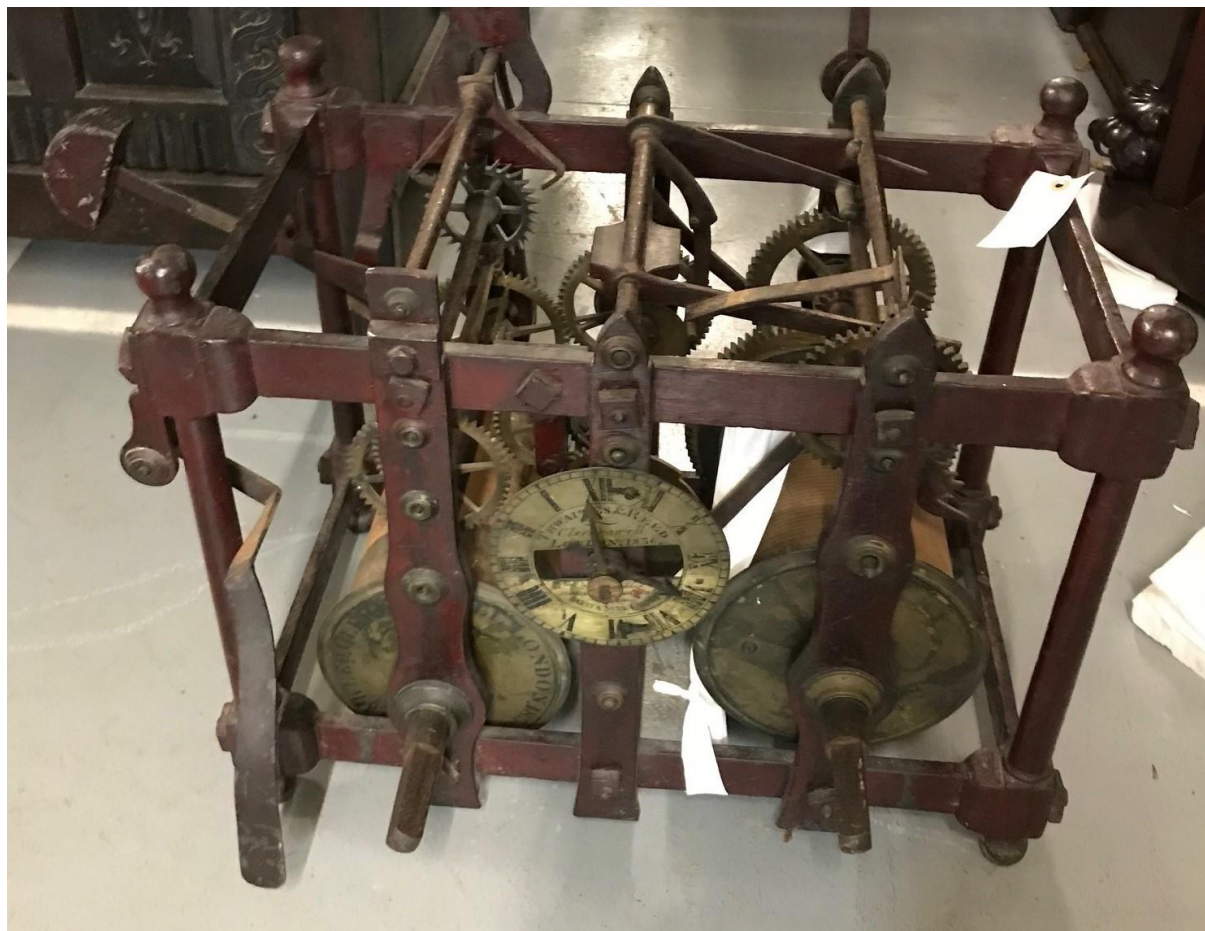


Loan request: Cowbridge Town Hall clock mechanism (46.160)

Turret clock mechanism by Thwaites & Reed, Clerkenwell, London (1836), converted to dead beat by Barry & Sons, Cardiff (1893).

length: 800mm (max) x width: 700mm (max) x height: 650mm (max)



Background to loan request:

1946: The turret clock mechanism from the Town Hall was donated to the museum by Cowbridge Borough Council and is currently stored in the National Collection Centre.

Late 2022: Amgueddfa Cymru were approached by horologist, Les Kirk, who is employed by Cowbridge Town Council and maintains their clocks. He suggested the possible loan of the clock to CTC.

March 2023: Les Kirk visited St Fagans to view the clock and subsequently wrote a report for CTC (not shared with Amgueddfa Cymru).

December 2023: CTC made a formal request for the loan.

AC visit to Cowbridge Town Hall 13.02.2024

Emyr Davies & Sioned Williams were met by Clair Davis (Administrative assistant to Cathy Kennedy, Town Clerk who was not available that day).

We were shown around the Town Hall building to view possible locations for the clock to be displayed. The main 'Magistrate Room' was the most obvious location, although there were not many places within the room that would accommodate the clock.

Location 1: Corner of 'staged' area, on the floor



This is the most prominent place for the clock to be positioned, within view and alongside other historic objects which have been hung on the wall.

We suggest the clock is placed on the floor and covered with Perspex casing.

There may not be enough space here – to be further discussed with Town Clerk as to how this would impact on the use of the room.

Location 2: In the 'porch' area

This is a space between the external door and the internal door to the Magistrates Room.

The clock would fit on a plinth here, covered with Perspex casing. However, the position is not prominent and as the internal door is closed most of the time, it would be virtually 'hidden' and out of the way.



Location 3: Corner currently occupied by 'flatscreen' on stand

This location may not be an option at all due to the obvious importance of visual access to the screen. However, if the screen could be wall mounted near an electrical supply etc then this corner below the 'Mayoral Roll of Honour' would be of sufficient size and prominence to 'house' the mechanism within a Perspex case.



The environmental conditions (Temperature/RH) within the Magistrates room were suitable for the mechanism on the day of visit (in February), and so the prospect would be optimistic of maintaining stable conditions for the duration of the loan.

Next steps:

The location for display of the clock needs to be discussed further with CTC (Town Clerk, Cathy Kennedy) and assurance/confirmation of the nature of security presence.