

# The Pickwick Magazine

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

Founded in 1870



"Letting his hat fall on the floor, he stood perfectly fixed and immovable with astonishment."

Still Celebrating our 150th Anniversary

Editor: Mr Winkle Snr

Volume 18 No.1 March 2021



## Thoughts from the Editor.....

Difficult to know where to begin, since there have been so little possibilities for any activity within the Club during what should have been such a memorable year for us all. What a devastating situation the Coronavirus has caused across the world? I only hope that all of you and your families have survived this unprecedented situation.

If there were any moments of sunshine during the past year, then I suppose that albeit surprisingly the events actually managed to take place. The Tour de France, the Giro & the Vuelta gave us some of the most exciting cycling we've seen for a long time. Just such a pity that many of us were unable to be there to watch the races unfold, and see several new British cyclists at the very top of their profession. Chapeau to Tao Geoghegan Hart, winner of the Giro, and well done to Hugh Carthy in the Vuelta. British riders continue to be serious contenders in pro' Cycling across the World.

I hope that you will find this issue of particular interest, with details of new Club silverware acquisitions, several historical items and a new feature - a 'One to One' with one of the Club's evergreen characters, as we discuss his cycling history - socially distanced of course! Also on page20, you will find an extract from *Bicycling News* of 1887 portraying one of our founder members, Lamartine Yeoman, kindly sent to me by Samuel Pickwick Esq,

Whilst there were no Club events to look back on, there is an Events programme further on in this issue, although these will all be subject once again, to any government restrictions in place at the time. We can only hope that with proper obedience of the regulations, and an acceleration of the vaccination programme, we will achieve as many of these plans as possible in the coming months. In the meantime, I would just say, enjoy the summer, but stay safe, stay well and whenever you can, stay cycling!

.....Editor

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Closing Date for the October 2021 issue will be [31st August 2021](#)

All contributions are welcome, and much needed, and should be sent to the Editor, by email to: [pickwick2610@hotmail.com](mailto:pickwick2610@hotmail.com)  
or to: Taverners, Warninglid Lane, Plummers Plain, West Sussex RH13 6NY



## ***A different report by Sgt Buzfuz as he provides a glimpse into some hopes for renewed activities in 2021***

[email:sdownham@vailwilliams.com](mailto:sdownham@vailwilliams.com)

What a strange 12months? For our Club such a huge disappointment, but I hope that each of you & your families have come through the experience mainly unscathed. For those members who have experienced problems, please accept our best wishes, and if anyone has ongoing concerns, then as a Club we are here to help. Hopefully many of you will have had, or will be due to have your vaccination, but we should all remain careful.

Elsewhere in this magazine you will read of the arrangements that we hope we can complete this year. Some will be replacement events for what had to be postponed last year, and some new & exciting events may be possible. Rest assured your officers will do all they can to run as many events as possible, but your welfare will be paramount in our decisions.

For those members who have friends and colleagues nominated for membership, just a quick update. Due to the postponements, last year's election to be members had to be stalled. We did ratify 6 new members at the (remote) AGM, and they will be formally introduced in person at the first opportunity. Their names & soubriquets are included further on in this magazine. The next 6 names will be written to shortly and invited to attend the May luncheon, if this can be held. If not, those names will be carried forward until we can next meet, probably (hopefully) at the Garden Party in December. There remain some 30 potential new members and we will strive to introduce them as quickly as possible when we can get back to our usual luncheons.

It remains for me to wish you well in these difficult times, to remain safe and I hope to see you all again as soon as possible.

Regards to you all  
Buzfuz



## Mr Pickwick's cycling adventures during the pandemic.

Whether it was just luck or good judgement, I was delighted to take delivery of two new bicycles in December 2019 which have both kept a smile on my face during the 'annus horribilis' of 2020! Firstly, approaching my 70th year of life, I felt it was time to get a little assistance to help keep up with younger riders, especially on the ascents. With the help of The Chancery Prisoner (Peter Hargroves) I ordered my Specialized S-Works Turbo Creo SL Founders Edition. It is a beautiful machine, and I love it! At speeds above 15mph the power is all me, but below 15mph I get a little assistance from my friend with 3 power options to help when the going gets tough. During lockdown, with quiet roads, I smiled all the way around the countryside riding 30-40 miles and never getting below 50% battery life. The ride is brilliant, beautifully balanced, and certainly encouraged me to ride more as the experience is so enjoyable.



Mr Pickwick's Specialized S-Works Turbo Creo SL Founders Edition



My second new bicycle is the first ever folding Penny Farthing in the World! Made in Australia by Dan Bolwell, it is a true work of art with nickel plated frame and copper plated hubs which all folds into a suitcase for travel! I call my Penny Farthings my 'smile bikes' because everyone I pass smiles, and I do too! During the pandemic it achieves perfect 2m social distancing while riding around Southampton and lifts the spirits of all who see me - or perhaps they just laugh!

Tally Ho!

Stay safe and carry-on cycling!

Mr Pickwick Stuart Mason-Elliott

## Captains Words.....



Dear fellow Pickwickians,  
I hope that you are all safe and well during this horrible pandemic we are going through? As your Club Captain I was hoping to be writing a positive captain's words but, as things stand it looks very unlikely that the first event of our delayed 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary year will go ahead, since we remain in lockdown until sometime in March at the earliest. With the likelihood that we will then go back into the tier restrictions, I suspect we will have to cancel May's luncheon once again, probably the Golf day in June, plus several other planned early summer activities which is a shame.

