

The Pickwick Magazine

The World's Oldest Cycling Club
and Oldest Dickensian Society Extant

Founded in 1870



Editor: Mr Winkle Snr

Volume 12 No.1 March 2015



So here we are heading for Spring and the sunshine, and yet, I can't somehow believe that 2015 will be so exciting as last year. The Grand Depart of the Tour de France in Yorkshire brought cycling very much to the fore across the whole country. The nation was gripped by cycling fever; everyone wanted to ride a bike. And it has left a legacy in Yorkshire for sure with the three day Tour de Yorkshire which starts on May 1st in Bridlington.

And for us Pickwickians - we have a new President (Quanko Samba) who as you will read is maintaining the line of Samkin in his review of last year, about **ALL** members participating in as many club events as possible & abiding by the rules for the two annual luncheons. You will have received Buzfuz's letter about the opportunities that currently exist for membership, and I hope that by the time you read this, there has been a favourable response. That said, as with all members, the Club will only survive if its members support its activities, and that includes the new members please.

A plea from the editorial desk.....please write to me about any worthwhile news or activities. The magazine is for your interest and I would rather it contained your news than me writing the copy to fill the pages. My thanks to Joe The Fat Boy for his ongoing contributions.

A minor piece of trivia - the well known radio programme Desert Island Discs history reveals that the top choice of author is -who else but Charles Dickens, and the most frequently requested of his works has been **Pickwick Papers**. What excellent taste!

The usual events are listed further on in this issue, so you have plenty of notice about dates - and to (mis)quote from Kitchener's famous poster - **Your Club Needs You!**

Let's hope for a bumper turnout for the President's Luncheon on May 14th,

Enjoy..... Winkle Snr

Closing Date for the October issue will be September 11th

A Message from your President.....

Dear all fellow Pickwickians, now we have finished the festive season and having returned to our normal mundane toils, may I first take this opportunity of wishing you all a belated Happy, Healthy and Prosperous New Year.

It was good to see so many at the last event with only 13 members who did not purchase tickets, but in saying this I am saddened by the fact that these members did not even offer their apologies for their non-attendance. Can I urge you all if you cannot attend then please tender your apologies? Our Secretary has more than enough to do, and like many of us has a real job as well, I'm sure such actions would make his life a lot easier.

I must of course pay homage to my proposer and seconder to this excellent organisation, Basil Rushden and Brian Furlong both who are now members of that great bicycle club in the sky. I remember that one's soubriquet was Mr. Potts, but for the life of me I cannot remember the other, I suppose it's an age thing. I should also make reference to our Speaker Ian Irving. A cracking delivery and he has not ceased to be as funny as he was when he addressed us some 10 or so years ago.

I am currently working on this year's events, in addition to our normal ones some of which may occur before you get to read this publication more news to be circulated by our Secretary Sgt. Buzfuz as and when they come to fruition.

May I finally thank you all for your kind comments at the December Luncheon on my preferment as your President and also to those concerned in the organisation of the same. I am aware of some difficulties that were experienced at the Connaught Rooms at the December Lunch and our Secretary is addressing that these.

I look forward to seeing you all in May if not before.

Samuel Pickwick



A Secretarial Report

from Sgt Buzfuz



Spring 2015 - Another year, the club's 145th. Your committee are starting to think about 2020 and our 150th anniversary. Anyone with ideas as to how best we might celebrate that event, please contact a committee member.

New members to the committee elected at the AGM included Roger Hitchman (Hunt) and Paddy Green (Dumkins). Fred Parr (Quanko Samba) was elected President and Brian Vandervilt (Bullman) as Deputy President. Stuart Mason-Elliott (Mr Watty) took up the mantle as Assistant Secretary.

The principal guest at the Garden Party, Ian Irving was superb, but once again I wish we could say the same about the service from the Connaught Rooms especially the wine waiters. Your committee is well aware of all the problems and we are to meet the General Manager and others in a few weeks time, to discuss the matter and hopefully reach agreement to stop similar incidents in the future.

In addition, and despite previous notices from myself and the Captain, members and guests still do not seem to have the courtesy to be in the Grand Hall and seated by 1.00pm so that your President and principal guest are not kept waiting outside. Members who failed to observe this simple task have been noted.

Another full programme is arranged this year with the usual dates for Golf (11th June) and Benson (5th July), and I hope to see as many of you as possible at these events. {a full list of known event dates can be found later in this issue...Editor} Further dates will be discussed at the coming committee meeting and will be published in the members section of the web site. Communication to members by email saves the Club postage costs but I do not have email addresses for some members - and several are frequently rejected when sent.

If you have not received emails from me, but have a contact address, please let me know - sdownham@hughsellard.com

As agreed at the AGM, the membership list was opened for a brief period and closed again on the 31st January. A reasonable number of good prospective members have been nominated, and I look forward to meeting them at interview over the next few years. Your officers will be looking at the list and bringing a new proposal to next year's AGM as to when the list may be re-opened once again.

We hope shortly to transfer all members records to a new database and I will then be working towards an updated handbook. Members contact details may also be available through the members only section of the website - i.e. password protected. This will be discussed at the AGM before implementation.

If any member has any issues they wish to raise, then please contact me.

I remain,

Sergeant Buzfuz - Hon Sec

STOP PRESS:

It would appear that the Connaught Rooms have taken a contract for an alternative function on our usual December date. We are investigating this problem, but at this time it would appear that the December Garden Party will now be on Thursday 10th December and not the usual first Thursday.

