



I have been trying to find out information about the bracket clock on the landing, especially the maker. The Charlecote clock is shown on the left.

Having looked at pictures of similar clocks, the one on the right is the closest in style to Charlecote's. It is described thus: -

Ebonised with ormolu spandrels, pineapple finials and ogee bracket feet. Eight day double fusee and chain



drive. Movement on 8 bell Cambridge chime strike with gong. Anchor escapement. Maker J. Bryson Edinburgh.

There were several makers of clocks of similar design in the second half of the 19th century but the similarity of the two would suggest the same maker but it is not definite. It is likely that the clock came to Charlecote with the family effects from Maxton when the estate was sold by Sir Brian; therefore, no surprise if the maker should be Scottish. It probably dates from around 1870.



The picture on the left displays the interior of a similar clock showing the arrangement of the eight bells and the hammers. The mechanism cleverly sets the hammers to strike the bells on the quarter hours to the pre-set tunes. The gong is on the other side. The tunes on both the clocks illustrated are known as Cambridge Chimes. What are these?

The Cambridge Chimes originated from the bells in the new clock installed in the church of Great St. Mary's, Cambridge in 1793 and the Rev. Dr. Joseph Jowett was asked to compose a suitable chime which he did with assistance from William Crotch, eminent composer and organist. This tune became popular and was used in 1859 for the new clock tower at Westminster, now known as the Elizabeth Tower and the tune became more famously known as the Westminster chimes and subsequently was a favourite with future clock makers.

The Charlecote clock is often referred to as '*the admiral's clock*'. Is this any admiral or somebody specific, perhaps Admiral Sir Henry Fairfax? 'Eight bells' may suggest a nautical term but it refers to the eight bells of the mechanism and the clock isn't necessarily a ship's clock.

The picture on the right shows the two smaller dials. These regulate the chimes and gong; presumably the volume! There are three keyholes, the centre one to wind up the time mechanism and the others to wind up the chime and gong mechanisms. All keys should be wound up together apparently.



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