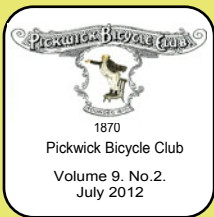


PICKWICK BICYCLE CLUB

THE WORLD'S OLDEST CYCLING CLUB
AND OLDEST DICKENSIAN SOCIETY EXTANT

Established 1870



MAGAZINE AND NEWSLETTER

EDITOR: JOE, THE FAT BOY

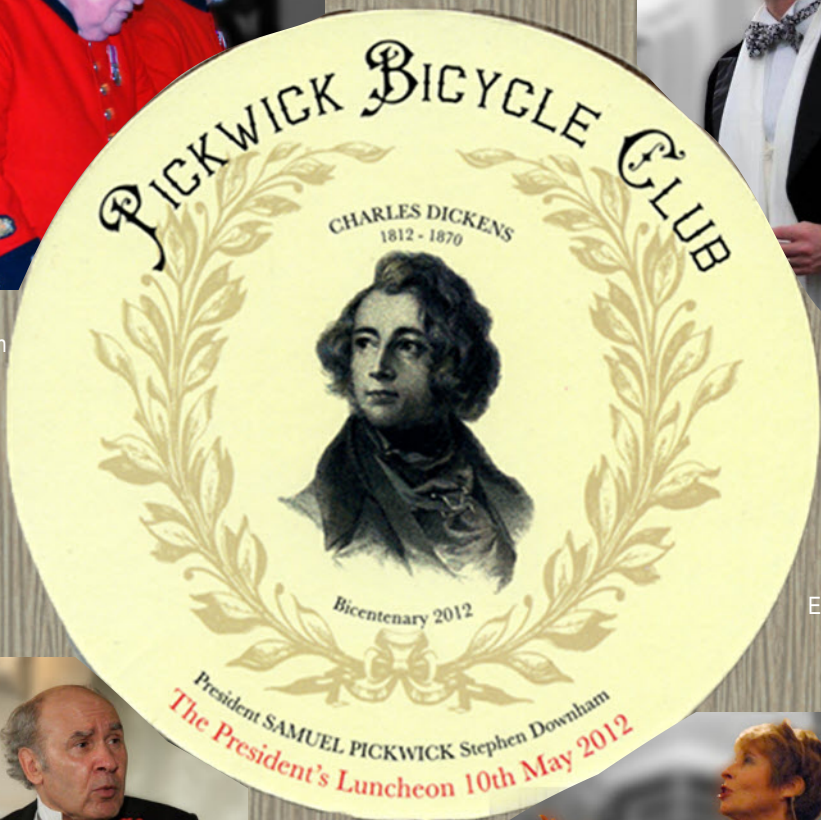
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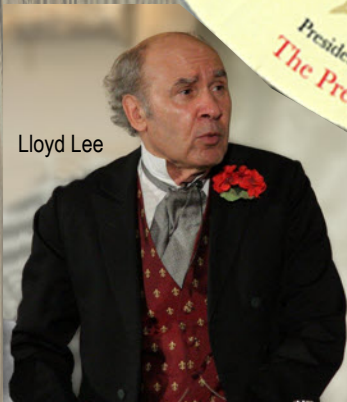
Wheeling
in the Punch



Justine
Lavender



The
Entertainers



Lloyd Lee

Photos
here and inside by
Richard Upwitch,
Joe, The Fat Boy
and
Frank Simmery



Louise Crane

Editorial

This Bi-Centenary year, marking the birth of Charles Dickens, has been perhaps the most memorable one in the recent history of the club, and it isn't over yet, by a long way.

Members celebrated C.D's birthday in February with a parade in Portsmouth, while, in London, we were represented at the service in Westminster Abbey, followed by a banquet in The Mansion House. Samuel Pickwick was invited to meet Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth in Buckingham Palace. And then, there was that fabulous President's Luncheon in May at the Connaught Rooms, where we were entertained by three wonderful entertainers in the style similar to the concerts enjoyed by our club in the very early part of the last century. And the Connaught surpassed itself with an excellent menu.

Still to follow is the club sponsored Dickens Memorial Meet later in July.

And how about those other supporting events? The Queen's Jubilee Celebrations, especially on the great River Thames, the Street Parties, the Queen's Birthday Parade, and the progress of the Olympic Torch in all sorts of "unusual" weather.

The Olympic and Paralympic Games are yet to take place, preceded by Mr. Pickwick's annual trip to France.

The signs are that we have a potential winner of the Tour de France and another great haul of Olympic Golds. All this despite a disastrous financial climate, horrific weather, almost total cock-up of Olympic ticket allocations, no parking facilities for Blue Badge drivers at Box Hill (which rules me out), and England's defeat in the football Eurocup. (Forget Wimbledon). But, chin up, the best is yet to come., so enjoy and be happy!

From the Deputy President

Dickens' bicentenary and the President's Luncheon May 2012

In anticipation of the Dickens bicentenary, some years ago the various Pickwick Clubs decided to strengthen relations, with a view to cooperating on the 200 anniversary celebrations, in due course.



The PBC was represented by myself and Justice Starleigh, and in due course, I accepted appointment as chairman of a combined working group. In the event, although very good relationships were formed, there was comparatively little tangible benefit, and the various Pickwick Clubs, which are very different as to tradition and style, celebrated the bicentenary in their own way.

Over the period of my acting as treasurer of the club, a separate fund of £16,000 was created from the general revenue, with the view to a bonanza celebration and with that in mind, a working party was created of myself, Justice Starleigh, Simkins, Bullman and Joseph Smiggers.

So far as I can recall, the genesis of the musical aspects of the President's lunch in May arose in the car park at Twickenham, with a meeting between myself, Bullman, and his good friend Justin Lavender. In its early days, the club's social events were very much driven by musical evenings, with the members themselves performing; I was not optimistic that this would produce a satisfactory standard, and when Justin Lavender expressed enthusiasm for a musical event, it was too good an offer to refuse, particularly given his introduction of Louise Crane.

Bullman and Sergeant Buzfuz had seen a performance by Lloyd Lee, and he was duly enrolled to provide a theatrical element, given the lifelong enthusiasm of Charles Dickens, for the theatre.

The formal proceedings of our club are well established and so it was interesting (and slightly intimidating) to take on something completely different. All members of the working party played their part, not least Mr Pickwick in terms of detailed arrangements with the Grand Connaught Rooms.

There were no rehearsals, and although not everything was perfect, many of our members expressed satisfaction with the nature of the celebration and the quality of the day overall.

Jack Martin

The Captain's Orders:

Club Matters

We have celebrated our Queens Jubilee reign
 Every one agreeing it has not been in vein
 Rather like the celebrations held for our club
 We enjoyed the entertainers and sumptuous grub
 Now let's go forward with a common aim
 'To the future' with no bad habits to name

Now if I may I would like take the liberty to entertain you with an original verse of mine which came to me whilst walking home through my local woods and although written some years ago I would like to share it with you in the hope it might strike a similar cord within you with it's tenuous connection to cycling.



The Captain
 (*Dismal Jemmy*).

GLOBAL WARMING

In times gone by and periods before
 the world did not suffer man or require a shore
 but with evolution the pattern changed
 man appeared when the planet rearranged

But still

The changing seasons deliver; life's rich spoil
 continuing, the timeless efforts of natures toil
 like sunlight striking through standing trees
 the oxygen of life is but a passing breeze
 then why does the human race all efforts devise
 success in consuming creation; to profit its size
 It appears an inevitable and concluding theme
 That man will be destroyed in achieving his dream

In one of my frequent genealogical wanderings I sometimes come across the unusual and often interesting pictures and stories. Just such a find came as I awaited late entries for this journal. I found references to drawings by André Gill, (1840-1885), French writer, illustrator, caricaturist and songwriter, born Louise-Alexandre Gosset de Guines.

This hand-coloured engraving depicting Dickens crossing the English Channel with his books, appeared in the newspaper "L'Eclipse" Of 14th June 1868.

So, you see, both Mr.Pickwick **AND** the 'Boss' went to France!

Joe, The Fat Boy (Editor).



Her Majesty receives our President Samuel Pickwick, Esq. on the occasion of the Dickens Reception in Buckingham Palace

The President's Luncheon – held at the Grand Connaught

Charles Dickens would no doubt have been in awe of the wonderful celebration the Pickwick Bicycle Club held to commemorate the Bi-centenary of his birth. The occasion was the President's Lunch, held as usual, in the newly decorated Grand Hall of the Connaught Rooms in Great Queen Street, Holborn, London.

10th May was the date, and some 450 members and guests were all seated by 12.30 to receive the President and his guests, their entry heralded by the Trumpeters of the Blues and Royals, and accompanied by the beautifully rendered "Why Was He Born So Beautiful."



The President, Samuel Pickwick Esq., together with guest Peter Barnes, aka Mr. Pickwick of the Dickens Pickwick Club (founded by our late Cedric Dickens), Cyril Baldwin, founder and Chairman of the Rochester Pickwick Club and our own Boz, aka Ian Dickens, took their seats at the Top Table.

Although the usual May seating arrangements of round tables were set up, the Top Table was set to



the opposite side of the room and a small stage erected in its former position, thus allowing for a truly memorable afternoon of high quality entertainment.

The organising committee are to be congratulated on the format which appears to have been based on some of the



very earliest club functions. In those days of the late 19th and early 20th centuries, the club held a number of regular musical / smoking concerts featuring both male and female entertainers.

On this occasion there were three plus a pianist (in addition to our regular pianist). Louise Crane, an international operatic and concert contralto singer with (for those of us who met her before the proceedings) a beautiful and radiant personality (see photo with the handsome Alfred Jingle), Justine Lavender a leading tenor with the Royal Opera, Covent Garden, La Scala and the State Operas of Vienna and Berlin and actor Lloyd Lee who is on tour with his new one man show "The Squire of Gads Hill."