I will confirm later when this is finalised - Hon Sec

The Hampton Court Bike Ride.....

The gathering at Imber Court on a splendid October day saw some 40 riders set off for the 8th year of this notable event.

Part 1 -With the riders split into two groups, I led the veterans on a more leisurely 12-mile ride off along the Thames towpath from Hampton Court towards Kingston, then onto Henry VIII's Royal Bushy Park at Hampton Wick. It was a very warm autumn day and the 14 riders enjoyed an incident free ride around the park, enjoying the sight and sound of rutting deer and a flight of green parakeets. At the 10-mile marker we enjoyed a very welcome pint and refreshments at The Star public house. Suitably refreshed we set off back to Imber Court via the Royal Palace at Hampton Court for a traditional Pickwickian lunch.



For an un-explained reason, Alfred Jingle (aka Ron Beale) decided it was time of the year to put his clock forward, and in doing so, arrived an hour late!! Un-perturbed and from memory from of last year, he set off in hot pursuit. In his enthusiasm he forgot to get the name of the halfway pub, so inadvertently cycled straight past his colleagues enjoying their pints, and arrived back at Imber Court 10mins in front of the peloton!! For this achievement I decided he should be awarded the Pedal Trophy at the post-lunch presentation.

An excellent day was had by all..... Hunt



Part 2

Whilst Hunt lead the 'veterans' along the Thames footpath, the Lycra Louts section took to the roads of Surrey - led by Martin Guest, accompanied by wife Vanessa and directed (from his car) by Pruffle. Some fast stretches, and a bit of climbing saw the energetic peleton lapping up the miles in the morning sunshine. A suitable refreshment stop at Squires Garden Centre on the A264 near West Horsley proved the downfall for one rider - those cakes were inviting - who took to Pruffle's Broom Wagon.

The rest of us retraced our route towards Imber Court, with Maurice Burton (yes it was) and son Germain increasing the pace and keeping us all on the rivet. Not sure if it was the prospect of good food or maybe they always ride that fast! Probably the latter.

Whatever, an excellent morning, good company and good food, thank you Pruffle, we're already looking forward to next year.....Winkle Snr

The lunch charity collection raised £280 for Cancer Research.

The 144th Annual Garden Party

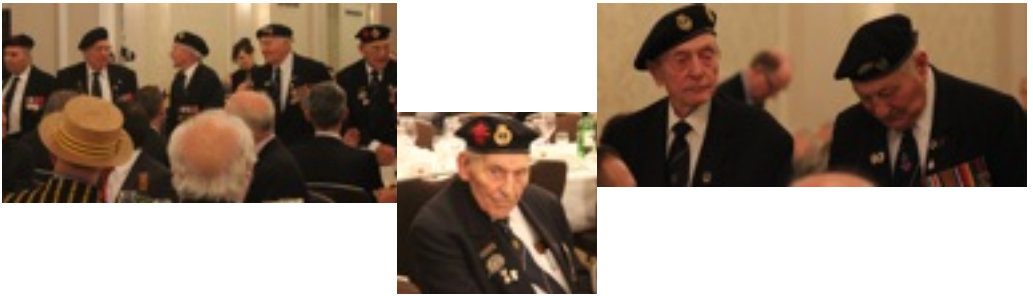


So a slightly damp December morning saw an early group of Club members arriving at the Great Queen Street venue for the annual AGM. The well-oiled organisation of the Grand (?) Connaught Rooms descended into it's usual chaos and mayhem, when the well laid plans of our secretariat to pre-order/advance order wine before the AGM, ceased to get started. At least three managers, a change of wine selection, only one credit card machine later, saw most of us arriving in varying degrees of lateness for the meeting. The various reports of officers and some other news from the AGM can be found elsewhere in the magazine.

Although we were summoned to our tables by the trumpeters of the Household Cavalry, it was once again regrettable that some members and guests, failed to take heed and kept proceedings waiting before we could be put through our paces by the Captain as we practised our Pickwickian choruses. We did manage to stand for the arrival of our President and his guest, upon which our Captain urged us to sing with gusto the appropriate verse.

We doffed our hats for the loyal toast, and then once seated, we were treated to good fare from the kitchen, of Salmon Gravadlux, Tomato & Basil Soup, Twice Cooked Roulade of Turkey (although I'm still not sure why the turkey has to be 'twice cooked') and concluding with Plum Pudding & Brandy Sauce. Our original member -Mr Watty, duly arrived on his Penny Farthing (yes I know!), supped some wine with the President and then attempted to mount his machine as he headed for the pianist.

President elect Quanko Samba welcomed a lengthy list of guests and proposed the welcome toast. (full details of the guests are reported on page 11....Editor)



This year there were some special guests attending the luncheon, with members of the Normandy Veterans Society Their spokesman addressed the gathering and they all took a salute, and received a resounding ovation for their presence and past endeavours.



Our 'Regulars in Red' from the Chelsea Hospital escorted by Dumkins, marched their way to the President's table with the Joseph Atto punch bowl, and presented themselves in the usual manner. One drawing some playful boozing having announced that he was formerly a military policeman.

Sergeant Buzfuz then called the assembly to order as he introduced the four 'new' members to their soubriquets. These were Brother Mordlin (Chris Saltrick-he of the JoG to Land's End on an Ordinary fame), Wilkins Flasher (Edward Legg- he of son of President fame), Prince Bladud (James Tyler), and The Clergyman of Dingley (Tim Chapman). We welcome them to the club and trust that they will help to maintain its traditions and continuity.

