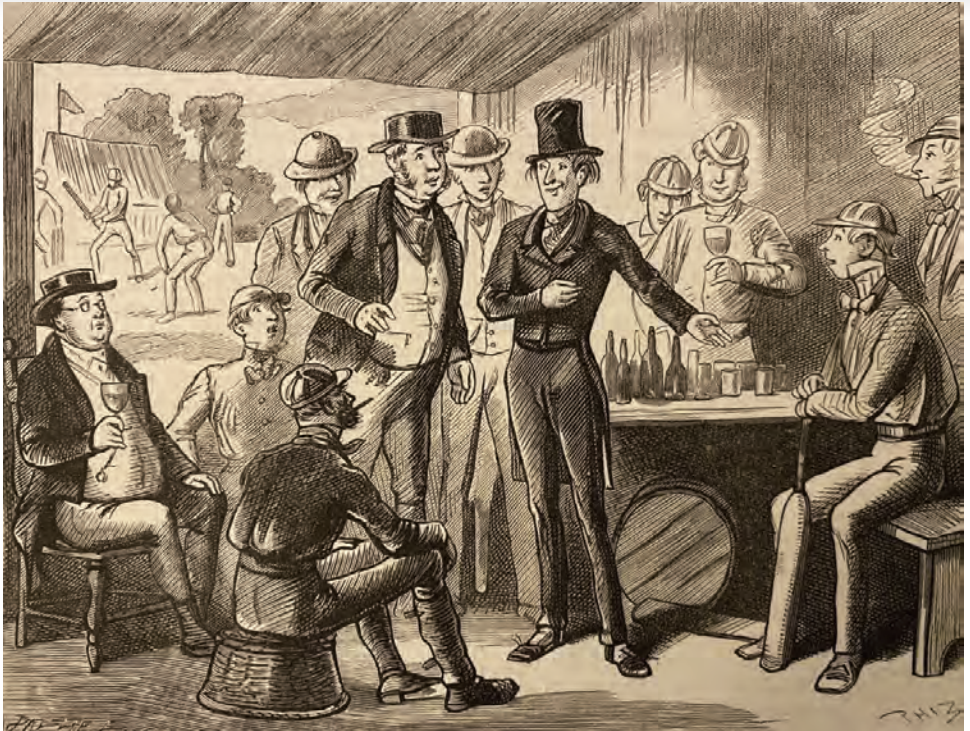


# The Pickwick Magazine

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

*Founded in 1870*



Mr Wardle looked on, in wonder

**152 years old and still going strong**

*Editor: Mr Winkle Snr*

*Volume 20 No.1 March 2023*



## Editorial Stuff & All That.....

Once again we set forth on another year full of expectation, no longer having to concern ourselves, (hopefully) with the impact of the pandemic on our various activities. You will see further on in this issue, that we have a good list of events planned, and look forward to your participation in the usual Pickwickian manner.

As you will have read in the October issue our estimable Sgt Buzfuz has deserted these shores for the Antipodes, where I am sure he will quickly make his mark, as a very reliable administrator in whatever activity he becomes involved in. We do however have a new secretary in place - Mr Watty, a Past President and we wish him well in his new role - he reviews his new role on the next page. Of course we have a new President for the forthcoming year, 'Charlie the Pot Boy'/Adrian Stevens. At the AGM, Brother Mordlin our Treasurer, also vacated his role and was replaced by the Late Lord Chancellor (who lived up to his name by arriving late at the AGM!)

Within this issue we will be (ad)venturing into the world of media technology -for this magazine that is - as we have included a QR code on page17, relating to the Hampton Court Ride. Those of you that understand such matters, should be able to scan it with your smart phone, and indulge yourself in some footage of the October Ride. This is with thanks to Hunt's neighbour Deniz, and the jolly helpful people at Footprint, who produce our magazine so well for us.

I must use this space to thank the Club Committee for honouring me with a superb pocket badge, to commemorate my 50 years of Pickwick BC membership. I am aware that several other members of some note, have also managed this feat but as retired members, whereas I am apparently still a 'live' member. An aspect that I hope will continue for a while yet!

Once again I wish you all enjoyable and safe cycling in 2023 in whichever format you aspire to, be it on original machines or the modern stuff..... Editor.



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Closing Date for the October 2023 issue will be **31st August 2023**

All contributions are welcome and much needed, and should be sent to the Editor, by email to: [pickwick2610@hotmail.com](mailto:pickwick2610@hotmail.com)



## Welcome to our New Secretary.....

[email: stuart.elliott@elliotts.uk](mailto:stuart.elliott@elliotts.uk)

It was with nervous trepidation, I stepped into the big shoes left by Sergeant Buzfuz, and just hope that I can make them fit! The AGM and Garden Party were my first test, and other than missing Mr Prosse and his guests off the seating plan, all seemed to run smoothly. Importantly we employed a different sound company which I believe managed to fill the room with what we needed to hear, but please let me know if this was not the case for you?

I would welcome any suggestions on how we could improve our club luncheons too, so please feel free to email me. Attendance at the Garden Party was well below expectations which could have been due to travel concerns, Covid hangover or financial pressures but we would very much appreciate your support to increase numbers at our President's Spring Luncheon on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> May, so get your guest invites out now!

