Changing of the Guard

Meet our new Clerk, Oliver Bartrum

Oliver Bartrum took over as Clerk on 1st March and was formally sworn in at Lady Day Court on 8th April.

He joins us after two previous careers: the first (1978-2000) in the army, the second (2000-12) in the City. He says neither was planned when he went to Bristol University in 1976 to read History but, after studying topics that spanned centuries and continents (Confessor and Conqueror, the American Civil War and the Union of South Africa), he decided on something more practical and current.

After graduation in 1979, Oliver joined the army and was commissioned into the Grenadier Guards in 1980. He served in Hong Kong and the Far East, Germany, Belize, Northern Ireland, and Cyprus. After attending the Army Staff College in 1990-91 he was back in Northern Ireland running the operational requirements for in-theatre Security Forces for which he was awarded the MBE. Returning to his Regiment in 1993 he was Captain of the Escort on the Queen’s Birthday Parade in 1994 and established Nijmegen Company which is due to receive New Colours from Her Majesty The Queen in June this year.

Oliver then moved the Foot Guards Officer and Manning branch from Horse Guards to Glasgow (via Stanmore) when the Army Personnel Centre was set up, a move that brought him closer to the Scottish hills and isles where he has since spent so much time. After promotion to Lieutenant Colonel, Oliver’s last three years were spent at the MoD as the army representative in a tri-service operational audit team that reported to the Secretary of State.

After leaving the army in 2000, Oliver joined a property-fund management business (Baring, Houston & Saunders) as the Head of Operations. The company became the UK arm of ING’s global real estate business and by 2005 Oliver was running the operations for ING Real Estate in the UK. ING sold the business in 2011 and Oliver left in 2012 to concentrate on pension and charity trustee work.

Oliver is a trustee of a sports-related charity called BOOST (www.boostct.org) and is involved with other voluntary work.

He is interested in mountaineering and hill walking. He has climbed many 4,000m Alpine peaks (by “standard routes” he would add) and climbed all the Scottish Munros between 1997-2011: 288 peaks over 3,000 feet. He is now working on the Corbetts: another 250 peaks between 2,500-3,000 feet. He is a member of the Munro Society.

He is also interested in opera and magic and is trying to trace his ancestry back to Simon Bartram - one of the assistants to the first Master of the Clockmakers.

Oliver is married to Catherine who works in a special needs school and has a son in the army and a daughter in her last year reading English at Liverpool University.

In this issue:

The Queen’s new clock
Tina Millar tells all
The New silver
2013 is a year of change for many aspects of the Company. To start with we have a new Editor for The Clockmaker. Simon Frodsham, who trained as a journalist, has taken over from the former editor, Tina Millar. On behalf of the Company, I would like to thank Tina for all her hard work over the years gathering material, chivying contributors and unfailingly producing editions not only on time but with well presented and interesting content. I wish Simon all the best in his new role.

Also there has been a change of Company Clerk with Oliver Bartrum taking over from Joe Buxton at the Lady Day Court on 8th April. A profile of our new Clerk is on page 1. The Company owes a big thank you to Joe for his work as Clerk over the last 8 years. In this role he made significant changes to the running of the Company. The Court has made him an Honorary Liveryman and I know that he will continue to be actively involved with the Company.

There are more changes to come. We have to leave our present offices by November of this year. Suitable accommodation in another livery hall is being sought. Hopefully we are near to an agreement but, because of ongoing negotiations, I cannot give you further details at present.

On another front, negotiations are in progress regarding a new lease for the Museum with the City Corporation. Matters in this area move extremely slowly and the eventual outcome will depend on the terms put forward by the Corporation.

So these are changes that have occurred and need to be dealt with. Notwithstanding these major and essential changes, in my year of office I would like to see the following:-

* Improved information on Company matters for members.
* The involvement of more members in the Company’s work and activities.
* Improved links with the BHI and the AHS.
* The introduction of a programme for younger members.
* The formalisation of some management procedures.

Work has already started on the above. To inform members, as well as this column, there will be a news section on the Company’s website and a limited Common Hall at the Michaelmas Court. The Clerk will be writing to all members encouraging them to be involved in the Company’s activities and asking for their particular interests/expertise. Talks to explore closer links with the BHI and the AHS have started with the support of the BHI Council and our Court. A new Social Panel has been agreed by the Court to look into future events with an emphasis on those that might appeal to younger members. Work has started also on tackling some management issues. Procedures for submitting Court papers, the election of Court Assistants and the election of Wardens and the Master have been written and agreed by the Court.

There have been a number of successful events in the last three months including the Lady Day lunch at Carpenters’ Hall, a visit to Ardley Hall and Cuckooland in Cheshire and the annual pancake race at Guildhall where from our point of view the taking part was more important than the result.

To come in the next six months are the Master’s visit to a collection in Somerset on 19th June (fully booked) and an overseas visit to Padua from 1st. to 3rd. October.

Other events are The Four Liveryes Lecture entitled “Leonardo and Time” by Prof. Martin Kemp on 2nd. July at Glaziers’ Hall, the Picturing Time Competition reception on 1st. August at Sothebys, Bond Street, and the Michaelmas Court Dinner and Harrison Lecture by Sir George White on 23rd. September. Details of all the above are on our website. Please support and enjoy these varied events.

Finally, I am glad to say that the art of selling in horology has not diminished. The other day I saw a sundial for sale at an antiques fair. It was labelled “18th.C sundial – still keeps good time”.

The Master’s Voice

What’s On

MICHAELMAS COURT DINNER & HARRISON LECTURE
Monday, 23 September 2013 at 18:45
Carpenters’ Hall

LIVERY DINNER
Thursday, 31 October 2013 at 19:00
Merchant Taylors’ Hall

LORD MAYOR’S SHOW
Saturday, 09 November 2013 at 11:00
The City of London

FESTIVAL OF ST CECILIA
(Musicians Benevolent Fund)
Wednesday, 20 November 2013 at 11:00
Westminster Abbey

CLOCKMAKERS’ CAROL SERVICE
Monday, 16 December 2013 at 18:30
The Guild Church of St Dunstan-in-the-West

INSTALLATION COURT,
Choral Evensong, and Dinner
Wednesday, 29 January 2014 at 17:15
Painters’ Hall & St James Garlickhythe

UNITED GUILDS SERVICE
& Lunch For Liverymen
Friday, 04 April 2014 at 11:15
St Paul’s Cathedral & Pewterers’ Hall

LADY DAY COURT Luncheon,
Monday, 07 April 2014 at 13:00
Admissions Court commences about 12 noon

Further details about all events can be found on the web-site.

www.clockmakers.org
Having been a guest at the Installation Court in January and formally sworn in at the Lady Day Court in April I felt slightly unsure how to respond to the first inquiry from a beneficiary of a deceased relative’s pocket watch which on examination (or “fiddling” in his words) fell to pieces. Who would I recommend he take the watch to for repair? Fortunately, the answer lay within our own membership and everyone I have asked has been very willing to offer help and advice. Aided by the Assistant Clerk, the Master and Wardens, Court and Stewards, I feel in a much better position than the owner of the pocket watch.

As you may know the Clerk’s office has got to move from Salters’ Hall before the end of the year when Salters’ Hall closes for refurbishment. We would like to move early in the Autumn and we are looking at available space in other Livery Halls. A number of members have offered to help on the move – for which very many thanks in advance. As we are likely to have moved by the time of the next Newsletter I will keep members updated on progress through the electronic Clerk’s Update – usually monthly. There will be no change to the Clerk’s phone number or email address.