However, moving forward we have the Black-tie Dinner set for a new date and at a new venue on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> October at Saddlers Hall, not far from our original venue of Skinners Hall. I would like to thank Peter Legg/Samkin for all his hard work in re-organising the dinner, with the same caterers and with Buzfuz's help, our original speaker Ian Irving, the Trumpeters and Chelsea Pensioners. Hopefully Ian and Gerald Dickens will also be present. As I have said previously, this will be an event not to be missed and we would hope that 150 members can attend this special evening. Ticket info' will be available nearer the time but we don't expect any changes to the original price. As this is may well be the first major event of our Club this year, please can I ask all members to make a special effort to attend this event. **Your Club needs your support!**

One final item I would like to mention is that last year our fellow member David Taylor/Welps sadly passed away, since when his wife has contacted the club offering a number of his Pickwickian collectables for auction; with the President's Charity to receive any money raised. I have now visited Mrs Taylor, who has generously given us a number of items, and I am currently going through them with Peter Macdonald-Card/DrSlammer(who is an auctioneer) to list & value them, plus discussing with the Committee how best we can present the sale. More info will be provided in due time, but it is hoped that a significant amount of money will be raised.

In the meantime, please all stay safe and I look forward to seeing you all soon.

Your humble servant

Dr Payne

Club Captain

## An Unusual AGM

With the unusual circumstances of 2020, it was not possible to have a live AGM at the New Connaught Rooms, so herewith is a summarised version of the alternative event as recorded by your President.



*“For the first time in our Club’s 150-year history, we were unable to hold our AGM in person due to the Covid-19 regulations, so our meeting was held virtually on ZOOM. 46 Members registered to attend, and over 30 managed to be on camera. Pruffle offered to go over to the Hercules Pillars to chase up any stragglers! The minutes were taken from the recording of the meeting to ensure accuracy. The first to join the meeting was our Captain (Melanie aka Tim Stevens) who logged in early to check that his setup was working. The recording of the meeting showed him getting dressed for the meeting, mumbling to himself, brushing his hair.... and all captured on camera – it was hilarious! Soon after the appointed hour, Mr Pickwick laid out ground rules for the meeting which included the use of the ‘mute’ button and the ‘wave’ to speak. With the President elected as Chairman, the meeting was under way. Apologies were received from 25 members, almost as many as those on screen. The 2019 AGM minutes were approved, with no matters arising.”*

**The President’s report** followed, - he said he could have been redundant, but instead spent hours, days, weeks pulling together the Anniversary Membership Book 2020 which everyone will have received.. Sadly, our signature event Celebration Dinner, had to be postponed from June 2020 to March 5<sup>th</sup> 2021, and is now likely to be postponed again until October 2021. He intimated that our first event for over a year might be the President’s Luncheon on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> May 2021, which will be the same as was planned for last year but this is still to be confirmed. (**NOW CANCELLED**)

On 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2020, exactly 150 years after the Club was formed there, I attended the Downs Hotel Hackney with a few members, as reported in the October magazine. He thanked new member The Marquis of Filletoville (Phil Saunders) for organising a Club ride in the tracks of our founders along the Lea Valley canal.

He announced that the Club had recently become the custodian of two splendid historical cycling trophies, on condition that we organise an open annual race for original Ordinaries (Penny Farthings). [see article on **page 9**-editor] I have very much appreciated the support of our Club Officers and Committee through this difficult year, and together we assure you that we will, one day soon, celebrate together our Club 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Until then, take good care of your loved ones, stay safe and I look forward to meeting up with you before too long! Hopefully, your safe receipt of our 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary mug brought a smile to your face and will be a memento to enjoy in memory of our six founder members.

In the absence of the Treasurer, **The Assistant Treasurer** (The Late Lord Chancellor – Mark Hopkins) made the report, with the income and expenditure account showing a small deficit of £2,069, compared with the surplus in the previous year of £4,690. Subscriptions and Joining Fees were up compared to the previous year. The 2019 Garden Party generated a surplus of £5,052 against £6,461 the previous year. The Support for Cycling Fund remains at £7000, and the Anniversary fund is currently at £8000. There were increases in expenses across a number of categories, printing, presents and postage, plus various initiatives to celebrate the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Also discussed were some admin amendments to authorisation of expenditure by Club officers.

*Thanks went to the Middlesex Dumpling for dealing with the audit, along with best wishes to our Treasurer and his family. The adoption of the accounts was proposed, and all agreed.*

**The Secretary's report** – *He re-iterated the disappointment that all of the events arranged for 2020 had been cancelled but indicated many will be re-arranged together with some interesting new proposals. He expressed his personal hopes that all members have managed and are managing with the national problems. As far as is known, none of our members have been seriously affected by the virus and although we have lost 5 members to the great velodrome in the sky, none I believe, was a result of Covid-19.*

Young Edmunds (Tony Blyth)/Peter Magnus (Keith Robins) /Joe the Fat Boy (Stan Rose) /Welps (David Taylor) /Mr Griggs (Ron Webb)

*Since there had been no luncheons, we have been unable to introduce new members, although six potential members had indicated that they would attend the May luncheon and on that basis their names were included in the new Club membership book. Thanks were given to Mr Pickwick for his tireless efforts in producing this great archive. As for the waiting list, all names from the original list have now been accepted into the club. The new list of nominees contains about 40 names whilst there are only 19 available soubriquets. However, the Secretary advised that we have found 12 genuine soubriquets of characters mentioned in the Pickwick Papers not previously used, & now they are approved will be used in the near future.*

