BRITISH
HOROLOGICAL
INSTITUTE

TRAINING CLOCK AND WATCHMAKERS SINCE 1858

An introduction to the British Horological Institute

THE CENTRE OF LEARNING & EXPERTISE IN THE ART OF TIMEKEEPING

There are thousands of people who make, repair, conserve, restore, collect and sell clocks, watches and other timepieces. And there are millions who are interested in timekeeping and its instruments.

The British Horological Institute continues to provide training and education for current and future generations.

NO.1 FOR TRAINING & EDUCATION

Welcome to the BHI

First and foremost, the BHI is a worldwide membership organisation, which exists to educate and train horologists, that is people who make, repair, service, conserve and restore instruments that measure time. In other words, clock and watchmakers and indeed those who enjoy horology just as a hobby.

Training & Education

We are one of the most prominent providers of training and education for horology. We specialise in short courses for the busy professional and the keen enthusiast alike. In addition, we offer distance learning courses and examinations that can lead to recognised accreditation.

Our portfolio includes continual professional development opportunities for today's professionals, introductory courses for the interested enthusiast, and structured learning for the next generation of clock and watchmakers.

Setting Standards

We have been around for a long time.
First established in 1858, the BHI still fulfils its original functions. We set worldwide standards of horological practice and we provide training and education for current and future generations of horologists.

> *"The course was a very enjoyable experience and an enlightening introduction to clockmaking."*
>
> Student, Clockmaking Course

THE BENEFITS OF MEMBERSHIP

As a BHI member, UK or overseas, you profit exclusively from a variety of special benefits.

They include the following.

- You receive free monthly copies *of The Horological Journal,* with news, learned articles, detailed studies and technical updates.
- You have privileged access to the collection of clocks, watches and other timepieces of the BHI Museum Trust (by appointment).
- You have the advantage of being able to consult the library and archives (by appointment).
- You can take part in education programmes and attend training courses, seminars and forums.
- You are able to buy the BHI distance learning courses.
- You can sit examinations that lead to recognised professional qualifications in clock and watchmaking.
- You are part of a worldwide organisation of like-minded people with opportunities for local, regional, national and international contacts.

Branches

You will find BHI branches across the UK. The branches are autonomous. They are set up 'by the members for the members', invariably relying for their existence on the energy and commitment of dedicated volunteers, and succeed accordingly.

The first BHI branch was established shortly after the Second World War. It was an initiative that was quickly replicated up and down the country. More recently we have begun to see BHI representatives establish groups overseas.

You can join any branch. If you are lucky enough to live within reasonable travelling distance of a vibrant BHI branch you should try sampling one of their events. You will always find a warm welcome.

You will find branch contact details and events information on the website and in the *The Horological Journal.*