We have a full calendar of events this year, our membership is strong and our web-site commands world-wide interest. In just one day we received inquiries from the US, France, Germany and China though this last looked like Chinese spam. In these difficult economic times I think we should make special effort to remember our charitable connections closer to home, for they not only help encourage and promote clockmaking in this country but also preserve and restore historic time-pieces that might otherwise be lost forever. We also support other good causes in and around the City of London. If you have not already done so please do consider completing a Charitable Giving Gift Aid Form, a copy of which is enclosed with this Newsletter. Regular donations, however large or small, are doubly appreciated – for the money you provide and the financial forecasting they enable.

For those of you I have not yet met, I much look forward to doing so in the coming months.

The Clerk’s Column

The GEORGE DANIELS’ EDUCATIONAL TRUST ADVISORY COMMITTEE (GDETA/C)

The GDETA/C was appointed by the Trustees of the George Daniels’ Education Trust, a Trust that was set up by the late George Daniels in 2011 to promote his love of clock and watchmaking and to encourage horologists to gain recognised professional qualifications and practise their skills to the high standards he had set himself. GDETA/C is tasked to identify suitable candidates and/or initiatives to support and to make recommendations to the Trustees.

The Chairman of the Advisory Committee is David Poole, Past Master and BHI Chief Examiner; the Committee comprises two BHI Representatives (Chairman of BHI Council and an elected representative, Colin Ferguson) and two WCC representatives (The Master and an elected representative, Philip Whyte, Renter Warden). The part time Secretary to the Committee is our own Clerk, Oliver Bartrum.

To date, the Committee has received over fifty enquiries from students wishing to attend full time courses at Birmingham City University, the British School of Watchmaking in Manchester, and West Dean College or intending to commence the British Horological Institute’s Distance Learning Course and attend courses at Upton Hall. Already, fourteen students/apprentices are receiving bursaries and assistance is being provided for the BHI to re-write the two further Grades of the Distance Learning Course and the Epping Forest Horology Centre to improve their facilities to teach clock and watchmakers.

A scheme has been developed to provide George Daniels’ Bursaries for selected students at Birmingham City University and offer Master Classes in specialist areas of horology to the students. An exciting development is a new ‘Apprentice Scheme’ to assist the training of clock and watchmakers in the workplace. Funding is provided over a three year period to help the employer provide a structured approach to learning. The BHI Distance Learning Course is provided with tuition and courses at Upton Hall form an important part of the scheme. The first apprentice to be approved is Simon Allen who works for Gerald Marsh in Winchester.

The Committee believes that the legacy left by George Daniels will provide significant support for training to current and future horologists and encourages anyone interested in applying to visit the web-site: www.gdetac.org for more information. Any enquiries should be sent to: secretary@gdetac.org

The first George Daniels’ Apprentice: Simon Allen

The Clockmaker  •  July 2013

www.clockmakers.org
It’s not often the WCC are summoned to Buckingham Palace so Tuesday March 19th 2013 will remain a red letter day for the company for many years to come.

That morning, the Master Prof. Paul Jarrett led a delegation of the company to a private audience with Her Majesty The Queen to present her with the Company’s gift to mark Her 60th Jubilee.

The clock was specially commissioned by the Company from Charles Frodsham & Co and was made in their Sussex workshops.

As a private audience, ‘The Clockmaker’ isn’t at liberty to divulge the details of the presentation but The Master was heard to mutter “it went well” as he was spirited away in an unmarked vehicle. He has subsequently been returned unharmed.

But for our readers (surely all of you) who are interested in a full description of the gift, ‘The Clockmaker’ can reveal the following:

A Silver-Cased Presentation 8-Day Hump-back Carriage Timepiece, by Charles Frodsham, No.3086

The six-pillar fusee and chain movement with a three-wheel train carried in bronze bushes, and a platform lever escapement with cut bi-metallic compensation balance, blued steel balance spring with terminal curve, and a diamond endstone in a steel setting. The backplate with bronze dust protection pipes for the fusee and hand setting arbors, polished steel endpiece for the contrate wheel, and a curved aperture indicating the state of wind displayed on a blued steel disc behind, with hand engraved lettering filled with 18k gold. The plate signed below the centre:

Charles Frodsham & Co.
LONDON
FOR
THE WORSHIPFUL COMPANY OF CLOCKMAKERS
AD. 2012.

