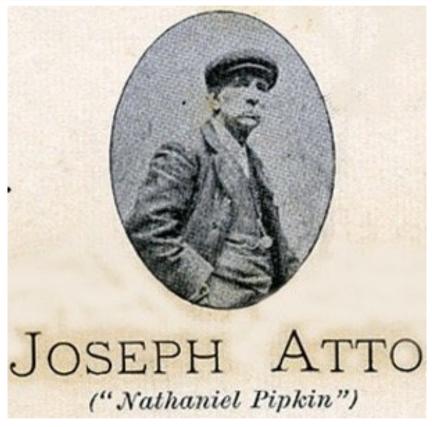
The Pickwick Magazine

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



Founded in 1870



April 1833 - June 1918

Editor: Mr Winkle Snr

Volume 15 No.1 March 2018

Volume 15

More Editorial Mutterings......

So what news on the cycling front? The Club do have several vintage machines that are available for use at certain functions, but then we ask "where are the riders?" As you will see on a later page, Hunt was asked the same question at the post Hampton Court Ride lunch. Our Club has a long history and pole position in terms of age, and yet we often find ourselves outnumbered by



guests etc at any cycling event. The Golf Cycling Day in June is so short of riders that Justice Stareleigh is questioning whether we continue with the bike ride - there were only 4 riders in 2017. In contrast, some of you may be aware of the Eroica event in Derbyshire in June, where cyclists yearning for yesteryear, pay large amounts of money to participate in what amounts to a historic revival of bicycles, period clothing et al over three days. They attract so many cyclists that many of the ride tickets were sold out by the end of 2017.

We are approaching a landmark event in 2020 when the Club celebrates its 150th anniversary, and during that year a number of events will be held, some of which will lend themselves to riding a bicycle. As you delve into this magazine will find a summary of the activities the Club's special committee are considering. The Club has over 200members, so we can surely manage to raise a noticeable number of machines & riders to support them. We are after all, a cycling Club!

In the meantime, 2018 sees the 100th anniversary of Joseph Atto's passing. For those of you who perhaps don't know the club history, Joseph is responsible for the punch bowl ceremony at the luncheons. More about him later in this issue.

For the first time the proceedings of the AGM are reported. An increasing number of members do now attend the meeting, and it's encouraging to think that there is an interest to know how the club officers look after the well being of our Club. Have a great summer

Winkle Snr

Closing Date for the October issue is 30th August 2018.

All contributions are welcome and should be sent to the Editor, by email to: <u>pickwick2610@hotmail.com</u>

or to: Taverners, Warninglid Lane, Plummers Plain, West Sussex RH13 6NY



A Secretarial Report from Sgt Buzfuz

email:sdownham@hughesellard.com

Firstly may I offer all members belated good wishes for the coming year. I am sorry that I was not able to be present at the AGM and Garden Party, but I believe that Mr Watty performed well, and everything went smoothly. For those not present I should report that we have a new President, Pruffle (Aiden Hegarty) who I know has exciting plans for his year. The program is shown elsewhere in this edition. The new Deputy President is your newsletter editor Mr Winkle Senior (Roger Warwick). Roger is one of our longest serving members having been elected in 1972.

Mr Dumkins (Patrick Green) was elected as the new Deputy Captain. There were several new nominations for committee membership. Rather than trying to elect 7 members from 8 names the meeting took the sensible decision to co-opt or elect them all for the coming year. (Volunteers are always welcome). Newly elected to the committee are Bob Sawyer (Gerry Taylor), Charlie the Pot Boy (Adrien Stevens) and Sir Geoffrey Manning (Peter Benmax). After several years Master Tommy Bardell (Ralph Dadswell) stood down, and the club thanks him for his contribution.

The long awaited handbook is with the printers and it is hoped will be circulated in the not too distant future. Plans are also well under way for the 150^{th} anniversary, with the subcommittee, under the chairmanship of Samkin (Peter Legg), progressing several issues and ideas. 2020 will be a year to remember.

Back to more usual events the President's luncheon will be held on the usual date of the second Thursday in May (10th). Members are reminded that there is no limit on guest numbers. Full tables of 8, 9 or 10 are available so why not make a party. Ticket applications will be distributed in due course (They may already be out by the publication date of the newsletter.) I hope to see as many of you as possible at the event. I am not planning another trip to Australia just yet!

Finally some of you had your photograph taken at the Garden Party. The aim for 2020 is a membership book that has a head and shoulders shot of all members and retired members. About 70 shots were taken in December, if you have not been 'shot' yet, please ensure you are captured in May or December this year at the latest. **Buzfuz**

The President's Address.....

My dear Winkle Snr, may I take this opportunity to wish you a personal Happy New Year and on behalf of all members thank you for our informative journal.

I am honoured to be President of such an august Club. It is my intention to support all events that the club participates in during 2018. We have the 100 year memorial of the death of Joseph Atto, who kindly left a sum of money in his will to buy his chums from the Pickwick Bicycle Club a drink of punch. A tradition still upheld today - what a lovely, kind gesture by one of our own.

As you are aware it has been traditional for the President to support some worthy charitable cause during his term in office, so my nominated charity for 2018 will be Cyclists Fighting Cancer. This charity aids young people up to the age of 21 in being in possession of a bicycle to ride, or adapting a bicycle so that those whose illness requires this, have a bicycle that is suitable.

I have had for a number of years, a great friend Martin Guest, who has accompanied me to several Pickwick lunches. He stated some years ago that in my year as President of the Club he would ride every stage of the Tour de France to raise money for my chosen charity. This he will do in 2018, and I ask that every member supports him either with a financial contribution or in some material way (come on... we have lots of members in the trade) You may also be aware that the World Cycling Road Race championships are to be held in Yorkshire in September 2019 and I have been approached by our good friends in the Pedal Club about co-hosting a dinner for the UCI whilst this event takes place. As the oldest bicycle club in the world and the great relationship we have with the Pedal Club I hope this is something we can achieve.