6 The President's Luncheon - continued

We were entertained with solos and duets during the first course and then, later, after the main course with a mix of solos and duets and recitations – all of the highest standard. When Louise sang Rule Britannia it was as though the Proms had come to the Connaught and we were ALL spellbound. A spontaneous standing ovation for the three entertainers.

Of course, we had the usual Original Member arriving on his Old Ordinary and the punch was ceremoniously wheeled in by the two Chelsea Pensioners who, I may add, are younger than many of us !!

It would not be right to miss this opportunity to say how much the food was enjoyed. It was, perhaps, the best selection, properly cooked and perfectly served. The chef/s were to be congratulated; the staff too for the prompt and well organised service and, most likely, the President for his choice of menu if, indeed, it was his. As the menu stated: *"A mighty bowl of wassail in which the hot apples were hissing and bubbling with a rich look. And a jolly sound, that were perfectly irresistible."* Chapter L. Well, perhaps not that recipe but the starter of *"Dr. Payne's Potted prawns and bread and butter"* was delightful and the recipe is reproduced (as I make it) in this issue.



Ending with the incredible "Rule Britannia" and then, for an encore, Louise lead us with "Auld Lang Syne", making this event one never to be forgotten.

The 10th May 2012, will go down in the club's history books as a Golden Event.



Photos in this report by:
*Richard Upwich, Frank Simmery &
Joe, The Fat Boy*



IMPORTANT MESSAGE

We are unable to confirm the report that the Life Guards and Blues & Royals trumpeters we have had for our luncheons are to be replaced with musicians from the Mounted Band of the Household Cavalry at the December President's Garden Party.

Until such time that confirmation is received please disregard any previous announcement as an audacious rumour for the logistics of getting the horses onto the back stairs chair-lift would prove difficult.

Neither will there be a Red Arrows fly-past due to low cloud base.



Photos by the Editor

The total charity monies disbursed following the President's Luncheon totalled £3,671.23. The donations were as under:

Friends of Sherborne House: £1,000 - contribution to fund to finance the restoration and refurbishment of the Dickens and William Macready screen gifted recently to the Sherborne House Trust by Sir Neville Macready.

Mayor of Havant's Charity Appeal: £1,000

Charles Dickens Statue Fund: £1,671.23 - statue to be erected in Portsmouth, the City of Dickens' birth.

Scans of the documents and the letter of thanks from the Friends of Sherborne House Appeal are displayed below and on the following page.

St. Andrew's
Westbury,
Sherborne,
Dorset DT9 3RA



Tel.: 01935-816764
Mobile: 07866445955
E-mail: barker.jeremy@tiscali.co.uk

13.vi. 2012

Dear Mr. Mist,

Donation to the Friends of Sherborne House

Further to my e-mail thanking you for the donation to the Sherborne House Dickens/Macready Screen Appeal, I would like now to confirm the receipt of your gift of £1,000 paid to the Friends of Sherborne House.

May I take the opportunity to reiterate how grateful the Friends are for such support which gave them, needless to say, very great encouragement. The Launch went well and the speakers were inspiring. As result, we are now near to having raised the £7,000 of the £20,000 needed and are optimistic about being able to raise the remainder in the months to come. I will keep you I touch as to progress.

Yours sincerely,

Jeremy Barker,
Chairman,
Screen Appeal Committee.

The Sherborne Dickens Macready Screen

- An artefact of local and national importance. No-one in the world of conservation and furniture making has ever seen anything quite like it
- It was commissioned and decorated in the 1850s by two great men of the age who put thought and good taste into the choice and arrangement of the pictures
- Significantly, it was made by a local craftsman, decorated in the House, providing a snapshot of interests of the two men and their age

The Committee of The Friends of Sherborne House need your help to raise £20,000

Donations are urgently needed so this work can go ahead
Please support us by filling in and returning this form to the address below ...

I am happy to receive further information about the work of The Friends of Sherborne House

I would like to support the Screen Appeal today with a donation of £

Please make cheques payable to The Friends of Sherborne House
 I am happy for you to claim Gift Aid on my donation
 I have paid UK Income Tax or CGT in excess of the amount you will reclaim.


Name

Address

Post Code


Email

Telephone

 **The Friends of Sherborne House**
 St Andrew's Westbury Sherborne Dorset DT9 3RA

FUND-RAISING FOR A UNIQUE ARTEFACT

The Friends of Sherborne House



The Sherborne House Charles Dickens & William Macready Screen Appeal


Your chance to play a part in the restoration and interpretation of this historic artefact ...

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

The Provenance of the Screen

Sherborne House Trust has received an extraordinary gift - a four leaf folding screen decorated in the House by Dickens and Macready. It was created in the 1850s in Sherborne and since then has remained in the Macready family. It was given to the Trust by Sir Nevil Macready.

It urgently needs major restoration work and this is where you can help.



*"My great grandfather William Charles Macready and Charles Dickens were close friends and they amused themselves in their leisure hours by sticking pictures of contemporary interest until nearly all the surface was covered.
 I recall the screen having pride of place in the drawing-room of my family's London house when I was a child in the 1930s."*

Sir Nevil Macready

The Screen Itself

The Frame:
 The leaves are 6ft 2ins x 2ft 5ins x 1.2ins and made of deal. It is unusually large. It was made by a local craftsman specifically for its purpose. The frame itself is sound.

The Pictures:
 There are around 50 pictures on each side of the four frames, making 400 in all. They are works of art, engravings, etchings and lithographs, many of them contemporary to the 1850s. They are reasonably well preserved but they require expert conservation work.

The two great men clearly took great care in selecting the pictures from newspapers and magazines. They arranged them artistically according to subject and symmetry, with stunning effect.

The Textile:
 The pictures were stuck to hessian attached to the frame. Unfortunately, after 160 years, the material is in very poor condition and needs to be removed and replaced. It is a very skilful and time-consuming task requiring a specialist.

What Needs to be Done?

A unique artefact

To save the Screen and make it available to the public requires the Trust to do three things:

- 1 To repair and conserve the screen
- 2 To research the paintings on the screen, to understand their significance and that of the screen
- 3 To provide for its public display, including a catalogue of the works chosen by Dickens and Macready and the establishment of a website.

The Creators of the Screen


WILLIAM CHARLES MACREADY (1793-1873)

- greatest Shakespearean actor of the Victorian age whose reputation extended to both sides of the Atlantic
- made Sherborne House his home from 1850-1860
- had an extraordinary impact on the cultural life of the town

CHARLES DICKENS (1812-1870)

- among the greatest novelists in the English language
- cherished friend of Macready – a regular visitor to Sherborne House
- compelling storyteller, beloved by Macready's children

The House for which the Screen was made



Sherborne House is a fine Palladian House commissioned by Henry Seymour Portman in the 1720s. It is complete with many of its original fittings. It is famous for one of the few surviving stairwells decorated by Sir James Thornhill (1675-1734), the father of the English School. It was the venue for one of the first readings of Charles Dickens', 'A Christmas Carol'.



Secretarial Report from the President.

From the large number of emails, telephone calls etc that I have received, it would appear as if the format of this year's President's lunch in celebration of the 200th anniversary of the birth of Charles Dickens has been extremely well received. I think you will all agree that the quality of the entertainment was first class and I know that all performers thoroughly enjoyed themselves.

Not only was the quality of entertainment of a good standard, but also I believe, and many of you have agreed, the quality of food and service produced by the Connaught Rooms was probably as high as we have had for some considerable time. I have congratulated the Connaught Rooms on behalf of The Club.

We also tried as an innovation a pre-wine ordering service. The Connaught Rooms advise me that some 40% of The Club took up that offer and have made one or two suggestions to improve the service from December. This may include on-line ordering facilities, but full details will be given with the ticket applications that will be sent out towards the beginning of October.

On behalf of The Club I would like to thank those members of the Dickens 200th Celebration Sub-Committee who have worked hard in producing the programme and memorabilia to date. Further meetings will take place and it is hoped that further events will follow. Details will be set out on the website which is now up and running and the password has been distributed to the member's section. Those members who do not have access to the internet will receive the details by post.

It is important that if members change their email address that they let me know at the earliest opportunity. I still have, whenever electronic communication is distributed, some 6 or 7 "returns". Some of these indicate that the email address is not known, but most seem to indicate that the recipient's system will not receive the circulated email. Would you all please check your system to ensure that anything from Pickwick is acceptable?

Looking forward to the summer I am sorry that I will not be with you on the Golf Day and shall miss the camaraderie of Club Fellowship. I wish all competitors and attendees good fortune and good weather on that day.

I will be riding in the Benson Event at the beginning of July and look forward to seeing as many Club Members as possible on that ride.

Further details will follow of the cycle event in September which again has been organised by Pruffle and of course the end of my year as President will be at the Garden Party on Thursday 6th December 2012.

Please enjoy the summer (when it arrives) and I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at the various Club events over the next few months.

Samuel Pickwick
President

More on Charles Dickens

The 200th anniversary of the birth of Charles Dickens prompts one to take a closer look at some aspects of his life and maybe get to know him a little better.



We know that he was born in Portsmouth on 7th February 1812 and that he later married Catherine Thomson Hogarth, but it is interesting to take a look at an earlier event in his life.

Perhaps the earliest was his baptism. It is reasonably easy to find the record for he had two middle names, one of which was quite unusual.

So we find that he was baptised in Portsea St Mary, Hants. on 4th March 1812 and the documents reveal that his parents were John and Elizabeth. His full name is given as Charles John Huffham Dickens.

He left school to work in a boot blacking factory following his father's incarceration in a debtor's prison. This drove him to work hard and, although receiving only a formal education, he edited a weekly journal for 20 years and wrote 15 novels and hundreds of short stories and non-fiction articles. A vigorous campaigner for children's rights and education, he lectured a great deal.

Dickens shot to fame in 1836 with the serialisation of his novel *Pickwick Papers*. *A Christmas Carol*, written in 1843, is one of the

most influential works ever written, and is popular to this day.

Another epic event in 1836 was Charles marriage to Catherine Thomson Hogarth on 2nd.April , at age 24. This was in Chelsea, Middlesex. They lived in Bloomsbury where they produced a family of 10 children. Sadly, they separated in 1858 but were never divorced, probably because it would have been a social stigma for someone so prominent as Dickens.

Catherine had moved from the family home together with their son Charles Jr., and her roll of running the house was taken by Georgina, Catherine's sister, who had opposed her sister in the rift with Charles.

The census of 1861 (see Doc.1 overleaf) shows the family living in Marylebone, at 3 Hanover Terrace. Catherine is not listed but Georgina is, as 'wife's sister' and as a 'servant housekeeper', aged 34, born in Scotland. Charles' occupation, as Head of the Household, is that of 'author, novelist essayist and editor,' aged 49. Also listed were Charles' daughter Mary, aged 23, (no occupation given), sons Francis J. 17, secretary and Edward B., 9, scholar. Others included were Georgina plus Susannah Cooper, married. 37, cook, Matilda Bush, married, 29, housemaid and Agnes Garrad, 21, parlourmaid. These last two originally from East Anglia.

As we know, Charles Dickens died on 9th June 1870 in North Aylesford, Kent, aged 58. The Civil Registration document can be located in Volume 2A, page 257 at the National Archives, Kew.

Much has been written about events in the life of Charles Dickens but there may well be an occasional discovery of something new. It possibly isn't generally known that he was a shareholder in the Great Western Railway. All transaction of shareholdings were recorded, including those as a result of a death where the shares will have passed to a beneficiary and handled by the executors of the estate. The GWR record shows that Georgina and John Forster (a friend) were the executors.



Joe The at Boy Past President.



La Porcherie

111

The undermentioned Houses are situate within the Boundaries of the

Parish (or Township) of		City or Municipal Borough of		Metropolitan Borough of		Parliamentary Borough of		Town of		Hamlet or Tything, &c., of		Ecclesiastical District of	
St. Margaret				St. Andrew		Mary Abbe						St. Andrew	
No. of Habitable	House, Street, &c., and No. or Name of House	HOUSES	Name and Surname of each Person	Relation to Head of Family	Condition	Age of	Rank, Profession, or Occupation	Where Born	Whether Blind, or Deaf, or dumb				
		No. of Inhabitants				Male	Female						
1	1. Haverhill Street	1	Johy, Sarah Jimstead	Head	Widow	74	Wife's daughter	Ireland					
			Mary Clark	Serv	Wid	59	Servant	Essex					
			Lester Clark	Serv	Wid	52	Cook	Essex					
			John Lewis	Serv	Wid	74	Butler	Wilt					
			Elizabeth Perry	Serv	Wid	61	Cook	Wilt					
2	2. Haverhill Street	1	Rachel Goodman	Head	Wid	70	Proprietress of houses	Middlesex					
			Rachel Van Coten	Niece	Wid	65		Middlesex					
			James Goodwin	Serv	Wid	39		Middlesex					
			Ann Washam	Serv	Wid	30	Cook	Wilt					
			Samuel Jones	Serv	Wid	25	Housemaid	Wilt					
3	3. Haverhill Street	1	Charles Dickens	Head	Mar	34	Author	Wilt					
			Mary Dickens	Wife	Wid	28	Author	Wilt					
			Edward J. de	Son	Wid	17	Secretary	Wilt					
			Edward B. de	Son	Wid	14	Scholar	Wilt					
			Georgina Forster	Wife	Wid	36	Servant	Wilt					
			Annabel Cooper	Serv	Mar	57	Cook	Wilt					
			Malinda Cook	Serv	Wid	29	Housemaid	Wilt					
			Agnes Gorrard	Serv	Wid	24	Housemaid	Wilt					
4	4. Haverhill Street	1	Edward D. Colwell	Head	Mar	52	Wine Merchant	Wilt					
			Suzanna D. de	Wife	Mar	53	Wine Merchant	Wilt					
			Caroline M. de	Daughter	Wid	23		Wilt					
			William B. de	Son	Wid	18	Clerk to Sir	Wilt					
			Fredrick C. de	Son	Wid	13	Scholar	Wilt					
			Arch M. Cooper	Serv	Wid	55	Cook	Wilt					
			Agnes M. Cooper	Serv	Wid	26	Housemaid	Wilt					
Total of Houses...		4			Total of Males and Females...		8						

Eng.—Sheet D.

Great Western				Railway.				
No.	Exhibitd.	PROPRIETORS	Date of Deposit	Parties, &c.	Date.	Name of Executor, &c.	Address.	Observations.
11451	1870 Aug. 2	James Anthony Dalglisk Leicester	-	General Power of Att. 1870	June 11	Robert Lockhart Dalglisk Attorney	9 Sparrowton Street, Leamington Leamington	Original ref. to دفتر 70 July 1870 Leamington, N. C. 1/18/70
11452	1870 Feb. 7	Thomas Elliott late of Belknap Karrington	1870	Administration	June 11	Kitty Bechey Elliott Widow, Belknap of Belknap	Belknap, Merrimack Karrington	Ref. to دفتر 70 215 Strand N.C. 2/18/70
11453	1870 July 9	Joseph Beon Sewell late of 2 Brighton Bank, Belknap, Bristol.	1870	Probate	July 26	Joseph Beon Sewell Son of late, & James Temple The Exor.	25 Belknap Street, Bristol. Bristol	Ref. to دفتر 70 Shane Bechey & Beon Street Bristol 2/18/70
11454	1870 June 9	Charles Dickens (otherwise Charles John Huffam Dickens) late of 425 Bell Place, near Rochester, Kent. Belknap.	1870	Probate	July 19	Georgina Hogarth Spencer, & John Berster The Exors.	425 Bell Place, Rochester, Kent. Rochester, Kent.	Ref. to دفتر 70 31 Kingsway N.C. 2/18/70
11455	1870 June 6	Thelick Butler of Worsgate Sussex.	-	General Power of Att. 1870	July 11	George Sandy Tomlin Attorney	Worsgate House, Brighton Fields Worsgate Brighton	Original ref. to دفتر 70 29 Belknap St. N.C. 2/18/70
11456	1870 June 6	Sir Thomas Trayton Fuller	-	Probate	July 23	Robert Drent	Worsgate House, Brighton Fields Worsgate Brighton	Original ref. to دفتر 70 29 Belknap St. N.C. 2/18/70

Doc.2

London Metropolitan Archives, has published a new series, spotlighting the holdings of the LMA, Guildhall Library and Guildhall Art Gallery. An excerpt from the new book, "London 1000", is reproduced in part here.

First in the series is Charles Dickens where the City's collections include numerous traces of his career and who turns up in a range of archives highlighting aspects of his intimate relationship with London. We reproduce the following with acknowledgments to the LMA and to Senior Archivist Jeff Gerhardt.

"Dickens held several occupations before becoming a famous novelist. With the help of a distant relative, he became a freelance court reporter, based at the ecclesiastical court known as Doctors' Commons. In David Copperfield, Dickens describes life there as a "cosey, dosey, old-fashioned, time-forgotten, sleepy-headed little family party." The court was also parodied in Sketches by Boz, Nicholas Nickleby and Bleak House. The deposition shown here is an example of the kind of document which Dickens spent his time writing up before escaping into a journalistic and literary career.

Soon after his time as a court reporter, Dickens became a distinguished journalist for the newspaper, The Morning Chronicle. His social circle broadened to include other journalists, such as the eventual editor of The Evening Chronicle, George Hogarth. Dickens became close friends of the Hogarth family and he eventually fell in love with George's daughter Catherine. Charles and 'Kate' were soon married, and the wedding took place at St. Luke's, Chelsea, where it was duly recorded in the parish register. They had ten children together before separating in 1858.

As a child himself, Dickens laboured in a miserable boot-blackening factory. This early experience coupled with the appalling conditions of the Victorian workhouse influenced works like *Oliver Twist*. Years later, Dickens became heavily involved in charity work in a bid to improve social conditions, particularly for women and children. He helped establish a women's home (Urania Cottage), developed support for the ragged school movement and often visited workhouses and institutions. Although known as a critic of the workhouse and the Poor Law Amendment Act of 1834, Dickens approved of progress where he found it. For instance, in 1863 he visited the Limehouse Children's Establishment: "I have never visited any similar establishment, with so much pleasure", he wrote. "I have never seen any so well administered, and I have never seen children more reasonably, humanely and intelligently treated".

Item printed by kind permission of the author, **Jeff Gerhardt Senior Archivist (Diocesan Archives) London Metropolitan Archives.**

The full article may be found in the book, details of which may be viewed by going to:

http://www.amazon.co.uk/London-1000-Years-Treasures-Collections/dp/1857596994/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1337784109&sr=8-1

Here is a Newspaper Quote from Mr.Phunky.

To mark Charles Dickens' Bicentenary year, the Culture Secretary, Jeremy Hunt, has presented each of his Ministerial colleagues with copies of the Great Man's novels, according to a report sent by *Mr Phunky*.

The books tend to match the characters and roles of the ministers and would probably have produced some mixed feelings, for Dickens often put his characters in positions of ridicule and, as the report says, "the pompous, the wicked and the weak." To give some idea of the thoughts behind the gifts, here are some of the titles the Culture Secretary allocated to his colleagues:

(With acknowledgments to The Sunday Times): David Cameron, recipient of two volumes: 'Great Expectations' and 'Hard Times'. 'A Christmas Carol', depicting Ebenezer Scrooge, went to Vince Cable. Nick Clegg, deputy PM received a copy of 'Oliver Twist' and the Chancellor, George Osborne, 'A Tale of Two Cities.' Ken Clarke and Theresa May each received 'Little Dorrit' while the Communities Secretary, Eric Pickles, received the little-known 'A House to Let.'

Ian Duncan Smith, Work and Pensions Minister, rightly received 'Oliver Twist' and 'Dombey and Son' went to the Transport Secretary, Justine Greening. 'Bleak House' for Lord Strathclyde and 'The Old Curiosity Shop' went to each of his three colleagues in the Cabinet Office, Oliver Letwin, Francis Ward and Baroness Warsi.

Our favourite work, 'The Pickwick Papers', went to my not so favourite local MP, Cheryl Gillan, who has recently done an about-turn on the HS2 project. Seven other members received gifts one amusingly for the Foreign Secretary, William Hague, who received 'The Uncommercial Traveller.'

"the Tower is much aslant"

On his travels around Italy, Charles Dickens stopped over in Pisa. Peter Lumley finds the hotel room where he stayed and sees the visitors book he signed

For those who nowadays travel to discover, there is probably too much information to be gleaned before you buy the tickets or make sure your transport is up to the journey. How much different it was for that master of words Charles Dickens, he simply upped and went, quill and inkpot in the portmanteau - well sealed, one hopes. At just four miles an hour he took a pony and trap, or a carriage that rocked and swayed, all along the roads to . . . well, as it is midsummer time, mid-1840s, then let's follow him about a bit.

If it's not easy in this century to be a real discoverer as was Charles Dickens, yet that needn't blunt the wonderment of your first-time experience of gazing on the gravity defying edifice that offers the "sensation of being in a ship that has heeled over, through the action of an ebb tide." That is exactly how Charles Dickens wrote of the near riverside Tower that is the must-see attraction for people visiting Pisa.

When he arrived at the banks of the Arno he was then well into a journey that had carried him across France several times, a lot of Italy and the terrain through the Alps and back to England. Charles Dickens was such a wanderlust, searching always for the experience and wanting to meet people and things anew. He came for a time to live in Albaro, a suburb of Genoa. As he describes his first experiences there we can sense him stepping with trepidation from room to room, checking how this new abode will welcome his presence. He'd soon discover the need to shut out the searing sun in daytime, and then shutter the windows so the mosquitoes wouldn't drive him to commit suicide after dusk.

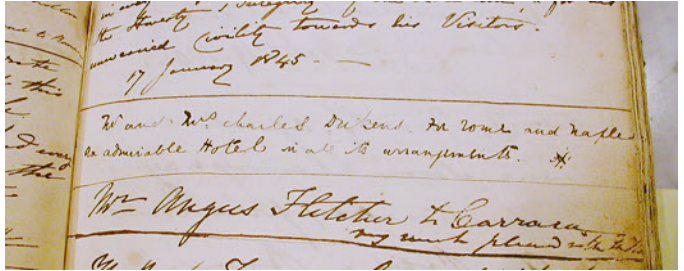
That is how he described his time then, so very much like the way every traveller amongst us checks the nooks and crannies - and just where is the fire escape located! - whenever the door first closes at a new room in a strange hotel. One thing the modern traveller doesn't find - unless on a farmhouse holiday stay - is that right outside your window is a cow-house, the cows there to ensure new milk by the bucketful, as Charles Dickens found at Villa Bagnerello.

The opening words of his "Pictures from Italy" chapters is that here is ". . . a series of faint reflections - mere shadows in the water - of places to which the imaginations of most people are attracted in a greater or lesser degree . . ." Charles Dickens reflects that the greater part of his travelogue are written right there where he stands, on the spot and sent home - from time to time - in private letters. That is little different to how things are done today, yet so much less the inked or biro words and more an electronic transmission - for sure that way of communicating won't enjoy the same durability as those thoughts and observations that helps us breathe the travel atmosphere described by Charles Dickens.

His experiences, and ours too - that is, you as my reader - link across a great divide of years. The Chapman & Hall edition I am quoting in this piece was printed in 1891; then Jane F. Gibson owned this very same "Pictures from Italy" and in June 1893 signed her name on the fly-leaf of each of seventeen volumes on my Charles Dickens shelf. I had come across this full set at a Scottish sale in 1985, and acquired them. Then, quite by chance, in 2002 came another link across

the years - and right back to Charles Dickens: I was shown the appreciation he had written in a hotel visitor's book, in Pisa.

It was at what is now called The Royal Hotel Victoria, a true Tuscan of a place which Pasquale Piegaja had turned from an inn into an hotel, after he took over a big tower and other buildings on the banks of the Arno river. He had done that in 1837, just ten years before



Charles Dickens arrived to stay, and then - like so many other visitors to Hotel Royal de la Victoire - to remark in the register of the quality of the lodgings and the service he had received.

It's a building, an hotel, with so much to see that it can't be by accident that Charles Dickens stayed there. In the 10th century the Winemakers' Guild had erected the oldest tower in a building which served both as an inn and as their headquarters, the "Università de' Vinajoli" that eventually became the University of Pisa. In the 16th century the tavern became known as the "Locanda della Vittoria", which translates Inn of the Victory. Yes, Charles Dickens knew where he was at, for sure! If he didn't - and will we ever know - then what a lucky man to find such a haven. The high vaulted ceilings and a timeless layout that includes a writing room, where the desk top opposite you separates your pen time with a lattice-worked screen. No cribbing opportunity for scholar or letter writer!

My first stay at The Royal Hotel Victoria came by accident of the internet, when I was looking for a room. That the hotel stands almost at the main street bridge which arches over the Arno, I was not aware. Nor did I realise that through the lanes it's just a short distance to the leaning Tower; and then the opposite way across the river are more streets that lead to the many platformed railway station. Get into an open space not hemmed by buildings and you can see distanced blue-toned hills, but Pisa is all flat, once a flood plain that silted and sanded - and where someone had built a Tower they thought would remain firmly upright. It didn't!



The leaning had to stop or the Tower would crumble. I remember the photographer Kevin O'Donovan describing his dream commission as "sitting with my camera on a tripod, waiting for the Tower to fall down right in front of me." With that terrible prospect in mind, in February 1964 the government of Italy brought together historians, mathematicians and engineers to work out how to stabilise the Tower and save from toppling - as surely it was doomed - this icon of their tourism industry. Not taking too many chances of being hit by any flying masonry the Government called their meeting a long way off - even as far away as the Azores, in fact - although they didn't admit it was just another jolly for officialdom to grab a free holiday.

Charles Dickens had continued his own jolly of residence in a Genoa he described as a place "that grows on you" and writing that there was "always something to find out in it". The local views

he also thought of as a collection that was "picturesque, ugly, mean, magnificent, delightful and offensive". He didn't speak so badly of the Genoese taverns, though, with a liking to the "Tagliarini, Ravioli, and German sausages, quite strong of garlic which was sliced to eat with fresh green figs". Do serve that up some time, Old Connaught Rooms - Pickwickians will love it!

Some of the locals, he worried, were a "greater variety of sloth, deceit and intellectual torpor, than could hardly be observed among any class of men in the world". A bit of the old Curate's egg all round, you will guess, and then on "one pleasant autumn evening" he sails out of Genoa "to snuff the morning air at Marseilles". This all becomes an adventure worth your time to read fully, being an involved "Pictures from Italy" tale that includes him being held in quarantine at Nice, along with a cargo of wool shorn from an Eastern flock. Something which had got up the noses - literally? - of the French harbour authorities.

When Charles Dickens returns to Genoa it is November before he sets to travel again, and writes it was "very wet, very cold, very dark and very dismal". When on the move the travel is at something like four miles an hour, "jolting and wallowing through the mud" eventually to reach the Po plain, where that mighty watercourse is as wide as the sea, being in flood. After that his problems become the ice and cold through Switzerland, whilst moving towards Strasbourg and Paris and then, "how the cliffs of Dover were a pleasant sight and England was so wondrously neat". Still moving along at the four miles per hour behind horses, remember!

That Charles Dickens found great joy in travel should never be doubted . . . "re-crossing the Channel, with ice on the decks and snow laying pretty deep in France". Between Paris and Marseilles he met the snow, but then a thaw, and even coach springs that broke on the Sunday night and an enforced stay in miserable billiard rooms whilst repairs ensued. It got better . . . "held up in Marseilles where steamers that were advertised to go, didn't go". But in a little while longer he spends the early year back in Genoa, and then soon afterwards is moving southwards down the coast, to beautiful Spezzia. Along the way spying villages at the sea edge, hundreds of feet below, that "are the saltiest, the roughest, most piratical little places that ever was seen."

Carrara, the town of stonemasons and quarry hewers, is one stopping place where he marvels at the way stone is quarried, and transported with incredible difficulty - even loss of life and injury to horses and men. It is a trade from his time which continues to ours, but with the advantage of machines taking over from manpower. Then from the summit of a hill by the town Charles Dickens has his first view of the fertile plain upon which lies Pisa. "A fruitful country with rich woods of olive trees" he writes.

"The moon was shining when we approached Pisa, and for a long time we could see, behind the wall, the leaning Tower, all awry in the uncertain light. "It is nothing like so high above the wall as I had hoped." But Charles Dickens was excited, to such a degree that he penned of the collection of buildings by the Tower, they were "perhaps the most remarkable and beautiful in the whole world". The Baptistry and the Cathedral make up the scene with the leaning Tower. "Nothing can exceed the grace and lightness of the structure" are his words.



There is much already written of the leaning Tower, and as I sat nearby with an Italian beer then the thought was that it would be beyond my words to add anything new. My lasting impression of the place, outlined as the Tower stands with a pink wash from the evening sun, is of the orchestrated, indelible, high pitched music sounded by the jet-black, jet-fast swooping birds that loop and swirl. It all confirms and reminds me that so many people - and the sharp-winged, shrilling Swifts, too - come such a great distance to see all this.

Perhaps if those people, or Charles Dickens, or I could get that birds-eye look at the Tower, perhaps it wouldn't look to lean so much when you are flying around the gleaming stonework of what must truly be the world's most famous building. Grab a look whilst it still stands!

Peter Lumley, who is a regular guest at the Pickwick functions at the Connaught, writes about things that connect tourism and the bicycle, with the countryside, and with sustainable travel. His career began on an Essex weekly newspaper, from where he moved into the London publishing scene, working from Fleet Street before moving "up west" and to the responsibility for editorial control and direction across several key specialist and b2b publications. He is now based in North East England, working with the family-owned publications operation. Among recognition for his writing and photography is the Award for Services to Tourism, conferred upon him by H.M. The King of Spain.

The photo here is of the famous Coppi-Bartali bidon exchange, the photo was signed to Peter Lumley by Gino Bartali at the Milan bicycle trade show in Nov 1981. "I saw Fausto Coppi race - an inspiration that cemented my interest in the bicycle race scene, and in Italy especially".

contact points: Twitter @plumley
peter@tradeandindustry.net
www.tradeandindustry.net



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Members' Letters and Comments

This is the place where members may express their views and comments on matters concerning the club and its activities. All letters are welcome and your input is confidently awaited!

Write to:
Stan Rose
'Mere'
Chartridge
Bucks. HP5 2TF

Editor's Note: Pickwickians - I can't find your letters:



please write - I am lonely!

Or e-mail stan@stanrosefamily.com

Some Eulogies on the President's Luncheon

From *Frank Simmery*, in Germany:

My Dear *Joe*, *The Fat Boy*,

Somebody told me that before the meeting started there were critical remarks about the special programme organized for this afternoon. Let me therefore tell you what impression my two guests and I had:

A wonderful afternoon, very good and carefully selected food, superb entertainment, they especially liked the songs but also Mr Pickwick's Reading was well received. My personal favourite, however, was when " Britannia, rule the waves" was sung (never mind the historical wording) and when everybody joined in and was so heartily excited that I started realizing: this is it, this is Dickensian conviviality as its best.

Kind regards and with Pickwickian Greetings
Frank Simmery
(Helmut Stibal - Frieburg, Germany)

From Past President *Joseph Smiggers*:

My dear *Joe*, *the fat boy*,

Our original and early members would have truly appreciated the efforts made by today's Pickwick Bicycle Club to recreate the entertainment of their period whilst celebrating

the 200th anniversary of the birth of Charles Dickens.

In those days members would have entertained each other with singing, rhymes and visual imagery or playing cards, chess, draughts, dominoes, or indeed reading illustrated newspapers during their smoking lunches. They also invited the captains of other clubs, so it was good to see important guests from other Pickwick clubs in attendance on this special occasion.

We no longer smoke and, with a few notable exceptions, we do not usually set out to entertain each other in these ways. However, our members have always truly appreciated being entertained by talented individuals, particularly when they make us laugh.

The sensational performances of Louise Crane, Justin Lavender and Lloyd Lee were truly wonderful and ensured that this important event will rank alongside the celebration of the Club's 100th anniversary.

My guests were wholly appreciative of the efforts made by the Club to do something quite different and this, overlaid on the very special fellowship of our Club, made for a truly memorable experience.

We salute the Club on rising to this very special occasion.

Yours truly

Joseph Smiggers

More letters

Letter from Pruffle

Dear *Joe the Fatboy*, please find the photo of my daughters Clare and Katie who ran the London marathon to raise funds for Cancer Research UK.

They have asked me to express their gratitude to the Pickwick Bicycle Club for the £400 raised at the Hampton Court lunch in Sept. 2011. in total they raised £4000 .

I was delighted that they upheld a Pickwickian tradition by seeking refuge in a public house after such vigorous exercise.

Best wishes *Pruffle*.

Another Charity Run

On the subject of marathons, our member, *Slumintowkens*, who has run in two London Marathons and several half-marathons, competed in the GöteborgsVarvet Half Marathon on 12th May. (Result not available at time of writing).

The event attracted over 75,000 competitors, watched by 200,000 spectators lining the roads in the lovely old Swedish city, which is now home to our member.

A Reminder of the March item***An invitation.***

As well as being President of our illustrious Club this year I am also President of the National Association of Veteran Cycle Clubs and Captain of the Solent Veteran Bicycle and Tricycle Club.

There are 10 veteran cycle clubs in the country and each year one club hosts a national rally. This year my own club are hosting the event at Fishbourne near Chichester on the weekend of the 1st and 2nd of September.

The rally ride is on the Sunday but there are events on the Saturday with a cycle jumble, an auction with several complete veteran cycles as well as restoration projects etc.

Entries for the auction are being taken now. Commission is only 5% of the hammer price and there is no buyers premium.

There is a barn dance on the Saturday night.

On site camping is available or local accommodation can be booked through the Chichester Tourist office.

Members might like to visit the event, where on the Sunday there will be hopefully between 150 and 200 cyclists all riding, in costume, cycles and tricycle built before 1935.

To enter the rally it is necessary to belong to one of the associations clubs. I can arrange membership of my own club at a cost of only £2.50. If you would like to enter please let me know and I will arrange for an application form and an entry form to be sent.

All cycles partaking must be built before 1935.

Pickwick

**RESEARCHING YOUR ANCESTORS,
OR, WHO WERE YOUR EARLY NAMESAKES?**

This series is compiled and produced by
Past President Joseph Smiggers, Esq. P.V.P.M.P.C., (Steve Bullen).



The Pickwick Bicycle Club has been in continuous existence since its formation in 1870, and the soubriquets of its name have been faithfully passed down from generation to generation. If you would like to receive the available history of your name, please contact Joseph Smiggers at steve@stephenbullen.com and you will have this information by return.

Augustus Snodgrass – poetic follower of Mr. Pickwick. Member of the Pickwick Club

“That the said proposal has received the sanction and approval of this Association. 'That the Corresponding Society of the Pickwick Club is therefore hereby constituted; and that Samuel Pickwick, Esq., G.C.M.P.C., Tracy Tupman, Esq., M.P.C., Augustus Snodgrass, Esq., M.P.C., and Nathaniel Winkle, Esq., M.P.C., are hereby nominated and appointed members of the same; and that they be requested to forward, from time to time, authenticated accounts of their journeys and investigations, of their observations of character and manners, and of the whole of their

adventures, together with all tales and papers to which local scenery or associations may give rise, to the Pickwick Club, stationed in London.”

J. Woolford 1870 to 1875 Treasurer (1874) forced to resign in 1875 because he was a professional cyclist. A cycle manufacturer.

J G Chapman 1876 to 1899

W H Waddington 1904 to 1914

W J Welch 1924 to 1939

C Gilbert Smith 1942 to 1964

W Lee 1968 to 1978

R Davis 1979 to 1991

Michael Ennis 1991 to present President (2008)



Mr Price, the lawyer – Smithers and Price's chancery:

“That's all right,' replied Mr. Perker's clerk; and then seeing Mr. Pickwick's eye wandering curiously towards the table, he added, 'will you join us, for half an hour or so? We are capital company here to-night. There's Samkin and Green's managing- clerk, and Smithers and Price's chancery, and Pimkin and Thomas's out o' doors--sings a capital song, he does--and Jack Bamber, and ever so many more. You're come out of the country, I suppose. Would you like to join us?”

Arthur James “Basil” Rushton 1963 to 2011 President (1984). Died 2011.

Mayor of Eatanswill –:

“Whiffin, proclaim silence,’ said the mayor, with an air of pomp befitting his lofty station. In obedience to this command the crier performed another concerto on the bell, whereupon a gentleman in the crowd called out ‘Muffins’; which occasioned another laugh. ‘Gentlemen,’ said the mayor, at as loud a pitch as he could possibly force his voice to-- ‘gentlemen. Brother electors of the borough of Eatanswill. We are met here to-day for the purpose of choosing a representative in the room of our late—“



Vernon Soleil
Member

1992 to 2008

Retired

Mr. Leo Hunter – Mrs. Hunter’s husband of the The Den, Eatanswill:

“We have heard of your fame, sir. The noise of your antiquarian discussion has reached the ears of Mrs. Leo Hunter-- my wife, sir; I am Mr. Leo Hunter’--the stranger paused, as if he expected that Mr. Pickwick would be overcome by the disclosure; but seeing that he remained perfectly calm, proceeded-- ‘My wife, sir--Mrs. Leo Hunter--is proud to number among her acquaintance all those who have rendered themselves celebrated by their works and talents. Permit me, sir, to place in a conspicuous part of the list the name of Mr. Pickwick, and his brother-members of the club that derives its name from him.”



H J Price	pre 1880	
J F Burge	1889 to	1914 Life Member
Francis H Burgess	1924 to 1938	
C H M Baker	1941 to	
Philip M Burslem	1955 to 1969	
Ron A Hewson	1969 to 2010	
Paul Devine	2011 to present	

It is with great sadness that we report the recent loss at an early age of a friend and colleague, *The Hon. Wilmot Snape* (Peter Hamon).

Peter Hamon died unexpectedly on the 9th of April 2012 following a short illness. Peter was just 68 years old, not a great age in modern terms.

He was born in 1943 and lived and was educated in St Albans and went on into electrical engineering. He worked hard at his career and by the time of his retirement in 2001 had risen to the position of Managing Director with a company in Welwyn Garden City that manufactured electrical switchgear for industrial and commercial applications.



From early on Peter was attracted to cycling. He was a member of the Verulam Cycling Club and met his wife –to-be, Margaret, through his activities there. Both Peter and Margaret were heavily involved in club life and sat on club committees and organised club events. They were the moving force that set in motion the Verulam Open 25 mile time trial, which came to be a high profile end of season event.