**Election of Officers.** - *All current Officers were willing to stand for re-election, but one particular issue was that it had been proposed the current President remain in place for a second year since he had been unable to fulfil his role during the year. Mr Watty was therefore re-elected as President for the coming year, which was welcomed by all members and agreed. The President expressed sincere appreciation at his re-election and particularly to Hunt who has agreed that his Presidency should put back a year. The Hon Mr Crushton asked if this was 'unprecedented' whereupon members were referred to the Membership Book which showed it happened in 1944-5 when the Viscount Nuffield held the Presidency for 2years during a different war!*

*The Secretary advised that all the current Committee were willing to remain with the exception of Jack Martin, who had remained to assist the new Treasurer. He wished to stand down but would continue his work archiving the documents and memorabilia. Therefore, with one vacancy and one nomination, it was proposed and seconded that Daniel Grummer (Darren Upton) to join the Committee. The President thanked Jack Martin on behalf of the Club for all his work as Treasurer and Committee member over many years.*

*Ratification of new Members-the Secretary advised the meeting that there were two groups of new members, those from December 2019, plus those planned for May 2020 who should be approved automatically due to the Covid problems. They were all approved by those present. (Their names appear later in the magazine.)*

*Subscriptions for 2021 - the Assistant Treasurer proposed they remain at £30 which was approved by the Members. Standing Orders will need to be changed to pay into our new HSBC account and it was requested all members use this method on January 1<sup>st</sup> each year, for which there will shortly be a communication to all members.*

**Events for 2021.**-The 150<sup>th</sup> Celebration Dinner – the Captain advised that the revised plan for 5<sup>th</sup> March 2021 was now unlikely to be feasible, & Samkin confirmed the booking had been cancelled without costs. Whilst October 2021 may prove difficult, it was agreed that provisional plans should be made. Skinners Hall is not a possibility so Samkin had found an alternative venue at Saddlers Hall, near to St Pauls. It can hold a maximum of 152 for dinner (minimum of 120) and is available every Friday in October, so we could choose a date; the caterers will be the same, and we can work up an event to mirror our original event. The members were in favour of the proposal, with thanks to Samkin for his speedy action. The following discussion about linking the date close to the Hampton Court ride on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> October concluded that Friday 8<sup>th</sup> October was our preferred date. The President's Luncheon planned for 13<sup>th</sup> May 2021 is a concern, but we do not need to make a decision on this before early February 2021. **(CANCELLED)** The Garden Party on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2021 should not be a problem, so fingers crossed! Other dates are listed on the events page.

**AOB** - Mr Gunter enquired about the Founders Ride, which will now be linked with the Grand Old Ordinary Race planned for the 3<sup>rd</sup> weekend in July. Mr Staple suggested we try to gather Club memorabilia and find an opportunity to display it for the benefit of current members. He advised that Wilkins Flasher/ George Gibbs's daughter had offered her late father's club items to us; these to be collected shortly.

The President proposed that we appoint **Samkin** as an Honorary Member in recognition of not only his 2014 Presidency, but the significant contribution he has made to our 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations. seconded by Mr Justice Stareleigh, & carried unanimously; an astonished Samkin accepted graciously.

Meeting closed @12.35 with Christmas Greetings to all from the President.

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### Late News:

As we go to press we have heard from David Dodd/'Mr Crawley' that Simon Fellman/The Bagman sadly passed away at the age of 81 on February 5th. Mr Crawley goes on to say that Simon attended the Club lunches on many occasions before finally gaining his soubriquet in 2002. He was an enthusiastic footballer and cricketer, supporting Leyton Orient & Essex C.C. He loved the camaraderie of the Pickwick functions and his presence will be sadly missed. We will raise a glass to our absent friend at the next Pickwick luncheon. RIP Simon.

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## New Trophies for those Ordinary Bicycles...

At the AGM in December, our President revealed some new acquisitions of silverware for the Club. With the assistance of the Marquis of Filletoville, these two trophies originating from 1910, were acquired when they appeared for sale and it seems that they are probably the oldest surviving cycling trophies in the Club's possession.



The Grand Old Ordinary  
Veteran's Tankard

Following some research, the President established that Club member Sniggle (Terry Wright), won the Grand Old Ordinary Challenge Cup every year between 1966-1970, well before he became a member of our Club.

Sizeable trophies that they are, one wonders where they have been for the past 50 years?

Since their arrival into our custody, our President and Pruffle have been in deep discussion to decide where to hold a race in future, to coincide with the Club anniversary ride to take place every year in future.



The Grand Old Ordinary  
Challenge Cup



Sniggle with the GOOCC in 1966

## Justice Stareleigh Reminiscing on a Life of Cycling

It was just an idea I'd been considering for a while that we should ask our longer serving members about their life in cycling and how they came to be part of our glorious Club. Not quite sure how this would work out, I approached our illustrious member Ron Gray/Justice Stareleigh, and gently persuaded him that he could say/write whatever he wished in response to a few probing questions. And so here we are—imagine that JS and I are having a convivial lunch somewhere in the foothills of Hertfordshire.



