

Institute of Physics – London & South East Branch – Retired Members Section

Keeping Time: a programme of 3 on-line talks, replacing the in-house summer *At Home* meeting
Thursdays 10, 17, 24 June 2021 19:30 BST, 18:30 UTC

This **At Home** meeting has been organised by Stewart Coulter.

Description: This on-line *At Home* event consists of 3 talks on the theme *Keeping Time*, delivered by:

- Dr David Rooney, former Curator of Time Keeping, ROG, the *original* home of UK time keeping
- who will talk on time keeping in other cultures and in times past
- Dr Hugh Hunt of Trinity College, Cambridge, the home of Physics in the C17 and ever since
- who will walk and talk us around the time keeping of the college clock - horology
- Dr Leon Lobo of the NPL, *today's* home of UK time keeping
- who will talk on time stamping City transactions and protecting the future of time keeping.

Registration: <https://events.iop.org/keeping-time>, a one-off for the series. Not yet live so might change.

Location: *What it says on the tin!*

June 10 19:30 BST, 18:30 UTC *Keeping Time in times past and other cultures*



Dr David Rooney is a writer and museum curator. The son of a prominent South Shields clockmaker, David was formerly Curator of Timekeeping at the Royal Observatory Greenwich and Keeper of Technologies and Engineering at the Science Museum, London. He is a Council Member of the Antiquarian Horological Society and sits on the management committee of the Clockmakers Museum, the oldest of its type in the world.

His latest book, *About Time: A History of Civilization in Twelve Clocks*, published by Penguin, is released on the day of this event. See:

<https://www.penguin.co.uk/books/311/311482/about-time/9780241370490.html>

In his illustrated and wide-ranging talk, David will explore how, since the earliest civilizations, people of all cultures have made and used clocks – in the widest sense. From the city sundials of ancient Rome to the medieval water clocks of imperial China, and from hourglasses fomenting a moral revolution in the Middle Ages to Enlightenment observatories in India, a history of clocks is truly a history of civilization. Using examples of real timekeepers from across space and time, David will show how, for thousands of years, time has been harnessed, politicized and weaponized.

June 17 19:30 BST, 18:30 UTC *The Time Keeping of the Trinity College Clock, Cambridge*



Dr Hugh Hunt is Reader in Engineering Dynamics and Vibration in the Department of Engineering at the University of Cambridge, and a Fellow of Trinity College. He is also Keeper of the Trinity College clock which is a 1910 Smith of Derby movement, accurate to 1 second a month without intervention. The clock's time-keeping forms the subject of a current 4th Year Engineering project he co-ordinates, calibrating it against the National Physical Laboratory time signal and other variables. These include the amplitude of the pendulum, humidity, air temperature, air pressure, and air density. The project has

a detailed web site of its own at <http://trin-hosts.trin.cam.ac.uk/clock/main.php> Rather than delivering a conventional lecture, Dr Hunt will take us on a walk and talk around of the movement, sharing his power point screen as required.

June 24 19:30 BST, 18:30 UTC *Selling time to The City and Building Resilience into Disseminating Time*



Focused on developing and delivering a national timing strategy, Dr Leonobo is Head of the National Timing Centre (NTC) programme at the National Physical Laboratory (NPL), the UK's National Measurement Institute.

He joined NPL in 2011 as Group Leader for the Time & Frequency group, working with the team managing the UK's time scale and developing quantum frequency standards. He led the team developing NPLTime®. NPL's certified pre-delivered time dissemination solution to the City of London for high frequency trading systems and regulatory compliance.

The NTC will be developing capability toward a national resiliency in timing for our expanding digital infrastructure, stimulating the development of an assured supply chain and addressing the skills gap for time and frequency technologies and dissemination solutions.