As a child Andrew developed a strong interest in science and mechanics, and on leaving school aged 16 he was employed as a trainee analytical chemist. His first job included hop analysis for the brewing industry, and proof-spirit determinations for the Port of London Authority. Subsequently he worked in medical research laboratories. After four years Andrew changed direction and enrolled as a student in the first degree course offered in the UK in Numerical Mathematics and Computing. On graduating in 1970, he worked in computer-aided ship design at the Admiralty Research Laboratories in Teddington, and on pioneer mathematical software for Control Systems Ltd.

As an impecunious teenager Andrew developed a passion for pocket watches, and began repairing, buying and selling watches as a means to forming his own collection. After just two years in the computer industry he began dealing full-time in antique watches, and in 1973 founded Bobinet Ltd., a company specialising in antique clocks, watches and scientific instruments. He was later joined by Simon Bull and Sebastian Whitestone. With their help the company flourished and moved from a small office in Regent Street to retail premises in Mount Street, where it remained until 1990. The company is still in existence, offering advice to clients worldwide on clocks and watches from the 16th to the 20th Centuries, with a particular emphasis on the work of Abraham-Louis Breguet.

In 1981 Andrew became a Freeman of the Worshipful Company of Clockmakers, proposed by Past-Master Dr. George Daniels and seconded by Past-Master, the late Cecil Clutton. In 1984 he joined the Livery and served as a Steward in 1997.

Andrew has catalogued for publication several important private collections. In conjunction with Sotheby’s he also organised the Daniels Retrospective Exhibition in 2006, and wrote the accompanying catalogue.

Andrew is married to Caroline, and they have one son, Benjamin. He has a life-long interest in vintage cars and when time allows takes great pleasure in motoring both here and in France.
The art and mystery (craft) of clockmaking includes, under the Clockmakers’ Charter, the art of engraving, and the Court have recently taken action to provide charitable support to ensure the future of the hand engraving trade.

Currently, there are no full-time engraving courses offered by any university in the U.K. A large proportion of the existing pool of skilled hand engravers is nearing retirement and there is an urgent need to replenish the craft base within this country. Hopefully this will be remedied in part by the Goldsmiths’ Company’s new jewellery school, due to open in London within the next couple of years. It is hoped that it will include each allied craft as a subject in its own right, while recognising the inevitable connection between them.

The Hand Engravers’ Association of Great Britain have it as their creed to create opportunities for showcasing the various types of hand engraving as broadly as possible, to excite wide-spread interest and awareness. Alongside this, the Association is determined to provide opportunities for hand engraving to be properly learned, before this ancient skill is lost. There is no shortage of members willing and able to pass on a lifetime’s work of experience.

The Association developed from the Bergin Award set up by Chris Rowley some years ago, to provide bursaries to help young engravers acquire tools and training. The long-established engraving firm of J.J. Bergin was started by Chris Rowley’s grandfather in 1894 and still produces high quality pieces. The workshop now hosts regular short courses in hand engraving, available to people of all ages and abilities.

There is a new type of apprenticeship scheme in development between the Hand Engravers’ Association and the Goldsmiths’ Company, involving a series of secondments to different types of engraving workshops. Moving apprentices between specialist workshops should broaden their experience of the many different aspects of hand engraving still being practised.

The National Occupational Standards, (NOS) has sent questionnaires to individual engraving workshops to obtain experienced opinion, in order to set agreed standards of skill and knowledge. Thus via NOS, examination requirements are now set by the needs of the trade.

The Hand Engravers’ Association continues to provide bursaries for young engravers. David Higgon, having completed his course at West Dean College, will receive help from the Tappenden Fund of the Clockmakers’ Museum and Educational Trust to enable him to spend two years improving his engraving skills.

Leanne Green, a 21-year old gun engraver, is currently receiving help with the acquisition of tools and for attending drawing classes. Such support has taken over the role of the day-release system where apprentices traditionally spent one day a week at a college to broaden and augment their working experience. These needs are no longer being met.

If such help from established organisations is not forthcoming, there could well be a reversion of the system whereby apprentices’ families had to bear the cost of their training, which of course sadly closes the door to many potential craftsmen and women of the future.