Samuel Pickwick in almost his final action as President, called upon Trumpet Major Timothy West of the Household Cavalry, who has attended many of our luncheons, to step forward and receive a set of Club cufflinks and an invite to join us next year, without having to work for his lunch. He responded accordingly, apologising for an apparent discordant note in one fanfare -that I doubt many noticed, and saying how much he had enjoyed this 'duty'.



Our chief guest Ian Irving then took the microphone, and kept us in raptures for the next millennium. Such a professional act, (which I can vouch for, having seen him at other engagements a numb of times) and having summarily dealt with one mis-guided heckler, he regaled us with a diverse assortment of tales, some of which were probably true.

He concluded with the toast to the "Immortal Memory...." before another rousing applause required the powerful voice of the Captain to bring the room to order, and enable our retiring President to respond.

President, Samuel Pickwick, (Samkin) has been a President extraordinaire, an with heartfelt sincerity he thanked the Club for giving him the opportunity to hold the role for a year, during which time he endeavoured to participate in all the Club activities, including the addition of some new events.

He then formally passed on the baton in the usual manner to Quanko Samba who will now be the Club President until December 2015.

Activities by then were running quite late and it was past many train departure times, when we rose to conclude proceedings with Auld Lang Syne.

Quanko Samba's Guest List.....(without the jokes!)

"Good afternoon Gentleman. Today I have the honour of proposing the Pickwick Bicycle Club toast to our guests, and may I start with an apology that if I have missed anyone that was notified, the error is mine and not intentional. Then may I on behalf of the President and members, welcome you all to this venue and I hope you have enjoyed the festivities thus far.

Gentleman, we are honoured to have in our presence today as guests of Mr Blotton of Aldgate, Stuart Hallam and John McClelland. Stuart was a major figure in the British & USA telecommunications industry for many years until he made a career diversion and became the successful CEO of Cycling Ireland. He then returned to Britain, heading up the 'Trois Etapes' venture which he describes as 'Races for the rich corporate types.' He describes himself as a happy club cyclist, and the elder brother of Olympian track rider, Ian Hallam MBE. John can be described as Northern Ireland's finest veteran. Winning two gold medals in the 2013 Worlds Master's Championship, and repeated the feat this year in the Team Pursuit and Scratch races.

As a guest of Mr Jinks we have Howard Ashmore, Kevin Neary, and Alf Engers who was a multiple 25mile TT championship winner in the 60's. The guest of Crushton today is Roger Hammond, current Genesis Team Manager who was 3rd in Paris-Roubaix as Britain's best ever finisher; plus he was a former junior cycle cross champion. Mr Smithie's guest is Dave LeGrys (aka LEGRO) who is the holder of a number of world records on rollers (126mph), British & Commonwealth speed record (110mph - on the M42,where were the police?) but his real claim to fame is beating Seb Coe by 20mins in the London Marathon.

Bullman's guest is 1992 Commonwealth Games Team Pursuit Silver medalist Guy Rowland, (riding with Chris Boardman), and Mr Justice Stareleigh guest is former National Champion, and 6-Day professional, Maurice Burton. Mark Brooking, the former National Audax Champion is the guest of Mr Mallard. Job Trotter's guest is Joe Waugh, a prolific road rider throughout the 70's in the UK, Europe and the USSR including the Milk Race. And George the Father has guests Andy Jeffries & Ian Alexander from Whyte Bikes.

A special mention goes to Brian Foxton who with his wife entertained us so well at Harrogate last year, and also to Steve & Peter Walsh, owners of the Downs Hotel Hackney, where the Pickwick Bicycle Club first met back in 1870.

Please raise your glasses to welcome our guests!

The pleasures of beingMrPickwick!

The cover of this issue depicts the scene where Mrs Bardell 'falls' for Samuel Pickwick. There follows an extract from Chapter X11 of an early version of **The Posthumous Papers of the Pickwick Club** for your amusement, and perhaps an incentive to aspire to the role of President if this is what happens!



"Oh you kind, good, playful dear" said Mrs Bardell and without more ado, she rose from her chair, and flung her arms around Mr Pickwick's neck, with a contract of tears and a chorus of sobs.

"Bless my soul," cried the astonished Mr Pickwick; "Mrs Bardell my good woman - dear me, what a situation - pray consider. Mrs Bardell, don't -if anybody should come -"

"Oh, let them come," exclaimed Mrs Bardell, frantically; "I'll never leave you - dear kind, good soul," and with these words Mrs Bardell clung the tighter.

"Mercy upon me," said Mr Pickwick, struggling violently, " I hear somebody coming up the stairs. Don't, don't, there's a good creature, don't. But entreaty and remonstrance were alike, unavailing; for Mrs Bardell had fainted in Mr Pickwick's arms; and before he could gain time to deposit her on a chair, Master Bardell entered the room, ushering in Mr Tupman, Mr Winkle, and Mr Snodgrass.

Mr Pickwick was struck motionless and speechless. He stood with his lovely burden in his arms, gazing vacantly on the countenances of his friends without the slightest attempt at recognition or explanation.