I know there are people working hard in the background preparing for our 150th anniversary in 2020. Again I would ask for any help that members may be able to give to this project please step forward, these things just don't happen, it takes hard work and commitment. Mr Winkle Snr, through the pages of this fine magazine may I thank the officers and committee of the club for the sterling work they do on our behalf, to ensure we have a Club to be proud of.

My best wishes to all,

Samuel Pickwick.(Aidan Hegarty)

You Know What Your Captain Would Say

Volume 15

Captain Dr Payne would like to remind everybody that the rules about timing and silence are important and must be obeyed. It is very inconsiderate to arrive late, and to talk when asked to be quiet. At the December Garden Party, it was necessary for Deputy Captain Mr Dumkins to instruct the bar staff to stop serving 10 minutes prior to the allotted time of 1 o'clock. There is plenty of warning with our military guest's fanfare, so you have been warned.



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Past President - Jingle At Large



At the Past President's Lunch



At The Golf Day



At Benson



I thought I might sign up again



At the Leather Bottle

Hampton Court Ride 2017

The day dawned bright once again for the annual Hampton Court Ride. Two groups gathered in the car park at Imber Court and awaited final instructions from Chief Commissar Pruffle.

He had warned everyone whilst caffeine was consumed in large quantities, that he would say only once (no French accent) " 5 Minutes Riders", but nobody was ready. Finally the ancients left for Hampton Court, whilst the moderns set off for the Surrey lanes and more coffee. Not sure why but the actual numbers riding bikes on this very sunny day seems to have been forgotten, suffice to say a great day was had by all.



Hunt now takes up the tale for the 'ancients'......

Hunt & The Hampton Court Bike Ride

At approximately 1409hrs in the afternoon of Thursday 12th October, a gathering of over 50 people - Pickwickians & guests sat down for our annual lunch following the Hampton Court ride. I sat at the far table with my guest Andy, opposite sat "Tom Martin", "Mr Luffey" and "Count Smalltork", along with their invited guests, plus 5 members of the Pedal Club, which all in all made for a fun & interesting table. One member of the Pedal Club enquired "Why are there so few of your members here?" A quick look around the tables at the lack of boaters summed up the situation. As we started to chat about the merits of the day, we were interrupted by Pruffle at the far end of the room, banging his spoon for attention, and informing us about proceedings, and details of the day's charity. After grace by Mr President on the top table, our conversation started up again and returned to the earlier events of the day. We reflected on the 1130hrs pit-stop at the Star pub in Hampton Hill, which had plied us with welcome refreshments at the half way stage of our ride along the Thames footpath and through Bushy Park.



Whilst resting at the Star, my attention had been drawn to Ian Why, riding on a bike of which he had built the frame himself; so with a pint of London Pride (there are other brands of course, but not half as good-Ed) in one hand and a beef sandwich in the other, I went for a closer inspection. After a near miss with a guest riding Mr Watty's 1817 Draisine -balance bike around the pub garden whilst taking a selfie, I opted to return to the safety of a garden table and yet another sandwich. You have to prepare for lunch you know. I decided I should call " 5 MINUTES RIDERS" before I lost anybody before heading back to the bar, and off we headed on the return journey.



Interrupted once more by Pruffle banging the table with his spoon - this time to take wine with all the ladies who had joined us for the ride and lunch.

Back into Bushy Park, we were treated to our annual sighting of two large stags going head to head for supremacy during the rutting season. A very violent fight ensued for the next 2-3 minutes with the victor finally chasing off his weaker rival. Quite a sight not often seen at such close quarters. A photo opportunity at the Diana Fountain in the park -taken by an 'outsider' ensuring we all featured in said picture, and it was a quick spin into Hampton Court Palace gardens, where we had to walk. A very athletic looking Lycra clad 'youngster' on an orange carbon fibre machine took a great interest in the eclectic mix of our bicycles, many of which required an explanation for him. He was suitably interested in Watty's Draisine and was allowed to try it around the forecourt - not easy with cleats. We then made our way back to Imber Court, with great memories of another sunny October day, and having had the opportunity to wipe the dust of our machines of years gone by and enjoy the fresh air with like-minded friends.

Once more our conversations were interrupted by Mr Hegarty and his spoon!! At this point I made a note for myself to ensure that the aforementioned has plastic cutlery for next year's lunch, and we can gather again with hopefully a few more members. "Hunt"

When lunch was concluded, the presentation of the various trophies was made:

Highgate Cup - Horatio Fitzkin (Ian Why); Distance Plate - Mr Mallard (Ray Kelly) Shakespeare Plate - Mr Watty (Stuart Mason-Elliot); President's Cup - Wilmot Snipe (Howard Bradbury); Burts Pedals - Samuel Pickwick/Jingle (Ron Beale);



So ended another very pleasant day with thanks going once again to Pruffle & Hunt

Did You Know?

Inertia & The Bicycle

Whilst we know that Albert Einstein was very clever -I am assuming of course that you all recall his theory of relativity, but he also knew about bicycles. He informed his son in 1930, that "life is like riding a bicycle; to keep your balance you must keep moving." However in Japan in 1965, Tsugunobu Mitsuishi chose to ignore this theory. He decided to try to remain balanced and totally stationary on his bicycle, without any support and with neither pedalling or forward/backward movement at all. He achieved a still unchallenged record of 5hrs 25mins. (courtesy Cycling's Strangest Tales/Pavilion books)

Now for something entirely......Different??

The following very amusing email was sent to our esteemed secretary Sgt Buzfuz in said member's quest to be sure of acquiring tickets for the 2017 Garden Party.

"Subject: Re- The Prandial Extravaganza At the Connaught Rooms On Thursday 7th December 2017.

Gadzooks and Hey-Nonny-No !!!

It appears that the Gods of mythology are looking kindly upon us. I trust that Ascelupius (health and medicine) is looking favourably upon you and all of the Committee of the Pickwick Bicycling Club !!.

Jupiter (the boss) has instructed Mercury (the messenger) to deliver the sum of £490.00 to the Celtic Chiron (the keeper at the Allied Irish Bank) in exchange for seven 'letters of marque' which will allow Janus (gates and doors) to grant us entry to that exquisitely decorated Anderson Shelter in Great Queen Street (or should that be Great Juno Street??) at 13.00 hours on the seventh day of the twelfth month of the Gregorian calendar (promptness is a priority, so are jackets and ties) *Anno Dominae* 2017.