The Court as Trustees of the Clockmakers’ Charity have agreed to provide three annual payments of £3,000 to support the Hand Engravers’ Association in its endeavours, and in particular to help expand the pre-apprentice training by Wayne Parrott, and help organize journeymen engravers with their secondments to Master craftsmen and other training initiatives.
The preliminary sketch for a portrait of Frances Moulton Vulliamy (1796-1868) by Alfred Chalon RA (1780-1860), has been generously presented to the Clockmakers’ Museum by Roger Smith of Blackheath. The sketch was made in 1818, three years after Frances married Benjamin Lewis Vulliamy at St. James’s Church Piccadilly. Frances was twenty two when the sketch was made and Benjamin, who had become a freeman of the Clockmakers’ Company in 1809 was thirty eight. He was later to become five times Master of the Clockmakers’ Company and from 1813 until his death in 1858, was the driving force behind the creation of the Museum and Library. The Vulliamys were proud of their Swiss origins and it is no surprise that Benjamin chose Alfred Chalon, an artist born in Geneva, to paint his wife. Chalon later achieved moderate fame, being commissioned to paint a romantic portrait of the young Queen Victoria in 1837.

Roger Smith identified the sketch when it was offered for sale in an auction room in 2008, together with the finished watercolour portrait. The auctioneers had not only failed to notice a connection between the two items, but had failed to identify the sitter of either. He was able to buy both, returning the finished painting to a member of the Vulliamy family. It is a particular joy to the Clockmakers’ Company that Roger Smith chose to give the sketch to the Museum, because it has an ease and vivacity which the more worthy finished work perhaps lacks.

In joining the Clockmakers’ unique collection of portraits, Frances Vulliamy joins an exclusive group of three 19th century women whose portraits are kept by the Company. The earliest is Mrs John Carter, wife of John Carter of 61 Cornhill, watch and chronometer maker. Carter not only served three terms as Master of the Clockmakers, but in 1857, achieved the office of Lord Mayor. He was the son of William Carter of Tooley Street. He had been apprenticed in 1817 to the unusually named Boys Err Burrill, who (even more unusually) had, in his own apprenticeship, been convicted and sentenced to death as a highwayman. His sentence was commuted to imprisonment in Clerkenwell jail, from where he escaped to lead a successful life in horology and to take apprentices. It seems reasonable to assume that Mrs. Carter’s dress was commissioned for a Mayoral occasion, though Carter is recorded as having acted as a juror at the Imperial Exhibition in Paris in 1855, so it is possible that her very remarkable clothing and astounding jewellery emanated from there. The portrait is in fact a heavily painted photograph. It came from “Mr. Mayall’s Photographic Gallery of 224 Regent Street” who warned on the back of the frame that “it is liable to spot or change colour, if not carefully preserved…” which indeed the Company has done.

The final 19th century wife is the demure Sarah Barnsdale, wife of the distinguished clockmaker William Barnsdale of Brunswick Place, City Road, another Master of the Company.
Himself a Past Steward, Howard Newman was keen to have a Past Stewards’ dinner in his year as Master, and 38 Stewards past and present dined at Bakers’ Hall in June. Gatherings of this small elite club, within the Livery, are always special, and the guest speaker was our much admired and respected friend, Alderman Dr Andrew Parmley. Closely following this, in June, Howard lead a visit to his local “stately home” Audley End House and gardens, very close to his home in Saffron Walden, Essex. 54 members of the Company joined this very memorable Master’s outing. King Henry VIII gave Walden Abbey to Sir Thomas Audley, who transformed it into his mansion, Audley End, and it remains one of England’s grandest country homes with over 30 lavishly decorated rooms full of countless treasures to enjoy and explore. The good weather gave everyone the opportunity to appreciate the beautiful 19th-century parterre with its magnificent floral displays, and a conducted tour of the impressive organic walled kitchen garden. A hearty lunch was had by all at the Eight Bells public house in Saffron Walden, but a particular highlight was a sumptuous tea at the end of the day at Howard’s parents-in-law’s home, Rockells Farm, and an exciting treat for the Newman family was a ride in John Berkley’s helicopter! He had also arranged a small horological exhibition for all to peruse and enjoy.

Howard wanted to include a visit to Snowshill Manor, near Broadway, Gloucestershire, during his year, and arranged a captivating and varied day seeing this National Trust property, combined with a visit to Liveryman Keith Harding’s museum and World of Mechanical Music in Northleach. 51 members of the Company were welcomed by Keith in the morning and given a conducted tour of his museum and workshop, including spectacular demonstrations of mechanical music and automata which mesmerised everyone. This was followed by an excellent lunch at the Fosse Manor Hotel and then on to Snowshill in the afternoon. Snowshill was once described as ‘a house for the evening hours, surely the loveliest spell of the day’. It holds one of the most remarkable collections that the National Trust maintains and is surrounded by an intriguing and intimate garden. Jonathan Betts, Horological Advisor to the National Trust, provided a ‘guide’ to the clocks which everyone found most useful. It was a long day, but all agreed it was most enjoyable and informative, and very rewarding in every way.

