

# East Anglian Turret Clocks – a Summer Outing for Ipswich Branch



1. Accessibility can be a problem!

ANYONE who has not been on a tour of turret clocks may wonder what could possibly be the attraction of clambering around dusty old church towers looking at pieces of rusting clock mechanism, 1. They may have a point, but the annual turret tour is one of the highlights of the horological year for Ipswich branch members.

A tour like this is much more than the sum of its parts, embracing history, geography, architecture, a day out in the country and a social occasion in addition to the fascination of the clocks themselves. Several of us also like to study the organs.

In contrast to the splendour of Ely cathedral last



4. Long Stratton — wood framed movement.

year, this year's tour took us to some of the smaller villages on the Norfolk/Suffolk border — Wattisfield to Market Weston, Hopton to Thompson, New Buckenham, Long Stratton and Pulham St. Mary.

Perhaps the horological highlight was the last of these, with a fine pinwheel movement by Vulliamy, 2,3, but each church and each clock has its own unique character.

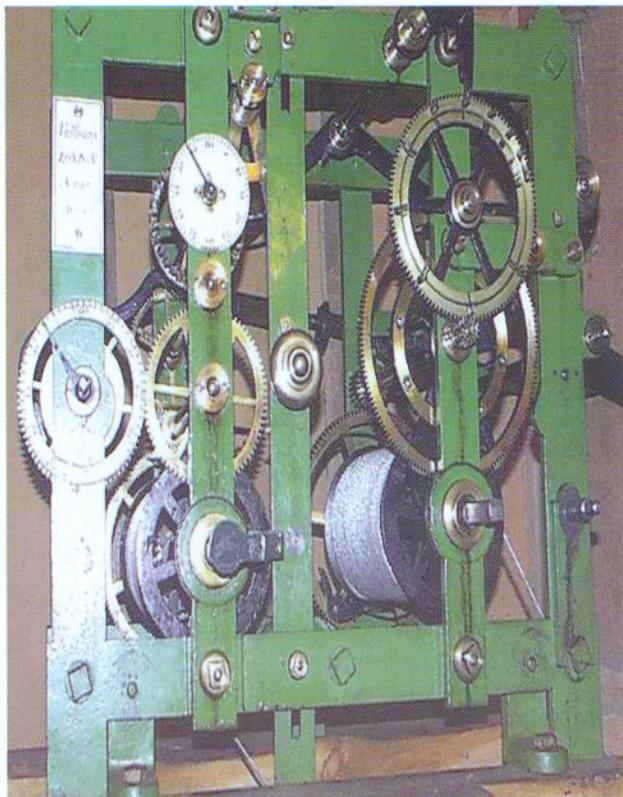
The cast-iron flat bed Victorian movement by Childs at Hopton, contrasts with the ancient wood framed clock in the round tower at Long Stratton, 4.

New Buckenham's clock dial is dauntingly high, but there was no need to climb the tower as the clock movement is conveniently situated at the base of the tower, with an astonishingly long leading-off rod. This arrangement certainly makes the winder's job easier.

Market Weston's large and elegant 18th century Thompson clock has been fitted with Haward's electric winding. The pendulum of Thompson's clock hangs through a slot in the ceiling into the body of the church and swings in front of a window, 5.

We owe a great debt to the small army of volunteers who care for these hidden treasures in our churches, often against the odds.

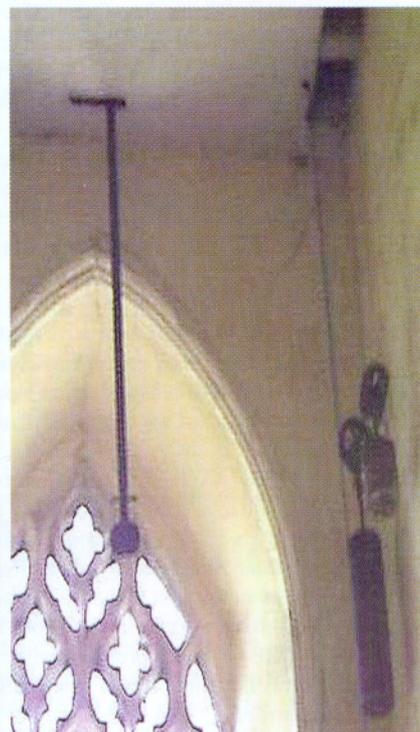
Ian Coote LBHI



2. The Vulliamy movement at Pulham St. Mary. The circular brass piece in the centre is the weight for the maintaining power.



3. The pin wheel escapement of the Vulliamy clock



5. The pendulum and weights hang down in the church at Thompson.

Photographs by Coote