Should Mnemosyne (memory) serve me well then I now need to employ Diana (the huntress) so seek out the services of Bacchus (Wine) in order to ensure that the feast is replete and complimented with such nectars and I will pay homage (in advance) to Tellus (the earth) to ensure that it will not be unstable underfoot at the culmination of this festive banquet. In the absence of Bacchus can you instruct Ganymede (the cup-bearer) or any one of his sommelier associates to contact me so that we can select from their wares and all experience their examples of bacchanalian excellence.

May Plutus (wealth) and Fortuna (luck) look favourably on us all and assist in the amassing of our accounts with Chiron (keeper/bank manager).

I await your reply with eager anticipation.

Best Regards, Roger Gibbons (Mr Tuckle)"

The 2017AGM Held on 7th December

The AGM held before the Annual Garden Party was of some significance to members this year, with a record number of attendees, and so worth reporting. Our Secretary Sgt Buzfuz was winging his way to that far off land that are allegedly quite good at cricket, and so Mr Watty stepped ably into the breach. President Samuel Pickwick (Jingle) chaired the meeting and we moved swiftly through the more formal parts of the proceedings. The issue of membership arose and it has been decided since there are as ever, more applicants than soubriquets, the waiting list would remain closed for another year.

The agenda listing was then "skipped" to item 8, which was the Election of Officers. This was to enable the election of a Deputy Captain to take place, in order that whoever was elected could 'disappear' with the Captain/Dr Payne to complete the seating arrangements in the big hall. There being two applicants -Mr Dumkins & Daniel Grummer, a hasty ballot took place and Mr Dumkins (Paddy Green) was duly elected,...And departed!. The election of committee members was also a relatively simple affair, there being a standard requirement of 8 Officers, there was one vacancy following a retirement, and two applicants. By an unanimous vote it was agreed that forthwith there would be 9 officers on the committee.

The treasurer then explained that the club funds and assets were in sterling (not euros!) condition, and that the funding for the 2020 150th celebrations was already being spent. Mr Brooks intervened (when doesn't he?) wishing to enquire further about said celebrations, and was raucously directed by all present to a later item on the agenda about that very topic. The accounts were duly approved. The new members for 2017 were then ratified. Subscriptions for 2018 were briefly discussed -with Mr Brooks suggesting a 'year off' but it was agreed to leave them as they are for the present.

AOB - then consumed more time than the rest of the meeting with the longest list of items I ever recall seeing under the heading. It commenced with Past President Samkin enlightening everyone (including Mr Brooks) about the many plans for the 150th Anniversary Year in 2020 and the current stage of affairs. Hunt also spoke about some plans that he and Pruffle were considering as part of the celebrations. This will all be given its' own page in the magazine...so keep reading!

It had been brought to the attention of some members that the 2019 World Cycling Championship Road races will take place in Harrogate in the September and the members were asked for a show of hands to see if there was support for a Pickwick Event- 'oop North'. The motion was carried, so watch this space. It was then noted that the erstwhile Mrs Bardell, who has been a major contributor to the organisation of the two annual luncheons had retired after an (estimated) 17 years, and apart from dining with the soldiers, had never been seen by the august gathering. It was therefore suggested that perhaps "the said lady could be invited to the Spring Luncheon". This suggestion was proposed and seconded but the matter remains TBC.

Smiggers then showed us the Pickwick Shield/Medal currently held by the National Cycling Museum in Wales and on loan for the meeting. (more info on page 23)

Mr Brooks drew attention to the 100th Anniversary of Joseph Atto- he of the Punch Bowl - in June 2018. He felt that a Club gathering should be organised at the Chingford Cemetery around that time. Bill the Turnkey offered to maintain contact with the cemetery pending any plans.

Another date for the diary was the "World Cycling Revival" at what is now called the Herne Hill Velodrome to be held on 14-16th June. An opportunity for anyone to attend wearing attire of past times and bicycles to match. (See: <u>www.hernehillvelodrome.co.uk</u>)

Justice Stareleigh then questioned if the start of the bike ride at the annual golf day could be brought forward to encourage more riders to participate. In 2017 there were only 4 riders, and hardly worth organising. An earlier start would enable a longer ride or more time at the coffee stop. Views on this are welcome especially if you plan to ride.

Finally Pruffle had the opportunity to comment on what plans he has for his year as President - all the existing events will continue for 2018, but he also asked those present what they wanted from the club. Ideas to the President please. He did inform us that one of his guests would be riding the Tour de France route next summer - behind the main event, to raise money for charity - and he hope to organise an event in Paris to celebrate this achievement (but not to conflict with Mr P Goes to France).

Everybody then departed rapidly to his (or her) (gender positive) various watering holes and to purchase wine before the 1250hrs cut-off.

Winkle Snr

Another friend departs.....

It is with regret that we announce the death of "Jack" / Jack Creasey towards the end of 2017. He had been a member of the Club since 1996. Unfortunately we have no other details, but Buzfuz has sent condolences on behalf of the Club.



The 147th Annual Garden Party.....

And so our December luncheon was once again upon us, and the Grand Connaught Rooms were clearly struggling with the seating as members arrived for the 11am AGM start. There were signs of desperation at the wine queue prior to the AGM -not for fear of missing the AGM, but that of having nothing to drink at lunch! An urgency also prevailed at the AGM this year as we were required to elect a new Assistant Captain to assist Captain Dr Payne of the 43rds getting to grips with the main event

arrangements for the usual 1 o'clock gathering. This was quickly resolved, but there is a separate report of the AGM in this issue, as there were many more items to discuss.

There was the usual crescendo of noise in the anteroom, before our friends from the Household Cavalry gave the 10 minute warning, but this was then topped by newly appointed

assistant Captain -Mr Dumkins as he instructed the bar staff to cease serving at precisely 1250pm! Once in place, our Captain made his voice and intentions clear that we should be silent when he spoke. There followed our regular song practice albeit different words to those prescribed on the menu so life continued much the same as ever. For once most guests were in place before our President marched in alone, without the principle guest.