The matt-silvered dial with blue enamel-filled roman numerals and minute circle, blued steel spade and pointer hands of equal length, and signed above the centre in blue enamel

CHAS. FRODSHAM
LONDON

The gilt-brass basket-weave pattern engine-turned dial mask set with two roundels hand engraved with Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II’s cypher: EIIR (crowned), and the Worshipful Company of Clockmakers Coat of Arms. The solid silver hump-back case with a shaped swing handle, polished
bevel-edged glazing front and back, the back panel fitted with silver and gold dust shutters. The whole raised on a moulded plinth inset at the back with a sprung-load ed velvet-lined ‘secret’ drawer, containing a double-ended silver, blued-steel and gold key for winding and hand-setting. The case fully London hallmarked for 2012, with Diamond Jubilee punch mark, and sponsors mark C.F & CO. L.D. (Charles Frodsham & Co.). In a long-grained red leather silk and velvet lined Charles Frodsham box with hand-engraved floral silver catch, and inset to the top with a silver roundel hand engraved with Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II’s cypher: EIIR (crowned). Accompanied by a leather bound presentation book giving details of the clock, and a roll of sponsors’ names, gilt-tooled to the front with floral edging and entitled

THE WORSHIPFUL COMPANY OF CLOCKMAKERS DIAMOND JUBILEE GIFT 2102

below an inset roundel bearing the Company’s Coat of Arms, contained in a slip case.

Height of clock, with handle up: 175mm

The Presentation group outside Buckingham Palace: (L to R) Jonathan Betts, Howard Newman, the Master, Charles Scarr, Philip Whyte, Mark Elliott and Joe Buxton

Frodsham at the Palace

The firm of Charles Frodsham & Co have been in and out of Buckingham Palace since 1854.

In that year, Charles was appointed Superintendent and Keeper of Her Majesty’s clocks, some 17 years after Queen Victoria ascended the throne. The company went on to maintain the royal clocks from their dedicated workshop in Buckingham Palace for another 125 years.

During that time, the company made three gold watches to celebrate Queen Victoria’s Diamond Jubilee (1897) — one with a concealed enamel portrait of the Queen and two with Royal family portraits on their dials.

More recently, the company presented HRH Princess Elizabeth, Duchess of Edinburgh with a gilt desk timepiece to mark her marriage in November 1947. Students of James Bond trivia and those glued to last year’s Olympics opening ceremony, will have noticed the clock atop the Queen’s roll top desk as she was ‘collected’ by 007 from Buckingham Palace.

The following year, the company were back at Buckingham Palace to present a silver hump-back calendar clock on behalf of the Mothers’ Union to HM Queen Elizabeth, The Queen Consort (who was the Union’s Patron at the time) to mark her silver wedding anniversary. The Queen Mother was patron of the Mothers’ Union from 1937 until her death in 2002, since when The Queen has assumed the role.

Charles Frodsham & Co was formed by Charles Frodsham (b. 1810) in 1834. The company continues to this day, nowadays run by Renter Warden Philip Whyte and Court Assistant Richard Stemming.

Charles Frodsham was Master of the Company in 1855 and 1862.
Arley Hall & the Cuckoo Clock Museum
25 April
Photos: Oliver Bartrum

The Master and his wife, Annie.

The reception: a joyful occasion to lift the post-Christmas blues.

A moment of relaxation: (L to R) Senior Warden Jonathan Bets; Deputy Master Mark Elliott; Master Paul Jarrett; Past Masters Richard Cope & Michael Frampton.

Arley Hall in Cheshire built in the 1830s in Jacobean style, the second house to stand on the site since the 15th century.

Part of the clock collection with a particularly cheeky one on the right with its tongue sticking out.

