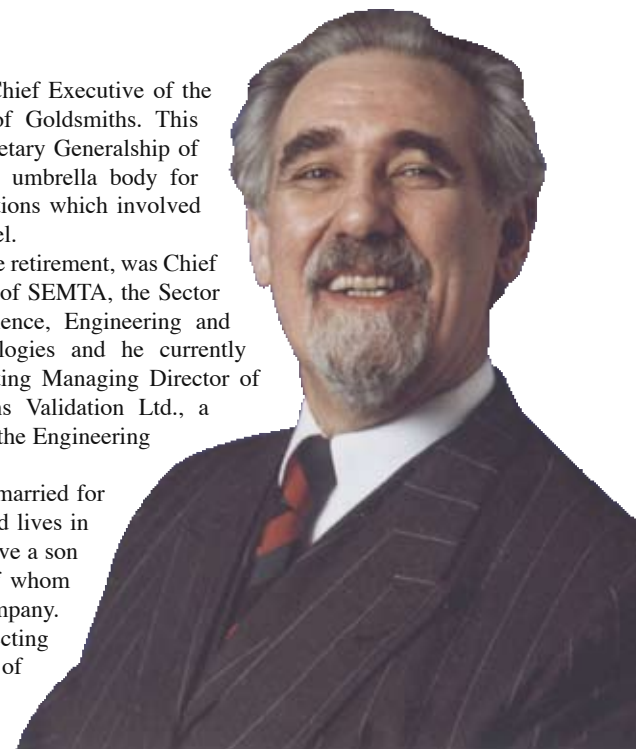
After graduating from Reading and Leeds Universities he joined Wilkinson Sword as a Research Scientist where he devised a razor blade coating that significantly improved the comfort and life of blade edges. It was patented worldwide and is still in use today nearly 40 years later. He rose rapidly through the organization and became Technical Director at the age of 30, a position he held for 7 years. He then moved to the US Company Allegeny, where he set up two factories in Libya and in 1984 joined Lansing Bagnall, (later Lansing Linde) as Export Director and subsequently as Managing Director. There he established heavy duty fork lift truck technology in India and South Korea.

He moved on to join Bedford, the road truck manufacturer, as Managing Director, developing a new truck with traction on both axles which was used to cross the desert during the Gulf War, and was the first vehicle into liberated Kuwait. Later, having joined the British Standards Institution as Chief Executive he

subsequently became Chief Executive of the National Association of Goldsmiths. This carried with it the Secretary Generalship of CIBJO, the worldwide umbrella body for jewellery trade associations which involved much international travel.

His final job, before retirement, was Chief Executive for 10 years of SEMTA, the Sector Skills Council for Science, Engineering and Manufacturing Technologies and he currently works part-time as Acting Managing Director of Technical Qualifications Validation Ltd., a subsidiary company of the Engineering Council UK.

Michael has been married for 40 years to Mariana and lives in North London. They have a son and a daughter both of whom are members of the Company. His main hobby is collecting books. He disapproves of sport!





# THE MASTER VISITS HMS ENDURANCE

The Master visited HMS Endurance on the 28th September, accompanied by three members of the Court and the Clerk. It was a day for Captain Bob Tarrant and the ship's company to cement relations and say thank you to all its Affiliates.

Endurance was undergoing essential maintenance before deploying at the end of October. Sadly the engine refit was not completed and she was unable to take to sea as intended. The day was made up of short presentations on the ship's operations, an impressive tour of the ship and of Portsmouth dockyard in one of the survey boats, the James Caird (named after Shackleton's original boat). However, the highlight of the day, whether one is a young sea cadet or an ageing mariner, was the air-sea-rescue helicopter display over Portsmouth Harbour by the ship's Lynx.

HMS Endurance is the Royal Navy's sole Ice Patrol Ship. Flexible, capable and unique, she deploys each year in the autumn from her base port of Portsmouth, to the cold and ice of the Antarctica austral summer where she carries out her operational duties for the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, the British Antarctic Survey and the UK Hydrographic Office.