"What a to do," Mr Pickwick would have proclaimed.

The original member this year was Charles Fitz-William (Andrew Donald), who was welcomed to the President's table to take wine, as lunch commenced. Whilst the food continues to be excellent at this luncheon, with this year's selection of marinated melon; pan fried red-mullett; guinea fowl breast with trimmings, and concluding with hazelnut & chocolate Yule Log, mince pies & coffee, -the catering staff seemed to lose their way, with many diners having finished courses before others were served.





Past President, Joseph Smiggers P.V.P.M.C. then welcomed a list of memorable guests, before asking Club members to raise their glasses -see page 15 for the full details.



Our Captain Dr Payne, in full control then brought the necessary order to proceedings for the arrival of the Boys of the Old Brigade accompanied by Mr Dumkins bringing the Joseph Atto punch bowl to the President's table. Both old comrades (once again appearing younger than many members) gave their rank & numbers with gusto, although one declined to give too much away for fear of court martial.

The time then arrived when Sergeant Buzfuz would usually be called upon to announce the new members, but shock horror he was not present, having departed to the colonies to be with family over the festive period. Thus it was, that no lesser personage than Mr Wattyhe of the incredible rides on even more incredible bikes -, as Assistant Secretary arose and introduced the new members and gave them their soubriquets. These were:

Roger Hammond, now known as Captain Boldwig; Neil Smith becomes Porkin (of Porkin & Snob); Alf Engers henceforth will be Tom Roker.

We welcome them all to the Club and trust they will help to maintain its traditions and continuity.

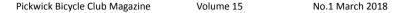
The arrival of the Plum Pudding was a much higher profile event this year, but still no dimming of the already dim blue lights, but it certainly tasted good.



Our principal guest Gary Marshall had, during lunch, finally arrived, having been delayed due to transportation issues -should have come by bike!. Gary has been a professional award winning comedian for over 20years. With his spiky hair, and his unique deadpan delivery style with killer punch lines, he kept our attention before he concluded by asking the guests to charge their glasses to the "Immortal Memory........."

President Samuel Pickwick /Jingle responded on behalf of the Club, commenting that he was still amazed to have been elected President, how much he had enjoyed his year and hoped that the extra events organised had been enjoyed by all participants. His final duty of his year was to handover the mantle of Club President to Pruffle/Aiden Hegarty until December 2018.





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The Boys of the Old Brigade & The Band of The Household Cavalry

The singing of Auld Lang Syne brought proceedings to a close for another year, although there were plenty of opportunities for the now regular photo-shots with both the Household Cavalry Officers & the Chelsea pensioners, as well as the presence of a professional photographer who was attempting to capture pic's of all Club members in attendance, for incorporation in the planned special 'members book' -part of the 2020 celebrations.

A little story from Frank Simmery (Helmut Stibal) shows how once hooked into the Pickwick Bicycle Club there is no escape!

Dear Winkle Snr,

Thank you for the last Club magazine. I would like to tell you of a recent happening that might amuse you. I had to organise a walking trip to the Black Forest for a small group of friends and sent out a message with details, and mentioning that we should have a lunch package for a picnic in the open air. But instead of writing 'picnic' I wrote Pickwick!

You should know that even in German language we use the term "picnic" My friends also know about my connection to the Pickwick Club, and whilst walking they asked me if the change of spelling was simply to amuse them. It was only then I realised my slip.

What does this tell us? It shows just how much my mind is always involved in Pickwick affairs.

Best wishes Frank Simmery

A Toast to our Honoured Guests 2017

Gentlemen! My name is Joseph Smiggers and it is my great pleasure to have been entrusted by our President, Mr Samuel Pickwick Esq, to toast our honoured guests. Firstly, a very warm welcome to each and every one of our guests. Some of you are familiar faces, but many will be experiencing our hospitality for the first time.

As you look around at your host and the other Club members, you will be struck by three things: - their immaculate uniform of straw boater and black & gold tie, together with their name badge, even some gold & black jackets or waistcoats. Some are even wearing medals signifying that they have been honoured with being President of this illustrious Club. Their behaviour reflects our concern that all guests should be able to enjoy the fellowship of this gathering, and be able to listen clearly to each of our speakers. Some may look as though they were one of the original members from 1870. Sadly, they are mere contempories. Their rugged, well-worn looks reflect the seriousness with which they take their training, and the preparation required to ensure that their guests have a day to remember.

And now gentlemen, it is my great pleasure - indeed honour, to introduce to you a small selection of our honoured guests at this 147th celebration of the Pickwick Bicycle Club;

On table D: Mr Dave Parry, guest of Job Trotter, is retiring after 25 years in the cycle trade. **On table B**: The Honourable Mr Crushton is enjoying the company of: Simon Wear, CEO & Founder of "Shift Media" and of "Play Sports Network"; Darren Gough, retired England cricketer, presenter of "Drivetime" show for "Talksport"; Ashley Palmer-Watts, Michelin Star Chef at "Dinner with Heston Blumenthal"; Wayne Brown, Managing Director of "Play Sports Group"; Colin Sturgess, Director Sportif for "Madison Genesis". (A professional cyclist with a long palmares including gold and bronze medals in the individual pursuit at the 1989 and 1991 track world championships. He was inducted into the British Cycling Hall of Fame in 2010.); Dom Langan, CEO "Madison Group" and team principal "Madison Genesis Racing Team".

On table H: Mr Warren is entertaining: Johan Museeuw, retired Belgian professional road racing cyclist from 1988 to 2004. Particularly successful in the cobbled classics, where he won both the Tour of Flanders and Paris-Roubaix three times, and was road world champion in 1996. He also achieved two individual stage wins in the Tour de France and two national road championships as well as several classic races. In 1996 he was awarded the Velo d'Or- awarded annually to the rider considered to have performed the best over the year. **On table P**: The Red-Headed Man is in the company of Eugene Anker, England Manager for the UK Acrobatic Flying Team.

Our principal guest, and today's speaker, is award winning comedian Gary Marshall. I'm told he has a dry and wicked sense of humour delivered in a relaxed manner.