Regarding membership, we now have 221 members, including 19 retired members. There are still 16 on the waiting list for membership, and we have just 13 available sobriquets. So, it is possible that we will agree to open the waiting list at the AGM in December 2023, but we could be restricted by the lack of sobriquets available. One solution to this is for members to move to become retired members, thus releasing their sobriquet to a new member. Retired members retain their sobriquet with '..... Retired' added, receive the Club Magazine, still receive invitations to our functions, which they can attend too, but they no longer pay the annual subscription! Please email me if you can help the club by taking up this option? All members are reminded that they must attend 1 in 3 Club luncheons or they will be deemed to have resigned. An alternative would be to move to being a retired member.

I look forward to see many of you at the Spring luncheon

Mr Watty



## Greetings Fellow Pickwickians from your President, Samuel Pickwick Esq

I am both delighted and honoured to be your President in this forthcoming year. I have been attending lunches since the early 80s and in a rare two-for-the-price-of-one moment, became a member in 1986 alongside my brother Tim (your current Club Captain). I was fortunate enough to be both the older (and wiser?) sibling so took over my grandfathers retired soubriquet of "Charlie the Pot Boy" some ten years before his passing in 1995.

I live down in Kent with Annie and our three boys - all of whom are on the waiting list.

"Charlie the Pot Boy" only has a very minor role in the Pickwick Papers, appearing at the Magpie and Stump as "a shambling pot-boy with a red head", but I imagine that without his stoic efforts the pubs clientele would have remained very parched. The pub's pot-boy would have been one step up from a street urchin whose sole job was to refill the jugs of ale around the tavern. I dropped into the Magpie and Stump the other day and whilst it now boasts a modern facade, it still sits opposite the Old Bailey on the same site where it has welcomed customers for over 300 years. The pub used to serve "hanging breakfasts" accompanied with ale for those wanting to get the best views of the weekly public executions. Until the last hanging in 1868, it was traditional for the Magpie and Stump to deliver a "last pint" of ale to the cells of the condemned. Maybe it was all part of Charlie the Pot-Boy's job.

My connection with the bicycle trade began when I joined the family bicycle business in the early 80s. My maternal grandfather, had set up a very successful wholesaler called Southern Trading Co, supplying London and the Southeast with both electrical and bicycle goods, stocking Tri-ang Toys, Raleigh bicycles and everything in between. A tour around the tables at a Pickwick lunch brings back fond memories with the presence of many familiar retailers and suppliers. After 75 years of trading, my brother and I left the bicycle trade to concentrate on expanding a property portfolio which, ironically, still includes two bicycle shops one of which predates our esteemed Club!



President & Captain

Over the years I have collected one or two older bikes which I hope to dust down and bring along to some of the Pickwick run meetings. I am also very fortunate to have a patient and understanding wife who allows me to collect vintage cars, and I try to regularly compete on the track, roads and even grass. A '58 Cannon Trials car for the muddy winter hills, a 1923 Bentley that will be racing at this year's LeMans Classic, an early Porsche that races on ice and a 1955 LT Special, that races annually in Mexico.



The President's other passion

Over the course of this year I am greatly looking forward to meeting as many of you as possible. I'm easy to spot.... In true Mr Pickwick style, I am old and greying, somewhat fat and balding - although that doesn't narrow things down too much within our club - but identifiable with my huge golden Chain of Office. Thanks must go out to my supportive Executive Committee for all their hard work in planning events and the running of this wonderful club.

I am really looking forward to 2023 and participating in as many events as I can, whether it be at the golf, the Benson ride or the Luncheons. I would implore you all, to try to attend at least one new event this year, whether on a bike or the golf course, as it is important for the club to be active on as many fronts as possible.

Kind Regards

Your President, Samuel Pickwick



Dr Payne /The Club Captain has some words of praise for you.... almost!

Dear Fellow Pickwickians

I would like to start the Captains words by paying tribute to our just retired President Roger Hitchman "Hunt". We must all agree it was a great active year of service, Roger certainly attended many events as our President, including the 150<sup>th</sup> celebration at Saddlers Hall.

It is with much pleasure that I welcome our new President, my brother Adrian Stevens "Charlie the Pot Boy". I look forward to working with him over the next year, I know Adrian will do an excellent job as President, especially as I am the Captain!

Usually at this stage, I have cause to complain about behaviour at the recent lunch, but not on this occasion! In fact, I would like to thank members, the behaviour at our recent Christmas Lunch was excellent, it made the lunch so much more pleasurable for everyone. Thank you one and all!

However, I could not, not have a little moan! I have said it before, but find I have to say it again, you are responsible for your guests so please remember to ask them to adhere to our dress code. Smart, lounge suit, collar, and tie, let's keep our standards high!

It is a privilege to be your Club Captain, and I look forward to seeing you at the May Luncheon. Please support this excellent lunch and the events your club have lined up for the rest of this year. It is only with your participation that we can keep the club invigorated and active.

With Pickwickian good wishes to you all

Your humble servant

Dr Payne of the 43<sup>rd</sup> / Club Captain

## President Hunt Reports on the Hampton Court Ride

October 2022

As the then President, last year's ride for me, was the best ever, weather, food and company on the day was brilliant! **HOWEVER** as the organiser, and from my point of view it was very disappointing!!!