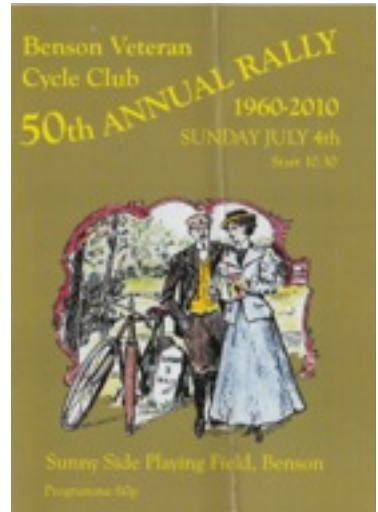
They in turn stared at him, and Master Bardell, in his turn stared at everyone!

The Benson Veteran Cycle Ride.....

Back in 2010 the BVCC celebrated it's 50th Anniversary, (see programme on the right) with over 200 riders taking part including several members of our own illustrious Club. In fact Mr Brooks was so keen he appears to have ridden two bicycles around the course!

Last year we had six entries and excellent weather. Yours truly rode around the course keeping a watchful eye on events and ensuring that I got to the refreshments stops first.

It would be good for the Club if we could get some more supporters out to Benson , Oxon, on the 5th July this year to enjoy a gentle ride, a Pit Stop at Ewelme and Lunch at The Lamb in Chalgrove, before returning to Benson for the awards ceremony. Make sure you remember the date and if you have any questions contact - Mr Brooks / 01962 774224.



A Cautionary Tale.....

An Extract from Cycling Magazine October 1914....." He was no Gentleman"

It was reported that a barman from Watford who, having walked 120miles and worn out his boots, appropriated a lady's bicycle, which he later exchanged for a gentleman's bike, thinking that it would be more suitable for his needs. In view of these actions, he was certainly no gentleman so even the suitability of the latter machine maybe doubted.

He was of course caught and had two convictions recorded against him.

A Past President reminisces.....

I have been asked by the Editor to write a review of my year as President. I will not chronicle all the activities of last year as they have already been covered in the magazine but will try to outline what the Club means to me, and some of the highlights from a very enjoyable year as Samuel Pickwick. I would also like to provoke some debate as to what the Club members want the Club to be in the future.

I set out with a number of objectives. I wanted to attract greater attendance at the events away from our two main luncheons. I had some success but, truthfully, there is less than 20% of the membership who participate in anything other than the May and December luncheons. Why is that? Cost, day of the week, relevance or ambivalence? I have heard the debate over many years that we are a cycling club and that we have encouraged more cycling members to join. The cycling events struggled again this year to achieve the numbers required - Revolution Evening, Harpenden Cycle Ride, Tour de France Harrogate, Benson and of course the Hampton Court Revival Ride. In fact we are in danger of losing the Imber Court facility due to the lack of numbers attending. It would be a great shame if we were to have to cancel this event as Pruffle and Hunt have put a lot of effort into making this a "go to" day in the Club's calendar.

I have spoken to a lot of members during my year and there seems to be a common theme - "cyclists are happy to spend money on their equipment but less likely to spend it on events". This could be a gross generalisation but was repeated to me by a number of people, including two Past Presidents who are also keen cyclists!

Maybe we should look at prospective members with a Dickens connection or, more radically, "good club men". I certainly would not have been considered a keen cyclist and my Dickens connection at the time was compulsory school curriculum but I believe I have made a contribution to the Club, and the Club has made a happy contribution to my life. Having opened the waiting list for new members, now is a good time to look at potential candidates proposed for membership and ask whether they will participate and contribute to the Club?

During my year I wanted to reinforce the traditions of the Club so I plagiarised menus from 1977, the year I joined the PBC and went for boys' food - no jus, pea or cauliflower puree, it had to be gravy, peas and cauliflower hearts; foam of any kind was banned completely!

I asked our Captain to announce where the fines collected during our two luncheons, were going to be donated, which culminated in a record amount being collected at the Annual Garden Party. More toasting took place and generally good fellowship was encouraged. I also wanted to make sure that the Officers and Members who work so hard to make things happen within the Club were acknowledged, thanked and supported. We used email a lot more to communicate events, amended the rules and have put in place succession plans for Club Officers who have provided unstinting support to the Club over many years.

Highlights of the year for me were the unveiling of the Dickens statue in Portsmouth, Revolution cycling and the meal before in the Berbeck Tavern (the plate of food and atmosphere in the bar will stay in my memory for a long time), the Grand Depart of the Tour de France and our day in Harrogate - what an experience, Yorkshire did us all proud. I also enjoyed riding at Benson and on the Hampton Court Ride - the exercise, conversation and not forgetting the necessary pub visits all added to thoroughly good days out. The Luncheons were also up to the usual high standard.

At the Annual Garden Party my son became a member, as did Past President Mr Staple's second son. I wonder how many other third (as in our case) or fourth generations are in the Club? The baton needs to be passed on to the younger members in maintaining the traditions of our great Club and ensuring that the events organised for the members by the members are well supported. Again debate within the Club as to what events should be organised should take place and support given.

There have been some concerns expressed over behaviour at our big luncheons. Membership is a privilege as proved by the waiting list and I would remind you all of the well-written foreword that appears in the Club handbook. I quote The Shepherd (Ken Barker): "membership is a privilege and does impose certain obligations. High amongst these is good manners and good fellowship."

I had a great year as your President and look forward to many more enjoyable occasions with "gentlemen" of the Pickwick Bicycle Club. Thank you for giving me the honour of being Samuel Pickwick in 2014.