It has become customary for the lady Liverymen and Freemen to gather for a lunch in the garden of Grays’ Inn in the summer months. This was started by Diana Uff in 2005 in her year as Master, and this year, in July, 21 ladies lunched with Inge Newman, the Master’s wife. Among the ladies was Mrs Keturah Hain who has made a magnificent donation to the Clockmakers’ Charity.

In November, just after the clocks changed, the Greenwich Mean Time Lecture took place at Bakers’ Hall and we were privileged to hear David Penney deliver his lecture Illustrating Horology over the Centuries. David has been involved in antiquarian horology for more than thirty-five years, first as an illustrator and subsequently as a writer, dealer and
consultant to various private collectors and museums worldwide. He showed the audience a fascinating selection of prints, photographs, postage stamp designs, and technical drawings, and in the case of the technical drawings how inaccurate many were, due to the illustrator not understanding the intricacies of what he was drawing.

Finally, we can include at the eleventh hour, as we go to press in early December, that 280 of us dined at The Mansion House in the presence of The Lord Mayor and the Sheriffs. It is a great experience to dine in such splendid surroundings in this rare surviving Georgian town palace with such magnificent interiors, elegant furniture and fantastic collection of fine art. Excellent food and wine accompanied by stirring brass music, fanfares announcing The Lord Mayor and the Sheriffs, and the legendary Post Horn Gallop, combined with congenial company, made it an exceptionally memorable evening. The Master presented a rare late 18th century ‘sapphire’ cylinder 1/5th seconds pocket watch by Josias Jessop to the Clockmakers’ Collection, which was received by Lawrence Hurst on behalf of the Museum Trustees of which he is a Past Chairman. The Master’s youngest son Oliver presented Thomas (Tompion) Bear to the Lord Mayor, Alderman Michael Bear, for his Christmas Tree, and the Master presented a cheque in aid of the Lord Mayor’s Appeal - Bear Necessities - which supports children’s charity Coram and Red R, the disaster relief charity.
were in great demand during the event. Liveryman Dr. Taylor of John C. Taylor Masterworks was also showing a replica of the first pendulum clock by Solomon Coster. Manufactured on the Isle of Man, the Company constructs replicas of important clocks from clockmaking history. The firm was set up to make a small number of Chronophage clocks, a new type of clock invented by John Taylor which is driven by a spring and paced by a large rocking ‘grasshopper’ escapement. The original Chronophage, was made especially for Corpus Christi College, Cambridge and inaugurated in September 2008.

The brain child behind the Exhibition was Liveryman James Gurney, QP’s Editor who, with his excellent staff put on an event in a superb location which was extremely well received by the trade and collectors alike.

Number One Marylebone, the former church designed by Sir John Soane and built in the 1820’s, was the venue for the second Salon QP. This event was organised by the UK’s leading specialist Watch Magazine QP and is a unique showcase for the display of the finest examples in contemporary watchmaking. Visitors from around the world were able to see the latest creations from over thirty blue chip brands and take part in various lectures and discussions with key players from the watch world. The Worshipful Company of Clockmakers was well represented with the Master, together with several Liverymen and Freemen visiting the Salon over three days. The highlight of the event was the world premier of the latest watch created by Past Master George Daniels. The watch is a collaboration between George and his former protegé Roger Smith, and will be made in the workshops of George and Roger on the Isle of Man. This Limited Edition watch has been created to mark the 35 years since George Daniels invented and perfected the co-axial escapement in the 1970’s. It will contain the co-axial escapement and will be made in the distinctive Daniels’ style, with hand-engraved silver dial and detailed perfection. The watch is the cover feature on the current edition of QP Magazine. Needless to say, George and Roger

On Saturday 25th September in the small village of Claydon in north Oxfordshire, a blue plaque honouring three members of the Knibb family was unveiled by Gerald Marsh, Liveryman of the Worshipful Company of Clockmakers. The unveiling was attended by about 80 people invited from the Oxfordshire Blue Plaques Board and Claydon with Clattercote Parish Council to honour Samuel (1625–c.1670), Joseph (1640–1711) and John Knibb (1650–1722). Among those present were the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress of Oxford, Gerald Marsh later gave a fascinating talk on the skills of clockmaking and of the remarkable achievements of the three Knibbs. Samuel, the son of John Knibb of Claydon left the village and made his way to Newport Pagnall and then Oxford. He was followed by the brothers Joseph and John, (the sons of John’s cousin Thomas, also of Claydon) with John twice becoming Mayor of Oxford.