One of my favourite jobs each year on the day, is to decide who is worthy of a trophy for either lack of maintenance of their machine or gets lost or any other misdemeanour. But this year riders and machines behaved impeccably, making my job almost impossible! Cycles and riders perfectly turned out, the whole event running like clockwork! So for the presentations of the day, luckily for me, the modern invention, the mobile phone came to my aid!.



Waiting for the start

Firstly 'Namby' managed to time his incoming call at the precise moment he cycled alongside yours truly taking a 40 minute business call, (sometimes you just have to take them) giving me my first recipient of the day.



Namby sans mobile phone

The second member who decided to help with my presentations (and can remain nameless for the moment pending the size of the insurance claim the club could be facing) walked straight into a Victorian glass hanging lamp, again as he studied his small screen walking back to his table before lunch. I would like to thank both for helping with this year's awards selection .

The third award went to 'Mr Gunter' who, after reminding everyone for the last 3years about German efficiency turned up late, not giving himself time to prepare for the ride, and then again left the other 37 riders waiting for a second time, whilst he took a comfort break. On this award I would like to thank 'Pruffle' for his help.



I would also like to thank one of my guest, Deniz for filming this year's event, and with luck there should be a QR code within the magazine on page17, so all involved can relive the day, if they are bored with NetFlix!



Mr Watty's wooden framed machine from the USA

A decorated machine from the 1920's



We took a different route this year once we got to Bushy Park, and nobody got lost as we made our way to The Star pub for the usual snack stop, to give us strength to make it back for lunch, where we were joined by the 'lycra louts'. The weather could not have been better for this year's ride, which made it a tough decision to leave the pub garden and this gave us a chance to view some of the vintage bicycles in action on the day.

There were a few traffic build ups at the park gates as the Ordinaries, a tandem, a baker's bike, etc negotiated the narrow openings, but nothing is beyond those determined Pickwickians.



Waiting at the Gates





So we pressed on around the Diana Fountain, no Penny racing this year, and on to Hampton Court Palace for the 'family photo shoot' in front of the Palace, where to the surprise of everyone, Henry V111 came out to speak to us! An event was happening within the Palace and he had been alerted to the presence of 'ruffians on bicycles' at the front door. Having looked us over and taken a bow, he returned to whence he came, and we all departed rapidly to lunch before he changed his mind!



The Pickwickian Family at The Palace

I have already booked the venue for the 5th October 2023 for those that enjoyed this year's ride, so save the date, and it goes without saying to all members, along with guests and especially lady guests, hopefully you will join us for the Pickwick Bicycle Club's main cycling event of the year!!!!

Your Now Past President - Hunt

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### Joseph Smiggers,(aka Steve Bullen) reports on the energetic Lycra Louts ride.

The lycra-clad or "fast" cycling group left the Thames Motor Yacht Club for a 20-mile journey, entering Bushy Park for a gentle riverside ride along Barge Walk to Kingston-upon-Thames. On to Richmond Park, heading along Queen's Road towards Pen Ponds Café, resisting the temptation to enjoy its delights, and onwards towards Roehampton Gate, onto Sawyer's Hill; then along Chestnut Avenue and Cobbler's Walk; over Teddington Lock to head back to Bushy Park and our refreshment break at Hampton Hill. Fully refreshed we then headed back to the Motor Yacht Club to dress up for a superb lunch..... *Joseph Smiggers*

## A Special display at the Royal Yacht Club

There was a surprise for the participants of the Hampton Court Ride, when they arrived at the Yacht Club. Firstly there was a blue Peugeot Bianchi Team Car in the car park, and then an excellent display within, remembering one of cycling's greatest cyclists, 'Il Campionissimo', that was Fausto Coppi, when he appeared at the Herne Hill Track in September 1958.



The Great Coppi



At Herne Hill 1958



The great man's track bike

As many of you will know, Fausto Coppi was an all round racing cyclist winning many of the 'big' races multiple times. His exploits dominated the sport either side of WW2, so what would he had achieved, if his career hadn't been interrupted by the War? He died of malaria at the early age of 40 in 1960.

*Immediate Past President Hunt asked me to say a few words  
about his Presidential year.....Editor*

A quite exceptional year really, since he inherited much of the 150th Anniversary programme due to the delays caused by the pandemic. Having assumed the Presidential role at the December Garden Party in 2021, he was quickly into the swing of things with the February Black Tie Anniversary Dinner at Saddlers Hall, in the exalted company of no less than two great, great grandsons of Charles Dickens, plus Ian Irving of course. A superb event. And onto May for the first Ladies Invitation Spring luncheon. Another special occasion.

Although not eligible at the time, the past Presidents for some reason invited him to their annual luncheon - the first since 2019. On the move again, he participated in what is now known as the Founders Day ride on June 19th. In addition he was then seen at the Hillingdon Track for the Grand Old Ordinary races - bikes that is! And he didn't stop then, as in early July he ventured forth with Mr Watty, in the hope of becoming a television star in a programme on Channel 5 we've yet to see, about the Penny Farthing, unless of course it's been censored. His next public appearance was at the farewell luncheon for Sgt Buzfuz.