Gentlemen, If handsome is as handsome does, then today our visitors are very beautiful!

Please be upstanding and toast our guests.

The First Cycling Road Race Paris to Versailles, 8th December 1867

The first ever bicycle race happened just 150 years ago when over 100 Velocipede riders raced the 17km from the Champs Élysée to the Palace of Versailles, with the winner arriving after 58 minutes, despite temperatures of $-12^{\circ}C$. The average speed of 11mph was hampered by the climb from the Seine valley of around 100m in altitude with some parts above 5% gradient. 1867 was the very start of Velocipede riding in Paris and the following article from Le Sport (4th August 1867) confirms the development of the first races:

A New Trifle. The Sport says: A hippodrome of a new kind is the portion of the Bois de Boulogne chosen by the lovers of locomotion by velocipedes, where, every morning, these gentlemen give themselves up to what we may term the most violent exercise. From nine to eleven in the forenoon, in the space about the Cascade, is crowded by the amateurs and spectators of these races. Among the most assiduous and skillful of the former are to be observed - Prince Joachim Murat, the Prince de Sagan; M Blount; Count Onesimo Aguado; Count Georges d'Orgeval; Count de Saint-Sauveur; and several others. Many of these have become so skillful as to go 24 Kilometres (15 miles) an hour without the least fatigue. Some grand races during the autumn are at present being organized, the course to be gone over extending from the Rond-point of the Champs Elysees to St Cloud. Several trials have been made and the distance has been done in 13 minutes. In fact some considerable bets were made on that occasion. These gentlemen are about to form a velocipede club; and it will have fewer difficulties to contend against than the skating club, inasmuch as it will be independent of variations of temperature.

Most of the gentlemen cited as riders in 1867 were members of the Jockey Club of Paris, a Parisian aristocratic circle of prominent members of society. It is even possible that some ladies participated, like the English Cora Pearl, the most famous and eccentric courtesan in Paris at the time. So, to mark this 150th Anniversary, 20 riders on original Velocipedes braced the cold and rain to re-enact this memorable ride in the development of cycling history, on Sunday 10th December 2017. Representing the UK and the Pickwick Bicycle Club was Mr Watty (Stuart Mason-Elliott) riding the same velocipede that carried him 550 miles from Paris - Avignon in 2015 - so 10.6 miles should be easy!

Pickwick Bicycle Club Magazine

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Starting from the Grand Palais, off the Champs Élysée following the same route, but on tarmac roads rather than the gravel tracks of 1867. Passing the Eiffel Tower it was interesting to reflect that it wasn't built until over 20 years later in 1889. The Velo Club de Paris rode as outriders, stopping traffic to allow minimal dis-mounting for the Velocipedists, and helping with minor mechanicals, like pedals falling off!



The climb out of the Seine Valley was certainly a challenge with gradients of 5%, but were made possible by the excellent hospitality from the Mayor of Chaville en-route. The crowds grew as we approached the Palais de Versailles, where the wide boulevard gave an opportunity to gather as a peloton for the final 'race' to the finish. All of the 20 Velocipede riders were winners on the day for achieving this historic ride. We have come a long way since 1867 but all the bikes that we ride today have evolved from those original machines with iron frames, wooden wheels, iron tyres which weigh up to 45kgs!





Vive Le Velo

And we say Vive Le Watty!

Events for 2018

Once again the list of known events at the time of going to press, is shown below. Your President has indicated that there may be some additional activities, which will be notified by email in due course. All events are open to members & friends to enjoy, whether participating or just supporting. Whilst this may seem boring, and repetitive, please remember that the Club doesn't just exist for the two luncheons. Organising all the events takes a lot of effort and should be rewarded with support from as many Club members as possible.

10 th May -	The President's Spring Luncheon - apply Hon Sec/Sgt Buzfuz		
7 th June -	Annual Golf & Cycle Ride at Harpenden – see pages 25/26for details & entry form - apply to Smithers		
24 th June -	BaillieMac Something Charity Ride -see pp 24		
1st July -	Benson Veteran Cycle Ride -details from Mr Brooks		
26-29th July – Mr Pickwick goes to France – BaillieMac Something has organised another exciting trip to watch the Tour de France and enjoy the usual hospitality associated with this event- see pp24			
11 th October	- Hampton Court Bike Ride - the usual collection of pre-1929 manufactured bikes and their much younger riders, plus an eclectic assortment of "other machines " riding the roads of Surrey and Royal Parks. Starting at Imber Court promptly at 1000hrs and returning for lunch. Ladies are very welcome to join the rides or you can just come along for lunch, - apply Pruffle or Hunt for details.		

6th December - 148th Annual Garden Party - apply Hon Sec/Sgt Buzfuz

Mentioned above is the fact that these events need your support, but remember also the Club ruling about attending the requisite number of luncheons to maintain your membership.

The 150th Anniversary of the PBC in 2020



Past President Samkin, addressed the AGM to enlighten those present about the special committee's plans for the above event. A number of actions have already been undertaken, and some expenditure from Club funds has already been accounted for. So to simplify things the following list helps to focus on the current situation.

- A commemorative pin badge has been commissioned and delivered by Fattorini-Birmingham.
- 2) A bound goat skin leather ledger is a WIP from a bookbinder to record the names of all members on the 22nd June 2020 and all new members from that day forward.
- A Club Bell has been commissioned at the Whitechapel Foundry (now based in Bromley!).
- 4) All Club memorabilia is to be digitalised and hopefully produced in book format for members.
- 5) Clay Pipes after much research someone has been found at Liverpool University who has the necessary moulds and is prepared to make a staggering 600 pipes over the next 2 years.
- 6) Possibility of a Pickwick Ale, Porter and Victorian Gin is being evaluated. (By Whom?)
- 7) As with the cartoons in Pickwick Papers and historical Club archives, it is proposed that we have an illustrator/cartoonist document the year 2020. If anybody has a cartoonist contact, please let Samkin know asap.
- 8) Small regional events are being assessed (20 to 30 members only) in locations fitting a cycling club and a Dickens association ideas to Samkin.
- 9) The Spring Lunch to have 'entertainment' of a similar kind to the Dickens Bicentenary Presidents Luncheon in 2012.
- 10) Possibility of a bicycle ride on June 24th at Hackney Downs.