### So Ron, How old were you when you got your first bike and what was it?

*At 11 years old, a second-hand kiddies bike with rod brakes, but gave me the freedom to carry on train spotting further afield at Hemel Hempstead and Welwyn Garden City. My first real bike at 12 years old, was an Armstrong Moth, five-speed Benelux with a rod change double clanger, GB brakes and 27x1/4 pressures. 15 bob a week over a year from a local bike shop!*

### When did you start riding seriously, or is that still to come! AND did you ride much before you joined a club?

*We formed a cycling club at school, which was against the grain, because it was a footie and cricketing sports school, and cycling was very much a Cinderella sport. We organised a couple of 10 mile time trials and camping trips to Hastings, Southend and the Isle of Sheppey.*

### Was it a touring club or straight into a racing club and if so which one?

*I joined the Verulam CC (St Albans) at the age of 13 (1959). Still a member 62 years later, all be it as a life member! At the time, a good all round cycling club for racing and touring. Actually it still is, and with nearly 500 members and 10 Sunday Club Runs, plus various weekly rides, track training and induction rides, Club events and open racing, it really is a very good all round club, in pre-Covid times, and I'm sure it will be again in the post-vaccination era.*

### Did you go for club runs/holidays etc, and if so, where and what sort of distances did you go?

*First club run, Northampton at 120 miles, aged 13, first YHA trip to Winchester Youth Hostel, first overnight ride was at Easter to the Isle of Wight - great times! In fact, one of my earliest friendships was forged with John Graves and we are still mates now and ride out 2 or 3 times a week, with Boris's permission.*

### When did you take up Time Trials, Road Racing or both?

*Time Trials - West Herts Combine - schoolboy champion, South of England schoolboy CycloCross champs 2nd, London schoolboys Track champs, 3rd overall.*

### By then, what make of bike did you have?

*Urago, £1.50per week, Gnutti chain-set, and various Italian "lightweight" accessories. Followed by various Holdsworths, Stan Miles, and now my all time favourite, a Condor. Having been personal friends with the late Monty Young (Mr Green) , Grant Young and the whole family in fact-where else would you want to go?*

### What was your best result - Race Winner - Club Champion?

*West Herts Combine Junior BAR - Winner, Verulam Junior BAR 2nd, Verulam Senior Championships 2nd, London C.A. 25 Time Trial on Bath Road (130 entrants) 4th, North London Combine RR 1st, Cycling Club Islington RR 2nd (winner Sean Bannister /Thomas - Pickwick BC). I decided that I would concentrate on a career as a first cat' Electrical Contractor, than a third rate pro! I also thought I would become an official and put something back into the sport. I became a Committee Member of North London, British Cycling Federation and eventually Chairman. I promoted various road races including the Apex Trophy on behalf of the North Middlesex and Herts C.A. for over 20 years. I sponsored "The Ron Gray Electrical Road Race" for many years and also the very last track race (20K) at the Paddington Rec!*

### You're a member of the Pedal Club and the Pickwick - which came first and how did this come about?

*I became a member of both in 1985. The Pedal Club had its monthly meetings in Town and attendance was (still is) mandatory (three no shows allowed per year). I was President in 1992, an Honorary Life Member and the longest serving Committee Member (33 years this year).*

### What are your early memories of the Pickwick BC, which year did you get your soubriquet and when did you become President?

*I joined, as I said in 1985 as Mr Justice Stareleigh and was honoured to become Mr Pickwick in 2000. I guess I fell in love with the Club and all its traditions, the trumpeters, Chelsea Pensioners and the friendship between its' members and guests - everyone from all walks of life are drawn together and become friends for life. I have met and become friends with so many members. It really is a great Club to belong to. In the early days when the licensing laws were much stricter, we all rushed down to the Wig & Pen Club at 3.30pm, when the Connaught Rooms closed it's bars, to carry on drinking until 5pm when the other pubs and bars re-opened. Many a hangover was created there, especially as it was also the commencement of our Christmas Social Season! I also assisted with the Golf Days, again, in the early days at Brookman's Park and Essendon, and then, when I managed to bring it to the Harpenden Common Golf Club, taking the bike riders out around our local country lanes, and then rushing back to the Golf Club to measure "nearest the hole at the 18th"! Followed by all the riders and players sitting down for Dinner and Prize Presentations.*

### Who were the Guest Speakers at your luncheons during your year of office?

*I can't remember! The whole year was a complete blur! I do recall that I dressed up in fancy dress as Samuel Pickwick though! I believe the last President to do so! Also my claim to fame is to have had the largest President's modern day bar bill!*

### You are now also a member of the Dickens Pickwick Club, how did that come about?

*I was seconded by the Club (PBC) to a meeting of all the Pickwick Clubs in the UK with the idea of having a Celebratory Dinner to commemorate Charles Dickens. We had various meetings at The George & Vulture Pub, one of Dickens's favourite watering holes. We, John Mist and myself, met members of*

various Pickwickian Clubs including The Dickens Pickwick Club; The Somerset, who meet in a shooting Lodge, The City Pickwick Club (who had seven former Lord Mayors of London as Members!), The Rochester (who assist with the Rochester Dickens Christmas Carnival), The Portsmouth, The Manchester Club and also a Ladies Club in Surrey. There is also a male Rugby Club in Holland, and quite a few other clubs around the world including the USA and Verona in Italy, along with a few others which I can't recall. Our own member Boz (Ian Dickens) is also President of The Dickens Fellowship Association, which is the umbrella organisation for "all things Dickens" worldwide. I then met several of the members of the Dickens Pickwick Club; I found we had a lot in common, although not bikes! But since joining, a few other PBC members have also joined the Dickens Pickwick Club.