The year was disappearing fast, but there was still time to organise and participate in another Hampton Court Ride (as reported in this issue) before his year came to its conclusion in December, when he waltzed, or was it a quick-step, into the great hall with special guest Mark Ramprakash for the Annual Garden Party. By the end of the luncheon, having handed over the Presidential Chain of Office to Charlie the Pot Boy, he could at last return to his cycle shop and put his feet up.

Roger Hitchman (aka Hunt) you did us proud as our President.  
We Take our Hats off to You!





## The 152nd Annual Garden Party....



Clearing The Pillars

The Household Cavalry trumpeters had done their job well, having cleared the Hercules Pillars of waifs & strays, and got us all to our tables on time. The Captain was clearly in control this year having missed last year, but, he had little need to bring the gathering to heel, as everyone was behaving themselves. Thus far at least.



Our President and principle guest Mark Ramprakash were then welcomed to their places, grace was proposed by Charlie the Pot Boy, and lunch began. As is always the case, one bite of food, or spoonful of soup, and we are extolled by our Captain to sing Pickwickian choruses, this time it was for the arrival of the Original member. This year it was Mr Gunter, he who had won a prize at Hampton Court for his delaying tactics. With Vice-Captain Dumkins close at hand, he was marched to the top table to take wine with the President, to the accompaniment of two members of the Household Cavalry trumpeters, competing with hunting horns.



The Original Member

Once again the kitchen at the Connaught rooms excelled themselves with an excellent lunch, but this time the menu is not being explained as the committee would rather you attended the luncheons and found out for yourself! Even the Christmas pudding came in at some stage with candles a'glowing.

We then had the first loyal toast for the new King; followed by a welcoming of the guests by Sir Geoffrey Manning (see pp16 for the full list), including one visitor from Minnesota who'd flown in especially to join us, plus a retired Commander of the Metropolitan Police (so no riding of bikes on the pavement after the lunch!). Members duly stood and raised their glasses to the guests.



Sir Geoffrey Manning

It was then time for new Secretary, Mr Watty to announce the six new members being elected into the Club. Nick Welchman was henceforth to be known as Mr. Blotton (of Aldgate); Ian Hollingworth the soubriquet of The Rochester Coachman; Stuart Peck that of Mr. Dibdin; Richard Engers the dubious title of The Hot Pieman; Norman Penstone to be known as The Long Thin Chairman; and Desmond Gayler that of Mr. Crawley. They are of course, most welcome to the Club and we trust that they will participate in more than just the luncheons, as they help to maintain and continue the Club traditions.



Mr Watty

As with all of our luncheons there is always something happening, and this year was no exception, as the choruses for The Old Brigade spread across the room, and Dumkins lead the two Scarlet clad, Chelsea Pensioners to the top table with the glistening Joesph Atto punchbowl to take wine with the President. For those that don't know about the punch bowl, it was the result of a £1000 bequest by former President - Joesph Atto (Nathaniel Pipkin) when he died in 1918, to fulfil his wish that out of the income, there should an annual toast known as, "Past President Joseph Atto's Toast of Prosperity to the Pickwick BC", to be drunk in punch prepared from a special recipe.



The two representatives from the Chelsea Hospital, duly announced their name(s), regiment, rank, and age which was all received with a great ovation from the assembled members. Yet again, one of them was younger than a number of the guests!

The Captain brought the gathering to order, and having observed a number of improperly dressed guests he imposed the usual charity fines to be collected from each table. A substantial collection was accumulated including the usual rogue foreign coins & washers, all of which would be given to the President's chosen charity, namely 'The Parkinsons Disease Foundation'.

At this point in proceedings, the writer was somewhat bemused to be summoned to the top table by the President. What's this all about? It transpired that the Club had very kindly chosen to award me a long service badge, recognising my 50years as an active member since those old black & white days of 1972. My grateful thanks to them for this kind gesture.

So, back to the real stuff.....the introduction of our guest speaker, that well known cricketer, but now better known dancer, Mark Ramprakash. The former Middlesex, Surrey and of course England batsman (should that be ..batter?) was quick to acknowledge that people seemed to be more interested in his dancing expertise, forgetting that he was an international cricketer of repute having played his first county match for Middlesex as a 17year old, and been selected for England aged 21. As for his success in Strictly Come Dancing which he won in 2006, he was a little coy about what went on behind closed doors when not boogying! He kept us admirably entertained and amused with anecdotal tales both on and off the floor, and the cricket pitch, and was given rapturous applause, having called on the guests to raise their glasses to the " Immortal Memory of the Pickwick Bicycle Club".







Chain of Office Handover

It was eventually time for the President to express thanks to Mark Ramprakash for entertaining us; to say how much he had enjoyed his extremely busy year as Mr Pickwick; thank everyone present for joining the party, and to call on Charlie the Pot Boy to make his way to the top table for the hand over of the chain of office to the new President, in exchange for a Past President's medal.

All good things must come to an end, and so the assembled gathering linked arms and Auld Lang Syne rang out across the grand hall of The Grand Connaught Rooms.