All ideas/info etc to: peter@legg.co

December 2017

Joseph Atto - 1833 to 1918

Apropos the front cover picture we should remember our illustrious member as we approach the 100th anniversary of his death. Joseph Atto was a member of the Pickwick Bicycle Club from 1878 until his death on the 30^{th} June 1918. Under his soubriquet of Nathaniel Pipkin, he had an abiding love for the PBC and on his passing, he bequeathed £1000, with the express wish that "the Club shall, out of the income thereof, defray the expense of an annual toast to be known as "Past President Joseph Atto's Toast of Prosperity" to the Pickwick Bicycle Club".

Thus it has been an integral part of the Club luncheons, that the toast is drunk in punch, prepared from a secret recipe, and brought to the President's table in the magnificent silver punchbowl, by two invited members of the Chelsea Hospital – our scarlet-coated friends, the Boys of the Old Brigade.

But what else do we know of this magnanimous fellow? There were some notes about him in the March 2016 magazine courtesy of our esteemed Mr Brooks, But to recap......

"At the age of 60 in 1893, he won the Pickwick Club gold medal for his ride of 281 miles in the Great North Road 24 hr time trial, and he apparently received a Club silver medal for a ride of 198.25 miles in 19.5 hours.

He was elected President of the Pickwick Club in 1913, and members recall him riding to Poynings (Brighton) & back to attend a club run in 1914. Joseph was always happy when able to recall his life in the '70s (1870s!). He worked & played hard, and put his longevity down to his favourite past time of cycling, He was a disciple of the open road and believed himself to be a living, talking advert for its health giving advantages. Joseph was still cycling regularly until a few years prior to his death when he had one leg amputated.

During his Presidency of the Pickwick Club, he was paid the exceptional compliment of being elected an honorary member of the Boston Bicycle Club -the oldest cycling club in America."

At the December AGM it was again suggested that a Club gathering might be organized at Chingford Mount Cemetery at the end of June to commemorate his death. Mr Brooks & Bill the Turnkey are exploring the possibilities and members will be notified in due course.

For those of you that don't use the Club website, we close this page with the last verse of the poem about " Pipkin".

There is a silence in the Club Room, But we find about this place Resignation more than sorrow, And a hope in ev'ry face, For the empty chair reminds us As each one his Cross surmounts That it isn't Life, but Courage



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 receive the information by return.

Bilson-did not exist.Bilson & Slum was the firm where Tom Smart was a Bagman

"'One winter's evening, about five o'clock, just as it began to grow dusk, a man in a gig might have been seen urging his tired horse along the road which leads across Marlborough Downs, in the direction of Bristol. I say he might have been seen, and I have no doubt he would have been, if anybody but a blind man had happened to pass that way; but the weather was so bad, and the night so cold and wet, that nothing was out but the water, and so the traveller jogged along in the middle of the road, lonesome and dreary enough. If any bagman of that day could have caught sight of the little neck-or-nothing sort of gig, with a clay-coloured body and red wheels, and the vixenish, ill tempered, fast-going bay mare, that looked like a cross between a butcher's horse and a twopenny post-office pony, he would have known at once, that this traveller could have been no other than Tom Smart, of the great house of Bilson and Slum, Cateaton Street, City. However, as there was no bagman to look on, nobody knew anything at all about the matter; and so Tom Smart and his clay-coloured gig with the red wheels, and the vixenish mare with the fast pace, went on together, keeping the secret among them, and nobody was a bit the wiser."

C Adams	pre 1881 to 1914
Col. H F Kemball TD DL	1920 to 1969
Richard C Bladon	1970 to 1995
David J Henstone	2000 to 2004
Arthur Wilkinson	2007 to present

Mr Cluppins - Mrs Cluppins husband

"Mr. Pickwick's servant! said Mrs. Bardell, turning pale. 'Bless my soul!' said Mrs. Cluppins. 'Well, I raly would not ha' believed it, unless I had ha' happened to ha' been here!' said Mrs. Sanders. Mrs. Cluppins was a little, brisk, busy-looking woman; Mrs. Sanders was a big, fat, heavy-faced personage; and the two were the company. Mrs. Bardell felt it proper to be agitated; and as none of the three exactly knew whether under existing circumstances, any communication, otherwise than through Dodson & Fogg, ought to be held with Mr. Pickwick's servant, they were all rather taken by surprise. Volume 15

In this state of indecision, obviously the first thing to be done, was to thump the boy for finding Mr. Weller at the door. So his mother thumped him, and he cried melodiously. 'Hold your noise--do--you naughty creetur!' said Mrs. Bardell. 'Yes; don't worrit your poor mother,' said Mrs. Sanders.

'She's quite enough to worrit her, as it is, without you, Tommy,' said Mrs. Cluppins, with sympathising resignation."

Sid C Woods	1971 to 1977
Martyn Gibbons	1994 to present

Jack Hopkins - Medical student: friend of Ben Allen and Tom Sawyer

"Don't mention it, don't mention it,' said Bob Sawyer. 'I'm rather confined for room here, but you must put up with all that, when you come to see a young bachelor. Walk in. You've seen this gentleman before, I think?' Mr. Pickwick shook hands with Mr. Benjamin Allen, and his friends followed his example. They had scarcely taken their seats when there was another double knock. 'I hope that's Jack Hopkins!' said Mr. Bob Sawyer. 'Hush. Yes, it is. Come up, Jack; come up.' A heavy footstep was heard upon the stairs, and Jack Hopkins presented himself. He wore a black velvet waistcoat, with thunder-and-lightning buttons; and a blue striped shirt, with a white false collar. 'You're late, Jack?' said Mr. Benjamin Allen. 'Been detained at Bartholomew's,' replied Hopkins. 'Anything new?' 'No, nothing particular. Rather a good accident brought into the casualty ward.'

T Wheeler	pre 1881 to 1899
C E Bickley	1907 to 1931
Ian McMillan	1937 to 1957
W S Stone	1959 to 1969
C Perry	1972 to 1974
P F Parks	1975 to 1985
Brian Fredericks	1986 to present

Mr Perker-of Gray's Inn.