Samkin

Events for 2015

Once again there is a full list of events for members and friends to participate in other than just the two main lunches. It is important that members do support these events in respect of the time and effort put in by those that organise them. Even if you only turn out as a spectator, you will be rewarded with an excellent day out and good Pickwickian hospitality.

3rd April - The Velodrome at Stratford will host the event formerly known as the Good Friday meeting @ Herne Hill. It is hoped that by the time you read this arrangements will have been made for a Club group to attend.

14th May - The President's Luncheon - apply Hon Sec/Sgt Buzfuz

11th June - Annual Golf & Cycle Ride at Harpenden - see page 17 and enclosed entry form details & apply to Smithers

21st June - BaillieMac Something Charity ride - see page 22 and enclosed sponsorship form.

5th July - Benson Veteran Cycle Ride - see page 13 & apply to Mr Brooks

11/12th July - Mr Pickwick Goes To France - BaillieMac Something has once again conjured up the annual trip to see the Tour de France - see also page 22 for details.

8th October - Hampton Court Bike Ride - eclectic mix of old & new bikes (and riders) roaming around Surrey - apply Pruffle
This event is in danger without YOUR support!

3rd or 10th December - 145th Annual Garden Party. Sgt Buzfuz is awaiting confirmation of actual date due to inefficiencies with The Connaught Rooms secretariat.

Annual Golf Day, Cycle Ride & Luncheon



will be held on Thursday 11th June
at
Harpenden Common Golf Club
Herts



Smithers has once again organised this event for everyone to enjoy, Members and their guests are cordially invited to participate in a friendly golf competition, enjoy a cycle ride or just come along and dine, and enjoy typical Pickwickian conviviality

Golfers are invited to compete for the magnificent & historic Club trophies, both members & their guests. The course, founded in 1932 is rural picturesque, not too demanding but with some challenging holes. There is only one hole where water comes into play, so no need to bring waders!

Regrettably the Golf Club have increased the green fees this year, hence the increased cost for them.

Cyclists are invited to enjoy a cycle ride under the kind direction of Mr Justice Stareleigh along the local lanes with a high probability of partaking refreshments in a hostelry en route.

After our chosen exertions Chef Martin will provide Fine Fayre for a late luncheon during which we can regale each other with tales of highs & lows either with club&ball or pedal&gel insert.

Following last year's later start time, which produced more golfers and fewer diners, we shall again meet later at 1000hrs for coffee & rolls (included this year for the cyclists as well) to allow a first T-off time of 1100hrs. The cyclists will depart at the same time, and I would estimate that we will dine at approximately 1600hrs.

Come along and enjoy a day of Pickwickian fellowship by completing the entry form enclosed in the magazine and sending it to Smithers - davlinc2000@aol.com

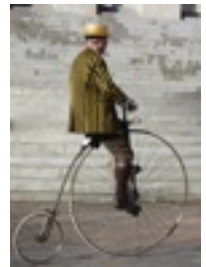


Who Were Your Early Namesakes? Researching Your Ancestors

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

Mr Watty - bankrupt client of Mr Perker:

'Oh, no, I'm sure it wouldn't,' replied the clerk, moving a little more into the centre of the doorway. 'He's certain not to be back this week, and it's a chance whether he will be next; for when Perker once gets out of town, he's never in a hurry to come back again.' 'Out of town!' said Mr. Pickwick; 'dear me, how unfortunate!' 'Don't go away, Mr. Pickwick,' said Lowten, 'I've got a letter for you.' The stranger, seeming to hesitate, once more looked towards the ground, and the clerk winked slyly at Mr. Pickwick, as if to intimate that some exquisite piece of humour was going forward, though what it was Mr. Pickwick could not for the life of him divine. 'Step in, Mr. Pickwick,' said Lowten. 'Well, will you leave a message, Mr. Watty, or will you call again?' 'Ask him to be so kind as to leave out word what has been done in my business,' said the man; 'for God's sake don't neglect it, Mr. Lowten.' 'No, no; I won't forget it,' replied the clerk. 'Walk in, Mr. Pickwick. Good-morning, Mr. Watty; it's a fine day for walking, isn't it?' Seeing that the stranger still lingered, he beckoned Sam Weller to follow his master in, and shut the door in his face.



Anthony J Smith	pre 1881 (President 1918)
Edwin Campbell	1924 to
L J Mansfield	1938 to 1965
Alexander S Newall	1965 to 2006 (President 1980)(Retired Member 2005)
Stuart Mason-Elliott	2005 to present

(Our 'Original Member' who has raised over £2 million in charity rides)

Hunt - Captain Boldwig's Head Gardener:

Mr. Pickwick had not been asleep half an hour when little Captain Boldwig, followed by the two gardeners, came striding along as fast as his size and importance would let him; and when he came near the oak tree, Captain Boldwig paused and drew a long breath, and looked at the prospect as if he thought the prospect ought to be highly gratified at having him to take notice of it; and then he struck the ground emphatically with his stick, and summoned the head-gardener. 'Hunt,' said Captain Boldwig. 'Yes, Sir,' said the gardener. 'Roll this place to-morrow morning--do you hear, Hunt?

'Yes, Sir.' 'And take care that you keep this place in good order--do you hear, Hunt?' 'Yes, Sir.' 'And remind me to have a board done about trespassers, and spring guns, and all that sort of thing, to keep the common people out. Do you hear, Hunt; do you hear?' 'I'll not forget it, Sir.'

Fitter S Smith	1942 to 1963
Joe T Fagg MBE	1966 to 1999
Roger Hitchman	2000 to present

Samkin - "Samkin & Green":

'That's exactly what I came here for,' said Mr. Pickwick, handing over the document. 'If anything particular occurs, you can write to me at the post-office, Ipswich.' '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?'



E H Norris	pre 1881
Dr Thos. S Keenan	1919 to 1935
T G Lance	1938 to 1940
H J Ashby	1945 to 1954
C M Medicott	1958 to 1975
Peter J Legg	1977 to present (President 2014)

Mr Slasher - a surgeon at St Bartholomew's hospital:

'What was that, sir?' inquired Mr. Pickwick. 'Only a man fallen out of a four pair of stairs' window; but it's a very fair case indeed.' 'Do you mean that the patient is in a fair way to recover?' inquired Mr. Pickwick.

'No,' replied Mr. Hopkins carelessly. 'No, I should rather say he wouldn't. There must be a splendid operation, though, to-morrow--magnificent sight if Slasher does it.' 'You consider Mr. Slasher a good operator?' said Mr. Pickwick.

'Best alive,' replied Hopkins. 'Took a boy's leg out of the socket last week--boy ate five apples and a gingerbread cake-- exactly two minutes after it was all over, boy said he wouldn't lie there to be made game of, and he'd tell his mother if they didn't begin.'

'Dear me!' said Mr. Pickwick, astonished.

Frank W Shorland	1908 to 1914 (President 1926)
Richard G C Manders	1922 to 1923
Joseph Lisle	1925 to 1933
F Charlton	1937 to 1965 (Winkle Cup 1938; Committee 1944)
B A Welfare	1965 to 1984
Derek E Keen	1986 to 2000
Steven Bannington	2013 to present

An observation by Philip Eden in the Telegraph in January 2015

" It has probably not occurred to anyone that the Christmas festivities at Dingley Dell should have taken place against a backdrop of grey skies, scuds of drizzle, a soft sou'wester and muddy Kentish lanes. For Dickens set Pickwick Papers in 1827 and records show that in London & the Home Counties this was an exceptionally mild, but gloomy Christmas.

Dickens did not cheat, but it has been observed that he 'fiddled' around with the chronology of Pickwick Papers: his original setting for Christmas at Dingley Dell was in 1830, and yes 1830 coincided with a notable wintry spell."

Bicycles and World War 1.....

So, having decided to cycle for the King (back page last issue), what, where and how did it happen?



Cycle mounted infantry, scouts & messengers were quite common-place during the latter part of the war. The Italians had their "Bersaglieri -light infantry units' (with folding bicycles), the Germans, their Jager battalions with bicycle companies, and the British their cycling battalions within its divisions - latterly becoming a Cyclist Division.

There have been volunteer cycling units as far back as the 1880s with the first bike unit in 1888 - the 26th Middlesex Rifle Volunteers. When WW1 started there were 14 cyclist 'groups' in the Territorial Force although they weren't sent to France as units. In 1914, the Army Cyclist Corps according to Army Order 477 was formed as an alternative to battalions, but bikes were not suited to trench warfare. Those that were sent to France were mainly used for reconnaissance and the rest were merely a means of transport for communication -messengers.



The bikes they used were far ranging...and heavy. The 1915 Military Sunbeam was a basic design of single speed and rod brakes. The most important requirement were clips to hold the rifle. Early versions of the clips were found to hold to foul the ankle, and restrict the rapid speed of detaching the gun ready for use. Many modifications were made so there was no uniform pattern or style. Folding bicycles were quite common.....and often carried on the back by the soldiers.

One slightly disturbing aspect of bicycle warfare was the 100 round ammo' pouch strapped under the saddle along with the puncture kit!

.....Baillie Mac Something Enterprises!....

As you are all aware our trusty colleague Baillie Mac Something is very much an organiser and this year will be no different. On this page you will find details of two events that he will be running again this year - and he needs your support.

Sunday 21st June - Cycle Ride

This will be the 27th Charity Cycle Ride of 30 miles, from The Plough at Winchmore Hill near Amersham. The Pickwick are the current holders of the Wembley RC shield having raised £800 last year for the Children's Adventure Playground in Taplow. The Mary Smithson Cup for the most monies raised went to *George the Embarrassed Gentleman* (David Phizakalea). There were 8 riders from the Pickwick enjoying a day in the saddle followed by a BBQ afterwards at Wildhatch courtesy of Mrs BaillieMac+ helpers. BaillieMac is himself riding this year for the South Bucks Hospice @ High Wycombe in aid of funding a new care centre.

Sponsorship forms are enclosed in the magazine or you can simply sponsor BaillieMac

Week end 11/12/13th July - Mr Pickwick Goes to France

Departing Saturday via Eurotunnel or Ferry, and meeting up at Loudeac on the Tour de France stage to Mur de Bretagne in Brittany. Overnight hotel stop in the area with a group dinner. Sunday it's off to see the Team Time Trial from Vannes - locating the group at a restaurant/bar en route to watch the teams pass. With the 22 teams starting at 5min intervals it's a perfect opportunity to watch high speed racing at the roadside with food & drink on tap. Returning to hotel in the evening there will be another group dinner.

After breakfast on Monday, it will be a return to the UK by the same route with of course a suitable lunch stop en route. It will be a great trip as always.

Baillie Mac Something needs to know numbers for both events as soon as possible so he can organise hotels etc and food for the BBQ. So get in touch with him NOW to avoid disappointment. Contact him on 01494 722611

New Members.....

Those of you that attended the AGM will be aware that for the first time in a number of years, the availability of 'spare' soubriquets has become quite significant. Thus all members will have received the letter from Sergeant Buzfuz, requesting nominations for suitable new members with a view to filling these roles in the next year or so.

I therefore thought it might be an opportune moment to ask those who have become members in the past year, to perhaps write to me and tell us something about their background in cycling or associated labours, because all we ever hear is the announcement at the luncheons, of their name and soubriquet. Have we got some unheralded champion on two wheels, or three or even one come to that? Has somebody raised a lot of money for charity on their bike, or....even written a book about the Club? We'd like to hear from you, and to have a picture as well, not only for this topic, but also for the Soubriquet histories that Joseph Smiggers (Steve Bullen) so ably compiles for each issue of the magazine.

So here are the names of new members since the 142nd Garden Party in December 2013:

December 2013 - The Hon.Wilmot Snipe (Howard Bradbury)
 Thomas Groffin (Richard Walker)
 Mr Raddle (Ross Lovett)

May 2014 - John Smauker (Vic Carroll)
 Mr Blotton (of Aldgate) (John McMillan)

December 2014 - Brother Mordlin (Chris Saltrick)
 Edward legg (Wilkins Flasher)
 Prince Bladud (James Tyler)
 The Clergyman of Dingley Dell (Tim Chapman)

Tom Smart Rides L'Eroica Again.....



Tom Smart wrote to Joe the Fat Boy - "Last weekend I took part in the 2014 L'Eroica 130 km event in Gaiole in Chianti, Italy. I rode on my 1978 Raleigh bike with original equipment; jersey & race shorts and the shoes which I was wearing are from that time when I was riding for the TI Raleigh Team.

More than 5000 participants from all over the world started in the morning on their 35, 75, 130 or 200 km rides. Around 30-40 % on " Strada Bianca", which means gravel roads.

The prize for the hard ride was a bottle of Chianti wine which you see in my bottle cage. At the start line I was standing at 6.30am with an American boy, who was happy to ride for the first time at L'Eroica. On the road I met some riders from Australia, coming over only for being part of that event."

[Tom (aka Klaus-Peter Thaler) is a former Cyclo-Cross World Champion, and a Star of L'Eroica which is held each year in Tuscany]

Letters to The Editor



This is your chance to have your say.

Write to: The Editor 12 Kearton Close, Kenley, CR8 5EN

or email: pickwick2610@hotmail.com

I received the following from Mr Smithie (aka Gino Goddard) following a request for an extra copy of the magazine -if available.....

Dear Roger (Mr Winkle Snr)

A belated thank you for the extra magazine and enclosed note, which I eventually found amongst some unpaid bills, and a summons to visit the Fleet Prison! The extra magazine was for a childhood lady friend (when I was very young you understand) who went to 'finishing school' in Switzerland where two of her friends married bike riders. One was Charly Gaul (climber & TdF rider) , and the other was Lucien Gillen (a 6-day rider).

Thanks again, kind regards

Gino (Mr Smithie)

Thanks Gino - appreciate the only letter received for this issue!

Interesting names you have mentioned. I remember Charly Gaul, a superb climber known as The Angel of the Mountain in the 1958 TdF when he won four stages. He also won the Giro d'Italia twice in '56 & '59. Amazingly he rode best in the cold & wet! Lucien was a prolific 6-day rider from Luxembourg, competing in 116 events and winning many of them with Italian rider Ferdinando Terruzzi and German rider Willi Altig (brother of Rudi). His career spanned more than 20years, and afterwards he became director of the Berlin 6-Day event for many years.....Winkle Snr

A message from your Captain.....Dismal Jemmy

Remember the **PBC** code when inviting a guest.

Please ensure he arrives, correctly dressed,

Be politely silent at each tenable request,

Compliant in manner throughout is blest.



TAKE HEED!



Your President, **Quanko Samba** has requested I inform you all that he will be supporting two charities during his year of office - namely Felix and Prostate Cancer.

Felix is a charity that supports bomb disposal officers and their families and can be found at www.felixfund.org.uk

Prostate Cancer can be found at www.pctrf.org

Thank You

An Extraordinary Ride on an Extraordinary Ordinary.....

It is fairly commonplace nowadays for cyclists to perform daring and dangerous feats, defying injury and even loss of life. Some observers would agree that commuting in present day conditions is hazard enough. Yet some still seek to attempt daring exploits.

Not so prevalent in the early years of cycling were there voluntary and thrilling displays. Uninvited hazards were mainly encountering herds of cattle or sheep or the sting from an angry coachman's whip. Yet there is an actual account of a series of 'tricks' performed by two extraordinary cyclists, circa 1886, in America. Messrs Kaufmann & McAnney performed their 'tricks' on a 'Star' bicycle.

This machine differs from the Old Ordinary in that the small wheel is in advance and steers the machine while the weight of the rider rests mainly on the 50 or 52 inch large driving-wheel. In October 1886, a daring and foolhardy feat was performed one afternoon near Washington. The "Pittsburg Dispatch" received a telegram reporting the event that took place at Cabin John Bridge. The bridge was said at that time to be the largest single span of masonry in the world. It was 125ft high and about 200ft long, with a single magnificent arch spanning a deep and rocky gorge.