All photos  
courtesy of  
Mark Thomas



## Notable Guests by Sir Geoffrey Manning...

Gentlemen, I am very honoured to have been appointed your Deputy President for next year, and it gives me great pleasure to welcome all of our guests and in particular the following:

**On table 26** as a guest of Gabriel Grubb, we welcome Mark Sanders, treasurer of British Time Trials, which this year is celebrating 100 years of time trialling. They recorded our own Tom Roker, Alf Engers on table 8 who established a British 25 mile record averaging over 30mph in August 1978.

**On table 16** as a guest of Slum, we welcome John Pilcher, former World Spoof Champion!

**On table 26** as a guest of Mr Phunkey, we welcome Sir Kenneth Grange CBE RDI, who is an international industrial designer, noted for designing the HST125 high speed train, The Kodak Instamatic camera, razors for Wilkinson Sword, the black cab TX1 and the Kenwood Chef mixer. We are honoured by your presence Sir!

**On table 38** as a guest of a new member Norman Penstone, we welcome Allan Gibson, retired Commander of the Metropolitan Police. We trust that you will keep us all in order today!

**On table 19** as a guest of Slumintowkins, we welcome Scott Longstaff, President of Bath Cricket Club, who is looking forward to hearing our guest speaker with his tales of cricket!

**On table 35** as a guest of Martin the Surley Coachman we welcome Andy Walker. who in October cycled over 300 miles across Malawi in searing temperatures, climbing 3,250 metres. To date he has raised £1,700 for the charity African Vision Malawi.

And last but not least, also **on table 19** as a guest of the Honourable Mr Crushton we welcome Eric Hawkins, CEO of Park Tools. Eric flew into London this morning from Minnesota especially to be with us today and returns to Minnesota early tomorrow morning. Cyclists love your tools and you are most welcome here today as our furthest travelled guest!

## Hampton Court Ride Revealed

As mentioned on pp2, herewith is the QR code with which you can watch or relive the annual October Ride. Thanks to Deniz for providing this new concept, which hopefully you will all be able to enjoy.



You will need a smart phone to scan the code to see what the 'oldies' get up to around Hampton Court & Bushy Park.

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I was recently given this poem by a very kind lady, and it seemed a poignant reminder of life through the ages for all of us.....Ed

### The Cycling Club Reunion by Anon

In our 30s we met in York  
we loved its many pubs

In our 40s we met in York  
For the waitresses in the clubs

In our 50s we met in York  
For the food at the quiet B&B

in our 60s we met in York  
For all the history to see

In our 70s we met in York  
For the wheelchair-friendly tours

In our 80s we met in York  
Cos we'd never been there before.





## 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 Lowton - Mr Perker's clerk:

"'Well,' said the old woman, 'if it was anything very particular, I was to say where he was, so I suppose there's no harm in telling. If you just go to the Magpie and Stump, and ask at the bar for Mr. Lowten, they'll show you in to him, and he's Mr. Perker's clerk.'"

A Oliver	pre 1881	
Walter G Churcher	1881 to 1933	President (1905); Originally Sam Weller. Resigned 1885; Rejoined 1901 as Mr Lowten. Committee (1927,33). Features in Easter Tour 1913 picture.
Daniel Crawford JP	1912 to 1935	
John Newton	1939 to 1951	
HNA Edwardes	1957 to 1982	
Timothy Cawdron	1982 to 2001	Retired member
Martin Murray	2005 to 2011	
Alan Steinle	2015 to 2022	Died 5 <sup>th</sup> Oct. 2022

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### Jack - does not exist. This is "Jackson" senior clerk at Dodson & Fogg:

"'There was such a game with Fogg here, this mornin',' said the man in the brown coat, 'while Jack was upstairs sorting the papers, and you two were gone to the stamp-office. Fogg was down here, opening the letters when that chap as we issued the writ against at Camberwell, you know, came in--what's his name again?' 'Ramsey,' said the clerk who had spoken to Mr. Pickwick."

E A Radnall	1942 to 1958
G A Matthews	1966 to 1969
P Knottley	1969 to 1976
J H Goode	1979 to 1982
R W Mills	1984 to 1994
Jack Creasey	1996 to 2017
Christopher Mockford	2021 to present

### Lord Mutanhed - guest at Ball at Bath assembly Rooms:

"Have you seen his Lordship's mail-cart, Bantam?" inquired the Honourable Mr. Crushton, after a short pause, during which young Lord Mutanhed had been endeavouring to stare Mr. Pickwick out of countenance, and Mr. Crushton had been reflecting what subject his Lordship could talk about best. 'Dear me, no,' replied the M.C. 'A mail-cart! What an excellent idea. Re-markable!' 'Gwacious heavens!' said his Lordship, 'I thought evewebody had seen the new mail-cart; it's the neatest, pwettest, gwacefullest thing that ever wan upon wheels. Painted wed, with a cweam piebald.' 'With a real box for the letters, and all complete,' said the Honourable Mr. Crushton.'

