

Some East Anglian Turret Clocks

Ian coote describes a Branch tour

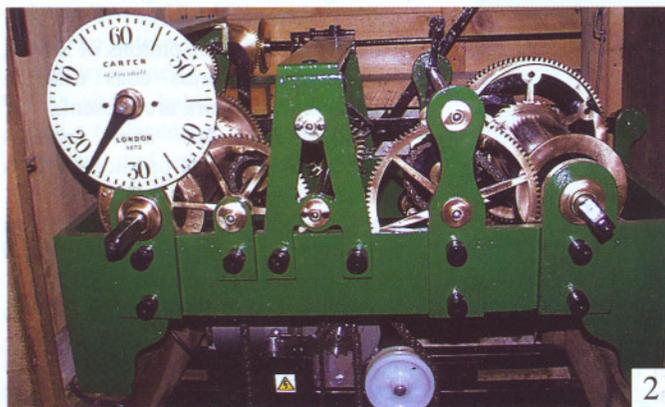
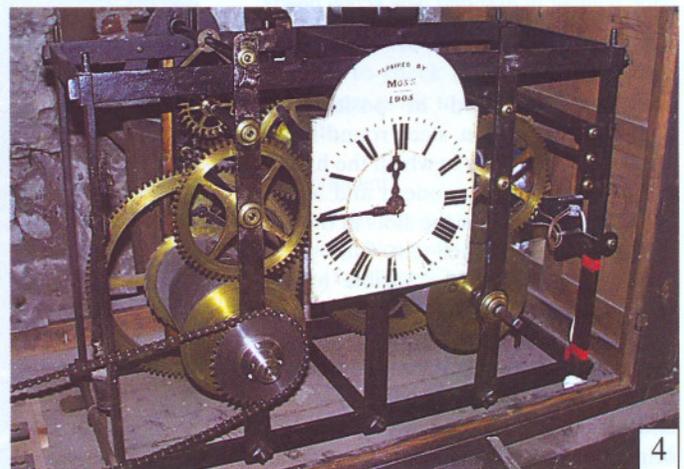
ONCE AGAIN, a group of enthusiastic members and friends of the Ipswich branch assembled in fine August weather for the annual turret clock tour. Coincidentally, all of the churches visited were built of flint, and furnished an opportunity to compare styles of craftsmanship in another trade, 1.

The tour started at Pulham Market, not far from Diss. This clock has a solid flatbed movement, 2, by Carter of Cornhill, London, 1872. It has been restored recently and fitted with electric winding.

The church at Diss has the unusual distinction of a "preacher's dial", 3, high on the West wall inside the church. Was it supplied by parishioners to remind the incumbent of the length of his sermons, or was it a source of power to the preacher, being visible only to him?

The iron-framed birdcage clock movement by Buxton dates from 1761, and has a deadbeat escapement, 4. A massive electric carillon has been added, separate from the clock. The original ting-tang chiming movement, 5, was dumped in an inaccessible cavity behind the clock to make way for the electric winding.

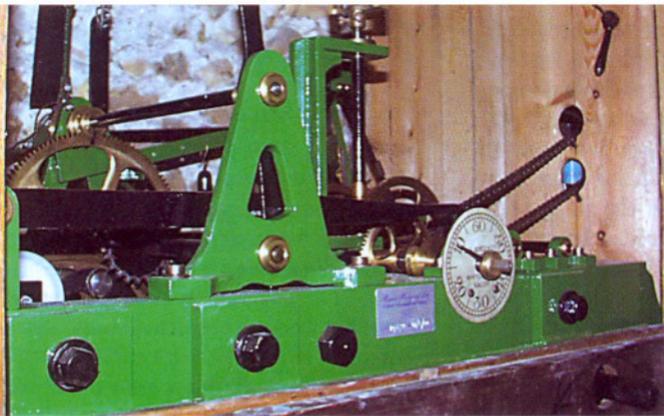
When will it be realised by supposedly reputable companies that they are dealing with an irreplaceable heritage deserving of respect? It was very evident in the course of this particular tour that standards in conservation are not all that they could be. Two of the clocks had been superbly restored and converted to electric winding by Haward Horological with all the care and consideration that should be accorded to all such work. One other was restored by a local man with little experience of turret clocks who nevertheless achieved a fine standard. The remaining two movements had been butchered by a well-known company, who will not be named here, but ought to know better. Bressingham boasts the most recent of the clocks visited. This one, 6, made by Joyce of Whitchurch (Salop.) dates from 1931. The similarity with clocks of the Victorian era underlines the success of Grimthorpe's designs for Westminster with its flat bed and double 3-legged