In recognition of his efforts, Peter was awarded Life Membership of the club.

Although Peter had lived all his life in Hertfordshire and Bedfordshire when he retired he moved to Watton, in Norfolk, where he and Margaret had several friends. Still retaining his Verulam membership Peter found time to join in with the C.C. Breckland and was racing in local events up to last season.

He was proud to be elected to membership of the Pickwick Bicycle Club in 1996 taking the sobriquet “Hon Wilmot Snipe”, frequently attending club functions. He also had many friends in the “G.S.Lanterne Rouge”, of which he was a member, and will be missed at their dinners and club runs. Peter was also a member of the “Pedal Club” and travelled to London monthly for their lunches.

Although cycling was Peter’s main love he always followed top level sport and could often be found in front of the television giving an opinion on the performance of England’s cricketers, footballers and rugby players in situations at home and abroad where his thoughts could have made a vital difference !!

Both Peter and Margaret also supported the East Anglian Children’s Hospice at Quidenham and donations in memory of Peter should be sent to EACH, Quidenham, Norwich, NR16 2PH. Please mention Peter’s name when you do so.

Peter is survived by Margaret, his wife for 41 years, and daughter Kerry. A Humanist ceremony was held at Watton on the 20th of April to celebrate his life. A large number of friends, family and cycling colleagues attended and listened to music by Eric Clapton, Don Williams and Tina Turner.

“ Simply the Best “ – Peter Hamon. 1943 – 2012.

Mr Wicks (Jim Mepham).

Charitable Works

The Pickwick Bicycle Club is well known for its charitable work and donations, the origins of which go back very many years, as reported some time ago. Individual members are also engaged in supporting deserving charities, including the recent *Help For Heroes*, various disability groups and several hospices.

Most notable amongst these are perhaps the annual charity bike rides organised by Baillie Mac Something in the name of his Wembley Road Club and in which the major fund raisers have been our Pickwick members for many years and proud recipients of the appropriate trophy. So many others run marathons and other events.

Latest of the individual's work has been that of The Red Nose Mr.Stiggins, who reports below on his effort on behalf of his Golf Club:

A Year Ends for Captain "Stiggins"

The Red Nosed Mr.Stiggins is shown presenting a cheque for £3110 to the "Alzheimers Society," Litchfield Branch, when a similar cheque was also presented to "Midlands Air Ambulance," plus almost £1000 to the Salvation Army, thus ending for him, as Captain, one of the "best years of my sporting life."

Tom Cox, The Financial Times Golf Correspondent described Stiggins in the Sunday Magazine supplement on his club's course, as "The Captain is an irrepressibly cheery sort!" He was also named and thanked when "Golf Monthly" published a 4-page colour report of the course. Many accolades of the club, the course and its outstanding condition and design, including envious comments from the Captains of The Berkshire and Watton Heath that "Your greens are better than ours." The pinnacle, he feels, was the invitation, as Captain, to the Royal Berkshire GC.



"So now, it's back to reality" he says "I would recommend the opportunity to anyone, (to take active part in your club), you meet so many fantastic people who all enjoy 'giving back to your club what it has given to you', fantastic, simply fantastic!"

"Try an invard application, Sir," said Sam, as the Red-nosed gentleman rubbed his head with a rueful visage. "Wot do youe think o' that, for a go o' wanity varm, sir?"

Mr. Stiggins made no verbal answer, but with his manner was expressive. He tasted the contents of the glass which Sam had placed in his hand, put his umbrella on the floor, and tasted it again, passing his hand placidly across his stomach twice or thrice; he then drank the whole at a breath, and smacking his lips, held out the tumbler for more.#

Nor was Mrs. Weller behind-hand in doing justice to the composition.

Cyclists Magnificent

Baille Mac Something almost pulls it off (the wall)

Once again a most enjoyable day of cycling and golf was convened at the delightful and welcoming Harpenden Common Golf Club.

Our president, Mr Pickwick was unable to attend as he was attending his daughters nuptials in antipodean climes. Our vice president, Mr Jack Martin, kindly stepped into the breach as chairman for the day.

The weather was fine for the most part but the last three golfing groups suffered from precipitation during the last three holes, although this did not dampen their spirits.



Total numbers were reduced from last year perhaps due to a combination of the recent Bicentennial dinner and the Diamond Jubilee celebrations in the five days immediately prior to the golfing day. Having said that the number of cyclists doubled to a total turn out of 10 (well done chaps) and I must



thank Mr Justice Stareleigh for organising the cycling. Sadly the golfing numbers were significantly reduced from 25 last year to just 15 this year, of which only 4 were Pickwickians, the remainder guests.

The cyclists, lead by the aforementioned Mr Justice Stareleigh, took a spin around the roads of Harpenden and looked a very impressive outfit. There were, I am pleased to say, no injuries and I understand an enjoyable ride was had by all. The Blink bowl for cycling was awarded to Mr Podder - well done!

In the golf competition the guests fought it out for the prestigious Crandyke Cup and some excellent scores were achieved. The final result was a very close run thing - last year's winner Gordon Cottenham (guest of Baille Mac Something) was third with 38 points (hcp 12). In second place, on count back, was David Gibson (guest of Samkin) with 44 points (hcp 24) but in first place was John Whitbread (guest of Smithers) also with 44 points (hcp 14).

The nearest the pin competition, members only, for the Winkle Cup had to be modified to a "nearest the green competition" as no Pickwickian managed to reach the dizzy heights of landing their ball on the green. I am pleased to notify members that the winner was Baille Mac Something who was significantly less than a Pickwickian pace from the green.

The splendid Namby Cup for the member with the best Stableford score was, as I mentioned previously, only contested by 4 Pickwickians. It gives me great personal pleasure to inform members that the winner was Smithers 38 points (hcp 17). Samkin was a very credible second on 34 points (hcp 19). In third place was Mr Wicks 29 points (hcp 21). Finally bringing up the rear but with a very commendable 27 points was Baille Mac Something (hcp 28).

The Jinkins Balls are awarded for something exceptional and this year's recipient achieved this whilst not actually being on the golf course. It is my duty to inform you that Baille Mac Something was seen attempting to drive a golf buggy away whilst the recharging lead was still attached to electricity point on the clubhouse wall. For this remarkable piece of Pickwickian behaviour Baille Mac Something was unequivocally awarded the Jinkins Balls.



After the golf and cycling members and guests sat down to an excellent four course luncheon of:-

Taipei Salmon, followed by Tomato and Pesto Soup. Then the inevitable Lamb Shank!

Fresh Fruit Millefeuille or Cheese and Biscuits and ending with coffee.

During luncheon Baille Mac Something kept us up dated with Bradley Wiggins progress in the Criterium de Dauphine of which he was finally the victor.

Chef Martin and his team once again provided fine food and excellent service.

Harpenden Common Golf Club very kindly, in recognition of the Pickwick Golf Society's long association with the club, presented the Society with a voucher for a 4 ball to play at the Club valid until June next year. It was decided to auction this during the luncheon with the proceeds going to Jack Martin's charity SHELTER. The auctioneer was Mr Brookes who, despite his shy and retiring nature, did an excellent job and the voucher raised £160.00. This added to the collection made during the meal from our generous members and guests raised a magnificent total of £349.90 and 2 euros (I don't know who).



Brian Phillimore
1st. Guest with 37 pts.

Thanks go to Peter Magnus for producing the excellent and amusing menu cards

All in all it was an excellent day but it would be good to see more Pickwickian golfers next year

Smithers..

Time is Running Out Did you remember to book your trip to France?



Baillie Mac Something wants you to know that there is JUST time to tell him that you want to be part of this historic journey when **“Mr Pickwick Goes To France.”**

He is leaving these shores by car or via Eurostar to Paris on **Friday night, 20th July**, then it's on down to the Cathedral city of Chartres on Saturday.

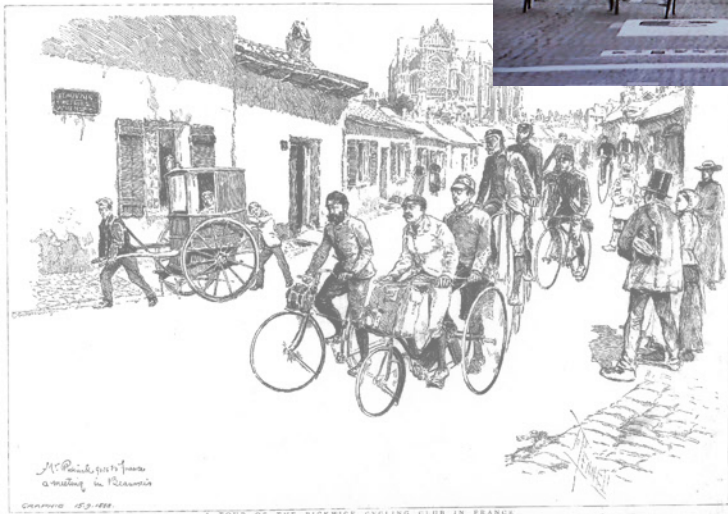
There you will be able to view the Time Trial stage of the Tour de France close to the finish before returning to Paris for a romantic night out.



After Sunday lunch at

Sermette Marbeuf, just off the Champs Elycée, you will be able to watch the finish of the Tour before returning to Blighty – or another night out in Gay Paris!

BUT, time is short, so, if you have done so by now, give Baillie Mac Something a call as soon as you can – you can call him on 01494 722611, or e-mail: di.john.wildhatch@btinternet.com



**Have you entered this event?
Are you going to this event as a spectator?
Will you be supporting this Pickwick sponsored event?**



Dickens Memorial Meet

Saturday 21st July

An afternoon of cycle sport.

Events for Juniors, Women, Seniors and Veterans
plus a vintage bicycle race
(No schoolchildren)

Commemorative medal for every competitor.

