

The Minutes of the meeting of the Derby Medical Society

(Open meeting in aid of Royal Medical Benevolent Fund)

Held on 24th February 2015 in the Derby Medical School

Apologies: Dr John Eisenberg

Welcome: Mr S Iftikhar, President

Royal Medical Benevolent Fund Buffet: The President thanked the Royal Medical Benevolent Fund organisers for providing the buffet meal before the meeting, which raised £506.

Minutes for the meeting 3rd February 2015: Read by Mr S Milner, Junior Secretary, and approved.

New members: Mr Richard Stenford, Consultant Urologist
Mr Altaf Awan, Consultant Surgeon

Guest Lecture: Mr John Lemberger, Consultant Urologist, Nottingham - "A stitch in time"

Mr Lemberger is the son of a clockmaker, and he has always had a passion for timepieces. In his lecture he gave an account of the measurement of time through the ages. Different methods by which time has been measured with increasing accuracy include:

- Using shadows (obelisks, sundials) – no good at night or when it is cloudy
- Using the level of water remaining as it drips slowly out of a hole in bottom of a vessel
- Using sand in an hourglass
- Mechanical clocks with an oscillator mechanism – pendulum or balance wheel
- Electrical clocks with electronic oscillators
- Quartz clocks / watches where the oscillator is a quartz crystal
- Atomic clocks where the oscillator is radioactive Caesium (accurate to 1 second in 10 million years)

The need for increasingly accurate measurement of time was driven by:

- the need for accurate measurement of longitude for navigation at sea
- the need to synchronise time at different places (eg railway timetables)

Over the years, timepieces have become expressions of art and craftsmanship with increasingly intricate and ornate designs, and additions such as chimes, music, and automata. Perhaps the most famous English clockmaker was Thomas Tompion, known as the 'father of English clockmaking'.

There were many questions.

Vote of thanks: given by Mr Stephen Thomas

Register: signed by 36 members, 9 guests and 1 student.

Next meeting: 3rd March, 2015

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SY Iftikhar, President

Date: