

The Clockmaker

The Newsletter of the Worshipful Company of Clockmakers



Mark Elliott

The Master Designate

Mark was born in 1958 into a long line of clockmakers. His great, great grandfather J J Elliott (Mark is pictured with the longcase clock made by JJE) started his apprenticeship in 1860 to a Bateman of Smithfield. He was followed by his son Frank who later formed F W Elliott Ltd. Mark now follows both his grandfather Horace (1965) and father Richard (1983) in becoming Master of the Company.

From an early age Mark worked for the family company on all aspects of movement and case manufacture together with the assembly of the company's range of reproduction antique clocks. This expanded into turret clocks when Thwaites & Reed were acquired and where contracts ranged from servicing church clocks to the winding and maintenance of Big Ben. Twice a year when changing to and from BST the Great Clock would be stopped and work undertaken through the night, hopefully finishing before the sun came up!

Ultimately Mark's career, however, led him to train and qualify as a Chartered Accountant becoming a partner in Baker Tilly, an international firm, where he specialised in audit, corporate finance and international operations. In 2000 he joined a small merchant bank to oversee a period of reorganisation and is now a director of several private and public companies.

Since 1995 he has been a Trustee of the Metropolitan Drinking Fountain and Cattle Trough Association, a charity established in 1859 to bring clean drinking water to the City of London. It now has wider objectives providing drinking fountains nationally together with the provision of overseas aid. Michael Bear, last year's Lord Mayor, and Liveryman Ralph Baber are both fellow Trustees.

Mark is also a Liveryman of the Chartered Accountants Company, a member of the Bridge Ward Club, the AHS and an associate member of the BHI.



As might be expected he has an extensive collection of Elliott clocks, which he maintains and adds to when the opportunity arises!

Mark is married to Claire and they have two sons, Phillip and George. He is a keen golfer being a Past Captain and currently Course Director at Tandridge Golf Club as well as being a member of numerous golfing-related clubs and societies. He organises the Clockmakers' team in the Prince Arthur Cup, a role his grandfather filled over 50 years ago but one that has yet to secure the trophy! Perhaps this year our time will come ...

Calendar

2012

Mon 30 Jan Installation Court, Choral Evensong at St James Garlickhythe & Dinner at Painters' Hall

Wed 21 Mar Past Stewards' Dinner at Bakers' Hall

Fri 23 Mar United Guilds Service at St Paul's Cathedral & Lunch for Liverymen

Tue 17 Apr Lady Day Court & Luncheon at Salters' Hall

Thu 3 May Four Liveries Lecture at SIM Hall

Fri 22 Jun to Sun 23 Sep 'Butcher Baker Candlestick-Maker' Exhibition at Guildhall – The Treasures of the Livery Companies

Mon 25 Jun Election of Sheriffs at Guildhall & Lunch for Liverymen

Mon 2 Jul Midsummer Court

Wed 18 Jul Master's Outing - Swan Upping on the Thames

Fri 27 July to Sun 12 Aug The Olympics

Wed 22 Aug Charter Day – Master's Sundial Walk in the City

Wed 26 Sep Michaelmas Court Dinner & Harrison Lecture at Salters' Hall

Fri 2 Nov The Livery Dinner "to the Lord Mayor" at Mansion House





Left: Dial signed by Felmingham of Bungay, one of two near-identical dials produced by Wright & Co. Birmingham. Image © NMM.

Above: Samuel Drummond's *Death of Nelson*, 1807. Image © NMM.