Gravesend Cyclo Park
(A2 Swanscombe Cutting, direction Eastbound
(Rochester). Adjacent Morrison's supermarket entrance).

(For more details contact Mr. Justice Stareleigh)

Organised by the Surrey Cycle Racing League and sponsored by
The Pickwick B C



Past President Mr. Staple (aka Chris Tyler)

July Caption Competition

There is a prize for the best caption entered by a member.

Entries are limited to two alternative captions per member and should be submitted in writing to the Editor (address in Handbook), or by e-mail (preferred) to: <stan@stanrosefamily.com>

Entries close at the end of August



March Caption Competition

The Winner is:
Mr Smithie
with the following Caption:

"This is what I use when my haemorrhoids are really bad."

FOR SALE

SILK TIES

A beautifully made all silk tie in the Club colours is now available.

Priced at £15.00 each, to include VAT and postage and packing, they may be ordered from the Secretary.

Also available, in the same club colours and material are bow ties,

CLUB JERSEYS

Have you ordered your club jersey? There are still some of these excellent yellow garments available.

They are really good value at

£37 each plus £2.50 Post where appropriate.

Most sizes stocked



The jersey for sale not the contents - on second thoughts though!!

To order: Contact the Secretary.

SAMUEL PICKWICK:

BRASS STATUETTE

Based on an original Dickensian picture - probably by Phiz - originally cast by (the late) Mr.Jinks - Ed. Taylor. Now reproduced from the original moulds by Taylors Foundries Ltd.



The magnificent Solid Brass doorstops, cast from a mould of Samuel Pickwick. Measuring 36 cm high. and weighing 3.75 Kg., they are still available to purchase.

To buy one of these desirable items, which are very decorative even if you don't have any doors to prop open, please contact

Taylors Foundry Ltd
Hollands Road
Haverhill
Suffolk
CB9 8PU

Tel: 01440 702870

We still have a limited supply of these very collectable shot glasses which bear the club badge on one side and the 2008 President's name on the other side. They are in boxes of six glasses and are priced at £10 per box, including P+P. To order, please send cheque, made out to :

The Pickwick Bicycle Club, c/o Stan Rose, 'Mere', Chartridge, Bucks. HP5 2TF.

These are very suitable for holding individual sauces to accompany modern starter dishes.



FOR SALE continued

☒☒☒ ☒☒☒☒ continued

Coasters

The club has a few spare coasters which are available for purchase. Four of the previously issued designs may be obtained in sets of four. These are as shown below, namely:

Samuel Pickwick Esq.,

Joe, The Fat Boy,

Dismal Jemmy

Mr.Dumkins.

Priced at £1 each plus 50p post for up to 4 coasters.

Enquiries to: Samuel Pickwick, Esq. At:

Stephen Downham <SDownham@hughesellard.com>



Recipes *from the past.....*



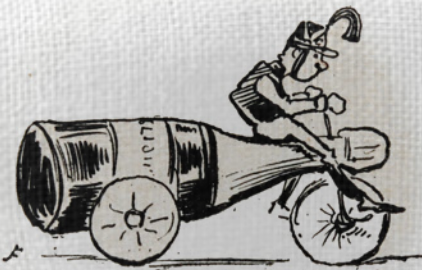
“Dr.Payne’s” Potted prawns and bread and butter as served at the President’s Luncheon. May 2012

Ingredients

- 100g unsalted butter
- 1 blade mace
- A grating of nutmeg
- The zest of ½ lemon
- A good pinch of cayenne pepper
- 400g cooked and peeled Atlantic prawns
- Buttered bread, lemon wedges and a crisp salad, to serve

Method

1. Melt unsalted butter in a medium pan with mace, nutmeg, lemon zest and a good pinch of cayenne pepper. Add the prawns and gently heat for 2-3 minutes.
 2. Remove the mace, divide between 4 ramekins and cool. Chill for 30 minutes, then pour a little melted butter over the top of each ramekin and chill until ready to serve.
 3. Serve at room temperature with buttered bread, lemon wedges and a crisp salad.
- Serves 4 as a starter.

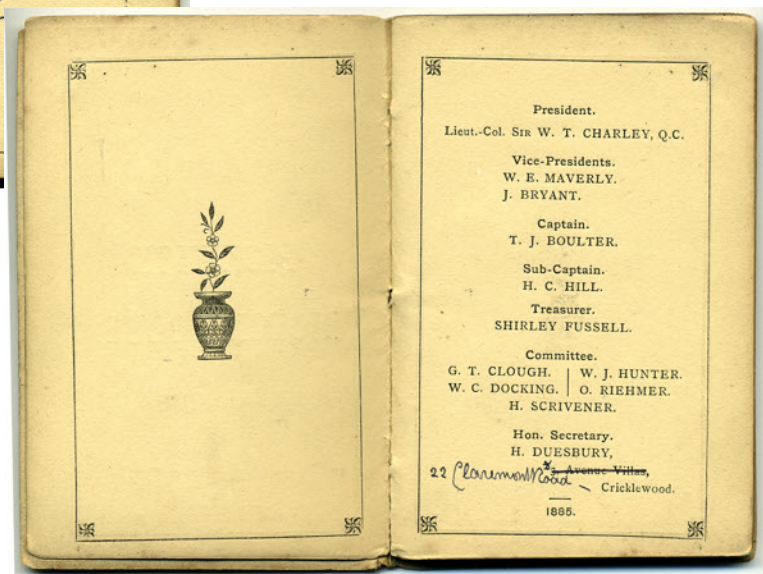
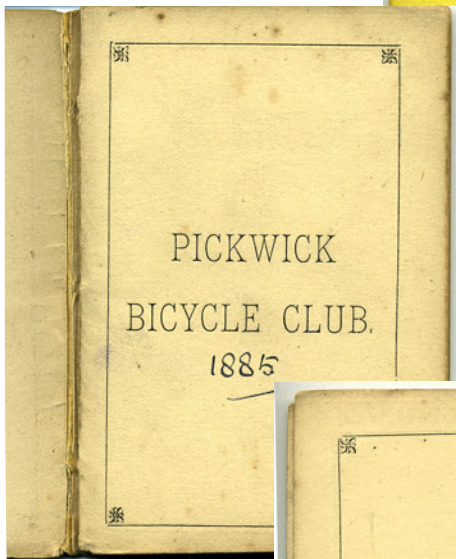
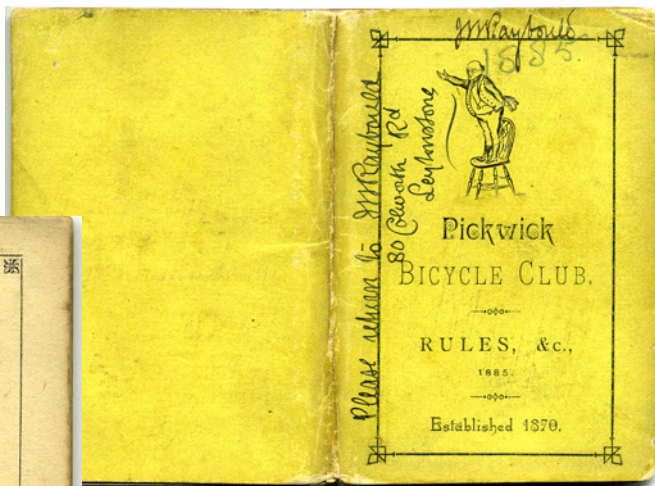


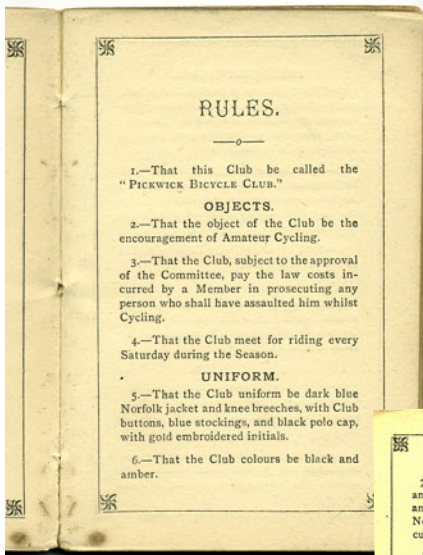
From the Archives

A very rare club handbook is in the possession of our colleague Welps who has kindly offered to share the contents through scanned images for the magazine.

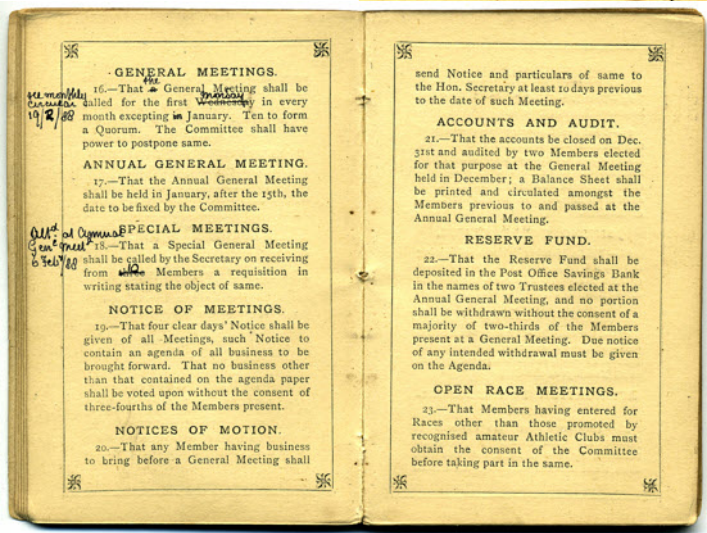
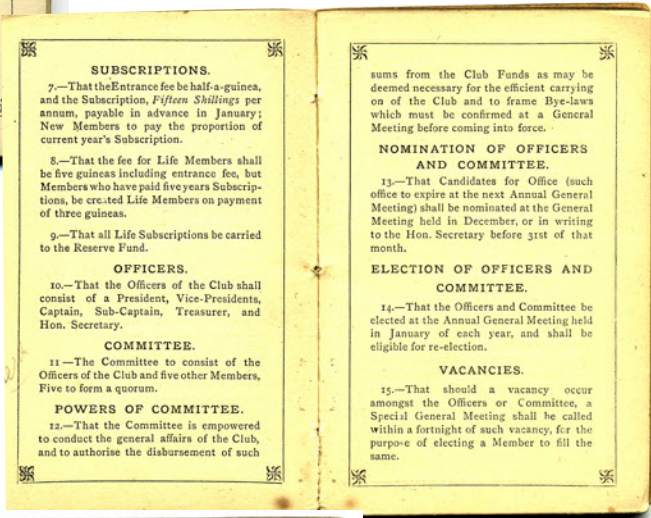
Dated 1885, it was the property of Mr Sergeant Snubbin (aka *J.M.Raybourne*) who meticulously kept the contents up to date for the next three years, to 1888, altering and adding rules, addresses and new members' names and sobriquets. Included there are the names of the Gold and Silver medal awards of which a silver went to Mr. Raybourne in 1883 for his 180¼ miles in 24hrs – but on what machine?