Mr Wardle's solicitor, and afterwards Mr Pickwick's solicitor

"'To-morrow,' said Mr. Pickwick. 'This treasure must be at once deposited where it can be thoroughly investigated and properly understood. I have another reason for this step. In a few days, an election is to take place for the borough of Eatanswill, at which Mr. Perker, a gentleman whom I lately met, is the agent of one of the candidates. We will behold, and minutely examine, a scene so interesting to every Englishman.'"

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J Foxley-Norris	1875 to 1880	•	7. Life Member. Died 1 9. Treasurer (1910, 24-	
W T Turner		1881 to 1932		
C O Lock		1937 to 1939		
W A Foster		1939 to 1949		
G H Brenchley		1954 to 1966		
A E Barnfather		1968 to 1974		
Peter M Squire		1978 to 2004 P	resident (1984)	
Rob Wheatley		2006 to 2011		

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National Cycle Museum

Pickwick Bicycle Club Magazine

I received a request to mention in the magazine that the National Cycle Museum in Llandridnod Wells has recently launched a **MYDONATE section**, under the **SUPPORT US** heading on its website - <u>www.cyclemuseum.org.uk</u> The museum is a charity, No. 511257.

"We are the main UK cycle museum and we are in need of funds if any of the Pickwick members feel like making a donation towards our running costs they would be most welcome. Legacies, funeral donations, sponsorship donations, are just some of the many other ways the club could help support us. All staff are volunteers and grants are virtually non-existent unless for specialist projects. 2018 is the bi-centennial year of the British cycle - the Johnson of London version of the hobby horse.

The Pickwick BC badges are always on view in the badges case, and are frequently pointed out to visitors as probably the oldest cycle club badges we have." (one shield, seen here, was loaned to Smiggers and seen at the December AGM)

For further info, contact : Freda -trustee/curator/volunteer -<u>fredaatvillas2002@yahoo.co.uk</u>



2018 And Baillie Mac rides again

Baillie Mac Something once again offers his annual Club outings for members and friends. As with many Pickwick events there's always a combination of cycling & eating, with neither being the prime purpose of the arrangements. Whilst one requires you to ride, the other is very much watching others cycling. As ever though, Baillie Mac needs your support for both events.

Sunday 24th June – Charity Cycle Ride 30th Anniversary

The recipe for the 30th Anniversary remains unchanged with a 30mile ride through the Chilterns commencing from The Plough at Winchmore Hill, with lunch at Huntswood Golf Club, before returning to The Plough. The competitive nature of the event will be targeting the Wembley Shield. The event this year is in aid of The Thames Valley Adventure Playground near Taplow, Maidenhead and it is hoped that the monies raised will be another record for this special occasion. There will be the usual BBQ at Wildhatch afterwards. Baillie Mac Something has raised incredible amounts of money for this annual event so come along and support those Pickwickians taking part, or bring your bike and ride.

Week end 26th -29th July – Mr Pickwick Goes to France

Another Baillie Mac piece de resistance attendance at 2018 Le Tour. Food, wine, bonhomie with club members and of course, some high quality cycling. The current plan is to fly to Biarritz, and then by car to Pau to see the main event, which will be the Time Trial starting in nearby Saint Pée-sur-Nivelle-Espelette. There'll be plenty of leisure time to enjoy the atmosphere the Tour generates. Should be another fantastic trip and of course there will be the much envied selection of 5* star living along the way.

Watch out for email communications via Buzfuz once details are finalized.

If you want to participate in either event, just let Baillie Mac Something know as soon as possible so he can organise the food etc for the Charity ride, and hotels etc for the trip to France. Get in touch **NOW** and stake your place(s). Contact him on 01494 722611

Remember the 7th June.....it's the Annual Golf Day, Cycle Ride & Luncheon





Last year various other events and commitments conspired to seriously deplete the numbers for this annual event, so Smithers is hoping that 2018 will see a revival with numbers back to their usual high level.

For the golfers, there's always a wide selection of Club cups & trophies to compete for. The Harpenden course is very picturesque, so even if you are not a handicapped player (you know what I mean!) you can always enjoy the scenery if your golf isn't up to par.

Justice Stareleigh has had his arm twisted to run the cycle ride again, as long as there are sufficient riders. We only had four riders again last year, which doesn't justify the event taking place. It's planned to make an **0930hrs** departure, so that a comfortable ride can be fulfilled during the morning and be back in time for the usual excellent lunch with the golfers. With more riders there can be the choice of a leisurely ride to coffee & back, or the hard man's hilly terrain of Hertfordshire, whichever your choice, it will be an enjoyable day out.

NOTE-if there are insufficient riders the cycle ride will not take place.

The Golf format will be the same as 2017, with a 1045hrs T-off at Harpenden Common Golf Club, Herts, - an entry form is on the next page and this should be sent to Smithers or you can contact him at:

davlinc2000@aol.com

The 2018 Annual Golf & Cycle Ride Day Of the Pickwick Bicycle Club

will be held on Thursday June 7th

Tee off 10.45am @ Harpenden Common Golf Club, Herts NOTE – Cyclists T-off at 0930hrs

Entry Form:

Please reserve	places for golf & luncheon			£63 each
	places for cycle ride & luncheon			£34 each
places for luncheon only				£28 each
I enclose my chequ	ue for £	(Payable to the	Pickwick Bic	ycle Club)
I would like Vegetarian/vegan/gluten free meals (Please indicate which)				
Member's Name				
Soubri	quet			
Email/1	tel number			
Guest Name(s)			Golf H	/Сар
Entries should be s	sent by email to S	mithers Esq – <u>davlir</u>	nc2000@aol.co	m or by post to

Smithers Esq at Keepers Cottage, Church Rd, Sutton, Sandy, Beds SG19 2NB or tel: 01767 835800

I've Got News For You.....

Courtesy of Mr Watty, who clearly watches enlightening TV programmes; in November last, he spotted the following picture of Club members used in a satirical manner on "Have I Got News For You".