The advent of the painted iron dial (famously heralded in Osborne & Wilson's advertisement in the *Birmingham Gazette* of 28 September 1772) is arguably the single most significant aesthetic development of the domestic longcase clock. Its introduction revitalised the horological industry and the large number of surviving examples dating to the late eighteenth and early nineteenth century are testament to that. This new type of

clock dial, more expensive than its brass predecessor, offered the potential to illustrate in colour. The early examples tend to be simply decorated with floral and foliate imagery, which was often combined with shell, bird and other motifs. Towards the end of the eighteenth century the dial makers increasingly included painted scenes, often within an oval cartouche in the arch. The production of commemorative painted dials occurred mainly during the first twenty years of the nineteenth century and this period, it can

be said, was the most artistic phase of the painted dial. There are six longcase clocks in the National Maritime Museum collection, all of which have Birmingham-made painted dials which in various ways celebrate the life and death of Admiral Horatio Nelson (1758-1805). In researching these dials, it soon became apparent that these were not simply one-off productions but instead were a small part of a wider commemorative industry. Looking at the wider Museum collection it soon appears that there were connections with other contemporary objects and prints.

scene was popularised by Anglo-American artist, Benjamin West. West's 'Death of General Wolfe', painted in 1771, was produced from one of the most popular prints of the eighteenth century. A curious anecdote recalled by an American traveller describes hearing West relate a conversation with Nelson shortly before the Battle of Trafalgar. According to West Nelson said: 'There is one print whose power I do feel. I never pass a print shop with your 'Death of Wolfe' in the window without being stopped by it.' Nelson then enquired as to why West had not produced any more like it. 'Because, my Lord, there are no more subjects ... But, my Lord, I fear your intrepidity will yet furnish me with another scene; and if it should, I shall avail myself of it.' According to West, Nelson then charged the glasses and on clinking said: 'will you, Mr West? Then I hope I shall die in the next battle.' Benjamin West was true to his word and on November 15th 1805 he advertised subscription for prints from his forthcoming 'Death of Nelson'.

Interestingly, there are two near-identical painted dials in the collection that feature a 'Death of Nelson' scene within the arch. The scene on these two dials does not appear to derive from West's creation but, instead, from one of a series of paintings exhibited at the British Institution by Samuel Drummond. The essential elements of the painting are present on the dials. The position of these elements is mirrored to the original, which suggests that they derived from prints of lesser quality.

These dials and others are discussed in depth in *Antiquarian Horology*, Vol. 32, No.5.

Painted DIALS

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tive industry. Looking at the wider Museum collection it soon appears that there were connections with other contemporary objects and prints.

From the modern perspective, it may seem surprising that the best-selling prints of the day celebrated the death of Nelson, depicting him in the arms of his officers moments after the fatal sniper's shot. These images were sold across the country for many years after the Battle of Trafalgar and there are literally thousands of such prints in the Museum archives. The heroic death

George Thomas

A note of thanks

It is a great honour and a matter of considerable pride to have been awarded the British Horological Institute's Bronze Medal and the Worshipful Company of Clockmakers / BHI 1st prize. The BHI Distance Learning Course took me as long to complete as did the BSc, MSc and PhD necessary to my former career in science; and my training as a horologist has been no less a challenge of intellect, aptitude and application.

Receiving these awards is also very humbling because, although the DLC is a very full and comprehensive course of instruction, I would not have been able to become the competent clock repairer that I hope I am, without the help, support and encouragement of many people whom I need to thank.

First and foremost among these are Liveryman Phillip Gale FBHI and his wife, Sally. Although Phillip never set me to filing hundreds of taper pins, as might be expected of apprentices of earlier times, he did constructively criticise my overhauling any number of chiming and striking clocks, no two alike, which was superb training in so many ways. While not indentured to serve in his workshop, I have spent many, many hours there talking, listening, watching and doing. I have never met anyone with such a memory for mechanical detail and such an ability to describe with complete clarity, down the phone, the component parts of a complex mechanism and how they ought to interact.

Freeman Peter Watkinson FBHI is another principal character who has contributed enormously to my training by freely sharing his phenomenally extensive and detailed knowledge of mechanisms, processes and materials. He too has

been more than generous in his advice and encouragement and in his lending, giving and making me all sorts of materials, tools and equipment. Unfortunately, life is too short for my ever being able to match the skill and expertise of these two masters of their craft from whom I have been fortunate enough to learn.

