

**JONATHAN HILLS**  
**MASTER OF THE WORSHIPFUL COMPANY OF CLOCKMAKERS**  
**2019**



Jonathan was born in Sudbury, Suffolk in 1962 into a horological family. His father, a master watchmaker, was the fifth generation of watchmakers and jewellers in a business established in 1831 by Jonathan's great great great grandfather, Benjamin Hills.

Following local education, rather than joining the family firm, Jonathan was offered the opportunity to train as a chattels valuer and auctioneer with a local firm of chartered surveyors. For seven enormously enjoyable years he was shown all aspects of surveying whilst concentrating on the auction side of the business. This informal apprenticeship saw him carrying out every task involved in an auction from sweeping the saleroom floor to taking the sale from the rostrum; an experience he regards as having been invaluable.

In 1987 he joined international fine art auctioneers Sotheby's as a general valuer at their West Sussex salerooms, carrying out valuations across the South of England and further afield. Five years later Jonathan's family past finally caught up with him when he was asked by Sotheby's to specialise in clocks. His current role, based in London, as Director and senior specialist in clocks and barometers, has seen his involvement in many major collections and high-profile horological auctions. Although a clock specialist, he enjoys working closely with his watch specialist colleagues across the World.

Outside horology, Jonathan is a keen driver and was, until very recently, a volunteer trip boat skipper with the National Trust on the River Wey Navigation in Surrey. He is a member of the PCC of his local church and has been known to man the bric-a-brac stall at the village fete. He enjoys country sports and the countryside. Research into his family history has been a passion for some time and has led to some fascinating discoveries with links to early Quaker farmers and even a notorious 19<sup>th</sup> century murder case.

Jonathan is married to Janet, a preparatory school teacher. They live in South West Surrey where they enjoy gardening and, in particular, post-gardening refreshment. They have two daughters, Sophie and Chloe, who are currently in full time education.