L - R Junior Warden Howard Newman, The Master, Lieutenant Russ Abbot, Renter Warden, Commander Peter Linstead-Smith, The Clerk, and newly appointed Court Assistant Mark Elliott.





## THE MASTER'S STUDY DAY AT P.P. THORNTON (SUCCESSORS) LTD.



In early September Liveryman David Burton and his co-director Shane Schoenrock opened the doors of their Company in Warwickshire to a group of enthusiastic Freeman and Liverymen. The Company is not built on new computer-managed tools but on its intimate understanding of traditional machine tools which are mostly over 40 years old. David's experience of 30 years has been honed to provide a skill unmatched by the computers. Shane joined David a few years ago as an engineer with advanced training in CAD methods, though he prefers traditional



methods which produce cutters within a few microns of tolerance. Their success is reflected in the international demand for cutting wheels and related products from the industrially advanced countries such as Germany, Switzerland, Japan and the U.S.

David and Shane run a cottage industry with no international boundary. Hopefully, their skills will be passed on to others who can keep the tradition of excellence alive for those who depend on them to keep our clocks and other fine machinery in good running order.

## THE MASTER'S OUTING TO NOSTELL PRIORY

It was a major challenge getting to Nostell Priory, situated near Wakefield in West Yorkshire due to the heavy floods. However the majority – around 60 - made it in the end, and were well rewarded by the impressive sight of the splendid 18th century façade - undoubtedly an architectural masterpiece. This was home ground for the Master who lived locally at Holmbridge for many years.



On arrival the party split into two groups. One was furniture orientated to see the exceptional collection of Chippendale furniture designed specially for the house, including the impressive range of paintings, by Breughal, Holbein and Angelica Kauffman; and the other was "Upstairs Downstairs" or "behind the green-baize door" which was much more fascinating than might have been expected. When the aristocracy came to stay, they would bring with them their personal chauffeur, valet and lady's maid, so there was a great number of people living and working below stairs requiring a sophisticated infra-structure, giving unobtrusive access to the guests.

Those who missed the smart side of the house in the first instance, had the opportunity to see it later. After lunch Jonathan Betts gave a fascinating talk on the Harrison long case clock, explaining the intricacies of its wooden movement; Andrew King explained and demonstrated his personal skill and experience in the making of parts for wooden clocks; and Matthew Read spoke on the conservation of clocks and how the National Trust sees clocks as part of our 'cultural heritage' to be preserved for future generations. He showed examples of clocks in need of remedial attention and how this is carried out in a conservative manner, preserving the integrity of the object without over restoration.



## WEST DEAN VISIT

There have in the past been many visits by members of the Clockmakers' Company to West Dean College, the internationally renowned centre for conservation, restoration and the visual and applied arts. However never before have they been privileged to be allowed to visit so many of the departments in addition to the clock room. The visitors



were welcomed on arrival in the splendid Oak Hall by the Principal, Robert Pulley. The group was split into four and in turn visited the various departments. Liveryman Roger Still's department, restoring antique clocks, was of course of particular interest but antique furniture restoration, musical instruments, tapestry weaving, paper and book restoration and the award-winning gardens all had their admirers. At each port of call, the tutor in charge briefed the visiting group in great detail and gave the visitors an opportunity to speak to the students. It was a most interesting and informative day and a good lunch was provided in the Refectory. Finally the day drew to a close in great style with John and Joyce Wilding and Tony Buckley generously hosting a tea party in the village of Petworth, which gave everyone the chance to see John's fine collection of clocks.



## ART IN ACTION 2007



**Liveryman Roger Still** answering a technical question

Those visiting Art in Action this year will retain two important memories – the Clockmakers’ display and the weather.

