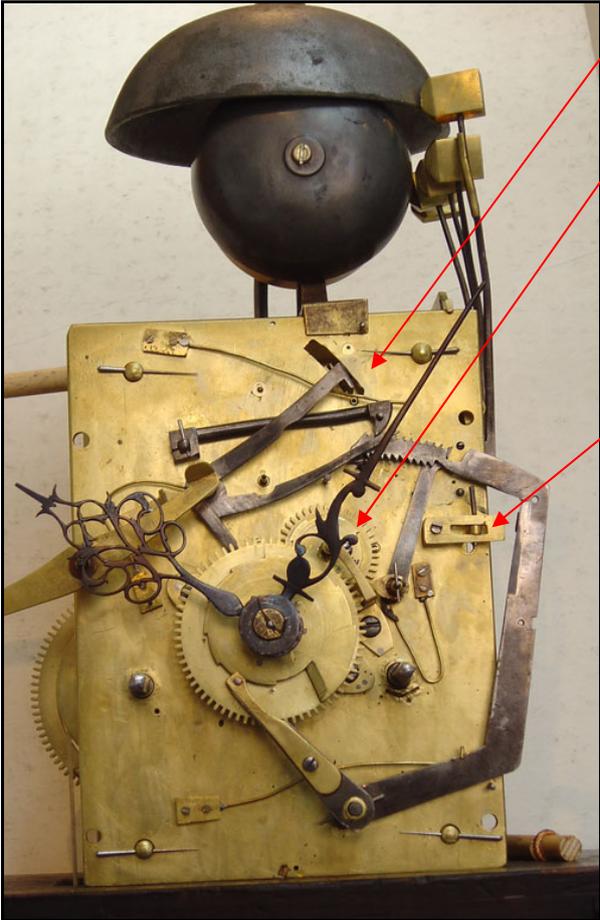


Here are brief details of two clocks that have recently been through my workshop for restoration work, both have very unusual strike mechanisms. My research indicates that both of these clocks could be unique examples by the maker, unless you know different, and were made to test and evaluate the operation and reliability of the mechanism, a prototype as it were. Both of these clocks have had work done during their working life by repairers, trying I suspect to make them as reliable in operation as possible.

**Samuel Ashton of Tideswell, Derbyshire**

Ashton is a well known maker here in the north; he started producing clocks in Tideswell, a small village in Derbyshire in the 1750's. He then moved down to Ashton or Ashbourne as it is now known.

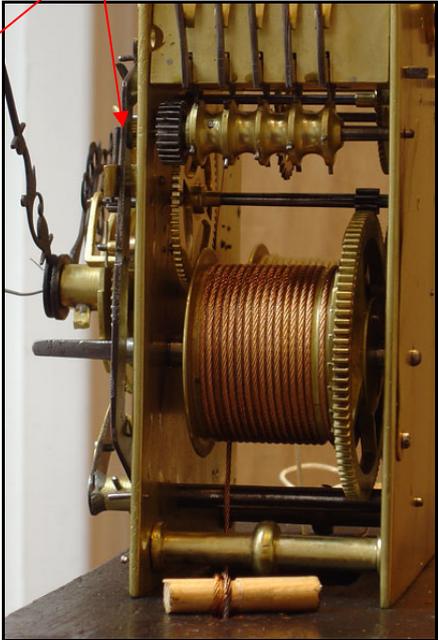
His 8 day brass dial quarter striking long case clock movement has two parallel racks operated by dual gathering pallets, one for the hour strike and one for the quarter bells, both the hour and quarter bells are struck from hammers operated by the same pin barrel. When the hour has struck and the rack is fully gathered it operates a push piece that moves over the pin barrel to strike the quarter bells. The amount of rotation of the pin barrel is governed by the usual method of rack and snail, the quarter snail operated from the motion work. This means that on the hour it strikes the quarters after striking the hour which is the reverse of a usual quarter strike. The driving weight for the strike is a heavy 35 Lbs.



