

TIMEPIECE

The Newsletter of the Guild

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President: Julian Miles Holland OBE



The British
Watch &
Clock Makers'
Guild

Founded 1907

Clockmaking apprenticeship gathers momentum

Horological working party sets wheels in motion

The British Watch and Clock Making Guild is fully behind plans to create a new Clockmaking Apprenticeship Scheme, which will hopefully be supported and financed by the Government.

A working party comprising various horological organisations and a representative from the Institute of Apprenticeships, has been set up to help push the scheme forward. It met for the first time in May at the British Horological Institute's headquarters in Nottinghamshire.

It is thought the scheme will run along similar lines to the new watchmaking apprenticeship scheme which has just got the green light from the Government.

The group created a draft standard at its second meeting in July, which it intends to finalise and submit to the Institute by November. If approved, the next step will be to create an end point assessment. It is hoped that, if successful, the scheme could go live by November 2019.

Topics covered by the apprenticeship would include basic repair and service of clocks, health and safety, service and repair of clock movements, customer relations, record keeping and the history and evolution of horology. It is currently planned to be a two-year course.

Guild Chairman Chris Papworth said: 'We would like all the horological organisations to become a part of the scheme, and would ask for involvement from clockmakers and employers willing to take on an apprentice to get in touch.'

Chairman of the Working Group is Ross Alcock MBHI, representing the BHI. If any one would like more information he can be contacted at:
clockapprenticeship@hotmail.com [sic]

Turning back time...

Made in France
Inspired by the Swiss
Finished in Britain



A rare chronograph with a custom-made sapphire dial and domed glass case, which started life at the School of Horology in Paris in the late 1800s, has been brought to life by a British watchmaker, inspired by the Swiss. Read more on Page 4.

Nelson's 'Victory Watch' sells for £322,000



A watch used by the great British hero, Lord Admiral Horatio Nelson to orchestrate the Royal Navy's victory at the Battle of Trafalgar sold for £322,000 at Sotheby's recent Treasures sale. Now mounted in a gilt-brass carriage clock case, this Emery pocket watch No. 1104 was carried by Nelson during his final battle.

Daryn Schnipper, Chairman of Sotheby's International Watch Division, said: 'The perfect timing of the British assault at the Battle of Trafalgar was key in the historic victory of the Royal Navy so it was a real privilege to offer the watch that Nelson probably used to establish the timing for this decisive battle.'

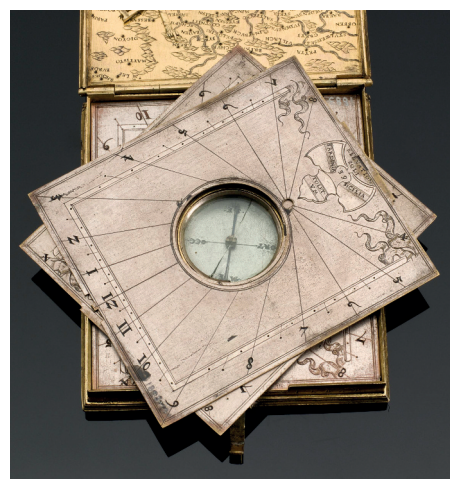
www.sothebys.com

The Sun - Living with our Star - New Exhibition

A unique collection of scientific objects from ancient astronomical artefacts to modern technological innovations, including a host of important clocks, will feature in a major new exhibition at The Science Museum which starts in October and runs until May 2019.

A 'Haagsche Klokje' (1657-59) by Solomon Coster, one of the oldest pendulum clocks is among the collection and sits alongside Japanese lantern clocks, an Orrery by Raingo Freres and a compendium table sun-dial by Christopher Schissler, with removable plates which dates to 1566 (see picture right).

www.sciencemuseum.org.uk



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Turning back time

Alex Photi MBHI

A French late 1800s movement gets a new lease of life

Liverpool watchmaker Alex Photi has quite literally 'turned back time' by rebuilding a rare chronograph which started life in the School of Horology, Paris, over one hundred years ago.

After deciding he wanted to work on something with a story to tell, he purchased an unfinished vintage movement and enamel dial. Now, two years later, the watch is complete and the result is stunning, with a floating, flat sapphire clear dial and custom-made oversized high dome case.

He explains: 'I had always romanced about the idea of bringing a watch with a vintage complex movement and true heritage back to life, so I was delighted when I found this one.'

Alex did some research and found that the movement was made, but not fully finished, by the school in the late 1800s.



The clear sapphire caseback, both sapphire glasses have been UV treated to stop moisture condensation.



The fully completed watch. The lugs contour the wrist for comfort, which is important due to the watch's size and weight distribution.



The movement complete with polished/blued screws and temperature compensating balance.



The dial side half stripped down to check the movement fits into the case properly and that this side setting adjustment for changing the time is correct.



The centre wheel chrono bridge undergoing a light restoration.

The inspiration for the watch's design came from a number of sources.