He described Joseph Knibb’s invention of Roman striking and emphasised how prolific he was and the very high standards that he achieved, in particular with a clock owned by King Charles II and with the turret clock at Windsor Castle.

He also pointed out that the 17th Century clock in Claydon Church had originally come from Cropredy where records show that it had been repaired by a ‘Mr. Knibb’ in 1715.
Compulsive shopping is a symptom of modern times, we’re often told. And so the Worshipful Company of Clockmakers has decided to join in, with a major overhaul of its merchandise.

A new Merchandising Committee, under the chairmanship of Junior Warden Paul Jarrett, has been formed to promote a flurry of retail therapy. It will overhaul our current lines and introduce new ranges. After manufacturing costs, all proceeds will be passed to the Company’s charity funds.

The first of these new lines arrives in late January. The Company has commissioned a stunning range of new table mats, coasters and large serving mats all resplendent with the Company’s coat of arms. Made from eucalyptus board with a hard wearing melamine finish, the mats are designed to withstand heat of up to 165 degrees. The mats and coasters come in boxes of four while the serving mats are sold singly. They will be available via the Company’s website towards the end of January.

The overhaul of existing stock has begun with a re-design of our jewellery which is expected to be available in early Spring. Our Company ties are also undergoing a redesign and a design for a ladies’ scarf has also been commissioned.

The committee plans to introduce new lines gradually, giving the Company a wide choice of custom made, WCC branded merchandise. The emphasis will, above all, be on top quality.

Liveryman Simon Frodsham who has masterminded much of the above says “Watch the website for further new lines. Happy shopping!”.

West Dean Award

Congratulations to Liveryman David Higgon who received two awards from the Master at West Dean. The Clockmakers’ award is a cheque for £500 and is given annually to the Student at West Dean College ‘with the greatest potential for a successful horological career’. The Poole Cup is awarded ‘for achievement in practical horology’.

David Higgon receiving the Poole Cup.

The Charter Cup

Past Master Christopher Clarke who presented the Charter Cup to the Company, has added to the plinth which records Tompion Medal winners, to provide more space for future recipients.
Congratulations to
Freeman Peter Bonnert
FBHI receiving the Master’s Medal for Exemplary Services to Horology from The Lord Mayor and The Master at the Livery Dinner.

We welcome the following new Freemen
Dr Robert Michael Donaldson FRCP FACC
Clifford James Freeman
Calvin Leigh Raphael Jackson

We congratulate the following Freemen on being raised to the Livery
His Honour Judge
Guy Thomas Knowles Boney QC
Edward Meade Hatley
Timothy Ingram Hill
Craig Stewart Lindsay
David John Shires
Michael Edward Warner

“Timeless: Masterpiece American Brass Dial Clocks”
Livemarx Frank Hohmann III, published his new book “Timeless: Masterpiece American Brass Dial Clocks” last year. It features around 100 of the finest American brass dial clocks by over 50 makers, including those from both major museums and private collections. The production run on this book was limited, but we are lucky enough to still have a few copies at the Clockmakers’ office and sales of it benefit the Clockmakers’ Charity. Normal price is £75 excl p&p, but members of the Company can purchase it at £65 per copy (collected from the office).

SPONSORSHIP
“The Clockmaker” is now published bi-annually in January and June. The cost of production and mailing, greatly reduced by the generosity of our friends at MUTR, has nevertheless been rising, like everything else, recently, and now amounts to £1,000 per issue, £2,000 annually. This cost is borne by the Company, and the Master and Wardens ask whether any Liverymen might consider sponsoring an edition. The Court have discussed the possibility of publishing “The Clockmaker” on line rather than in hard copy. Several Livery Companies now do this. We welcome your views. There would still be set up and design costs and 18% of WCC members still appear not to use e-mail so would need a printed copy.

We much regret to record the following deaths
Freeman Richard John Tyley
Freeman John William Davidson
The Reverend Roger Holloway OBE, The Masters’ Chaplain

Editor..........................Liveryman Tina Millar
Editor’s Assistants.....Freeman Brenda Blackburn and The Clerk
Designer.....................Adam Bernard of MUTR