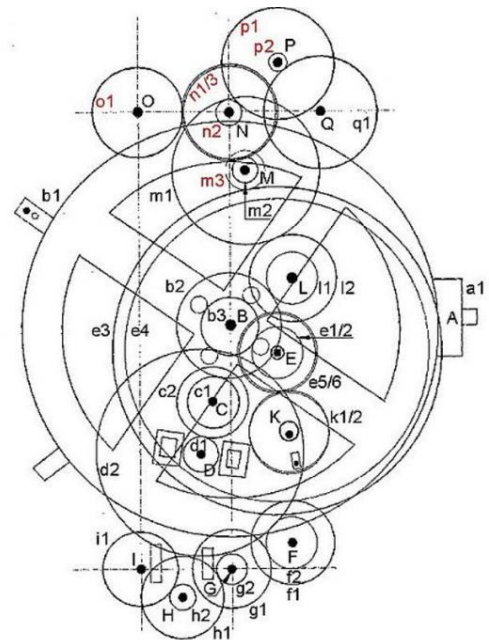


## Tony Bates - The Adstock Science Club - "John Harrison: Clock Maker Extraordinaire"

**Summary:** John Harrison was a self-educated English carpenter and clockmaker who invented the marine chronometer, a long-sought-after device for solving the problem of calculating longitude while at sea. His solution revolutionized navigation and greatly increased the safety of long-distance sea travel.

The problem he solved was considered so important following the Scilly naval disaster of 1707 that the British Parliament offered financial rewards of up to £20,000 (equivalent to £2.84 million today) under the 1714 Longitude Act.

In his talk Tony introduced us to some early clockwork mechanisms and how they worked. He also discussed the Antikythera mechanism which was recovered from the Antikythera shipwreck in 1901. This has been considered by some historians to be a fake due to its amazing complexity, which seems to surpass any other known devices of its time.



He went on to explain the two main types of escapement mechanisms used in clocks and watches and some of the refinements that a number of Horologists, including John Harrison introduced.

Following this Tony went into John Harrison's life in more detail and explained how he got involved in the quest to invent the perfect marine clock.

A very interesting, entertaining and informative talk presented by someone who obviously loves their subject.