The Clockmakers linked with the BHI to provide an impressive display featuring practical horology, which contrasted two different periods, the 19th century and the 21st century. Historic tools were loaned by a variety of sources including the British Horological Institute Museum Trust to show the making of a fusee assembly. Both those demonstrating and the visitors were fascinated by the use of a treadle lathe, a wheel cutting engine and a fusee engine which would many, many years ago have been commonplace in a clockmaker’s workshop. In contrast small electric lathes were used to make turned components and a CNC milling machine was programmed to produce automatically the fusee and cut the teeth for the great wheel. There was a distinct element of competition between the two eras and, alas, it must be admitted that the team of historic clockmakers did actually complete one fusee assembly. However they outnumbered the

at the bottom. The organisers stoically met the demands of the weather with hundreds of bales of straw to enable the event to continue on Saturday and Sunday. Art in Action 2007 will not be quickly forgotten.

The Company thanks Art in Action, the BHI, the volunteers and those who loaned tools and equipment. The Taig CNC milling machine was demonstrated by Lester Caine of L S Caine Electronic Services, 25 Smallbrook Road, Broadway, Worcestershire.

**Liveryman Jeremy Barrow** in wig and 18th Century costume, working at the bench

present day by two to one!

The display was completed by an impressive, unique three pendulum clock which is being developed as “Project 150” to commemorate the 150th Anniversary of the BHI. The display was immensely popular with the public throughout the event.

It can be fairly said that the weather was interesting and provided contrasts to compete with our display. The first day was glorious sunshine with record numbers attending, but floods came on the Friday. At the start it was just a small trickle but this grew into a stream and the grass, dry the day before, became ankle deep mud. The water entered the marquee at the top, ran the full length into the Clockmakers’ exhibition, across the floor and out



## HIGH SCHOOL COMPETITION



The Science Department of Seven Kings High School approached the Clockmakers Company in 2006 seeking assistance with a timekeeping competition they were arranging. An enjoyable afternoon was spent judging the students’ work using a variety of approaches, pendulums, springs, hour glasses etc. – the rolling ball “clock” won !

The competition was repeated in 2007 with the inclusion of pupils from a neighbouring school. The Master again attended to assist the staff to decide the winner. Fifteen pupils participated from the two schools. A prize, provided by the Company, was awarded to “The Cinzano Tower” a sand clock which had engaged the pupils in much thought and experiment during the development stage and proved the most accurate on the day.



## JAILED & BAILED

The Master was apprehended at Mansion House in June and taken to The Tower, where he was “jailed” for spurious offences – all in jest in aid of the British Red Cross. However through the generosity of Clockmakers attending the Lady Day Court lunch, he was bailed, and luckily swiftly released! The Red Cross raised over £40,000.



With arms chained, the Master appeals for his release from the Tower of London.

## FROM THE CLERK'S HAND

Clockmaker Liverymen and Freemen are welcome to visit us at the office at Salters' Hall, so please come and see us if you are passing – but not all at once! Kerry and I are normally in on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. I have remote access to e-mail and telephone messages, so you can often get a reply to queries at other times. Whilst a few of you are still resisting being dragged into the 21st century, 77% of members of the Company are now on e-mail and benefit from receiving more regular news and updates. Another change is the information that we have on the new database - it is better and more quickly accessible than we have ever had before. Some of you might think I have an amazing memory about your personal circumstances when speaking to you on the telephone – well you are very wrong. I can raise you on the screen within seconds! We are always looking for better ways of serving you, and are frequently asked if it is possible to pay by credit or debit card for a tie or some other miscellaneous payment. PayPal now provides us, and you, with that facility. For normal payments to the Company we prefer a cheque or another established method, but PayPal will be particularly useful for those living abroad who need to make a small international payment at minimal cost.

## GOLF: THE PRINCE ARTHUR CUP

by Mark Elliott

The Prince Arthur Cup is the premier inter-Livery golf tournament. Thursday 17 May 2007 saw 54 Livery Companies, each represented by a team of 4 gathered in the early morning at a rain-swept Walton Heath.

