

BHI Seminar Programme 2008

Available to members only

The Institute reserves the right to refuse bookings

Date	Seminar	Tutor	
September			
Mon-Fri 8th – 12th	Basic Clock Repair I	R Egan FBHI	Clock
Mon-Fri 15th – 19th	Franklin Clock	J Reynolds FBHI	Clock
Sat-Sun 27th – 28th	Skills for the Clock/Watch Maker – Machine/Hand Tools	J Reynolds FBHI	Clock
Mon-Fri 29th - 3rd	Watch Servicing for the Retailer/Technician Part 1	M Selley FBHI	Watch
October			
Mon-Fri 6th – 10th	Basic Clock II	J Reynolds FBHI	Clock
Sat-Sun 11th – 12th	Service Repair Platform Escapements 1 & 2	P Shrouder HonFBHI	Watch
Sat-Sun 18th – 19th	Service Repair Platform Escapements 3 & 4	P Shrouder HonFBHI	Watch
Mon-Tues 20th – 21st	Open Clock Workshop	J Reynolds FBHI	Clock
Mon-Fri 27th – 31st	Watch Servicing for the Retailer/Technician Part 2	M Selley FBHI	Watch
November			
Fri-Sun 7th – 9th	Basic Quartz Repair – Theory & Practical	M Selley FBHI	Watch
Mon-Fri 10th – 14th	Antique Clocks Part II, incl Longcase/Fusee/Bracket	J Reynolds FBHI	Clock
Mon-Fri 24th – 28th	Conservation & Restoration – Theory & Practical	A Midleton FBHI	C/W
December			
Mon-Fri 1st – 5th	Basic Watch Mechanical	J Murphy FBHI	Watch
Mon-Fri 8th – 12th	Basic Clock Part I	R Egan FBHI	Clock

SEMINAR REPORT

Franklin Clock

Six students enrolled on the third residential course in October, at Upton Hall, two of whom had constructed a Franklin movement on the first course held in 2006, (Barrie Fitton and Huw Smith).

Such had been the success under the expert tuition and guidance of John Reynolds FBHI, that they had no hesitation in returning to repeat the experience. Other members on the course had attended various BHI courses in the past and all were familiar with the basic workings of clock movements and their repair.

Roger Chastain, president of the National Association of Watch and Clock Collectors, had come all the way from the USA, (Benjamin Franklin owned and printed the Pennsylvania Gazette), with a view to setting up similar courses back home. All felt that a basic understanding and safe handling of machine tools and of a model engineer's lathe were essential to the smooth running of the course.

The simple Benjamin Franklin clock movement, circa 1758, consists of great, intermediate and escape wheels and two pinions, driving an hour hand which revolves through 360 degrees in 4 hours. There is an optional 'seconds' hand off the intermediate wheel arbor. An awareness of morning, afternoon and night time is required to tell the time, hence its unpopularity, except to aspiring clock makers.

John, our tutor, was well supported by both Arthur Booth, assistant technician, who also cut all the pinions, for part of the week and, throughout the week, David Spicer, secretary of the BHI Bristol branch. Within an hour of arriving we were all cutting the brass frame plates and aware of the importance of their correct orientation by marking and pinning them together to ensure accurate construction and alignment of the frame. JR introduced us to a well ordered programme of new clock building skills during the following days, demonstrating his meticulous use of machine and



hand tools, full of hints and advice. Such skills included the cutting, filing, polishing and finally tempering of a recoil anchor escapement from a blank, cutting of the great wheel teeth, scribing and cutting out the crossings of all three wheels, and making their respective brass collets. We were shown how to machine pivots on arbors from silver steel and burnish to a 'mercurial' finish, and three methods of accurately fixing collets and pinions to the arbors; namely soft soldering, tight drifting and modern day 'Loctite' contact adhesive.

To save time, John supplied the escape wheels pre-cut by himself, back cock, sprocket winder, crutch arm and pendulum suspension.

By Friday midday the first movement was ticking on the longcase test stand and all of us had complete and working movements by mid afternoon leaving time to 'turn' our brass pillars, a satisfying final professional touch. We very much appreciated the Micro Digital Vertical Mill provided by DS as a popular and versatile addition to the well equipped workshop.

Overall we were all extremely appreciative of the enthusiasm as well as the patience of our tutor and assistants. I believe that now we all have the confidence not only to complete this project by adding a suitable clock face and pendulum, but also to build as well as repair other clock movements in a professional manner. **Phil Tromans**

Courses may change subject to demand. We cannot guarantee that a particular tutor will be teaching the course.

For bookings, syllabuses and details please contact Zanna Perry 01636 817603.