### **Where does the GS Lanterne Rouge fit into your story?**

We formed it as a sociable cycling club 40 years ago for all types in the world of cycling; riders, ex-racers and officials all by invitation only, open to forty-plus year olds and not registered to any organisation, but to enjoy sociable cycling, with regular Tuesday and Thursday cafe rides and pub runs, along with monthly Sunday club runs. In the early days we used to have "Away Days" to France and "Weekends" to ride the foreign Sportives: Paris-Roubaix, Liege-Bastone-Liege, The Tour of Flanders, The Champagne Randonnee and many others. In fact we were playing out our fantasies, which we couldn't afford when we were younger! We originally anticipated the life span of the club would be 8 - 10 years, but here we are, nearly 40 years later and we're still "Zooming" about!

### **And finally, you have met a number of well known people within the Cycling Fraternity- would you care to name some of them and say why you remember them in particular?**

Yes, along with Mike Bunyan (Middlesex Dumpling), I was a 12-hour minder recently for Eddy Merckx, I've met Sean Kelly several times, Mark Cavendish, Phil Liggett has been a personal friend of mine for the best part of 50 years, Paul Sherwen (RIP), Ernest Colnago. I also met many cycling stars whilst working on The Milk Race during the 1970s here in the UK of course, The World Cycling Championships in the UK in 1981 and then the Tour Down Under in Australia for several years. Among former PBC members, Ron Kitching, Monty Young, Eddie Taylor, Bob Thom, Rob Webb, Chas Messenger, Bob Chicken and of course Dennis Donovan. All sadly passed on now to the great velodrome (and bar) in the sky!

### **Ron, it has been a real pleasure listening to Your Life in Cycling. Is there anything you want to add as a message to the new Members of the Pickwick BC?**

Be proud to be a Member of the world's oldest and most famous Cycling Club; to enjoy your time and make friends, and they, in return will reciprocate and you will have their friendship for life.

Also, as a main claim to fame, I actually changed by one day only, the planned operation date of my darling daughter, Deanna's birth, from 3rd to the 4th December 1987. She has never forgiven me !! However, by sheer accident she has the same birthday as Deanna Durbin (a famous war time film star) who she was named after. Thanks to all the Club officials and organising team for our "150" celebrations and be assured that the number "151" celebrations will be just as great. Wishing Mr Samuel Pickwick good health and fortune as he enters his second year of office (in fact, the only President to do so I think!) Also to the committee and membership, those immortal words..... "Always look on the bright side" Thank you for giving me the opportunity to "Talk" to you during this wretched "Covid Year". Stay safe and well. With best wishes for 2021.

**Regards, Ron Gray (Justice Stareleigh)**

So, I now have to decide who is a candidate for the October magazine.....Editor





## 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](mailto:steve@stephenbullen.com) and you will have this information by return.

### Mr Crawley - (the youngest) guest at the Ball

"As the trump card was turned up, at the commencement of the second deal, two young ladies hurried into the room, and took their stations on either side of Mrs. Colonel Wugsby's chair, where they waited patiently until the hand was over. 'Now, Jane,' said Mrs. Colonel Wugsby, turning to one of the girls, 'what is it?' 'I came to ask, ma, whether I might dance with the youngest Mr. Crawley,' whispered the prettier and younger of the two. 'Good God, Jane, how can you think of such things?' replied the mamma indignantly. 'Haven't you repeatedly heard that his father has eight hundred a year, which dies with him? I am ashamed of you. Not on any account.'"

Major Charles Edgar Liles	1913 to 1928
Francis Warner	1942 to 1959 (Treasurer 1957-66)

### Mr Jesse - did not exist, appears as a footnote in the first edition only

Appears as a footnote in the first edition only (Cedric Dickens). Also p.9, chapter 2 of the 4th edition (USA in 1840). Charles Dickens and 'Boz': The Birth of the Industrial-Age Author (Robert L.L. Patten) Writing Boz (1836-1836)

This is a reference to three series of "Gleanings in Natural History" written by Edward Jesse (1780-1868), Surveyor of Parks and Palaces, who in the third volume (1835) supplied thirty pages of anecdotes testifying to the sagacity of dogs. The "Gleanings" were very popular. Seymour may have already prepared an illustration on the subject, or called Dickens' attention to it, and may have drawn his thin Pickwick from portraits of Jesse (Dickens met Jesse in late autumn 1841).

J Curtis	1970 to 1988
John Willard	1985 to present

## Porkin – did not exist, Porkin & Snob

"A clerk hurried in with a bundle of papers, and stared about him. 'Sniggle and Blink,' cried the tenor. 'Porkin and Snob,' growled the bass. 'Stumpy and Deacon,' said the new-comer. Nobody answered; the next man who came in, was bailed by the whole three; and he in his turn shouted for another firm; and then somebody else roared in a loud voice for another; and so forth."

Sydney J. Kemball	1920 to 1933
Harold Grose	1942 to 1951 (Sub-Captain 1944)
L. C. Hackett	1959 to 1970
P. E. Waygood	1976 to 1989
Daniel Munns	1995 to 2014
Neil Smith	2017 to present

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## Mr Smithie – a guest at the Rochester Ball

"'Mr. Smithie, Mrs. Smithie, and the Misses Smithie,' was the next announcement. 'What's Mr. Smithie?' inquired Mr. Tracy Tupman. 'Something in the yard,' replied the stranger. Mr. Smithie bowed deferentially to Sir Thomas Clubber; and Sir Thomas Clubber acknowledged the salute with conscious condescension. Lady Clubber took a telescopic view of Mrs. Smithie and family through her eye-glass and Mrs. Smithie stared in her turn at Mrs. Somebody-else, whose husband was not in the dockyard at all."