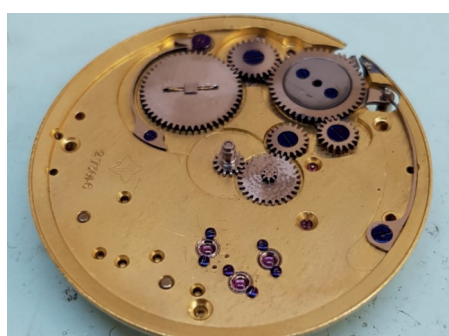
'I had always been inspired by three very exclusive Swiss watch houses,' he explained. 'Lange & Söhne use a glass back display to showcase their hand finished decorative movements. I also greatly admire an exceptional one-off piece made by Breguet, the Marie Antoinette timepiece, which houses a clear sapphire dial showing the large handmade compli-

cated movement in a huge gold case. Bovet's large movement and pronounced case design which has a pocket watch style feel was also an inspiration.'

Alex decided that he would incorporate all three elements in his new watch and also return the focus onto the micro mechanics of a watch.

'I feel that the watch world has managed to lose itself in demanding exquisite high cost, high value, precious metal timepieces, so I wanted to return to the elaborate craftsmanship of the traditional mechanical movements that first inspired me when I embarked upon my career in watchmaking.

With that in mind Alex designed a custom made floating flat sapphire clear dial that celebrates the handmade aesthetics of the vintage one-minute chronograph movement.



The movement partially stripped down with the screws being polished/blued.



The barrel complete showing its Geneva (Maltese Cross) stop work.



Just two of the many individual chronograph parts being re-finished.

The watch also features Geneva (Maltese Cross) stop work, pin set hand setting; temperature compensating balance; and hand blued screws.

The large three piece case, which was made in Germany has a custom-made oversized high dome front sapphire glass alongside a wafer thin sapphire glass display back. The case diameter is 50mm from side to side and the watch measures 60mm from the bottom to the top of the crown. The diameter of the front sapphire glass is 44mm and the case, including the dome glass, is 18mm thick.'

Alex added: 'The watch is very large and has a very unusual feel and presence because of the oversized solid steel case and the high dome thick sapphire glass

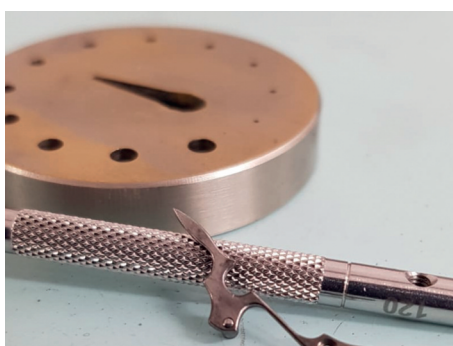
which importantly shows the exposed vintage chronograph movement and the sapphire dial.'

Ditton, the clear sapphire case back displays the full workings of the watch, which can be viewed when gently pressing the top of the crown, starting the one minute chronograph. By pressing the same button the chronograph will stop. Pressing the crown a third time will bring it back to zero. The winding is very easy and by pressing the side button plus turning the crown will set the watch to its hour and minute. An authentic string ray watch strap completes the piece.

Alex added: 'To know that I have brought this movement back to life and showcased it in such an original and exceptional way feels not only important, but like a true gesture to the student who started this project all those years ago.'



The completed watch with some of the tools used in its restoration.



Two more of the chronograph parts are re-finished. The work required a steady hand.

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About Alex

From an early age Alex was always interested in micro mechanics and fascinated by the elaborate craftsmanship of the traditional mechanical movements and how precisely parts must work together to measure a passage of time.

His career in watchmaking started in his early twenties when he completed the WOSTEP course (Watches of Switzerland Training and Education Programme), later working as an apprentice for Watches of Switzerland, which also included Mappin and Webb, in Manchester.

He earned his MBHI having worked for companies such as Time International in Malta as a Service Workshop Manager, bringing the aftersales workshop into a profit for the first time.

Moving back to the UK, he worked as a freelance watchmaker for two years. During this time he was approached by a watch enthusiast to build two watches known as Alenzo Stratos Alenzo (Alex & Kenzo) Stratos (Greek for Army) which housed a ETA decorative 6497 movement.

It was this watch which inspired him to start his own business, Perpetual Time, and to design his own own bespoke watch.

Alex said: 'It was important to me to provide a personal watchmaking service where customers receive face to face advice about their much-loved and sentimental timepieces.'

The company now has a large following on Instagram which shows over 1600 examples of work and over 360 TrustPilot reviews with a rating of 5 stars.

In 2014, Alex moved the business to the historic Rodney Street in Liverpool, known for its picturesque Georgian archi-



Alex examines the completed watch.

ture, which in turn encouraged him to create a timepiece that brought together a modern and vintage stance through an original approach.

He added: 'I always wanted to be self employed so I could offer a one-on-one bespoke service to each and every client, offering honesty and integrity. I firmly believed that by seeing a watchmaker on an appointment basis would push up sales on service and also potential sales on new watches. I am now in the position to offer that service and I couldn't be happier'

Websites and Instagram

perpetual-time.com

perpetualtimeliverpool.co.uk

[@perpetual_time_ltd](https://www.instagram.com/perpetual_time_ltd)