

VOTE OF THANKS - Gerry Corless

And thanks also to . . .

. . . the members of the Society who help at our meetings.

For this lecture, the volunteer Members include:

Greeting and Reception

Pam Foster, Christina McHugh,
Denise Malpas, Sylvia O'Shea,
Margaret Race

Event Booking

Nigel Bramley Howarth, Denise Fagge

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Christine Cockburn, Lesley Jarvis

Refreshments

Rita Calvert, Olga Depledge

Video and Audio

Allan Foster, Tony Depledge,

Fire Wardens

Gerry Corless, Jacqueline Love,
Eric Stringer, Marion Nuttall,
Pam Foster

Photography

Ged Curley

Lecture Leaflet

Tony Depledge

Our lectures and meetings would not be possible without the willing assistance of our many volunteers. If you would like to help, please speak to any of the volunteers working on an activity that you would like to support or feel free to contact Rita Calvert on 01253 735377.

NEXT LECTURE

Wednesday 2 May 2018

Ghislaine Howard on
The Seven Acts of Mercy

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**THE ARTS
SOCIETY
FYLDE**

**HOW TIME WAS TOLD
THROUGH THE AGES**

KEVIN KARNEY

4 April 2018

St Annes United Reformed Church Hall, FY8 2AE

www.theartssocietyfylde.org.uk

Supporting the Arts in Blackpool, Fylde and Wyre

HOW TIME WAS TOLD THROUGH THE AGES



Man has long used the rhythms of nature to develop devices to tell **when** things should happen. The flow of water, the burning of wax or the falling of sand have also been used to tell **how long** things should take. And the social context of who needs to tell the time - civic or religious leaders, merchants or train passengers - has varied dramatically. Devices to tell time have always been produced with exceptional intricacy, craftsmanship and beauty.

Kevin Karney charts how devices for telling the time have changed as history, fashion and technology have progressed. He divides his approach into four themes:

- **Seasonal or unequal hours** from pre-history to the mediaeval world, with shadows, the stars, water and burning clocks;
- **Common hours** in the mediaeval to renaissance times, with the development of reliable clocks and sundials;
- **Mean hours** - from the Enlightenment to the Industrial Revolution, where the need for greater accuracy for navigators and traders brought clock-making to a high point of precision and craftsmanship - but with problems in the setting of clocks; and
- **Atomic Hours** - our modern times of electronics and time signals, where many time pieces now take on a role as pieces of civic art, personal beauty or education.



Cover: *The Elephant Clock (detail), Ismail al-Jazari (1136-1206), from The Book of Knowledge of Ingenious Mechanical Devices, 1206 (Metropolitan Museum, New York) - Full length version shown on back page. This page: Chalice dial, 1554, Aldersbach, Germany (British Museum); Thomas Howard, Earl of Arundel and his wife Alatheia Talbot, "The Madagascar Portrait", c1635, Anthony van Dyck, (1599-1641) (Arundel Castle)*

KEVIN KARNEY

Kevin Karney was brought up in Northumberland and educated at Rugby School and Trinity College Cambridge. He holds a Masters degree in Natural Sciences.

After two years as a VSO teacher in North Borneo, he worked for 33 years in the oil business in Kuwait, Iraq, Iran, Turkey, Malaysia, Nigeria, the Netherlands and the UK. He retired as a senior technical executive with Shell International.



Since retirement, he has involved himself in charity work, gives occasional courses on laser cutting technology at Cardiff Metropolitan University and is a long-term member of The Arts Society; for 6 years he was Treasurer of the Monmouthshire branch.

With a great-grandfather and uncle who were both notable gnomonists (those interested in sundials), he has had a lifelong interest in the subject of time-keeping - from both a technical and historical perspective.

He is a member of the Antiquarian Horology Society, the British Sundial Society (an affiliate of the Royal Astronomical Society) and the North American Sundial Society. He has lectured on the subject to both specialist and general audiences in the UK, USA, Australia and New Zealand.

SUGGESTED FURTHER INFORMATION

- The Mastery of Time* - Dominique Flacon - 2011, Flammarion
- The Book of Time* - ed Colin Wilson - 1980, Westbridge Books
- The Book of Time* - Adam Hart-Davis - 2011 Mitchell-Beazley
- The Companion of the Year* - Blackburn & Holford-Stevens - 1999, Oxford
- Time in Antiquity* - Robert Hannah - 2009, Routledge