All the members of the BHI South West Branch also deserve mention for their generous welcome, friendly good humour and infectious enthusiasm for horology. I must especially thank my friend and erstwhile entomological colleague, Linton Winder, who precipitated me into the world of horology by suggesting its career potential when, having been given notice of the impending closure of the academic institute where we both worked, we found ourselves faced with redundancy and a need to do something different. We have since discussed many horological points

over many pints.

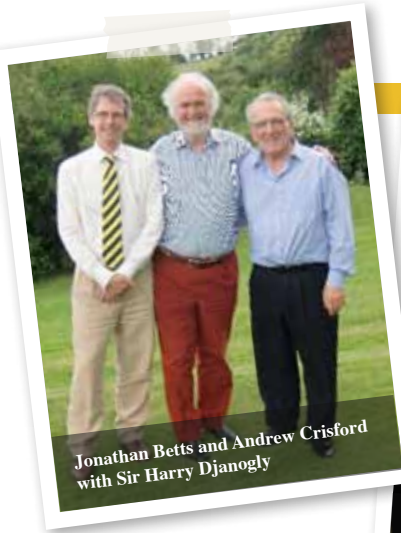
I would also like to thank Past Master David Poole FBHI for his superb series of 'Helping Hands for Students' published in the Horological Journal, many of which have been vital to exam preparation. Above all, thanks to my dear wife Carolyn (who has been through a lot), for her tremendous support since recognising how much more contented and fulfilled I was at the clockmaker's bench than I had been writing research-grant proposals and scientific papers.



Above: George Thomas being awarded the Clockmaker's / BHI award for "achievement in practical horology" by the Master, accompanied by David Poole (left)

Left: Phil Gale at the bench





Jonathan Betts and Andrew Crisford with Sir Harry Djanogly



The Master being presented to The Queen

The Master's Year

We seem to say every year that the Master's year was 'action-packed'; well, Andrew Crisford's year as Master undoubtedly was. We covered the first part of the year in the last edition, so the visit to Cambridge and the National Maritime Museum to see H4 have already been related.

In June, Sir Harry Djanogly very kindly invited all members of the Court and the Stewards to an outstanding lunch and a fascinating tour of his collection, which was a very special treat for all. Also in June, Andrew Crisford visited the Isles of Scilly as a guest of Liveryman Philip Hygate, Chief Executive of the Council of the Isles of Scilly, and was presented to Her Majesty The Queen who was visiting the islands.

In celebration of the 380th anniversary of the granting of our Clockmakers' Company Charter, George White and Joanna Migdal arranged for an actor, Ian Ricketts, to read the Charter in the Aldermen's Court Room at Guildhall on Charter Day in August. This proved to be a most moving and memorable occasion, and afterwards they joined the Master for supper at Fine Line in Monument Street.

The 'Picturing Time' Competition, organised by Court Assistant Roy Harris, was a first for us. It proved an outstanding success attracting 221 entries from 182 students at 33 UK universities and colleges. The reception and prize-giving event at Sotheby's was sponsored by the watch maker Vacheron Constantin. The first prize was awarded to Claire Lamond for her computer animation 'Moon'. Students and their University tutors all heaped praise on the Company for staging the competition and requested it be repeated.



The Master with 1st prize winner Claire Lamond

Those attending the reading of the Charter



The Master with Celine Larose of Vacheron Constantin, Roy Harris and the Clerk at the Picturing Time Reception



A "still" from the winning entry "Moon"

In September members of the Company gathered in Sussex for the Master's motoring outing at Crosthwaite and Gardiner, world-renowned restorers of historic racing cars. The sight of these and all the other fantastic engineering projects turned many of the party into over-excited schoolboys, and it was with some difficulty that the Headmaster finally persuaded them to stop chattering and make their way to the tuck shop! The Hurstwood provided an agreeable setting for our excellent lunch, after which we motored to see a fabulous private collection of 40 veteran cars, said to be the largest in the world.