Dual gathering pallets and common rack arm, the strike/no strike work going off to the left

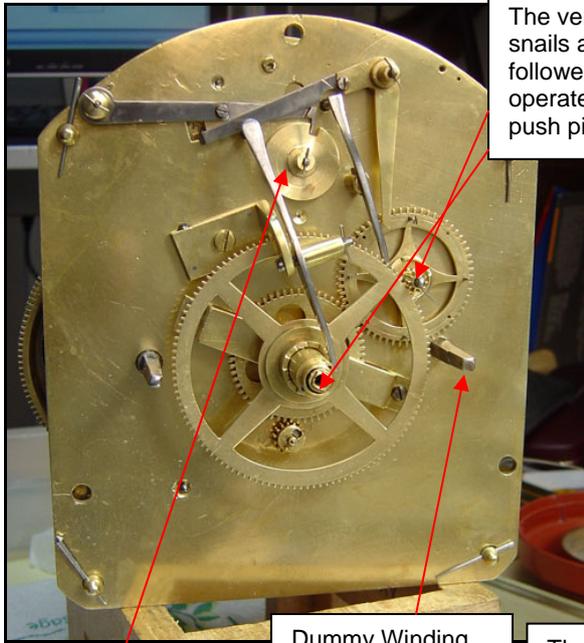
Quarter snail

Push piece operated by the rack blade when fully gathered

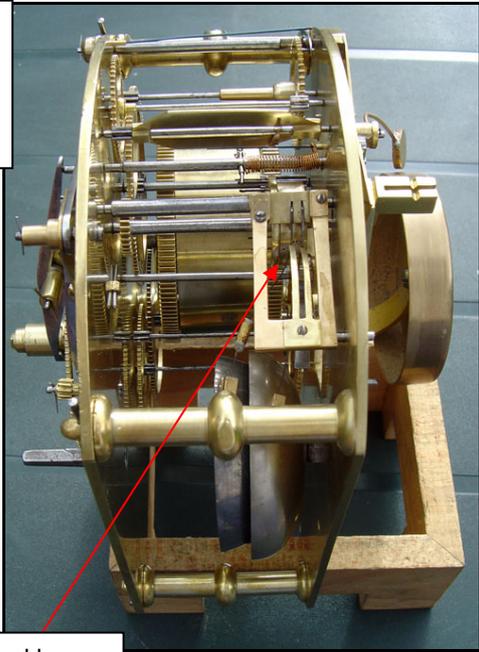


**Peter Vigne of Bath**

Peter Vigne made this spring table clock in circa 1810. The clock has a dead beat escapement and Petite Sonnerie strike all driven by one tandem main spring! It has a centre seconds hand and the duration is three days. Peter Vigne was of French descent, his father was a London clockmaker, Peter later went on to become a mathematician. The strike is very interesting as it operates from two vertical snails on the motion work and again operates push pieces to select the number of pins on a common pin barrel.



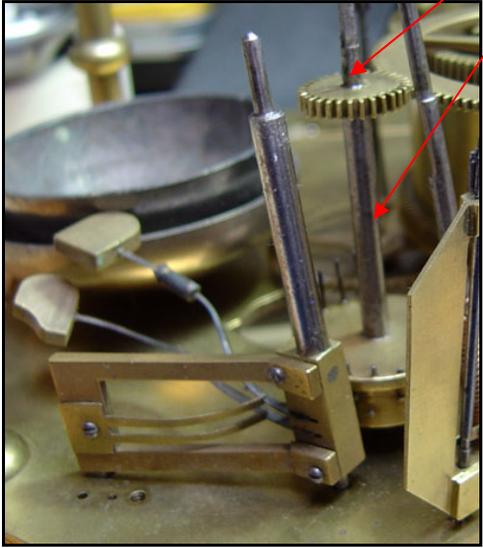
The vertical snails and followers that operate the push pieces



Dummy Winding Square

The Pin barrel has different length pins for the hour and small dual pins for each ting tang quarter

Stop or hoop wheel giving one complete revolution of the strike barrel



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