Brother Mordlin (Chris Saltrick) & Charles Fitz-Marshall (Andrew Donald) were depicted as MP James Rees-Mogg's alternative to the Boris bike. And why not?

Additional Event for the 150th Anniversary

Pruffle & I (Hunt) have researched 4-5 venues in the Hampton Court area, with suitable capacity for around 350-500 seating. The most suitable and available is the Esher hall at Sandown Reccourse. We have an estimated price based on a 4-course meal, reception drink, tea/coffee and hire of the hall (with a bar) at £70per person, based on a minimum of 350 people. We have also decided that a Thursday in September would be most suitable, and the three provisional dates are $10^{th}/17^{th}/24^{th}$.

As for the ride itself, I have planned a provisional, sensible route starting at the Diana Fountain in Bushy Park, and following as near as possible the original route, but avoiding busy roads, of approximately 8 miles.

With the possibility of 500 riders is this realistic for an open event?

We will need to fix a preferred date as earliest opportunity, before progressing by contacting the police and the Royal Parks etc. We will also need some idea of numbers quite early on to work out the logistics and feasibility.

The idea would be to start at 10'clock with the last man home at some 90miutes later - approx. 2.30pm. Participants would then convene in the bar at the Esher Hall (which is only 2 miles away) at 6pm, and be seated by 6.50pm to welcome Mr President and guests at 70'clock. We have estimated dinner to take 3-3.5hrs, and concluding by 110'clock. There is plenty of parking on site and a number of hotels within 5 miles.

We are also looking into activities between the two events such as a tour of Hampton Court Palace, a river trip on the Thames, or there's even a golf driving range at Sandown.

We are considering the possibilities of a ladies gift, a participating member's gift, plus attendance of both the Chelsea pensioners & Horseguards, singing waiters and of course a raffle.

Although partially based on our traditional twice annual luncheons, we believe this should be a stand -alone event, and in the presence of our lady guests. Our intention is to keep the overall cost for the whole event at maximum $\pounds100$ per ticket.

We need Club members to contribute their thoughts & ideas on the above outline plans, so please contact Pruffle (Aiden Hegarty) - <u>jaheg@sky.com</u> or myself, Hunt (Roger Hitchman) <u>roger.hitchman@sky.com</u> as soon as possible.

How to put Club attire to good use

I received the following missive from Bill the Turnkey some months ago and with apologies to him completely forgot to include it in the October magazine:

My Dear Mr Winkle Snr

After my good wife baking a rather delightful simnel cake, it was duly wrapped with the Pickwick Hatband. A fitting use of our uniform I am sure you will agree.. I wonder if other members have found good use for parts of our uniform? Convivially yours



Bill the Turnkey (Don Keen)

A Possible Caption Competition?

Another recent missive, this time from Peter Magnus (Keith Robins), provides for thought about resurrecting the Caption Competition. Peter has provided his own, but if you can think of alternatives (polite ones!) then send them to me. (Ed)

Dear Mr Editor

Thank you for your recent Pickwick Magazine . Having just moved and getting better from my long list of medical problems I am unloading boxes my daughter packed in the loft and now emptying them into my office in our new Bungalow I did not know I had so much junk and achieve material in my loft. I am finding so much interesting material I am being badgered by HER INDOORS (Bless Her Heart) for not empty the boxes quickly enough. I have quite a bit to send to you when I get time. But I thought this photograph of Ken Joy on a record attempt would be a good photo the members to give the captions to-----Is she pointing the Way? Peter Magnus





The PG Bugatti bicycle weighs only 5kg since it is 95% carbon fibre

It's not exactly reinventing the wheel, but a new bicycle revealed at the recent Geneva motor show is a bold reimagining of pedal-powered transport - with prices starting at a cool \pounds 39,000 and going up to \pounds 69,000 for the full bespoke treatment. Expensive doesn't begin to describe it, but that's not totally surprising when you find that German specialist PG bikes teamed up with super-luxury car-maker Bugatti to produce what is claimed to be the world's lightest urban bicycle, at less than 5kg.

As with Bugatti cars such as the limited edition Veyron and now the Chiron, the PG Bugatti bike will be restricted, in this case to 667 examples.

PG, which is based in Regensburg, develops and builds bikes under licence, with Bugatti providing its name as well as design expertise. The standard bike is 95 per cent carbon-fibre. As you'd expect of anything in this price bracket, the detailing is breathtaking. The frame, fork, rims, handlebar, seat, seat post, crank and even the single brake are made of the highest quality carbon-fibre. The handlebar has built-in shock absorbers, while the crosssections of the frame have been honed for the aerodynamic efficiency.

There's no nasty, oily chain to ruin your super-expensive trousers. Instead, a toothed belt provides drive. The bikes are customised by hand in the PG Bugatti showroom in Weinstadt. Customers can adapt their bicycle's style to match their Bugatti supercar with special paints, carbon in various colours and a bewildering choice of finest leathers.

(An extract from a Daily Telegraph article in the past few months - that I thought it would be of interest. Ed)

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PROPOSED REVIVAL OF HAMPTON COURT MEET.

We have received the following letter :--

18, Chetwynd Road,

Highgate Road, N.W.

Dear Sir,—Acting upon the suggestion of several prominent members of cycling clubs, it has been proposed to revive the old Meet of Cyclists, previously held at Hampton Court. In its day the Meet was a great success, and now that the type of machine is changed, it is considered that the revival might be even more popular.

In order to test the feeling of the leaders in the cycling world, a preliminary meeting of Secretaries, and others interested in the movement, will be held at the Manchester Hotel, Aldersgate Street, E.C., on Wednesday, March 18, at 8 p.m.

> FRANK S. DREW, Hon. Sec., Drido C.C.

Hunt, co-organiser of the Club Hampton Court Ride recently sent me this extract from the 1908 CTC Gazette. It somewhat epitomises the ethos of the Pickwick Bicycle Club, especially as here we are over 100years later with such a ride an important event in our Club calendar. Did anybody from the PBC participate or was it exclusively for members of the Drido CC? Whatever happened to them I wonder?

Is this what Joseph Atto and other Pickwick members would have worn at the turn of the century, or was it too `posh' for them?