Liveryman Lionel Blowes has maintained the clocks at Girdlers' Hall for many years, and the Girdlers' Company, whose hall is not usually let, kindly invited Andrew Crisford to hold an event in their hall by way of a thank-you to Lionel. Andrew generously arranged for

Florilegium to give a musical soirée of 'clock' music by Handel, Haydn & Mozart, for members of the Company and provided excellent refreshments. The writer cannot sum it up better than did 'The Times' critic after a similar Florilegium performance - "One of the most flamboyant of the younger generation of British Baroque ensembles, Florilegium's flair was much in evidence. The whole was appropriately elegant without ever being bland. This was beautifully played."

In October, Clockmakers joined Andrew Crisford in Geneva for what proved to be a stunning visit to Stern, Vacheron Constantin, Patek Philippe Manufactures, the Patek Philippe Museum and the Large Hadron Collider at CERN.

Andrew generously hosted a dinner at the Hotel Bristol on the first night for the 50 participants, and was presented with a silver memory stick to commemorate the occasion. At

both Vacheron and Patek the visitors were garbed in white overalls and overshoes before being guided to the large workshop areas. On the second night Vacheron Constantin generously gave a dinner for the whole party in the Old Town. The second day comprised a fascinating visit to the LHC. The visit to the Patek Philippe Museum was breath-taking in its content, with spectacular displays of rare watches, clocks and wristwatches within expertly designed cases. All agreed it was a truly memorable outing.

The Livery Dinner is always one of the major highlights of the year and the dinner in October was no exception. Superb food and wine, with stirring organ music and trumpet fanfares, in the splendid surroundings of the Merchant Taylor's Hall, made it a very special occasion.

Alderman David Wootton, the new Lord Mayor, is a Clockmaker Liveryman, and in celebration of his mayoralty, Howard Newman, the Deputy Master, organised our involvement in the Lord Mayor's Show in November.

Freeman Dr Peter Thomas, the Manager of the University of London Observatory at Mill Hill, invited the Master to bring members of the Company and Friends of the Clockmakers' Museum to visit the Observatory on an evening in early November. It is a hands-on teaching



© Gerald Sharp Photography

Jonathan Betts presenting the Civic Toast



Girdlers' Hall



The motoring outing



The Scripps Booth belonging to Jonathan Betts



Patek Philippe across the lake



The Collider



David Wootton, the new Lord Mayor



The Lord Mayor's Show

observatory and research facility as well as a home to some historic telescopes. The whole event, including a splendid buffet supper, was very generously donated, with all proceeds benefitting the Friends of The Clockmakers' Museum. A big thank-you.



The Observatory at Mill Hill





DENNIS BARRETT

An Unsung Hero

Hugh Dalton, when President of the Board of Trade in Churchill's wartime cabinet, decided that Britain should no longer accept the lack of facilities to produce mechanical time-fuses in any future war, since he had experienced supply problems in his previous role as Minister for Economic Warfare. In 1944 he therefore authorised the

building of a mechanical watch-manufacturing plant that could be converted rapidly, if required, to the production of time-fuses.

The company which decided to help Dalton was what is now known as the Smiths Group, with Dennis Barrett, a main board Director, in charge of the project. In addition to finding a site, Barrett also brought together a consortium of companies to ensure its success. This comprised Ingersoll, based in Britain with previous horological mass-production experience in the USA, and Vickers

with armament mass-production expertise. Thus the Anglo-Celtic Watch Company Ltd. was formed with Barrett becoming Chairman, Smiths and Ingersoll as shareholders and with a Director of Vickers joining the board.