It was a very popular place, attracting large crowds of visitors. On this occasion a party was in progress in a bridge-side shed with the occupants telling stories and boasting of their riding skills; their machines stacked outside the building. In the midst of the hilarity, one young man came out alone, selected his machine, mounted and, without a word, rode off towards the bridge..

There was a brownstone coping on the three foot wide wall on either side of the roadway. This coping was about a foot wide and bevelled on the upper two edges for an inch or two. On the inside of the wall was the roadway and on the outside a sheer drop of about 125ft in the centre and no less than 75ft at either end. The young man rode to the bridge end, and placed his machine on top of the coping, remounted and started to ride along it, to the considerable horror of onlookers. "The sight froze the blood of the ladies and children picnicking in the gorge below, and was enough to appall the stoutest heart". From the end of the bridge he seemed a toy machine running by mechanism, so erect and motionless he sat, and so evenly he rode.

This Extraordinary Tale Continues.....



In two places the coping made a zigzag by the road widening, and here he had to steer through a very narrow space at right angles. As the young man negotiated this ticklish spot, and a similar spot a little further on, not a single one of the horrified spectators could draw a breath for fear! From there to the end was a short, straight run and he completed his dangerous ride and dismounted, waving to the frightened men and women witnesses.

Calmly remounting his Star bicycle, he rode off towards the city as though it was his everyday activity - but it appears that he had been challenged to prove he had the ability and nerve to perform it - which he undoubtedly did!

By Joe The Fat Boy 2015 (Sketch by Lord Bury 1886)

Samkin has advised that the Club Committee are planning to order more material for the manufacture of Club Blazers & Waistcoats. This should be available sometime during late Summer.

Blazers are priced at £235 each, and Waistcoats at £100 each.

Club Members wishing to purchase such desirable attire should contact either Samkin or Buzfuz.

March 2015 Caption Competition



Photograph courtesy: Joe the Fat Boy

A chance to win a prize for the best caption entered by a Club Member

Entries (max two per member) in writing or by email to the editor by September 11th closing date

September 2014 Caption Competition Result

Photograph courtesy: Joe the Fat Boy

Well, there were a lot of entries for this particular caption competition and it took the deciding vote of Mrs Winkle Snr to declare a winner.



“ These Bar Coded Blazers are Very Heavy ”

Congratulations then to the person who took the picture - Joe the Fat Boy!

(A small prize will be sent to your residence in due course)

Passing of time.....and friends

Unfortunately we have lost three Club members since the last magazine which is very sad of course, and probably highlights/re-enforces Samkin's comments about the Club needing some younger members to carry it forward.

Brian Fredericks - Jack Hopkins

Buzfuz received a letter from Brian's wife Shirley informing of his passing last Autumn at the age of 79. He ran his own insurance brokerage for many years, and in 2003 was made a Freeman of the City of London for his services. He was Vice-President of Leyton Orient FC, and had been a member of the Pickwick BC since 1987.



Mike Johnson - Bill Stumps

Following a long period of illness, Mike passed away in a Hospice in December. He had been a Club member since 2010.

Trevor Paine - Nockemorf (Retired)

Tony Paine notified Buzfuz of the passing of his father Trevor in December at the age of 93. From a background of Law and then Accountancy, he came into contact with a cycle shop in North London who introduced him to a 'mysterious cycle function' of which he became a Club member in 1976.



An appreciative letter from the beneficiaries of Your Charitable Donations



Mr Peter Legg
Pickwick Bicycle Club
Moss Farm Barn
Moss Lane
Siddington
SK11 9DA

20th February 2015

Dear Peter,

Thank you so much for your donation of £1,937.94 to Help for Heroes (H4H) collected at a recent meeting of your club. Your support is making a huge difference to the lives of some truly inspirational people.

One such person is Trooper Lee Matthews, who went into hospital for a routine operation three and a half years ago. However, complications left him with constant pain, muscle spasms and fatigue. For a long time this made life very difficult, and Lee became depressed.

Then he was introduced to Wheelchair Basketball and his life was transformed. In his own words, *"when I am sitting in that chair the pain just fades away and I am completely free."*

On Saturday 13th September, Lee took to the court to represent his country once more; this time at the Invictus Games where, with the British Armed Forces Wheelchair Basketball team, he won a Gold medal.

Lee says *"The Invictus Games helped me to fall in love with life again and I will never be able to express just how much Wheelchair Basketball now means to me. I owe Help for Heroes – and everyone who supports them – a debt of gratitude that I can never repay. So, thank you for doing your bit; everyone who has suffered a life-changing injury or illness appreciates and is thankful for the support."*

The battle continues and H4H must be there for Lee whenever he might need, and for the 75,000 other heroes who are likely to need support over the coming years.

People like you make this possible so thank you, on behalf of all 'the blokes', for your continued and valued support. It truly makes a difference.

Best wishes,

Volunteer at Help for Heroes

On behalf of Bryn & Emma, Co-Founders - Help for Heroes

*Thankyou so much for dressing
H4H for this collection donation.
Your support is very much
appreciated.*

Tel: 01725 513212 Email: info@helpforheroes.org.uk www.helpforheroes.org.uk

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Help for Heroes is registered as a charity in Scotland. Scottish charity number SC044984.
Registered Office and Headquarters: 14 Parkers Close, Downton Business Centre, Downton, Salisbury, Wiltshire SP5 3BR.