Stephen C Rhodes	1890 to 1916	President(1900);VP (1901);Captain (1895-1898) (Resigned ill in 1898). Sub Captain 1894. Winner of cycling records from 1876 for 18 to 48 miles.
J D Beale	1937 to 1948	
John de Fritas	1959 to 1976	
V H Wade	1976 to 1984	
David J S James	1984 to 2003	
Scott B Simpson	2005 to present	

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### Martin - Surly coachman to Ben Allen's aunt Miss Allen:

"While these observations were being exchanged between Mr. Bob Sawyer and Mr. Benjamin Allen; and while the boy in the gray livery, marvelling at the unwonted prolongation of the dinner, cast an anxious look, from time to time, towards the glass door, distracted by inward misgivings regarding the amount of minced veal which would be ultimately reserved for his individual cravings; there rolled soberly on through the streets of Bristol, a private fly, painted of a sad green colour, drawn by a chubby sort of brown horse, and driven by a surly-looking man with his legs dressed like the legs of a groom, and his body attired in the coat of a coachman. Such appearances are common to many vehicles belonging to, and maintained by, old ladies of economic habits; and in this vehicle sat an old lady who was its mistress and proprietor. 'Martin!' said the old lady, calling to the surly man, out of the front window. 'Well?' said the surly man, touching his hat to the old lady. 'Mr. Sawyer's,' said the old lady. 'I was going there,' said the surly man. The old lady nodded the satisfaction which this proof of the surly man's foresight imparted to her feelings; and the surly man giving a smart lash to the chubby horse, they all repaired to Mr. Bob Sawyer's *together*."

John A Ward	1966	Retired member
Andrew Morgan	2012 to present	

**Smallcheck - a half-booted, leather legged boy:**

"'There's a barrow t'other side the hedge,' said the boy. 'If the gentleman's servant would wheel along the paths, he could keep nigh us, and we could lift it over the stiles, and that.' 'The wery thing,' said Mr. Weller, who was a party interested, inasmuch as he ardently longed to see the sport. 'The wery thing. Well said, Smallcheck; I'll have it out in a minute.'"

Lloyd W Worth	1914 to 1937	Sec. & Treasurer (1930, 3); Secretary (1925-27); Ass.Hon.Sec. (1924). Features in pictures Hemel Hempsted 1930 and Woodbridge-Easter 1922.
J H Bridge	1957 to 1976	
Charles W Farrance	1980 to 1993	
Leonard Collins	2004 to present	

Several items of correspondence relating to the soubriquet histories were recently received and are recorded below:

Firstly from The Chaplain, who pointed out to me, that in the October issue both his christian & surname had appeared incorrectly for which we apologise. As he succinctly puts it " I have from birth been generally known as Alan Pritchard and not Anthony Prichard as was stated".

He says he doesn't feel in the least slighted by these errors, so hopefully a printed apology will keep all parties satisfied.....Editor

Second, was to Joseph Smiggers from Robert Sharp.... a contributor to the 'Oxford Dictionary of National Biography' currently amending and adding to existing entries. He refers to the entry for Sir William Thomas Charley (1833-1904)and found in the 1995 Historical Society Journal, a reference to him having, at some stage been President of the Pickwick Bicycle Club. The ODNB contains fuller details of his life but Robert observed that the member is not mentioned among our 'Club VIPs'. He also informs us that this 'Past President died whilst out cycling in East Grinstead, when trying to get out of the way of motor cars - nothing new there'.

Joseph Smiggers responded in the affirmative that Colonel Sir William Thomas Charley KC had indeed been a member of our Club from 1885-1889, and one of our early VIP members, and that he had died suddenly on July 8th 1904 in East Grinstead. Smiggers advised that we, the Club, need to update our website accordingly.

**Note** - Robert Sharp also advised that ODNB articles can be accessed online by anyone simply by using one's library card.....Ed

## The Front Cover Story

### A scene at Dingley Dell Cricket match from Ch V11.....

Several dozen of "How-are-you's?" hailed the old gentleman's arrival; and a general raising of the straw hats, and bending forward of the flannel jackets, followed his introduction of his guests as gentlemen from London, who were extremely anxious to witness the proceedings of the day, with which he had no doubt, they would be greatly delighted!

"You had better step into the marquee, I think, sir," said one very stout gentleman, whose body and legs looked like half a gigantic roll of flannel, elevated on a couple of inflated pillows-cases.

"You'll find it much pleasanter, sir" urged another stout gentleman, who strongly resembled the other half of the roll of flannel aforesaid.

"You're very good," said Mr. Pickwick.

"This way," said the first speaker; "they notch in here – it's the best place in the whole field;" and the cricketer, panting on before, preceded them to the tent.

"Capital, game-smart, sport-fine, exercise-very," were the words which fell upon Mr. Pickwick's ear as he entered the tent; and the first object that met his eyes was his green-coated friend of the Rochester coach, holding forth, to the no small delight and edification of a select circle of the chosen of All-Muggleton. His dress was slightly improved, and he wore boots; but there was no mistaking him.

The stranger recognised his friends immediately: and, darting forward and seizing Mr. Pickwick by the hand, dragged him to a seat with his usual impetuosity, talking all the while as if the whole of the arrangements were under his especial patronage and direction.

"This way - this way – capital fun – lots of beer – hogsheads; rounds of beef – bullocks; mustard – cart-loads; glorious day - down with you – make yourself at home – glad to see you – very."