Following the completion of the plant in Ystradgynlais in South Wales it produced the first watches in 1947 and continued to do so for the next 35 years, making all components from raw materials through to the finished cased watches. This was ultimately at the rate of a complete watch leaving the factory every six seconds of a working day - with a workforce of 2000 employees which was achieved without a supporting precision industry such as was usual in Switzerland! The advent of electronic quartz technology contributed to the cessation of ACW and also for the need of mechanical time-fuses.

Dennis Barrett became Master of the Worshipful Company of Clockmakers in 1951 and 1969 and had a distinguished career in the horological world. He was awarded a CBE and an honorary doctorate from City University in London. He also made provision in his Will for the restoration of a British Horological Institute Silver Medal.



Chronometer Relic on Display

In 2005 the Clockmakers' Museum was able to acquire at auction, by way of gift from an anonymous donor, the remains of a most interesting 18th century timekeeper.

Made by Alexander Cumming (1733-1814), one of the pioneers of precision timekeeping, it was altered and re-signed by Cumming's nephew, John Grant, but originally bore Cumming's signature on both movement and dial.

It appears to be a prototype marine timekeeper made about 1770, and initial study suggests its design was influenced by Harrison's fourth marine timekeeper, 'H4', details of which were published in 1767. Research is on-going and a fuller technical article will be published in due course. Meanwhile, this exciting acquisition is on view in the Clockmakers' Museum at the Guildhall, and can be viewed on the Bridgeman Art Library site: www.bridgemanart.com

HMS PROTECTOR SAILS

The Royal Navy's new ice patrol ship, HMS Protector, was on sea trials in the Solent during the summer and early autumn ahead of her maiden deployment. Shortly before she sailed for the Antarctic in late November, Past Master Commander Peter Linstead Smith and Deputy Master Howard Newman visited her and presented Captain Peter Sparkes with a traditional English-made, 8-day duration, chrome-cased 'ships' clock (bulkhead) to keep time in the Wardroom, as a gesture of goodwill from the Clockmakers' Company with whom HMS Protector is affiliated. She will patrol the Antarctic, maintaining a Sovereign presence, executing her survey programme for the UK Hydrographic Office and supporting the British Antarctic Survey. We send her and her crew best wishes.



Dr George Daniels

CBE DSc. FSA FBHI



Top: Dr. Daniels at home in the Isle of Man
Above: At the bench

The horological world will be much the poorer with the death in October of Past Master George Daniels aged 85 who was surely the greatest watchmaker of the 20th Century. His legendary achievements stemming from a very humble beginning are astonishing, and tributes and obituaries have poured in from around the world.

Born in 1926 into an impoverished and dysfunctional family of 11 children, at the age of 5 he opened a cheap Roskopf pocket watch and was entranced by its workings and from that moment never looked back. After the Second World War he set up as a watch repairer to finance his main passion for vintage cars, and it was through a meeting with Sam Clutton, a distinguished watch and vintage car collector that his career took off. In 1969 he made his first watch for Clutton and commissions subsequently followed.

In 1970, he became horological Consultant to Sothebys and remained with them until he died. It was through the auction house that he met Seth Atwood of Rockford, Illinois who set up the Time Museum and commissioned George to make him a watch with an unusual feature. The watch was delivered in 1976 and contained an independent double wheel escapement which evolved later into the co-axial escapement for which he is so

famous, and which now appears in all Omega's upmarket range of wristwatches. Through these inventions George rekindled a global interest in mechanical watches which, during the 1980's, was in rapid decline due to battery-operated quartz watches.

Latterly he worked with Roger Smith to produce a wristwatch to celebrate 35 years since the inception of the co-axial escapement and the Collaboration Watch was launched at the QP Salon in November to great acclaim. His double impulse chronometer escapement lives on in the wristwatch which the firm of Charles Frodsham will be launching later this year.

