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It turned out that the restaurant is housed in the clockmaking business's former home and the projecting clock they were replacing was a James Ritchie original that had stood there for decades.

Tony Charlesworth, Smith of Derby Technical Sales Engineer, said: 'It will be wonderful to see a new clock back where it belongs to replace the old one. It's part of the company's and the city's heritage.'

'The former clock stood on the site for decades before it fell into disrepair so building a new one has been a labour of love as much as it is anything else.'

James Ritchie & Son, now a Smith of Derby company, moved into the premises in Broughton St in 1965, having previously been based in Leith St. They left in 2006 for their current base in Broxburn, West Lothian, and the clock came down at the same time.

The Clock Register

A new website has been launched which—in theory at least—will allow all the clocks in the world to be listed, with pictures, details of their parts, who has worked on them and why, and what have they done to them. You can even listen to the clock ticking and chiming, find out who owned it and where it can be seen today. And you can search all this for free.

The website is called The Clock Register and, according to its owners, already contains more pictures of clock parts and more detailed clock reports than any other website. It has the most complete listing of stolen clocks as well. And it also offers people who contribute information to offer their clocks for sale and the opportunity to earn some extra money from their clock photographs.

It was the brainchild of clockmaker Marc ter Kuile, a 2009 West Dean College clock graduate. 'I missed the

ability to find quickly who had worked on a clock before, who had owned it and what a previous conservator had decided to act upon and why,' says Marc. 'Where could I quickly find photographs of, for example, different gathering pallets to pick the right design for a new one I had to make?'

'Just as a doctor wants to access the medical history and X-rays of his patients, so should a clockmaker have all previous work and pictures of a clock at his fingertips. This way, he or she can more easily come up with an accountable, and preferably reversible, approach to the conservation of that clock. At the same time, a collector, dealer or auctioneer will gain respect and credibility if a clock's pedigree can be verified and explained. And think for a minute what a superb legacy our generation of clockmakers and collectors would create if we all recorded our work and collections in the same place for future generations!'

Marc realised that this type of information can easily be stored in a searchable database to which anyone could contribute. Hence, The Clock Register.

'I wanted it to be free to attract clockmakers and enthusiasts. But, of course, I had to pay programmers, hardware, hosting, security *etc* to keep a website running and improving. I didn't want people to have to pay for an annual subscription, so I decided on an open-source model, a bit like Wikipedia. The more people contribute, the more everyone will benefit.'

'Everyone who joins the website receives 100 free search credits. If you search the database, your search credits go down. And if your balance hits zero, you can either add more clocks to increase your search credits, or buy credits to continue searching.'

'When you are registering a clock in the database, you can offer that clock for sale which will show on our "Clocks for Sale" page. And, also, while you are registering a clock you will be asked whether you want to offer your higher resolution photoset and single photos of that clock (and its parts) for sale at a price that you yourself can set. When someone clicks on any of your photos, you get paid. Most photosets and single photos are priced reasonably from a few pennies to a few pounds.'

The Clock Register can be found at www.clockregister.org. 📄