H. E. Keat	pre 1881
Wm M Crawley	1897, left then rejoined in 1902
Robert V Beveridge	1926 to 1938
F. G. Norman	1941 to 1969 (President 1957/8, Hon. Auditor 1944,57)
P. B. Searle	1971 to 1986
Gino Goddard	1995 to present

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## The clergyman of Dingley Dell – with a good-humoured, benevolent face

"On the opposite side sat a bald-headed old gentleman, with a good-humoured, benevolent face--the clergyman of Dingley Dell; and next him sat his wife, a stout, blooming old lady, who looked as if she were well skilled, not only in the art and mystery of manufacturing home-made cordials greatly to other people's satisfaction, but of tasting them occasionally very much to her own."

Andrew Grose	1988 to 2003
Nicholas (Nick) Fish	2004 to 2014
Tim Chapman	2014 to present

## Mr Trundle - Mr Wardle's future son-in-law

"'True, true,' said the stout gentleman; 'no one can deny it. Gentlemen, I beg your pardon; this is my friend Mr. Trundle. And now you all know each other, let's be comfortable and happy, and see what's going forward; that's what I say.' So the stout gentleman put on his spectacles, and Mr. Pickwick pulled out his glass, and everybody stood up in the carriage, and looked over somebody else's shoulder at the evolutions of the military."

W Nisbet	pre 1881 to 1882
G R Brown	1883 to 1913 (Life Member)
Barry L Brandon	1957 to 2013 (President 2003, Captain for 21 years, HonAssSec 1966)
Tim West	2019 to present

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## Mr Winkle Senior - of Birmingham

"'My dear friends,' said Mr. Pickwick, shaking hands alternately with Mr. Tupman, Mr. Winkle, and Mr. Snodgrass, who were the three visitors in question, 'I am delighted to see you.' The triumvirate were much affected. Mr. Tupman shook his head deplorably, Mr. Snodgrass drew forth his handkerchief, with undisguised emotion; and Mr. Winkle retired to the window, and sniffed aloud."

E H Nicholl	1904 to 1915
C D Terry	1942 to 1948
F W Chance	1955 to 1964
R H Smith	1968 to 1969
Roger A Warwick	1972 to present (President 2019)

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## New Members.....

Due to the cancellation of the luncheons in 2020, those members who were due to be presented with their soubriquets in May it never happened. We therefore welcome them to the Club, and look forward to meeting them 'face to face' quite soon.

Stewart Fairburn	- Young Edmunds
David Fielding	- Jim
Martin Guest	- Mr Griggs
Philip Saunders	- Marquis of Filletoville
Andy Cook	- Brown of Muggleton
Bill Temple	- Mr Crawley

## Hunt goes a Huntin'

Our well known cycle man The Artful Dodger, from down the Thames River recently spotted a certain trinket of interest on the old internet, that belonged to the Club. So a plan was afoot with plenty of suggestions from Club members, and a trap was set with a first bid, but how to stop outsiders? Playing the waiting game, our man held his nerve to the final minutes and secured said trinket for a reasonable sum on behalf of the Club. (Note - don't play poker with our man!).



The medal was won in 1927 by C.D. Treavett, whose soubriquet was George Heyling. Our soubriquet chief informs me, that he joined the Club in April 1926, so he didn't take too long to make a name for himself. Joseph Smiggers also provided me with the 1928 photograph (right) in which our man appears once again, second from the right.

Well done Hunt for such a magical find !!





## A Miscellany of Interesting Items.....

### The 'Young Cyclist'

From the Antipodes (that's the other side of the world to thee and me), Smiggers was contacted by a certain Alan Naber - the said 'young cyclist'. The afore mentioned having read about our Club in an article by our friend David Hourly in the Veteran Cycle Club magazine, he wanted to know more about us. Of particular interest was information about the week-end Hampton Court Rides of the 1880s, since he wanted to do a presentation about it to the West Australian Historic Cycle Club. Your editor has provided as much detail as possible about the rides, including pictorial evidence from the 21st Century. Glad to know that our existence is world wide and of interest. Alan is now on the magazine mailing list to read about our future endeavours and hopefully our Anniversary celebrations.

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### The National Cycle Museum (Llandrindod Wells)

Freda at the museum recently sent me a copy of the NCM Friend's Magazine, which has plenty of interesting new. They like most operations are finding it hard to manage within the lockdown regulations. They were recently delighted to receive a donation of a De Commer cycle that appears to have originated from a Belgium historic cycle collector. It has wooden spoked wheels and wooden mudguards, and still retains its Antwerp licence plates. The museum is always on the look out for cycling tools, bicycle parts and other related equipment, plus they often have surplus museum bike sales. If you want more details then contact Steve Griffith on [griffith531@hotmail.com](mailto:griffith531@hotmail.com) or why not visit the museum website on: [www.cyclemuseum.org.uk](http://www.cyclemuseum.org.uk)

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### Mr P. Goes to Somewhere

**The King of The Goblins** - has indicated that he would like to revive the annual "Mr Pickwick Goes to ..." event, but in a revised format and not necessarily linked to the Tour de France. Once our lives and freedom are back to some sort of normality (?), he would plan to arrange annual trip(s) into Europe (or Le Continent as it used to be known) to places of interest, for socialising, riding bicycles, or visiting related Museums. These trips to replicate those of many years ago which were always well supported. So - watch this space!