An extremely talented individual George was an accomplished artist, an inventor who built himself a back brace when no medical expert could produce anything to alleviate a painful back and a passable photographer. He was also an opera lover and could pick out any tune and play it by ear on the harmonica or accordion. Though physically amazingly strong, he suffered from ill health during many periods of his life, overcoming TB, cancer of the throat, arthritis in the spine and two heart operations which culminated in a pacemaker. In 1964 he married Juliet Marryat, with whom he had a daughter. The marriage was later dissolved.

George Daniels' funeral took place in the Isle of Man in November, and a memorial service in London is planned for later in the year. He had stipulated strongly that, when he died, he wanted the cortège to drive at a smart pace to the church rather than the usual sombre speed, and the cars did as requested. However, it was probably not as fast as he would have wished as one of his main joys was driving his powerful motorcycle and vintage cars at full speed round the Isle of Man.



THE MUSEUM

Recent Acquisitions

In recent months the Museum has been enriched by a number of generous gifts. Eileen Robinson presented ten screw plates and six taps, which belonged to her late husband. Mrs Iko Harris presented original City freedom certificates which had once belonged to the early 19th century clockmakers Granado and Thomas Ausender. Roger Smith gave the wonderful portrait of Mrs Benjamin Vulliamy, which was the subject of an article in an earlier edition of "The Clockmaker."

A most unexpected addition to the Collection was an early table clock by Charles Gretton, in an ebonised case. It came in the form of a bequest from Dr Sally Allwork of East Sheen. Although it had been converted from verge to an anchor escapement, had lost its repeating train and had been roughly used over the centuries, a number of unusual features persuaded the Trustees of the Museum and Educational Trust that it was of educational value and should be accepted. Amongst the features are unique and beautifully engraved



extensions to both sides of the back-plate and the numbers '0' and '1' engraved in a quadrant just above the back pivot-hole of the fusee. This last has already caused excitement to Freeman Dennis Radage, who (as is well known) is publishing a book on Gretton's life and work. His book, he says, will reveal the quadrant's rarity and meaning.

The delightful watch (illustrated here), was presented by Howard Newman at the end of his year as Master. It has gilt metal pair cases and is signed "Jessop, Southampton Street London, No 1681". The perfectly fitting dust-cap is interestingly numbered 1684. It has a sapphire cylinder escapement and a beautiful enamel dial, dominated by a sweep-seconds hand. In an upper subsidiary dial, the hours and minutes are shown. A lower subsidiary dial, almost manic in its action and speed, indicates fifths of each second. The watch is currently displayed in the Museum on the Company's chest, supported by a wooden stand designed and made by the Deputy Master.

The Future

At the Livery Dinner in October, Past Master Christopher Hurrion let it be known that the Clockmakers' Museum, the oldest horological museum in the world is under threat of possible eviction in 2014 from its present premises in the Guildhall complex. The Company's Collection has been housed at the invitation of the City for 140 years, but the City now wishes to charge a rent from 2014 at a level which the Company simply cannot afford from its present resources. Discussions have taken place and are on-going, setting out that the Museum is a fine tourist attraction with over 10,000 visitors a year, but the possibility of having to close remains.

The Clockmaker

January 2012

Editors:

Tina Millar
Brenda Blackburn
and the Clerk

Designer:

Adam Bernard

Twelve Yards Productions have informed us that the **Clockmakers' edition of Eggheads** – see July 2011 Newsletter – will be broadcast on **BB2** on the evening of **Friday 27th January 2012**.

We much regret to record the following deaths

Liveryman David Charles Crouchley

Liveryman John Edward Illingworth Day

Past Master Dr George Daniels CBE DSc FSA FBHI

We welcome the following new Freemen

David Edwin Perry

Dennis Arthur Radage

Sebastian John Salt

David Ernest Walter

We congratulate the following Freemen on being raised to The Livery

Anne Berkley

Sandra Anthea Harris

John Sebastian Norman James Horsey

Jane Elizabeth Pedler

Brian David Vandervilt

Angus Andrew Walker