

ANTIQUA LOCK SEMINAR

By Seffan George

The recent Antique Lock Seminar was a great success; run by George and Val Olifent and Keith Carrier the seminar started with a Classroom session hosted by Justin Freeman, the MLA's Technical Manager.

With a very wide curriculum the topics covered included:-

- Required engineering skills (inspecting, dismantling, repairing and re-assembling)
- Tools (hand tools and machine tools)
- Materials (what and where from)
- Examples restoration / knowledge
- Key Blanks (where to get, how to make and what to watch out for)
- Key Cutting
- Ethics (all the do's and don'ts)
- Record keeping
- Other sources of information

It wasn't all talking though! George and

Val, and Keith had brought a lot of items with them; from the sublime (a large key blank that can be seen on the table) to the ridiculous (an extremely small antique cabinet key!)

One particular item of interest was a lock that Keith showed in its "part made" condition. He'd been asked to make 25 of them from scratch! So the answer to the questions "is there any money in it" was a definitive yes!

There was plenty of time to get more "hands on" during the coffee breaks!

Attendance was from right across the UK with members having travelled from as far afield as Blyth up in Northumberland and Worthing on the South Coast.

I have to admit I was concerned when I saw Colin leaving on his push bike as it's rather a long way to cycle to

Worthing. I was relieved to hear later that he was actually camping in a local caravan site!

The session finished off with time in the workshop and George demonstrating and discussing the merits and benefits of silver soldering along with the do's and perhaps more appropriately the do nots! Don't worry George – your secret's safe with us.....Well until the next cartoon in Keyways perhaps!

As for what's next – well as the saying goes "watch this space"!

Even if it's not something that you want to get into in depth yourselves, it was an extremely useful opportunity to make some useful contacts and understand what's possible in the intriguing world of antique locks.