## Sir Antonio Brady - President 1877-1880

Sir Antonio Brady  
(1811-1881)



Joseph Smiggers recently received correspondence from a Mrs Gill Stapleton who is the 6 x great-granddaughter of one of our earliest Presidents, Sir Antonio Brady. From subsequent dialogue she informed me that having joined the Navy in 1854, he held several posts in victualling, becoming the first Superintendent of the Admiralty for purchasing and contracts, before retiring & being knighted by Queen Victoria at Windsor in 1870 (the year our Club was formed). He was also a famous

naturalist (fossil hunter) with many of his 'finds' held in the Natural History Museum. He was a social reformer, and very much involved in the 'Preservation of Epping Forest for the People' and with the Church. Sir Antonio died in 1881 from 'an affection to the heart' and is buried in the family vault at St John's Church in Stratford London.



His son, Nicholas Brady, was Rector of Wennington Church in Essex, and son-in-law William Emery, Archdeacon of Ely Cathedral. Nicholas, owned Rainham Hall (now a NT property) and was known to be a keen bicyclist, but so far we cannot find any record of him having been a member of the Club as well.

(Nicholas with his 3-wheeler)

Sir Antonio appears on the Club Officers Memorial board (held by Bulman), but his connection with the Pickwick Bicycle Club remains unclear, although he was one of a number of VIPs invited to join the Club in its early years. Research into the Metropolitan Grand Lodge archives doesn't show him to have been a member of the Pickwick Lodge, like so many others. Our search will continue, but we are extremely grateful to Gill, for providing this historical information about another of our earliest members.

## Events for 2021

So as per last year, but with a smidgin more hope, the following list of events is correct at the time of going to press. Who knows what will be achieved this year though, we can but hope. Most events are open to members & friends whether participating or just supporting. Since the 2020 events list was wiped out, please give as much support to all or any of the events that do take place this year. Organising them takes a lot of time in normal circumstances but this year will undoubtedly be that much more difficult.

**2nd May** - Chestnut Sunday / Bushy Park CANCELLED

**13th May** - The President's Spring Luncheon CANCELLED

**10th June** - Annual Golf & Cycle Ride at Harpenden Yet To Be Confirmed  
See p26 for details - applications for entry to Smithers

**4th July** - Benson Veteran Cycle Ride still TBC details from Mr Pickwick or Mr Brooks

**Mid-July** - Special GOOCC Ordinary Bike Race/Anniversary Ride at the Hillingdon Track details from Pruffle TBC

**July** - **Baillie Mac Charity Ride** - with the current restrictions in place, the amount of pre-organisation required is quite labour intensive, so John & Diana do not want to commit to running the event, unless there is a green light to go. At this point, it is not possible confirm the event, but once restrictions are clarified, members will be notified either way.

**7th Oct** - Hampton Court Bike Ride - usual arrangements, open to everybody.  
Apply to Pruffle at [jaheg@sky.com](mailto:jaheg@sky.com) or Hunt at [roger.hitchman@ky.com](mailto:roger.hitchman@ky.com)

**8th Oct** - Black Tie Dinner re-arranged at Saddlers Hall - see Captain's comments p5

**2nd Dec** - (Still) 150th Annual Garden Party - apply HonSec/Sgt Buzfuz

JULY 20, 1877.]

## BICYCLING NEWS.

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MR. LAMARTINE C. B. YEOMAN.—(*Pickwick Bicycle Club.*)

The gentleman whose portrait is given above has been long known to many bicyclists as the energetic honorary secretary of the Pickwick Bicycle Club. He, his brother, and five other riders commenced riding in company about nine years since, and in June, 1870, founded the Pickwick Bicycle Club, of which the subject of our sketch was then elected to the post he now holds. The history of this important club is well known, and its success is greatly owing to the exertions of Mr. Yeoman, who received last December a tea and coffee service as a testimonial from the members. As a rider Mr. Yeoman is little known, but in addition to the heavy and constantly necessary work which he performs for the

Pickwick Bicycle Club, he recently undertook the duties of honorary secretary to the committee which organized the Hampton Court Meet, and received from those gentlemen a well-deserved vote of thanks at their last meeting.

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#### NORTH OF ENGLAND BICYCLE MEET.

THE arrangements for the above meet, to be held at Harrogate on August 6th, are progressing favourably, and if the weather is propitious, the Bradford Bicycle Club may congratulate themselves that their work has not been in vain. The following clubs have already intimated their intention of being present: Leeds, Wakefield, Halifax,

Middlesbro' Stockton, Sunderland, Harrow, Border B.C. (Berwick), York, Wanderers, Hull Amateur, Liverpool Amateur, Hull, Northumberland Amateur (Newcastle), West Manchester Amateur (Newcastle), and Bingley. A few London clubs will be represented. Mr. Jas. Powell has kindly given consent for the meet to take place on the Stray, and the Harrogate Commissioners and police authorities will do their best to insure its being a success. Clubs wishing to be represented, and not having yet intimated such wish, are requested to do so at once to the hon. sec., S. H. Ineson, 7, Neal-street, Bradford, from whom all information may be obtained.

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A TOUR IN FRANCE.—Messrs. H. Wilson and W. G. Muller (L.B.C.) start on the 28th of this month for a fortnight or three weeks' tour in France.