Mr. Pickwick sat down as he was bid, and Mr. Winkle and Mr. Snodgrass also complied with the directions of their mysterious friend. Mr. Wardle looked on, in silent wonder.

"Mr. Wardle – a friend of mine," said Mr. Pickwick.

"Friend of yours! – My dear sir, how are you? – Friend of my friend's – give me your hand, sir;" and the stranger grasped Mr. Wardle's hand with all the fervour of a close intimacy of many years, and then stepped back a pace or two as if to take a full survey of his face and figure, and then shook hands with him again, if possible, more warmly than before.



## The 2023 Events Calendar

Please see below the anticipated list of events already scheduled for this year. It's hoped that those events without a specific date at this point, will take place in due course. Our Secretary will notify members accordingly if/when those events are confirmed. As always, members are encouraged to participate in as many of the events as possible, not just the luncheons, since all of these require a lot of organisation, so please make the effort to support them.

Thursday 11th May - President's Spring Luncheon - apply Hon Sec Mr Watty

Thursday 15th June - Golf Day & Cycle Ride -see pp24 for full details

Sunday 18th June - Founder's Day ride -see pp23 opposite for details

Sunday 2nd July **TBC** - Benson VCC rally - contact: [bensonvcc1960@gmail.com](mailto:bensonvcc1960@gmail.com)

**TBC July** - Mr. Pickwick goes to France - see pp23 opposite for more details

Sunday 24th September - Hillingdon Track for the Grand Ordinary Races.

Thursday 5th October - Hampton Court Ride is already booked based at our great venue, the Thames Yacht Club, with the usual mix of the leisurely historic ride for the more sedate members, plus the road-ride for the more energetic.  
contact: [roger@burtscycles.co.uk](mailto:roger@burtscycles.co.uk)

Thursday 7th December - 153rd Annual Garden Party - apply Hon Sec Mr Watty

**Please remember the Club ruling about attending the requisite number of luncheons to maintain your membership**

## Founder's Day Sunday 18th June by Phil Saunders

The Founders Day Ride is set for Sunday 18 June 2023. It all starts at the Downs Hotel Hackney at 10.00 am. The Ride from Hackney Downs to The Dickens Museum is 10 miles, much of which is on car free paths through parkland, the Olympic Park, and Victoria Park. A warm welcome awaits the riders at Dickens House along with a glass or two of bubbly. The route of the ride is surprisingly pleasing. When planning the route, I was surprised at what East London had to offer. The Founder's Day Ride is a good social ride and perfect for riders of all abilities, whether riding an antique ordinary, a modern racing bike, a mountain, or ebike etc. There is one short incline, other wise it is all on the flat. Lunch stop will hopefully be at the Red Lion in Eldon Street in the City of London which is where the Club had headquarters.

For further information I can be contacted on 07790 889923 or  
email: [saunders.phil@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:saunders.phil@yahoo.co.uk)

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## Mr. Pickwick Goes to France 2023

This annual event in the PBC calendar brings club members and their guests, both male and female, together in a mini break to spectate one or more stages of Le Tour de France. We also make time for sightseeing, shopping, and other touristy stuff. Social dining, while not mandated, also is a lot of fun.

Unfortunately, the 2023 route is not very favourable for a mini break. It starts in Spain, has a couple of days in the south-west French Pyrenees before heading north to Bordeaux and then east, via Clermont-Ferrand to the Alps, where most of the action takes place. The closest point to the UK is the last day with the finish as usual in Paris.

After looking at the alternatives and associated travel times and costs, I suggest that we organise a trip to focus on Paris (23rd July) and consider excursions (Versailles, Bateau, etc.) on the days before and after.

Please let me know if you are interested in joining in and also if you have any ideas for consideration.

Yours in anticipation,

King of the Goblins (aka Robin Simpson)

email: [gmrobinatsel@gmail.com](mailto:gmrobinatsel@gmail.com)



## Annual Golf & Cycle Day on Thursday 15th June



The annual golf & cycle day is an important event in the annals of our Club, with many trophies, a splendid course and excellent food at the Harpenden Golf Course. A number of new members have joined our ranks over the past three years, some of you we hope will enjoy a days golf at this glorious course. Alternatively, come along and join those cyclists who swell the ranks on the day, or to just enjoy lunch. Smithers makes his own request for support:

*" Gentlemen, join your fellow Pickwickians and guests, for a round of golf at the lovely Harpenden Common Golf Club, to compete for our magnificent trophies followed by a convivial lunch in the clubhouse, on the 15th June 2023. This is always a delightful day enjoyed by all those who attend. If you are not a golfer and prefer a bike to a golf trolley, then why not join us for a cycle ride through the Hertfordshire lanes followed by lunch in the company of fellow Pickwickians" Very best Wishes, Smithers*

Entries with details to be sent by email to Smithers Esq -[davlinc2000@aol.com](mailto:davlinc2000@aol.com)  
or by post to: Keepers Cottage, Church Road, Sutton, Sandy, Beds SG19 2NB.