The Clockmakers, represented by John Woods, David Reich, Michael Jarrett and Mark Elliott had a tee time towards the back of the field. As the weather started to clear and the rain was blown away it was that slightest of advantages which resulted in the Clockmakers' best performance since 1920 when the competition began. With excellent timing of swings and a perfect balance of movement the Clockmakers

came in 4th overall out of 54 entries. In addition Michael Jarrett and Mark Elliott won the pair with the best aggregate prize.

As there are an increasing number of Livery Golf events, if you would like to be considered please contact Mark Elliott or the Clerk.

*I recently found an article in the February 1957 edition of the British Horological Journal saying that my grandfather Horace Elliott was organising the Prince Arthur Cup team for the Clockmakers and would anyone interested in playing please get in touch with him. My Father also managed the team and 50 years later it is still going strong!*



## CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to the Father of the Company, Past Master Gurney Mercer who was 90 on September 15th, and celebrated his birthday on September 23rd. He became Freeman and Liveryman on the same day, 10th October 1938, and joined the Court 51 years ago, in July 1956. He became Master on 21st January 1963. He is the oldest member of the Court and is the last traditionally trained chronometer-maker to serve. He was for many years Chairman of the Collection Committee and a long-standing Trustee of the Museum and Educational Trust. Our warmest good wishes to him.



Past Master Christopher Clarke with Past Master Gurney Mercer on September 23rd.

## JUNE GIBSON 1932-2007



intelligent and helpful she shared with Peter the excitements, dramas and difficulties which inevitably result from 450 different members. Her interest was such that she joined the Clockmakers as a Freeman in her own right, and the Court elevated her to an Honorary Liveryman after Peter's death in 2005, an honour which gave her much pleasure.

She was born near Buxton, Derbyshire where she spent her early years and on the outbreak of War worked with the American forces. As part of these duties, she arranged an art exhibition, to which a dashing young Group Captain arrived as judge, named Peter Gibson. They married and lived in Singapore for some years, eventually returning to the UK where Peter became Principal of a Further Education College. His

The Master, together with several Clockmakers, attended the funeral of Honorary Liveryman June Gibson on 9th May 2007, at Ellesborough Church, set in lush and typically English countryside. Many family and friends attended the service but the family had requested that only a representative number of the Clockmakers' Company should attend.

June was always welcoming to new and old members of the Company, charming,

last change of career was to become Clerk to the Clockmakers, a post he held for 14 years from 1991. He was a most distinguished Clerk and played an essential part in its administration during some golden years in its history. June provided vital and continuous support to him during his period of office. They were a much honoured and beloved couple whose loss continues to be felt, devoted to each other as well as to the Clockmakers' Company.

### WE MUCH REGRET TO RECORD THE DEATHS OF THE FOLLOWING

Liveryman Albert Cordory ..... 1977

Freeman John Alfred Hooper.....1998

## THANKS

The Company is extremely grateful to Liveryman David Burton of P.P. Thornton (Successors) Limited for sponsoring this edition of the Clockmakers' Newsletter.

Continuing thanks to Professor John Cave of Middlesex University Teaching Resources for his generous assistance with the production of this publication.

### We welcome the following new Freeman

Tobias Birch  
John Frederick Cave  
David James Hambleton  
David John Harber  
William Linnard  
Paul Maudsley  
Rory Thomas Bycroft McEvoy  
Leopoldina Morvillo  
Russell Lewis Pain  
Reginald Kenneth Palmer  
Ivor Michael Poole  
Daniel Rens  
Andrew Philip Willetts

### We congratulate the following Freeman on being raised to the Livery

Neill Robinson Blaxill  
Paul Franklin Broadley  
Richard Edward Chadwick  
Roy Charles Harris  
David Robert Higgon  
Robert McMillan  
John Robert Whalley

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