## Legro's LEJOG

Club member David Le Gry's/The Cobbler, former National Sprint Champion and Commonwealth Games silver medalist, is embarking along with friends on the Lands End to John O'Groats 930 mile cycling marathon in aid of Prostate Cancer. More than just your regular cyclist, Dave has been a major player in the cycling world for many years, not just participating, but organising the whole package including training camps in Majorca. However in 2021 he is aiming to swap the sun of the Balearics in exchange for the UK's finest weather patterns to raise as much money as possible for the Prostate Cancer UK fund - 'because it affects people's lives'. As with all such Charity Rides he needs YOUR support, both on the road if he passes near you or why not visit his Just Giving site and support the charity.



Courtesy of Dave's Just Giving Site

[https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/legro?utm\\_source=face-book&utm\\_medium=fundraising&utm\\_content=legro&utm\\_campaign=pfp-share&utm\\_term=6548ea731afe41008388d7672c374e66&fbclid=IwAR0YBm1ofogy10CN1QNOcsaJ3iTj8Sh2-Irhcoz47rhT69kHY-aAc06Gto](https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/legro?utm_source=face-book&utm_medium=fundraising&utm_content=legro&utm_campaign=pfp-share&utm_term=6548ea731afe41008388d7672c374e66&fbclid=IwAR0YBm1ofogy10CN1QNOcsaJ3iTj8Sh2-Irhcoz47rhT69kHY-aAc06Gto)

## Front Cover - Ch XLII.....Mr Pickwick finds Alfred Jingle

"The general aspect of the room recalled him to himself at once; but he had no sooner cast his eyes on the figure of a man who was brooding over the dusty fire, than, letting his hat fall to the floor, he stood perfectly fixed and immovable with astonishment. Yes; in catered garment, and without a coat; his common calico shirt yellow and in rags; his hair hanging over his face; his features changed with suffering, and pinched with famine; there sat Mr Alfred Jingle: his head resting on his hand, his eyes fixed upon the fire, and his whole appearance denoting misery and dejection."



The current Mr Alfred Jingle, showing no sign of misery & dejection!

## Thoughts from the Vice Captain....Mr Dumkins speaks!

It has been a difficult year for us all but I would like to highlight all the effort that Mr Pickwick, The officers and the committee have put into arranging all the events that have had to be postponed and or cancelled. There have been many hours and days given up to getting the 150th anniversary ready only for Covid to hit it like a wrecking ball but I would like to offer all the organisers the biggest thanks for what they have achieved and the gifts, members book, mug etc have made it memorable and its really appreciated. I am looking forward to our first luncheon so I can lead the tanks for what they have achieved and hope that you will join me.

My father joined the club in the early 1970s when he was invited along to a luncheon and was made a member on the same day! I was on the waiting list for a number of years to join the club having attended most lunches with him since the early 1980s. Sadly he passed away a year prior to me becoming a member but would have been so pleased that I was given his soubriquet! He was quite an active member attending the Benson Veteran Cycle Rally over a number of years and collected some unusual Pickwick and Bicycle related items along the way.

In the picture you can see an ashtray and tankard that my father acquired from Mr Pickwick's Bar in Cape Town in the 1970s. I went there around 8 years ago and it was a vibrant pub, but sadly it appears to have closed down now which is a shame. Also in the picture is my Mr Dumkins plate (I am lucky that Dumkins is one of the characters that reproduced on many items) and my last surviving Church Warden Clay Pipe from the days when "Gentlemen you must smoke" was the order of the day!



Here's to us all meeting at a luncheon later this year!.....Dumkins

## The 10th June.....should be the Annual Golf Day, Cycle Ride & Luncheon again.



Play Golf or Cycle - your choice

Last year's event was cancelled for a very obvious reason, and so Smithers is hopeful that the 2021 event will be possible and see a revival with a good number of entries. As we go to press the event sadly remains **'to be confirmed'**.

The regulars will know that for the golfers, there's always a wide selection of Club cups & trophies to compete for. The Harpenden course is very picturesque, although it can be difficult in places, but remember - the day is all about the camaraderie of a day out with friends.

Justice Stareleigh will hopefully be around to run the cycle ride again, unless he has to mow the lawn at home. Last time the event was run there were only four riders which didn't really justify the event taking place. It's planned to make an **0930hrs** departure, so that a comfortable ride can be done during the morning and be back in time for the awards presentation. Totally dependent on the lockdown restrictions it remains to be seen whether we can enjoy the usual excellent lunch. The format will be the same as usual, with a 1045hrs T-off at Harpenden Common Golf Club, Herts, -

See entry form on back cover. For more up to-date info' contact Smithers at:

[davlinc2000@aol.com](mailto:davlinc2000@aol.com)

# The 2021 Annual Golf & Cycle Ride Day Of the Pickwick Bicycle Club

will be held on Thursday June 10th

Tee off 10.45am @ Harpenden Common Golf Club, Herts

NOTE - Cyclists T-off at 0930hrs

### Entry Form:

Please reserve ..... places for golf & luncheon @ £64 each

..... places for cycle ride & luncheon @ £35 each

..... places for luncheon only @ £30 each

I enclose my cheque for £..... (Payable to the Pickwick Bicycle Club)

I would like ..... Vegetarian/vegan/gluten free meals (Please indicate which)

Member's Name ..... Golf H/Cap.....

Soubriquet .....

Email/tel number .....

Guest Name(s) ..... Golf H/Cap .....

.....

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Entries should be sent by email to Smithers Esq - [davlinc2000@aol.com](mailto:davlinc2000@aol.com) or by post to

Smithers Esq at Keepers Cottage, Church Rd, Sutton, Sandy, Beds SG19 2NB