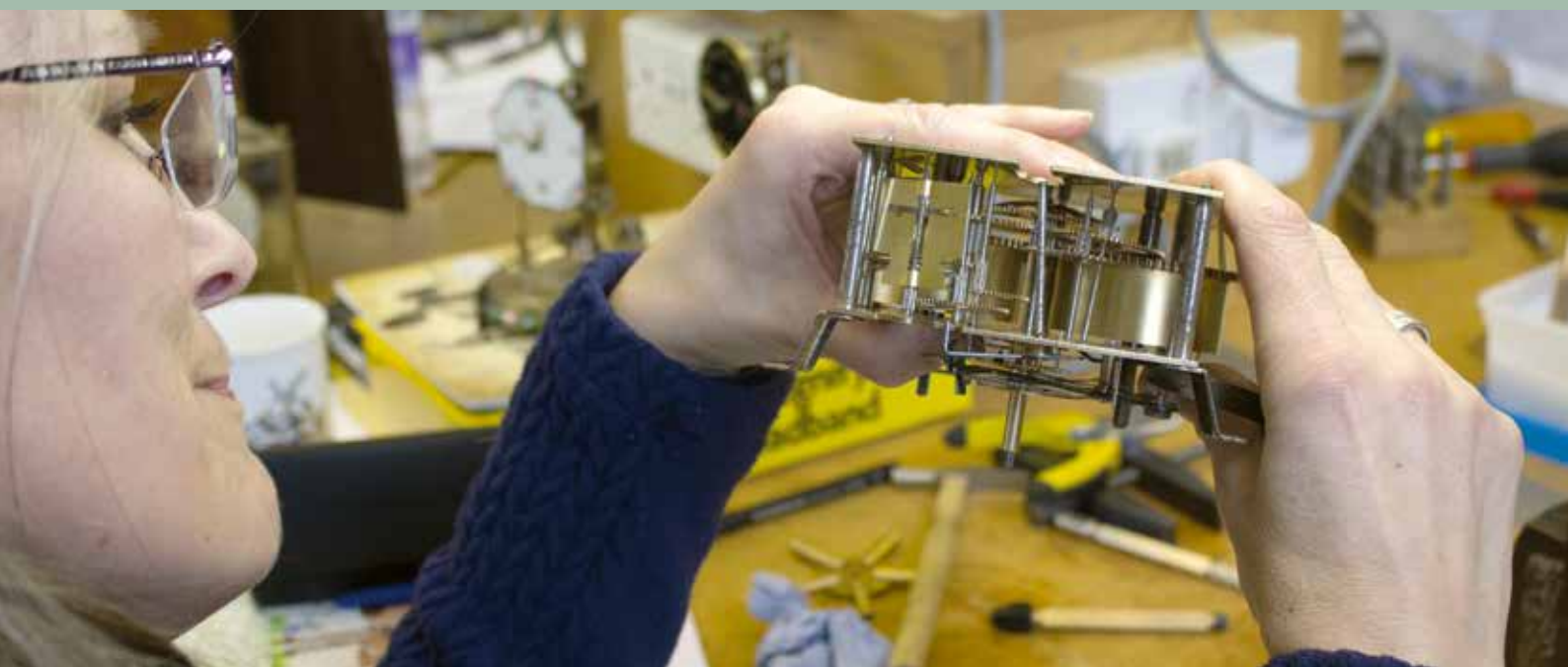
MEMBERSHIP LEVELS

From its inception in 1858 the BHI has never placed any barriers to membership. All we require from a prospective member is a shared interest in ‘the art, craft and science of horology’ and to abide by our Code of Practice, when they trade and work on the repair, restoration and conservation of clocks, watches and other horological items.

Associate Membership

All new members to the Institute are required to join as associates.

In 1858 associate members would have been called ‘amateurs’. This is not a term we use today. Indeed many of our current associate members are actually highly skilled clock and watchmakers. It is just that they do not choose to earn their living through horology, or they have not yet completed our accreditation process.



Accredited Membership – MBHI and FBHI

Associates can apply for accredited membership.

Our accreditation procedures for individual clock and watchmakers are painstaking and rigorous and lead to the award of the post-nominal letters MBHI (Member of the British Horological Institute) and FBHI (Fellow of the British Horological Institute).

These marks of distinction are highly valued and take many years of study and practical experience to acquire. We welcome applications from any skilled clock or watchmaker who believes that they can match our high standards. Accreditation is evidence based.

Accredited members can also purchase a copy of our emblem for marketing purposes, and their name can be entered in our register of accredited members, which is available to the general public looking for a clock or watch repairer.

Overseas Membership

While we are a British organisation, the BHI has members around the world; in over 30 different countries from as far afield as Australia, Canada, Singapore, and the United States. Overseas members make up nearly 20% of our current membership.

> *"Just what I was looking for, expert teaching and advice in horology and assessment at an accredited standard."*
>
> Student, Distance Learning Course

TRAINING AND EDUCATION

Horology is a vibrant profession and skilled craft offering great career opportunities. Whether you are an absolute beginner, a professional clock repairer, an experienced watchmaker, a seasoned trader or an avid collector, the BHI can help you develop your knowledge and skills.

You can choose from two different types of learning – practical short courses and long-term distance learning. You can also take exams for a diploma qualification that can lead to an accredited status.

Short Courses

Our short courses take place in dedicated workshops equipped with professional tools, machines and equipment. You also benefit from the knowledge and experience of qualified BHI tutors. You work directly with an expert in the field and receive personal attention as well as useful tips.

The constantly updated courses have been tried and tested for more than half a century and have helped guide many students into the profession. But, if horology is simply your hobby or an enjoyable pastime, you can also use the courses to satisfy your own personal curiosity about timepieces.

Distance Learning

There are two distance learning courses (DLCs):

1. DLC Technician Grade; and
2. DLC Combined Intermediate and Final Grade.

Each course comprises of a series of self-contained lessons. To help reduce your costs we offer you the opportunity to purchase these courses either with or without tutor feedback. Electing to purchase the tutor feedback option allows you to submit both your answers to the-end-of-lesson questions and your practical test pieces for assessment by one of the Institute's DLC tutors. This option is particularly useful for students who do not have access to a personal mentor.

The Technician Grade Distance Learning Course is an excellent introduction to horology, it is a highly practical training course encompassing theory and applied skills. There are 12 lessons, each conclude with a set of questions and a small practical exercise. Topics include: a brief history of timekeeping; types of watches; servicing quartz and mechanical watches; watch timing machines; water protection; electromechanical timers. Types of clocks: servicing a clock; the escapement; the pendulum; servicing a platform escapement; servicing a fusee clock. Basic electrical theory. Workshop equipment; small hand tools; lathes; soldering in practice.

While studying on a DLC you may also find the practical experience you gain during the short courses mentioned above very useful.

Examinations

Passing an examination and gaining a qualification will undoubtedly enhance your ability to gain employment as a clock or watchmaker. We have been setting standards for British horologists for over 150 years and our exams are all accredited in the UK by the regulatory body, Ofqual.

There are currently 20 individual exam units that, according to the various combinations in which they can be taken, will lead to one of the following awards:

- Diploma in Clock and Watch Servicing (Level 3);
- Diploma in the Servicing and Repair of Clocks/Watches (Level 4); and
- Diploma in the Repair, Restoration and Conservation of Clocks/Watches (Level 5).

While studying for exams you choose either a clock or a watch pathway.

More Information

You will find more information on short courses, DLCs and examinations on our website (www.bhi.co.uk) and in the BHI Examinations Guide which can be downloaded from our website.

BOOK A SHORT COURSE AND STAY AT UPTON HALL

Upton Hall currently has 10 bedrooms on-site, all recently refurbished.
Reservations include a Full English Breakfast at the Clock House Cafè.

CONTACT THE BHI AND START LEARNING WITH US TODAY

Call 01636 813795, or email info@bhi.co.uk

We look forward to hearing from you

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