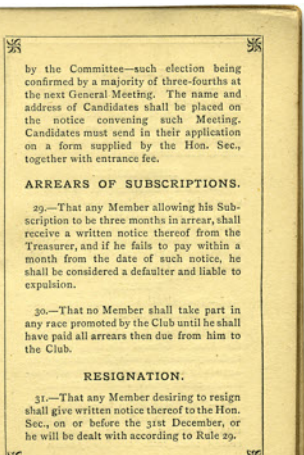
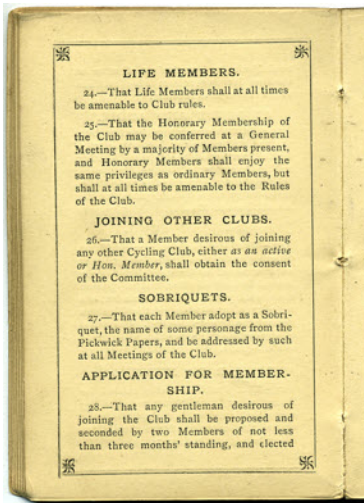
Measuring just 7cm x 10 cm (2¾inx 4in) the tiny handbook's cover is a faded yellow with inner pages in age-faded white. The pages are all gilt edged.





Here are the first few pages, others will follow in later issues of the magazine. There is a total of 37 pages of which just 9 are blank.

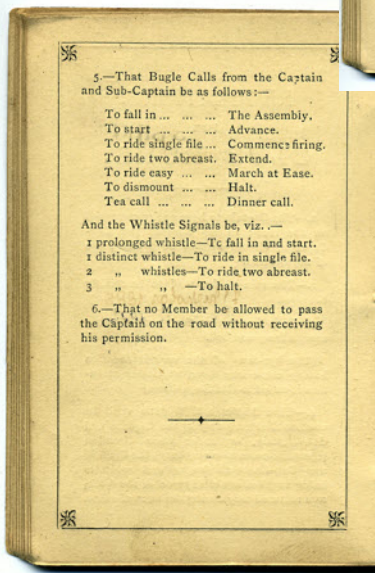
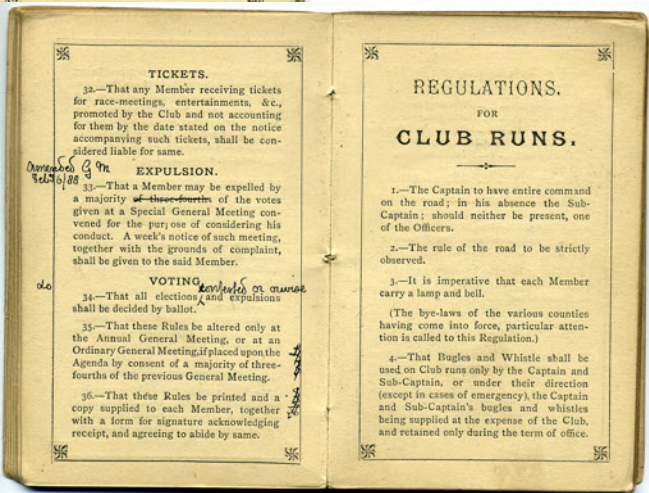




More sample pages from 1885/1888

In the next issue we will see how the Club Challenge Cup was won each year from 1878 to 1888, together with the listed conditions for the event.

Also Rules pertaining to the Gold Medal. The winners in 1885, '87 and '88. Silver Medal winners from 1883 to 1888 with a hand-



written note about the awards for the 24hrs. Event.

There are pages of 'Recommendations in Reference to Road Riding' and a complete list of members with their sobriquets.

A newspaper cutting, reporting the addition of a new member, namely Charles Dickens' son Charles, is attached to the list page.

This is a truly remarkable archive and comments on its contents will be very welcome for the Letters Page.



Baillie Mac
Something
advising the
starters

The Pickwick Bicycle Club has done it again! The Wembley Road Club Shield for the largest amount raised by a group goes, yet again, to the club with a total over £800 raised!

As Baillie Mac Something (the Organiser) said: "The 24th Wembley Road Club's charity bike ride took place on Sunday 24th June over 30 miles. Our charity this year was **"Help for Heroes"**

Monies raised to date (after one day) over £2,500.

This year's winner of The Mary Smithson Cup with over £400 raised is Simon Steptoe of Princes Risborough.

Gathering at "The Hit or Miss" pub on a wet morning reduced the starting field to 32 who faced a windy day with sun and showers, lots of punctures, potholes, and gritty and wet roads. Well down from the usual 60 to 70 participants.



Waiting to start - a few of the cyclists



Mr. Mallard & Sue

Following a lunch stop at Huntswood Golf Club the riders returned via the "Royal Standard of England" at Forty Green to finish in the sunshine at "The Hit or Miss", Penn Street

It was a good day and all the riders finished including the oldest rider Michael Radford (aka Mr Brooks) of Micheldever, Hants. at 78 years old.

Other Pickwickians present were Justice Stareleigh, Mr. Phunky, Mr. Mallard, Joe The Fat Boy and, of course, Baillie Mac himself, all of whom, together with others, enjoyed the superb BBQ and the wide range of food at the home of Baillie Mac Something and Diana.

PICKWICK BICYCLE CLUB. ³⁷

Established 1870



Hampton Court Ride

Thursday 27th September 2012

The club is once again holding its Revival Ride for members and friends from Historic Hampton Court through approximately 30 miles of Surrey Lanes, with a mid-morning coffee stop to return to Imber Court for lunch.

Riders will set off in groups with a shorter distance for those riding on older machines while others will cover the full distance.

The Ride departs at 10.00, returning for Lunch at 13.30

For details, please call Pruffle (*Aidan Hegarty*) on
07850 102 365 or 0208 941 3681

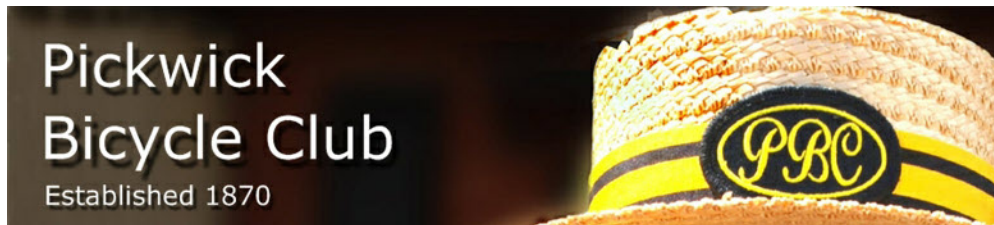
Cost for lunch at Imber Court is £30

There is ample free and secure parking at Imber Court,
also showering and changing facilities.

Members and guests not wishing to join in the ride are also welcome
to join for the lunch.

Guest of Honour will be
Mr. Ross Young, CEO. England Rugby World Cup 2015

The Club Website



How many members are aware of the Pickwick Bicycle Club website? How many check the website for updates?

Here is a reminder of the header (banner) that appears on the Home page. Below this is a row of 'hot spot' buttons which lead to a number of interesting pages containing news, history, events, photos and many other items.

The Home page contains links to 'Recently added/updated' items. The other seven buttons, headed 'Charles Dickens, Activities, Uniform, Sobriquets, Trophies, History and Current Officers', have drop-down menus (except Uniform, Sobriquets and Trophies) leading to more pages.

If you haven't done so already, why not take a look at it now – you may be surprised. Paste into your browser this address: <http://www.pickwickbc.org.uk>, sit back, and enjoy! Happy reading!

Here is a short sample from the 'Uniform' page:

The History of the Club Uniform of the Pickwick Bicycle Club

There were a number of changes to the uniform over the years as cycling wear became less formal. The December 1967 Minutes makes reference to the boaters worn by some members and that it was hoped that all members would consider wearing the club uniform at future functions.

In 1973 Mr. Knockemorf submitted the following proposition.

That as from and including the 1973 Garden Party any member of the Pickwick Bicycle Club attending the Club's luncheons without the club uniform of a straw boater with Club band and tie shall contribute the sum of 50 pence to a charity to be named by the President in office .

Another item from the Boys Own Papers

Don't tell Health & Safety if you want to try this.



Riding under Difficulties.

In this Bi-Centenary year it does seem appropriate to show how the nation honoured the Great Man with a set of 4 stamps in 1970, to commemorate the centenary of his death.

Depicted are: Mr.Pickwick and Sam; Mr.and Mrs.Mickawber; David Copperfield and Betsy Trotwood and, 'Oliver asking for more.'

They formed part of a set of five literary anniversary stamps, the fifth for the birthday of William Wordsworth.