Please provide your name & Soubriquet, plus Golf handicap, and contact details.  
Plus guest's name & Golf H/cap if applicable

Please reserve .... places for bacon roll, coffee, golf & 4 course lunch @ £70 each  
 .... places for lunch only @ £25 each  
 .... places for bacon roll, coffee, cycle ride & lunch @ £30 each

Please advise food choices - vegetarian, vegan, gluten free etc, if required.

Sadly the pandemic years hit the event quite hard and 2022 didn't see the recovery in numbers that Smithers (David Lincoln) had hope for, so please, please give it your support this year if you can.

## Club Cycling Shirts available - a Must for you active riders

Bulman was last seen selling his wares at the Garden Party, however he still has a plentiful supply of these amazing Club shirts ready for you to purchase! Ideal for the various Club events you will hopefully participate in.

Available in a range of sizes, - - M/L/XL/XXL/XXXL, and at a price **YOU** can afford!

Just £50 + £5 postage.

Contact Bulman at [bdvcorinthians@hotmail.com](mailto:bdvcorinthians@hotmail.com)



## A Reminder of How to Order Blazers or Waistcoats from Mr. Dumkins

All members will have received the order form from Mr Dumkins, advising how to obtain your Club Blazer or Waistcoat. These are resplendent pieces of sartorial elegance, but make sure you follow the instructions carefully on how to measure yourself - perhaps find someone to get close & friendly and ensure the details are correct, before you commit the order for production.

Prices - Blazer                      @ £250.00 each  
Waistcoat                         @ £140.00 each  
Order both for only    £370

Payment should be made by BACs to the Pickwick Bicycle Club using your soubriquet as the reference.

All orders or queries should be addressed to: [dumkins@pickwickbc.co.uk](mailto:dumkins@pickwickbc.co.uk) or by post to: 1 The Byre, Townsend Farm, Waterperry, OX33 1LG



## Passing of Friends.....

All too often I find myself reporting the passing of Club members, and this time we remember two more, **Richard Cross (Neddy)** in April 2022, and **Alan Steinle (Mr Lowten)** in October 2022. We remember them for their contributions to the Club and your Secretary will have written to their families to offer condolences. There is a little bit more to their stories this time though.

### **Richard Cross (Neddy) joined the Club in 1991**

Hon Sec. Mr. Watty received correspondence from son Edward Cross(The Zephyr) in November, informing the Club that his father had sadly passed away earlier in the year, and that he himself had been attending Club functions for many years prior to becoming a member himself in 2009. A special request was made whereby Edward asked whether the Club Officers would approve the exchange of his soubriquet for that of his late fathers' would be agreeable. This was never in doubt, and Mr Watty responded promptly to confirm this would be arranged. Therefore we are pleased to advise that Edward will henceforth be known as Neddy, and thereby carry on the name that his father held some 30years.

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### **Alan Steinle (Mr Lowten) joined the Club in 2015**

*Close friend Nick Gritton (The Hon Mr Crushton) penned the following words:*

You may think that Alan must have had shares in his beloved Campag equipment, looking at the amount that even he had forgotten about. Alan lived by the adage that it may come in handy one day!....one month....one year! He had more bikes than the average bike dealer, ranging from Moultons to racing tandems, as long as he was on a bike or doing something associated, he was happy.

To my knowledge Alan was in a variety of clubs in his racing days, The Mercury, The Gemini, and many years in various Vic Haines sponsored editions of the Leo Road Club. I met Alan while he was in the CC Orpington along with many Pickwickians in 1980's, I worked at Ken Bird's in Green Street Green, and Alan would visit regularly to satisfy his Campagnolo habit!

He was latterly in the Sydenham Wheelers, and he did of course have a team kit from all these clubs to satisfy all seasons! 13 bin liners to be precise! The bottom of one of these bags was his amateur SKOL 6 Jersey from 1967.

In recent years Alan joined the Pedal Club, where he was treasurer and recently the Club President; Alan was also a member of the Pickwick Bicycle Club and we spent many hours on vintage bike rides together. Alan and I were also the only two members south of the river of the GSLR, a club you can only join if you can prove you were last in at least one event! Both Alan and I were spoilt for choice in this dept. At these clubs Alan was affectionately known as ROMMEL!

You may know he was of French decent, but where was the fun in that. Alan and I took the 'mickey' out of each other constantly; about cars, bikes, football,(he had no time for it) Barry White,(he was more of a Metallica fan) and who had contributed most effort in our many Tandem events (Alan said it was 34/3 in his favour). But all of this doesn't make up the sum of what Alan meant to me and probably you. He was my cycling partner, my banter partner for sure, but more than any of all that - he was my best mate. He showed up for me any time I ever needed him and for that I am eternally grateful, and he would have done that for any worthwhile cause.

A true gentleman! RIP old Mate! *Nick*

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## Did You Know Time?

"In 1883, at 222 The Strand, the building (now Lloyds Bank) was home to one of the first air-conditioned restaurants in London. It was only in business for three years, during which time a pair of ladies were recruited from a local cycling club to pedal a tandem bicycle in the basement. This powered a pair of giant bellows forcing air into the dining area above. It closed shortly after the owner, the worse for drink, fell off his chair and broke his neck."

I wonder which cycling club these ladies came from as cycling for ladies was still in its infancy in 1883, and what were they paid for their efforts? ....Ed



Past President 'Hunt' is heading home!