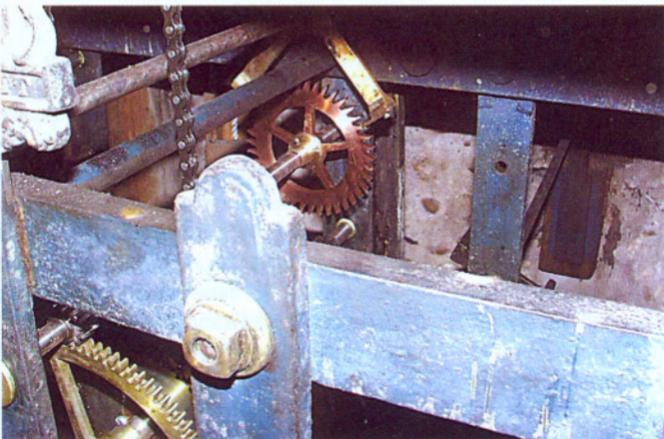
3-4. The 'Preacher's dial' and 18th century movement at Diss.

1-2. The church and clock movement at Pulham Market.

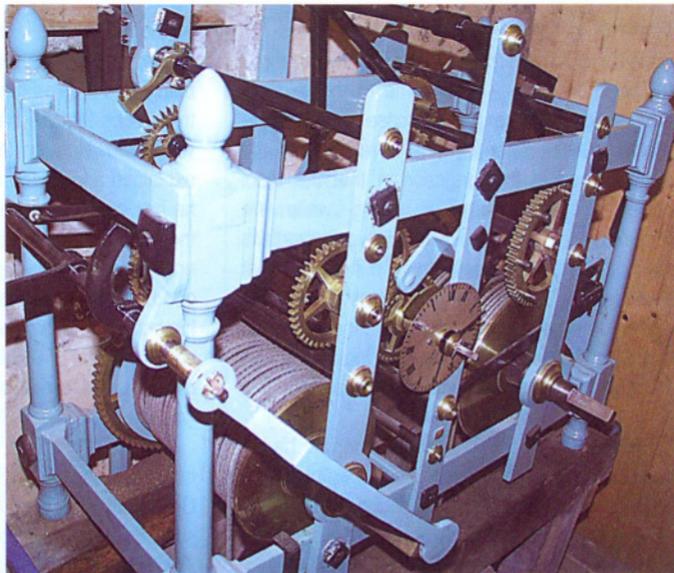
5. The old chime movement at Diss, photographed with some difficulty!



6. The 1931 movement at Bressingham.



7. Quidenham. Unsatisfactory recent restoration of the dead-beat escapement.



8. John Moore Posted frame movement at East Harling.

gravity escapement.

The round tower of St Andrew's, Quidenham has a clock movement by Tucker of London dating from circa 1860. The chiming train is missing, and it has been fitted with an electric carillon. The recent restoration of the dead beat escapement, 7, leaves a lot to be desired.

JOHN MOORE & SON of Clerkenwell made the clock movement ,8, now in the fine church at East Harling in 1826 for West Harling Hall. It is a posted-frame movement with anchor escapement, recently restored to a high standard.

We would like to express our thanks to all the Church wardens and others who give their time so willingly; to the group of bellringers who treated us to tea; and particularly to Stella and Ian Haward with their mother, Pam, for arranging the tour at short notice and under difficult circumstances. □