The Master’s party admiring some of the large collection of cuckoo clocks in the museum.

The Installation Court
28 January
Photos: Robert Sales

(L & R) Stewards Tony Gry and Robert Pedler escorting the piper and Company and guests to choral evensong at St. James’ Church, Garlickhythe, from Painters’ Hall.
Think English summer…

Think umbrella. Sad but true, judging by recent history, so it’s advisable to get onto the WCC website to make sure you claim your WCC brolly.

They’re practical, hard wearing and distinctive. A huge span of some 130 cms means it’ll keep you and your companion as dry as a bone all summer long. A snip at £38 (including P&P).

And while you’re on the site, might we suggest you have a look at the other merchandise we have on offer. We can heartily recommend the table mats for example, which echo many of the qualities needed to be a horologist – hard working, resilient and can withstand enormous heat. They also happen to be extremely attractive which is essential in tableware at least.

Don’t forget the other essentials we have such as our custom made cufflinks, livery medals for those newly elected to the livery and the pocket watch stands (in three sizes).

Happy shopping and keep dry this summer!

The Lady Day Court
8 April 2013
Photos: Robert Sales

Despite the prospect of having to wrestle the huge bouquet presented by the Company home on the tube, Joe and his wife, Ann, seem cheerful enough.

The Master welcoming our new Freemen

The Master admitting our retired Clerk, Joe Buxton, to the Company as an Honorary Liveryman.

Every May over 200 golfers from 50 Livery Companies gather at Walton Heath Golf Club to play for the Prince Arthur Cup. The cup goes to the best team which consists of two pairs and this year was won by the Leathersellers.

There is also a prize for the best overall pair and it was won this year for the first time (as far as records show) by the Clockmakers.

The winning pair were (L to R) Mark Elliot (Deputy Master) and Michael Jarrett (son of the Master). They have partnered one another in this competition for a number of years but finally all the dedication and hard training has paid off! Commiserations to our other pair of John Woods and Neale Houlden who have undertaken to up their training regime before next year.

TRIUMPHANT GOLFERS

Retail Therapy for the Long Summer

Happy shopping and keep dry this summer!
The former editor of The Clockmaker, Liveryman Tina Millar reveals her secrets

1. What prompted your interest in horology?
   Working with Philip Coole and George Daniels at Sothebys - absolutely fascinating.

2. What was the first time piece you owned?
   I was given a gold Omega bracelet watch

3. Where is it now?
   In the bank

4. What would you do with a million pound lottery win?
   Buy a hump back Cole clock: commission a complicated modern clock and give a chunk to charity.

5. What’s your favourite book?
   Complete works of Oscar Wilde. Still very amusing today.

6. Favourite piece of music?
   Largo and Variations by Michael Festing (1705-1752)

7. Favourite film?
   Lawrence of Arabia

8. What do you never leave home without?
   When working, a spare pair of tights; I couldn’t be seen on valuation days with laddered tights.

THE LAST WORD

Joe Grinds Out the Handover

Talk about perks of office, the new Clerk now has his own Pepper Mill.

Presented to the company by retiring Clerk Joe Buxton, it’s made from ebony and silver and bears London silver hallmarks. And to avoid any confusion, the top is engraved ‘The Clerk’s Pepper Mill’. We’re told ‘so hands off’ was accidentally missed out at the production stage.

Our picture shows our new Clerk Oliver Bartrum (left) accepting his new toy from Joe at the lunch following Lady Day Court, Joe’s last official day as Clerk.

Joe was Clerk from 2005 – 2013, a fact recorded around the base of the mill. We wish him the happiest and longest of retirements and look forward to seeing him at future company events.

We very much regret to record the following deaths

Freeman Sir Montague Levine Kt Hon DSc, FRCP, DMJ (CLIN)
Liveryman Derek Edward Mabbutt
Liveryman Hugh Thomas Owen

The Clockmaker

July 2013

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Picture Editor: Brenda Blackburn.

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